

Southern India

Fully
Escorted

07 – 23 March 2019



something for
LADIES

**16 DAY
SMALL GROUP JOURNEY**

from **\$6,188***
per person twin share

INCLUSIONS

International Economy Airfares (ex ADL)
15 Night's accommodation
All touring and sightseeing as per itinerary
Local English-speaking guides | SFL Host
18 breakfasts | 3 Lunches | 7 Dinners | Portage



THURSDAY 7th MARCH

DAY 1 – DEPART ADELAIDE

Depart Adelaide for Chennai with Singapore Airways via Singapore. We will arrive in the evening and be transferred to our hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

FRIDAY 8th MARCH

DAY 2 – ARRIVE CHENNAI

Today we will be picked up from our hotel for a guided sightseeing tour of Chennai. We will visit to the Fort St. George, named after the patron saint of England, Marina Beach, the second largest beach in the world, The Fort Museum, which dates to the British period, and the Santhome Cathedral Basilica - Santhome.

This evening is at leisure, or we can enjoy a shopping trip to Parry's Corner which is one of the oldest markets in Chennai.

SATURDAY 9th MARCH

DAY 3 – PALAIS DE MAHE, PUDCHERRY

After breakfast we will drive to Pondicherry, stopping en-route at Mahabalipuram and Kanchipuram. At Kanchipuram, we will visit a local market famous for Kanjeevaram silks.

Puducherry – previously known as Pondicherry – is made up of four entirely separate enclaves along the Indian coast, all of which were colonised by the French in the 18th century. Named after the largest of these enclaves, this union territory has retained a strong European culture that makes it unlike any other place in India. Nowhere is this more evident than in Puducherry district, dubbed the 'French Riviera of the East', where antiquated colonial buildings line the quiet cobbled streets and tree-lined avenues of the old town, and many people still speak French as their first language.

SUNDAY 10th MARCH

DAY 4 – PALAIS DE MAHE, PUDCHERRY

After a relaxing breakfast, we will head off for a guided sightseeing tour of Pondicherry including visits to the Sri Aurobindo Ashram - The Ashram is not a quiet place of retreat secluded from the world but a vibrant centre of life in an urban setting, Aurobindo Hand Made Paper Factory - With the paper produced here being exported to other countries, Aurobindo Hand Made Paper factory is one of the most successful commercial enterprises of the Ashram.

We will also be visit Goubert Market (also known as Grand Bazaar) which is a very popular area for shopping in Pondicherry



MONDAY 11th MARCH

DAY 5 – PALAIS DE MAHE, PUDCHERRY

Spend today at leisure or head back to the market for a some more shopping.

TUESDAY 12th MARCH

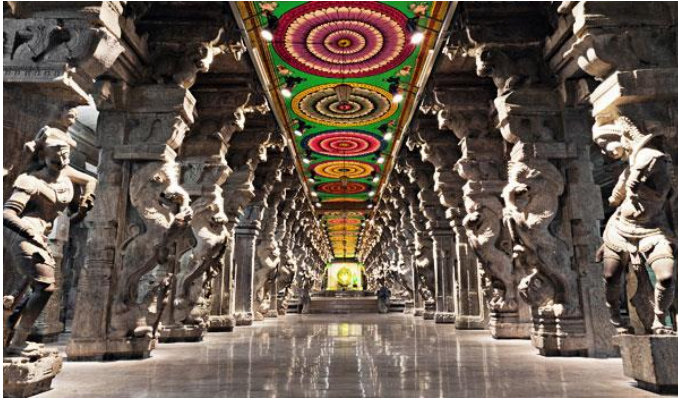
DAY 6 –PALAIS DE MAHE, PUDCHERRY

After breakfast we will drive to Tanjore where we will enjoy a guided sightseeing tour. Join the throngs of pilgrims who worship every day at the 1,000-year-old Brihadeeswara Temple, one of India's most prized architectural wonders and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Marvel at its 60m high 'vimana' (temple tower) which is beautifully and intricately carved. Don't miss the huge statue of Nandi, the sacred bull, at the entrance which weighs over 20 tonnes and was carved from a single piece of rock! The rest of our tour takes in many of Tanjore's main attractions including the Saraswathi Mahal Library museum with its collection of rare ancient books and manuscripts, the former Sadar Mahal Palace, housing a small collection of thrones and weaponry and Our Lady of Sorrows Church which dates back to 1740.

WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH

DAY 7 –HERITAGE MADURAI, MADURAI

Located in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, Madurai is the oldest existing city on the Indian peninsula, and one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, with a recorded history spanning more than 2500 years. It is known as 'the city of temples' due to its countless ancient Hindu shrines, including the great Meenakshi-Sundareswar Temple, spread over 6 hectares and featuring a series of 50-metre-high gateway towers that can be seen from afar. The best time to visit Madurai is between October and March, when temperatures are between 20- 35 degrees.



THURSDAY 14th MARCH

DAY 8 –HERITAGE MADURAI, MADURAI

After a relaxing breakfast, tour Madurai including visits to the Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple. This temple reflects the cultural and religious life of the people of the city. It is also said that the people of the city start their daily chores with the chanting of hymns at the temple. Thirupparankundram is one of the six dwelling places of Lord Subramanya, Ancient Koodal Azhagar Shrine - The Ancient Koodal Azhagar shrine is well known for its sculptures of Vishnu in sitting, standing and reclining positions placed one above the other.

The tour also includes a walk through the vegetable market, banana market, flower market, and many other specialty shops

FRIDAY 15th MARCH

DAY 9 – SPICE VILLAGE, THEKKADY

After breakfast we drive to Periyar and check into our hotel.

Thekkady is a district located at the Periyar National Park. Thekkady comprises of evergreen forests and savanna grass lands. This area is known for its natural spices such as black pepper, cardamom, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and clove. Wild life creatures found in this region include elephants, tigers and sambar to name a few.

SATURDAY 16th MARCH

DAY 10 SPICE VILLAGE, THEKKADY

To experience the incredible sanctuary, early morning we will be picked up for a boat ride on the Periyar Lake. Most of the tourist activities are focused around the Lake. There are roughly 700 elephants roaming in the forest, and they are generally seen on the banks of the Periyar Lake. Later, in the evening the guide will pick you up from the hotel for a guided tour to the nearby spice plantation.

SUNDAY 17th MARCH

DAY 11 – ALLEPPEY DELUXE HOUSEBOAT, ALAPPUZHA

After a relaxing breakfast at the resort, we will board our private Houseboat for an overnight stay – one of the high points of our holiday. These rice barges or "Kettuvallams" sail alongside the shallow palm-edged lakes and narrow canals. The House Boat takes you through the villages constructed on narrow spits of land, where you can stop at the local markets, or to see the wonder of the craftsmen engaged in centuries-old boat-making

MONDAY 18th MARCH

DAY 12 – THE MALABAR HOUSE, KOCHI

Also known as Cochin, Kochi is a city in southwest India's coastal Kerala state. This attractive city has served as a popular port for over 600 years and is known for its eclectic architecture and its array of religious monuments, museums, galleries, cafes and antique shops. The city stretches across a number of peninsulas and islands, which can be reached by a network of water taxis and bridges. The majority of Kochi's visitor highlights can be found on the peninsula of Fort Kochi. These highlights include the St Francis Church, the oldest European-built church in India; and Mattancherry Palace, which dates back to 1557 and contains some exceptional Kerala murals and temple art. Other must-see attractions include the Kerala Folklore Museum, displaying more than 4,000 cultural and ethnic artifacts; the 16th-century Jewish Synagogue; and the local market, where the air is filled with the aroma of exotic spices.

TUESDAY 19th MARCH

DAY 13 – THE MALABAR HOUSE, KOCHI

Today we have a guided sightseeing tour of Cochin including visits to the Dutch Palace (Mattancherry Palace), The Jewish Synagogue, Cochin Harbor, St Francis Church, Fort Kochi Beach among other attractions.

This evening we see a Kathakali Dance Performance at a local theatre. Kathakali is a classical dance form, portraying Indian epics (Ramayana and Mahabharata). Dancers with painted faces depict the various characters of the ancient epics. The Kathakali dancers portray a lot of facial expressions and articulate body movements.

WEDNESDAY 20th MARCH

DAY 14 – OVERNIGHT TRAVEL

After a day of leisure and late check out you will depart for the Airport and check in for your departure flight via Singapore to Adelaide

THURSDAY 21st MARCH

DAY 15 – END OF ITINERARY

A Singapore Stopover Hotel will be arranged where you can freshen up, have a nap or even depart to explore Singapore.

Return to the airport for your flight to Adelaide.

FRIDAY 22nd MARCH

DAY 16 – ARRIVE ADELAIDE



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*TERMS & CONDITIONS: Price is per person twin share, \$1,777 supplement for single room. The price is in Australian dollars and includes transport, accommodation and meals as per itinerary. The price is based on minimum passenger numbers and should this number not be reached the price may increase or tour may not proceed. A non-refundable deposit of \$2000 is due at time of booking, and final payment is due no later than the 10th of January 2019.