

Pearls of South India

13 Nights/14 Days

Chennai-1, Mamallapuram-2, Bangalore-1, Mysore-2, Coonoor -1, Cochin -2, Periyar -1, House Boat
-1, Kovalam -2

DAY 01

ARRIVE CHENNAI



Arrival in Chennai. Check-in at Hotel. Overnight stay.

About Chennai - Chennai is the capital of Tamil Nadu and the fourth largest metropolitan city in India. In spite of being the capital of a Tamil speaking state, it has emerged as a cosmopolitan city paying an important role in the historical, cultural and intellectual development of India, representing still the distinct components of the highest form of Dravidian civilization. In addition, it holds out an interesting fare of south Indian Architecture, Music, Dance, Drama, Sculpture and other arts and crafts.

DAY 02

CHENNAI - MAMALLAPURAM (65km/1.5Hrs) + LSS 20 Kms



After breakfast, explore Chennai where you visit the ancient "**Shiva Kapaleeshwarar Temple**" which was constructed in the Dravidian style in 1250 AD and was rebuilt by Vijayanagar king in 16th century and displays the architectural elements with magnificent 37m tall colored gopurams, mandapams and a huge tank. Then you visit **Santhome Church** - a soaring Roman Catholic Church which is said to house the remains of Apostle Thomas. Afternoon Drive to Mamallapuram and Check-in at hotel. Evening At leisure. Overnight stay.

DAY 03

MAMALLAPURAM (LSS 20 Kms)



After Breakfast, 'Heritage walk of Mamallapuram', on this tour we visit "**Arjuna's Penance**" the large bas-relief on the face of a huge rock which depicts animals, deities and other semi divine creatures, the "**Five Rathas**", composed of five monolithic temples where each temple is created in a different style and derive their names from the champions of the Mahabharata. Afterwards, we visit the world heritage listed "**Shore Temple**", small romantic temple in the final phase of Palava art. We also take you to Visit to sculpture studio. **Lunch** - After sightseeing we

proceed for Traditional Lunch served on Plantain Leaf. Afternoon free for own activities Evening at leisure. Overnight stay.

About Mamallapuram – Mamallapuram also known as Mahabalipuram is situated 60 km from Chennai on the shore of the Bay of Bengal. Mamallapuram a site of many sculptural marvels was once a port city of Pallavas is listed today as a world heritage site and is a renowned center for stone carving. The Pallavas have mastered many marvelous monuments with Sculptural Panels, Caves, Monolithic Rathas and Temples where the various panels on the walls depict scenes from Hindu mythology and fables from the Panchatantra.

DAY 04

MAMALLAPURAM - BANGALORE (320km + LSS 20 Kms/6.5HRS) VIA KANCHIPURAM



After breakfast travel to Bangalore, enroute visit Kancheepuram - one of the seven sacred cities of India, you visit the '**Kailasanathar Temple**', built by Raja Simha in 8th century in the typical Pallava style with a pyramidal tower, a pillared hall and a vestibule, enclosed by a wall, and paintings in fresco style adorn the inner walls and 58 shrines situated around the main shrine. Next you visit the '**Ekambareswarar Temple**', one of the most famous temples in South India. It was built before 6th century A.D but the old temple was pulled down and the new one built by the Pallavas, followed by Cholas and Vijayanagara King. The beautiful sculptures include three Lingams worshipped to Brahma, Vishnu, and Rudra. It's 57 m high Rajagopuram is one of the tallest towers in South India. Further you visit the '**Varadaraja Temple**' constructed by the Pallavas, Cholas and Vijayanagaras. It has a hundred pillared halls with exquisite sculptures and chains made of stone. You see a unique idol of Lord Varadaraja made of the wood of Arthi tree. After that you proceed to visit one of the famous **silk weaving industries**. **Lunch at Kancheepuram**. Afternoon Check-in at hotel in Bangalore evening is free for leisure. Overnight stay.

DAY 05

BANGALORE - MYSORE (140 KM / 3 HRS)



After Breakfast, explore Bangalore – The Garden City of south India .we visit the **Lal Bagh** with a variety of old trees, fountains, lotus pools, terraces & an assortment of tropical and sub-tropical herbs. Government Buildings.

Later drive to Mysore, Check-in at hotel. Overnight stay.

About Bangalore - Bangalore, according to state historians, got its name from Bendakalooru (the town of boiled beans) after a king strayed into the area during a hunting trip in the late 14th century. A woman offered him a meal of boiled beans, which the king enjoyed so much that he named the town after the dish. Bengaluru is a transliteration of the original spelling, according to state historians. Further drive to Mysore – the palace city of South India

DAY 06

MYSORE + LSS 30 Kms



After breakfast, explore Mysore visiting - **Maharaja's Palace** built in Indo-Saracenic style with domes, turrets, arches and colonnades. The interior of the palace is a kaleidoscope of stained glass, mirrors and gaudy colours. The palace is especially magnificent on Sunday night and during festivals, gardens, shady avenues and sacred temples and retains some of the charm of the old world.

Evening: Visit to **Chamundi Hill Temple** - at a height of 1062mts. The 2000-year-old temple is dedicated to Goddess Chamundi. A seven storey, 40mts high tower, dominates the temple. A view of entire Mysore city from this hilltop is breath taking. Back to hotel. Overnight stay.

DAY 07

MYSORE - OOTY - COONOR (175 km / 5 hrs) + LSS 25 Kms



Train No: 661 - Udagamandalam Mettupalayam Passenger /Dep UAM: 15.00Hrs - Arr ONR: 16.00Hrs

After breakfast travel to Coonoor, Enroute visit to **Ooty (Udagamandalam)** is popularly referred to as 'Queen of Blue Mountains' is located at a height of 2,286 meters was the first established hill station in India. The British founded this popular hill station in the early 19th century as the summer capital of the Madras Government. Popular tourist attractions include the **Botanical Gardens, Lake, Doddabetta and sprawling tea plantations**.

Board the **toy train** to enjoy a trip from Ooty to Coonoor affording some spectacular views of the precipitous eastern slopes of the rain-forested Nilgiri. Arrive Coonoor, Check-in at Hotel. Overnight stay.

DAY 08

COONOR - COCHIN (275 km / 7 hrs)



After breakfast, checkout and drive to Cochin. Afternoon check-in at Hotel. Evening free for leisure, overnight stay.

About Cochin - A commercial capital of Kerala with its modern part Ernakulum and the old peninsular district of Fort Cochin and Mattancherry, Cochin is situated on the southwest coast of the Indian peninsula. Over the years, Cochin has emerged as the commercial and industrial capital of Kerala and is perhaps the second most important city on the west coast of India (after Mumbai/Bombay). Cochin was an important spice-trading center on the Arabian Sea coast from the 14th century onwards. It was the first European colonial settlement in India. First Portuguese followed by Dutch and British ruled over here till 19th century.

DAY 09

COCHIN + LSS 25 Kms



After breakfast, 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)**. Afternoon at leisure.

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 10

COCHIN - PERIYAR (165km/5 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 11

PERIYAR - ALLEPPEY (155 km / 4hr)



After Breakfast, checkout and drive to **Alleppey** – Land of Backwater situated on the banks of Vembanad Lake, Alleppey also known as Alapuzha - is one of the most magnificent Backwaters destinations of the Kerala state. Set in the labyrinth of Backwater channels and bridges the town is one of the best gateways to explore the unspoiled natural beauty of the countryside. Apart, Alleppey is known for the production of the high quality coir goods, rice bowl of Kerala, boasts of a diverse variety of fauna and its famous annual Snake Boat Race festivals on arrival Check-in to **House Boat** – Lunch in House Boat.

Afternoon House boat takes you on a tour through the backwaters, a splendid area full of canals, lakes and coves. You can sunbathe on the deck or observe the landscape from the protection of the cabin. The population's whole life takes place here on the water. The people sail, fish, swim and bathe here. They do their washing and their

washing up. They are so adapted to the water that you can see people talking for an hour, while they are up to their necks in water. Peddlers take care of the supplies and the public transport goes on the water. Countless water birds wait for their chance to catch a fish. The trip goes through a wonderful area full of palm trees, rice fields and floating water plants that surround the boat like emerald Green Island. Evening leisure House boat. Overnight on board.

DAY 12

ALLEPPEY – KOVALAM (160 KM / 4 HRS)



After Breakfast, checkout from the House Boat, drive to Kovalam.

About Kovalam - Just 16 km from the capital Trivandrum, on the coast of the Arabian Sea is situated Kovalam. Because of its beaches Kovalam belongs to one of the renowned Destinations for leisure. Kovalam means a grove of coconut trees. The crescent-shaped beach has three parts. The most popular, is lighthouse beach, the Hawah beach and Samudra beach. A golden strip of sand, laced with palm trees, this internationally acclaimed, lush, tropical beach is often referred to as “the Paradise of the South”. The Sun bathing, Swimming, Ayurvedic Rejuvenation, Yoga and meditation, Herbal body toning massages, Special Cultural Programmers, Catamaran cruising; etc are the other attraction of this place. Day is leisure on the beach. Overnight stay.

DAY 13

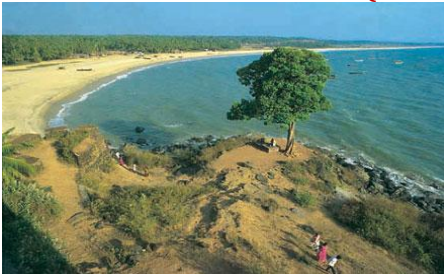
KOVALAM



After breakfast, you will have leisure on the beach. Swimming, sunbathing, walking on sandy beach will be the part of your holiday on beach. Apart from the leisure on beach you can also visit the Kovalam Harbor where you will see more than hundred of small fishing boats. Later on you can visit the Fish Market and Fish Aquarium by walk. Overnight stay.

DAY 14

KOVALAM – TRIVANDRUM (20 Kms/45 Mins)



After breakfast, checkout and drive to Trivandrum to take a flight to your onward destination.