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SPECTACULAR SOUTH

16 days/15 nights

The leitmotif of southern culture is its tapestry of magnificent temple architecture going back to the sixth century, the unaltered traditions of food, religion and life-style, handicrafts, heritage of sandalwood, silk, rosewood and brass and, of course, the grandeur of classical dance and music.

Bejeweled by a spectacular coastline, Southern India is a vivid kaleidoscope of landscapes, magnificent historical sites, Temples, Palaces, royal cities and quaint hamlets, excellent golden beaches, misty mountain retreats, backwaters (canals), houseboats, colourful people, rich cultures and festivals.



ITINERARY

Day 1

Bangalore

Reception and welcome at Bangalore airport followed by transfer to your hotel.

Day 2

Bangalore-Belur-Halebid-Hassan 265kms – 6hrs

Today's highlight will be a visit to the exquisite Hoysala Temples of Belur and Halebid.

Day 3

Chikmagalur-Sravana Belgola-Srirangapattana-Mysore 150kms – 3½hr

En route to Mysore explore Sravana Belgola & Srirangapattana.

Day 4

Mysore

The city has more than enough to keep you busy all day.

Day 5

Mysore-Chennai-Mahabalipuram

Travel by train this afternoon to Chennai

On arrival at Chennai you will be transferred to your hotel at Mahabalipuram

Day 6

Mahabalipuram-Kanchipuram-Mahabalipuram

Today a visit will be made to the world famous Rock Temple on the seashore at Mamallapuram and Kanchipuram famous for its silk.

Day 7

Mahabalipuram-Pondicherry 165kms – 3hrs

Drive south to Pondicherry. Afternoon visit the French city of India.

Day 8

Pondicherry-Tanjore 231kms – 4½hrs

Continue on to Tanjore this morning. Thanjavur, popularly known as Tanjore. A short afternoon tour will introduce you to some of these treasures.

Day 9**Tanjore-Chettinad-Madurai 210kms – 5 hrs**

Drive to Madurai, enroute visiting the fabulous Chettiar Mansions. Enjoy typical Chettiar cuisine for lunch, at a charming 75-year-old Chettinad Bungalow. This evening witness the closing ceremony at Meenakshi Temple.

Day 10**Madurai**

You will discover the main highlights of Madurai on a half day city tour this morning,

Day 11**Madurai-Periyar 186kms – 4hrs**

Drive up into the hills to Periyar enjoying a late afternoon boat cruise on Periyar Lake to see the wildlife in the sanctuary.

Day 12**Periyar**

Free day to relax or take a nature walk around the spice gardens and perhaps enjoy some Ayurvedic treatments.

Day 13**Periyar-Kumarakom**

You will be driven to Kumarakom this morning, with the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 14**Kumarakom-Houseboat**

Spend a peaceful day on board a Kettuvallam houseboat today, exploring the peaceful back-waters (canals).

Day 15**Alleppey-Cochin**

After breakfast on the houseboat drive to Cochin. Visit Cochin this afternoon.

Day 16**Cochin**

Today you will be transferred to the airport today for your onward or homeward flight.