

OM

## MAGICAL SOUTH INDIA

### **Day 01 : Arrival Chennai**

Assistance & Traditional welcome on arrival in the gateway to southern India & followed by transfer to Hotel for Overnight.

Chennai, established in 1639 by the East India Company, is one of the oldest cities of the country.

### **Day 02 : Chennai / Mahabalipuram**



After breakfast meet with our executive who give briefing about your tour & hand over all your travel documents. Later proceed for a half day sightseeing tour of Chennai passing thro the famous land mark like Anna salai Merine beach Gandhi Memorial, Kala Kshetra, Mylapore temple and kapaleshwaran After visit drive to Mahabalipuram. On arrival check into Hotel for the Overnight.

### **Day 03 : Mahabalipuram / Kanchipuram / Mahabalipuram**

After breakfast excursion to Kanchipuram –it is the ancient capital of the Pallavas famous as a city of 1000 Temples and still has 124 shrines. The first temple dedicated to Shiva was built in the 7th and 8th century and has paintings on the walls. Temples of Ekambaswara , Kailasanatha, Sri Kamakshi and Varadarajaswamy are of interest. Kanchipuram is also famous for its silks. Later drive back to Mahabalipuram and then proceed for half day city tour visit the city - built in 7th century, earlier called Mahabalipuram, this ancient Pallava port, is today the sight of several antique sculptural marvels. In this ancient seaside town, shrines and huge sculptures cut-out of rocks more than 1200 years back during the reign of Pallava Kings in the region can be seen. The rock carvings depicting mythological episodes - of demons, Gods and animals in battle and others - are truly poems in stone. The only shore temple which remains here is the spectacular two - spired shrine, unique because it houses both Lord Shiva and the Lord Vishnu in its sanctum-sanctorum evening return back to hotel. Overnight at Hotel.

### **Day 04 : Mahabalipura / Pondichery**

After breakfast check out hotel and proceed to Pondicherry on arrival check in hotel and proceed for a half day city tour of pondicherry visit Aurbindo Ashram, which is 10 kms north of Pondicherry. This ashram promotes Aurbindo's ideas in bringing about a synthesis of Yoga and modern science, so as to unite the spirit and matter after lunch at hotel, 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 evening return back to the hotel for Overnight.

#### **Day 05 : Pondichery / Chidambaram / Thanjavur**

After breakfast drive to Chidambaram, also called as Thillai, which has the famous Nataraja temple with the root of the sanctum-sanctorum covered with golden plates is located in the centre of the town covering an area of 40 acres. In this temple, postures from the Bharatnatayam form of dance are depicted in sculpture. Natrāja is Lord Shiva as a cosmic dancer. After visit drive to Thanjavur. On arrival check into Hotel. Rst of the day is free for Overnight.

#### **Day 06 : Thanjavur**

After breakfast followed by city tour of Thanjavur, Tanjore once the capital of Chola Kings, has the Brahadeswara temple(or the big temple of God).The temple tower rises to a height of 15mts from a square base of 29 mts and then tapers off, making a total of 66mts. Afternoon is free for exploring the local market on your own. Overnight at Hotel.

#### **Day 07 : Thanjavur / Trichy / Chettinad**

After morning breakfast leave for Trichy, short name of Trichurapalli, situated on the banks of Kaveri river is a blend of history and tradition as well as pilgrim centre, it is famous for Ranganath temple at Srirangam. Check in at hotel. After lunch city tour visiting Rock fort and its temple at a height of over 23mts. Also visit Srirangam and Jambukeshwar Temple. After visit continue to Chettinad, located in Coastal TamilNadu is famous for its tourist attractions -the traditional palaces and mansions which reflect the glory and opulence of a bygone era. The tourist attractions in Chettinad will help one to reconstruct the simple yet classy life of the wealthy Chettiar community of Tamil Nadu.

Some of the interesting tourist attractions in Chettinad are the museums-the Kamban Mani Mandapam, Chettinad Museum is a must see place. Once a Chettinad house, it is now open to the public and gives one the rare chance of walking into the rooms of a Chettinad house with an amazing collection of artifacts -traditional jewellery, clothing, huge copper vats and grain bins. Overnight at Hotel.

#### **Day 08 : Chettinad / Madurai:**

After morning breakfast proceed to Madurai. **Madurai** is a city and a municipal corporation situated on the banks of the River Vaigai in Madurai district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The city is also known as Madura (pronounced as Ma ju ra) and as Nan mada kudal (the original name). The city of Madurai, with a population of 922,913 according to the 2001 census, is the administrative capital of Madurai district. Madurai was the capital city of the Pandya kings of South India. Madurai's cultural heritage goes back 2500 years and the city has been an important commercial center since as early as

550 C.E. In legend, the original town of **Madurai** was destroyed by a tsunami in ancient Lemuria. The new city was home to the last Tamil Sangam in early part of last Century. Upon arrival check into the hotel. Overnight at Hotel.



### **Day 09 : Madurai :**

After breakfast city tour of Madurai visiting the famous Meenakshi temple, Which was originally built by Kulasekara Pandaya. However the entire credit for making the temple a splendor as it is today goes to the Nayaks who ruled Madurai from the 16th to 18th it is a twin temple, an exquisite example of Dravidian architecture. Later visit the Tirumalai Nayak Palace famous for the stucco work on its domes and arches. Relax in the evening and overnight at the

hotel.

### **Day 10 Madurai / Periyar**

After breakfast drive to Periyar. **Periyar Tiger Reserve**, one of the famous **Wildlife Sanctuaries** in India, spread across 777 Sq. Kms out of which 360 Sq. Kms is thick forest, is one of the best places for viewing **wild elephants**. There is a 26 Sq. Km. artificial lake formed by the **Mullaperiyar Dam** across the **Periyar river**. A boat cruise on the lake is a great way to watch the wildlife.

Wild animals like the Elephant, Gaur, Sambar Deer and wild boar, which can be easily seen from close quarters during the serene boat ride. Other Mammals like the *Nilgiri* Thar, the lion tailed macaque, the bonnet macaque, the Malabar giant Squirrel, the flying Squirrel, the Tiger, the jungle cat and the sloth bear are seen only once in a while. Around 265 different species of birds like the Hornbill, stork, woodpecker, kingfisher, raptor, cormorant, grackle, darter etc. can also be seen.



On arrival check in to Hotel. Rest of the day is free for exploring the local market. Overnight at Hotel.

### **Day 11 Periyar**

After breakfast explore the wild life inside the Jungle. During the visiting National Park provide the Boat ride on the Lake Periyar. Overnight at Hotel.

### **Day 12 Periyar / Kumarakom**

After breakfast drive to Kumarakom. Kumarakom, situated on the banks of the Vembanad Lake is one of the world famous Backwater destinations of Kerala. Fishing, Boating and visits to the countryside make this destination a unique place to look forward to. Kumarakom also has a small bird sanctuary where different species of birds can be seen. A boat cruise along the Vembanad Lake is the best way to experience the serenity of the enchanting backwaters. Overnight at Hotel.

### **Day 13 Kumarakom / Alleppey**

After breakfast drive to jetty to board the House Boat. Backwaters cruise are a unique nature and are found nowhere else in the world. Backwaters are a network of lakes, canals and estuaries and deltas of forty-four rivers that drain into the Arabian Sea. Backwaters of Kerala are a self-supporting Eco-system teeming with aquatic life. The Canals connect the villages together and still used for local transport. During the cruise enroute visiting villages to see coir making, local tea shops, paddy fields, temples, beaches etc. till sunset. At night the boat is anchored at a beautiful and quiet part of the lake. Overnight at Hotel.

### **Day 14 Alleppey / Cochin**

After breakfast finished the back water cruise & drive to Cochin, On arrival check into Hotel. Later start the city tour. Places to visit are **St. Francis Church**, Built in 1503 by the Portuguese Franciscan Friars, it is India's oldest European Church. Vasco da Gama's remains were buried here in 1524 but later the remains were taken to Lisbon, Portugal.

Chinese Fishing Nets, These huge cantilevered fishing nets were brought here by the traders from the court of Kublai Khan. Mattancherry Palace Built by the Portuguese in 1557 and presented to Raja Veera Kerala Varma of Kochi, the palace was renovated in 1663 by the Dutch. Mural Paintings depicting scenes from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata and some of the Puranic Hindu Legends are a real attraction. The palace also houses Dutch maps of old Kochi, royal palanquins, coronation robes of former Maharajas of Kochi as well as period furniture. In the evening see the Kathkali dance performance which is must to see in Cochin. Overnight at Hotel.

### **Day 15 Cochin Departure**

After leisurely breakfast day free provide in time Transfer to Cochin Airport for onward Destination.

### **Ends of Tours**