Beautiful South 14 days

Chennai, Pondicherry and Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. Kochi, colonial hill stations and a rice boat cruise on the Keralan backwaters. An action packed fortnight in the Southern Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, that simply has it all!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Chennai / Ends in: Kochi
- Departs: any day of the year
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:13, Lunch: 1, Dinner: 1
- Hotel Rating: Superior
- Tour Guide: Yes - for all scheduled sightseeing

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - click here
- To book this trip - click here
- To enquire about this trip - click here

TOUR MAP:

QUICK WEB LINKS

India Prices ::: Why Us for India? ::: India Reviews ::: Our India Blog ::: Golden Triangle Tours ::: Kashmir Tours ::: Kerala Tours ::: Top Spots in India ::: Best Time to Travel ::: Festivals & Events ::: Hotels in India ::: Tiger Spotting ::: India - Useful Info ::: FAQs on India ::: India Visas ::: India Gallery

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Day 1: Chennai

Once you arrive into Chennai you will be met and transferred to your hotel. An afternoon tour of the city includes a vist to St George Fort, built in 1653 and St Mary's Church, the oldest British church in India. Overnight - Chennai

Day 2: Pondicherry

Chennai - Pondicherry. En route to Pondicherry visit Kanchipuram, one of sacred cities in India and the seaside town of Mahabalipuram, famous for its shore temple. The city is also famous for handwoven silk. In Mahabalipuram, the huge rock-cut sculptures and mandapams (pillared pavilions) date from the 5th to 8th centuries.

Drive south to Pondicherry, a former French colony which exudes a Mediterranean aura - whitewashed residences, ornamental gardens and excellent French-Indian restaurants. Many travellers come to visit the popular Sri Aurobindo Ashram, whose spiritual tenets combine yoga and modern science. Overnight - Pondicherry

Day 3: Tanjore

Pondicherry - Tanjore. Start the day with a sightseeing tour of Pondicherry which includes the enormous Brihadishwara Temple before continuing south. Arrive at Tanjore, also known as Thanjavur, Tanjore is an ancient fortified town, with a glorious history dating back more than 1500 years. Thanjavur was the ancient capital of the Chola kings whose origins date back to the beginning of Christianity. Overnight - Tanjore

Day 4: Trichy

Tanjore - Trichy. Spend the morning on a sightseeing tour of Tanjore before a short drive to Trichy. Our city tour includes the enormous Brihadishwara Temple. Built by Raja Raja in 1010, the World Heritage protected temple has a dome weighing an estimated 80 tonnes which was hauled into place along an earth ramp in a manner similar to that used for the Egyptian pyramids. Trichy has been ravaged by war through the centuries. A lasting legacy is the Rock Fort and its temples. Overnight - Trichy

Days 5 - 6: Madurai

Trichy - Madurai. Take a morning sightseeing tour of Trichy before the journey continues south to Madurai. An important centre for worship and commerce, Madurai has been around since the dawn of civilisation in southern India. A bustling city jam-packed with rickshawallas, pilgrims and traders and resembling a seemingly continuous bazaar crammed to the gunnels with shops, markets and lodgings for tourists and pilgrims, Madurai is yours this afternoon. Go immerse yourself. This evening, you'll witness a religious ceremony at a local temple. On the morning of day 7, enjoy a sightseeing tour. Highlights include the Sri Meenakshi Temple built in 1560 and the city's busy bazaars. The afternoon is then free for you to further explore the city. Overnight - Madurai

Day 7: Periyar NP

Madurai - Periyar. The journey continues to Periyar which has south India's most popular wildlife sanctuary and home to sambar wild boar, elephant, bison, antelope, langur and a small tiger population. Kumily, close to the sanctuary and where you'll stay, is a pretty town dotted with small spice and handicraft shops. Overnight - Periyar NP

Day 8: Periyar NP

There is plenty to do in and around Periyar. Perhaps enjoy a boat ride on Lake Periyar to spot herds of wild elephants or visit the nearby tea estates and spice plantation. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight - Periyar NP

Days 9 - 10: Kumarakom

Periyar- Kumarakom. Continue to Kumarakom. Perched sleepily amongst a tangle of lush tropical waterways known as the Keralan backwaters, Kumarakom is technically an island on Lake Vembanad. An ideal place to relax and be at one with natural surroundings, you'll enjoy two nights here. Check out the wonderful bird sanctuary. Overnight - Kumarakom

Day 11: Kerala Backwaters - Allapuzha

This morning, you'll board a traditional Keralan rice boat for a journey through the backwaters in and around Allapuzha (Alleppey). The boat will cross shallow, palm-fringed lakes and cruise along peaceful canals where copra and cashews are loaded onto local boats. The on-board cook will prepare locally-inspired food. Relax, read and catch some sun as the boat plies it's route. Overnight - Rice Boat

Day 12: Kochi

Backwaters - Kochi. Disembarking at Allapuzha, enjoy a short drive to Kochi (Cochin). The city of Kochi perfectly reflects the eclecticism of Kerala. One can see winding streets with mosques, a 16th century Jewish synagogue and Jewish community with ancient roots and 500 year old Portuguese cottages! Enjoy the remains of the day your way. Overnight - Kochi

Day 13: Kochi

This morning enjoy a sightseeing tour, including a walking tour of Fort Cochin. With the afternoon at leisure, perhaps watch famous Keralan dancers perform. Arrive early so you don't miss the artists applying their awesome make-up. Overnight - Kochi

Day 14: Kochi

Hotel check-out and included onward transfer to airport.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Chennai - the gateway of South India
- Kanchipuram and Mahabalipuram - temple towns
- Pondicherry - former French colonial town
- Tanjore - the ornate Brihadishwara Temple
- Trichy - the high up Rock Fort Temple
- Madurai - great temple town.
- Periyar wildlife sanctuary and Kumily
- Kumarakom and the famous Kerala backwaters
- Alleppey - Venice of the East
- Historic Kochi - Parsi Synagogue, Dutch Palace, St Francis Church, Fort Cochin, colourful boats and Chinese Fishing nets on the waterfront

What's Included

- 14 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- 13 nights superior hotels (standard and deluxe hotels available upon request) & 1 night rice boat
- Periyar - boating on lake OR visit to tea plantations
- Keralan backwaters - rice boat cruise (overnight)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 15
- Touring and excursions as per itinerary
- Local English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- Entrance fees to all relevant sights
- Chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicle

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $2,999

Prices shown are 'per person', based on a travelling party of at least 2 adults. The single supplement price needs to be added to the twin/double price if single rooms are required. If travelling solo, an additional '1-person' supplement will apply. Prices are indicative and will vary depending on your chosen hotels, room availability as well as time of travel i.e. during India's peak travel season of 21 Dec - 10 Jan, additional supplements will apply. Equally, if you with to travel to India during the summer, rates will

be cheaper than those quoted.. Please bear this in mind if comparing prices as we always aim to deliver exceptional value. This itinerary is based upon superior accommodation. Standard and deluxe properties are also available upon request. Please note that discounts will apply if there are more 4 our more people in your travelling party, since fixed costs like transportation and guiding are shared across the group.

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.