

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

Tour Duration: 7 Nights/ 8 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/3mf4ab84>

Tour Overview

Embark on a spiritual and cultural journey with "South India Rich Temples, Culture and Heritage Tour from Chennai." This meticulously crafted tour takes you through the heart of South India's rich tapestry, beginning in Chennai with visits to historic landmarks like Fort St. George and the vibrant Marina Beach. Traverse the sacred city of Kanchipuram, renowned for its ancient temples, and explore Trichy's monumental Rock Fort and the grand Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple. Discover the architectural marvels of Madurai's Meenakshi Amman Temple and the coastal charm of Rameshwaram. Experience the grandeur of Thanjavur's Brihadeshwara Temple and the exquisite Chola temples. Conclude your journey with a blend of French colonial elegance in Pondicherry and the stunning rock-cut wonders of Mahabalipuram, offering a deep dive into South India's cultural and spiritual heritage.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Chennai

- Upon arrival at Chennai airport, you will be warmly welcomed and transferred to your hotel.
- After checking in and freshening up, enjoy a hearty breakfast at the hotel.
- Embark on a city tour of Chennai, starting with Fort St. George, a historic colonial fortification housing the St. Mary's Church and the Fort Museum.
- Explore the Kapaleeshwarar Temple, a magnificent Dravidian-style temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, noted for its elaborate carvings and colorful gopurams (gateway towers).
- Stroll along Marina Beach, one of the longest urban beaches in the world, where you can enjoy the sea breeze and witness the lively atmosphere along the shores of the Bay of Bengal.

Day 2: Chennai - Kanchipuram - Trichy (350kms)

- Begin the day with breakfast at your hotel before departing for Trichy.

- En route, visit Kanchipuram, renowned as the "City of Thousand Temples" and a major pilgrimage site.
- Explore the Ekambareswarar Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, famous for its towering gopurams and lush temple grounds.
- Visit the Kailasanathar Temple, known for its intricate carvings and serene ambiance.
- Continue your journey to Trichy and check in at your hotel.
- In the evening, visit the Rock Fort Temple, perched on a rocky outcrop, offering panoramic views of the city and the surrounding landscape.
- Explore the Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, one of the largest temple complexes in India, known for its extensive corridors and impressive architecture.

Day 3: Trichy - Madurai (140kms)

- Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before traveling to Madurai, the cultural capital of Tamil Nadu.
- Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and relax for a while.
- Visit the Meenakshi Amman Temple, an iconic landmark of Madurai with its stunning gopurams and intricate sculptures depicting Hindu mythology.
- Explore the Thirumalai Nayakkar Palace, a grand Indo-Saracenic palace known for its vast courtyards and magnificent architecture.
- In the evening, witness the Aarti (prayer ritual) at the Meenakshi Amman Temple, a vibrant ceremony of lights, music, and devotion.

Day 4: Madurai - Rameshwaram (170kms)

- After breakfast, embark on a scenic drive to Rameshwaram, a significant pilgrimage site.
- Visit the Ramanathaswamy Temple, a revered shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, known for its grand corridors and sacred architecture.
- Take a dip in the holy waters of the Agnitheertham, a significant bathing ghat believed to cleanse sins.
- Seek blessings at Gandhamadhana Parvatham, offering panoramic views of the island and the sea.

- Explore Dhanushkodi, a ghost town with remnants of a cyclone-ravaged village and pristine beaches.
- Enjoy a relaxing evening by the seashore and witness the enchanting sunset over the ocean.

Day 5: Rameshwaram - Chettinad - Thanjavur (250kms)

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel before traveling to Thanjavur.
- En route, visit Chettinad, famous for its unique cuisine and well-preserved mansions known as "Chettinad Houses."
- Explore these traditional houses adorned with intricate woodwork and elaborate designs.
- Continue your journey to Thanjavur and check in at your hotel.
- In the evening, visit the Brihadeshwara Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a masterpiece of Chola architecture with its towering vimana and detailed sculptures.
- Explore the Vijayanagar Fort and the Thanjavur Art Gallery & Saraswathi Mahal Library, which houses a valuable collection of ancient manuscripts and artworks.

Day 6: Thanjavur - Darasuram - Gangaikonda Cholapuram - Chidambaram - Pondicherry (180kms)

- After breakfast, embark on a picturesque drive to Pondicherry.
- En route, visit the Great Living Chola Temples at Darasuram, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its exquisite sculptures and architectural finesse.
- Continue to Gangaikonda Cholapuram, another magnificent Chola dynasty temple showcasing grand architecture and detailed carvings.
- Proceed to Chidambaram and visit the Nataraja Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva in his cosmic dancing form, known for its grand architecture and vibrant ceremonies.
- Arrive in Pondicherry, check in at your hotel, and unwind.
- In the evening, explore Auroville, an experimental township promoting global harmony and sustainable living. Learn about its unique community and innovative practices.

Day 7: Pondicherry - Mahabalipuram - Chennai (150kms)

- Start with breakfast at the hotel before discovering the charm of Pondicherry.
- Visit the Pondicherry Museum, showcasing artifacts and relics from the region's rich history and culture.
- Take a leisurely drive through the French Quarters, admiring colonial architecture and visiting landmarks such as the French consulate, Raj Nivas, Government Square, churches, and French schools.
- Depart for Chennai, with a stop at Mahabalipuram, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its ancient rock-cut temples and intricate stone carvings. Explore the Shore Temple and Arjuna's Penance, depicting various scenes from Hindu mythology.
- Arrive in Chennai, check in at your hotel, and relax.

Day 8: Chennai - Departure

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before embarking on a final city tour of Chennai.
- Visit Marina Beach, a bustling promenade along the Bay of Bengal, and soak in the vibrant atmosphere.
- Explore the Mylapore neighborhood, known for its cultural heritage and the Kapaleeshwarar Temple.
- Discover the Government Museum, which houses a diverse collection of art, archaeology, and natural history exhibits.
- Immerse yourself in the bustling markets of Chennai, where you can shop for souvenirs and traditional handicrafts.
- In the evening, as per your flight schedule, you will be transferred to Chennai airport for your onward journey, marking the end of your enriching South India tour.

AGORA VOYAGES (OPC) PVT. LTD.

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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	2,282	1,245	1,046	1,064	950	945	880	832
4★ Deluxe	2,854	1,507	1,307	1,326	1,211	1,206	1,142	1,093
5★ Luxury	3,399	1,858	1,582	1,600	1,486	1,481	1,417	1,368

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 284 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 595 | 5★ Luxury: USD 865

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 48 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 89 | 5★ Luxury: USD 141

Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 7 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 7 nights' accommodation

3 Star Hotels

- Chennai x 2 nights: ZONE By the Park/ Raj Park
- 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
- Thanjavur x 1 night: Sangam Hotels
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Shenbaga Hotel/ Anandha Inn Convention Centre

4 Star Hotels

- Chennai x 2 nights: Accord Metropolitan/ The Park Chennai
- Trichy x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott
- Madurai x 1 night: Fortune Pandiyan Hotel/ Regency Madurai by GRT Hotels
- Rameshwaram x 1 night: The Residency Towers
- Thanjavur x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Le Pondy/ Accord Puducherry

5 Star Hotels

- Chennai x 2 nights: Radisson Blu Hotel GRT Chennai/ Hilton Chennai
- 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
- Thanjavur x 1 night: Svatma
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Palais De Mahe/ La Villa

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.
- **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.