

SOUTH INDIA JOURNEY - SHREYAS RETREAT AND BEYOND FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 3, 2016

Itinerary

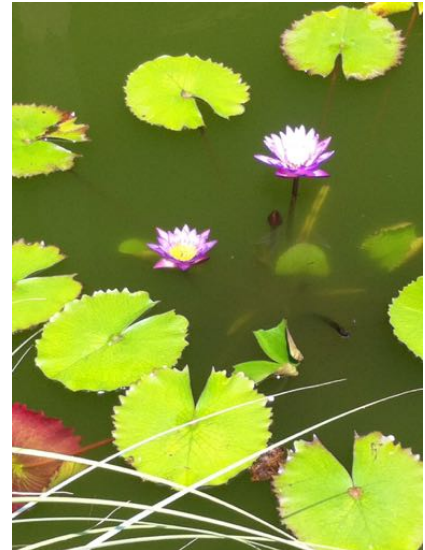
February 19-20, 2016 U.S. to Bangalore

We arrive in Bangalore the night of the second day and are met at arrival by our representative at Bangalore Airport and transferred to Shreyas Retreat.

www.shreyasretreat.com

February 20-27, 2016 Shreyas Retreat - Bangalore

We spend a magical week at the luxurious yoga retreat, nestled within 25 lush green acres of whispering palms. Besides two daily yoga classes, enjoy walking the beautiful trails, swimming in the pool, reading a book on your private terrace or luxuriate in the spa, or work out in the gym. The organic gardening staff will gladly share their wealth of knowledge about the curative plants for your body and the edible spices for your kitchen. The exquisite vegetarian gourmet cuisine is prepared with organically grown ingredients from Shreyas' garden. We will spend one day visiting Bangalore and enjoy a shopping expedition for fabulous Indian clothing.



February 27, 2016 Bangalore - Mysore - Nagarhole

After an early breakfast we drive to Mysore where we visit the beautiful Maharaja Palace, designed by an English architect and completed in 1912. A part of the palace is still occupied by the former Maharaja from the Wodeyar Family. Built in 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 collection of stained glass, mirrors and intricately carved rosewood doors inlaid with ivory is magnificent.

MYSORE was the political capital of the Wodeyar family that ruled the state of Karnataka for some 150 years until independence from British rule. These kings were great patrons of art and culture and Mysore was the cultural capital of the south under the rule of the Wodeyars. The city enchants you with its quaint charm, verdant gardens, tree lined boulevards and sacred temples.

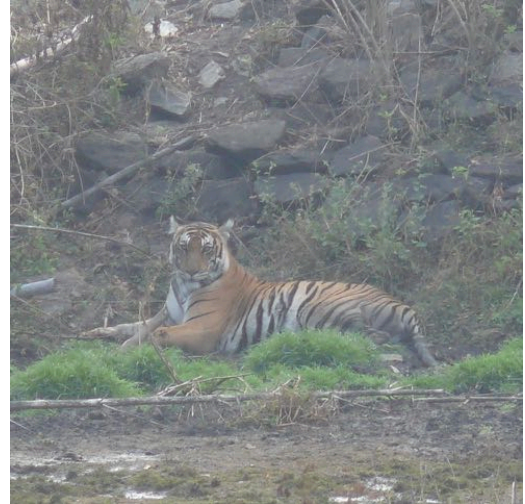
After lunch at the Metropole Hotel and time permitting, we visit the fabulous Devaraja Fruit and Vegetable market for its colorful displays of fresh flowers and fruits, before

continuing our drive to Nagarhole National Park. We check into our lodge, The Serai www.theserai.in
Dinner at the lodge

February 28, 2016 Nagarhole

Early morning we go on a Jeep Safari through the national park accompanied by a naturalist guide where we observe the wildlife from wild elephants, spotted deer, an occasional tiger or leopard, etc..

We return to our lodge for a late breakfast and enjoy some leisure time until we depart for our boat safari in the late afternoon accompanied by a naturalist guide.
Dinner at the lodge.



NAGARHOLE Nagarhole National Park has an astonishing abundance of wildlife including large mammals such as tigers, leopards, wild elephants, Indian wild dogs, spotted deer, four horned antelope, etc. The landscape is one of gentle slopes and shallow valleys. The change in terrain throughout the park is refreshing and the river system provides a unique wildlife viewing experience.

February 29, 2016 Nagarhole to Chikmagalur

After an early breakfast we drive four hours to Hassan where we stop for lunch. In the early afternoon we visit the temples at Halebid & Belur built in the early 12th century by the Hoysala. In the 16th century, Belur and Halebid were at the heart of the throbbing Hoysala empire. The Hoysala were huge patrons of art and architecture and built massive temples that have survived the ravages of time. Some of the sculptures are so exotic, erotic and eloquent - that you expect them to speak or move. If we are tired from the journey we will visit one temple in the afternoon and the other the next day.

We continue our drive for another hour to Chikmagalur where we check into our hotel, The Serai. www.theserai Dinner at the hotel.

CHIKMAGALUR nestled in the Baba Budan Hills, Chikmagalur is a serene town with hills, valleys, streams and coffee plantations. Coffee seeds were planted here for the first time in India. It is a trekker's delight due to its rugged mountain trails, valleys and fresh water streams, and offers the best of the Western Ghats with wildlife, ancient temples and forts.

March 1, 2016 Chikmagalur

After breakfast we enjoy a tour through the coffee plantation.

Time to relax at the pool or visit Halebid and Belur, depending on our previous day's schedule. Farewell dinner at the hotel this evening.

March 2, 2016 Chikmagalur to Bangalore

We enjoy a late breakfast at our hotel and leave early afternoon for our 6 hour drive back to Bangalore where we stop at Angasana for a late dinner before driving to Bangalore Airport where our representative will assist us in check-in for our late night flights back home.



March 3, 2016 Bangalore to U.S.

Most flights arrive back home late morning or early afternoon.

India's culture, like its people, is a rich mosaic whose myriad elements have been born of its ancient roots and foreign influences. It is vibrant and chaotic, a land of incredible contrasts and paradoxes. Come with us, as we peel back the different layers of India for you. Wherever you are from, you will find something that touches your heart in India.