



Indian expeditions

Discover our world, your way.



Essential - South India

14 days / 13 Nights starting from only \$2699 per person

Only ten travellers per group.

Escorted by Expert Cultural Custodians, not merely guides.

On this tour of South India, you will visit the highlights of South India at an unhurried pace. With a perfect mix of the ancient, contemporary, leisure and wildlife, this South India Tour really has it all! In this vacation to Southern India, you will discover ancient, living temples in Tamilnadu and experience rituals unchanged for 1000's of years. This South India Vacation features SO much included in the price. Accommodation, Dinners and Breakfasts, transport, entrance fees, ayurveda massage, expert tour guide included and much more!

What is included

- *Accommodations in carefully chosen and the best 5 star hotels and resorts in South India.*
- *All major meals.*
- *Modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout.*
- *Services of an experienced and expert local Tour Manager throughout.*
- *All entrance fees where applicable.*
- *Ayurveda Massage*
- *Pick up and drop from airport.*
- *All taxes*

Day 1 Chennai – Arrive at any time. You'll be picked up from the airport and dropped at your hotel.

[Taj Club House, Chennai](#)

Day 2 Chennai – Chennai, formerly known as Madras, is today the 4th largest city in India. It was here that the British, in the 16th century, gained a firm footing which enabled them to conquer and rule India and much of South East Asia. We will start tour of South India by visiting Fort St George – the first British fort in India. We will then explore at leisure the rest of Chennai, including the Egmore Museum which houses the finest collection of India artefacts from the 5th-15th century.

[Taj Club House, Chennai](#)

Day 3 Mahabalipuram

Mahabalipuram was an ancient port, known to even the ancient Romans. Today, it's an UNESCO designated world heritage site, and houses some of South India's greatest rock cut temples and reliefs. Onwards to Pondicherry.

[Taj Club House, Chennai](#)

Day 4 Pondicherry

The French Riviera of east, Pondicherry is simply fascinating with a old world French charm everywhere. We spend the morning exploring the city and head to Kumbakonam

[Maison Perumal, Pondicherry](#)

Day 5 & 6

Kumbakonam and Tanjavur

Idyllic rice plantations, tall coconut trees gently swaying in the breeze – and ancient temples everywhere! The rice belt of the South, Kumbakonam and Tanjavur are home to some of India's greatest and oldest temples with rituals that are in constant practice since the classical age, from 2500 BC! We will explore some of the region's most mighty and it's striking temples and dwell into ancient Indian art and architecture.

[Mantra koodam, Kumbakonam](#)



Day 7

Madurai

Madurai is one of the world's oldest cities and is home to the magnificent Madurai Meekankshi Temple. After visiting the temple, we will stroll through Madurai's bazaars – something you will never forget!

[The Heritage, Madurai](#)

Day 8

Thekkady

Thekkady is where the Periyar Tiger Reserve is, one of India's most important Tiger and elephant reserves. We will embark on a boat safari on the stunning Periyar Lake, and hope to spot Deers, Elephants, Leopards and Tigers. Afterward, we visit the home of a local family for a cooking demonstration and a delicious, spice-filled lunch. Relax in the afternoon, or opt to take a nature walk before heading to a local theatre for a performance of a kalaripayattu, an ancient Kerala martial art.

[Spice Village, Thekkady](#)

Day 9

Munnar

Up to the fabled tea estates of South India today! A drive through the mountains will have us in Munnar, an area known for its misty mountains, fabulous tea and trekking trails. Those of you are adventurous can head out on a trek that fits you best – easy to hard! Munnar is also an important birding area in South India. We will visit tea factories and spice gardens.

[Elephant Passage, Munnar](#)

Day 10

Kumarakom

Kumarakom is where the Vembanad lake – one of India's largest fresh water lake is. Explore the Vembanad lake and its canals on a house boat and go birdwatching in one of India's most important bird sanctuaries. A day of leisurely exploration among a rural, palm lined backwaters.

[Coconut Lagoon, Kumarakom](#)

Day 11

Allepey

Head over to Allepey, which has been rated as one of the top destinations in the world. Spend a leisurely day at beach, sipping Toddy – a local mildly alcoholic drink made from palm sap.

[Coconut Lagoon, Kumarakom](#)

Day 12 and 13

Cochin

Explore Kochi, an enchanting port city on the Malabar Coast and the site of the earliest European settlement in India. Visit Mattancherry Palace—built in the mid-16th century by Portuguese colonists

and expanded later on by the Dutch—and venture to the colourful streets of the Jewish Quarter, where antique shops and cafés abound. Visit some of India’s oldest churches.

[*Eighth Bastion, Kochi*](#)



Day 14

Depart, Drop off Cochin international Airport, Kochi.

Dates and Prices

Aug 25 - Sep 07, 2024 - \$2699 PP	Jan 12 - Jan 25, 2025 - \$3249 PP
Sep 15 - Sep 28, 2024 - \$2699 PP	Feb 02 - Feb 15, 2025 - \$3299 PP
Oct 13 - Oct 26, 2024 - \$2999 PP	Feb 16 - Mar 01, 2025 - \$3499 PP
Nov 03 - Nov 16, 2024 - \$3099 PP	Mar 02 - Mar 15, 2025 - \$3149 PP
Nov 17 - Nov 30, 2024 - \$3149 PP	Mar 16 - Mar 29, 2025 - \$3149 PP
Dec 02 - Dec 15, 2024 - \$2999 PP	

Prices are per person, double occupancy for the itinerary as published for 2024 & 2025 travel, and subject to availability.

International air not included.