

SOUTH INDIA TOUR – 2019

PLACES COVERED : CHENNAI – MAHABALIPURAM – KANCHIPURAM – TIRUVANAMALAI – PONDICHERRY – TRICHY – MADURAI – THEKKADY – ALLEPPEY – COCHIN.

TOUR ITINERARY

DAY – 01 – CHENNAI

Arrive at Chennai Airport in the morning , meet our representative and thereafter transfer to Hotel and relax! 12:30 pm lunch at Annalakshmi Restaurant (typical Indian) - Complimentary by ITP!.... Afterwards Sightseeing Tour - Chennai, on the Bay of Bengal in eastern India, is the capital of the state of Tamil Nadu. The city is home to Fort St. George, built in 1644 and now a museum showcasing the city's roots as a British military garrison and East India Company trading outpost, when it was called Madras. Religious sites include Kapaleeshwarar Temple, adorned with carved and painted gods, and St. Mary's, a 17th-century Anglican church.

Visit Government Museum , National Arts Gallery and Valluvar Kottam , Valluvar Kottam is a popular monument in Chennai, dedicated to the classical Tamil poet, philosopher, and saint, Thiruvalluvar.....Evening enjoy a around Chennai streets – Overnight Stay at Chennai – Hotel Grant GRT <https://grthotels.com/chennai>



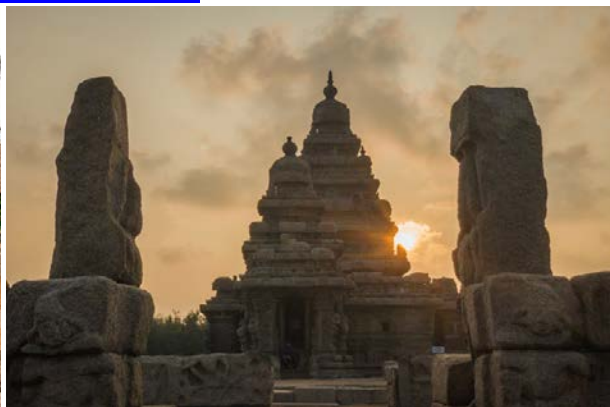
DAY – 02 – CHENNAI - MAHABALIPURAM 02 HRS DRIVE – 58 KMS

Get up early and ready for “ Peacock Trail Walking “ Tour in Mylapore . Explore Chennai's Mylapore neighborhood with a local guide and learn about the rituals of daily life, hear stories of Gods and demons and gain a deeper understanding of local customs and traditions. This popular walking tour showcases the highlights and the history of this incredible city and is not to be missed. The Peacock Trail is a relaxing, enjoyable walk through Mylapore that comes with a bundle of stories – stories of local life, of Gods and demons, of ancient customs and symbolism, and of Mylapore and Madras. You might find them amusing or baffling and the stories should also help you make sense of the sights you are visiting. Why is it called the Peacock Trail? Well, of course there is a story, too. Visit the Kapaleeshwara Temple, the Santhome Church, and walk through the by-lanes of Mylapore with a storyteller during this 3-hour tour. The tour is mostly on foot with a short stretch in an auto-rickshaw (local tuk-tuk) that are arranged and included in the tour and it will end with south Indian refreshments.

Afternoon transfer to Mahabalipuram - Mamallapuram, or Mahabalipuram, is a town on a strip of land between the Bay of Bengal and the Great Salt Lake, in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It's known for its temples and monuments built by the Pallava dynasty in the 7th and 8th centuries. The seafront Shore Temple comprises 3 ornate granite shrines. Krishna's Butter Ball is a massive boulder balanced on a small hill near the Ganesha Ratha stone temple.

En – route stopover over for Lunch and also visiting important place called “Dakshina Chitra Museum “ DakshinaChitra is an exciting cross cultural living museum of art, architecture, lifestyles, crafts and performing arts of South India. The main mission is to exhibit, promote and preserve aspects of the broader, more inclusive cultures of the states and to bring these arts to the public in a participative, enjoyable and engaging way. DakshinaChitra Heritage Museum , a project of Madras Craft Foundation an NGO was opened to the public on December 14th 1996.

Soon you arrive at Mahabalipuram visit Tiger Cave , Krishna's Butter Balls and Descent of the Ganges , Varaha Cave and Arjuna's Penance , Krishna Mandapam..... Check-in to the Hotel and Day free at leisure relax in around the Beach – Overnight Stay at Mahabalipuram - Hotel INDeco <http://www.indecohoteles.com/mahabalipuram.html>.



DAY – 03 – MAHABALIPURAM

Post Breakfast and get ready for two more places to visit Pancha Rathas and Darshan at Shore Temple. The Shore Temple is so named because it overlooks the shore of the Bay of Bengal. It is a structural temple, built with blocks of granite, dating from the 8th century AD..... Rest of the Day free at leisure – Overnight Stay at Mahabalipuram - Hotel INDeco <http://www.indecohoteles.com/mahabalipuram.html>.



DAY – 04 – MAHABALIPURAM – TIRUVANAMALAI APPX 03 HRS DRIVE – 150 KMS

Today after Breakfast we leave Mahabalipuram and drive to Tiruvannamalai. Tiruvannamalai is a Hindu pilgrimage town in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu. At the foot of sacred Arunachala Hill is the vast, ancient Arulmigu Arunachaleswarar Temple, dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, with intricately carved gopurams (towers)..... As we arrive there we will visit Sri Ramana Ashram for 30 minutes meditation followed by Lunch in the Ashram. Sri Ramana Ashram, also known as Sri Ramanasramam, is the ashram which was home to modern sage and Advaita Vedanta philosopher Ramana Maharshi from 1922 until his death in 1950..... Later transfer to Hotel and relax . Evening Walk around Temple streets of Shiva is known by devotees as Annamalayar or Arunachaleswarar. And this is believed to be the largest temple in the world dedicated to Shiva. The history of this Annamalayar temple dates back to thousand years. Mention has been made in the Thevaram and Thiruvasagam, both great works in Tamil.... Overnight Stay at Tiruvannamalai – Hotel <http://sparsaresorts.com/index.php>



DAY – 05 – MAHABALIPURAM – PONDICHERRY APPX 02 HRS & 30 MINUTES DRIVE – 110 KMS

Early morning take a little walk around holy hill at Tiruvannamalai near by your Hotel . The hill is also known by the names Arunagiri, Annamalai Hill, Arunachalam, Arunai, Sonagiri and Sonachalam. It is one of the five main shaivite holy places in South India..... After Breakfast and Check-Out the Hotel drive to Pondicherry , Pondicherry (or Puducherry), a French colonial settlement in India until 1954, is now a Union Territory town bounded by the southeastern Tamil Nadu state. Its French legacy is preserved in its French Quarter, with tree-lined streets, mustard-colored colonial villas and chic boutiques. A seaside promenade runs along the Bay of Bengal and passes several statues, including a 4m-high Gandhi Memorial.

Upon arrival Pondicherry visit Auroville , Auroville is an experimental community in southern India. It was founded in 1968 by the spiritual leader Mirra Alfassa as a town where people from all over the world could live in harmony. Its focal point is the Matrimandir, a futuristic, spherical temple covered in gold discs. Check-in to the Hotel and relax till noon. By 01:00 PM Lunch and get ready for Sightseeing visiting Pondicherry Museum , Raj Nivas - Le Palais Du governor now called the Raj Nivas is situated surrounded by the Rue Jawaharlal Nehru on the North, Rue De Rangapoule on the South and Rue Saint Louis on the East and Rue Francois Martin on the West with access from the north and south. The Governor's House has a history of its own. Pierre Benoît Dumas, the French Governor for Pondicherry, laid the foundation for a Governor's palace in 1738 but the palace had to wait for the arrival of Joseph François Dupleix to see its completion. When Jean Law de Lauriston took over Pondicherry in 1765 the town was completely in ruins. Within a short span of three years a whole new town sprang up on the ruins of the old - the Governor's Palace and the administration offices on the north, the warehouses on the south, the military barracks on the east and west..... Evening walk around French Colonial streets - Overnight Stay at Pondicherry Hotel Palais de Mahe

<http://www.cghearth.com/palais-de-mahe>



DAY – 06 – PONDICHERRY

After early Breakfast visit The Sri Aurobindo Ashram for little Meditation . The ashram grew out of a small community of disciples who had gathered around Sri Aurobindo after he retired from politics and settled in Pondicherry in 1910. On 24 November 1926, after a major spiritual realization, Sri Aurobindo withdrew from public view in order to continue his spiritual work. At this time he handed over the full responsibility for the inner and outer lives of the sadhaks (spiritual aspirants) and the ashram to his spiritual collaborator, "the Mother", earlier known as Mirra Alfassa. This date is therefore generally known as the founding-day of the ashram, though, as Sri Aurobindo himself wrote, it had "less been created than grown around him as its centre.".....

Rest of the day free at leisure activities Option for relaxing on the Beach and walk around for Shopping etc.... Overnight Stay at Pondicherry Hotel Palais de Mahe <http://www.cghearth.com/palais-de-mahe>



DAY – 07 – PONDICHERRY – TANJORE APPX 03 HRS DRIVE – 165 KMS

After Breakfast we leave for Tanjore - Thanjavur is a city in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Its many temples include the 11th-century Brihadeeswarar Temple, a vast Chola dynasty–era complex with a frescoed interior. Thanjavur Maratha Palace is home to the centuries-old Saraswathi Mahal Library, with palm-leaf manuscripts, and Thanjavur Art Gallery, with bronze statues.

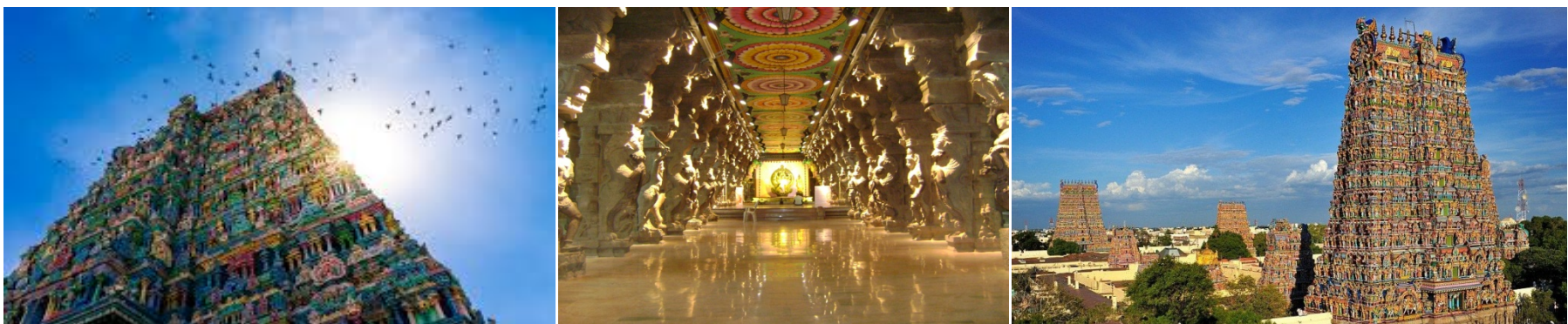
En – route stopover for Lunch at Trichy. Upon arrival at Tanjore visit Tamil University Museum and Rajarajan Manimandapam, Brihadeeswara Temple and Royal Palace Museum. Later after Sightseeing Transfer to Hotel and rest of the Day at leisure – Overnight Stay at Tanjore Hotel Svratma <http://www.svatma.in/>



DAY – 08 – TANJORE – MADURAI APPX 04 HRS DRIVE – 189 KMS

Early morning walk around near by Village. After Breakfast Check-Out the Hotel and drive to Madurai - Madurai is an energetic, ancient city on the Vaigai River in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Its skyline is dominated by the 14 colorful gopurams (gateway towers) of Meenakshi Amman Temple. Covered in bright carvings of Hindu gods, the Dravidian-style temple is a major pilgrimage site. Millions attend the processions and ceremonies of April's Chithirai Festival celebrating Meenakshi and Lord Vishnu.

Arrival at Madurai and get freshen – up and then get ready for Sightseeing Tour – Visit Gandhi Memorial Museum , Aayiram Kaal Mandapam and Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal - The Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal is a palace that carries within herself stories and incidents of art and war. Beautifully structured laid out in the open, it's a must to visit during the day for its structural beauty and evening for its sound and light show. Evening Darshan at Sri Meenakshi Temple Beautiful vast temple with a lot of religious fervor and much to see inside although not all parts are accessible to non hindus. The entrance is only a little chaotic however inside it is great to discover the beautiful historic architecture and to see so many people worshipping. Rest of the evening free for your leisure activities – Overnight Stay at Madurai Hotel Heritage Madurai <http://www.heritagemadurai.com/>.



DAY – 09 – MADURAI – THEKKADY / PERIYER APPX 04 HRS DRIVE – 148 KMS

Breakfast and Check-Out the Hotel drive to Thekkady / Periyar The very sound of the word Thekkady conjures up images of elephants, unending chains of hills and spice scented plantations. The Periyar forests of Thekkady is one of the finest wildlife reserves in India. Spreads across the entire district are the picturesque plantations and hill towns that nestle beautiful trails for treks and mountain walks.

Upon arrival Check-In to the Hotel and relax for a while. Later in the evening Enjoy an Elephant ride and Martial Arts Shows and walk around Spice Market of Kumily Town – Overnight Stay at Thekkady Hotel Amaana Plantation Resort <http://www.amaanaresorts.com/about.html>.



DAY – 10- THEKKADY / PERIYER

Early morning by 06:00 AM get ready for 02 Hrs Jungle Walk with English Speaking Guided. Back to the Hotel and relax till noon. Later visit En route visit Spice & Ayurvedic Garden with English speaking guide and followed by 02 Hrs Boating at Periyar Lake - which is the best way to locate Wildlife in Periyar Sanctuary.– Overnight Stay at Thekkady Hotel Amaana Plantation Resort

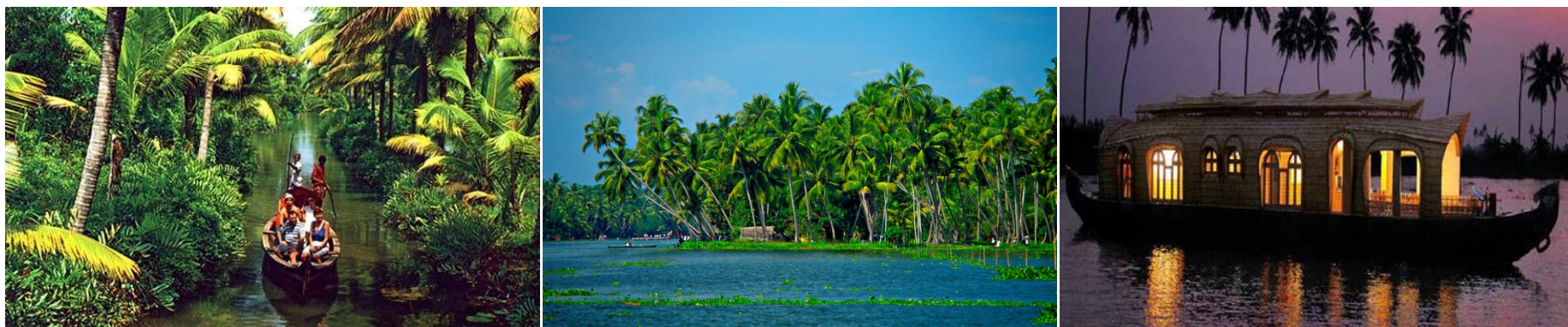
<http://www.amaanaresorts.com/about.html>.



DAY – 11 – THEKKADY / PERIYER – ALLEPPEY APPX 04 HRS DRIVE – 130 KMS

Post breakfast and leave for Alleppey , the "Venice of the East". Here we get our houseboat, which today brings us through small channels to remote villages, where we can observe the daily life of the villagers. Nowhere in the world is there a similar landscape as in Kerala. The palm trees on the banks of the canals, which are reflected in the green water, create a unique atmosphere and nothing disturbs the tranquility of these backwaters. House boat (former banana barges that have been rebuilt - creating qualified jobs in tourism) - gentle and peaceful, the landscape fair by the waterways. The barges are called Malayalam, the language of Kerala, "Kettuvallom"; ("Kettu" means "sew", "vallom" "boat") literally means "sewn boat". The ship's carpenters do not use a single nail, only wood and coconut strings to build the boats. The backwaters are a mix of salt and fresh water and are a network of canals, rivers and lakes. Most of them are natural watercourses that have been widened by sewer structures to facilitate boat transports, as well as redirecting water for the rice fields. On the banks of the backwaters lure many small temples and beautiful churches to visit. Connoisseurs and discoverers come along on a houseboat trip Kettuvallom the secrets of Kerala on the track. Life takes place in and on the water. For hours we gather new impressions. The leisurelyness of the Kettuvalloms lets us slowly immerse ourselves in the new environment. Here we come travelers unobtrusively the everyday life of the Close to people. All houseboats have spacious double cabins - each with its own shower and toilet, a living area and a sundeck. The high standard is given by attention to detail and a deal with reached European guests experienced team. The crew consists of two boatmen and cook. The "chef" also fulfills personal Meal preferences. He conjures up rich menus from the diverse menu of the sea - freshly caught Indian style. The dishes are served in the "three million star restaurant"! In the evening the boat anchors. We are having a fantastic night under a magnificent starry sky! • Yoga light in the evening Overnight on board with full board.

Note : South Indian Food Cooking demonstration class will be provided on board.



DAY – 12 – ALLEPPEY – COCHIN APPX 01 HR 30 MINUTES DRIVE – 55 KMS

After breakfast on board we leave for Cochin , Commercial Capital of Kerala. Cochin - the city praised as the "pearl of the Indian Ocean" is the cultural and economic center of Kerala. Already in antiquity Cochin was a famous trading center for spices. Cochin (600,000 inhabitants) was celebrated as the "Queen of the Arabian Sea". The port city in the center of the Malabar coast gained riches by exporting spices across the Arabian Sea to Europe. The natural harbor of Cochin was first created in the 14th century by a flood in the lagoon landscape. 2 In 1929, the expansion of the modern port began, and recently an international airport was opened. The city of Cochin is located on several islands in front of the mainland town of Ernakulam. Several ferry lines connect Willington Island (with the smaller older airport) to the islands of Bolghatty, Candle and Gundy, as well as the peninsulas Mattancherry and Vypen. In the south of Ernakulam, the industry is spreading. A ferry from the Main Boat Jetty in Ernakulam will take you to the oldest part of Cochin, the old town in the Fort area of Mattancherry, where the old houses and stores of spice traders are dreaming away. East and West have always met here, the first Portuguese settlement originated here already in the 16th century. In 1663 the Dutch took possession of the harbor, in 1796 the British conquered Cochin. Long before that, Arab traders stopped here, as did the Chinese, whose typical fishing nets are still found on lifting bars.



The Sightseeing Tour followed by Kerala's Traditional Lunch. Visit Mattencherry Palace - Indo - Portuguese Museum – Museum on region's Portuguese influence.... Then Folklore Museum & Santa Cruz Cathedral Church and Chinese Fishing Net..... Evening free for 01 Hr Kathakali Dance Show.– Overnight Stay at Cochin Hotel Neerana's Le Colonial <http://www.neemranahotels.com/le-colonial-cochin-kerala/> OR The Tower House By Neerana's <http://www.neemranahotels.com/the-tower-house-cochin-kerala/>

Note : Mattencherry Palace is closed on Monday.

DAY – 13 – COCHIN DEPARTURE

Today full day at leisure Option for Ayurveda Massage in the Ayurveda Centre in Cochin & Shopping around MG Road before you depart late evening.

After Dinner we transfer you to Cochin Airport onward your return Journey!!!

TOUR COST PER PERSON EURO 1728 (BASED ON 02 PAX – ADULT)

TOUR COST PER PERSON EURO 1353 (BASED ON 18 PAX – ADULTS)

SUPPLEMENT COST EURO 750

SGL (Single room supplement)

PACKAGE INCLUSIVE

- Ø Pick-Up and Drop to and from Airport / Railway Station as per the Itinerary.
- Ø Accommodation in Twin / Triple sharing in all above mention Hotel/Similar
- Ø Daily Breakfast & Dinner in above said Hotels.
- Ø Alleppey House Boat Stay with all Meals
- Ø Daily complementary mineral water bottle in the Car / Coach each will be provided.
- Ø Complementary South Indian Lunch in Chennai on arrival day.
- Ø South Indian Food Cooking demonstration class will be provided on board.
- Ø English Speaking Guide as per the Itinerary
- Ø Kerala's Traditional Lunch on Banana Leaf in Cochin.
- Ø Peacock Trail Walking in Chennai & Lunch at Sri Ramana Ashram will be provided as per the Itinerary.
- Ø Elephant Ride in Thekkady
- Ø 01 Hr Kathakali Dance Show in Cochin
- Ø 02 Hrs Boating at Periyar Lake in Thekkady
- Ø Spice and Ayurveda Plantation visit in Thekkady with English Speaking Guide
- Ø Nature Walk with English Speaking Guide in Periyar
- Ø Ferry Transfer in Fort Cochin to Vypin to & fro.
- Ø Kalaripayattu Martial Arts Show in Thekkady
- Ø All transfers and Sightseeing's by A/C Car / Coach with English Speaking experienced driver.
- Ø All interstate taxes, permits, toll, parking and fuel charges etc.
- Ø Drivers allowances and all other expenses related to the car.
- Ø All hotel taxes and service charges.

TOUR EXCLUDES

- Ø Any air fare.
- Ø Any Monuments entrances.
- Ø Camera Fee(Still or Video).
- Ø Cost of any services of personal nature.
- Ø Cost of Lunches or dinners if otherwise not mentioned.

Important Remark

- No booking is made till date and rooms are subject to availability.
- Please note the check in time in the hotels is 1200 Hrs and check out time is 1200 Hrs.
- Early check and late checkout is subject to room availability in the Hotel.
- In A/C Deluxe House Boat Stay Air Conditioned will be Operated from 21:00 Hrs - 06:00 Hrs
- Booking will be confirmed after receiving advance and on availability of hotels mentioned
- There will not be any change in the hotels mentioned without informing you
- We suggest to check reviews and location of hotels mentioned to make sure it is as per your preferences before confirming the package and change of hotel on arrival would charge retention
- During the journey if someone asks for extra money, you may inform us and we may not be responsible if you pay without our concern.
- The above rate are valid for the mentioned period only and subject to change without any prior notice..
- Child below 05 Years is Complimentary without Bed with their Parents.
- Sight seeing one time visit only.
- Midnight driving will not be provided.
- All Sightseeing One time Visit only.

BOOKING POLICY:

Package Confirmation & Booking can be made against the payment 50% of the total amount and the Balance amount will be collected at the time of arrival. During the peak time, the balance amount should be paid even before the arrival as per the hotel policy. Payment can be done by direct cash/ bank transfer/Coequal towards the account of mentioned the confirmation mail.

NOTES : IN SOME OF THE HINDU TEMPLES DO NOT ALLOW FOREIGNERS / NON HINDUS INSIDE THE TEMPLE FOR DARSHAN , IN THIS CASE YOU ARE REQUESTED TO VISIT ONLY TEMPLE PREMISES / OUTSIDE FROM THE ENTRY POINTS.