

Tour Name: Chennai to Cochin Temple & Backwater

Tour Duration: 9 Nights/ 10 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/trym2dyh>

Tour Overview

Embark on a captivating journey through South India with our "Chennai to Cochin Temple & Backwater." Discover the ancient marvels of Chola temples in Mahabalipuram and Thanjavur, where intricate carvings and towering vimanas await. Traverse through the historic corridors of Pondicherry's French colonial charm before venturing into Chettinad's opulent mansions and spicy cuisine. Experience the spiritual pulse of Madurai with its majestic Meenakshi Amman Temple and delve into the lush tea estates of Munnar. Glide through Alleppey's serene backwaters aboard a traditional houseboat, culminating in the cultural mosaic of Cochin's Portuguese, Dutch, and Jewish heritage. This tour promises a blend of cultural immersion and natural beauty, offering an unforgettable glimpse into South India's diverse tapestry.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Chennai

- Arrive in Chennai and transfer to your hotel. Rest and refresh after your journey.
- In the afternoon, visit:
- Fort St. George: Explore the oldest English fortress in India, housing St. Mary's Church and the Fort Museum with colonial artifacts.
- Kapaleeshwarar Temple: Experience Dravidian architecture and the bustling atmosphere of this ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Marina Beach: Enjoy a leisurely stroll along India's longest urban beach, offering panoramic views of the Bay of Bengal at sunset.

Day 2: Chennai - Kanchipuram - Mahabalipuram (120kms, approx. 5 hours)

- Depart Chennai after breakfast for Kanchipuram, known as the "City of Thousand Temples":
- Visit Kailasanathar Temple: Marvel at the oldest temple in Kanchipuram, dedicated to Lord Shiva, renowned for its intricate architecture and sculptures.
- Explore Ekambareswarar Temple: Dedicated to Lord Shiva, known for its impressive thousand-pillared hall and sacred mango tree.
- Optionally, visit Kanchi Kudil: Experience traditional South Indian architecture and lifestyle at this heritage house museum.
- Continue to Mahabalipuram in the afternoon:

- Visit Shore Temple: Explore this UNESCO World Heritage site, dedicated to Lord Shiva, offering stunning views of the Bay of Bengal.
- Discover Pancha Rathas (Five Rathas): Marvel at the monolithic rock-cut temples sculpted in the shape of chariots, each dedicated to different deities.
- Explore Arjuna's Penance: Admire the massive rock relief carving depicting scenes from Hindu mythology and daily life.

Day 3: Mahabalipuram - Pondicherry (120kms, approx. 2.5 hours)

- Travel to Pondicherry after breakfast, known for its French colonial architecture and tranquil beaches.
- Visit Auroville: Explore the Matrimandir, a golden sphere symbolizing human unity and spiritual significance.
- Explore the French Quarter (Ville Blanche): Stroll through quaint streets lined with colonial buildings, boutiques, and cafes.
- Relax at Promenade Beach, a popular spot for morning walks and enjoying the serene coastline.

Day 4: Pondicherry - Thanjavur (180kms, approx. 5 hours)

- Depart for Thanjavur after breakfast, with enroute visits to:
- Chidambaram: Explore the Nataraja Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva as the cosmic dancer, known for its splendid architecture and spiritual significance.
- Gangaikondacholapuram: Visit the Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple, built by the Chola King Rajendra I, featuring intricately carved sculptures and a massive lingam.
- Darasuram: Discover the Airavatesvara Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its exquisite carvings depicting mythological scenes and intricate architecture.
- Continue your journey to Thanjavur.

Day 5: Thanjavur - Chettinad (90kms, approx. 2 hours)

- After breakfast, visit the Brihadeeswarar Temple, marvel at its massive vimana (tower) and intricate sculptures depicting Hindu deities and mythological scenes.
- Explore the Thanjavur Maratha Palace, featuring the Saraswathi Mahal Library with a vast collection of ancient manuscripts and art pieces.
- Discover the Schwartz Church, a serene colonial-era church known for its elegant architecture and stained-glass windows.
- Travel to Chettinad, renowned for its opulent heritage mansions and distinctive cuisine.
- Visit the Chettinad Palace, an exquisite example of Chettiar architecture adorned with intricate woodwork and antique furnishings.
- Explore local markets known for their vibrant atmosphere and shop for Chettinad spices, textiles, and handicrafts.
- Enjoy a traditional Chettinad lunch, known for its spicy flavors and unique blend of aromatic spices.

Day 6: Chettinad - Madurai (90kms, approx. 2 hours)

- Depart for Madurai after breakfast, known as the "Athens of the East" for its rich cultural heritage and ancient temples.
- Visit the Meenakshi Amman Temple, a significant Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi and Lord Sundareswarar, renowned for its towering gopurams (gateway towers).
- Explore the Thirumalai Nayakkar Palace, an architectural marvel blending Dravidian and Islamic styles, featuring grand halls adorned with intricate stucco work and paintings.
- Visit the Gandhi Memorial Museum, housing exhibits and artifacts related to Mahatma Gandhi's life and India's freedom struggle.

Day 7: Madurai - Munnar (160kms, approx. 4.5 hours)

- Travel to Munnar after breakfast, nestled in the Western Ghats and renowned for its picturesque tea estates and cool climate.
- Visit a tea plantation and learn about the tea-making process from cultivation to processing.
- Explore Mattupetty Dam, offering panoramic views of the surrounding hills and an opportunity for boating amidst serene waters.
- Visit the Echo Point, known for its natural echo phenomenon amidst the lush greenery.

Day 8: Munnar - Alleppey (165kms, approx. 4.5 hours)

- Depart for Alleppey after breakfast, known as the Venice of the East for its tranquil backwaters and houseboat cruises.
- Enjoy a relaxing houseboat cruise through Kerala's backwaters, passing by scenic landscapes, paddy fields, and quaint villages.
- Experience the local lifestyle and enjoy delicious Kerala cuisine prepared onboard.
- Optionally, visit the Ambalapuzha Sree Krishna Temple known for its architectural beauty and famous sweet delicacy called 'Palpayasam'.

Day 9: Alleppey - Cochin (60kms, approx. 1.5 hours)

- Travel to Cochin after breakfast, a historic port city with a diverse cultural heritage influenced by Portuguese, Dutch, and British settlers.
- Explore Fort Kochi, featuring colonial-era buildings, art galleries, and the iconic Chinese Fishing Nets.
- Visit Mattancherry Palace (Dutch Palace), known for its Kerala murals depicting Hindu temple art and royal artifacts.
- Discover the Jewish Synagogue, adorned with Belgian chandeliers and hand-painted Chinese tiles, reflecting the vibrant history of Cochin's Jewish community.

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Day 10: Cochin - Departure

- Depending on your departure time, enjoy leisure time for last-minute shopping or sightseeing before transferring to the airport for your onward journey.

Package Price (USD Per Person Sharing Double/Twin Room)**Valid for Travel: 01 October 2026 - 15 April 2027**

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	3,223	1,740	1,496	1,559	1,400	1,373	1,286	1,221
4★ Deluxe	3,989	2,105	1,861	1,924	1,765	1,738	1,651	1,586
5★ Luxury	4,820	2,648	2,281	2,344	2,185	2,158	2,071	2,006

Valid for Travel: 01 October 2027 - 15 April 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	3,055	1,636	1,393	1,455	1,296	1,270	1,182	1,117
4★ Deluxe	3,397	1,804	1,560	1,623	1,464	1,437	1,350	1,285
5★ Luxury	4,256	2,366	2,000	2,062	1,903	1,876	1,789	1,724

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 506 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 906 | 5★ Luxury: USD 1,317

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 77 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 153 | 5★ Luxury: USD 219

Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 9 Nights' accommodation in selected price category hotels.
- Daily breakfast at hotels.
- Private AC car/van for airport transfers, sightseeing, and excursions as per the program.
- English speaking tour guide on sightseeing days (local guide in each city), as per program.
- Monument entrances and activities charges mentioned in the itinerary.
- Bottled drinking water in car.
- Government taxes.

Price Does Not Include:

- Any flight tickets.
- Camera charges at monuments if any.
- Meals other than mentioned in the inclusions.
- Expenses of personal nature like liquor, laundry, tips, telephone, fax, internet etc.
- Gratuities and optional activities.
- Anything not mentioned in inclusions.

Hotels used or similar for 9 nights' accommodation

3 Star Hotels

- Chennai x 1 night: ZONE By the Park/ Raj Park
- Mahabalipuram x 1 night: INDeco Hotels/ Ideal Beach Resort
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Shenbaga Hotel/ Anandha Inn Convention Centre
- Thanjore x 1 night: Sangam Hotels
- Chettinad x 1 night: Chidambara Vilas/ Chettinadu Mansion
- Madurai x 1 night: JC Residency/ Hotel Royal Court
- Munnar x 1 night: Abad Copper Castle/ Elysium Garden Hill Resort
- Alleppey x 1 night: Deluxe Houseboat (AC During Night Only)
- Cochin x 1 night: The Tower House/ The Killians

4 Star Hotels

- Chennai x 1 night: Accord Metropolitan/ The Park Chennai
- Mahabalipuram x 1 night: Chariot Beach Resort/ Confluence the Banquet & Resort
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Palais De Mahe/ La Villa
- Thanjore x 1 night: GReaT Trails Riverview Resort
- Chettinad x 1 night: Chidambara Vilas/ Chettinadu Mansion
- Madurai x 1 night: Fortune Pandiyan Hotel/ Regency Madurai by GRT Hotels
- Munnar x 1 night: Elixir Hills Resort/ Tea County Munnar
- Alleppey x 1 night: Premium Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- Cochin x 1 night: Casino Hotel/ Le Maritime

5 Star Hotels

- Chennai x 1 night: Radisson Blu Hotel GRT Chennai/ Hilton Chennai
- Mahabalipuram x 1 night: Radisson BLU Resort Temple Bay/ WH By ITC Hotels, Kences Palm Beach
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Palais De Mahe/ La Villa
- Thanjore x 1 night: Svatma
- Chettinad x 1 night: Visalam Cgh Earth
- Madurai x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott/ The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai
- Munnar x 1 night: Chandys Windy Woods/ Blanket Hotel & Spa
- Alleppey x 1 night: Luxury Houseboat (Full Time AC)

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- Cochin x 1 night: Kochi Marriott Hotel/ Xandari Harbour

Payment Policy:

- Deposit of 25% of the package cost at the time of booking.
- Deposit of 50% of the package cost, 30 days prior to arrival date
- Deposit of 100% of the package cost, 10 days prior to arrival date

Cancellation policy:

- Note: Written cancellation will be accepted on all working days, except Sundays. Any cancellation sent on Sundays will be considered on the next working day (Monday).
- X-mas and New Year Period (20 Dec to 05 Jan): The payment is non-refundable during this period.
- After Trip Commencement: If you cancel the trip after it has commenced, the refund will be limited to the amount we are able to recover from hoteliers/contractors. We are not responsible for refunds on unused hotel accommodations, chartered transportation, or missed meals.
- 61 days or more before the tour: No cancellation charges.
- Between 60 to 30 days before the tour: Cancellation charges equal to 20% of the full tour booking value.
- Between 30 to 15 days before the tour: Cancellation charges equal to 50% of the full tour booking value.
- Within 5 days before the tour or no show: Cancellation charges equal to 90% of the full tour booking value.

Our Liabilities & Limitations:

- Price Changes: After the finalization of the tour/service cost, if there are any hikes in entrance fees, taxes, fuel costs, or guide charges by the Government of India, these will be charged as extra.
- Role as Agent: Agora Voyages acts only as an agent for hotels, airlines, transporters, railways, and contractors providing services. All receipts, contracts, and tickets issued by us are subject to terms and conditions of the service providers.
- Itinerary Changes: All itineraries are sample itineraries intended to provide a general idea. We reserve the right to change the schedule based on factors such as weather, road conditions, or the physical ability of participants to ensure safety, comfort, and well-being.
- Rate Modifications: Our rates are based on negotiated rates with hotels and airlines. If the rates are modified by these service providers, we reserve the right to adjust the quoted rates accordingly. Hotel bookings are based on usual check-in and check-out times, unless otherwise indicated.
- Liability Disclaimer: We are not responsible for delays, alterations, or expenses incurred due to natural hazards, flight cancellations, accidents, weather, sickness, political closures, or any unforeseen incidents.
- Damage, Loss, or Injury: We are not responsible for any loss, injury, or damage to persons, property, or otherwise, caused by acts of God, fire, accidents, machinery breakdowns, political disturbances, theft, epidemics, or other factors beyond our control.

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- Insurance: We do not offer insurance for accidents, sickness, theft, or other unforeseen circumstances. We recommend travelers arrange for insurance in their home country. All personal property and baggage are at the client's risk at all times.
- Unforeseen Circumstances: We are not responsible for costs arising from landslides, roadblocks, bad weather, or similar unforeseen circumstances.

Tipping

- Tipping is not included in our price. It is optional but often expected in the travel industry. There is no limit on the amount you can tip, though the average guideline is around \$10-15 per day for guides, drivers, and other crew members.

Trip Comments

- After your trip, we would love to hear your experience. Any photos, suggestions, or feedback will be greatly appreciated. While we strive to make every trip perfect, we acknowledge that there is always room for improvement. Your comments, whether positive or constructive, are invaluable to us.