

Tour Name: South India Heritage Forts, Palaces and Backwater Cruise Tour

Tour Duration: 14 Nights/ 15 Days

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

Tour Overview

Embark on a captivating journey through the "South India Heritage Forts, Palaces and Backwater Cruise Tour", where history and natural beauty intertwine seamlessly. Explore ancient forts and temples across Hyderabad, Gulbarga, Bijapur, and Badami, each echoing tales of dynasties past. Witness architectural marvels like Golconda Fort and Badami Cave Temples, etched into cliffs of red sandstone. Transition into Kerala's tranquil landscapes, where tea plantations in Munnar and serene backwaters in Kumarakom and Alleppey invite relaxation and exploration. This journey culminates in Kochi, where colonial history blends with vibrant markets and cultural delights. Experience South India's rich heritage and natural splendor in this unforgettable expedition.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Hyderabad

- Arrive in Hyderabad and transfer to your hotel.
- Rest and refresh after your journey.

Day 2: Hyderabad

- After breakfast at the hotel, begin your exploration with a visit to Golconda Fort. This imposing fortress offers insights into Hyderabad's rich history and provides panoramic views of the city from its ramparts.
- Explore the Qutb Shahi Tombs nearby, a tranquil complex of tombs and mosques featuring intricate Persian and Indian architectural styles amidst landscaped gardens.
- Visit the iconic Charminar, a monument and mosque located in the heart of Hyderabad's old city, known for its four grand arches and minarets.
- Explore the Salar Jung Museum, one of the largest art museums in India, housing an extensive collection of art, artifacts, and antiques from various civilizations.

Day 3: Hyderabad - Gulbarga (260kms)

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing for Gulbarga.

- Visit Gulbarga Fort, a medieval fortification with impressive bastions and mosques that highlight the architectural prowess of the Bahmani Sultanate.
- Explore the Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India known for its exquisite architecture and serene ambiance.
- Visit the Sharana Basaveshwara Temple, dedicated to the 18th-century Hindu philosopher and saint, featuring intricate carvings and religious significance.

Day 4: Gulbarga - Bijapur (170kms)

- After breakfast, travel to Bijapur, renowned for its Islamic architecture and historical monuments.
- Explore Ibrahim Rouza, an elegant mausoleum known for its symmetrical design, ornate minarets, and intricate stone carvings.
- Visit the impressive Gol Gumbaz, a mausoleum housing the tomb of Mohammed Adil Shah, featuring the second-largest dome in the world and known for its exceptional acoustics.
- Explore Malik-i-Maidan, a medieval cannon placed on a stone platform and known for its historical significance and craftsmanship.

Day 5: Bijapur - Badami (120kms)

- Depart after breakfast for Badami, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its rock-cut cave temples carved into cliffs of red sandstone.
- Explore Badami Cave Temples, dedicated to various Hindu deities and adorned with detailed sculptures depicting mythological tales.
- Visit the Bhutanatha Temples, located on the banks of Agastya Lake and showcasing intricate carvings and stunning views of the surrounding landscape.
- Explore the Archaeological Museum in Badami, housing sculptures, artifacts, and inscriptions from the Chalukyan period, offering insights into the region's history.

Day 6: Badami

- After breakfast, visit Aihole, often referred to as the "Cradle of Indian Architecture," known for its early Chalukyan temples showcasing experimental temple architecture.
- Proceed to Pattadakal, another UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its exquisite blend of North and South Indian architectural styles in its temples and sculptures.
- Explore the Jain temples at Pattadakal, showcasing detailed carvings and unique architectural features dedicated to Jain deities.

- Visit the Banashankari Temple, dedicated to Goddess Banashankari and known for its ancient Dravidian architecture and religious significance.

Day 7: Badami - Hampi (180kms)

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before traveling to Hampi, the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire and a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Explore the Virupaksha Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva and known for its impressive architecture, intricate carvings, and towering gopurams.
- Visit the Queen's Bath, an ancient royal bathing complex featuring Indo-Islamic architecture and ornate interiors.
- Explore the Hemakuta Hill Temples, offering panoramic views of the Hampi landscape and showcasing ancient temples and shrines.

Day 8: Hampi

- After breakfast, visit the Vijaya Vittala Temple, renowned for its iconic stone chariot and musical pillars that produce melodious sounds when struck.
- Explore the Hampi Bazaar and the Royal Enclosures, which house ancient palaces, temples, and structures that showcase the grandeur of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- Visit the Hazara Rama Temple, known for its exquisite bas-reliefs depicting scenes from the Ramayana and intricate carvings narrating the tales of Lord Rama.
- Explore the Lotus Mahal, a unique structure within the Zenana Enclosure known for its elegant architecture and use of Islamic and Hindu architectural styles.

Day 9: Hampi - Cochin

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before departing for Cochin (Kochi), a coastal city with a rich blend of colonial and Indian architecture.
- Upon arrival, explore the historic Fort Kochi area, known for its colonial buildings, Chinese fishing nets, and vibrant art scene.
- Visit the St. Francis Church, the oldest European church in India, and explore the Mattancherry Palace, known for its exquisite murals depicting Hindu mythological themes.
- Experience a Kathakali performance, a traditional dance form of Kerala, known for its elaborate costumes, intricate facial expressions, and storytelling through dance.

Day 10: Cochin - Munnar (140kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Munnar, a picturesque hill station nestled in the Western Ghats and famous for its tea estates.
- Visit a tea plantation and learn about the tea-making process, followed by a tea-tasting session to savor the flavors of Kerala's renowned tea.
- Explore the Tea Museum in Munnar, showcasing the evolution of tea plantations in the region and the history of tea cultivation in Kerala.
- Visit the Attukal Waterfalls, a scenic waterfall surrounded by lush green hills and offering opportunities for photography and nature walks.

Day 11: Munnar

- After breakfast, explore Eravikulam National Park, home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr, and enjoy the panoramic views of the tea gardens and hills.
- Visit Mattupetty Dam, a picturesque dam surrounded by lush green valleys and offering boating facilities amidst serene surroundings.
- Proceed to the Top Station viewpoint, offering stunning vistas of the Western Ghats and the neighboring state of Tamil Nadu.
- Visit the Rose Garden in Munnar, showcasing a variety of roses and other flowering plants amidst manicured lawns and scenic surroundings.

Day 12: Munnar - Thekkady (110kms)

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before driving to Thekkady, known for the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary and spice plantations.
- Embark on a guided spice plantation tour to learn about various spices grown in the region, followed by a visit to a local spice market.
- Take a boat cruise on Periyar Lake to spot wildlife such as elephants, deer, and a variety of bird species in their natural habitat.
- Visit the Kadathanadan Kalari Centre in Thekkady, showcasing traditional Kalaripayattu martial arts performances and demonstrations.

Day 13: Thekkady - Kumarakom (140kms)

- After breakfast, travel to Kumarakom, a serene village situated on the banks of Lake Vembanad.
- Enjoy a relaxing afternoon exploring the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary or taking a leisurely boat ride on the backwaters.

- Visit the Bay Island Driftwood Museum, showcasing a unique collection of driftwood sculptures and artifacts crafted from natural materials found along the Kerala coast.
- Experience a traditional Kerala cooking demonstration and enjoy a sumptuous lunch prepared with local ingredients and spices.

Day 14: Kumarakom - Alleppey (Houseboat - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

- After breakfast, embark on a houseboat cruise through the scenic backwaters of Alleppey, also known as Alappuzha.
- Enjoy traditional Kerala cuisine served on board and experience the peaceful life along the backwaters.
- Visit a local village to interact with the villagers and learn about their traditional lifestyle and fishing techniques.
- Enjoy a cultural evening on the houseboat with traditional music, dance performances, and storytelling sessions.

Day 15: Alleppey - Cochin (60kms)

- After breakfast on the houseboat, disembark and drive back to Cochin.
- Visit the Jewish Synagogue in Cochin, known for its exquisite Belgian glass chandeliers and hand-painted Chinese tiles.
- Explore the Fort Kochi area for last-minute shopping of spices, handicrafts, and souvenirs.
- Departure from Cochin or extend your journey to explore more of Kerala's coastal beauty, or 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	4,403	2,386	2,047	2,153	1,927	1,875	1,753	1,661
4★ Deluxe	5,304	2,827	2,487	2,593	2,367	2,315	2,193	2,102
5★ Luxury	7,236	3,978	3,465	3,571	3,345	3,293	3,171	3,080

Valid for Travel: 16 April 2027 – 20 September 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	4,251	2,276	1,937	2,043	1,816	1,765	1,643	1,551
4★ Deluxe	4,759	2,549	2,210	2,316	2,089	2,037	1,916	1,824
5★ Luxury	6,120	3,407	2,894	3,000	2,774	2,722	2,600	2,508

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 652 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,112 | 5★ Luxury: USD 2,066

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 93 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 157 | 5★ Luxury: USD 350

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 - Cochin flight fare approx INR 5,500 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 2 nights: Badami Court/ Clarks Inn
- Hampi x 2 nights: Malligi Hotel/ Clarks Inn
- Cochin x 1 night: The Tower House/ The Killians
- Munnar x 2 nights: Abad Copper Castle/ Elysium Garden Hill Resort
- Thekkady x 1 night: Abad Green Forest/ Hotel Treetop
- Kumarakom x 1 night: Eastend Lake Song/ Abad Whispering Palm
- Alleppey x 1 night: Deluxe Houseboat (AC During Night Only)

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

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- Cochin x 1 night: Casino Hotel/ Le Maritime
- Munnar x 2 nights: Elixir Hills Resort/ Tea County Munnar
- Thekkady x 1 night: Amritara Shalimar Spice Garden/ The Elephant Court
- Kumarakom x 1 night: Gokulam Grand Resort & Spa/ Rhythm Kumarakom
- Alleppey x 1 night: Premium Houseboat (Full Time AC)

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 2 nights: Morpho Banashree Resort/ WADA1
- Hampi x 2 nights: Evolve Back, Hampi
- Cochin x 1 night: Kochi Marriott Hotel/ Xandari Harbour
- Munnar x 2 nights: Chandys Windy Woods/ Blanket Hotel & Spa
- Thekkady x 1 night: Spice Village/ Hills & Hues
- Kumarakom x 1 night: Coconut Lagoon/ The Zuri
- Alleppey x 1 night: Luxury Houseboat (Full Time AC)

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.

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- 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.