

# Classical South India

05 Nights/06 Days

Cochin -1, Periyar - 1, Madurai -1, Kodaikanal -2

## Day 1

**COCHIN (ARRIVAL) + LSS 25 Kms**



Arrive Cochin, Check-in at Hotel. After Lunch, explore **Cochin** - We visit '**The Jewish Synagogue**' at the heart of what is locally called the Jew Town, '**The St. Francis Church**', the oldest European Church in India, '**The Santa Cruz Basilica**' originally built in 1557 by the Portuguese, **The Dutch Palace, Spice market** at the narrow streets and the '**Chinese fishing nets**' are huge cantilevered fishing nets believed to have brought to Kochi by Chinese traders. **(Please note: Jewish synagogue & Dutch palace are closed on Friday & Saturday).**

Evening visit the famous dance drama of Kerala, the "**Kathakali**" This dance can be characterized by grotesque gesticulations, amazing costumes and very extensive make-up. The stories are mostly taken from the epics Mahabharatha and Ramayana. Back to hotel. Overnight stay.

## Day 2

**COCHIN - PERIYAR (195 Kms/04 Hrs) + LSS 10 Kms**



After breakfast, checkout and drive to Periyar. **Periyar Tiger Reserve** lies in the Western Ghats in the Idukki District of the Indian state of Kerala. . It was declared a Tiger Reserve in 1978. The Sanctuary was extended to 777 sq. km. in 1950 and renamed as Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. The core area of the Reserve, 350 sq. km. was declared a National Park in 1982. In this reserve there are about 49 species of mammals, 265 species of birds, 36 species of reptiles, 12 species of amphibians, 35 species of fishes and 160 species of butterflies have been identified so far. Check-in at Hotel.

Then proceed for Guided **Spice Plantation tour**, Followed by **Elephant ride (20 minutes)**. Back to hotel by evening. Overnight stay.

## Day 3

**PERIYAR - MADURAI (160 Kms/3.3 Hrs) + LSS 25 Kms**



After breakfast, checkout and drive to Madurai. The temple town of Madurai, situated on the banks of river Vaigai, is one of the most ancient cities in India with a history dating back to the pre-Christian times. It was the

imperial capital of the Pandyan Empire in the 14th Century AD. Madurai was the seat of Tamil learning and the last of the Tamil Sangams (Academies) was held here nearly 2000 years ago. Upon arrival check-in into the hotel; evening visit **Meenakshi Temple, Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal, Gandhi Museum, Azhagar Koil** and the **Vandiyur Mariamman Teppakulam**. Overnight stay.

#### **Day 4**

#### **MADURAI – KODAIKANAL (125 Kms/5 Hrs)**



After breakfast, check-out and drive to Kodaikanal, lies on the southern crust of the Palani Hills. The town is centered-around the star shaped Kodai Lake covering an area of sixty acres. Kodaikanal has thickly wooded slopes, well laid out stroll paths through picturesque landscapes, gorgeous waterfalls and steep rocky drops. Check-in at Hotel. Overnight stay.

#### **Day 5**

#### **KODAIKANAL + LSS 25 Kms**



After breakfast, visit the Lake, Solar Physical Observatory, Bryant Park, Coaker's Walk, Kurunji Andavar Temple, Green Valley View, Pillar Rocks and Shembaganur Natural History Museum. Back to hotel, overnight stay.

#### **Day 6**

#### **KODAIKANAL - MADURAI (125 Kms/5 Hrs)**



After breakfast, checkout, drop at Rly. Station or Airport to take a flight or train to your onward destination.