



## South India 2 : The temples of the hindu's kingdoms

With 15 million inhabitants, Bombay is an awe-inspiring city. The country's largest port, as well as its largest industrial and commercial centre, Bombay, or Mumbai is also the cinema capital, home to the many Bollywood studios.

When Mumbai was first occupied by the Maurya civilization, they replaced the older Elephanta caves with Hindu temples and dedicated them to Shiva.

Later colonised by the British, the railway station Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, the Prince of Wales Museum, and the Gateway of India all remind us of the strong British influence in India. The Mahalaxmi temple, dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, is the most popular place of worship for the Bombay's Brahmin population.

It is dedicated to the Goddesses Mahalakshmi, Mahakali and Mahasaraswati, all three bedecked with golden and pearl bracelets.

White sand, coconut palms, lush green paddy fields, flower gardens, these are the defining characteristics of the region of Goa.

A setting like this is perfect for sparking the imagination, and the region has always attracted young people looking for a new experience, particularly hippies.

It was in Goa in the 1980s that trance music was first created. Portuguese for 450 years, the region also has a strong religious heritage, a number of baroque colonial buildings and magnificent landscapes.

The old town, named Old Goa, is another part of the city that has fallen into disrepair. Built during the city's fastuous era, the cathedrals and churches are its only vestiges, like St Catherine's cathedral, the convent and church of St Francis of Assisi, the Basilica of Bom Jesus and the mausoleum of St Francis of Assisi.

Hampi, the former capital of the Vijayanagar kings, one of the greatest Hindu empires, is located at the heart of Karnataka. The XVI<sup>th</sup> century was a fastuous time for Hampi thanks to the flourishing trade in precious stones.

But Hampi's economic development was envied, and in 1565 Muslims arriving from the north plundered the city of its riches. Today, the city survives off of tourism.

Hampi, an architectural jewel amidst a lush nature, with 40 temples dispersed over 30km<sup>2</sup>, like the Achyutaraya Temple, the Temple of Hazara Rama, the Temple of Vitthala, the Virupaksha Temple...thousands of granite statues and reliefs...

HD



**Directed by Jacques VICHET**

A documentary of 52'

*French Version*

*English Version*

High Definition

HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

©2014 IN POST PRODUCTION