

PASSAGE TO SOUTHERN
INDIA

ROSS TOURS
travel with friends



2027

8 - 24 FEBRUARY

From vibrant Bangalore and regal Mysore to the wild landscapes of Kabini, the mist-clad hills of Ooty and Munnar, and the serene backwaters of Kumarakom and Kochi - experience the rich tapestry of South India on a journey of a lifetime!

Carham Ross AM



Tea plantation in Munnar



Nagarhole National Park



Backwaters in Kerala

DAY 1 | MON 8 FEB

Arrive Bangalore

Meet your Ross Tour leader at your hotel in Bangalore, India's Garden City. Check-in to your hotel for 2 nights at our 5-star luxury garden retreat. Celebrate a Welcome Dinner tonight.

Taj West End, Bangalore

DAY 2 | TUE 9 FEB

Bangalore

Enjoy a guided walk through **Lalbagh Botanical Gardens** housing India's largest collection of tropical and sub-tropical plants. Then step into Koshy's **Heritage Bungalow Garden**, where the owners are connected to plants they have nurtured for generations.

Taj West End, Bangalore

DAY 3 | WED 10 FEB

Bangalore to Mysore

Today, travel to Mysore via Channapatna, known for its 200-year-old lacquer toy-making craft, before checking in to your hotel overlooking the Chamundi Hills. Savour dinner at the Elephant Bar and visit vibrant terraced **Brindavan Gardens**, beside the Krishnarajasagara Dam.

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Mysore

DAY 4 | THU 11 FEB

Srirangapatna

Walk Kukkarahalli Lake to visit the gardens of **Mysore Palace**, maintained by the royal family for generations. Then travel to Srirangapatna, once capital of the rajas, to visit the **Daria Daulat Bagh**, summer palace of Tipu Sultan, the 'Tiger of Mysore'.

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Mysore

DAY 5 | FRI 12 FEB

Mysore to Kabini

Enjoy a leisurely morning before travelling to your wilderness lodge on the Kabini River. This afternoon, you head into **Nagarhole National Park** on safari, keeping watch for elephants, tigers, leopards, deer and colourful birdlife.

Evolve Back Resorts, Kabini

(D)

DAY 6 | SAT 13 FEB

Nagarhole National Park

An early-morning boat safari offers wonderful wildlife viewing along the Kabini backwaters. Later, time to relax at your lodge before an exciting afternoon jeep safari into the park.

Evolve Back Resorts, Kabini

(B/D)

DAY 7 | SUN 14 FEB

Kabini to Ooty

Travel to Ooty, the 'Queen of the Hill Stations'. This afternoon visit a working tea estate and stroll through the historic **Botanical Garden**.

Taj Savoy, Ooty

(B/D)

DAY 8 | MON 15 FEB

Ooty

Visit the old part of Ooty and learn how this former settlement turned into a hill station. Old trees and gardens line the streets. This afternoon learn how the locals garden at the **Karnataka Siri Horticulture Garden**.

Taj Savoy, Ooty

(B/D)

DAY 9 | TUE 16 FEB

Ooty Toy Train

Ride the famous, UNESCO-listed Ooty **Toy Train** from Ooty to Coonoor with spectacular scenery. Then check-in to your hotel, after your leisurely afternoon visit to the **Kasthuri Sreenivasan Art Gallery**.

Vivanta Coimbatore

(B/D)

DAY 10 | WED 17 FEB

Coimbatore to Kochi

Journey to **Kochi**, Kerala's cultural capital, visiting **Guruvayur Temple** and the ancient Muziris Heritage Area along the way today. Your restored heritage mansion awaits for two nights. Tonight you'll enjoy a spectacular Kathakali dance performance.

Forté Kochi

(B)

DAY 11 | THU 18 FEB

Kochi

Explore Kochi, shaped by centuries of trade and cultural exchange, to visit the spice markets and old warehouses. Then travel

(B/L/D)

to **Fort Kochi** to explore its colonial charm, backwaters and famous Chinese fishing nets. Tonight visit a local family for a cooking demonstration and enjoy a delicious home-cooked meal together.

Forté Kochi

DAY 12 | FRI 19 FEB

Kochi to Munnar

Travel through forests and plantations to **Munnar**, South India's largest tea-growing region. After lunch with a local family, you explore the tea estates before settling into your hillside retreat with your afternoon free.

Scenic Munnar

(B/L)

DAY 13 | SAT 20 FEB

Munnar

Visit **Srishti Trust**, where you'll see how local artisans are supported through textile and craft skills. You'll create your own Batik block-printed stole to take home.

Scenic Munnar

(B/D)

DAY 14 | SUN 21 FEB

Munnar to Kumarakom

Drive to **Kumarakom** in Kerala's backwaters. Enjoy a boat ride to Philipkutty's sustainable working farm before checking in to your lakeside resort overlooking **Lake Vembanad**.

Kumarakom Lake Resort

(B/L/D)

DAY 15 | MON 22 FEB

Kumarakom

A highlight of today – cruise the palm-fringed backwaters on a private houseboat, drifting past coconut palms, rice fields, birdlife and village activities. Enjoy a freshly prepared Kerala lunch on board. Afternoon free. Farewell Dinner this evening.

Kumarakom Lake Resort

(B/L/D)

DAY 16-17 | TUE 23 - WED 24 FEB

Kochi to Home

Transfer to Kochi Airport for your flight to Bangalore and onward journey. Arrive home on Wednesday with extraordinary memories of South India.

(B)

Details

- ✓ Tour escorted by Nicola Billens
- ✓ Air-conditioned motorcoach
- ✓ Deluxe accommodation - 15 nights
- ✓ Breakfast daily (B), 4 Lunches (L), and 11 Dinners (D)
- ✓ Entrance fees to all gardens & sightseeing including Lalbagh Botanical Gardens, Cubbon Park, Koshy's Heritage Bungalow Garden, Channapatna, Brindavan Gardens, Nature walk at Kukkarahalli Lake, private gardens of Mysore Palace, Jeep Safari and Boat Safari at Nagarhole National Park, Tea estate, Tea blending workshop, Ooty Botanical gardens, Fernhill garden, Guruvayur Temple, Philipkutty's farm and more.

Price

- ✓ Twin Share land only \$12,995 pp
- ✓ Single Supplement \$4,495
- ✓ All prices in Australian dollars. Prices based on minimum 15 passengers.
- ✓ Refer to Ross Tours standard terms and conditions.

Discounts

- ✓ Earlybird - Pay by 9/10/26 \$300
- ✓ Previous Traveller \$100
- ✓ Garden Clinic Member \$50

Tour leader*Nicola Billens*

An accomplished global traveller, Nicola has explored all seven continents with the focus on wildlife encounters, adventure, and cultural immersion in remote, unspoiled destinations.

To book online, visit rosstours.com/india-southern

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