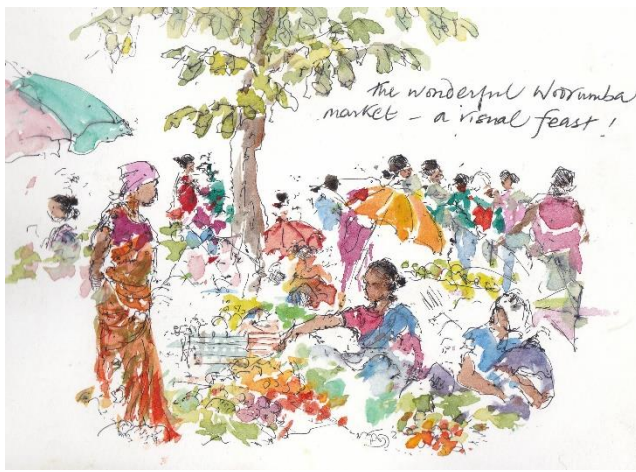


ART SAFARI INDIA

The Silver Ring of South India

14 - 28 February 2019

Art Safari is delighted to be returning to South India with artist and experienced India traveller Maxine Relton for [The Silver Ring of South India](#) from 14 - 28 February 2019. This tour takes us through the authentic heartland of Undiscovered India, venturing off the beaten tourist trail.



The wonderful Warrumba market - a visual feast!

This small-group, 16-day tour introduces two very different regions: Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Whether honing your drawing skills, learning from scratch or simply content to drink it all in with or without a camera, you'll see inspiring and memorable scenes on every side.

Beginners and non-sketchers are equally welcome. Learn the exciting art of vivid, rapid sketching; Maxine will encourage you to see with an artist's eye, to respond to the wonder of ever-changing surroundings, offering plenty of support and guidance, sharing her skills and techniques.

Both regions offer warm hospitality, lush-green landscape set against the Western Ghats Mountains, the best of South Indian cookery, fine temples with unique, undocumented treasures and above all, memorable experiences which will stir your heart and give you a fresh perspective on your own life.

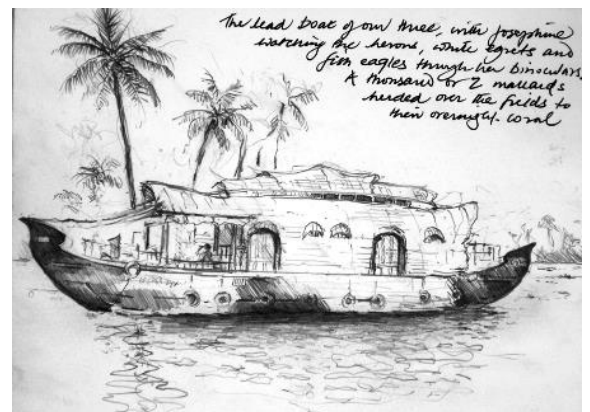
Tamil Nadu is one of the planet's last classical civilisations, with sacred rituals, ancient literature, songs and dance, traditional customs and crafts that owe nothing to the modern world and a language that is believed to pre-date Sanskrit. Here in the rural villages, we visit local communities whose way of life has changed little over the centuries.

You will have the opportunity to spend time in rarely visited traditional Tamil villages and temples, sketching and engaging with local people.

Ride an elephant through scented spice plantations, visit one of India's great sacred pilgrimage temples in Madurai city, relax with an Ayurvedic massage on the Malabar Coast and explore tranquil Kerala backwaters by rice barge (private houseboat) on a 2-day river cruise.

There are fascinating cycle rides (all downhill or on the flat!) to experience, as well as a private cooking lesson, visits to a lively fish auction and street markets, plus a bullock cart ride to a pomegranate farm and much more besides.

Your tour will contribute towards the vital work of SCAD (Social Change and Development), a local charity that hosts part of our stay.



*The lead boat of our trip, with Josephine
evening the house, with lights and
fish eagles through the windows.
A thousand or 2 mounds
headed over the fields to
their overnight work.*

Tour cost from £3774 per person sharing

Single Room Supplement £879 - please let us know if you would like to save on this supplement by sharing accommodation; we will be happy to put you in touch with any other same-sex member of the group who would also like to discuss this option



Our prices include: - All accommodation, all meals, art tuition, guiding & hosting, excursions & internal transport by private mini-bus, entrance fees as stated on the itinerary, group airport transfers, group gratuities & service taxes, and a charitable donation to SCAD of £300 per person

Our prices exclude: - Flights, alcoholic drinks & items of a personal nature & personal gratuities, travel insurance, optional activities, art materials, visa

Flights with Emirates from London to Trivandrum, returning from Cochin are from approximately £625 - *subject to availability*

Art Safari is happy to arrange your flights for you but offer you the option of sourcing them yourself. Please liaise with us for flight timings; we aim to have the group all travelling on the same Emirates flights from London Heathrow. If arriving at a different time from the group, there may be a small charge for separate airport transfers. We can also arrange extra days and wonderful tour extensions in India.

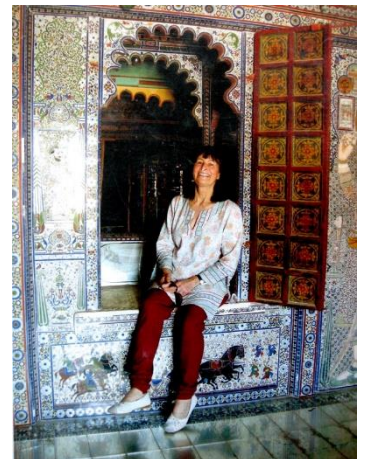
Further information about what art materials and clothing to take with you, medical and insurance requirements etc will be given to you later. Maxine has some art materials she can lend beginners. She will also invite you to a pre-departure lunch at her gallery to meet your fellow-travellers.

Your tutor Maxine Relton

Maxine is a full-time independent artist based in the Cotswolds where she has her studio and gallery. She has been leading painting tours to South India since 2008 and is completely captivated by the colour, diversity, people, culture and warm hospitality.

Maxine is both representational and abstract in her approach - *'Although drawing plays a central role in all my work, I like to re-cast ideas in a wide variety of art forms, moving between sketch, print, painting, photograph, drawing and sculpture as a way of questioning and reshaping my perceptions. It helps me towards a better understanding of the world around me.'*

Maxine is an Elected Academician, Royal West of England Academy; her work can be found in private collections worldwide, including the Royal Collection.



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Call to reserve your place on **01394 382235**

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Art Safari is ATOL registered 9916

As featured in: The Guardian, The Telegraph, The Sunday Times, Artist & Illustrators., The Artist, Leisure Painter, Wanderlust, Travel Africa, Adventure Travel, Africa Geographic, Traveller Magazine, Evening Standard



SCAD – SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Part of your tour cost (£300 per person) contributes towards the vital work of SCAD, a thriving NGO that hosts part of the tour. We stay for a few days on the beautiful campus of one of SCAD's 7 further-education colleges and have the immense privilege of visiting some of the villages where they have been working for 30 years.



Established in 1985 by a visionary and dedicated man named Cletus Babu, with a small group of friends and no more than a few pounds in their pocket, they committed themselves to “reach the unreached”. Since then they and their team have worked tirelessly to empower some of India's poorest and most socially deprived people in every aspect of their lives; health, education, micro-finance, women's self-help groups, agriculture and water conservation. Their achievements have been astounding, working as they now do with some 800,000 villagers, 450 schools, minority groups, special-needs children, the leprosy-affected and the elderly. www.scad.org.in

South India FAQs

Artistic Aims: any subject of choice : people, landscapes, villages, architecture, animals from life, abstract interpretations

Mediums: Watercolour paints, pencils, water-soluble colour pencils, water-soluble pastels, water soluble coloured felt, gel or marker pens

Accommodation: Turtle on the Beach in Kovalam, SCAD guest accommodation, at a College Campus in Tamil Nadu, Heritage Madurai Hotel in Madurai, Cardamom County in Thekkady, Deluxe Houseboat in Alleppey, Xandari Pearl in Marari, Francis Residence (wonderful home stay), Fort Kochi.

Suitable for photographers: Yes, the tour format is ideal for photographers

What will my non- sketching partner do? All our well-chosen and varied locations are brimming with life, colour and activity which the whole group can enjoy. The emphasis will be on the art of quick sketching to capture the rich variety around us but if any non-sketchers would like to spend time on their own, Maxine will be happy to discuss alternative activities.

Joining Airport for group transfers: Thiruvananthapuram (known as Trivandrum) International Airport in Kerala - ask us for timings before booking your flights (we return from Cochin)

Walking: This tour is very accessible, let us know in advance if steps/stairs are a problem for you, so we can request ground floor rooms.

Suggested tour extensions: Ask us for inspiration!

Average temperatures in February: Likely temperatures in the upper 20s, occasionally just into the lower 30s, with no monsoon rains and manageable humidity expected. We have air-conditioned transport and accommodation throughout. February is considered the very best season to visit this region.

Group Size: Maximum of 10 people

I wanted to thank you so much for all the effort you put into making our holiday so wonderful. I enjoyed absolutely every minute of it, from meeting the little children at SCAD, watching village women doing their washing, taking in the amazing scenery, learning about the local crafts and vegetation and seeing first hand life in India that so few Westerners are privileged to see. None of the above would have been possible without your knowledge and experience of India and we were so lucky that you shared this with us with untiring and indomitable enthusiasm. Most of the time my head was on a permanent swivel not knowing which scene to take in first. It was a true assault on the senses.

Janine Barton

Art Safari 'Silver Ring of South India' - February 2018

