

# Ride of your life awaits you

## Luxury Travel Extends To South

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bangalore:** One state. Many worlds. This tag earned by Karnataka tourism is going places. On Monday, the Silver Chariot and Southern Splendour were added to the famed Golden Chariot fleet, now chugging to neighbouring states as well.

Tourism minister G Jannardhan Reddy launched the extended tour programme of the Golden Chariot, which will take passengers to Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala, apart from the normal route in Karnataka. While the new itinerary has been christened 'Southern Splendour', the existing route of the Golden Chariot will be called 'Pride of the South'.

The extended tour will include temples, heritage towns, Auroville, backwaters and other attractions. The price tag is



Silver Chariot and Southern Splendour have been added to the popular Golden Chariot

a hefty one, thanks to haulage charges in different states. Passengers will be able to either book the entire two-week-long tour or opt for any one of the packages. The first trip is scheduled for March 15 and bookings can be made on [www.goldenchariot.org](http://www.goldenchariot.org). Thirty-five passengers have been confirmed for the first trip.

### SILVER CHARIOT

In a bid to extend luxury travel to middle-level income groups, Karnataka tourism launched the Silver Chariot with the theme of 'one affordable voyage, many worlds'. Bookings for the tour, to start on April 2, will begin on Wednesday; you can log on to [www.karnatakaholidays.net](http://www.karnatakaholidays.net).

The Silver Chariot will be conducted aboard a Volvo bus and include visits to Hampi, the Badami-Aihole-Pattadakal triangle and other places.

### TOURISM MASTERPLAN

A tourism masterplan was launched with the intention of bringing in Rs 20,000-crore investment over five years. This will create at least two lakh jobs in the tourism industry. The masterplan will focus on ensuring safety and security for tourists, creating jobs and making Karnataka a globally competitive destination for tourism. An MoU was signed

### TRAVEL TIME

#### ▶ Southern Splendour route:

Bangalore—Chennai—  
Puducherry—Thanjavur—  
Madurai—  
Thiruvananthapuram,  
Kovalam—Alappuzha—  
Kochi—Bangalore

#### Sights include

Mahabalipuram, Auroville,  
Meenakshi temple, Kovalam  
beach, houseboat ride, Jewish  
Synagogue, Dutch Palace and  
cruise

#### ▶ Pride of the South route:

Bangalore—Mysore—Kabini—  
Belur and Halebidu—Hampi—  
Pattadakal—Badami—Goa

between KSTDC and Our Native Village, a resort near Hesaraghatta, to make the latter an additional check-in point for passengers who arrive at Bengaluru International Airport.