



### THE GREAT TEMPLES OF TAMIL NADU

10 days / 09 Nights starting from only \$1699 per person
Only ten travellers per group.

Escorted by Expert Cultural Custodians, not merely guides.

Tamil Nadu is a region renowned for its rich cultural heritage. A culture and customs that are in continuous unbroken worship since the age of the early Pharaoh's of ancient Egypt. At the heart of this heritage lies a multitude of exquisite temples. These temples are not only architectural marvels but also centers of deep spirituality and religious significance.

# What is included

- Accommodation in 5 star hotels and resorts.
- Daily breakfasts and dinners.
- Modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout.
- Services of an experienced and expert local Tour Manager throughout.
- All entrance fees where applicable.
- Pick up Chennai and drop Madurai airport.

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 4<sup>th</sup> largest city in India. It was here that the British, in the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Taj Club House, Chennai

## Day 3 Kanchipuram

Explore the city of a 1000 temples, Kanchipuram. Kanchipuram was the capital of many of South India's ancient dynasties. A short drive from Chennai, we will leave Chennai early in the morning, spend the day visiting some of the most ancient and most awe inspiring temples. Return Chennai.

#### Taj Club House, Chennai

## Day 4 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.

#### Maison Perumal, Pondicherry

#### Day 5 Chidambaram

Chidambaram houses the Thillai Nataraja temple, which is considered the center of the Hindu universe. Here, the lord is worshipped as space and in a dancing form called Nataraja, one of Hinduisms most advanced concepts.

#### Mantra koodam, Kumbakonam

Day 6, 7 & 8

## Kumbakonam and Tanjavur

Idyllic rice plantations, tall coconut trees gently swaying in the breeze – and ancient temples everywhere! The rice belt of the South, Kumbakkonam 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 regions most mighty ands striking temples and dwell into ancient Indian art and architecture.

Mantra koodam, Kumbakonam



Day 9

# Madurai

Madurai is one of the worlds 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 10

# Depart

Either drive back to Chennai or Depart from Madurai International Airport.

# **Dates and Prices**

Prices are per person, double occupancy for the itinerary as published for 2024 & 2025 travel, and subject to availability. International air not included.