

**Tour Name: South India the Temple Route**

**Tour Duration: 5 Nights/ 6 Days**

**Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/2s47ycwz>**

### **Tour Overview**

Embark on a captivating journey through the heart of South India with our "South India the Temple Route." This immersive 6-day exploration begins in Chennai, where you'll delve into the city's vibrant heritage before venturing to Vellore, Trichy, and Thanjavur, renowned for their ancient temples and architectural marvels. Witness the grandeur of Brihadeeswarar Temple and the tranquility of Thanjavur Maratha Palace. Continuing to Pondicherry, immerse yourself in its unique blend of French colonial charm and Indian culture. Explore the French Quarter's quaint streets, visit Auroville's iconic Matrimandir, and uncover the spiritual and architectural treasures of Mahabalipuram. This journey promises an unforgettable fusion of history, spirituality, and cultural diversity in South India.

### **Tour Itinerary**

#### **Day 1: Arrive Chennai**

- Arrive in Chennai and transfer to your hotel.
- In the afternoon, embark on a comprehensive sightseeing tour of Chennai's heritage landmarks:
- Fort St. George: Explore the first English fortress in India, housing the Fort Museum with artifacts from the British colonial period.
- Kapaleeshwarar Temple: Visit this ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, known for its impressive Dravidian architecture and colorful gopurams.
- Marina Beach: Enjoy a leisurely walk along one of the longest urban beaches in the world, bustling with activity and offering panoramic views of the Bay of Bengal.

#### **Day 2: Chennai - Vellore (140kms, approx. 3 hours)**

- Depart Chennai after breakfast for Vellore.
- Enroute, explore the temples of Kanchipuram:
- Kailasanathar Temple: Marvel at the oldest temple in Kanchipuram dedicated to Lord Shiva, renowned for its exquisite architecture and intricate sculptures.

- Ekambareswarar Temple: Visit this vast temple complex dedicated to Lord Shiva, featuring a thousand-pillared hall and a majestic mango tree believed to be over 3,000 years old.
- Continue to Vellore, known for its ancient temples and the impressive Vellore Fort:
- Vellore Fort: Discover the 16th-century fort complex with its grand ramparts, moat, and the Jalakanteswarar Temple known for its architectural beauty and historical significance.
- Visit the Golden Temple (Sripuram): Experience the spiritual ambiance of this golden shrine dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi Narayani, adorned with intricate gold leaf work.

**Day 3: Vellore - Trichy (280kms, approx. 6 hours)**

- After breakfast, travel to Trichy.
- Enroute, visit:
- Arunachaleswarar Temple, Tiruvannamalai: Pay homage at one of the largest temples dedicated to Lord Shiva, nestled at the foothills of Arunachala.
- Ramana Ashram: Explore the tranquil ashram where Ramana Maharshi, the renowned sage, lived and taught spiritual wisdom.
- Arrived in Trichy, a bustling city famous for its temples and cultural heritage.

**Day 4: Trichy - Thanjavur (60 kms, approx. 1.5 hours)**

- After breakfast, visit:
- Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, Srirangam: Explore the sprawling temple complex dedicated to Lord Vishnu, known for its architectural grandeur and religious significance.
- Rock Fort Temple: Climb the 83-meter-high rock formation to visit the ancient rock-cut temples dedicated to Lord Shiva, offering panoramic views of Trichy.
- Depart for Thanjavur, renowned for:
- Brihadeeswarar Temple: Marvel at the UNESCO-listed temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, showcasing Dravidian architecture at its zenith with a towering vimana and intricate sculptures.

- Thanjavur Maratha Palace: Visit the royal palace complex featuring the Saraswathi Mahal Library, housing a vast collection of ancient manuscripts, palm leaf paintings, and sculptures.

**Day 5: Thanjavur - Pondicherry (180 kms, approx. 4 hours)**

- Depart for Pondicherry after breakfast.
- Enroute, visit:
- Darasuram: Explore the Airavatesvara Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its intricate carvings and rich architectural details.
- Gangaikondacholapuram: Discover the historic temple complex built by the Chola dynasty, showcasing architectural brilliance and cultural heritage.
- Chidambaram: Visit the Nataraja Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva as the cosmic dancer, renowned for its spiritual significance and architectural splendor.
- Arrive in Pondicherry, renowned for its:
- French colonial architecture: Explore the French Quarter (Ville Blanche) with its charming streets lined with colonial-era buildings, boutiques, and cafes.

**Day 6: Pondicherry - Chennai (160 kms, approx. 3.5 hours)**

- After breakfast, explore more of Pondicherry:
- Auroville: Visit this unique township promoting unity and sustainable living. Explore the Matrimandir, an architectural marvel symbolizing human unity and spiritual significance.
- Depart Pondicherry for Chennai.
- Enroute, visit Mahabalipuram:
- Shore Temple: Admire the ancient rock-cut temples facing the sea, showcasing Pallava architecture and intricate carvings.
- Pancha Rathas: Explore the monolithic rock-cut temples, each carved from a single granite rock.
- Arjuna's Penance: View the massive bas-relief sculpture depicting scenes from Hindu mythology and daily life.
- Return to Chennai in the afternoon, concluding the tour with unforgettable memories of South India's rich cultural heritage and architectural marvels.

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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 | 1,820 | 994   | 828   | 834   | 743   | 744   | 692   | 653   |
| 4★ Deluxe   | 2,172 | 1,166 | 1,000 | 1,006 | 915   | 916   | 864   | 825   |
| 5★ Luxury   | 2,642 | 1,460 | 1,236 | 1,241 | 1,151 | 1,152 | 1,099 | 1,060 |

**Valid for Travel: 16 April 2027 – 20 September 2027**

| Persons     | Solo  | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7   | 8   |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| 3★ Standard | 1,763 | 953   | 787   | 793   | 702   | 703   | 651 | 612 |
| 4★ Deluxe   | 1,998 | 1,079 | 913   | 919   | 828   | 829   | 777 | 738 |
| 5★ Luxury   | 2,388 | 1,337 | 1,113 | 1,118 | 1,028 | 1,029 | 977 | 937 |

**Single Room Supplement**

3★ Standard: USD 212 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 392 | 5★ Luxury: USD 626

**Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)**

3★ Standard: USD 34 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 54 | 5★ Luxury: USD 100

**Price Includes:**

- Assistance on arrival at the airport.
- 5 Nights' accommodation in selected price category 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 the 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 5 nights' accommodation**

**3 Star Hotels**

- Chennai x 1 night: ZONE By the Park/ Raj Park
- Vellore x 1 night: Regency Sameera Vellore by GRT Hotel
- Trichy x 1 night: Red Fox Hotel/ Hotel Blossoms
- Thanjore x 1 night: Sangam Hotels
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Shenbaga Hotel/ Anandha Inn Convention Centre

**4 Star Hotels**

- Chennai x 1 night: Accord Metropolitan/ The Park Chennai
- Vellore x 1 night: Fortune Park Vellore
- Trichy x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott
- Thanjore x 1 night: GReaT Trails Riverview Resort
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Le Pondy/ Accord Puducherry

**5 Star Hotels**

- Chennai x 1 night: Radisson Blu Hotel GRT Chennai/ Hilton Chennai
- Vellore x 1 night: Fortune Park Vellore
- Trichy x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott

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- Thanjore 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

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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.