

# Mystical South India



17<sup>th</sup> Feb – 09<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2018

**An Amazing Indian Odyssey**

**Program: 20 Nights/21 Days**



**Trip Leader:**  
James Kelleher

**Delhi – Varanasi – Chennai – Mahabalipuram – Tiruvannamalai – Kumbakonam  
– Chettinadu – Rameswaram – Kanyakumari – Trivandrum – Delhi**



**Hosted by:**  
Rajiv Tomar

# Trip Itinerary: 17<sup>th</sup> Feb - 09<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2018

## Main Tour Portion (14 Nights/15 Days)

### 17<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2018: Arrival Delhi

Arrival at the Delhi airport. You will be received by our representative and transferred to the hotel, in afternoon, we will meet at hotel lobby by 14:00 hrs and here we have option of half day local sightseeing of Delhi or relax at hotel.

### 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2018: Delhi – Varanasi

In the morning we will fly from Delhi to Varanasi. In the evening we will experience the spectacular Aarti (fire offering) on the Ganges. **Flight:** Delhi – Varanasi, **Dep:** 11:40 hrs, **Arr:** 13:00 hrs

### 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2018: Varanasi – Vindhyachal – Varanasi

After breakfast we will leave for Vindhyachal (approx 60 km, 1-2 hrs) to meet Devraha Hans Baba, one of India's greatest yogis. (subject to availability).

### 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2018: Varanasi

In the morning we will take a boat ride on Ganges and visit the Kashi Vishwanath Jyotirlinga temple. In the afternoon, we will go to Sarnath, the site of Buddha's first sermon. In the evening we will wander the ancient narrow lanes and browse the markets of old Varanasi.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 2018: Varanasi – Chennai – Mahabalipuram

After breakfast, we will board a flight for Chennai, from there we will proceed to Mahabalipuram (approx 60km, 1-2 hrs) when we arrive, check-in to hotel, in evening relax or walk by the beach. **Flight:** Varanasi – Chennai, **Dep:** 12:20 hrs, **Arr:** 14:55 hrs

### 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2018: Mahabalipuram – Tiruvannamalai

After breakfast, we will visit to UNESCO World Heritage Site - Shore Temple Mahabalipuram. Later on, we will leave for Tiruvannamalai (approx 160 km, 3 hrs) In the evening we can relax in our hotel or explore Tiruvannamalai.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 2018: Tiruvannamalai

Here we will visit The Annamalaiyar Temple, which is dedicated to Agni, the fire element. In the evening we will visit the ashram of Ramana Maharishi, one of India's greatest saints from the last century.

### 24<sup>th</sup> Feb: Tiruvannamalai–Kumbakonam (approx 180km, 4 hrs)

After breakfast, we will take a beautiful bus ride through rural Tamil Nadu, to Kumbakonam, 'The City of Temples'. In the evening we can relax in the hotel, explore the night life in the markets, or attend Aarti (fire offering ritual) at one of the many temples.

### 25<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2018: Kumbakonam

Today we will visit several important temples in Kumbakonam, as well as explore the old markets and night life in the city.

### 26<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2018: Kumbakonam

After breakfast, we will drive the very rural and exotic route to visit one of the Navagraha (9 planets) temples, located outside of the city. We will return by dinner time and you will have the option of relaxing in the hotel, or exploring the colorful evening markets.

### 27<sup>th</sup> Feb: Kumbakonam – Chettinadu (approx 150 km, 3-4 hrs)

After breakfast we will leave for Chettinadu. On the way, we will visit Yogi Rambhau Swami, (subject to availability) the Fire Yogi. Our lodging will be at the unique and historic palace of the Chettinad royal family. In the evening we will visit an ancient rock temple of Lord Vinayaga.

### 28<sup>th</sup> Feb: Chettinadu – Rameswaram (approx 150 km, 3-4 hrs)

After breakfast we will leave for Rameshwaram, which is the place where the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal meet. In the Ramayana, Lord Rama came here after defeating Ravana. After check-in to our hotel, we will visit the Rameshwaram Temple, one of the most powerful Shiva temples in India.

### 01<sup>st</sup> Mar, 2018: Rameshwaram

After breakfast we will participate in a ritual Pooja at the Rameshwaram temple. In the evening, we will visit some temples and go to Dhanushkodi, a pilgrim spot on Rameshwaram Island, where Lord Ram built a famous bridge with floating stones.

### 02<sup>nd</sup> Mar: Rameshwaram –Kanyakumari(approx 290 km, 5 hrs)

After breakfast we will leave for Kanayakumari, one of the most beautiful places in South India, located at the southernmost tip of the Indian subcontinent. It is the place at which three major oceans (Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal) meet. After we check-in to our hotel, we will visit Vivekananda Rock Memorial situated on a small island.

### 03<sup>rd</sup> Mar, 2018: Kanyakumari – Trivandrum ( 90 km, 2-3 hrs)

In the morning we will visit the Shree Bhagwathy temple, dedicated to the goddess, Kanyakumari. Then we will leave for Trivandrum with group via stopping at the Suchindram temple, devoted to Hanuman (approx 15 km, 30 min) when we arrive Trivandrum, transfer to hotel/airport.

## Trivandrum Portion (06 Nights/07 Days)

### 03<sup>rd</sup> Mar, 2018: Arrival Trivandrum

Group arrival at Trivandrum and check-in to the hotel. In the evening we will relax and take-in the amazing beach and local night life.

### 04<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2018: Trivandrum

Trivandrum is a tropical paradise, so we will take this first day for rest and relaxation. Our hotel is an ayurvedic spa, with a beautiful pool and all the amenities. You can take walks on the beach, get a massage, sit by the pool, or get an ayurvedic treatment.

### 05<sup>th</sup> – 07<sup>th</sup> March, 2018: Trivandrum

We will be in Trivandrum for a week. During that time you are welcome to design your own level of activity. For some people, 7 days of yoga classes, meditation and ayurvedic treatments might look inviting. For others, we will have excursions planned for visiting local sites, temples, and markets. Or you might prefer to swim in the ocean, snorkel, or just sit on the beach with a book.

### 08<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2018: Trivandrum

On one of the days we will bring in a well known astrologer (subject of availability) so that, if you are interested, you can experience his very unique form of astrology. On another day, we will have a boat ride along the Kerala backwaters, which are bounded by dense jungle.

### 09<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2018: Trivandrum – Delhi Departure...

After breakfast we will board a flight for Delhi where our journey will end.

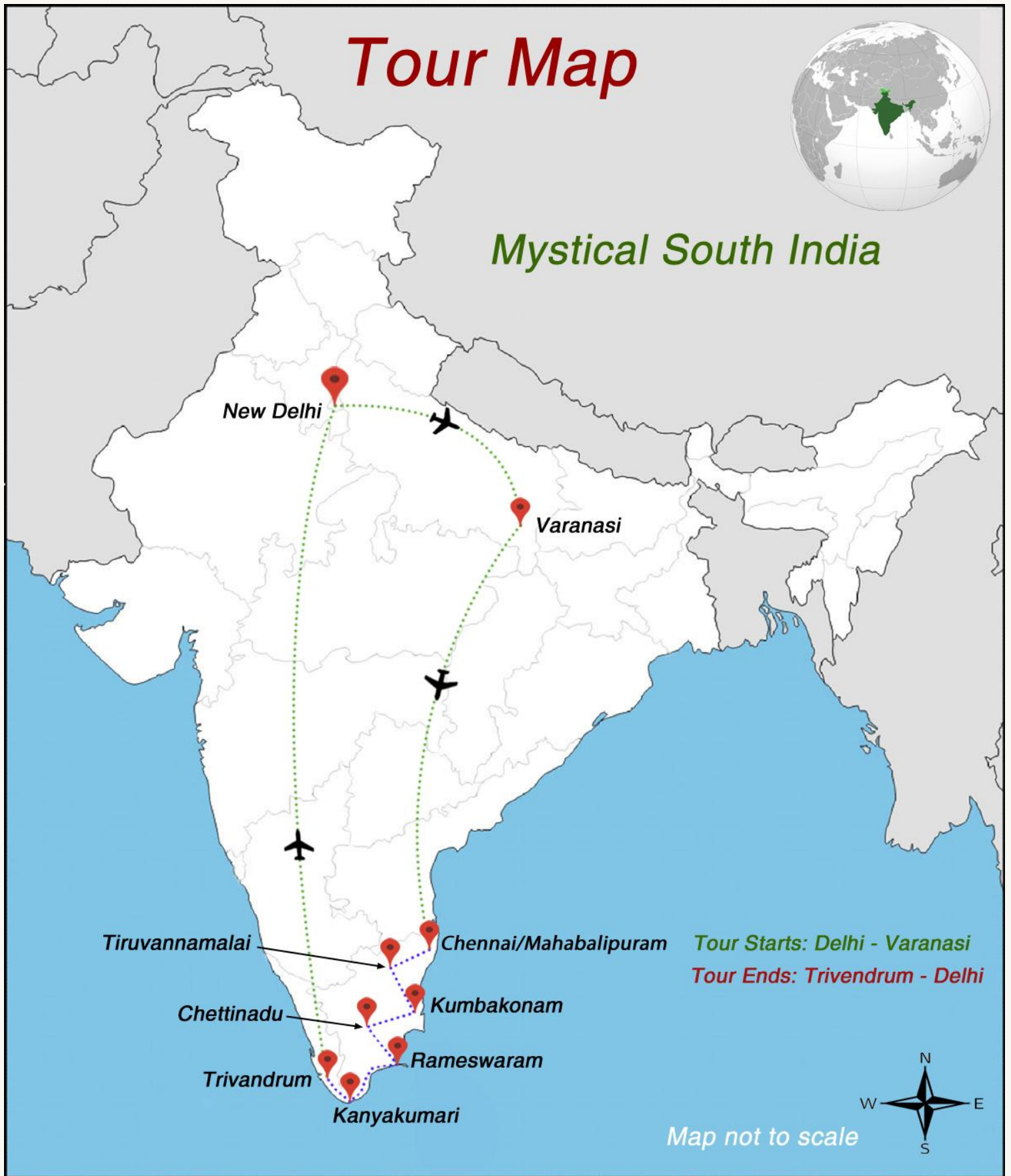
**Flight:** Trivandrum – Delhi, **Dep:** 12:35hrs, **Arr:** 15:55hrs

**Tour Terminates...**

# Tour Map



## Mystical South India



New Delhi

Varanasi

Tiruvannamalai

Chennai/Mahabalipuram

Chettinadu

Kumbakonam

Trivandrum

Rameswaram

Kanyakumari

Tour Starts: Delhi - Varanasi

Tour Ends: Trivendrum - Delhi

Map not to scale

