

Tour Name: Deccan & Dravin Temples in South India

Tour Duration: 14 Nights / 15 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/mrd984pe>

Tour Overview

Journey through the heart of South India on this immersive exploration of the Deccan Sultanates, Vijayanagara grandeur, and the magnificent temple traditions of Tamil Nadu. From the royal monuments of Hyderabad and the medieval capitals of Bidar, Gulbarga, and Bijapur to the UNESCO-listed ruins of Hampi, this tour showcases the architectural and cultural legacy of the Deccan Plateau. Continue into Tamil Nadu to discover ancient Chola temples, sacred pilgrimage centers, colonial-era Pondicherry, the heritage mansions of Chettinad, and the timeless spiritual atmosphere of Madurai. Combining history, art, religion, and living traditions, this journey offers a comprehensive introduction to South India's most celebrated cultural treasures.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Hyderabad

- Upon arrival at Hyderabad Airport, meet our representative and transfer to your hotel. The city, once ruled by the Nizams, blends grand Islamic architecture, royal heritage, and contemporary urban life. ‘
- After check-in, enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure to relax after your international journey or take a short walk around the local area.
- Overnight at hotel in Hyderabad.

Day 2: Hyderabad Sightseeing

- After breakfast, begin a full-day exploration of Hyderabad's historic landmarks. Visit the imposing Golconda Fort, famous for its ingenious acoustics, gateways, and panoramic views. Continue to the elegant Qutb Shahi Tombs, showcasing the architectural achievements of the Qutb Shahi rulers.
- Later, visit the iconic Charminar and wander through the bustling markets that surround this celebrated monument. Continue to Mecca Masjid, one of India's largest mosques, before exploring the remarkable collections of the Salar Jung Museum. Conclude the day at Chowmahalla Palace, the former ceremonial seat of the Nizams.
- Overnight at hotel in Hyderabad.

Day 3: Hyderabad – Bidar – Gulbarga (Drive: Approx. 260 km | 5–6 hrs)

- After breakfast, drive north into Karnataka. En route, stop at Bidar, once the capital of the Bahmani Sultanate and one of the most important centers of Deccan culture. Explore the massive Bidar Fort, the impressive Mahmud Gawan Madrasa, and the elegant Bahmani Tombs.
- Continue to Gulbarga, another former Bahmani capital. Visit Gulbarga Fort and the historic Jama Masjid, whose unique design reflects Persian influences rarely seen elsewhere in India. Check in at your hotel upon arrival.
- Overnight at hotel in Gulbarga.

Day 4: Gulbarga – Vijayapura (Bijapur) (Drive: Approx. 170 km | 4 hrs)

- After breakfast, drive to Vijayapura, historically known as Bijapur, one of the great cities of the Deccan Sultanates. Upon arrival, begin sightseeing of its celebrated monuments.
- Visit the magnificent Gol Gumbaz, renowned for its colossal dome and whispering gallery. Continue to Ibrahim Rauza, often regarded as one of the most graceful Islamic monuments in India. Explore Jama Masjid, Bara Kaman, Mehtar Mahal, Asar Mahal, and the massive Malik-e-Maidan Cannon, each representing the artistic brilliance of the Adil Shahi dynasty.
- Overnight at hotel in Vijayapura.

Day 5: Vijayapura – Aihole – Pattadakal – Badami (Drive: Approx. 120 km | 3 hrs)

- After breakfast, drive to Badami, the former capital of the Early Chalukya Empire. En route, visit Aihole, often described as the laboratory of Indian temple architecture, where architects experimented with early temple designs that later influenced the rest of India.
- Continue to Pattadakal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its remarkable collection of temples combining northern and southern architectural traditions. Upon arrival in Badami, explore the spectacular rock-cut cave temples carved into sandstone cliffs overlooking Agastya Lake and visit the ancient hilltop fort for panoramic views.
- Overnight at hotel in Badami.

Day 6: Badami – Hampi (Drive: Approx. 180 km | 4 hrs)

- After breakfast, drive through the rugged landscapes of northern Karnataka to Hampi, the former capital of the Vijayanagara Empire and one of India's most extraordinary archaeological sites.
- Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and later enjoy a visit to the Tungabhadra Dam. Continue to the Tungabhadra River for a traditional coracle ride before ascending Matanga Hill to witness a spectacular sunset over Hampi's surreal landscape of boulders, temples, and ancient ruins.
- Overnight at hotel in Hampi.

Day 7: Hampi Sightseeing

- After breakfast, enjoy a full-day exploration of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi. Begin at the Royal Enclosure, once the political heart of the Vijayanagara Empire. Explore the Mahanavami Dibba, King's Balance, and other royal structures.
- Visit the Hazara Rama Temple, famous for its intricate Ramayana carvings, and continue to the colossal Ugra Narasimha statue. Explore the sacred Virupaksha Temple, which remains an active place of worship, before visiting the iconic Vittala Temple Complex, home to the famous Stone Chariot and legendary musical pillars. Conclude with a visit to the archaeological museum.
- Overnight at hotel in Hampi.

Day 8: Hampi – Hubli – Chennai (Drive: Approx. 170 km | 4 hrs)

- After breakfast, drive to Hubli Airport for your flight to Chennai. Upon arrival, meet our representative and transfer to your hotel.
- Depending on your arrival time, enjoy a relaxed evening in Chennai, a city known for its classical traditions, colonial history, and vibrant cultural scene.
- Overnight at hotel in Chennai.

Day 9: Chennai Sightseeing – Pondicherry (Drive: Approx. 160 km | 4 hrs)

- After breakfast, begin your Chennai city tour. Visit Fort St. George, the first British fortress in India, and St. Mary's Church, one of the oldest Anglican churches in Asia. Continue to the Kapaleeshwarar Temple, renowned for its colorful Dravidian architecture.
- Visit Vadapalani Murugan Temple, the Government Museum, and Santhome Basilica before driving along the scenic East Coast Road to Pondicherry. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of this former French colony.
- Overnight at hotel in Pondicherry.

Day 10: Pondicherry

- After breakfast, enjoy a leisurely day exploring Pondicherry at your own pace. Wander through the charming French Quarter lined with colonial villas, cafés, and bougainvillea-covered streets. Visit local boutiques, art galleries, seaside promenades, and spiritual centers.
- The city's unique blend of French and Tamil heritage creates a relaxed and distinctive atmosphere unlike anywhere else in India.
- Overnight at hotel in Pondicherry.

Day 11: Pondicherry – Chidambaram – Gangaikonda Cholapuram – Darasuram – Thanjavur (Drive: Approx. 180 km | 4–5 hrs)

- After breakfast, drive toward Thanjavur, following one of South India's most important temple routes. Visit the sacred Nataraja Temple at Chidambaram, where Lord Shiva is worshipped as the Cosmic Dancer.
- Continue to Gangaikonda Cholapuram, one of the masterpieces of Chola architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Later visit the Airavatesvara Temple at Darasuram, renowned for its exquisite stone carvings and sculptural detail. Arrive in Thanjavur and check in at your hotel.
- Overnight at hotel in Thanjavur.

Day 12: Thanjavur – Trichy – Chettinad (Drive: Approx. 140 km | 3–4 hrs)

- After breakfast, visit the magnificent Brihadeeswara Temple, one of the greatest achievements of Chola architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its towering vimana remains one of the most impressive temple structures in India.
- Continue to Trichy and visit the vast Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple complex at Srirangam, one of Hinduism's most important pilgrimage destinations. Later explore the Rockfort Temple before driving to the Chettinad region and checking into your heritage accommodation.
- Overnight at hotel in Chettinad.

Day 13: Chettinad – Madurai (Drive: Approx. 90 km | 2 hrs)

- After breakfast, explore the unique heritage of Chettinad, known for its grand merchant mansions, ornate courtyards, carved wooden pillars, and distinctive architecture reflecting international influences brought by the prosperous Chettiar community.
- Later, drive to Madurai, one of India's oldest continuously inhabited cities. After check-in, visit the spectacular Meenakshi Amman Temple, famous for its towering gopurams, colorful sculptures, and vibrant religious traditions.
- Overnight at hotel in Madurai.

Day 14: Madurai – Hyderabad (Flight)

- After breakfast, continue sightseeing in Madurai. Visit the magnificent Thirumalai Nayakkar Palace, known for its impressive arches, domes, and royal courtyards. Later, visit Alagar Kovil and the sacred Murugan temples of Tirupparankundram and Pazhamudircholai, important pilgrimage centers nestled amidst scenic surroundings.
- Following the sightseeing tour, transfer to the airport for your flight to Hyderabad. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.
- Overnight at hotel in Hyderabad.

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Day 15: Hyderabad Departure

- After breakfast at the hotel, check out and transfer to Hyderabad International Airport according to your flight schedule.
- Your journey through the magnificent Deccan kingdoms, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, sacred temple towns, and living traditions of South India concludes with unforgettable memories of one of India's richest cultural regions.

Package Price (USD Per Person Sharing Double/Twin Room)

Valid for Travel: Until 20 September 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	4,764	2,559	2,169	2,254	2,000	1,956	1,818	1,714
4★ Deluxe	5,587	2,969	2,579	2,664	2,410	2,367	2,228	2,124
5★ Luxury	7,933	4,348	3,756	3,841	3,587	3,544	3,405	3,301

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 631 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,043 | 5★ Luxury: USD 2,212

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 99 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 163 | 5★ Luxury: USD 407

Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 14 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:

- Hubli - Chennai & Madurai - Hyderabad flight fare approx INR 9, 500 per person in economy class.
- 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 14 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 1 night: Badami Court/ Clarks Inn
- Hampi x 2 nights: Malligi Hotel/ Clarks Inn
- Chennai x 1 night: ZONE By the Park/ Raj Park
- Pondicherry x 2 nights: 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
- Hyderabad x 1 night: Hotel Abode/ Aditya Park

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 1 night: Morpho Banashree Resort/ WADA1

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- Hampi x 2 nights: Heritage Resort/ Royal Orchid Central Keerti
- Chennai x 1 night: Accord Metropolitan/ The Park Chennai
- Pondicherry x 2 nights: Le Pondy/ Accord Puducherry
- 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
- Hyderabad x 1 night: The Golkonda Hotel/ Lemon Tree Hotel

5 Star Hotels

- Hyderabad x 2 nights: ITC Kakatiya, a Luxury Collection/ Trident 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 1 night: Morpho Banashree Resort/ WADA1
- Hampi x 2 nights: Evolve Back, Hampi
- Chennai x 1 night: Radisson Blu Hotel GRT Chennai/ Hilton Chennai
- Pondicherry x 2 nights: 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
- Hyderabad x 1 night: ITC Kakatiya, a Luxury Collection/ Trident Hotel

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).

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- 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.