

SOUTH INDIA TEMPLE TOUR

CHENNAI – KANCHIPURAM – MAHABALIPURAM – PONDICHERRY – TANJORE – TRICHY – MADURAI
07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS



Tamil Nadu is known as the 'Land of Temples'. Nearly 33,000 ancient temples - many at least 600 to 800 years old, scattered all over the land. Most of the largest Hindu Temples reside here. Studded with complex architecture, variety of sculptures, & rich inscriptions - capture the very essence of the culture & heritage of Tamil land, historically more than 2000 years old.



Day 1: Chennai arrival

We meet you on arrival at Chennai airport and drive you to your hotel. Afternoon city tour of Chennai, visit the San Thome Basilica, St Thomas Mount, Fort St George, St Mary's Church, the Fort Museum & Government Museum & Art Gallery. Later, walk along the surf-kissed coast at Marina Beach. Overnight at hotel.

Day 2: Chennai – Kanchipuram – Mahabalipuram (130 kms / 3 hrs approx)

Breakfast at hotel, then drive to Mahabalipuram, en-route visit Kanchipuram – the Land of Thousand Temples. Kanchipuram has magnificent temples of unique architectural beauty bearing eloquent testimony to its glorious Dravidian heritage. On arrival in Mahabalipuram, check-in at the hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Day 3: Mahabalipuram

Breakfast at hotel. Then visit the Cave Temples, Monolithic Temples, Five Rathas & Shore Temple. Overnight at hotel.

Day 4: Mahabalipuram - Pondicherry (110 kms / 3 hrs approx)

Breakfast at hotel, then drive to Pondicherry & check-in at the hotel. In afternoon visit Aurobindo Ashram (Auroville), The French Institute, church of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, church of Our Lady of Angels, Sacred Heart Church, Vinaynagar Manakula temple, Drowpattiamman, Botanical Gardens, Pondicherry Museum, Jawahar Toy Museum. Later in the evening, enjoy the sun, surf & sand at the beach promenade. Overnight at hotel.

Day 5: Pondicherry - Tanjore (190 kms / 4 hrs approx)

Morning after breakfast, drive to Tanjore. On arrival, check-in at the hotel. In afternoon visit Brihadeshwara Temple & Fort, Thanjavur Palace & Museum, Art Gallery, Saraswathi Mahal Library, Schwartz Church. Overnight at hotel.

Day 6: Tanjore – Trichy – Madurai (180 kms / 5 hrs approx)

After breakfast at hotel, drive to Madurai. Enroute visit Trichy Rock Fort Temple, Tiruvanaikkaval, Srirangam Temple. On arrival, check-in at the hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Day 7: Madurai

Breakfast at hotel, followed by city tour of Madurai including visit to Meenakshi Temple, Tirumalai Nayak Mahal, Vaniyur Mariamman Teppakulam. Overnight at hotel.

Day 8: Madurai – Chennai departure

Breakfast at hotel, then transfer to airport to board flight for Chennai. From Chennai board connecting flight to your home country.

OTHER DETAILS:

1. Madurai – Cochin flight fare extra approx US\$-90 per person in economy class.
2. Can be booked in reverse order & can be combined with 10 days/ 9 night Kerala Hill Station, Backwater & Beach tour.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Airport "Meet and Greet" and private Hotel transfers
- 7 nights accommodation.
- Daily breakfast.
- Private air-conditioned vehicle for 8 days with English speaking chauffeur.
- Local English speaking guide on sightseeing days.
- Monument entrance fees.
- Applicable taxes & VAT.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Weaving Centre visit, Kanchipuram

Visit a weaving centre, and see how a Kanchipuram pattu silk saree is woven on a traditional shuttle loom. This exquisite piece of silk is woven intricately by a weaver and takes weeks to complete!

Chennai

Bharatanatyam & Bollywood Dance Class

Be a part of India's colorful dance culture during this interactive dance class in Chennai. Visit a Bharatanatyam dance school to discover the basic elements. Choose the full 2 ½ -hour tour to try out some contemporary Bollywood & Tamil Cinema dance moves!

Lighthouse & Aquarium visit, Marina Beach

The recently opened Madras Lighthouse complex gives an interesting insight into Chennai as a port city. The Museum on the ground level is informational, whereas climbing to the top will reward you with panoramic views of the Marina Beach & adjoining areas. Keeping with the marine theme, visit the aquarium, known for its extraordinary & rare collections of both tropical sea fish & fresh water fish.