

## SOUTHERN INDIA DISCOVERY

Our 15- day South India Discovery itinerary offers a fascinating blend of ancient traditions, spectacular temple architecture, and distinctive art and dance forms. Markedly different from the north in terms of climate and culture, the exotic south has a wealth of attractions.

### JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Free and easy tour \* Comprehensive sightseeing tours \* World heritage sights visits \* A delightful and thrilling shopping experience \* In-depth knowledge on Indian rich Culture, Traditions, Arts, Crafts, History, Heritage, Religions and much more \* Explore the World Heritage Mahabalipuram Temples and the art of Chennai \* Explore the historic French colonial town of Pondicherry and the temple cities of Thanjavur, Trichy and Madurai \* Visit the enormous complex of Meenakshi temple in Madurai and witness the evening prayer ceremony \* Cruise Kerala's serene backwaters and lagoons on a private houseboat before ending your journey at a lovely beach resort on the shores of the Indian Ocean



#### Day 1 Arrival Mumbai

Warm welcome with fresh flower garlands, your room is available for immediate occupancy.

#### Day 2 In Mumbai

After a morning at leisure, we visit the **Prince of Wales museum**, The **Gateway of India** overlooking the harbor and the **Dhobi Ghat**, a unique and colorful outdoor laundry. Then drive up Malabar Hill to the lovely **Hanging gardens** and **Kamla Nehru Park**. Back in the city we visit **Mani Bhawan**, a small museum dedicated to the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi and end our day at bustling Crawford market. Overnight hotel.

#### Day 3 Mumbai – Chennai

Fly to Chennai, Afternoon tour of – Chennai, founded by the British in the 17th century and still retaining much of its colonial elegance. We visit **museum, art gallery, St. George Fort & Temple of Kapaleeshwara**. Overnight hotel.

#### Day 4 Chennai - Kanchipuram - Mahabalipuram

Leave for Mahabalipuram - famous for the 7th Century Temples. En route we visit **Kanchipuram** - the ancient capital of the Pallavas famous as a **city of 1000 Temples** and still has 124 shrines. Overnight hotel.

#### Day 5 Mahabalipuram - Tiruvannamalai – Pondicherry

Travel to the ancient French colony, Pondicherry. En route we stop at **Tiruvannamalai, a temple Town** with over 100 temples, which includes the largest **Shiva Parvati temple - 13 stories high, with a 1000 pillared hall**. Overnight hotel

#### Day 6 Pondicherry - Trichy

We visit **Aurbindo Ashram**, promotes Aurbindo's ideas in bringing about a synthesis of Yoga and modern science, so as to unite the spirit and matter. Post lunch visit **Auroville**, a unique experiment in international living and in creating a new environment where men and women of all nationalities live together in harmony. Overnight hotel.

#### Day 7 Trichy - Thanjavur

Morning visit the **Rock-Fort** is the landmark of Trichy. A climb of 434 steps leads to the ancient temple of Ganapati on top. From here we will get a good view of Sri Rangam Temple and the Cauvery River. Travel by road to Thanjavur. Overnight hotel.

#### Day 8 Thanjavur - Madurai

Morning visit the beautiful **Chola Temple of Brihadeshwara** is capped by a monolithic cupola made of a single granite block weighing 80 tons which was taken to the top with the help of a 6 km long ramp, an old technique used by the Egyptians for building pyramids. Post lunch drive to Madurai - one of the great pilgrimage centers of south. Overnight hotel.

#### Day 9 In Madurai

Today we visit the vast **Meenakshi Temple**, dedicated to the consort of Lord Shiva. **Tirumala Nayak Palace** - a gracious building in the Indo saracenic style, famous for the Stuccowork on its domes & arches. Evening enjoy the «**Sound and light show**» at **Tirumala Nayak Palace** and later we leave to witness the **Aarti ceremony at Meenakshi Temple**. Overnight hotel.

#### Day 10 Madurai - Kanyakumari - Kovalam

Travel to Kovalam En route visit **Sree Padmanabhapuram Palace** in Kanyakumari. Overnight hotel.

#### Day 11 In Kovalam

Day at leisure to relax on the beach. Overnight hotel.

#### Day 12 Kovalam - Alleppey - Kumarakom

We drive to Alleppey and at noon embark the deluxe houseboat for a thrilling experience of backwater in Kerala as we travel towards Kumarakom we experience the kerala's village lifestyle. Overnight houseboat.

#### Day 13 In Kumarakom

Arrive Kumarakom and relax in the backwater resort. Overnight hotel.

#### Day 14 Kumarakom - Periyar

Drive to Periyar, Here, on an afternoon «**safari cruise**» on Lake Periyar, we slip slowly through the animals jungle environment. Overnight hotel.

#### Day 15 Periyar - Cochin - Mumbai

Drive to Cochin airport and fly to Mumbai. Day at leisure.

#### Day 16 Departure

Early this morning transfer to the airport to Board your flight back home.

#### Day 15 Periyar – Cochin

Drive to Cochin, Tour cochin's **Jewish Synagogue, Fort Kochi and St. Francis Church**, the oldest church constructed by the Europeans in India. Evening enjoy the **Kathakali dance performance**. Overnight Hotel.

#### Day 16 Cochin – Coonor – Ooty

Travel by road to Ooty - once the summer playground of the British Raj En route we tour Coonoor – a quiet hill station. Overnight Hotel.

#### Day 17 Ooty – Mysore

Morning depart for Mysore, Afternoon tour of **Mysore Palace, Beautiful Vrindavan** -

**Gardens and Chamundi Temple.** Overnight Hotel.

#### Day 18 Mysore – Hassan

Drive to Hassan, Afternoon tour of Chennakeshava temple at Belur dating back to 13th century during Hoysalla dynasty & then visit Hoysaleswar temple at Halebid. Overnight Hotel.

#### Day 19 Hassan – Bangalore

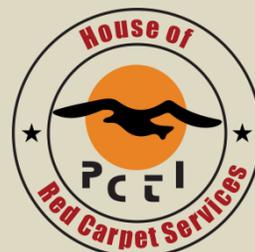
Leave for Bangalore, Rest of the day at leisure to explore the city on your own.

#### Day 20 Departure

Transfer to the airport to Board your homeward flight or connect to your onward destination.



### ITINERARY MAP



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