

3-States-Tour

Unique places seen and unseen in 3 states of South India

ITINERARY

1st day: Arrival and meet up in Bangalore

We pick you up at the airport, railway station or bus stand. You meet your photographer guide and determine your level and preferences. You can rest for the day or stretch your legs.

2nd day: Transfer to Mysore – Ranganthittu Bird Sanctuary – sunset at Mysore Palace

We hit the road to Mysore and stop at Ranganthittu Bird Sanctuary. A boat will bring us to the small Island in the river. Various kinds of birds like painted storks, ibises and spoon bills can be seen and photographed. The Cauvery River is also known for its population of crocodiles, which you can spot if you are lucky. At Mysore Palace we have a sunset photo shoot.

3rd day: Devaraja Market – street life – Mysore Palace – sunset in the city

We start the day with a stroll through the Devaraja Market. Let yourself and your camera float in the colourful business of the place with its rich variety of products. We continue our walk through the small lanes of Mysore and discover the daily life, meet friendly and relaxed people happy to be captured on camera. Our destination is Mysore Palace, the former residence of the Maharajas of Mysore. The Indo-Saracenic architecture has blends of Hindu, Muslim, Rajput, and Gothic styles. Photography is forbidden inside but well worth seeing. Move freely in the beautiful garden to find your favorite motifs and angles of the palace, and the 12 temples inside the complex. For sunset we find photogenic spots in the city. We have dinner at a rooftop restaurant in the city.

4th day: Transfer to Ooty – Srikanteshwara Temple – Nilgiri Mountain Railway

After 20 km, Srikanteshwara Temple is located on the banks of the river Kapila in a serene atmosphere. The busy temple with the huge golden plated entrance tower, its large number of sculptures relating to Shiva, exquisite bronze icons and fine carved pillars, provides a variety of motifs for photography.

Through hills and plantations we arrive in Coonoor, to visit an old English cemetery. Later we catch the historical Nilgiri Mountain Railway to Ooty. In the evening light we pass scenic views of the rocky terrain, plantations and forested hills, various bridges and tunnels.

5th day: Scenic landscape – Mountain Peak

We take you through the stunning area around Ooty, passing vegetable and tea plantations, scenic villages, reservoir lakes and thick forests.

A peak with a fantastic view over the neighbouring mountains and plains is our turning point before we head back our accommodation. Parts of the road will be the same as on the way there, so you have the chance to capture certain places in different light conditions.

6th day: Transfer to Wayanad – Sochiapally Fall – view point for sunset

We travel in beautiful scenery to Kalpetta. On the way we have various possibilities to stop and capture beautiful landscapes and nature. We visit Sochiapally Waterfall and a view point for sunset shots.

7th day: Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary – Jain temple – rice paddies

We start early in the morning with a visit to Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary. The Jeep tour is a chance to spot wildlife. Afterwards we have a stop at Phantom Rock and an old Jain temple in Sultan Bathery. On our way back to Kalpetta we are passing rice paddies in a scenic area with a reservoir lake.

8th day: Leisure and optional activities

This day is free for you to choose optional activities:

- Eddakkal Caves are natural caves with stone age carvings, dated to at least 6,000 BC, expansive views at the top.
- Chembra Peak: the highest peak in this area where you can overlook the whole of Wayanad District. The trek to the top takes 3 hours with a heart shaped lake halfway.
- Ayurveda: various treatments are possible.

- In the beautifully arranged accommodation area you can learn about various plants growing here naturally, watch out for birds, swim in the pond or go bamboo rafting in the scenic surroundings. Close by, you find lush tea plantations covering the hills.

In the evening we have a campfire in our accommodation place.

9th day: Transfer to Bylakuppe – Thirunelli Temple

The more than 3000 years old Thirunelli temple is an important pilgrim site for Hindus. Very important for devotees is the spring of the river Papanasini, of which it is said the one dip *washes away all sins*.

Our destination area Bylakuppe, was once set up for Tibetan refugees to live freely. Several Monasteries house a large number of Buddhist monks. Our Hotel will be inside the settlement. Foreigners who stay here need a Protected-Area-Permission (more info in hotel list section).

10th day: Tibetan settlement – Golden Temple

In the morning we share the breakfast hall with the monks who come here to eat from the nearby monastery. For getting around the settlement and hunting photos, it is recommended to take a rickshaw. You will get a map with some highlights, but there is so much more to discover. We meet in late afternoon to visit the golden temple.

11th day: Transfer to Bekal – Bekal Fort

Our way leads us through the beautiful area of Coorg. We visit Bekal Fort, located 3 minutes from our accommodation, in late afternoon. The 300 year old fort is one of the largest and best-preserved forts in Kerala. The fort itself covers an area of 40 acres with several original observation towers, huge walls and a well maintained garden inside.

12th day: Fish market – beedi factory – lunch in a local home – Theyyam festival

The busy fish market in Kasaragod is our first setting for a shoot today.

We visit a small factory where women are producing the traditional Indian cigarettes, hand rolled beedis. Made out of tobacco flakes wrapped in a leaf, this is still the most common kind of cigarette in India.

In a local house we have a homemade meal at lunch time. At the beach next to Bekal fort we have a sunset shoot. In the evening we visit a Theyyam, a ritual dance which is popular in north Kerala. It incorporates dance, mime and music and enshrines the rudiments of ancient tribal cultures. The headgear and other ornamental decorations are spectacular in sheer size and appearance.

13th day: Transfer to Hassan – Madhur Temple – sunset shoot at the ruin of a church

We have a stopover at Madhur Temple. Its three-tiered dome, and copper-plated roofing makes the architecture unique. Close by our accommodation, outside Hassan by a reservoir lake, we visit a beautiful church ruin for a photo shoot in the evening.

14th day: Transfer to Bangalore – Shravana Belagola

We arrive at the historical Jain town of Shravana Belagola located between two hills. About 650 steps on Vindhyagiri Hill need to be climbed barefoot to reach the top of the hill where the temple and the majestic 58-feet tall monolithic statue of Gommateshvara are located. In the town various temples, a white pond and street life give a lot of opportunities for photography.

15th day: Departure

After breakfast, depending on your plans, we can take you to the airport, railway station or bus stand.

HOTEL LIST

Bangalore: HM Suites & Studios (www.hmhospitality.com)

Mysore: Hotel Adithya (www.hoteladityamysore.com)

Ooty: Berry Hills Resort (www.berryhills.in)

Wayanad: Greenex Farms (www.greenexfarms.com)

Bylakuppe: Planters Inn (www.jsplantersinn.com)

Bekal: Nirvana@Bekal (www.nirvanabekal.com)

Hassan: The Karle Homestay (www.thekarle.com)

INCLUDED

- Accompanying professional local photographer
- Guide
- Overnight stays in hotels
- Transfers within the tour by bus
- Breakfast + dinner and 1x Lunch (12th Day)
- Entrance and camera fees for activities in the itinerary
- Water whilst on road
- Indian Sim card for the tour. Pre-charged with 100rs

NOT INCLUDED

- Your travel to Bangalore before and after the tour
- Visa for India
- Lunch (except 12th day)
- Tips and donations

PRICES AND GROUP SIZE

Double occupancy: 1460 € / Single occupancy: 1750 €

Group: size 6 – 12

Dates: Oct 15 – 29, 2016; Feb 11 – 25, 2017

A FEW ADVICES

Make sure that you travel with a valid medical insurance. Short term changes in the program and list of Hotels might happen in unforeseen cases.

CONTACT

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