

Chennai is a journey through timeless India. A Kaleidoscope of moods, rich in the treasures of history. From temples and shrines to forts and palaces, the landscape of the past, lives easily with the present. Chennai is the fourth largest city in India and the capital of Tamil Nadu. Retaining much of its traditional charm, this 350 year old city is the gateway to the south, providing many a fascinating vignette of south heritage.

We will be pleased to arrange trips [One day and over night] to visit and enjoy this historic part of the country.

We have listed below a few itineraries for your reference. We will also be able to offer custom made itineraries to suit your individual requirements

DAY TRIPS

Option 1

Full Day City Tour:

Museum, National Art Gallery, Valluvarkottam, Fort St.George, drive down Marina Beach, Santhome Basilica, Guindy National Park, Kapaleshwarar Temple, St.Thomas Mount.

Option 2:

Full Day Sight Seeing Trip:

Chennai - Kancheepuram - Mahabalipuram - Chennai

The golden town of Kancheepuram is one of the seven sacred cities in India. Notable among its many temples is the imposing Ekambareswarar Temple, a Saivaite Shrine, where Lord Shiva is worshipped in the form of 'Prithvi'(earth). Dedicated to goddess Parvati is the Sri Kamakshi Amman Temple. Kancheepuram is famous for its hand woven silks and the timeless appeal of its vibrantly coloured saris, making them prized possessions.

Option 3 :

Full Day Sight Seeing Trip :

Chennai - Pondicherry - Chennai

Departure for Pondicherry after Breakfast. On arrival check into a hotel.

After Lunch Local Sight Seeing at Pondicherry

“The Ashram” founded by Sri Aurobindo, the well-known philosopher, attracts thousands of visitors from over the globe. Auroville, the inspiration of the mother, was a French woman who was a spiritual collaborator of Aurobindo. She conceived the idea of the International city of dawn. The **Matri Mandir** is another place of interest in this town.

Option 4:

Half-Day Sight Seeing Trip:

Chennai - Dakshina Chitra - Muthukadu Lake - Chennai

Dakshina Chitra is committed to the preservation, presentation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the diverse peoples of South India. Dakshina Chitra is set on overlooking the Bay of Bengal between Madras and Mahabalipuram. The center comprises four sections, which represent the distinct cultures of the Southern States.

Option 5 :

Half - Day City Tour :

Fort St.George, drive down Marina Beach, Santhome Basilica, Museum and National Art Gallery.

Option 6 :

Half-Day City Tour:

Valluvarkottam, Guindy National Park, Kapaleshwarar Temple, St.Thomas Mount, Theosophical Society, Kalkshetra.

OVERNIGHT TOURS

SOUTH INDIA TOURS

Tour 1:

Chennai - Tirupathi - Chennai

Day 1: Departure to Tirupathi after Breakfast. Reach Tirupathi and proceed to tirumala for Dharshan. Return to **Tirupathi** and check into hotel.

Day 2 : Depart after Breakfast to Chennai. Enroute visit **Tiruchanur and Tiruthani temple.**

Chennai - Pondicherry - Chidambaram - Chennai

Day 1: Departure for Pondicherry after Breakfast. On arrival check into a hotel.

After Lunch Local Sight Seeing at Pondicherry

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Night Halt at Pondicherry

Day 2: After Breakfast Departure for Chidambaram

Visit Chidambaram Temple

After Lunch departure for Chennai.

Tour 2:

Chennai - Bangalore - Puttaparthi - Bangalore.

Day 1: Departure for Bangalore. On arrival check into a hotel.

Local Sight Seeing at **Bangalore**

Bangalore, a modern bustling city and an important industrial center, remains as one of India's most serene cities. It is also known as **India's garden city**. A visit to its beautiful gardens and parks is a must for any tourist.

Night Halt at Bangalore

Day 2 : Departure from Bangalore to Puttaparthi

Back to Bangalore

Drop at the Airport / Station

Tour 3:

Chennai - Bangalore - Mysore - Masinagudi - Bangalore

Day 1: Departure for Bangalore. On arrival check into a hotel

Local Sight Seeing at Bangalore

Bangalore, a modern bustling city and an important industrial center, remains as one of India's most serene cities. It is also known as India's garden city. A visit to its beautiful gardens and parks is a must for any tourist.

Night Halt at Bangalore.

Day 2: After Breakfast departure for Mysore

Enroute, **visit to Sravanbelagola**. This is one of the oldest and most important Jain temples in India. The site of the huge statue of Lord Bhaubali, which is 70mts high and carved out of a single piece of rock, is awesome. It is said to be the world's tallest Monolithic statue. On arrival check in to Hotel.

Evening **visit to Brindavan gardens**- situated below the Krishnarajasagar dam is the Brindavan Gardens with its musical fountain. In the evenings, it is transformed into a fairyland with music, lights and fountains.

Day 3: Check out after early Breakfast. **Visit Chamundi Hills:** Towering over these hills is the royal family's deity. At the summit is the 2000 year old Chamundeshwari Temple, dedicated to the patron goddess of the royal family. Half way up along the steps is a magnificent monolith carving of Nandi, Lord Shiva's bull. Visit to the **Maharaja Palace** of Mysore which dominates the city skyline. Internally it has stained glass, mirrors, display of gifts and some beautifully carved wooden doors and mosaic floors. Proceed to Masinagudi.visit the **Mudumalai wild life sanctuary**, home to animals like the Elephant, Bison, wild dog, Sambha and jackal. Feast your eyes on the plume and colour of a multitude of birds.

Day 4: After morning jungle safari and lesuire breakfast, **Proceed to Srirangapatna**, the island fortress located on the Mysore Bangalore highway, once the capital of Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan, the Tiger of Mysore. Daria Daulat Bagh built in 1784 was Tipu's Summer Palace and is now converted into a museum. The fort also holds within the Royal Mosque and the famous Ranganathaswamy Temple. Outside the fort is the Gumbaz, housing the mortal remains of Tipu Sultan and his father Hyder Ali.

Proceed to Bangalore

Drop at Airport / Station

Tour 4:

Chennai - Pondicherry - Chidambaram - Thanjavur - Rameswaram - Kanyakumari - Madurai - Trichy - Chennai

Day 1: Departure for Pondicherry.On arrival check into hotel.

Local Sight Seeing at Pondicherry

"The Ashram" founded by Sri Aurobindo, the well-known philosopher, attracts thousands of visitors from over the globe.

Auroville, the inspiration of the mother, was a French woman who was a spiritual collaborator of Aurobindo. She conceived the idea of the International City of Dawn. The Matri Mandir is another place of interest in this town.

Night Halt at Pondicherry

Day 2: Departure for Chidambaram after Breakfast

Visit to Chidambaram Temple. Chidambaram is famous for the temple dedicated to Lord Nataraja, the Cosmic Dancer (Lord Shiva) and Proceed to Thanjavur

Night Halt at Thanjavur.

Day 3 : After Breakfast visit **Brihadeeshwarar temple, Thanjavur**

About a thousand years ago, Thanjavur was the capital of the powerful Chola dynasty. The Brihadeeshwara temple with its 66.5m high 'srivimana' dominating the city. Proceed to **Rameswaram** after Lunch.On arrival check into hotel.

Night Halt at Rameswaram.

Day 4 : Rameswaram

Rameswaram, a small island in the Gulf of Mannar, is a major pilgrim center. The **Ramanathaswamy Temple**,close to the sea on the eastern side of the island is renowned for its magnificent corridors with massive sculptured pillars lining it. This corridor is the longest in India.

The southern most tip of the island Dhanushkodi was completely washed away by the 1964 cyclone. The **Kothandaramaswamy temple** here, remains intact and it contains icons of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana, Hanuman and Vibishana. After lunch proceed to Kanyakumari. On arrival check into hotel.

Night Halt at Kanyakumari

Day 5: After Breakfast **Sight Seeing at Kanyakumari**

Visit to Kumari Amman Temple and Vivekananda Rock

Kumari Amman Temple is dedicated to Parvathi as Devi Kanya – the virgin goddess who did penance to obtain the hand of Lord Shiva .

Vivekananda Rock was built in 1970 and is dedicated to Swami Vivekananda, the greatest social reformer and saint. Swami Vivekananda meditated on the rock where the memorial stands today at the end of 1892 before his departure to Chicago to participate in World Religious Conference in 1893.

After Lunch proceed to Madurai. On arrival check into hotel.

Night Halt at Madurai

Day 6: After Breakfast visit to **Sree Meenakshi – Sundareswarar Temple**

The temple is dedicated to both Meenakshi, the lovely consort of Lord Shiva and to Lord Shiva. There are 12 temple towers (Gopura).

Thirupparankundram: This temple is one of the six abodes of Lord Subramanya. Its innermost shrine is cut out of a solid rock.

Azhagar Koil : Here 'Vishnu' presides as Meenakshi's brother 'Azhagar'. A gold procession icon called the Sundararajar is carried by devotees in procession from Azhagar Koil to Madurai for the wedding ritual. Pazhamudhirsolai, one of the six abodes of Lord Subramanya is on the same hill.

Proceed to Trichy after temple visit. On arrival check into hotel.

Night Halt at Trichy

Day 7: After Breakfast visit **Srirangam temple:** This temple is Trichy's main attraction. The 13th century temple complex with its 21 gopurams is set on an island in the River Cauvery. Dedicated to the Lord Ranganathaswamy, the temple is noted for its beautiful sculpture. **Departure for Chennai.**

Tour 5:

Chennai – Coimbatore – Ooty – Kodaikanal – Madurai – Chennai

Day 1 : Chennai to Ooty

Full day sight seeing of Ooty.

Visit to Botanical Gardens / Lake / View Points / Wenlock Downs / Pykara River

Botanical Gardens was established in 1847 by the Marquis of Tweeddale, the gardens host a variety of exotic and ornamental plants. A 20 million year old fossil tree trunk can be seen just below the mini lake in the midst of the garden. The annual flower show of the Agri-Horticulture Department is held here

Lake: John Sullivan conceived this small, picturesque, artificial lake in 1824. Rowboats, paddle and motorboats are available for hire.

Dodabetta: The highest Peak in Nilgiris.

Wenlock Downs: The 20,000 acres of undulating landscape that comprise the Downs are endowed with extraordinary scenic beauty

Pykara River: There is a dam and a power plant here. It is also a much frequented picnic local.

Night Halt at Ooty.

Day 2 : Departure to Kodaikanal in the after noon.

Night Halt at Kodaikanal

Day 3 : After Breakfast Full day sight seeing at **Kodaikanal**

Visit Lake, Bryant Park, Coaker's Walk, Telescope House, Green Valley View, Pillar Rock, Silent Valley View, Berijam Lake, Fairy Falls, Chettiar Park

Lake: This Lake was created in 1863 by Sir Vere Hendry Levinge. He constructed the bund to form a lake and stocked the lake with fish. He brought the first boat from Tuticorin.

Bryant Park: It is noted for flowers, hybrids and grafts. A glass house which shelters fine varieties of flowers can be seen there.

Coaker's Walk: About a km from the lake, Coakers walk runs along a steep slope on the southern side of Kodai. It offers some of the best views of the plains.

Telescope House: Enables the visitors to have a Panoramic view of the valley and nearby towns, one telescope house is at Coakers walk

Green Valley View: It commands a beautiful view of the entire Vaigai dam. It was once called the suicide point, as the valley is very deep and dangerous.

Pillar Rocks: It has a mini garden with lovely flowers.

Silent Valley View: This gives a thrilling valley view of the Valley.

Night Halt at Kodaikanal

Day 4 : After Breakfast Departure for **Madurai**

Full day sight seeing at Madurai

After Breakfast visit to **Sree Meenakshi - Sundareswarar Temple**

The temple is dedicated to both Meenakshi, the lovely consort of Lord Shiva and to Lord Shiva. There are 12 temple towers (Gopura).

Thirupparankundram: This temple is one of the six abodes of Lord Subramanya. Its innermost shrine is cut out of a solid rock.

Azhagar Koil: Here 'Vishnu' presides as Meenakshi's brother 'Azhagar'. Devotees in procession from Azhagar Koil to Madurai for the wedding ritual carry a gold procession icon called the Sundararajar.

Pazhamudhirsolai, one of the six abodes of Lord Subramanya is on the same hill.

Day 5 : Madurai to Chennai.

Tour 6:

Chennai - Cochin - Allepy - Thekady - Madurai - Chennai

Day 1 : Arrive Cochin .Meet assist and transfer to Hotel. Afternoon sight seeing of Cochin a city till today influenced by medieval Portugal , Holland , and England . visit Francis church where Vasco - Da Gama was buried . nearby is the Mattancherry Palace or Dutch Palace .The central hall on the first floor was the coronation hall of the rajas of Cochin . other rooms depict scenes from Ramayana and Puranic legends connected with Hindu Gods . amazing are the chinese fishing nets along Vypeen Island .These cantilevered fishing nets were introduced by traders from the courts of Kublai Khan. you also see Jew city with the jewish synagogue, constructed 1568, with hand painted willow pattern floor tiles brought from canton in the mid 18th century by rabbi. who had trading interest in that city . Pm Kathakali dances.

Day 2 : Drive to Allepy .Enroute excursion by boat through back waters . A huge branched lagoon system with varied scenery. palm trees. rice paddies , christian churches, small villages and the villagers it self living close to the waters ..Arrive Allepy and transfer to House boat .

Day 3 : Leave by surface to Periyar wild life sanctuary. arrive Periyar. transfer to hotel. late afternoon visit Periyar by boat cusing down the lake which meanders through the Jungle covered hills that sounds it. in its 775 sq km area , A variety of wild life from elephants . wild boar , leopords , exotic birds etc. can be seen.

Day 4 : Full day visit Madurai enroute visit Alagarkoil temple , 21 km north of Madurai , is a hilltop vaishnavite temple , during the festival of chithirai, a gold icon is carried in procession from this temple to Madurai . In the heart of the town an excellent example of Dravidian architecture. The Goumpa are covered from top to bottom with a breathless profusion of multi colored images of god goddesses, animal and mythical figures. In evening visit Meenakshi temple for night ceremony.

Day 5 : Madurai to Chennai.

CONTACT

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