

CLASSICAL SOUTH INDIA

Chennai 2 Pondicherry 1 Tanjore 2 Chettinad 2 Madurai 1 Thekkady 2 Kerala Backwaters 1 Cochin 1

DAY 1 CHENNAI

Morning Singapore Airlines flight from your Australian home city to Chennai, India via Singapore. You will be met on arrival in Chennai and transferred to your hotel.

OVERNIGHT – Taj Connemara (Deluxe room)

MEALS – In flight

DAY 2 CHENNAI

Embark on a morning sightseeing tour of Chennai, visiting Fort St George, built by the East India Company and St Mary's Church, the oldest Anglican church in the country. Continue to the National Art Gallery and Kapaleeshwar Temple.

OVERNIGHT – Taj Connemara (Deluxe room)

MEALS – Breakfast

DAY 3 PONDICHERRY

Depart this morning for Pondicherry, stopping at Mahabalipuram, a flourishing harbour town. Continue to Pondicherry, arriving late afternoon. This former French colony town combines French colonial charm with a relaxed Indian village atmosphere. Enjoy an evening walking tour.

OVERNIGHT – Le Dupleix (Deluxe room)

MEALS – Breakfast

DAY 4 TANJORE

Continue this morning to Tanjore, visiting the Chidambaram Temples to witness vibrant ceremonies and Darasuram Temple. The rest of the day is at leisure in Tanjore.

OVERNIGHT – Ideal River View Resort (Standard room)

MEALS – Breakfast

DAY 5 TANJORE

Morning sightseeing tour of Tanjore, capital of the Chola Empire from the 10th to 14th centuries. Visit the bronze sculpture museum, which has a fine collection of artefacts.

OVERNIGHT – Ideal River View Resort (Standard room)

MEALS – Breakfast



DAY 6 CHETTINAD

Morning departure to Karaikudi, which offers extensive antique shopping, a weekly shanti village market, a number of temples, and visits to craftsmen working with wood and metal, silversmiths and goldsmiths.

OVERNIGHT – Visalam (Standard room)

MEALS – Breakfast

DAY 7 CHETTINAD

This morning explore the famous mansions of Chettinad. This evening there is the opportunity to understand and learn about Chettinad cuisine with a cooking demonstration.

OVERNIGHT – Visalam (Standard room)

MEALS – Breakfast

DAY 8 MADURAI

Depart this morning to Madurai, and embark on an afternoon city tour, visiting Meenakshi Temple, one of the biggest temple complexes in India. Also visit the palace of Tirumala Nayak.

OVERNIGHT – Taj Gateway Madurai (Superior room)

MEALS – Breakfast

DAY 9 THEKKADY

Morning drive to Thekkady, situated in one of the largest wildlife reserves in India. This afternoon enjoy a game-viewing boat ride on Lake Periyar.

OVERNIGHT – Shalimar Spice Garden (Elegant room)

MEALS – Breakfast

DAY 10 THEKKADY

Morning jungle walk accompanied by a local forest guide. Afternoon visit to a local spice plantation.

OVERNIGHT – Shalimar Spice Garden (Elegant room)

MEALS – Breakfast

DAY 11 KERALA BACKWATERS

Morning drive to Alleppey and board your private houseboat in the Kerala backwaters. This network of canals, lakes and estuaries comprises one of India's most enchanting areas. Meander through the tranquil network of water canals, dotted with busy hamlets and lush green paddy fields.

OVERNIGHT – Houseboat

MEALS – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 12 COCHIN

Morning disembarkation from your Houseboat and depart for Cochin. An afternoon sightseeing tour of Cochin including Mattancherry Dutch Palace, the famous Jew Street, the beautiful Synagogue built in 1568, St Francis' Church and finally view the Chinese fishing nets along the beach. Attend an evening performance of the spectacular Kathakali Dance Drama.

OVERNIGHT – Taj Malabar

(Superior Tower Wing room)

MEALS – Breakfast

DAY 13 INFLIGHT

Morning free to explore Cochin. Your hotel room is available until your evening transfer to Cochin Airport for your overnight flight to Singapore.

DAY 14 ARRIVE HOME

Morning arrival into Singapore and connect with your Singapore Airlines flight to Australia.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return Singapore Airlines economy class airfares from Australia including taxes, levies & charges
- Accommodations indicated in the itinerary with private bathrooms throughout
- Table d'hote meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) included as per the itinerary
- All ground transport by air-conditioned minivan or coach
- Porterage of a standard suitcase at all Indian airports
- Services of an English speaking local guide for all sightseeing tours on this itinerary
- Entrance fees to the monuments as per the itinerary
- All current government taxes and service charges