

DISCOVER SOUTHERN INDIA

AUS\$6012

Per Person
Share Twin
Land Only

Airfares Available Through World Journeys Or Your Local Agent

27 December 2011 - 19 January 2012

Visiting:

Bangalore, Hassan, Sharanbelgola, Coorg, Wayanad, Munnar, Kochi, Allepey, Backwater Cruise, Periyar, Madurai, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pench National Park, Kanha National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park, Jabalpur and Delhi

Inclusions: All domestic transport in India, All departure and arrival transfers, sightseeing throughout as detailed, Breakfasts and Dinners, English Speaking guide services, Air-conditioned Coach throughout, Entrance Fees in all national parks, Four Star hotels throughout. Fully escorted with a minimum of twelve travellers.



WORLD Journeys

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THE MAGICAL SOUTH AND CENTRAL INDIA

Day 01 – Arrive Bangalore

Bangalore is well connected by air from Bangkok and Singapore. Arrive in Bangalore and upon arrival we will receive you at the airport and take you to your pre-booked hotel in the so called IT hub of india.

Day 02 – Bangalore to Hassan

After breakfast at the hotel leave for Hassan. 180 KM. Visit the following remarkable sights.

Sharanvbelgola



The most important of Jain shrines in India and has the largest monolith statue of god Bahubali. More than 800 inscriptions have been found at Shravanabelagola, dating to various times from 600 to 1830

BELUR - Situated on the banks of the Yagachi River, Belur was the first capital of the Hoysala dynasty. The Channekeshava Temple here is one of the three major Hoysala sites still in daily use. One of the earliest

structures of its type, the construction of the temple was started in 1116 and took almost a century to complete. The Hoysalas built it to commemorate their victory over the Cholas. The temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna. At the centre of the hall stands the Narasimha Pillar whose astonishing details are worth a look. To the west of the Channekeshava temple lies the Virananrayana Temple

HALEBID - Founded in the early 11th century as Dvarasamudra, this ancient capital of the Hoysala empire was destroyed by the armies of the Delhi Sultanate in 1311 and 1327. The famous Hoysaleswara temple, which today is the centre of attraction, however survived the destruction. The history of the Hoysaleswara temple dates back to around AD 1121 the temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. A Nandi bull faces the each shrine. The Jain bastis nearby form another major attraction in Halebid. These 12th-century temples stand in a garden enclosure.

Day 03 – Hassan to Coorg

After breakfast drive to Coorg thru interesting country side passing small towns and villages. Upon arrival at Coorg transfer to the hotel. Coorg is simply one of the most beautiful places in Karnataka full of greenery and a lot of spice and coffee plantations.

Day 04 – At Coorg

Enjoy the day exploring Coorg, enjoy a small trek thru spice and coffee plantation.

Day 05 – Coorg to Wayanad

After breakfast drive to wayanad. A beautiful part of North East Kerala.

Day 06 – Wayanad

Enjoy the day at Wayanad. Stay here at a beautiful resort and enjoy the nature. Explore the surroundings and also visit the Eddakal caves.

Edakkal Caves are two natural caves located 1,200 meters above sea level. They lie besides an ancient trade route connecting the high mountains of Mysore to the ports of Malabar Coast. Inside the caves are pictorial writings believed to be dating to at least 5000 BC, from the Neolithic man, indicating the presence of a prehistoric civilization or settlement in this region. The Stone Age carvings of Edakkal are rare and are the only known examples from south India



Day 07 – Wayanad to Munnar

After breakfast drive to beautiful tea growing region of Munnar. Munnar has a beauty which can not be described with mere words. It is famous for its tea gardens and serene views of green hills. The east India company established a tea factory here which is now still run by people of the region and owned by the workers.

Day 08 – At Munnar

Explore the sights of Munnar and enjoy the beauty of this hill station. Munnar is famous for spices, tea, various kind of herbal oils, birds, great food and above all very friendly people. Over night at the hotel in Munnar.



Set amid dramatic mountain scenery in what was once known as the High Range of Travancore, the hill town of Munnar (1524m) is the commercial centre of some of the world's highest tea-growing estates. The combination of the craggy peaks, manicured tea estates and crisp mountain air makes Munnar an ideal retreat.

Day 09 – Munnar to Kochi

After breakfast drive down to the port city of Kerala state i.e Kochi or locally called Ernakulam. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel. Later visit the Chinese fishing nets and Bolgatty Palace Island, later visit the synagogue. In the evening enjoy the famous Kathakali dance show.

Day 10 – Kochi to Allepey for your backwater cruise

After breakfast transfer to Allepey for backwater cruise. Embark on board and enjoy the canals, lakes, villages, people and great scenery on the backwater cruise. Air-conditioning will be provided from 08 pm to 06 Am and delicious food will be served on board.

Day 11 – Backwater to Periyar

Disembark and drive to another beautiful location known for its natural beauty “Periyar”

Day 12 – Periyar

Enjoy boat ride and jungle walk here and sight bird and wildlife. One can enjoy visit to spice gardens with a local guide, enjoy famous Kerala Ayurveda massage or simply walk the bazaars and mix with the locals.



Day 13 – Periyar to Madurai

After breakfast a leisurely start and drive to the city of Madurai.

Madurai has one of the most beautiful and enormous temple complexes in Southern India – The Meenakshi Devi and Sundareshwar Temple. In the evening visit the temple to witness the night ceremony. Stay overnight at the hotel.

Day 14 – Madurai



Visit the Meenakshi devi temple again today and later explore the colorful bazaars of Madurai. Enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. Later return to the hotel for night stay.

Day 15 – Madurai to Mumbai

Transfer to the airport for flight to Mumbai. Upon arrival in Mumbai proceed for half day sightseeing tour of the Metro City. Overnight at a hotel close to the airport.

Day 16 – Mumbai to Nagpur to Pench NP

Transfer back to the airport for flight to Nagpur. Upon arrival in Nagpur transfer to Pench National Park.

India - the land of diversity boasts of being home to over 500 different mammal species, more than 2,000 bird species and over 30,000 varieties of reptiles, amphibians, insects and fish. A number of rare species such as the Royal Bengal Tiger, the Indian Elephant, the Asian Lion of Gir, the Wild Ass of Kutch, the White Tiger of Rewa, the Golden Langur of Assam, the Black Buck of Karmur, the Barasingha of Kanha, the Chowsingha of Bandipur, the Gaur and the Sambar are exclusive to the subcontinent Co-existing with this exceptional menagerie vast collection of species of Leopards, antelopes, bears and birds. To the delight of animal lovers, there are more than 80 National Park and 441 Sanctuaries that showcase the Wild vibrancy of its inhabitants be it the ochre blaze of the tiger, the rich and detailed dance of the peacock, the ebullience of the prancing Langur or the slow, yet majestic movements of the elephant.

Day 17 – Pench to Kanha NP

After breakfast drive to Kanha National Park. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel and enjoy the hotel and surroundings.

Day 18 – At Kanha NP

Morning and afternoon safaris in the national park with guide cum naturalist.

Kanha national park cum Tiger reserve extends over an area of over 1,940-sq-kms. The major feature of this region's interesting topography is the horseshoe shape valley and the whole park area is surrounded by the spurs of the Mokal. The Surpan River meanders through Kanha's central Maidans, grasslands that cover the extensive plateau. Steep rocky escarpments along the edges offer breathtaking views of the valley.



Day 19 – Kanha to Bandhavgarh NP

After breakfast drive to Bandhavgarh National Park. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel and enjoy the hotel and surroundings.

The thick forest of Bandhavgarh National Park sits in a bowl encircled by cliffs and wooded Vindhyan mountains, and its plains have a number of grass and reed covered wetlands where Kingfishers dive and Egrets sit poised, hunch-backed, in the shallows. Up above, vultures nestle in holes in the sheer cliffs. The Bandhavgarh jungle, when it is large enough, becomes a living self-sustaining organism providing its own climate, atmosphere, water and nutrition through its recycling systems. It even has a sleep wake cycle. As more light fills the sky, Bandhavgarh begins to awaken.

Day 20 – At Bandhavgarh NP

Morning and afternoon safaris in the park in jeeps with guide - naturalist.

Day 21 - Bandhavgarh to Jabalpur drive and flight to Delhi

Transfer to Jabalpur airport for flight to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi transfer to the hotel.

Day 22 – In Delhi – sightseeing of Old Delhi

Visit famous sights of Delhi with a local English speaking guide.

Day 23 – Departure day from Delhi, farewell dinner

Last day souvenir collection and later in the day farewell dinner and transfer to the airport for flight to onward destination.

The Journey is inclusive of :

- International airfares are offered inclusive of all port taxes and current fuel surcharges as at 21st July, 2011. Your option to deduct subject to requirement and required routing
- All internal transportation whilst in India as detailed in the daily itinerary
- All arrival and departure transfers at each port of visit

- Sightseeing as detailed
- Accommodation on Modified American Plan Basis i.e breakfast and dinner included
- Accommodation in Pench, Kanha and bandhavgarh includes all Meals
- 1 Safari in Pench
- 2 Safaris in Kanha
- 2 Safaris in Bandhavgarh
- Local English speaking guides at the places of sightseeing
- An Air-conditioned Mini coach for the entire tour with driver
- Entrance fee to the parks

- Escorted ex Australia with a minimum of twelve travellers

The cost does not include :

- Any personal expenses like phone calls, laundry etc.
- Any Camera fees
- Any other item not mentioned in the include section

– Gratuities to local guides & drivers

Hotels used are :

Bangalore - Pai President hotel /Hassan - Hoysala village /Coorg – Kadkani /

Wayanad – Vythiri / Munnar - Tea County /Kochi - Abad Fort / Alleppy - House boat /

Periyar – Ambadi / Madurai - Royal Court / Mumbai – Fariyas / Pench – Tuli

Kanha - Tuli resorts / Bandhavgarh - Infinity Resorts / Delhi - Hans