

Tour Name: Must Visit Temples of East & South India and Kerala Backwater

Tour Duration: 16 Nights/ 17 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/57n43kc2>

Tour Overview

Embark on an enriching journey through East and South India with the "Must Visit Temples of East & South India and Kerala Backwater" tour. Explore Kolkata's colonial past and vibrant culture before discovering ancient temples in Bhubaneswar and the serene beauty of Puri's shores. Experience Chilika Lake's tranquil waters and delve into Chennai's rich history, followed by the French charm of Pondicherry. From the cultural gems of Thanjavur and Trichy to the spiritual haven of Madurai and the scenic vistas of Munnar, each destination offers a unique blend of heritage and natural beauty. Cruise the backwaters of Alleppey and conclude in Cochin, where history and coastal allure converge for a memorable adventure.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Kolkata

- Arrive in Kolkata and transfer to your hotel. Rest and relax after your journey.

Day 2: Kolkata

- Enjoy a hearty breakfast at the hotel.
- Victoria Memorial: Visit this iconic marble building surrounded by beautiful gardens, housing a museum that showcases the history of Kolkata during the British era.
- Dakshineswar Kali Temple: Explore this Hindu temple dedicated to Goddess Kali, located on the banks of the Hooghly River, known for its intricate architecture and spiritual significance.
- Mother House (Missionaries of Charity): Visit the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa, where you can learn about their humanitarian work.
- Marble Palace: Discover this 19th-century mansion renowned for its marble walls and floors, housing a collection of Western sculpture, Victorian furniture, and paintings.

- Howrah Bridge: Marvel at the engineering marvel of Howrah Bridge, one of Kolkata's most iconic landmarks, spanning the Hooghly River and connecting Kolkata to Howrah.
- Indian Museum: Explore the oldest and largest museum in India, showcasing a vast collection of rare artifacts, antiques, and art pieces spanning over five thousand years of Indian history.

Day 3: Kolkata - Bhubaneshwar (Flight)

- After breakfast, fly to Bhubaneshwar.
- Lingaraj Temple: Visit this ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, known for its impressive architecture and intricate carvings.
- Mukteshwar Temple: Explore this 10th-century temple known for its unique architecture, featuring exquisite stone arches and delicate sculptures.
- Rajarani Temple: Admire the ornate sculptures and intricate carvings of this temple, known for its erotic art and intricate craftsmanship.
- Dhuli Gori Hills: Visit the site where Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism, marked by ancient rock edicts and a serene Peace Pagoda.

Day 4: Bhubaneshwar - Puri (60kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Puri.
- Jagannath Temple: Explore this famous Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Jagannath, known for its annual Rath Yatra festival and intricate carvings.
- Puri Beach: Relax on the sandy shores of Puri Beach, offering stunning views of the Bay of Bengal and colorful fishing boats.
- Konark Sun Temple: Visit this UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its impressive architecture and exquisite stone carvings depicting mythological tales.
- Chandrabhaga Beach: Enjoy the serene ambiance of Chandrabhaga Beach, known for its scenic beauty and stunning sunrise views over the Bay of Bengal.

Day 5: Puri - Chilika Lake (55kms one way)

- Breakfast at the hotel before heading out for an excursion.
- Chilika Lake: Explore Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, home to a rich biodiversity including migratory birds and the endangered Irrawaddy dolphins.

- Kalijai Temple: Take a boat ride to Kalijai Island to visit the ancient temple dedicated to Goddess Kalijai, offering panoramic views of Chilika Lake and surrounding landscapes.
- Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary: Enjoy birdwatching and wildlife spotting in this sanctuary, known for its resident and migratory bird species.

Day 6: Puri - Bhubaneswar - Chennai (Flight) - Mahabalipuram (55kms)

- Fly to Chennai and drive to Mahabalipuram after breakfast.
- Shore Temple: Visit this ancient temple complex overlooking the Bay of Bengal, known for its Dravidian architecture and serene coastal views.
- Arjuna's Penance: Marvel at the massive rock relief carving depicting scenes from the Mahabharata, showcasing intricate details and artistic finesse.
- Pancha Rathas (Five Rathas): Explore the monolithic rock-cut temples shaped like chariots, representing unique Dravidian architectural styles.

Day 7: Mahabalipuram

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.
- Descent of the Ganges (Mahabalipuram Caves): Discover the rock-cut cave temples depicting scenes from Hindu mythology, including the famous relief carving of Arjuna's Penance.
- Krishna's Butter Ball: Visit this natural rock formation resembling a giant butter ball balanced precariously on a steep slope, a marvel of nature and local legend.
- Mahabalipuram Beach: Relax and unwind at this picturesque beach, offering serene views of the Bay of Bengal and water sports activities.

Day 8: Mahabalipuram - Pondicherry (160kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Pondicherry.
- Auroville and Matrimandir: Visit Auroville, an experimental township dedicated to human unity, and explore the Matrimandir, a renowned meditation center known for its architectural beauty and tranquil ambiance.
- Sri Aurobindo Ashram: Explore this spiritual community founded by Sri Aurobindo and known for its spiritual teachings and serene atmosphere.
- French Quarter (Ville Blanche): Wander through the charming streets of the French Quarter, known for its colonial architecture, vibrant cafes, and boutique shops.

- Promenade Beach: Relax by the seaside promenade, offering stunning views of the Bay of Bengal and a refreshing sea breeze.

Day 9: Pondicherry - Thanjavur (220kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Thanjavur.
- Brihadeeswarar Temple: Visit this UNESCO World Heritage site, also known as Big Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva and renowned for its majestic architecture, towering vimana (temple tower), and intricate sculptures.
- Thanjavur Palace: Explore the historical palace complex housing the Royal Museum, showcasing art, weaponry, and artifacts from the Chola dynasty.
- Saraswati Mahal Library: Discover one of the oldest libraries in Asia, housing a rare collection of palm leaf manuscripts, ancient texts, and historical documents.

Day 10: Thanjavur - Trichy - Madurai (190kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel before embarking on your journey.
- Srirangam Temple: Visit the largest functioning temple complex in the world, dedicated to Lord Vishnu and known for its sprawling architecture, intricate carvings, and religious significance.
- Rock Fort Temple: Climb up the ancient rock fort to visit the ancient temples dedicated to Lord Ganesha and Lord Shiva, offering panoramic views of Trichy and the Cauvery River.
- Meenakshi Amman Temple: Explore the spectacular temple dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi and Lord Sundareswarar, known for its towering gopurams (gateway towers), stunning architecture, and vibrant sculptures depicting Hindu deities and mythological tales.

Day 11: Madurai - Munnar (160kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Munnar.
- Tea Gardens and Tea Museum: Visit the lush green tea estates of Munnar, learn about the tea-making process, and explore the Tea Museum to understand the history and significance of tea cultivation in this region.
- Mattupetty Dam: Enjoy breathtaking views of the surrounding hills and valleys, go for a boat ride on the serene reservoir, and visit the nearby dairy farm.
- Echo Point: Experience the natural echo phenomenon at Echo Point, surrounded by misty hills and lush greenery, offering panoramic views of the Western Ghats.

Day 12: Munnar

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Eravikulam National Park: Explore the rich biodiversity of the park, home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr (mountain goat), lush green valleys, and rolling hills.
- Top Station: Visit the highest point in Munnar, offering stunning panoramic views of the Western Ghats and neighboring Tamil Nadu.
- Blossom International Park: Relax amidst beautiful gardens, enjoy nature walks, and indulge in adventure activities like rock climbing and rappelling.

Day 13: Munnar - Thekkady (100kms)

- Breakfast at the hotel before departing for Thekkady.
- Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary: Embark on a boat safari on Periyar Lake, spot wildlife like elephants, deer, and birds amidst dense forests and bamboo groves.
- Spice Plantations: Explore aromatic spice plantations of Thekkady, learn about spices like cardamom, pepper, and cloves, and participate in guided tours and spice shopping.
- Periyar Lake: Enjoy a scenic boat ride on Periyar Lake, surrounded by lush greenery and wildlife sightings.

Day 14: Thekkady

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Elephant Junction: Interact with elephants, enjoy elephant rides, and learn about the conservation efforts at Elephant Junction.
- Mangala Devi Temple: Visit this ancient temple located in the dense forests of Thekkady, offering panoramic views of the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary and the Western Ghats.
- Kalaripayattu Performance: Witness a traditional martial arts performance showcasing Kalaripayattu, one of the oldest martial arts forms in the world.

Day 15: Thekkady - Alleppey (160kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Alleppey.
- Houseboat Cruise: Board a traditional houseboat and cruise through the backwaters of Kerala, passing through serene villages, lush paddy fields, and coconut groves.

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- Kerala Backwaters: Experience the unique ecosystem of Kerala's backwaters, observe local life, and enjoy freshly prepared Kerala cuisine onboard.

Day 16: Alleppey - Cochin (60kms)

- Breakfast onboard the houseboat before disembarking in Alleppey.
- Arrive in Cochin and check-in at your hotel. Fort Kochi Exploration:
- St. Francis Church: Visit the historic St. Francis Church, the oldest European church in India, where Vasco da Gama was originally buried.
- Chinese Fishing Nets: Explore the iconic Chinese Fishing Nets along the coast, an ancient fishing technique introduced by Chinese traders.
- Santa Cruz Basilica: Discover the stunning Santa Cruz Basilica, a Roman Catholic cathedral known for its beautiful architecture and vibrant interiors.
- Vasco House: Visit Vasco House, a Portuguese-style residence believed to have been the residence of Vasco da Gama.
- Jew Town: Wander through Jew Town, known for its antique shops, Jewish synagogue, and the vibrant local market.

Day 17: Alleppey - Cochin (60kms)

- Transfer to the Cochin airport for your departure, concluding your journey through East and South India.

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	5,061	2,761	2,402	2,474	2,221	2,181	2,042	1,938
4★ Deluxe	6,069	3,235	2,877	2,949	2,696	2,656	2,517	2,413
5★ Luxury	8,323	4,603	4,007	4,079	3,826	3,786	3,647	3,543

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 750 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,283 | 5★ Luxury: USD 2,406

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 108 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 172 | 5★ Luxury: USD 376

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Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 16 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:

- Kolkata - Bhubaneswar - Chennai flight fare approx ₹15500 per person in economy class.
 - Camera charges at monuments if any.
 - Meals other than mentioned in 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 16 nights' accommodation**

3 Star Hotels

- Kolkata x 2 nights: Golden Tulip/ Polo Floatel
- Bhubaneswar x 1 night: Hotel Hindustan International/ Swosti Grand
- Puri x 2 nights: Toshali Sands/ The Hans Coco Palms
- Chennai x 1 night: ZONE By the Park/ Raj Park
- Pondicherry x 2 nights: Shenbaga Hotel/ Anandha Inn Convention Centre
- Thanjavur x 1 night: Sangam Hotels

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- Madurai x 1 night: JC Residency/ Hotel Royal Court
- Munnar x 2 nights: Abad Copper Castle/ Elysium Garden Hill Resort
- Thekkady x 2 nights: Abad Green Forest/ Hotel Treetop
- Alleppey x 1 night: Deluxe Houseboat (AC During Night Only)
- Cochin x 1 night: The Tower House/ The Killians

4 Star Hotels

- Kolkata x 2 nights: The Elgin Fairlawn/ ZONE By the Park
- Bhubaneswar x 1 night: Fortune Park Sishmo/ Lemon Tree Premier
- Puri x 2 nights: MAYFAIR Heritage/ Mayfair Waves
- Chennai x 1 night: Accord Metropolitan/ The Park Chennai
- Pondicherry x 2 nights: Le Pondy/ Accord Puducherry
- Thanjavur x 1 night: GReaT Trails Riverview Resort
- Madurai x 1 night: Fortune Pandiyan Hotel/ Regency Madurai by GRT Hotels
- Munnar x 2 nights: Elixir Hills Resort/ Tea County Munnar
- Thekkady x 2 nights: Amritara Shalimar Spice Garden/ The Elephant Court
- Alleppey x 1 night: Premium Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- Cochin x 1 night: The Tower House/ The Killians

5 Star Hotels

- Kolkata x 2 nights: ITC Sonar, a Luxury Collection/ The Lalit Great Eastern
- Bhubaneswar x 1 night: Mayfair Lagoon/ Trident Hotel
- Puri x 2 nights: MAYFAIR Heritage/ Mayfair Waves
- Chennai x 1 night: Radisson Blu Hotel GRT Chennai/ Hilton Chennai
- Pondicherry x 2 nights: Palais De Mahe/ La Villa
- Thanjavur x 1 night: Svatma
- Madurai x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott/ The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai

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- Munnar x 2 nights: Chandys Windy Woods/ Blanket Hotel & Spa
- Thekkady x 2 nights: Spice Village/ Hills & Hues
- 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.

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- **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.

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.