

Tour Name: South India Rich Temples, Tea Estate and Culture Tour from Chennai

Tour Duration: 14 Nights/ 15 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/m5svtasp>

Tour Overview

Embark on a captivating journey through South India with the "South India Rich Temples, Tea Estate and Culture Tour from Chennai". Start in Chennai, exploring historic landmarks such as Fort St. George and the serene Marina Beach. Traverse the coast to the charming Pondicherry, where French colonial architecture meets Indian culture. Marvel at the architectural grandeur of Chidambaram's Nataraja Temple and the Chola temples of Gangaikonda Cholapuram and Darasuram. Continue to Madurai's iconic Meenakshi Amman Temple and experience the lush tea estates of Munnar, before journeying to the scenic hill station of Ooty. Conclude with the rich heritage of Mysore and the architectural wonders of Belur and Halebeedu, immersing in South India's diverse and enchanting splendor.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Chennai

- Upon arrival at Chennai airport, you will be welcomed by your tour guide and transferred to your hotel.
- Check-in and freshen up before enjoying a hearty breakfast.
- Visit Fort St. George, a historic fort with colonial-era buildings including the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and the Fort Museum, showcasing artifacts from the British East India Company era.
- Discover Kapaleeshwarar Temple, an ancient Hindu temple with elaborate Dravidian architecture, intricate carvings, and colorful sculptures dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- End your day at Santhome Basilica, a historic church built on the tomb of St. Thomas, with serene interiors and a rich Christian heritage in India.

Day 2: Chennai - Mahabalipuram - Pondicherry (150kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Mahabalipuram, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its ancient rock-cut temples.
- Visit the Shore Temple, a 7th-century temple overlooking the Bay of Bengal, noted for its intricate carvings and dual shrines dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu.
- Explore Arjuna's Penance, a massive bas-relief depicting various scenes from Hindu mythology, including the Descent of the Ganges.
- Discover the Five Rathas, a group of rock-cut temples named after the Pandava brothers and their wife, showcasing diverse architectural styles.
- Continue to Pondicherry and check in at your hotel.

- In the evening, explore Pondicherry's French Quarter with its colonial buildings, visit Aurobindo Ashram to learn about the spiritual teachings of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother, and enjoy a walk along the Promenade to soak in the coastal charm.

Day 3: Pondicherry - Chidambaram - Gangaikonda Cholapuram - Darasuram - Thanjore (180kms)

- After breakfast, depart for Thanjavur with fascinating stops en route.
- Visit Nataraja Temple in Chidambaram, renowned for its architectural brilliance and intricate bronze sculptures of Lord Shiva as Nataraja, the Cosmic Dancer.
- Explore the Great Living Chola Temples in Gangaikonda Cholapuram, a grand temple complex dedicated to Shiva, with impressive sculptures and expansive courtyards.
- Continue to Darasuram to visit the Airavatesvara Temple, another UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its detailed carvings and exquisite Dravidian architecture.
- Arrive in Thanjavur, check in at your hotel, and later visit Brihadeshwara Temple, an architectural marvel with a massive dome and elaborate frescoes, celebrated for its grandeur.
- Explore Vijayanagar Fort and the Thanjavur Art Gallery & Saraswathi Mahal Library, which houses a significant collection of ancient manuscripts and historical artifacts.

Day 4: Thanjavur - Trichy (60kms)

- Revisit Brihadeshwara Temple to appreciate its architectural marvels in the morning light.
- Continue your exploration of Thanjavur with additional visits to Vijayanagar Fort and the Thanjavur Art Gallery & Saraswathi Mahal Library.
- Drive to Trichy and check in at your hotel.
- Explore Rock Fort Temple, a historic temple complex perched on a rock outcrop offering panoramic views of the city and surrounding landscape.
- Visit Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, a sprawling temple complex dedicated to Lord Vishnu, with its grand architecture and vibrant pilgrimage atmosphere.

Day 5: Trichy - Madurai (140kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Madurai, one of the oldest cities in India.
- Check in at your hotel and later visit Meenakshi Amman Temple, a grand temple complex dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi and Lord Sundareswarar, known for its intricate carvings, towering gopurams (gateway towers), and bustling temple rituals.
- Explore Thirumalai Nayakkar Palace, renowned for its Indo-Saracenic architecture and stunning light and sound show in the evening.
- Visit the Gandhi Museum, housed in the historic Tamukkam Palace, which exhibits artifacts and photographs related to Mahatma Gandhi's life and India's independence struggle.
- Wander through Madurai's local markets to experience the vibrant culture and shop for local handicrafts.

Day 6: Madurai - Munnar (160km)

- Bid farewell to Madurai and drive to Munnar, a picturesque hill station known for its tea plantations and lush landscapes.
- Check in at your Munnar hotel and relax after the scenic drive.
- In the afternoon, visit a local tea estate to witness the tea-making process, from plucking tea leaves to processing, and enjoy a tea-tasting session to savor the fresh flavors.

Day 7: Munnar

- Explore Eravikulam National Park, home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr. Enjoy a guided walk through the park, known for its lush landscapes and seasonal blooming of Neelakurinji flowers.
- Visit Mattupetty Dam, a popular spot offering beautiful views and opportunities for a boat ride on the serene waters.
- Discover Echo Point, known for its unique acoustic effects where your voice echoes back, providing fun photo opportunities and a tranquil setting.
- Learn about the history and production of tea at the Tea Museum, which showcases the evolution of Munnar's tea industry and offers insights into local tea culture.

Day 8: Munnar - Ooty (250kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Ooty, the "Queen of Hill Stations," known for its scenic beauty and pleasant climate.
- Check in at your hotel and unwind after the drive. Explore the local area or relax in the comfort of your hotel.

Day 9: Ooty

- Visit the Botanical Gardens, featuring a wide array of exotic plants, colorful flowerbeds, and a fossilized tree trunk believed to be over 20 million years old.
- Explore the Rose Garden, a sprawling garden with a vast collection of roses in different colors and fragrances.
- Enjoy a boat ride on Ooty Lake, a picturesque lake surrounded by eucalyptus trees, or take a leisurely walk along the lake's promenade.
- Visit Doddabetta Peak, the highest point in the Nilgiri Mountains, offering breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding hills and valleys.
- Experience a joy ride on the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with vintage steam locomotives, offering picturesque views of the Nilgiri hills.

Day 10: Ooty - Mysore (150kms)

- Drive to Mysore, a city known for its royal heritage and grand palaces.
- Check in at your hotel and relax.

- Visit Mysore Palace, an opulent palace with Indo-Saracenic architecture, stunning interiors, and illuminated in the evening, showcasing the grandeur of the Wadiyar dynasty.
- Explore Brindavan Gardens, famous for its musical fountains that light up in the evening with synchronized music and colorful lights.

Day 11: Mysore - Somanathapura - Srirangapatna - Hassan (135kms)

- Drive to Hassan with stops at Somanathapura and Srirangapatna.
- Visit Chennakesava Temple in Somanathapura, renowned for its intricate Hoysala architecture and elaborate stone carvings depicting various deities and mythological scenes.
- Explore Srirangapatna, including Dariya Daulat Palace, the summer residence of Tipu Sultan, and Gumbaz Mausoleum, a mausoleum for Tipu Sultan and his family, and Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, an important pilgrimage site.
- Arrive in Hassan and check in at your hotel

Day 12: Hassan - Belur - Halebeedu - Bangalore (250kms)

- Drive to Belur and visit Chennakeshava Temple, an architectural gem of Hoysala design, featuring intricate carvings and sculptures.
- Continue to Halebidu to explore Hoysaleswara Temple, known for its detailed carvings and elaborate architecture.
- Drive to Bangalore, the capital of Karnataka, check in at your hotel, and enjoy a comfortable night's stay.

Day 13: Bangalore - Vellore (220kms)

- Explore Bangalore with a visit to Lalbagh Botanical Garden, an expansive garden with a diverse collection of plant species and a glasshouse inspired by London's Crystal Palace.
- Visit Bangalore Palace, an architectural marvel resembling European castles with richly decorated interiors and historical artifacts.
- Stop at Bull Temple, dedicated to Nandi with a massive granite statue, offering insight into local religious practices.
- In the afternoon, drive to Vellore, check in at your hotel, and relax for the night.

Day 14: Vellore - Chennai (150kms)

- Depart Vellore and drive to Chennai, visiting Kanchipuram en route.
- Explore Kanchipuram's famous temples, including Kailasanathar Temple, known for its early Dravidian architecture, and Ekambareswarar Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva and famous for its massive temple complex and large mango tree.
- Discover local silk shops in Kanchipuram known for their exquisite sarees and traditional craftsmanship.
- Continue to Chennai, check in at your hotel, and enjoy a final city tour, including a visit to Kapaleeshwarar Temple and a stroll along Marina Beach.

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Day 15: Chennai - Departure (flight)

- After breakfast, enjoy a final city tour of Chennai or revisit any remaining attractions.
- Later, your tour guide will transfer you to Chennai airport for your onward journey, marking the end of your enriching South India tour.

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	4,210	2,323	1,986	2,039	1,838	1,817	1,704	1,620
4★ Deluxe	5,043	2,722	2,385	2,438	2,237	2,216	2,103	2,019
5★ Luxury	6,628	3,643	3,166	3,219	3,017	2,996	2,884	2,800

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 595 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,029 | 5★ Luxury: USD 1,833

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 91 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 134 | 5★ Luxury: USD 264

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:

- Any flight tickets.
- Camera charges at monuments if any.
- Meals other than mentioned in the inclusions.

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- 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

- Chennai x 2 nights: ZONE By the Park/ Raj Park
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Shenbaga Hotel/ Anandha Inn Convention Centre
- Thanjavur x 1 night: Sangam Hotels
- Trichy x 1 night: Red Fox Hotel/ Hotel Blossoms
- Madurai x 1 night: JC Residency/ Hotel Royal Court
- Munnar x 2 nights: Abad Copper Castle/ Elysium Garden Hill Resort
- Ooty x 2 nights: Gem Park Ooty/ Monarch Hotel
- Mysore x 1 night: Sandesh The Prince/ Regenta Central Herald By Royal Orchid Hotels
- Hassan x 1 night: The Ashhok/ Pearl Hotel
- Bangalore x 1 night: Royal Orchid Central/ Ramada Bangalore
- Vellore x 1 night: Regency Sameera Vellore by GRT Hotel

4 Star Hotels

- Chennai x 2 nights: Accord Metropolitan/ The Park Chennai
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Le Pondy/ Accord Puducherry
- Thanjavur 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
- Munnar x 2 nights: Elixir Hills Resort/ Tea County Munnar
- Ooty x 2 nights: Fortune Resort Sullivan Court/ Accord Highland Ooty
- Mysore x 1 night: Fortune Park JP Palace/ Royal Orchid Brindavan Garden
- Hassan x 1 night: Hosyala Village Resort/ Rosetta by Ferns – Sakleshpur
- Bangalore x 1 night: Lemon Tree Premier/ Gokulam Grand Hotel & Spa
- Vellore x 1 night: Fortune Park Vellore

5 Star Hotels

- Chennai x 2 nights: Radisson Blu Hotel GRT Chennai/ Hilton Chennai
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Palais De Mahe/ La Villa
- Thanjavur x 1 night: Svatma
- Trichy x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott
- Madurai x 1 night: The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai
- Munnar x 2 nights: Chandys Windy Woods/ Blanket Hotel & Spa
- Ooty x 2 nights: Savoy, Ooty - IHCL SeleQtions
- Mysore x 1 night: Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel

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- Hassan x 1 night: Hosyala Village Resort/ Rosetta By Ferns – Sakleshpur
- Bangalore x 1 night: ITC Gardenia, a Luxury Collection/ Vivanta Bengaluru, Residency Road
- Vellore x 1 night: Fortune Park Vellore

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.