

The Modira Bar on the Golden Chariot, a new train operating in southern India.

GOLDEN CHARIOT

Where else would your train be brilliant shocking pink? The Golden Chariot (named after the famous Stone Chariot at Hampi) is a smart new train in Karnataka, southern India. If you want to combine wildlife, culture and beaches, this is the train for you. The seven-night journey begins every Monday from Bangalore and traverses Mysore, the Nagarhole National Park (where you can disembark for Jeep safaris), the historical sites of Shravanabelagola, Halebidu, Belur

and Hampi before speeding on to the triangular heritage site of Badami, Pattadakal and Aihole, and finally Goa. The train is a Technicolor dream world with classically Indian interiors, and there's a spa and gym on board.

Taking you there: *Greaves India* (www.greavesindia.com; 020 7487 9111). Prices from £2,299 per person for ten days, including BA flights from Heathrow, transfers, the Golden Chariot itinerary, some hotel accommodation and porters.

