

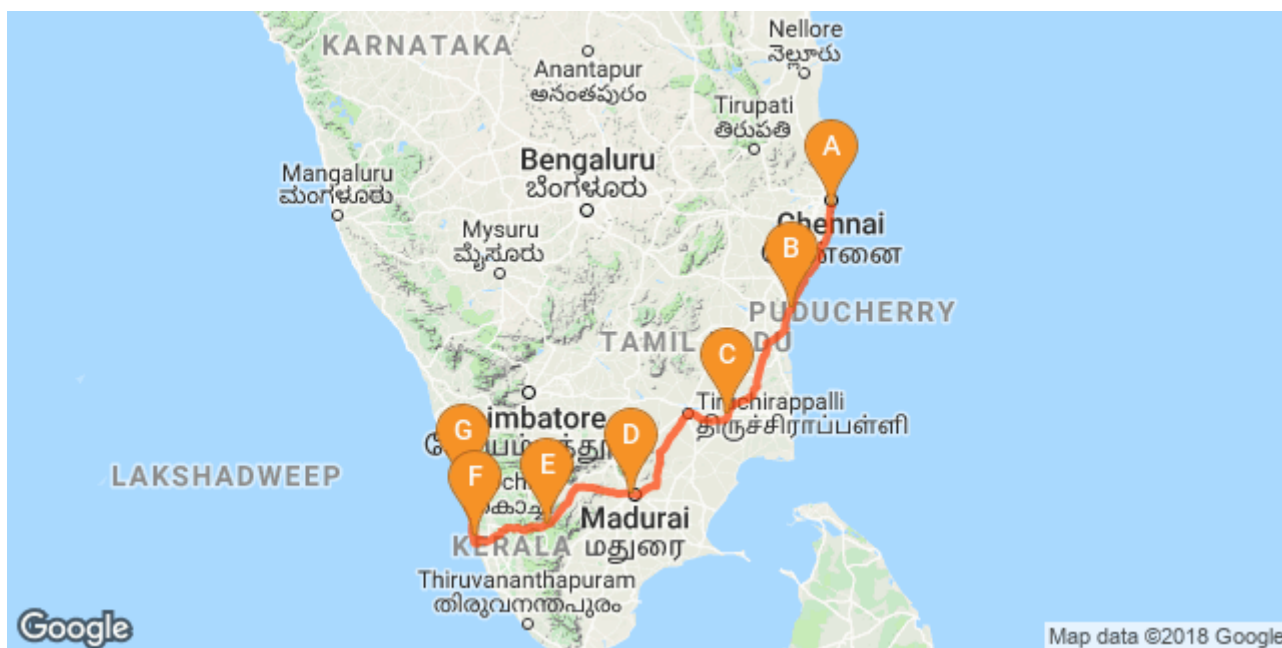


something for
LADIES

Something for LADIES Escorted Southern India

Chennai - Puducherry - Thanjavur - Madurai - Thekkady - Alappuzha - Kochi
16 Days / 15 Nights

07 March 2019 - 22 March 2019



Accommodation

Accommodation	Destination	Start	End	Room Type	Duration
The Leela Palace Chennai	Chennai	7 Mar	9 Mar	Deluxe City View Room	2 Nights
Palais de Mahe	Puducherry	9 Mar	12 Mar	Superior Room	3 Nights
Svatma	Thanjavur	12 Mar	13 Mar	Millennium Deluxe Room	1 Night
Heritage Madurai	Madurai	13 Mar	15 Mar	Luxury Villa	2 Nights
Spice Village	Thekkady	15 Mar	17 Mar	Spice Garden Cottage	2 Nights
Alleppey Deluxe Houseboat	Alappuzha	17 Mar	18 Mar	Houseboat	1 Night
The Malabar House	Kochi	18 Mar	20 Mar	Deluxe Room	2 Nights
Overnight Travel		20 Mar	22 Mar		2 Night

Included

Accommodation on Twin sharing bed and breakfast basis, except on board Houseboat where all meals are included

Arrival-departure transfers and land transportation using an Aircon 18 Seater Mini Coach.

Sightseeing tours along with an **Accompanying English Speaking Guide** and including entrance fee to monuments/parks as follows:-

Chennai Sightseeing tour of Chennai + Visit to Mahabalipuram and Kanchipuram en-route to Pondicherry

Pondicherry Half day sightseeing tour of Pondicherry

Tanjore Half day sightseeing tour of Tanjore

Madurai Half day sightseeing tour of Madurai

Periyar Morning boat ride on Lake Periyar + Visit to Spice Plantation

Cochin Half day sightseeing tour of Cochin + Evening visit to Kathakali Dance Show

Singapore Stopover Hotel

Excluded

India Visa

Day 1: The Leela Palace Chennai, Chennai (Thu, 7 March)

Day Itinerary

Upon arrival at Chennai Airport you will be met and transferred to your Hotel.



Chennai is Tamil Nadu's coastal capital and one of India's financial, cultural and tourism hubs. Attractions include the city's beaches, museums, shopping areas and historical sites, particularly the centrally located Kapaleeshwar Temple – a historical shrine to the goddess Shiva, featuring gaudily decorative gopurams (towers) covered with colourful carvings – and the group of ancient rock-carved temples at Mahabalipuram, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located roughly 60 kilometres from the city centre. Also of interest is the Guindy National Park, which occupies nearly three square kilometres of greenery in the city centre and is home to an array of birds, reptiles and (mainly smallish) mammals.

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time
07 Mar	SQ278 (Scheduled)	Singapore Airlines	Adelaide International Airport [ADL]	10:25	Singapore Changi International Airport [SIN]	15:10
07 Mar	SQ528 (Scheduled)	Singapore Airlines	Singapore Changi International Airport [SIN]	20:20	Chennai International Airport [MAA]	22:00

Overnight: The Leela Palace Chennai

Where Adyar River joins the Bay of Bengal stands the Leela Palace Chennai. Set on 4.8 acres of land, it is the only seafront 5-star hotel in Chennai. Drawn from the inspiration of Chettinad Dynasty, the architecture of the hotel exudes regal opulence. The 11-storey hotel, which is situated close to the central business district and local attractions, features 326 rooms and suites and is equipped with world-class amenities, with luxurious meeting and conference centres.



Day 2: The Leela Palace Chennai, Chennai (Fri, 8 March)

Day Itinerary

Today you will be picked up from the hotel and will be taken for a guided sightseeing tour of Chennai including visit to the Fort St. George -- The Fort was named after the patron saint of England, St. George. The Fort has a Museum and a St. Mary's church, Marina Beach - Marina Beach is the second largest beach in the world and is one of the main tourist attractions of the city. The experience of viewing the sun rise and set is very enchanting. Close to Marina beach, is the Aquarium, and also there are several attractive historical buildings including the University of Madras, Senate-House, Chepauk Palace etc., The Fort Museum: The Fort Museum, dating back to the British period, was a vault of the rare display to a number of weapons, uniforms, coins, costumes, medals and other artifacts, Santhome Cathedral Basilica - Santhome Cathedral Basilica derives its name from St. Thomas, the apostle of Christ, who is believed to have come to Madras sometime during 52 A.D. He was killed on the St. Thomas mount just outside the city in 78 A.D. and was interned in the SanThome beach, where a church was built. After many years, a different church was constructed and his mortal remains were transferred to the new church from the old one. This church was rebuilt in 1606 as a cathedral and in 1896 it was made a basilica.

Evening at leisure, or you could enjoy shopping at Parry's Corner which is one of the oldest markets in Chennai.

Chennai



Day 3: Palais de Mahe, Puducherry (Sat, 9 March)

Day Itinerary

Drive Chennai – Mahabalipuram-Pondicherry (150 kms/approx. 3 hrs)

After breakfast, drive to Pondicherry, stopping en route at Mahabalipuram and Kanchipuram.

Later, travel to Kanchipuram, and enjoy visiting local markets famous for Kanjeevaram silks. Shopping in Kanchipuram is an exciting experience, The beautifully designed Kanjeevarams Silks attracts the tourists to this temple city of Kanchipuram.



After the visit continue the drive to Pondicherry and upon arrival check in to hotel.



Puducherry – previously known as Pondicherry – is made up of four entirely separate enclaves along the Indian coast, all of which were colonised by the French in the 18th century. Named after the largest of these enclaves, this union territory has retained a strong European culture that makes it unlike any other place in India. Nowhere is this more evident than in Puducherry district, dubbed the ‘French Riviera of the East’, where antiquated colonial buildings line the quiet cobbled streets and tree-lined avenues of the old town, and many people still speak French as their first language.

Mahabalipuram

The ancient port town of Mammallapuram is a charming tourist hub which has been attracting travellers for centuries. It was known already in Marco Polo’s day as the “Seven Pagodas” alluding to the seven tiered towers that once stood on the shore, of which one - the Shore Temple, still stands. The port is famous for its stone carvings, which have World Heritage Site status. Impressive cave temples, monolithic rathas (chariots) and sculpted reliefs built by the Pallavas in the 7th and 8th centuries form this group of monuments. After sightseeing, enjoy an Indian thali meal or chai tea at one of the bustling diners in town.



Overnight: Palais de Mahe

Palais de Mahe forms part of the CGH Earth Experience. It's located in the French quarter, just a few steps away from the seaside promenade. A stay at the Palais de Mahe provides a French Indian experience.

The interior design is inspired by the Dupleix era with period furniture providing the finishing touches. The modern rooms all opens out to the plunge pool in the centre courtyard.



Day 4: Palais de Mahe, Puducherry (Sun, 10 March)

Day Itinerary

After a relaxing breakfast, you will be picked up from your hotel and taken for a guided sightseeing tour of Pondicherry including visits to the Sri Aurobindo Ashram - The Ashram is not a quiet place of retreat secluded from the world but a vibrant center of life in an urban setting, Aurobindo Hand Made Paper Factory - With the paper produced here being exported to other countries, Aurobindo Hand Made Paper factory is one of the most successful commercial enterprises of the Ashram. You could actually see the process of developing quality handmade papers, as you roam around the factory, The Pondicherry Museum -- famous for the various stone statues and a fossilized tree trunk.

During the sightseeing, you will also be visiting Goubert Market (also known as Grand Bazaar) which is a very popular area for shopping in Pondicherry



Day 5: Palais de Mahe, Puducherry (Mon, 11 March)

Day Itinerary

Day at leisure

Day 6: Svatma, Thanjavur (Tue, 12 March)

Day Itinerary

Drive Pondicherry – Tanjore (200 kms/approx. 5 hrs)

After breakfast, drive to Tanjore. Upon arrival check in at the hotel.

Later you will be picked up from the hotel and will be taken for a guided sightseeing tour of Tanjore - - Join the throngs of pilgrims who worship every day at the 1,000 year old Brihadeeswara Temple, one of India's most prized architectural wonders and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Marvel at its 60m high 'vimana' (temple tower) which is beautifully and intricately carved. Don't miss the huge statue of Nandi, the sacred bull, at the entrance which weighs over 20 tonnes and was carved from a single piece of rock! The rest of your tour takes in many of Tanjore's main attractions including the Saraswathi Mahal Library museum with its collection of rare ancient books and manuscripts, the former Sadar Mahal Palace, housing a small collection of thrones and weaponry and Our Lady of Sorrows Church which dates back to 1740.



Situated between Trichy and the coast of Tamil Nadu, Thanjavur is an important centre of South Indian religion, art, and architecture. It is also an agricultural hub, fondly known as the 'rice bowl of Tamil Nadu'. Its most visited monument, the Brihadeeswara Temple, is located at the centre of the city and a style of painting, called Tanjore, which is unique to the region, can be seen here. The temple forms part of the Great Living Chola Temples, which are

UNESCO World Heritage Sites located in and around Thanjavur. Thousands of people still worship at the Cholas' grand Brihadishwara Temple every day.

Brihadeeswarar Temple

Peruvudaiyar Kovil, which is also famous as Brihadeeswarar Temple, Rajarajeswaram and RajaRajeshwara Temple, is located at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu state of India. It is one Hindu temple, which they dedicate towards Lord Shiva. It is one luminous example of major heights, which Cholas achieves within Tamil architecture. This temple is one tribute and one reflection of power of its supporter Raja Raja Chola I. this temple remains as India's largest and Indian architecture's one of greatest glories. It is also a part of UNESCO World Heritage Site as "Great Living Chola Temples". This great temple is India's one of most prized site for its architecture. It stands in middle of fortified walls added probably in sixteenth century. There is one temple tower, which people call as Vimana. It is 216 feet or 66 meters high. It is also one among tallest tower in whole world in its kind. Kumbam, Chikharam or Kalasha, which is bulbous, or apex structure on top of temple, people believe that it is made out of a single stone carving.



Overnight: Svatma

Svatma is a luxury heritage hotel in a quiet lane in Tanjore, Tamil Nadu and raises the bar for hotels in this area. Surrounded by beautifully landscaped grounds, Svatma has been lovingly designed and restored as a testament to Tamilan art and culture. Each of Svatma's 38 rooms and suites are individually appointed. An unparalleled luxury option in Tanjore. There's three restaurants serving Tamil cuisine to choose from in different areas of the hotel. It also features a gym, yoga center and luxury spa.



Day 7: Heritage Madurai, Madurai (Wed, 13 March)

Day Itinerary

Drive Tanjore –Trichy - Madurai (220 kms/approx 5 hrs)

After breakfast, drive to Madurai, stopping at the temple city of Trichy en route, visiting the Rock Fort Temple -- The Rock Fort Temple stands on an 84 m tall rock in the center of the town. The cave-shrines and temples are constructed on the rock. The Hall of a Thousand Pillars and the shrine of Shiva are something worth seeing, Ranganathswamy Temple --The Ranganathswamy Temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and was well known as the religious seat of learning as far back as the 11th century. Presently the temple includes a series of walled courts with 21 towers, and the tallest of these towers reaches up to 72 meters.

After the visit continue the drive to Madurai and upon arrival check in to hotel.



Located in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, Madurai is the oldest existing city on the Indian peninsula, and one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, with a recorded history spanning more than 2500 years. It is known as ‘the city of temples’ due to its countless ancient Hindu shrines, including the great Meenakshi-Sundareswar Temple, spread over 6 hectares and featuring a series of 50-metre-high gateway towers that can be seen from afar. The best time to visit Madurai is between October and March, when temperatures are between 20-35 degrees.

Overnight: Heritage Madurai

Heritage Madurai rings with historic charm that echoes in every hallway and every room. Lounge by the Olympic-sized temple tank pool, or luxuriate in a plunge pool in your own private villa. Dine under a 200-year-old banyan tree, serenaded by bird calls while enjoying the perfect meal prepared by your own personal chef, perfectly tempered to your particular taste buds. Take a leisurely ‘historic’ walk through the corridors where every stone has a story to tell.



Day 8: Heritage Madurai, Madurai (Thu, 14 March)

Day Itinerary

After a relaxing breakfast, you will be picked up from your hotel and will be taken for a guided sightseeing tour of Madurai including visits to the Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple: This temple reflects the cultural and religious life of the people of the city. It is also said that the people of the city start their daily chores with the chanting of hymns at the temple, Tirumalai Nayakar Mahal -- This Indo-Saracenic building was constructed in 1523, and was initially four times larger than its present size. The most amazing thing about this building is the audience hall, Swarga Vilasam. The Swarga Vilasam has a roof that is 20m high, without any kind of support and this is a true engineering wonder, Vandiyur Mariamman Teppakulam - Enshrining Lord Vigneshwara, Vandiyur Mariamman Teppakulam is a tank with a Mandapam (covered platform) at the center, The Gandhi Museum - The old city palace in Madurai has been dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, Thirupparankundram - Thirupparankundram is one of the six dwelling places of Lord Subramanya, Ancient Koodal Azhagar Shrine - The Ancient Koodal Azhagar shrine is well known for its sculptures of Vishnu in sitting, standing and reclining positions placed one above the other.

The tour also includes a walk through the vegetable market, banana market, flower market, and many other specialty shops

Meenakshi Temple



Day 9: Spice Village, Thekkady (Fri, 15 March)

Day Itinerary

Madurai-Periyar (150km/approx. 4 hrs)

After breakfast drive to Periyar. Upon arrival check in at the hotel.



THEKKADY

A tourist attraction in Kerala, Thekkady is a district located at the Periyar National Park. Thekkady comprises of evergreen forests and savanna grass lands. This area is known for its natural spices such as black pepper, cardamom, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and clove. Wild life creatures found in this region include elephants, tigers and sambar to name a few.

Overnight: Spice Village

Spice Village is situated in Periyar. It is a resort with lush gardens, individual cabins and that practices ecological methods during it's day to day running. This resort belongs to the CGH Earth Group.

Visitors out for a nature escape is drawn to the Spice Village. This is the tribal village, reborn for the modern traveller. Accommodation at Spice Village is made up of 52 individual, tribal-styled thatch-roof cottages with verandas along with modern plumbing, solar-powered hot water and contemporary furnishings.

Facilities include a swimming pool, games and a restaurant. Ayurveda treatment is also available on site.



Day 10: Spice Village, Thekkady (Sat, 16 March)

Day Itinerary

To experience the incredible sanctuary, early morning you will be picked up for a boat ride on the Periyar Lake. Most of the tourist activities are focused around the Lake. There are roughly 700 elephants roaming in the forest, and they are generally seen on the banks of the Periyar Lake. Later, in the evening the guide will pick you up from the hotel for a guided tour to the nearby spice plantation.



Day 11: Alleppey Deluxe Houseboat, Alappuzha (Sun, 17 March)

Day Itinerary

Drive Periyar – Alleppey (140 kms/approx. 04 hrs) and board Houseboat

After a relaxing breakfast at the resort, board on your private Houseboat for an overnight stay.

House Boat - One of the high points of your holiday, will be the night spent onboard the Houseboat. These rice barges or “Kettuvallams” sail alongside the shallow palm-edged lakes and narrow canals. The House Boat takes you through the villages constructed on narrow spits of land, where you can stop at the local markets, or to see the wonder of the craftsmen engaged in centuries-old boat-making tradition. These Houseboats offer one or two small cabins with a tiny sitting area and a crew of 2 staff and a chef. The Houseboats serve authentic Keralan cuisine. The overnight stay on the Houseboat is an extraordinary experience.



Located in the Indian state of Kerala, the bustling city of Alappuzha, also known as Alleppey, is set along the coast of the Laccadive Sea. Dubbed the ‘Venice of the East’, it is renowned for its houseboat cruises which float along the tranquil backwater canals of Kerala. It is said to be one of the most popular tourist centres in the state. While cruising the palm-shaded canals is the main attraction, visitors can also enjoy visiting Alappuzha’s beautiful beaches, exploring the little riverside villages dotting the lush countryside and discovering an array of resplendent temples. Don’t miss the annual Nehru Trophy Boat Race held at Punnamada Lake.

Overnight: Alleppey Deluxe Houseboat

The Kerala houseboats takes tourists on a cruise along the emerald waterways. Modified to meet a novel concept of holidaying, the kettuvalloms (houseboats) are comfortably furnished with an open lounge, one or two bath attached bedrooms and a kitchenette, and are extremely eco-friendly, merging smoothly into the panorama. Every houseboat is manned by a crew of 3 men, usually a cook, guide and oarsman.

The Deluxe Houseboat has 2 bedrooms containing one bed that caters to a maximum of 2 passengers per room.

Then there's another 2 bedrooms with 2 beds in each catering to 4 passengers per room. And lastly, there's 1 bedroom that features 3 beds catering to a maximum of 6 passengers.



Day 12: The Malabar House, Kochi (Mon, 18 March)

Day Itinerary

Houseboat-Cochin (70 kms/approx. 2 hrs)

Disembark Houseboat and drive to Cochin.



Also known as Cochin, Kochi is a city in southwest India's coastal Kerala state. This attractive city has served as a popular port for over 600 years and is known for its eclectic architecture and its array of religious monuments, museums, galleries, cafes and antique shops. The city stretches across a number of peninsulas and islands, which can be reached by a network of water taxis and bridges. The majority of Kochi's visitor highlights can be found on the peninsula of Fort Kochi. These highlights include the St Francis Church, the oldest European-built church in India; and Mattancherry Palace, which dates back to 1557 and contains some exceptional Kerala murals and temple art. Other must-see attractions include the Kerala Folklore Museum, displaying more than 4,000 cultural and ethnic artifacts; the 16th-century Jewish Synagogue; and the local market, where the air is filled with the aroma of exotic spices.

Overnight: The Malabar House

The Malabar House is at the Fort Cochin, opposite St. Francis Church and a 3 minute walk to the Chinese fishing nets. It is ideally located for sightseeing, shopping and backwater cruises.

The Malabar House has 17 rooms and suites comprising of the duplex suite, 5 roof garden suites on the first floor and 11 deluxe rooms on the ground floor. Each room has central air-conditioning, cable TV, a telephone, a mini bar, coffee maker, wire-free internet and safe deposit lockers. Hotel services include a travel desk, money exchange and a walking map of the Fort Cochin grounds. Recreational activities and facilities for guests consist of the swimming pool, free hiring of bicycles, Ayurvedic treatments, the Malabar junction - the acclaimed restaurant and Divine - the wine lounge.



Day 13: The Malabar House, Kochi (Tue, 19 March)

Day Itinerary

After a relaxing breakfast at the hotel, the tour guide will pick you up from the hotel and take you for a guided sightseeing tour of Cochin including visits to the Dutch Palace (Mattancherry Palace) - The most significant thing about this palace is the amazing paintings in the bedrooms and other rooms. The paintings portray scenes from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranic legends connected with Shiva, Vishnu, Krishna, Kumara and Durga, The Jewish Synagogue - This synagogue was constructed in 1568 and was brilliantly decorated by Chinese tiles and Belgian chandeliers. The Synagogue has a giant scroll of the Old Testament, Cochin Harbor - Cochin Harbor is the Chinese Fishing nets. These fishing nets are one of its kind and are found only in India. The fishing nets were popularized in Cochin Harbor by the traders from the court of the Chinese ruler Kublai Khan, St Francis Church - St. Francis church was constructed by the Europeans in 1503. The Portuguese trader, Vasco da Gama died in Kochi, during his third visit to Kerala. Initially, his body was buried in this church, but after a few years his remains were moved to Portugal. In spite of all this the place where he was buried has been marked out inside the church, Fort Kochi Beach: An ideal location to saunter in a peaceful and relaxing way. The view of the sunset with the Chinese fishing net and the sailing ships in the background is a fine experience.

Later in the evening you will be picked up by the guide and will be taken to a Kathakali Dance Performance at a local theatre. Kathakali is a classical dance form, portraying Indian epics (Ramayana and Mahabharata). Dancers with painted faces depict the various characters of the ancient epics. The Kathakali dancers portray a lot of facial expressions and articulate body movements.

Kochi



Day 14: Overnight Travel (Wed, 20 March)

Day Itinerary

After a day of leisure and late check out you will depart for the Airport and check in for your departure flight via Singapore to Adelaide.

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time
20 Mar	MI467 (Scheduled)	Silk Air	Cochin International Airport [COK]	22:55	Singapore Changi International Airport [SIN]	06:00 (21 Mar)

Day 15: End of Itinerary (Thu, 21 March)

Day Itinerary

Upon arrival in Singapore you have a long layover. A Singapore Stopover Hotel will be arranged where you can freshen up, have a nap or even depart to explore Singapore.

Return to the airport for your flight to Adelaide.

Flight Information

Date	Flight	Airline	Departure Airport	Time	Arrival Airport	Time
21 Mar	SQ279 (Scheduled)	Singapore Airlines	Singapore Changi International Airport [SIN]	23:35	Adelaide International Airport [ADL]	09:05 (22 Mar)

Day 16: Arrive Adelaide (Fri, 22 March)
