



South India: Tamil Nadu & Kerala Cultural Journey

11-Day Journey Through Tamil Nadu & Kerala

Delhi · Chennai · Mahabalipuram · Pondicherry · Tanjore · Trichy · Madurai ·
Kanyakumari · Kovalam · Trivandrum

Discover a Different India

Imagine standing before temples carved and built centuries ago, their stone walls preserving the stories of civilizations that shaped Southern India.

In Mahabalipuram, history is carved into stone. You are no longer simply reading about the dynasties of South India — you are standing among the monuments they left behind.

Then the atmosphere changes.

You arrive in Pondicherry, where traces of French heritage meet Tamil culture, before continuing deeper into the temple landscapes of Tamil Nadu.

On the road to Tanjore, ancient temples appear along your journey: Chidambaram, Gangaikonda Cholapuram and Darasuram. Each stop reveals another layer of South India's history, architecture and traditions.

Then comes Madurai.

As evening falls, enter the Meenakshi Temple and watch a living ceremony unfold around you. The temple is no longer simply an architectural monument. Tonight, it is a place of worship, movement and tradition.

Continue south until you reach Kanyakumari.

You have traveled almost to the edge of the country. Here, at the southern tip of mainland India, the sightseeing slows down and you have time simply to watch the sun disappear at the end of the day.

And then, Kerala.

After days of temples, cities, history and discovery, arrive in Kovalam. Check into your beach resort, slow your pace and enjoy a full day with nowhere else you need to be.

This journey is not about seeing one version of India.

It is about watching India change before your eyes — from ancient stone monuments and temple cities to colonial influences, living ceremonies and finally the tropical coast of Kerala.

Come to discover South India. Leave with a completely different picture of India in your heart.

Trip Details

Duration	10 Nights / 11 Days
Route	Delhi → Chennai → Mahabalipuram → Pondicherry → Tanjore → Trichy → Madurai → Kanyakumari → Kovalam → Trivandrum → Delhi
Meals	Breakfast daily
Transportation	Air-conditioned private vehicle
Guides	English-speaking local guides in Mahabalipuram, Tanjore and Madurai
Hotels	4-Star or Similar

Your Journey Includes

- 10 nights of accommodation in 4-star hotels or similar
- Daily breakfast
- Assistance on arrival and departure at airports
- Air-conditioned private vehicle for all transfers and sightseeing
- English-speaking local guides in Mahabalipuram, Tanjore and Madurai
- Entrance fees to monuments and museums included in the itinerary
- Evening ceremony visit at Meenakshi Temple in Madurai
- Domestic flight from Delhi to Chennai
- Domestic flight from Trivandrum to Delhi

Domestic flights within India included.

Your journey

Day 1 — Delhi to Chennai & Mahabalipuram

Your First Glimpse of South India

Your journey begins as you leave Delhi behind and continue toward Chennai.

When you arrive in South India, the landscape, atmosphere and rhythm of the journey begin to change.

At Chennai Airport, you will be welcomed and transferred to your hotel in Mahabalipuram.

There is nowhere else you need to be today.

Settle into your hotel, rest after your travels and allow yourself time simply to arrive.

Tomorrow, you begin discovering a very different India.

Accommodation: Grand Continental / Deluxe Room or similar

Meals: Breakfast

Day 2 — Mahabalipuram

Where History Is Carved in Stone

Today, step into the architectural world of Mahabalipuram.

Spend the day exploring this historic destination, where ancient monuments and stonework preserve the legacy of South India's past.

Walk among structures created centuries ago. Look closely at the stone. Notice the details.

Instead of seeing history behind glass, here you encounter it around you.

This is your introduction to the remarkable temple and architectural traditions that will accompany you as you travel deeper into Tamil Nadu.

Accommodation: Grand Continental / Deluxe Room or similar

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 — Mahabalipuram to Pondicherry

When the Atmosphere Changes

After breakfast, leave Mahabalipuram and continue toward Pondicherry.

And suddenly, South India shows you another face.

This former French colony introduces a completely different chapter of the journey, where traces of French influence exist alongside Tamil culture and traditions.

During your afternoon tour, visit Aurobindo Ashram, Eglise de Notre Dame de la Conception Immaculée, and Auroville.

Yesterday you were surrounded by ancient stone monuments. Today, you discovered another history.

This is one of the remarkable things about traveling through India: the experience can change completely from one destination to the next.

Accommodation: Hotel Shembaga / Majesty Room or similar

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 — Pondicherry to Tanjore

A Road Through Centuries of History

After breakfast, leave Pondicherry and begin the approximately 200-kilometer journey toward Tanjore.

But today is not simply about reaching your next hotel. The road itself becomes part of the experience.

Along the way, stop to visit the temples of Chidambaram, Gangaikonda Cholapuram and Darasuram.

One after another, these sites reveal another layer of Tamil Nadu's temple heritage.

Take time to observe the architecture and details around you.

By the time you reach Tanjore, you have not simply traveled from one city to another. You have traveled through centuries of South Indian history.

Accommodation: Hotel Sangam / Executive Room or similar

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5 — Tanjore

In the Heart of Tamil Nadu

Wake up in Tanjore with an entire day ahead to discover the city.

Today, there is no long road journey. Instead, you have time to explore Tanjore and experience another important part of Tamil Nadu's cultural and architectural heritage.

After the temples encountered on yesterday's journey, today gives you another opportunity to look more closely at the history that shaped this region.

Every destination is adding another piece to the story of South India.

Accommodation: Hotel Sangam / Executive Room or similar

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 — Tanjore to Trichy & Madurai

When the Temple Comes Alive

After breakfast, leave Tanjore and begin the approximately 200-kilometer journey toward Madurai.

Along the way, stop to visit Trichy Temple before continuing south.

Then evening approaches. And one of the most memorable moments of your journey begins.

Enter Meenakshi Temple to witness the evening ceremony.

During the day, a temple can be admired for its architecture and history. Tonight, you experience something different.

You witness it as a living place of worship. The ceremony unfolds around you as a tradition that continues to be practiced within these ancient walls.

You are not simply standing in front of a monument. You are inside it while its traditions are alive around you.

Accommodation: Hotel Amika / Deluxe Room or similar

Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 — Madurai

See It Again — This Time in Daylight

This morning, return to Meenakshi Temple.

Last night, you experienced the temple during its evening ceremony. Today, you return to see it from another perspective.

Take time to observe the temple and continue exploring other local attractions in Madurai.

The atmosphere is different now. The same place you experienced through ceremony becomes part of your daytime exploration of the city.

Sometimes returning to a place allows you to see what you missed the first time.

Accommodation: Hotel Amika / Deluxe Room or similar

Meals: Breakfast

Day 8 — Madurai to Kanyakumari

Toward the Edge of India

After breakfast, leave Madurai and continue south.

The road takes you farther and farther toward Kanyakumari.

You have traveled through ancient monuments, temple landscapes and historic cities. Now you are approaching the southern tip of mainland India.

When you arrive, the afternoon is yours.

There is no need to rush from monument to monument.

As the day begins to fade, find your place and enjoy the sunset.

After days of discovery, this moment asks very little of you. Just look around. And realize how far south your journey has brought you.

Accommodation: Annai Celestial / Standard Room or similar

Meals: Breakfast

Day 9 — Kanyakumari to Kovalam

From History to the Kerala Coast

After breakfast, leave Kanyakumari and begin the journey toward Kovalam.

Along the way, stop at Padmanabhapuram Palace.

After the temple architecture that has defined much of your journey, the palace introduces another piece of Southern India's history.

Then continue toward Kerala. And gradually, the rhythm changes.

Arrive at your beach resort in Kovalam. Check in. Put down your bags.

There are no temples to visit this evening and no long sightseeing schedule waiting for you.

After days filled with history, architecture, cities and road journeys, you have reached the coast. Now you can slow down.

Accommodation: Travancore Heritage / Standard Room or similar

Meals: Breakfast

Day 10 — Kovalam

Today Belongs to You

Wake up knowing there is nowhere you have to go.

No road journey. No temple to reach. No sightseeing schedule.

Today is yours.

Enjoy a full day at leisure and the facilities of your beach resort.

After traveling across Southern India, allow the pace of the journey to become slower.

Rest. Enjoy your surroundings. And give yourself time to absorb everything you have experienced before the journey home begins.

Sometimes one of the most memorable parts of traveling is having enough time to simply be where you are.

Accommodation: Travancore Heritage / Standard Room or similar

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11 — Kovalam to Trivandrum & Delhi

One Last Look Back

After breakfast, transfer to Trivandrum Airport for your onward flight to Delhi.

Upon arrival in Delhi, continue to Terminal 3 for your international flight.

As you prepare to leave India, think about where the last eleven days have taken you. You stood among the historic monuments of Mahabalipuram. You experienced the changing atmosphere of Pondicherry. You traveled through the temple landscapes of Tamil Nadu. You witnessed an evening ceremony inside Meenakshi Temple. You continued south to Kanyakumari and watched the day come to an end. And finally, you slowed down beside the coast in Kovalam.

Eleven days ago, South India was a place on a map.

Now it is a collection of places you have walked through, moments you have witnessed and memories that belong to you.

The journey ends. But your experience of India travels home with you.

Bon voyage.

Planned Hotels

City	Nights	Hotel / Room
Mahabalipuram	2 Nights	Grand Continental / Deluxe Room or similar
Pondicherry	1 Night	Hotel Shembaga / Majesty Room or similar
Tanjore	2 Nights	Hotel Sangam / Executive Room or similar
Madurai	2 Nights	Hotel Amika / Deluxe Room or similar
Kanyakumari	1 Night	Annai Celestial / Standard Room or similar
Kovalam	2 Nights	Travancore Heritage / Standard Room or similar

Hotels listed are planned accommodations and are subject to availability at the time of booking. If a listed hotel is unavailable, accommodation of a similar category may be provided.

What's Not Included

- International airfare
- Visa charges
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses such as laundry, drinks, tips and camera fees

- Meals other than those specifically included in the itinerary
- Any services not specifically mentioned under inclusions

Things to Keep in Mind

- Rates are subject to change in case of revisions to taxes or tariffs.
- Hotels listed are planned accommodations and are subject to availability.
- Driving times are approximate and may vary depending on road and traffic conditions.
- Domestic flight schedules are subject to airline availability and change.