

SOUTH INDIA TOUR – 2019

PLACES COVERED : TRIVANDRUM – KOVALAM – KANYAKUMARI – RAMESWRAM – MADURAI – KARAIKUDI – THEKKADY – KUMARAKOM – ALLEPPEY – COCHIN

DAY – 01 – TRIVANDRUM ARRIVAL

Arrival at Trivandrum Airport , meet and transfer to Hotel in Kovalam , Kovalam is an internationally renowned beach with three adjacent crescent beaches. It has been a favourite haunt of tourists since the 1930s. A massive rocky promontory on the beach has created a beautiful bay of calm waters ideal for sea bathing..... Check-in to the Hotel and day free at leisure Option for Ayurveda Massage at Ayurveda Centres – Overnight Stay at Kovalam Hotel Manaltheeram Beach Resort <http://manaltheeram.com/>



DAY – 02 – KOVALAM & TRIVANDRUM

Post Breakfast and get ready for Trivandrum City Tour .Thiruvananthapuram (or Trivandrum) is the capital of the southern Indian state of Kerala. It's distinguished by its British colonial architecture and many art galleries. It's also home to Kuthira Malika (or Puthen Malika) Palace, adorned with carved horses and displaying collections related to the Travancore royal family, whose regional capital was here from the 18th–20th centuries.

Napier Museum - The museum was established in 1855. In 1874, the old Museum Building was demolished and foundation for the new building was laid. The new building was named after Lord Napier, the Governor of Madras from 1866-1872. Also interesting to visit Sree Chhitra Arts Gallery which is adjacent to Museum..... 01:30 pm lunch at Mother's Plaza (Kerala's Traditional) - Complimentary by ITP!.... Afterwards visit Kuthiramalika Palace- 122 smiling wooden horses await all who visit 'Kuthiramalika', which means "palace of horses". Formally known as Kuthiramalika Palace Museum or Puthenmalika Palace Museum, it is a pristine two-storied palace near the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram. Built by Swathi Thirunal Balarama Varma, who was Maharaja of the Kingdom of Travancore in British India, it takes one back to the 1840s when it was first constructed. It is a great example of the Kerala school of architecture and is made from teakwood, rosewood, marble, and granite. The museum houses idols and sculptures made from white marble, Kathakali figures, Belgian mirrors and paintings. The flourishing spice trade between Kerala and the world made it possible to obtain those items..... Evening visit Sri Padmanabha Swamy Temple , The principal deity Vishnu is enshrined in the "Anantha Shayanam" posture, the eternal yogic sleep on the serpent Adisheshan. Sree Padmanabhaswamy is the tutelary deity of the royal family of Travancore. The titular Maharaja of Travancore Moolam Thirunal Rama Varma is the trustee of the temple. In line with the Temple Entry Proclamation, only those who profess the Hindu faith are permitted entry to the temple and devotees have to strictly follow the dress code. The name of the city of Thiruvananthapuram in Malayalam translates to "The City of Lord Ananta", referring to the deity of Padmanabhaswamy Temple. And walk around Chalai Market – Back to Kovalam Beach – Overnight Stay at Kovalam Hotel Manaltheeram Beach Resort <http://manaltheeram.com/>

Note : Going inside the Temple for Darshan will be allow for Foreigners / Non Hindus.



DAY – 03 – KOVALAM – KANYAKUMARI APPX 03 HRS DRIVE – 90 KMS

Breakfast and Check-out the Hotel and drive to Kanyakumari - Kanyakumari is a coastal town in the state of Tamil Nadu on India's southern tip. Jutting into the Laccadive Sea, the town was known as Cape Comorin during British rule and is popular for watching sunrise and sunset over the ocean. It's also a noted pilgrimage site thanks to its Bagavathi Amman Temple, dedicated to a consort of Shiva, and its Our Lady of Ransom Church, a center of Indian Catholicism.

En – route we visit The Padmanabhapuram Palace. This masterpiece of indigenous Kerala architecture is located at Thuckalay, on the way to Kanyakumari. The wooden palace is well maintained and its murals, fabulous floral carvings and black granite floor continue to astound all who view it to this day. The interiors are beautiful relics with intricate rose carvings and sculptured decor. It has many murals dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries. The mahogany musical bow, windows of coloured mica, royal chairs with carvings from the Far East and the great 'Thaikkottaram', the Queen Mother's palace with painted ceilings, all add a unique mysticism to the entire place..... And then visit The suchindrum temple , Suchindram Temple also known as Thanumalayan Temple is located in Suchindram district of Kanyakumari, at a distance of around 11 km from Kanyakumari. The striking aspect of this temple is that it is dedicated to the Trinity of God, Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu and Lord Brahma. Owing to this, it has high religious importance to devotees belonging to both Shaivite and Vaishnavite sects.

Also known as Sthanumalayan Perumal Temple, it consists of around 30 shrines and presents captivating architecture. The deity in the temple, Sri Sthanumalayan represents Sthanu means Lord Shiva, Mal symbolizes Lord Vishnu and Aya symbolizes Lord Brahma. This temple is also known with the name of Suchindram Lord Anjaneyar Temple.

Arrive at Kanyakumari and check-in to the Hotel and relax till 03:00 PM. Later we will visit to Vivekananda Rock memorial and Statue of Thiruvalluvar. Enjoy Sunset from the tip of India. Rest of the day at leisure - Overnight at Kanyakumari Hotel Sparsa

<http://sparsaresorts.com/home/>



DAY – 04 – KANYAKUMARI – KARAİKUDI APPX 06 HRS DRIVE – 331 KMS

Enjoy the Sunrise followed by breakfast and Check-Out the Hotel by 08:am and we will leave for Karaikudi, Karaikudi is a municipality in Sivaganga district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is part of the area commonly referred to as "Chettinad" and has been declared a heritage town by the Government.

Arrive and we go for Special Non Veg Lunch (Chettinad – Karaikudi). Rest free for leisure. Evening we take a Cycle Tour around Karaikudi City with short break for Tea and snacks in around the street..... Rest of the evening free at leisure – Overnight Stay at Chettinad Hotel Visalam

<http://www.cghearth.com/visalam>



DAY – 05 – KARAİKUDI - RAMESWARAM APPX 03 HRS DRIVE – 140 KMS

Today after early breakfast set a day trip to Rameswaram - Rameswaram is a town on Pamban Island, in the southeast Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It's known for Ramanathaswamy Temple, a Hindu pilgrimage site with ornate corridors, huge sculpted pillars and sacred water tanks. Devotees bathe in the waters of Agni Theertham, off the beach east of the temple. Gandamadana Parvatham is a hill with island views. A chakra (wheel) here is said to bear an imprint of Lord Rama's feet..... We visit Ramanathaswamy Temple - According to the Ramayana, Rama, the seventh avatar of the god Vishnu, prayed to the god Shiva to absolve him of the sin of killing a Brahmin, committed during his war against the demon king Ravana in Sri Lanka. Rama wanted to have a large lingam to worship Shiva. He directed Hanuman, the monkey lieutenant in his army, to bring a lingam from the Himalayas. When Hanuman was delayed in bringing the lingam, Sita, the wife of Rama, built a small lingam out of the sand available in the sea shore, which is believed to be the lingam in the sanctum.

Then we will take a short visit to Dhanushkodi is an abandoned town at the south-eastern tip of Pamban Island of the state of Tamil Nadu in India. It is situated to the South-East of Pamban and is about 18 miles west of Talaimannar in Sri Lanka..... Evening come back to Chettinad Overnight Stay at Hotel Visalam <http://www.cghearth.com/visalam>



DAY – 06 – KARAİKUDI – MADURAI APPX 02 HRS DRIVE – 87 KMS

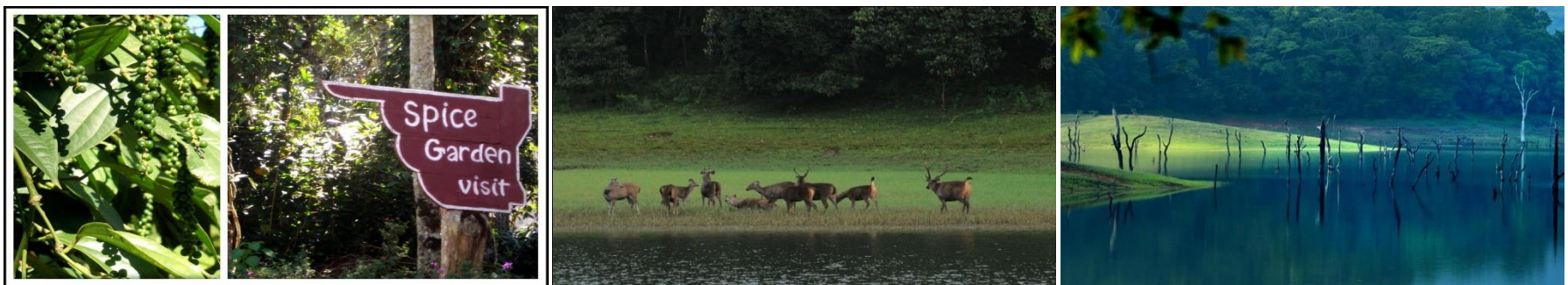
Early morning walk around near by Village. After Breakfast Check-Out the Hotel and drive to Madurai - Madurai is an energetic, ancient city on the Vaigai River in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Its skyline is dominated by the 14 colorful gopurams (gateway towers) of Meenakshi Amman Temple. Covered 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 – 07 – MADURAI – THEKKADY APPX 03 HRS DRIVE – 140 KMS

Post Breakfast and check-out the Hotel and 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 – 08 – THEKKADY

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 Kerala Spice Plantation and followed by 02 Hrs Boating at Periyar Lake - which is the best way to locate Wildlife in Periyar Sanctuary. Evening 01 Yoga at Hotel – Overnight Stay at Thekkady Hotel Amaana Plantation Resort <http://www.amaanaresorts.com/about.html>



DAY – 09 – THEKKADY – ALLEPPEY APPX 04 HRS DRIVE – 140 KMS

After breakfast we 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! • Enjoy a fishing on board - Overnight on board with full board.

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



DAY - 10 – ALLEPPEY – KUMARAKOM APPX 40 MINUTES DRIVE – 16 KMS

We embark after breakfast on board and leave to Kumarakom - Kumarakom is a village on Vembanad Lake in the backwaters of Kerala, southern India. It's laced with canals, where houseboats ply the waters. Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is home to many species including cuckoos and Siberian storks. Nearby, the Bay Island Driftwood Museum displays wooden sculptures. In the lake, Pathiramanal Island is a haven for rare migratory birds. Ancient Thazhathangady Mosque is east of Kumarakom.

The Experience

Kumarakom is a cluster of small picturesque islands around the Vembanad Lake. The village is well acclaimed for its backwaters, delicious cuisines and greenery. This tourist destination, over the years, is one of the most-visited in Kerala. Our journey will begin at Kavanatinkara after a briefing session. You will be accompanied by a guide who will familiarize you to the picturesque landscapes and the lush green surroundings of Kumarakom. Your journey begins in a country boat. Proceed over a lake flanked by greens, to the manjira village. Get a grand reception from villagers with cheers and flower garlands..... Rest of the day free for your leisure activities – Overnight Stay at Kumarakom Hotel Coconut Lagoon Resort <http://www.cghearth.com/coconut-lagoon>



DAY – 11 – KUMARAKOM – CHERAI / COCHIN APPX 01 HRS & 30 MINUTES – 53 KMS

Early morning we visit Kumarakom Birds Sanctuary . Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is among the most popular bird watching spots in the country. Spread out over 14 hectares, one comes across numerous rare avian species in these parts. Located on the banks of the Vembanad Lake in Kottayam, one gets to see a variety of migratory birds that flock in thousands, ranging from places like the Himalayas to Siberia. Breakfast and Check-Out the Hotel and we move to 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. 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 lunch in Punjabi Dhaba (typical Indian) - Complimentary by ITP!.. Visit Mattencherry Palace - Indo - Portuguese Museum – Museum on region's Portuguese influence.... Then Folklore Museum & Santa Cruz Cathedral Church and Chinese Fishing Net After all we drive to Cherai Beach . It is a favourite haunt of those looking for a relaxing swim with the backdrop of coconut groves being the added incentive. It provides a wonderful view of the famous Chinese Fishing Nets or Cheena Valaas well. The nearby shacks provide you with fresh cuisine that fills you up perfectly after a delightful swim.

Overnight Stay at Cherai Beach Hotel Club Mahindra <http://www.clubmahindra.com/our-resorts/club-mahindra-cherai-beach-kerala>

Note : Mattancherry Palace is closed on Monday.



DAY – 12 – CHERAI – COCHIN AIRPORT

Today you have full day for leisure activities Option for Ayurveda Massage and Shopping around Cochin MG Road and many more on the Beach. If interested enjoy a watching of Kathakali Dance Show..... After Dinner we transfer you to Cochin Airport onward your return Journey!!!

TOUR COST PER PERSON EURO 1670 (BASED ON 02 PAX – ADULT)

TOUR COST PER PERSON EURO 1420 (BASED ON 18 PAX – ADULTS)

SUPPLEMENT COST EURO 818

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 English Speaking Guide as per the Itinerary
- Ø Complementary Kerala's Traditional Lunch on Banana Leaf in Trivandrum.
- Ø Complementary Indian Lunch at Karaikudi & Cochin
- Ø South Indian Food Cooking demonstration class will be provided on board.
- Ø Elephant Ride in Thekkady
- 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.