

# Beautiful South

## 14 days | Chennai to Kochi



*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!*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### 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

- 13 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner

- 12 nights superior hotels (standard and deluxe hotels available upon request) & 1 night rice boat
- Periyar - boating on lake OR visit to a spice plantation
- Keralan backwaters - rice boat cruise (overnight)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on day 1 and day 14
- Touring and excursions as per itinerary
- Services of English-speaking Indian specialist guides at some sites
- 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

### ITINERARY

#### 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 visit 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 (B)**

#### Day 3 : Thanjavur

Pondicherry - Tanjore. Start the day with a sightseeing tour of Pondicherry which includes Aurobindo Ashram, French Colony, Pondicherry Beach and the Sacred Heart

### Beautiful South - 14 days

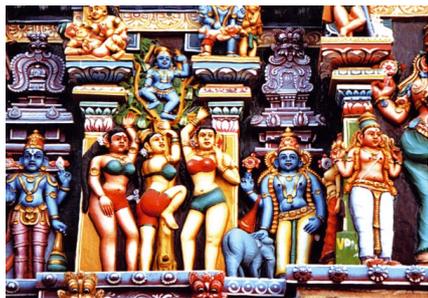
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Church before continuing south. Arrival at Tanjore, also known as Thanjavur, Tanjore is an ancient fortified town, with a glorious history dating back more than 1500 years. Thanjavur was the ancient capital of the Chola kings whose origins date back to the beginning of Christianity. **Overnight - Thanjavur (B)**

### 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 (B)**

### 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 6, 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 (B:2)**

### Day 7 : Periyar

Madurai - Periyar. Your journey continues to Periyar, south India's most popular wildlife sanctuary which is home to sambar, wild boar, elephant, bison, antelope, langur and a small tiger population. You'll stay in Kumily, which is a pretty town dotted with small spice and handicraft shops which is close to the sanctuary. **Overnight - Kumily (B)**

### Day 8 : Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

This morning spot herds of wild elephants and other wildlife on a Lake Periyar boat ride in the reserve, or visit the nearby spice plantation. Spend the afternoon at leisure. **Overnight - Kumily (B)**

### Days 9-10 : Kumarakom



Periyar- Kumarakom. Continue to Kumarakom. Perched sleepily amongst a tangle of lush tropical waterways known as the Kerala 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 (B:2)**

### Day 11 : Kerala Backwaters - Allapuzha

This morning, you'll board a traditional Kerala 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 its route. **Overnight - Rice Boat (B, L, D)**

### 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 (B)**

### Day 13 : Kochi

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

### Day 14 : Kochi

Hotel check-out and included onward transfer to airport. (B)

#### PRICES / DATES INFO

Prices shown are 'per person', based on a travelling party of at least 2 adults. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price.

#### PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
16 Feb	USD 3,245	USD 4,935

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