

**Tour Name: The Best Kept Secret of Kerala & Tamil Nadu**

**Tour Duration: 11 Nights/ 12 Days**

**Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/bdfedeti>**

### **Tour Overview**

Embark on a captivating journey through The Best Kept Secret of Kerala & Tamil Nadu Tour, where every day unfolds with new cultural wonders and natural beauty. Begin in Cochin, known for its blend of history and scenic coastal views. Explore Fort Cochin's colonial architecture, St. Frances Church's ancient splendor, and the vibrant Jewish Synagogue. Cruise through Alleppey's backwaters, immersing in its tranquil allure, before heading to Thekkady for wildlife encounters and spice plantations. Munnar's misty tea plantations and scenic vistas await, followed by a cultural immersion in Madurai's Meenakshi Temple. Traverse through UNESCO heritage sites in Pondicherry, Mahabalipuram, and Kanchipuram, ending in Chennai with its rich historical treasures. This tour promises an enriching exploration of Southern India's diverse landscapes and profound cultural heritage.

### **Tour Itinerary**

#### **Day 1: Arrive Cochin**

- Upon arrival at Cochin airport, you will be greeted by our representative who will assist you with the transfer to your hotel.
- Cochin, often called the "Queen of the Arabian Sea," welcomes you with its unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty.
- After check-in, you can relax for a while. In the evening, enjoy a captivating Kathakali show, a traditional dance drama known for its vibrant costumes and intricate storytelling.

#### **Day 2: Cochin - Alleppey (60kms)**

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel.
- Embark on a city tour of Cochin, exploring Fort Cochin's colonial architecture, known for its charming old buildings and historic significance.
- Visit St. Frances Church, the oldest European church in India, which showcases historical artifacts and a serene atmosphere.

- Explore the Jewish Synagogue with its beautifully decorated interiors and ancient Chinese tiles, reflecting the rich Jewish heritage of Cochin.
- Discover the Mattancherry Dutch Palace, known for its stunning murals depicting Hindu epics.
- Marvel at the iconic Chinese Fishing Nets along the coast, a symbol of Cochin's historic trade connections.
- After this cultural exploration, proceed to Alleppey and board a houseboat for a serene journey through the backwaters. Relax as you glide past palm-fringed canals and lush paddy fields.

**Day 3: Alleppey - Thekkady (160kms)**

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel.
- Disembark from the houseboat and drive to Thekkady, known for its rich biodiversity and wildlife.
- Upon arrival, check in at your hotel. In the evening, attend a Martial Arts & Kathakali Dance show, showcasing Kerala's vibrant cultural heritage with intricate performances and traditional storytelling.

**Day 4: Thekkady**

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel.
- Take a boat ride on Periyar Lake within Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, where you might spot wildlife like elephants, tigers, and various bird species amidst stunning natural scenery.
- Visit a spice plantation to learn about the cultivation and processing of spices such as cardamom, cinnamon, and pepper. Experience the aromatic environment and understand the spice trade's importance to the region.

**Day 5: Thekkady - Munnar (100kms)**

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to Munnar, a picturesque hill station famed for its tea plantations and scenic beauty.
- En route, visit Ramakkalmedu, which offers panoramic views of the Western Ghats and the Tamil Nadu plains.

- Upon arrival in Munnar, check in at your hotel and relax amidst the serene hill station environment.

**Day 6: Munnar**

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit Pothamedu, a vantage point providing stunning views of tea, coffee, and cardamom plantations.
- Explore the Mattupetty Dam and its picturesque reservoir, known for water storage and hydroelectric projects.
- Venture into Rajamala Hill within Eravikulam National Park, home to the endangered Nilgiri tahr, a rare mountain goat species.
- Visit Eravikulam National Park to witness its rich biodiversity, including unique flora and fauna.
- Explore Mattupedi Dairy Farm, famous for the Indo-Swiss Livestock Project, and enjoy the scenic surroundings.
- Discover Echo Point, known for its echoing phenomenon where your voice reverberates across the landscape.
- Visit the Tea Museum in the afternoon to delve into the history and process of tea production in the region.

**Day 7: Munnar - Madurai (160kms)**

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to Madurai, a city renowned for its cultural heritage and historical significance.
- Upon arrival, check in at your hotel. Visit the Meenakshi Temple, an architectural marvel with intricately carved sculptures and a vibrant atmosphere.
- Explore Thirumalai Nayakar Palace, known for its grandeur and Dravidian architecture.
- Visit other notable sites such as Alagar Koil, Tiruparankundram Murugan Temple, and Palamuthirsolai Murugan Temple.

**Day 8: Madurai - Trichy - Thanjavur (190kms)**

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to Trichy (Tiruchirapalli) and visit Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, one of the largest functioning Hindu temples in the world.
- Explore the Rock Fort Temple, an ancient fort complex located atop a rock structure.
- Visit Jambukeshwara Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, renowned for its architecture and spiritual ambiance.
- Continue your journey to Thanjavur and check in at your hotel.
- Visit Brihadeshwara Temple, a stunning example of Chola architecture with a massive monolithic lingam.
- Explore Thanjavur Palace and Museum, showcasing the region's art and history.

**Day 9: Thanjavur - Darasuram - Gangaikondacholapuram - Chidambaram - Pondicherry (180kms)**

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to Darasuram and explore the Great Living Chola Temple, known for its intricate architecture and historical significance.
- Visit Gangaikondacholapuram, a historic temple town with the Brihadeshwara Temple, reflecting the grandeur of the Chola dynasty.
- Explore Chidambaram's Nataraja Temple, famous for its grand architecture and spiritual importance.
- Continue to Pondicherry and check in at your hotel, then unwind for the evening.

**Day 10: Pondicherry**

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel.
- Explore Pondicherry's French Quarter with its colonial architecture, tree-lined streets, and quaint cafes.
- Stroll along Promenade Beach, enjoying the serene coastal ambiance.
- Visit Aurobindo Ashram, a spiritual community founded by Sri Aurobindo and the mother, and experience its peaceful environment.

- Enjoy leisure time on the pristine beaches and explore the tranquil atmosphere of Pondicherry.

**Day 11: Pondicherry - Mahabalipuram - Kanchipuram - Chennai (240kms)**

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to Mahabalipuram and explore its UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Shore Temple, Five Rathas, and Arjuna's Penance, known for their monolithic structures and rock-cut sculptures.
- Continue to Kanchipuram, renowned as the "City of a Thousand Temples." Visit Kailasanathar Temple and Ekambareswarar Temple, significant for their historical and architectural importance.
- Arrive in Chennai and check in at your hotel.

**Day 12: Chennai - Departure (Flight)**

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel.
- Explore Chennai's attractions, including Fort St. George with St. Mary's Church and the Fort Museum, Kapaleeshwarar Temple with its Dravidian architecture, and Vadapalani Murugan Temple, dedicated to Lord Murugan.
- Visit the Government Museum, showcasing art and archaeological exhibits, and Santhome Cathedral, dedicated to St. Thomas.
- Stroll along Marina Beach, one of the longest urban beaches in the world, enjoying the lively atmosphere and scenic views.
- Depending on your flight schedule, transfer to the airport for your onward journey.

**AGORA VOYAGES (OPC) PVT. LTD.**

Approved by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India | Member – IATO

**Package Price (USD Per Person Sharing Double/Twin Room)****Valid for Travel: 01 October 2026 – 15 April 2027**

| <b>Persons</b>     | <b>Solo</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>8</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>3★ Standard</b> | 3,539       | 1,975    | 1,704    | 1,761    | 1,592    | 1,567    | 1,475    | 1,405    |
| <b>4★ Deluxe</b>   | 4,220       | 2,267    | 1,996    | 2,053    | 1,884    | 1,859    | 1,767    | 1,697    |
| <b>5★ Luxury</b>   | 5,808       | 3,183    | 2,790    | 2,847    | 2,678    | 2,653    | 2,561    | 2,491    |

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

| <b>Persons</b>     | <b>Solo</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>8</b> |
|--------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>3★ Standard</b> | 3,430       | 1,877    | 1,606    | 1,662    | 1,494    | 1,469    | 1,376    | 1,307    |
| <b>4★ Deluxe</b>   | 3,888       | 2,089    | 1,818    | 1,874    | 1,706    | 1,681    | 1,588    | 1,519    |
| <b>5★ Luxury</b>   | 5,002       | 2,780    | 2,387    | 2,443    | 2,275    | 2,250    | 2,157    | 2,088    |

**Single Room Supplement****3★ Standard: USD 508 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 896 | 5★ Luxury: USD 1,691****Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)****3★ Standard: USD 79 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 135 | 5★ Luxury: USD 286****Price Includes:**

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 11 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 ticket.
- 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 11 nights' accommodation**

**3-Star Hotels**

- Cochin x 1 night: The Tower House/ The Killians
- Alleppey x 1 night: Deluxe Houseboat (AC During Night Only)
- Thekkady x 2 nights: Abad Green Forest/ Hotel Treetop
- Munnar x 2 nights: Abad Copper Castle/ Elysium Garden Hill Resort
- Madurai x 1 night: JC Residency/ Hotel Royal Court
- Thanjavur x 1 night: Sangam Hotels
- Pondicherry x 2 nights: Shenbaga Hotel/ Anandha Inn Convention Centre
- Chennai x 1 night: ZONE By the Park/ Raj Park

**4-Star Hotels**

- Cochin x 1 night: The Tower House/ The Killians
- Alleppey x 1 night: Premium Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- Thekkady x 2 nights: Amritara Shalimar Spice Garden/ The Elephant Court
- Munnar x 2 nights: Elixir Hills Resort/ Tea County Munnar
- Madurai x 1 night: Fortune Pandiyan Hotel/ Regency Madurai by GRT Hotels
- Thanjavur x 1 night: GReaT Trails Riverview Resort

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- Pondicherry x 2 nights: Le Pondy/ Accord Puducherry
- Chennai x 1 night: Accord Metropolitan/ The Park Chennai

### **5-Star Hotels**

- Cochin x 1 night: Kochi Marriott Hotel/ Xandari Harbour
- Alleppey x 1 night: Luxury Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- Thekkady x 2 nights: Spice Village/ Hills & Hues
- Munnar x 2 nights: Chandys Windy Woods/ Blanket Hotel & Spa
- Madurai x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott/ The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai
- Thanjavur x 1 night: Svatma
- Pondicherry x 2 nights: Palais De Mahe/ La Villa
- Chennai x 1 night: Radisson Blu Hotel GRT Chennai/ Hilton Chennai

### **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.

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- 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.

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**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.