

ELLISON ROBERTS TOURS



Luxury train journeys in India - The Golden Chariot

Bangalore - Kabini/Bandipur - Mysore - Hassan – Hospet (Hampi) - Badami - Goa - Bangalore

The Golden Chariot Train Tour starts on Monday lunchtime in Bangalore and ends in Bangalore the following Monday morning and includes 7 nights accommodation.

Itinerary

Day 1 - Bangalore (Monday)

- 12:30 pm:** Check-in at the Leela Palace followed by lunch at Jamawar or Citrus
- 03:00 pm:** Depart for Bangalore sightseeing Tippu's Palace, Bull Temple & Lalbagh
- 08:00 pm:** Arrival at Yeshwantpur Railway Station, Platform No. 6
Traditional Indian welcome at Railway Station and escorting to respective cabins.
Dinner on board The Golden Chariot
- 09:00 pm:** Depart to Mysore
- 11:30 pm:** Arrive at Mysore

Bangalore:

The capital of Karnataka is known as the Garden City because of its equable climate and greenery. Perched 3,250 feet above sea level, temperatures seldom exceed 30°C (88°F). Founded by Kempegowda, a powerful chieftain, the city is unique with its rich cultural heritage that coexists with its modern day technological and industrial achievements.



Day 2 - Mysore/ Kabini/ Bandipur (Tuesday)

- 10:00 am:** Depart for Kabini / Bandipur after breakfast
01:00 pm: Reach Jungle Lodge
Lunch at the Jungle Lodge
Post Lunch: Jungle / Boat Safari
Return in the evening for wildlife film
Dinner and stay overnight at Jungle Lodge

Kabini: A World of Wildlife

Rajiv Gandhi National Park, Nagarhole (Kabini), the hunting retreat of the Mysore Maharajas, is definitely the perfect destination for wildlife lovers in South India. The excitement starts with a safari into the heart of the park, where you are sure to spot wild animals in their natural habitat. Some of the popular sightings are elephant, gaur, sambhar, chital, wild boar and the more exclusive predators like tiger and leopard. A bird watcher's paradise, the park is home to over 300 species of birds, many of which are endemic to these jungles.



Day 3 - Mysore (Wednesday)

- 08:30 am:** Breakfast and depart for Mysore
11:30 am: Back onboard The Golden Chariot
01:00 pm: Lunch on board The Golden Chariot
03:00 pm: Mysore sightseeing: Mysore Palace, Srirangapatnam
07:00 pm: Reach Brindavan Gardens for cultural show followed by dinner at Hotel KRS
10:00 pm: Back onboard The Golden Chariot

Mysore: A World of Royalty

Mysore has been always associated with the royal families and their patronage, be it the Wodeyars or the Sultans. Mysore is a city known for its resplendent palaces and majestic buildings. This former state capital still retains its tradition in music and dance, art and literature and crafts. Mysore, once the state capital, today is a vibrant city teeming with tourists and visitors. It is known the world over for its exotic sandalwood and rich silks. Many culinary delights await those inclined to sample the regional cuisine.



Mysore Palace: Built in the Indo-Saracenic style with domes, turrets, arches and colonnades, the Palace is a treasure house of exquisite carvings and works of art from all over the world. The magnificent jewel-studded golden throne of the Wodeyars is displayed here during the Dasara festival.

Srirangapatna: The island fortress of the legendary warrior king Tipu Sultan is just 14 km from Mysore city. Inside the fortress is Tipu's mosque with its twin minarets, the Wellesley Bridge and the dungeons where British officers were once imprisoned.

Day 4 Hassan

06:00 am:	Depart from Mysore to Hassan
08:15 am:	Arrive at Hassan
09:00 am:	Depart for sightseeing to Shravanabelagola .
01:00 pm:	Lunch on board The Golden Chariot
03:00 pm:	Depart for Belur and Halebid for sightseeing
07:15 pm:	Back onboard The Golden Chariot
07:45 pm:	Depart to Hospet Dinner onboard The Golden Chariot

Shravanabelagola, 52km from Hassan, is an important Jain pilgrim centre. It is home to Asia's largest monolithic statue. Lord Gomateswara towers 58 ft on top of Vindhyagiri Hill. Every 12 years Jain pilgrims gather here to participate in a splendid head-anointing ceremony. (Please note that you will have to climb close to 700 steps to experience this sculptural marvel. Guests can stay back onboard The Golden Chariot. Palanquins are available for those who cannot take the climb by themselves, this is available to passengers at no extra cost.)

Belur & Halebid

Belur in Hassan district (220 kms from Bangalore and 38 kms from Hassan) is famous for its magnificent Hoysala Temple Complex. The Chennakesava Temple here is the major attraction, built by Hoysala Vishnuvardhana, to commemorate his victory over the Cholas. The facade of the temple is filled with intricate sculptures with no portion left blank. It is the only Hoysala Temple still in active worship.



Halebid in Hassan district is 27 kms away from Hassan and was the capital of the Hoysalas. It has one of the finest Hoysala temples. The Hoysaleswara Temple, perched on a star-shaped base amidst lawns, is a sculptural extravaganza. Its walls are richly carved with an endless variety of Hindu deities, sages, stylized animals, birds and friezes depicting the life of the Hoysala Kings.

Day 5 - Hospet (Friday)

06:00 am:	Arrival at Hospet
08:30 am:	After breakfast depart for Hampi sightseeing: Virupaksha Temple. Queens's Bath, Elephant Stables, Local crafts bazaar
01:00 pm:	Return to The Golden Chariot for Lunch
03:00 pm:	Depart for sightseeing: Royal enclosure, Hazara Rama Temple. Illuminated Vittala Temple.
08:00 pm:	Back onboard The Golden Chariot Dinner onboard The Golden Chariot

Hampi: A World Heritage Site

If dreams were made out of stone, it would be Hampi. Hampi has been classified as a World Heritage site and is one of the major tourist destinations in India.

Hampi, the seat of the famed Vijayanagara empire was the capital of the largest empire in pre-Moghul India, covering several states. The Vijayanagara empire stretched over at least three states -Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh. The destruction of Vijayanagar by marauding Moghul invaders was sudden, shocking and absolute.



Although in ruins today, this capital city once boasted riches known far beyond the shores of India. The ruins of Hampi of the 14th Century lie scattered in about 26 sq. km area, amidst giant boulders and vegetation.

The splendid remains of palaces and gateways of the broken city tell a tale of man's infinite talent and power of creativity together with his capacity for senseless destruction. Most of the important structures and ruins are located in two areas, which are generally referred to as the Royal Centre and the Sacred Centre.

A visit to Anegundi village by traversing the gushing Tunga Badra river on a coracle is an experience that provides the guests with a glimpse into the traditional country life in Karnataka.

Day 6 - Badami (Saturday)

- 05:00 am:** Depart from Hospet to Badami
- 08:30 am:** Arrival at Badami
- 09:00 am:** Depart after breakfast for sightseeing: Badami Caves and Pattadakal
- 01:30 pm:** Return to The Golden Chariot for Lunch
- 02:00 pm:** Depart for Goa
 - Relax and enjoy the facilities onboard
 - The Golden Chariot: Spa, Gym Dinner onboard
 - The Golden Chariot Reach Goa post midnight

Badami: A World Heritage Site

Badami is picturesquely situated at the mouth of a ravine between two rocky hills. The exquisite sculptures and the rust red sandstone cliffs of Badami tell many a tale. The first sculptural embellishment to dazzle the eye is the 18 armed Nataraja striking 81 dance poses.



Pattadakal, with its beautifully carved temples is a World Heritage site located on the banks of the Malaprabha River. It bears testimony to the richness of Chalukyan architecture. Pattadakal reached its pinnacle of glory under the Chalukyan Kings and was once used as a ceremonial centre where kings were crowned.

Day 7 - Goa (Sunday)

- 08:00 to 09:30 am:** Breakfast onboard The Golden Chariot
- 10:00 am:** Depart for sightseeing
- 11:00 am:** Visit the famous churches of old Goa
- 12:15 pm:** Visit an old Portuguese house: Sola Souto Maior for Tea/Coffee and cookies and shopping at the emporium
- 02:00 pm:** Reach Sahakari Spice Plantation, Ponda for Lunch and tour of spice farm
- 03:00 pm:** Depart for Utorda Beach
- 04:30 pm:** Reach Utorda beach to watch the sunset
(Guests can make use of the facilities: towels, shower, toilet)
- 07:15 pm:** Return to The Golden Chariot.
Dinner onboard The Golden Chariot
- 09:00 pm:** Depart for Bangalore

Goa: A World of Golden Beaches

Also known as "Pearl of the Orient" and a "Tourist Paradise", the state of Goa is located on the western coast of India in the coastal belt known as Konkan.

The magnificent scenic beauty and the architectural splendours of its temples, churches and old houses have made Goa a firm favourite with travellers around the world.

But then, Goa is much more than just beaches and sea. It has a soul which goes deep into unique history, rich culture and some of the prettiest natural scenery that India has to offer.



Besides the natural beauty, the fabulous beaches and sunshine, travellers to Goa love the laid-back, peaceful, warm and friendly nature of the Goan people. After all, more than anywhere else on planet earth, this is a place where people really know how to relax.

Day 8 - Bangalore (Monday)

- 08:00 to 09:30 am:** Breakfast onboard The Golden Chariot
- 11:00 am:** Reach Yeshwantpur railway station, farewell by the entire crew.

The Golden Chariot - Facilities



Cabin Coaches

Each Coach of the “The Golden Chariot” has been named after the dynasties that ruled Karnataka - Kadamba, Hoysala, Rastrakota, Ganga, Chalukya, Bhahamani, Adhilshahi, Sangama, Shathavashna, Yudukula and Vijayanagar.

Fully air-conditioned cabins - 26 twin beds, 17 double bed cabins and 1 cabin for the physically challenged.

Every cabin is equipped with Wi-Fi, LCD television, DVD with 6 satellite channels, wardrobe, vanity/writing desk and private bathroom with luxurious amenities and accessories.



Nala and Ruchi - Two Restaurants

Nala named after a king and legendary chef from the times of the Mahabharata. Ruchi, a name that means fine taste in Sanskrit. The two restaurants serve a variety of vegetarian and non-vegetarian culinary delights.

4-seater and 2-seater dining cabins with comfortable sofas and chairs.



Madira -The Lounge Bar

Named after the mythical drink of the gods.
Relaxing and elegant seating at the bar the royal interiors are modelled after the Mysore Palace.



Conference Coach and business centre

High-speed internet surfing area.

Gym Coach

At the Ayurveda centre, Spa and gym on The Golden Chariot, discover age old traditions and cures to modern day stress.

Two massage rooms for a rejuvenation experience.

For those who prefer a local flavour - Ayurveda massages are provided.

Fully equipped gymnasium.

Prices and departure dates

\$2500 per person (£1565 @ 1.6\$/£)

The Price includes: accommodation on board The Golden Chariot/ travel/all meals / Conducted Sight-seeing Tours/ Entrance fees at Monuments / Parks / Palaces and Cultural Programmes.

The Price does not include: Drinks, tips, laundry, telephone calls, video camera fees, SPA Car, Business Car Facilities, liquor and other items of personal nature, International travel or accommodation before or after your journey.

Departures are scheduled for most weeks in the season please ask for details.



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