

Tour Name: Chennai to Cochin Temple, Beach & Backwater Overland Tour

Tour Duration: 13 Nights/ 14 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/3amdk2yy>

Tour Overview

Embark on a captivating journey through Tamil Nadu and Kerala, where ancient temples and serene backwaters await. Begin in Chennai, where bustling streets lead to the UNESCO-listed temples of Mahabalipuram and the French-inspired lanes of Pondicherry. Discover Thanjavur's cultural heritage and Trichy's majestic temples before immersing yourself in Madurai's vibrant culture at the iconic Meenakshi Amman Temple. Traverse to Rameshwaram's sacred sites and Kanyakumari's coastal beauty, culminating in Kovalam's tranquil beaches. Cruise through Alleppey's enchanting backwaters and explore Cochin's colonial charm, leaving you with enduring memories of South India's diverse landscapes and rich history.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Chennai

- Upon arrival at Chennai Airport, you will be greeted by our representative who will assist with your transfer to the hotel. Check-in at the hotel and relax to prepare for your exploration of South India.

Day 2: Chennai - Mahabalipuram (120kms)

- After breakfast at the hotel, embark on a drive to Mahabalipuram.
- Visit the ancient temples including Kailasanathar Temple, Ekambareswarar Temple, and Varadharaja Perumal Temple, showcasing exquisite Dravidian architecture dating back to the Pallava dynasty.
- Explore the UNESCO-listed Shore Temple, an 8th-century granite temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, offering stunning views of the Bay of Bengal.
- Discover Arjuna's Penance, a massive rock-cut sculpture depicting scenes from Hindu mythology and ancient life, intricately carved into two monolithic rock boulders.
- Explore the Five Rathas, a set of five monolithic temples representing the Pandava brothers and their wife Draupadi, each carved in different architectural styles.

Day 3: Mahabalipuram - Pondicherry (120kms)

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing for Pondicherry.
- Visit the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, a spiritual community founded by Sri Aurobindo and known for its serene atmosphere and meditation sessions.
- Wander through the French Quarter (Ville Blanche), characterized by its charming streets lined with colonial-era buildings, vibrant cafes, and boutique shops.
- Explore Auroville, an experimental township promoting unity and sustainable living, and visit the Matrimandir, a golden meditation center surrounded by tranquil gardens.
- Optionally, engage in pottery and handicraft workshops showcasing local craftsmanship.

Day 4: Pondicherry - Thanjavur (180kms)

- After breakfast, depart for Thanjavur with enroute visits to Chidambaram, Gangaikondacholapuram, and Darasuram.
- Visit the Nataraja Temple in Chidambaram, dedicated to Lord Shiva in his dancing form, showcasing intricate sculptures and vibrant temple rituals.
- Discover Gangaikondacholapuram Temple, a splendid Chola-era temple known for its majestic architecture and detailed carvings.
- Explore the Airavatesvara Temple in Darasuram, an architectural marvel and UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its intricate sculptures and Dravidian architecture.
- Arrive in Thanjavur, known for its rich cultural heritage and ancient temples, and check-in at the hotel.

Day 5: Thanjavur - Trichy (60kms)

- After breakfast, explore Thanjavur.
- Visit the Brihadeeswarar Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the largest temples in India, known for its towering vimana (temple tower) and intricate frescoes depicting mythological stories.
- Explore the Thanjavur Palace, once the seat of the Chola dynasty, housing the Royal Museum with a vast collection of sculptures, weapons, and artifacts.
- Travel to Trichy and check-in at the hotel.

- Climb the Rock Fort Temple, a historic fortification with ancient temples dedicated to Lord Ganesha and Lord Shiva, offering panoramic views of the city and the Cauvery River.
- Visit the Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam, one of the largest functioning Hindu temples globally, renowned for its elaborate gopurams (temple towers) and religious significance.

Day 6: Trichy - Madurai (135kms)

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before proceeding to Madurai.
- Visit Madurai and explore the Meenakshi Amman Temple, a marvel of Dravidian architecture with its towering gopurams (temple towers) adorned with vibrant sculptures and mythological figures.
- Discover the Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal, a 17th-century palace renowned for its Indo-Saracenic architecture, grand courtyards, and exquisite stucco work depicting scenes from the Mahabharata and Ramayana.
- Check-in at the hotel in Madurai for overnight stay.

Day 7: Madurai - Rameshwaram (170kms)

- After breakfast, journey to Rameshwaram, one of the holiest pilgrimage sites in India.
- Visit the Ramanathaswamy Temple, famous for its long corridors lined with sculpted pillars and 22 sacred wells where pilgrims perform ritual baths.
- Explore Dhanushkodi, a ghost town at the southern tip of Rameshwaram Island, known for its serene beaches and panoramic views of the Indian Ocean.
- Optionally, visit the APJ Abdul Kalam Memorial, dedicated to India's former President and renowned scientist, showcasing his life and contributions.
- Check-in at the hotel in Rameshwaram.

Day 8: Rameshwaram - Kanyakumari (320kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Kanyakumari, the southernmost tip of mainland India where three seas meet.
- Visit the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, situated on a rocky island in the Arabian Sea, dedicated to Swami Vivekananda and offering panoramic views of the sea and surrounding coastline.

- Explore the Thiruvalluvar Statue, a 133-feet tall stone sculpture honoring the ancient Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar, standing on a small island near Kanyakumari.
- Witness mesmerizing sunrise or sunset views at Kanyakumari Beach, known for its tranquil ambiance and stunning coastal vistas.
- Check-in at the hotel in Kanyakumari.

Day 9: Kanyakumari - Kovalam (80kms)

- After breakfast, proceed to Kovalam, a serene beach destination renowned for its golden sands and Ayurvedic treatments.
- Relax on the pristine beaches of Kovalam or indulge in water sports activities such as surfing and parasailing.
- Visit Padmanabhaswamy Temple, an architectural marvel known for its intricate carvings and religious significance.
- Explore local markets and art galleries showcasing traditional Kerala artwork and handicrafts.
- Check-in at the hotel in Kovalam.

Day 10: Kovalam

- Enjoy a leisurely day exploring local markets or relaxing on the beach.
- Visit the Halcyon Castle, a historic landmark offering panoramic views of the Arabian Sea and showcasing colonial-era architecture.
- Engage in rejuvenating Ayurvedic therapies offered at local spas or participate in yoga and meditation sessions for a holistic wellness experience.
- Overnight at the hotel in Kovalam.

Day 11: Kovalam

- Breakfast at the hotel. Spend the day at leisure, exploring nearby attractions or enjoying cultural experiences such as traditional Kerala dance performances.
- Overnight at the hotel in Kovalam.

Day 12: Kovalam - Alleppey (160kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Alleppey, known as the "Venice of the East" for its picturesque backwaters and houseboat cruises.

- Embark on a houseboat journey through the tranquil backwaters, passing lush landscapes and traditional villages.
- Experience traditional Kerala cuisine served onboard by the friendly boat crew and witness daily life along the backwaters.
- Enjoy the serene ambiance and natural beauty of Alleppey.
- Check-in at the houseboat for overnight stay in Alleppey.

Day 13: Alleppey - Cochin (60kms)

- Breakfast on the houseboat before disembarking and driving to Cochin (Kochi), a historic port city with a blend of colonial and Indian influences.
- Explore Fort Kochi, famous for its colonial-era buildings, art galleries, and historical landmarks.
- Visit St. Francis Church, the oldest European church in India, known for its Portuguese architecture and historical significance.
- Witness the iconic Chinese Fishing Nets in action along the scenic coastline of Fort Kochi.
- Explore the bustling spice markets and local shops for souvenirs and spices.
- Check-in at the hotel in Cochin.

Day 14: Cochin - Departure

- Breakfast at your hotel. Transfer to Cochin International Airport for your onward journey.
- Depart with cherished memories of your South India journey, enriched with cultural insights, natural beauty, and historical wonders.

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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	4,107	2,191	1,874	1,952	1,745	1,709	1,595	1,510
4★ Deluxe	4,845	2,557	2,241	2,318	2,111	2,075	1,962	1,877
5★ Luxury	6,239	3,410	2,931	3,008	2,801	2,765	2,652	2,567

Valid for Travel: 16 April 2027 to 15 September 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	3,966	2,105	1,788	1,866	1,658	1,622	1,509	1,424
4★ Deluxe	4,444	2,348	2,032	2,109	1,902	1,866	1,753	1,668
5★ Luxury	5,451	3,020	2,541	2,618	2,411	2,375	2,262	2,177

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 640 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,012 | 5★ Luxury: USD 1,716

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 82 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 155 | 5★ Luxury: USD 268

Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 13 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 13 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
- Trichy x 1 night: Red Fox Hotel/ Hotel Blossoms
- Madurai x 1 night: JC Residency/ Hotel Royal Court
- Rameshwaram x 1 night: Daiwik Hotel/ Vinayaga by Poppys
- Kanyakumari x 1 night: Sparsa Kanyakumari/ The Seashore Hotel
- Kovalam x 3 nights: Abad Harmonia Beach Resort/ Uday Suites Shanghumugham Beach
- 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: Le Pondy/ Accord Puducherry

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- Thanjore x 1 night: GReaT Trails Riverview Resort
- Trichy x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott
- Madurai x 1 night: Fortune Pandiyan Hotel/ Regency Madurai by GRT Hotels
- Rameshwaram x 1 night: Daiwik Hotel/ Vinayaga by Poppys
- Kanyakumari x 1 night: Sparsa Kanyakumari/ The Seashore Hotel
- Kovalam x 3 nights: Estuary Sarovar Portico / Uday Samudra Leisure Beach Hotel
- 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
- Trichy x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott
- Madurai x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott/ The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai
- Rameshwaram x 1 night: The Residency Towers
- Kanyakumari x 1 night: Sparsa Kanyakumari/ The Seashore Hotel
- Kovalam x 3 nights: Raviz Kovalam/ Vivanta by Taj - Green Cove
- Alleppey x 1 night: Luxury Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- 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.

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- **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.
- **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.