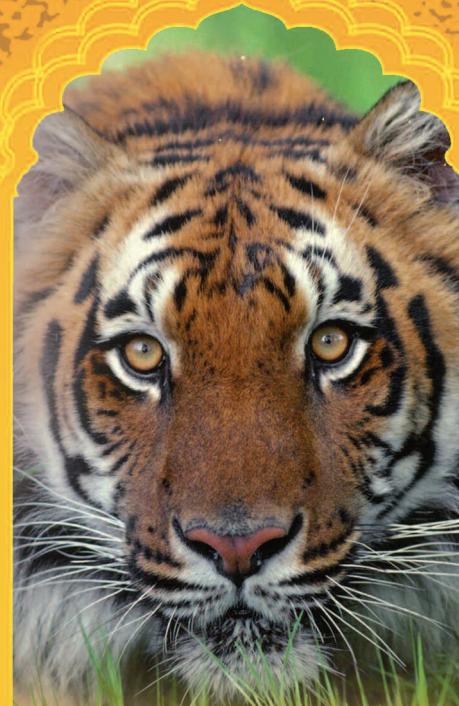


# Enchanting Jewels of South India

## Escorted Tour February 10-21, 2014

Chennai - Pondicherry - Madurai - Thekkady - Kumarakom - Cochin



# Discover the treasures of South India!

South India destinations are simply incredible! From the temples of Madurai, to the backwaters of Kerala, the architectural marvels of Cochin (Queen of the Arabian Sea) and the rich heritage of Pondicherry. The distinctive ecology is matched by a unique cultural identity, where Arab and Jewish influences intermingle with the still earlier arrival of Christianity and the later impression of Portuguese, Dutch and British colonialism. South India is known for true peace, spirituality, adventure and nature and is a perfect place for you to enjoy life at its best!

**Monday, February 10th:** Depart Toronto Pearson Airport at 21:40 on an Emirates flight to Chennai (via Dubai).

**Wednesday, February 12th:** Welcome to India!

Arrive Chennai (EK 542 – 21:00 /02:15). Upon arrival at Chennai Airport at 02:15, the local representative will meet you and provide the transfer to hotel. Afternoon tour of Chennai visiting the Victoria Art Gallery, Bronze Gallery, Chennai Museum, Fort St. George, San Thome Cathedral & Kapaleswarar Temple.

*Dinner & overnight in Chennai, Hotel Pride or similar.*



**Thursday, February 13th:** Chennai to Pondicherry by road.

After breakfast, drive to Pondicherry, visiting Kanchipuram and Mammalapuram. Kanchipuram is one of the seven sacred cities of India. Here visit three of the most prominent temples-Kailasanatha, Ekambareshwara & Vaikuntaperumal. Mammalapuram is where you will visit the seventh century rock hewn monuments.

*Dinner & overnight in Pondicherry, Hotel Sunway GRT Grand or similar.*

**Friday, February 14th:** Pondicherry to Madurai.

After breakfast, morning visit to Aurbindo Ashram, the city of dawn. This ashram promotes Aurbindo's ideas in bringing about a synthesis of Yoga and modern science, so as to unite spirit and matter. Later visit Auroville - a unique experiment in international living and in creating a new environment where men and women of all nationalities live together in harmony. Afternoon drive to Madurai. Arrive in Madurai & transfer to your hotel.

*Dinner & overnight in Madurai, Hotel GRT Regency or similar.*

**Saturday, February 15th:** Madurai.

Morning visit to the great Meenakshi Temple dedicated to the consort of Lord Shiva with its towering gopurams (rising high above the surrounding countryside). Later, visit the Tirumala Nayak Palace - a gracious building in the Indo saracenic style, famous for the stucco work on its domes & arches. You will also visit the Alagar Hills and Tirupara Kundran Rock temple.

*Dinner & overnight in Madurai, Hotel GRT Regency or similar.*



**Sunday, February 16th:** Madurai to Thekkady by road.

After breakfast, morning sightseeing tour of Madurai, which includes the Meenakshi Temple, Tirumala Nayak Palace, Alagar Hills and Tirupara Kundran Rock temple. Afternoon drive to Thekkady & transfer to the hotel. *Dinner & overnight in Thekkady, Hotel Muthoot Cardamom County or similar.*

**Monday, February 17th:** Thekkady to Kumarakom by road.

After breakfast, enjoy an early morning game viewing by boat on Periyar Lake. Later drive to Kumarakom & transfer to the hotel. Afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps take advantage of the rich waters with a bit of fishing, or just relax and soak in the rich atmosphere of your surroundings.

*Dinner & overnight in Kumarakom, Hotel Backwater Ripples or similar.*

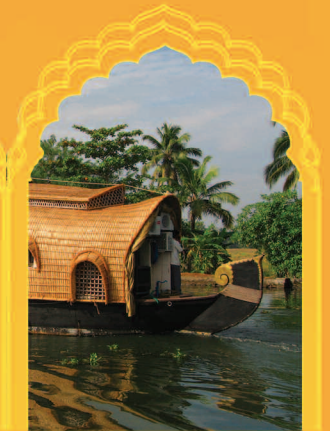
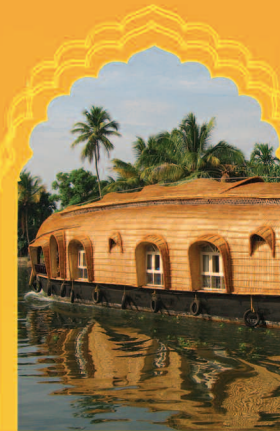
**Tuesday, February 18th:** Kumarakom.

After breakfast, enjoy the morning on the Backwaters, on your boat cruise through the series of canals and lagoons snaking their way through several tiny villages and tropical vegetation. Afternoon is at leisure.

*Dinner & overnight in Kumarakom, Hotel Backwater Ripples or similar.*

**Wednesday, February 19th:** Kumarakom to Cochin by road.

After breakfast, morning drive to Cochin, one of the most picturesque places in Kerala & transfer to the hotel.



Free afternoon. In the evening enjoy a Kathakali dance performance. *Dinner & overnight in Cochin, Hotel Casino or similar.*

**Thursday, February 20th:** Cochin.

After breakfast, morning visit to the Portuguese Church built by St. Francis in 1562, the Jewish Synagogue, the famed Mattancherry Palace, and the Chinese fishing nets - ingenious devices requiring little human attention. Afternoon visit the Hill palace and the local market for the shopping.

*Dinner & accommodation in Cochin, Hotel Casino or similar, the rooms are reserved until the transfer time.*

**Friday, February 21st:** At appropriate time (around 00:30) transfer to Cochin Airport to board the return Emirates flight to Toronto (via Dubai).



**Tour price: \$2,985 CAD**

including taxes & fees

Single Supplement: \$560 CAD

3rd passenger reduction: \$50 CAD

Child sharing the room with two paying adults: \$2610 CAD

## The Price for the tour includes the following specific services:

- Roundtrip Airfare from Toronto to Chennai and Cochin to Toronto.
- Meeting & assistance on arrival/departure at airport/hotel by our representative.
- All transfers, sightseeing/ excursions ground travel and entrance fees as per program.
- The chauffeur driven private minibus is for exclusive use of the group.
- Accommodation for total 10 nights with daily breakfast on fixed menu/buffet basis
- 9 dinners at your hotel.
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary.
- English speaking local guide at Chennai, Pondicherry, Mamalapuram, Kanchipuram, Madurai & Cochin only. No guides in Periyar & Kumarakom.
- Kathakali Dance Show at Cochin, boat ride at Periyar Lake, Backwater Cruise at Kumarakom.
- 1/2 day tour is normally 4 hours, full day tour is 6-8 hours.
- Mineral water & wet tissues for the tour.
- All presently applicable taxes.

## Not included:

Any services other than the ones mentioned above or visa charges, meals other than those mentioned above or any items of personal nature like, telephone calls, laundry, drinks, camera fees, tips etc.

- Prices are quoted per person based on DBL/TWN occupancy, subject to availability at the time of actual booking.
- Taxes & surcharges are subject to reconfirmation at the time of final payment.
- 250.00 CAD deposit per person is non-refundable.
- Other Canadian gateways are available upon request, rates may vary.
- Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure.
- Trip cancellation and out of country medical insurance are strongly recommended.
- The Tour Operator reserves the right to make changes to the final itinerary.



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