

SIT4

14 NIGHTS / 15 DAYS

EXPLORE SOUTH INDIA

CHENNAI / MYSORE / OOTY / COCHIN / KUMARAKOM / PERIYAR / MADURAI / TIRUCHINAPALLY
/ TANJAVUR / MAMALLAPURAM / CHENNAI



Day 01: Arrive at Chennai

Meet greet on arrival and transfer to Hotel. (Half day sight seeing depending upon the arrival of flight). Visit to **Fort St. George** - this bastion derived its name from St. George, the patron saint of England, The State Legislature and the Secretariat are located inside this fort . The **St. Mary's Church**-the oldest Anglican Church in India. Return to hotel and overnight.

Day 02: Chennai / Mysore (07Hrs by Indian Super Fast Train - Shatabdhi Express)

Early morning check out and reach Chennai Railway Station at 05.45hrs to board your train to Mysore - Known for its magnificent palaces and majestic buildings, sprawling gardens and tree lined boulevards, shimmering silks and sandalwood, the 'City Royale' always figures in the tourist's itinerary. Arrive at 13.00hrs, meet on arrival and transfer to a Hotel. Afternoon visit to **Maharaja Palace** - the palace is a splendid structure in the Indo-Saracenic Style, among its many attractions are a magnificent gold throne displayed during the Dasara celebrations, Chamundi Hill - perched a top a hill. The 4.8m tall monolith of Nandi and the gigantic Mahishasura statue are added attractions. Return to hotel and overnight.

Day 03: Mysore

Morning breakfast and full day sight seeing, visit **Jaganmohana Art Gallery** - the art gallery in the Jaganmohan Palace houses an excellent collection of ceramics, sandalwood, ivory, stone, antique furniture and ancient musical instruments, **St. Phenomena's church** - this imposing Gothic structure with beautiful stained glass windows and lofty towers is a must see, **Rangantittu Bird sanctuary**, **Tippu Sultan's Summer Palace**, **Brindavan Garden** - the Krishna Raja Sagar Dam after sundown, when musical fountains and colored lights transform this place into a magical fairyland. Return to hotel and overnight.

Day 04: Mysore / Ooty (170Kms/5Hrs)

Morning breakfast, check out and proceed to **Ooty** - called the Queen of Hill Stations picturesque, green Udhagamandalam better known, as Ooty is the most popular hill station in the South, enroute visit **Bandipur National Park** and Mudumalai wildlife Sanctuary, on arrival check into a hotel. Evening visit to **Ooty Lake** -the Ooty Lake is the pride of the Blue Hills, **Rose Garden** - the rose varieties planted in this park were assembled

from different sources. Initially, 17,256 rose plants from 1919 varieties have been planted. Return to hotel and overnight.

Day 05: Ooty / Cochin (285Kms/7Hrs)

Morning breakfast, checkout and proceed to **Cochin** - "Queen of the Arabian Sea," commercial capital and the most cosmopolitan city of Kerala. On arrival check in a hotel. Relax and overnight.

Day 06: Cochin

Morning breakfast, proceed for full day city tour, visit to **St. Francis Church** - centuries old church at Fort Kochi was originally built completely of timber and later reconstructed in stone masonry, **Pierce Leslie Bungalow** - this charming mansion was the office of Pierce Leslie, characteristic features are wood panels that form the roof of the ground floor, arched doorways, carved doors and sprawling rooms. Waterfront veranda are an added attraction. **Loafer's Corner/Princess Street** - One of the earliest streets to be constructed in Fort Kochi, the traditional meeting place and hangout of the jovial fun loving people of the area. Return to hotel and overnight.

Day 07: Cochin / Kumarakom (75K Km/2Hrs) - HouseboatKumarakom

Morning breakfast, checkout and proceed to Kumarakom, on arrival board your Houseboat and travel around Kerala's best backwater area. All meals served on board and overnight.

Day 08: Kumarakom / Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary - Thekkady (115Kms/3Hrs)

Morning breakfast, check out and proceed to **Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary-Thekkady** - is one of the finest wildlife reserves in India, and spread across the entire district are picturesque plantations and hill towns, Check in to a resort on arrival. Afternoon proceed for Elephant ride or boat cruise on the Periyar Lake. Evening free & overnight.

Day 09: Periyar / Madurai (110Kms/45Hrs)

Trekking or Plantation tour. Breakfast at 09:30Hrs, checkout of the resort and proceed to **Madurai** - known as Athens of the East, is a place of great historical and cultural importance. It is the oldest city in Tamil Nadu, check into a hotel on arrival and evening free. Overnight.

Day 10: Madurai

Morning breakfast and proceed for a full day sightseeing, **Meenakshi Temple** - is one of the most important places of Hindu pilgrimage, **Thirumalai Nayak Mahal** - there is no other building in Madurai which can better illustrate the architectural style of the Nayaks. The **Gandhi Museum** - the old palace is dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, **Koodal Azhagar Temple** - This ancient shrine has Vishnu in sitting, standing and reclining postures one above the other. Return to hotel and overnight.

Day 11: Madurai / Tiruchinapally (160Kms/4Hrs)

Morning breakfast, check out and proceed to **Tiruchinapally** - now called **Trichy** is situated on the banks of the Cauvery River. On arrival check into a hotel, lunch and half day sightseeing, visit to Rock Fort - the view from the fort is spectacular. On the southern face of the rock are several beautifully carved rock-cut cave temples of the Pallava period. **Tiruvanaikkaval** - the temple here has a Siva lingam almost submerged in water, which flows from a subterranean spring. **Srirangam** - The most important pilgrim center in the district is located in an island just 5kms from Trichy. Return to hotel and overnight.

Day 12: Tiruchinapally / Tanjavur / Tiruchinapally (55Kms/1Hhrs)

Morning breakfast and proceed for a day trip to **Tanjavur** - Scenically one of the most enchanting districts in the state, green, airy, Tanjavur lies to the east of Trichy and has the reputation as the Rice Bowl of Tamil Nadu. Visit to **Sri Bragadeeswarar Temple** - built by the great Chola King, is an outstanding example of Chola architecture. The Palace - near the temple is a vast building of masonry built partly by the Nayaks, Art Gallery -

In the Palace there are a number of granite and bronze statues of the Chola period. Return to Tiruchinapally, and overnight.

Day 13: Tiruchinapally / Mamallapuram (260Kms/6Hrs)

Morning breakfast, checkout and proceed to **Mamallapuram** - though it is no longer a port, Mamallapuram has retained its fame, thanks to the great Pallava artisans. On arrival check in to a beach resort. Rest of the day free and overnight.

Day 14: Mamallapuram

Morning breakfast and full day sight seeing, visit to Caves - there are nine rock cut cave temples, contrasting the goddess fighting a demon on one side, and Lord Vishnu's cosmic sleep on the other, is a particularly remarkable one, Bas-Relief .- The World's largest bas relief is the pride of Mamallapuram. This huge whale back shaped rock contains figures of gods, demigods, men, beasts, birds representatives of the entire creation, **Five Rathas** - these rock-cut temples are rated as excellent example of Pallava art. Shaped in different styles, **The Shore Temple** - this is one of the oldest temples in South India, Crocodile Bank - About 5000 Crocodiles representing 6 species and other reptiles are reared here. Return to resort and overnight.

Day 15: Mamallapuram / Chennai (60Kms/2Hrs)

Morning breakfast, check out and proceed to Chennai to board your flight/train for onward journey. Tour Ends.