

Tour Name: Temple, Backwater & Palaces of South India

Tour Duration: 14 Nights/ 15 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/2s365ryy>

Tour Overview

Embark on an unforgettable journey through South India with "Temple, Backwater & Palaces." This meticulously crafted tour takes you from the bustling streets of Chennai to the serene backwaters of Kerala. Discover ancient temples that showcase the region's rich cultural heritage, including the iconic Meenakshi Temple and the stunning Brihadeshwara Temple. Experience the breathtaking landscapes of Ooty and the vibrant charm of Pondicherry. Cruise through the picturesque backwaters of Alleppey on a traditional houseboat, immersing yourself in the tranquility of nature. This journey promises a perfect blend of spirituality, history, and scenic beauty, leaving you with cherished memories.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Chennai

- Upon arrival at Chennai airport, a representative will assist you with your transfer to your hotel.
- After checking in, embark on a city tour of Chennai.
- Visit Fort St. George, built in 1640 AD by the British East India Company, which houses the St. Mary's Church.
- Explore St. Mary's Church, the oldest Anglican church in India, known for its beautiful stained glass and historical significance.
- Next, visit Kapaleeshwarar Temple, a stunning example of Dravidian architecture dedicated to Lord Shiva, known for its vibrant gopuram (tower).
- Proceed to Vadapalani Murugan Temple, a prominent temple frequented by devotees for its exquisite carvings and religious significance.
- Afterward, explore the Government Museum, which features a rich collection of artifacts and exhibits reflecting Tamil culture.
- Return to your hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 2: Chennai - Mahabalipuram (120kms)

- After breakfast, check out and drive to Mahabalipuram, stopping en route at Kanchipuram.

- In Kanchipuram, visit Kailasanathar Temple, known for its ancient rock-cut architecture and intricate sculptures.
- Explore Ekambareswarar Temple, one of the largest temples in Kanchipuram, dedicated to Lord Shiva, featuring a massive mango tree.
- Visit Varadharaja Perumal Temple, a significant Vaishnavite temple known for its grand architecture and spiritual importance.
- Continue to Mahabalipuram and check in at the hotel.
- Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mahabalipuram, starting with the Shore Temple, one of the oldest structural temples in South India.
- Admire the Pancha Rathas, a group of five monolithic rock-cut temples, each showcasing different architectural styles.
- Witness Arjuna's Penance, a giant bas-relief that depicts scenes from the Mahabharata.
- Visit Krishna's Butterball, a massive granite boulder that appears to balance on a slope, a popular photo spot.
- Explore the Cave Temples, which feature intricate carvings and beautiful rock-cut architecture.

Day 3: Mahabalipuram - Pondicherry (100kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Pondicherry and check in at the hotel.
- Visit Auroville, an experimental township known for its unique community living and the iconic Matrimandir.
- Explore the Pondicherry Museum, which houses a collection of rare artifacts, sculptures, and relics from the French colonial period.
- In the evening, take a stroll through the French Quarters, characterized by charming mustard-colored streets and colonial villas.
- Visit the French Consulate, a symbol of Pondicherry's French heritage, and Raj Nivas, the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor.
- Explore Government Square, known for its colonial architecture and vibrant atmosphere.
- Admire the local Churches and French schools, reflecting the town's rich cultural blend.

Day 4: Pondicherry - Thanjavur (180kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Thanjavur via Chidambaram.
- Visit the Nataraja Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, known for its exquisite architecture and significance to Shaivites.
- Continue your journey to Thanjavur, stopping at the Great Living Chola Temples.
- Explore Gangaikonda Cholapuram, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built by Rajendra Chola I, renowned for its stunning architecture.
- Visit Darasuram, famous for the Airavatesvara Temple, another UNESCO World Heritage Site showcasing intricate carvings.
- Arrive in Thanjavur and check in at your hotel for some rest and relaxation.

Day 5: Thanjavur - Trichy (60kms)

- After breakfast, visit the Brihadeshwara Temple and Palace Complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built by the Chola king in the 10th century.
- Marvel at the temple's massive vimana (tower) and exquisite sculptures.
- Later, drive to Trichy and check in at the hotel.
- Visit Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, the largest functional temple in the world, known for its magnificent architecture and vibrant festivals.
- Explore the Rock Fort, a historic rock formation offering panoramic views of the city, and visit the ancient temples nestled within.
- Return to your hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 6: Trichy - Madurai (135kms)

- After breakfast, check out from your hotel and drive to Madurai.
- Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and relax for a while.
- Visit the Meenakshi Temple, one of the most visited temples in India, known for its stunning architecture and intricate carvings.
- Explore the Thirumalai Nayakar Palace, built in the 17th century, showcasing Indo-Saracenic architecture and lush gardens.
- In the evening, visit Alagar Koil, a temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu, nestled in a picturesque location.

- Continue to Tiruparankundram Murugan Temple, an ancient rock-cut temple, and Palamuthirsolai Murugan Temple, both significant religious sites.
- Return to your hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 7: Madurai - Thekkady (160kms)

- After breakfast, embark on a scenic drive towards Thekkady, passing through Ramakkalmedu, known for its stunning views and wind farms.
- Visit Frog Rock and Turtle Rock, unique geological formations perfect for photography.
- Admire the Kuravan & Kurathi statues, symbolic twin statues that offer breathtaking views.
- Upon arrival in Thekkady, check in at your hotel and relax for the evening.

Day 8: Thekkady

- After breakfast, explore Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, a haven for wildlife enthusiasts.
- Enjoy a boat ride on Periyar Lake, where you may spot elephants, bison, sambar deer, and various birds.
- If lucky, you might see snakes like cobras and vipers during the boat ride.
- After the boat ride, visit a spice plantation, learning about crops like cardamom, cinnamon, and pepper.
- Stop at the local market to pick up fragrant spices to take home.
- After an exciting day, drive towards Kumarakom and check in at your hotel for the night.

Day 9: Thekkady - Alleppey (135kms) - Houseboat

- After breakfast, check out from your hotel and drive to Alleppey, known for its stunning backwaters.
- Upon arrival, board your traditional houseboat and embark on a journey through the enchanting backwaters.
- Sail past lush coconut groves, paddy fields, and quaint villages, soaking in the serene surroundings.
- Enjoy delicious Kerala-style meals prepared by the onboard chef.
- Overnight stay will be on the houseboat, experiencing the tranquility of Kerala's backwaters.

Day 10: Alleppey - Cochin (60kms)

- After breakfast, disembark from your houseboat and drive to Cochin, a vibrant city blending history and modernity.
- Check in at your hotel and relax for a while.
- Visit Fort Cochin, known for its colonial-era architecture and scenic beauty.
- Explore St. Francis Church, the oldest European church in India, with its fascinating history.
- Visit the Jewish Synagogue, one of the oldest synagogues in the world, adorned with exquisite Chinese tiles.
- Discover Mattancherry Palace, known for its stunning murals and architecture reflecting the region's rich history.
- Admire the Chinese fishing nets, a unique feature of Cochin's coastline.
- In the evening, enjoy a captivating Kathakali dance performance showcasing traditional art forms.
- Return to your hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 11: Cochin - Ooty (280kms)

- After breakfast, check out and drive to Ooty, a picturesque hill station in the Nilgiri Mountains.
- Enjoy the scenic beauty of the surroundings during the 7-hour drive.
- Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and relax for a while.
- Spend the rest of the day at leisure, exploring the local markets and indulging in some shopping.
- Explore Doddabetta Peak, the highest point in the Nilgiris, providing panoramic views of the surrounding hills and valleys.
- Wander through the Thread Garden, a unique garden where flowers and plants are made from colored threads, showcasing intricate craftsmanship.
- Take a leisurely stroll through the charming streets of Ooty, soaking in the cool climate and beautiful landscapes.

Day 12: Ooty

- After breakfast, visit the Botanical Gardens, a stunning 55-acre garden featuring a variety of exotic plants and trees.

- Explore the Rose Garden, home to over 20,000 varieties of roses, offering a colorful and fragrant experience.
- Enjoy a scenic ride on the Nilgiri Mountain Railway to Coonoor, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, renowned for breathtaking views of the hills and valleys.
- In Coonoor, visit Sim's Park, a beautifully landscaped park showcasing a variety of plants and flowers unique to the region.
- Explore the Dolphin's Nose Viewpoint, offering panoramic views of the stunning landscapes and the distant tea gardens.
- Stop by the Tea Factory in Coonoor to learn about the tea-making process and enjoy some local tea tastings.
- Return to Ooty and visit Ooty Lake, where you can enjoy a leisurely boat ride surrounded by lush landscapes and scenic beauty.
- In the afternoon, visit the Tea Museum, where you can learn about the tea-making process and sample some local varieties.
- Spend the evening exploring the local markets, where you can shop for handmade chocolates, spices, and local crafts.
- Check in at your hotel for an overnight stay, enjoying the cool climate and charming ambiance of Ooty.

Day 13: Ooty - Mysore (140kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Mysore and check in at your hotel.
- After check in at hotel, visit the Mysore Palace, one of the largest and most magnificent palaces in India.
- Explore the Chamundeshwari Temple, perched atop Chamundi Hill, offering panoramic views of the city.
- Visit the Nandi Bull, a colossal statue near the temple, and City Palace, showcasing royal history.
- Conclude your day at St. Philomena's Church, one of the largest churches in India, known for its Gothic architecture.
- Overnight at the hotel.

Day 14: Mysore - Bangalore (150kms)

- After breakfast, check out from your hotel and drive to Bangalore.

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- Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and begin your sightseeing tour.
- Visit Lal Bagh Garden, a beautiful botanical garden featuring a wide variety of flora and a glass house.
- Explore Cubbon Park, an expansive green space perfect for leisurely walks and picnics.
- Visit Bangalore Fort, a historic fort that dates back to the 16th century, and Tippu Summer Palace, known for its Indo-Islamic architecture.
- Admire the Bull Temple, a large temple dedicated to Nandi, the sacred bull of Lord Shiva.
- Drive past Vidhana Soudha and the Secretariat to glimpse the administrative hub of Bangalore.
- Overnight at the hotel.

Day 15: Bangalore - Departure

- After breakfast, check out from the hotel and proceed for the departure transfer to the airport as per your flight schedule.
- This marks the end of your wonderful journey through South India, filled with amazing sights, sounds, and experiences that will stay with you for a lifetime.

Package Price (USD Per Person Sharing Double/Twin Room)

Valid for Travel: 01 October 2025 - 15 April 2026

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	4,147	2,272	1,961	2,028	1,834	1,805	1,698	1,619
4★ Deluxe	5,024	2,701	2,390	2,456	2,263	2,233	2,127	2,047
5★ Luxury	7,134	3,866	3,415	3,481	3,288	3,258	3,152	3,072

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 663 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,112 | 5★ Luxury: USD 2,196

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 99 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 176 | 5★ Luxury: USD 365

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.
- 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 1 night: ZONE By the Park/ Raj Park
- Mahabalipuram x 1 night: INDeco Hotels/ Ideal Beach Resort
- 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
- Thekkady x 2 nights: Abad Green Forest/ Hotel Treetop

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- Alleppey x 1 night: Deluxe Houseboat (AC During Night Only)
- Cochin x 1 night: The Tower House/ The Killians
- Ooty x 1 night: Gem Park Ooty/ Monarch Hotel
- Mysore x 2 nights: Sandesh the Prince/ Regenta Central Herald By Royal Orchid Hotels
- Bengaluru x 1 night: Royal Orchid Central/ Ramada Bangalore

4 Star Hotels

- Chennai x 1 night: Accord Metropolitan/ The Park Chennai
- Mahabalipuram x 1 night: Chariot Beach Resort/ Confluence the Banquet & Resort
- 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
- Thekkady x 2 nights: Amritara Shalimar Spice Garden/ The Elephant Court
- Alleppey x 1 night: Premium Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- Cochin x 1 night: Casino Hotel/ Le Maritime
- Ooty x 1 night: Fortune Resort Sullivan Court/ Accord Highland Ooty
- Mysore x 2 nights: Fortune Park JP Palace/ Royal Orchid Brindavan Garden
- Bengaluru x 1 night: Lemon Tree Premier/ Gokulam Grand Hotel & Spa

5 Star Hotels

- Chennai x 1 night: Radisson Blu Hotel GRT Chennai/ Hilton Chennai
- Mahabalipuram x 1 night: Radisson BLU Resort Temple Bay/ WH By ITC Hotels, Kences Palm Beach
- 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: Courtyard by Marriott/ The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai

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- Thekkady x 2 nights: Spice Village/ Hills & Hues
- Alleppey x 1 night: Luxury Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- Cochin x 1 night: Kochi Marriott Hotel/ Xandari Harbour
- Ooty x 1 night: Savoy, Ooty - IHCL SeleQtions
- Mysore x 2 nights: Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel
- Bengaluru x 1 night: ITC Gardenia, a Luxury Collection/ Vivanta Bengaluru, Residency Road

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.

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- **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.