



T: (03) 9886 4955 F: (03) 9886 3644

E: travel@exoticdestinations.com.au

W: www.exoticdestinations.com.au

TEMPLES OF TAMIL NADU

15 days / 14 nights

Explore this former French colony, following the old European trade routes to discover the flamboyant temple architecture and the rich culture and historical heritage of Tamil Nadu – follow the sound of Temple bells, which symbolise southern India.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Chennai

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

Day 2

Chennai

Morning excursion to Kanchipuram, the ancient capital of the Pallavas from the early Chola Dynasty. You will also see silk weaving, said to be amongst the best in India. Overnight in Chennai. B

Day 3

Chennai-Pondicherry

Drive to Pondicherry (4 hrs). En route visit Mahabalipuram and the shore temples to see a heritage site famous for stone carvings, caves and rock temples. B

Day 4

Pondicherry

Morning visit Pondicherry. A Rich French cultural heritage, dating back to the 17th century, is visible in the neatly laid roads, vibrant beaches, beautiful promenades and architecturally imposing buildings. You will also visit Aurbindo Ashram and Auroville, a township which starkly stands out from the surrounding traditional Indian villages and farms. B

Day 5

Pondicherry-Tranquebar

Drive to Tranquebar (3 ½ hrs), once a fort established for the Danish for Pepper Exports. Rest of the day at leisure to relax on the beach. B

Day 6

Tranquebar-Tanjore

This morning drive to Tanjore, the capital of the powerful Chola dynasty. En route visit the Basilica of our lady of Good Health, a famous Roman Catholic pilgrim site also know as Lords of the east. B

Day 7

Tanjore

Your sightseeing tour will start with a visit to the 10th century Brihadisvara Temple. You will also visit the Palace, Tamil University Museum, Art Gallery and Saraswati Mahal Library which houses palm leaves & paper manuscripts. This afternoon you will visit the Rock Fort, a landmark of Trichy. The rock is one of the oldest in the world. B

Day 8

Tanjore-Karaikudi

Drive to Karaikudi, the capital of Chettinad (2 ½ hrs). Visit Chettinad Palace, a famous Chettinad Mansion. B

Day 9**Karaikudi**

The day is at leisure or you can explore Karaikudi at your own pace. B

Day 10**Karaikudi-Madurai**

Drive to the famous temple town of Madurai (3 hrs). This evening visit Meenakshi Temple to witness the Aarti ceremony in which Lord Shiva is carried in a palanquin accompanied by musicians, temple singers and priests to the temple. B

Day 11**Madurai**

Enjoy sightseeing of Madurai, the Meenakshi Temple in the heart of the old town and the Tirumalai Nayak Palace where dance concerts are performed daily. B

Day 12**Madurai-Covelong via Chennai**

Fly to Chennai where you will be met and transferred to the beach at Covelong (1 hr), once the renowned port of the Nawabs of the Carnatic. B

Day 13-15**Covelong**

Spend next three days enjoying the ambience and tranquillity of the beach or explore the local village on your own. B

Day 16**Chennai**

Free day. This evening transfer to the airport for your flight home. B