

Tour Name: Deccan & Dravin Architectural Wonder in Stone

Tour Duration: 19 Nights/ 20 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/46fsnt6r>

Tour Overview

Embark on a journey through the Deccan & Dravin Architectural Wonder in Stone, exploring the grandeur of South India's historic sites. Begin in Hyderabad, where the city's rich history and vibrant culture welcome you. Travel through the impressive forts and mosques of Gulbarga, the majestic palaces and tombs of Bijapur, and the ancient rock-cut temples of Badami. Discover the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi, with its captivating ruins, and continue to the coastal wonders of Chennai, Mahabalipuram, and Pondicherry. Conclude with the sacred temples and serene landscapes of Thanjavur, Chettinadu, Madurai, Rameshwaram, Kanyakumari, and Kovalam, experiencing the spiritual and architectural splendor of South India.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Hyderabad

- Arrive in Hyderabad and check in to your hotel.
- Rest and freshen up after your journey.
- Take a leisurely stroll around the hotel to get a feel of the local area.
- Explore nearby local markets or enjoy a relaxing evening at the hotel.
- Rest time free and easy for personal activities and relaxation.

Day 2: Hyderabad

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Excursion to explore Golconda Fort, a medieval fortress known for its acoustics, palaces, and the Fateh Rahben gun.
- Explore Qutb Shahi Tombs, an architectural marvel with intricately designed tombs of the Qutb Shahi dynasty.
- Visit Charminar, a 16th-century mosque with four grand arches, a symbol of Hyderabad's heritage.

- Explore Laad Bazaar, famous for its traditional bangles, pearls, and other local crafts.
- Visit Salar Jung Museum, one of India's three national museums, housing a vast collection of artifacts from various civilizations.
- Visit Mecca Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India, known for its impressive architecture and massive prayer hall.
- Visit Birla Mandir, a beautiful temple made of white marble, offering panoramic views of the city.

Day 3: Hyderabad - Gulbarga (260kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit Gulbarga Fort: An architectural marvel with Persian-style influences, Gulbarga Fort houses the historic Jama Masjid and offers insights into medieval Deccan history.
- Khwaja Bande Nawaz Dargah: Pay respects at the revered Sufi shrine of Khwaja Bande Nawaz, known for its spiritual ambiance and intricate Islamic architecture.
- Haft Gumbaz: Explore the Haft Gumbaz, a group of seven tombs adorned with elaborate carvings and historical significance.
- Depart for Gulbarga and check in at the hotel.

Day 4: Gulbarga - Bijapur (170kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit Gol Gumbaz: Marvel at Gol Gumbaz, featuring the world's second-largest dome and the famous Whispering Gallery, where whispers echo across the vast space.
- Ibrahim Rauza: Admire the symmetrical beauty of Ibrahim Rauza, an exquisite mausoleum known for its intricate stone carvings and serene ambiance.
- Jumma Masjid: Explore Jumma Masjid, an architectural masterpiece with elegant arches, intricate designs, and a serene courtyard.
- Malik-e-Maidan: Discover Malik-e-Maidan, a colossal cannon known for its historical significance and massive size.
- Depart for Bijapur and check in at the hotel.

Day 5: Bijapur - Badami (120kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit Badami Cave Temples: Explore the ancient rock-cut temples of Badami, adorned with intricate sculptures and dedicated to various Hindu deities.
- Agastya Lake: Enjoy the serene surroundings of Agastya Lake, dotted with ancient temples and offering picturesque views of the surrounding cliffs.
- Badami Fort: Climb up to Badami Fort, perched on a hilltop overlooking the town and providing panoramic views of the Agastya Lake and surrounding countryside.
- Depart for Badami and check in at the hotel.

Day 6: Badami

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Aihole Temple Complex: Discover the architectural wonders of Aihole, known as the "Cradle of Indian Architecture," with its numerous temples showcasing early Chalukyan craftsmanship.
- Pattadakal Temple Complex: Explore UNESCO-listed Pattadakal, featuring a blend of northern Indian Nagara and southern Indian Dravida architectural styles across its intricately carved temples.
- Mahakuta Group of Temples: Visit Mahakuta, a serene complex known for its ancient temples and a sacred tank surrounded by lush greenery.

Day 7: Badami - Hampi (180kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Vittala Temple: Marvel at Vittala Temple, renowned for its exceptional architecture including the iconic stone chariot and musical pillars that produce melodic tones when struck.
- Virupaksha Temple: Visit Virupaksha Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva and one of the oldest functioning temples in India, featuring intricate carvings and rich mythology.
- Hemakuta Hill Temples: Enjoy panoramic views from Hemakuta Hill while exploring its cluster of ancient temples and structures carved into the rocky landscape.
- Depart for Hampi and check in at the hotel.

Day 8: Hampi

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Royal Enclosure: Explore the Royal Enclosure, home to the Mahanavami Dibba and other structures that served as the ceremonial center of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- Lotus Mahal: Admire the elegant Lotus Mahal, a unique blend of Hindu and Islamic architectural styles within the Zenana Enclosure.
- Elephant Stables: Visit the Elephant Stables, showcasing the empire's architectural prowess with its rows of domed chambers designed to house royal elephants.
- Hazara Rama Temple: Discover the Hazara Rama Temple, known for its exquisite bas-reliefs narrating scenes from the Ramayana, depicting royal processions, and daily life.
- Hampi Bazaar: Wander through Hampi Bazaar, a historic street lined with ancient ruins, pavilions, and a vibrant market atmosphere.

Day 9: Hampi - Hubli (170kms) / Chennai (flight)

- Breakfast at the hotel, then departure to Hubli.
- Fly from Hubli to Chennai.
- Arrive in Chennai and check in to your hotel, relaxing for the rest of the day.

Day 10: Chennai - Mahabalipuram (120kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel, then departure to Mahabalipuram.
- Visit Shore Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its Dravidian architecture and oceanfront location.
- Explore Five Rathas, monolithic rock-cut temples dedicated to the Pandavas from the Mahabharata.
- Discover Arjuna's Penance, a massive rock relief depicting scenes from Hindu mythology and the descent of the Ganges.
- Visit Krishna's Butterball, a giant balancing rock that defies gravity.
- Explore Mahabalipuram Beach, a serene beach with ancient temples and rock sculptures.
- After sightseeing, check in at the hotel.

Day 11: Mahabalipuram - Pondicherry (120kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel, then departure to Pondicherry.
- Visit Auroville, an experimental township promoting human unity and sustainable living.
- Explore French Quarter, known for its colonial architecture, vibrant streets, and seaside promenade.
- Visit Sri Aurobindo Ashram, a spiritual community founded by Sri Aurobindo and The Mother.
- Explore Pondicherry Museum, showcasing a collection of artifacts from the French colonial period and ancient times.
- Visit Sacred Heart Basilica, a beautiful church known for its Gothic architecture and stained glass windows.
- After sightseeing, check in at the hotel.

Day 12: Pondicherry - Thanjavur (180kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel, then departure to Thanjavur.
- Visit Brihadeeswarar Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its grandeur and architectural brilliance, built by the Chola dynasty.
- Explore Thanjavur Palace, housing a library, museum, and art gallery with rich historical artifacts and artworks.
- Visit Saraswati Mahal Library, one of the oldest libraries in Asia, with a vast collection of ancient manuscripts and books.
- Explore Schwartz Church, a 1779 Christian church built by Danish missionary Reverend Friedrich Schwartz.
- Visit Sivaganga Park, a pleasant garden with a tank, offering a serene environment for relaxation.
- After sightseeing, check in at the hotel.

Day 13: Thanjavur - Chettinadu (140kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel, then departure to Chettinadu.
- Visit Chettinadu mansions, showcasing the opulent lifestyle and unique architecture of the Chettiar community.

- Explore Athangudi Palace, famous for its hand-made tiles and traditional Chettinadu architecture.
- Visit Chettinadu Museum, offering a glimpse into the history, culture, and traditions of the Chettiar community.
- Explore Pillayarpatti Karpaga Vinayakar Temple, a rock-cut temple dedicated to Lord Ganesha.
- Visit Karaikudi, known for its antique shops and traditional Chettinadu cuisine.
- After sightseeing, check in at the hotel.

Day 14: Chettinadu - Madurai (90kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel, then departure to Madurai.
- Visit Meenakshi Amman Temple, a sprawling temple complex dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi, known for its intricate sculptures and towering gopurams.
- Explore Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal, a 17th-century palace known for its grandeur and Dravidian-Islamic fusion architecture.
- Visit Koodal Azhagar Temple, a beautiful temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu, known for its intricate carvings.
- Explore Gandhi Memorial Museum, showcasing the life and achievements of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Visit Vandiyur Mariamman Teppakulam, a large temple tank with a central mandapam dedicated to Lord Vigneshwara.
- After sightseeing, check in at the hotel.

Day 15: Madurai - Rameshwaram (170kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel, then departure to Rameshwaram.
- Visit Ramanathaswamy Temple, one of the twelve Jyotirlinga temples, known for its long corridors and sacred water tanks.
- Explore Dhanushkodi, the ghost town at the tip of Rameshwaram Island, offering a serene and eerie experience.
- Visit Pamban Bridge, India's first sea bridge connecting the mainland with Rameshwaram Island.

- Explore Agnitheertham, a sacred beach near the Ramanathaswamy Temple, where pilgrims take a holy dip.
- Visit Gandhamadhana Parvatham, the highest point in Rameshwaram, offering panoramic views of the island.
- After sightseeing, check in at the hotel.

Day 16: Rameshwaram - Kanyakumari (320kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel, then departure to Kanyakumari.
- Visit Vivekananda Rock Memorial, located on a small island, dedicated to Swami Vivekananda.
- Explore Thiruvalluvar Statue, a 133-foot-tall statue of the famous Tamil poet and philosopher.
- Visit Kanyakumari Beach, where the Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, and Bay of Bengal meet.
- Explore Kanyakumari Temple, a 3000-year-old temple dedicated to Goddess Kanyakumari.
- Visit Gandhi Memorial Mandapam, built in honor of Mahatma Gandhi, offering a serene environment and sea views.
- After sightseeing, check in at the hotel

Day 17: Kanyakumari - Kovalam (80kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel, then departure to Kovalam.
- Visit Padmanabhapuram Palace, a beautiful wooden palace known for its traditional Kerala architecture and murals.
- Explore Vizhinjam Rock Cut Cave Temple, featuring rock-cut sculptures from the 8th century.
- Visit Kovalam Beach, famous for its crescent-shaped coastline and clear waters.
- Explore Lighthouse Beach, offering stunning views and a chance to climb the lighthouse for a panoramic view.
- Visit Hawa Beach, known for its calm waters and serene environment.
- After sightseeing, check in at the hotel.

Day 18: Kovalam

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, a grand temple known for its intricate architecture and the deity Vishnu reclining on Ananta.
- Explore Napier Museum, housing a collection of archaeological and historical artifacts.
- Visit Kuthiramalika Palace Museum, known for its Travancore-style architecture and collection of artifacts.
- Explore Thiruvananthapuram Zoo, one of the oldest zoos in India, home to a variety of animals and birds.
- Visit Shanghumukham Beach, a popular spot to watch the sunset and enjoy the seaside ambiance.

Day 19: Kovalam

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Day free and easy to relax and explore the sights of your interest with your driver.

Day 20: Kovalam - Departure

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Free time for shopping and relaxation.
- Departure transfer to the airport for your onward journey.

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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	5,908	3,149	2,687	2,849	2,527	2,379	2,217	2,095
4★ Deluxe	6,866	3,634	3,172	3,334	3,012	2,864	2,701	2,579
5★ Luxury	9,277	5,098	4,375	4,537	4,215	4,067	3,905	3,783

Valid for Travel: 16 April 2027 to 20 September 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	5,687	3,019	2,557	2,719	2,397	2,249	2,086	1,964
4★ Deluxe	6,286	3,338	2,876	3,038	2,716	2,568	2,406	2,284
5★ Luxury	8,146	4,519	3,796	3,958	3,636	3,488	3,326	3,204

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 851 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,323 | 5★ Luxury: USD 2,531

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 121 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 207 | 5★ Luxury: USD 419

Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 14 Nights' accommodation in selected price category hotels.
- Meal as per day plan (B- Breakfast, L- Lunch, D- Dinner)
- Private air-conditioned deluxe car for an airport transfer, sightseeing and excursion as per program.
- English speaking tour guide on sightseeing days (local guide in each city), as per program.
- Monuments entrances and activities charges mentioned in the itinerary.
- Bottled drinking water in car.
- Assistance on arrival at airport.

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- 19 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.
- Meals other than mentioned in day plan.
- Expenses of personal nature like liquor, laundry, tips, telephone, fax, internet etc.
- Gratuities & optional activities.
- Anything not mentioned in inclusions.

Hotels used or similar for 19 nights' accommodation

3 Star Hotels

- Hyderabad x 2 nights: Hotel Abode/ Aditya Park
- Gulbarga x 1 night: Kyriad Hotel Gulbarga by OTHPL/ Mastiff Select
- Bijapur x 1 night: The Fern Residency/ Kyriad Hotel Vijayapura by OTHPL
- Badami x 2 nights: Badami Court/ Clarks Inn
- Hampi x 2 nights: Malligi Hotel/ Clarks Inn
- Chennai x 1 night: ZONE By the Park/ Raj Park
- Mahabalipuram x 1 night: INDeco Hotels/ Ideal Beach Resort

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- Pondicherry x 1 night: Shenbaga Hotel/ Anandha Inn Convention Centre
- Thnjore x 1 night: Sangam Hotels
- Chettinad x 1 night: Chidambara Vilas/ Chettinadu Mansion
- 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

4 Star Hotels

- Hyderabad x 2 nights: The Golkonda Hotel/ Lemon Tree Hotel
- Gulbarga x 1 night: Kyriad Hotel Gulbarga by OTHPL/ Mastiff Select
- Bijapur x 1 night: The Fern Residency/ Kyriad Hotel Vijayapura by OTHPL
- Badami x 2 nights: Morpho Banashree Resort/ WADA1
- Hampi x 2 nights: Heritage Resort/ Royal Orchid Central Keerti
- 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
- Thnjore 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
- 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

5 Star Hotels

- Hyderabad x 2 nights: ITC Kakatiya, a Luxury Collection/ Trident Hotel

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- Gulbarga x 1 night: Kyriad Hotel Gulbarga by OTHPL/ Mastiff Select
- Bijapur x 1 night: The Fern Residency/ Kyriad Hotel Vijayapura by OTHPL
- Badami x 2 nights: Morpho Banashree Resort/ WADA1
- Hampi x 2 nights: Evolve Back, Hampi
- 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
- Thnjore x 1 night: Svatma
- Chettinad x 1 night: Visalam Cgh Earth
- 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

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.

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- 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.
- 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.

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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.