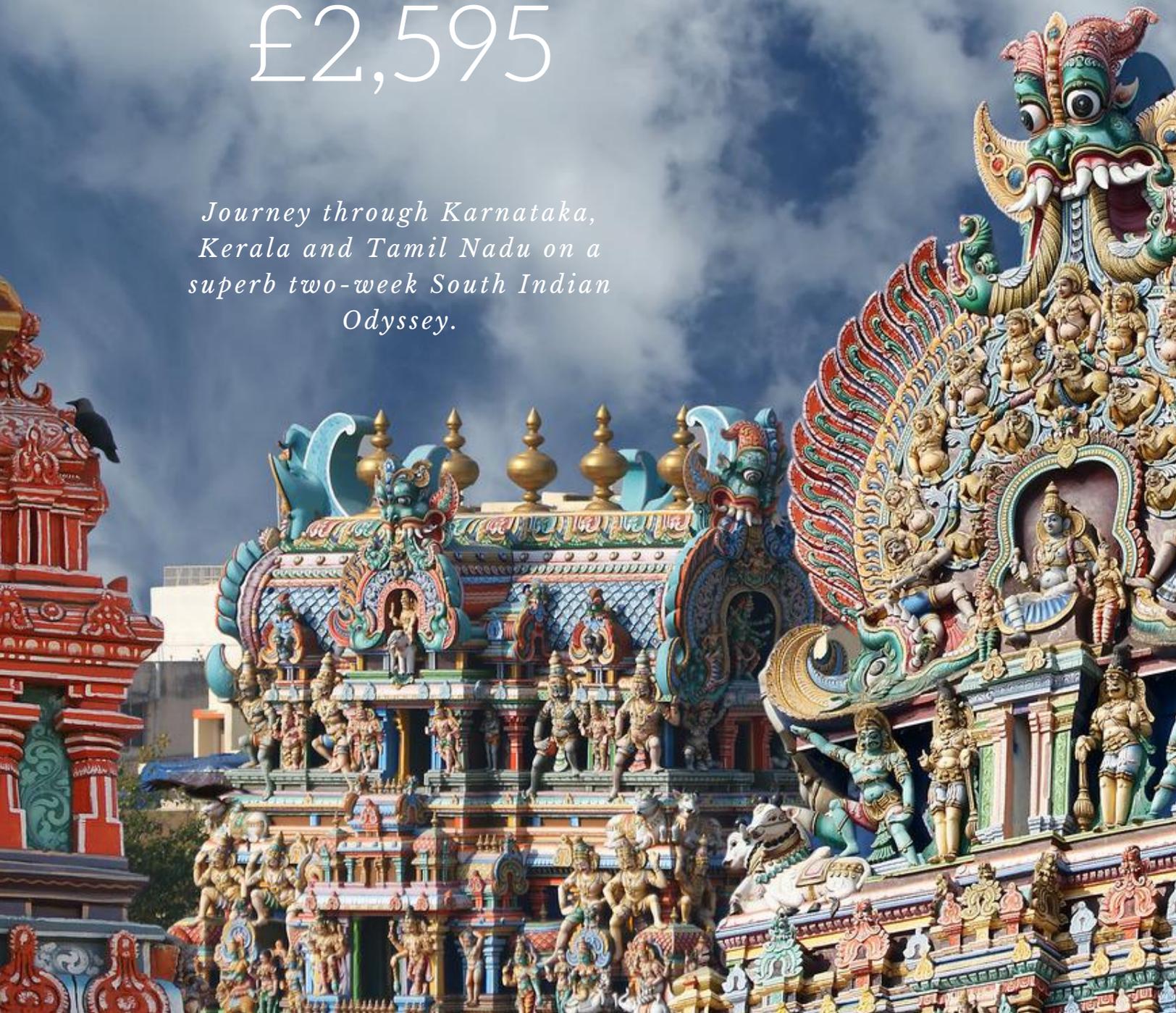


SPLENDOURS OF THE SOUTH

15 NIGHTS
FROM
£2,595

*Journey through Karnataka,
Kerala and Tamil Nadu on a
superb two-week South Indian
Odyssey.*



Discover the best of the South of India on this cultural journey through the southern Indian states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Begin in the hi-tech city of Bangalore and head to Mysore, capital of a former princely state.

Visit the Hill Station of Ooty and on to the laid-back historic charms of Cochin.

Head to Kumarakom on the shores of Lake Vembanad. Take a Backwaters Cruise and move on to Thekkady and experience the best of Kerala's nature and wildlife in Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, including a lake cruise.

See the spectacular temples of Tamil Nadu, recall the French influence in Pondicherry and finish the trip in Chennai with a visit to the shore temple of Mahabalipuram.



India

Splendours of the South

- Day 1: UK - Bangalore
- Day 2: Bangalore
- Day 3: Mysore
- Day 4: Mysore
- Day 5: Ooty
- Day 6: Cochin
- Day 7: Cochin
- Day 8: Alleppey
- Day 9: Kumarakom
- Day 10: Thekkady
- Day 11: Thekkady
- Day 12: Madurai
- Day 13: Tanjore
- Day 14: Tanjore
- Day 15: Pondicherry
- Day 16: Chennai
- Day 17: Chennai - UK

SPLENDOURS OF THE SOUTH

Day 1: UK - Bangalore

Overnight flight from the UK to Bangalore.

Day 2: Bangalore

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your chosen hotel.

Bangalore, often referred to as the 'Garden City' is known for its numerous parks and avenues.

In the afternoon, enjoy a sightseeing tour of Bangalore covering Tipu Sultan's Palace, the Nandi Bull Temple, Lalbagh Gardens, Cubbon Park & Museum and Vidhana Soudha, which houses both the State Legislature and the Secretariat.

Overnight: Bangalore

Meals: Breakfast included

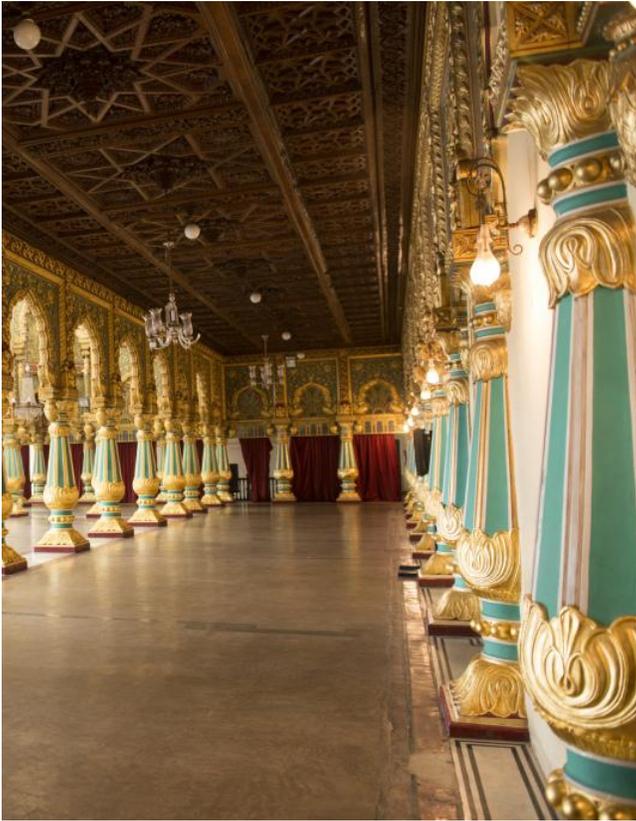


Opulent Mysore Palace



Located in the foothills of the Chamundi Hills, Mysore served as the capital of the Kingdom of Mysore from 1399 until 1956. The opulent Mysore Palace is a real highlight on any journey through Southern India...

SPLENDOURS OF THE SOUTH



Day 3: Mysore

After breakfast, drive to Mysore.

The capital of a former princely state, Mysore is a city of palaces and gardens and is famous for its silk, sandalwood and jasmine.

En-route, visit the Summer Palace of Tipu Sultan in Srirangapatnam and Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary.

On arrival, check into your chosen hotel and enjoy the evening free to explore the colourful bazaars if you wish.



Overnight: Mysore

Meals: Breakfast included

Day 4: Mysore

In the morning enjoy a city tour including Mysore Maharaja's Palace, the Nandi Bull and the Chamundi Hills with the afternoon free.

Overnight: Mysore

Meals: Breakfast included

SPLENDOURS OF THE SOUTH

Day 5: Ooty

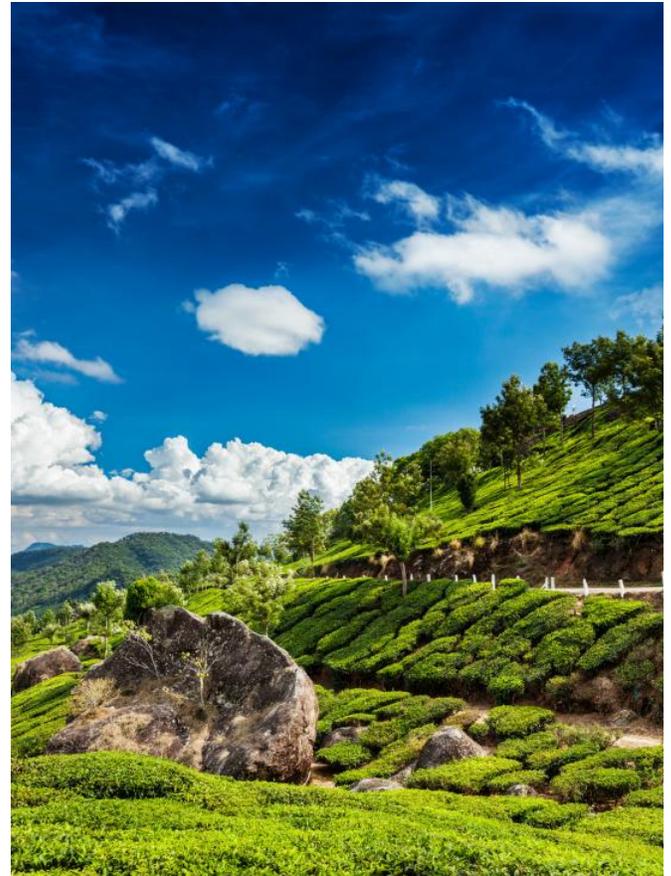
After breakfast, transfer by car to Ooty.

On arrival, check into your chosen hotel.

In the afternoon, visit popular attractions including the Botanical Gardens, Lake Doddabetta, Mukurti Peak and tea plantations.

Overnight: Ooty

Meals: Breakfast included



Day 6: Cochin

In the morning, enjoy a toy train ride through the hills to Coonoor.

Afterwards drive to Cochin and on arrival, check into your chosen hotel.

In the evening, enjoy a Kathakali performance at a cultural centre nearby.

Overnight: Cochin

Meals: All Meals included





*Cochin's famous fishing
nets at sunset.*

Cochin was an important spice trading centre on the west coast of India from the 14th century onward, and maintained a trade network with Arab merchants from the pre-Islamic era...

SPLENDOURS OF THE SOUTH



Day 7: Cochin

After breakfast, enjoy a half-day sightseeing tour of Cochin covering the Dutch Palace, Jew Street, The Jewish Synagogue, St. Francis' Church and The Chinese fishing nets.

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

Overnight: Cochin

Meals: Breakfast included

Day 8: Alleppey

After breakfast drive to Alleppey and check into a Houseboat for an overnight night backwaters cruise towards Kumarakom.

Alleppey has large networks of canals and is the centre for backwater cruises in Kerala.

During the cruise, it's possible to stop for a short walk through the nearby villages and enjoy local life. Meals are served on board.

Overnight: On Board

Meals: All Meals included





*Enjoy the best of Kerala on a
Backwaters Cruise.*

During the backwaters cruise, it's possible to stop for a short walk through the nearby villages and enjoy local life. Meals are served on board...

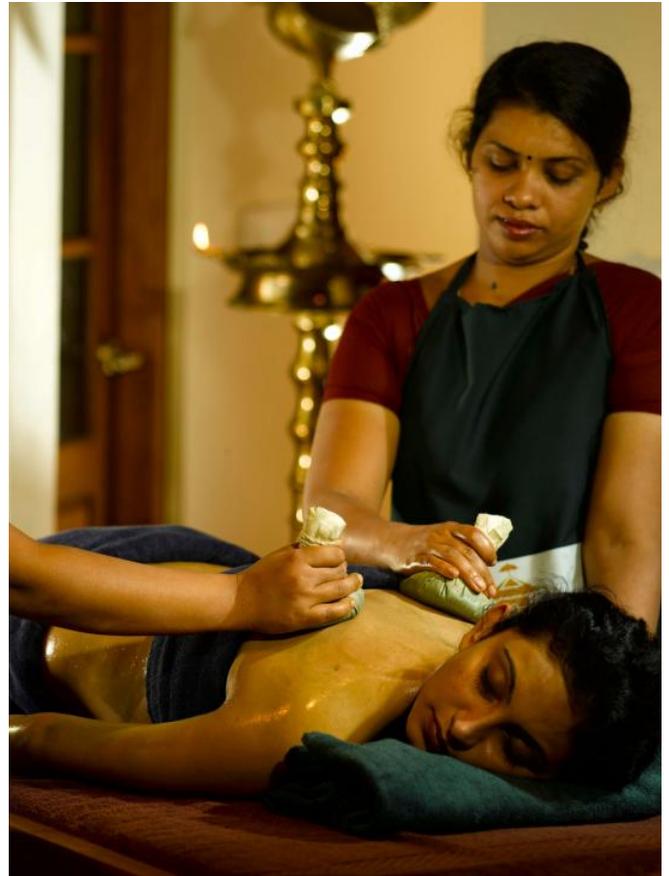
SPLENDOURS OF THE SOUTH

Day 9: Kumarakom

Arrive at Kumarakom around 9:30 am after a relaxing breakfast on board.

Check into your hotel with the rest of the day free. You can opt for an Ayurvedic Full Body Massage at the resort.

Overnight: Kumarakom
Meals: Breakfast included



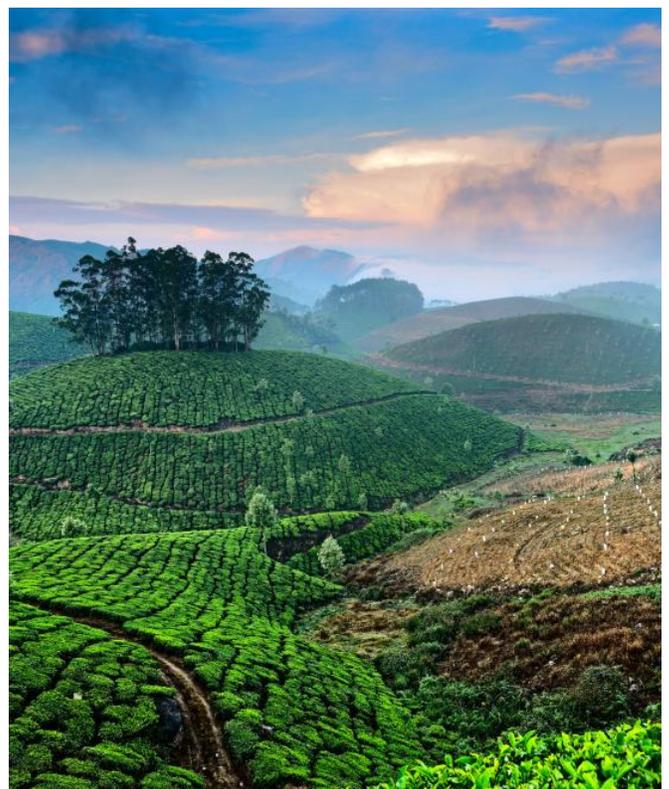
Day 10: Thekkady

Add on an optional early morning visit to the nearby bird sanctuary if you wish.

After breakfast, drive to Thekkady and check in to your chosen hotel.

In the afternoon, visit the spice plantations and Kumily town.

Overnight: Thekkady
Meals: Breakfast included



SPLENDOURS OF THE SOUTH



Day 11: Thekkady

Enjoy the morning at leisure. Add on an easy trek through the forest if you wish.

In the evening, you can enjoy boating on Lake Periyar to view the wildlife.

Overnight: Thekkady

Meals: Breakfast included

Day 12: Madurai

After an early breakfast, drive to Madurai and check in to your chosen hotel.

Enjoy an afternoon tour of Madurai including Meenakshi Temple, Thirumalai Naicker Palace, Koodal Azhagar Temple and the Gandhi Museum.

In the evening visit Sri Meenakshi Temple and attend a Pooja ceremony.

Overnight: Madurai

Meals: Breakfast included



SPLENDOURS OF THE SOUTH

Day 13: Tanjore

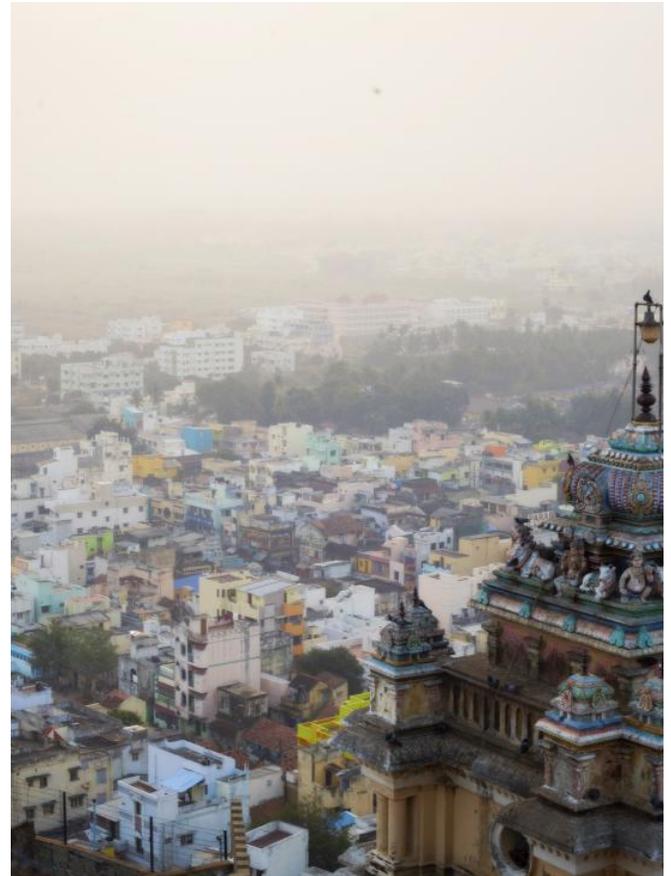
After an early breakfast, drive to Tanjore, with a visit to Trichy en-route.

Visit the Rock Fort, Vinayaka Temple, Tayumanaswamy and Srirangam temples.

Afterwards, drive on to Tanjore and check in to your chosen hotel.

Overnight: Tanjore

Meals: Breakfast included



Day 14: Tanjore

After breakfast, enjoy a tour of Tanjore.

Visit the Brihadeeswara Temple, Saraswathi Mahal Library and the Art Gallery with its large collection of Chola bronzes.

Overnight: Tanjore

Meals: Breakfast included



SPLENDOURS OF THE SOUTH



Day 15: Pondicherry

After an early breakfast, drive to Pondicherry.

En-route, visit Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram.

In the afternoon explore nearby Auroville, Pondicherry Museum and the Botanical Gardens.

In the evening you can enjoy strolling and people watching along the promenade.

Overnight: Pondicherry

Meals: Breakfast included

Day 16: Chennai

After breakfast, drive towards Chennai.

En-route, visit Mahabalipuram and visit the Shore Temple, Arjuna's Penance and the Artisans Village at Mahabalipuram.

Afterwards proceed to Chennai and check in to your chosen hotel.

Overnight: Chennai

Meals: Breakfast included



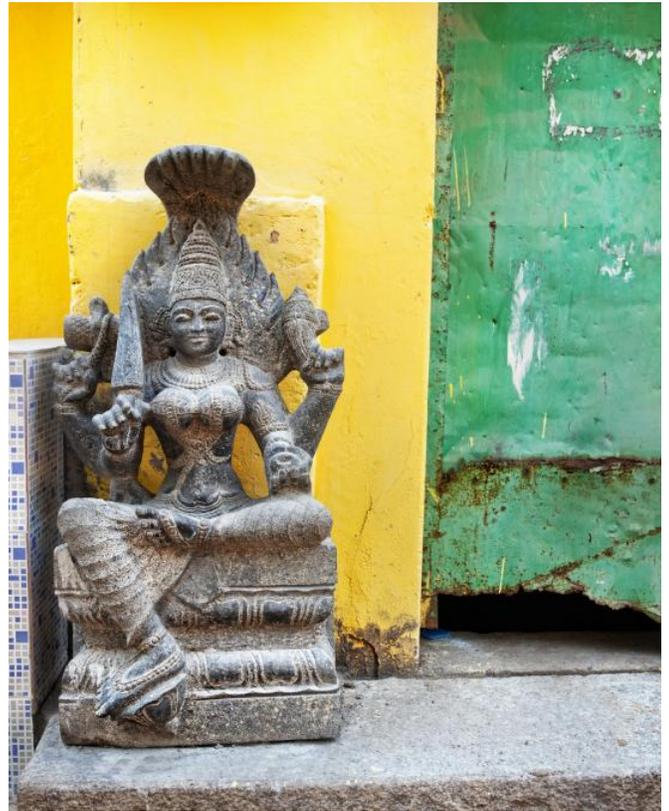
SPLENDOURS OF THE SOUTH

Day 17: Chennai - UK

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

Day 18: UK

Arrive back in the UK (or on day 17 depending on flight schedule).



Karnataka, Kerala & Tamil Nadu

The Splendours of the South

Karnataka is a tapestry of colours, cultures, flavours and landscapes with a rich diversity of people and attractions, from the misty hill-stations of the Deccan Plateau to the gleaming hi-tec 'Silicon Valley' of Bangalore. Historic royal Mysore is one of the real highlights here.

The state of Kerala in the South west of India on the tropical Malabar coast is one of the most picturesque regions of India offering great Indian Ocean beaches, a sophisticated culture, back-water canals and lakes and traditional plantations growing exotic spices.

Kerala offers a variety of attractions, including serene beaches, tranquil stretches of emerald backwaters, lush hill stations and exotic wildlife.

Waterfalls, sprawling tea plantations and paddy fields, Ayurvedic spa treatments, cultural monuments and an exotic cuisine all add to the delights of a Kerala holiday.

Tamil Nadu is a highly populous South Indian State famous for its Chola and Dravidian-style Hindu Temples, for historic and lively Chennai and for the Meenakshi Temple in Madurai.

The former French colonial town of Pondicherry is a reminder of the diverse European influences in the South of India.

This South India journey is entirely tailor made, with your own private car, driver and guide. Things can be adjusted as you wish to suit your budget and interests so just let us know your preferences.

October to February is generally considered the best time of year to visit the South Of India, with lower temperatures and generally settled weather. March to May sees higher temperatures and humidity. June to September is the main 'monsoon' season with higher rainfall, with the lighter North West monsoon continuing until December.

A visa is required for all UK passport holders travelling to India. These can be obtained easily via an online application. We can assist by providing details.

A holiday to the South of India can easily be combined with a stop in Dubai or an onward trip to Sri Lanka, the Maldives or other destinations in India.



Kerala is divided into three geographical regions: Highlands, which slope down from the Western Ghats onto the Midlands of undulating hills and valleys into an unbroken coastline with many picturesque backwaters, interconnected with canals and rivers. The Western Ghats are nowhere more than 120 km from the sea.

Kerala is one of India's most progressive states in terms of social welfare and quality of life.

The State boasts of one of India's highest literacy rates, highest life expectancy and lowest child mortality rates. The literacy rate for women is one of the highest in all of Asia.

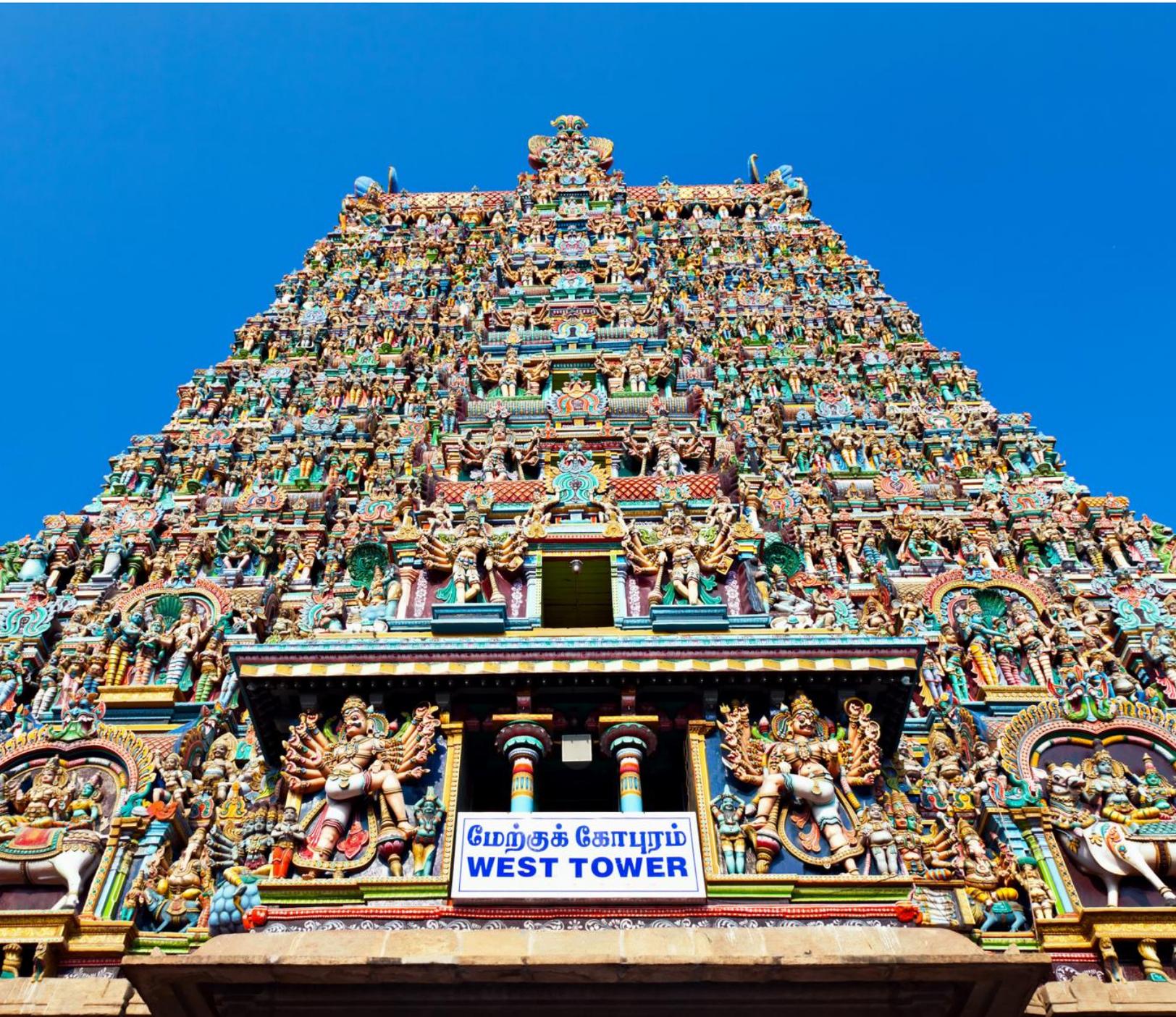


Tamil Nadu has some of the most incredible temple architecture in the whole of India, and a vibrant music, dance and art culture.

Tamil Nadu's temple towns and heritage sites, hill stations, waterfalls, national parks, local cuisine and wildlife and scenic beauty make this southern state

one of the most attractive destinations in India.

Hill Stations in Tamil Nadu such as Ooty or Kodaikanal are popular destinations for their colonial-era ambience and cooler climates, whilst wildlife, bird and nature sanctuaries offer plentiful attractions for nature lovers.



EXTEND YOUR TRIP



DELHI, AGRA, JAIPUR

ADD ON THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

5 nights from
£745 pp

Discover the best of northern India on this short tour including Delhi, Jaipur and Agra - India's so called 'Golden Triangle'.

Begin in the bustling market area of Old Delhi before exploring the great monuments of India's capital city.

From Delhi board the train to Agra and see the Taj Mahal, the great Moghul monument to love.

Complete your 'Golden Triangle' Tour of India with 2 nights in the Pink City of Jaipur.

This tour of iconic northern India makes a great combination with a tour of Kerala.

EXTEND YOUR TRIP



INDIAN OCEAN EXTENSION

ADD ON THE MALDIVES

3 nights from
£445 pp

With its coral fringed lagoons and palm fringed white sand beaches, like so many specks of turquoise, green and white in the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean, The Maldives offers the blue print for a romantic beach holiday.

A Maldives extension to this Kerala trip can offer the ultimate in barefoot luxury, a romantic boutique hideaway or a luxury over-water villa, with the turquoise lagoon as your own private pool.

The Maldives makes a simple and very attractive add-on to this Kerala holiday - just ask us how.

DATES & PRICES

Travel Dates Guide Price

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