

Temple Tour of *Tamil Nadu* 07 Nights | 08 Days

Chennai – Mahabalipuram – Puducherry – Tanjore – Trichy – Madurai

DAY 01: Chennai

Today enter the world of Vacations Exotica as you begin your journey to Tamil Nadu. Arrive into Chennai and proceed to your hotel and check in. In the afternoon proceed on a sightseeing tour of the city. Visit the Kapaleswar Temple - a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and the oldest in the city, Fort St. George - a British architectural marvel and said to be the

first British establishment in India, the Government Museum which houses ancient artifacts and articles and many more interesting sights. The rest of the evening is at leisure OR you can opt to visit Dakshinchitra Heritage Centre - a center for the living traditions of art, folk performing arts, craft and architecture of India with an emphasis on the traditions of South India. Overnight in Chennai.

DAY 02: Chennai – Mahabalipuram (Approx 1 Hr)

After breakfast proceed to Mahabalipuram. Visit the Shore temples - a UNESCO World Heritage Site that reflects fine examples of Dravidian art and architecture.

Later proceed to the temple town of Kanchipuram. Visit the Kailasnath Temple that depicts Lord Shiva as a Nataraja. Overnight in Mahabalipuram.

DAY 03: Mahabalipuram

After breakfast the day is at leisure to enjoy the beaches of this magnificent area. Overnight in Mahabalipuram.

DAY 04: Mahabalipuram – Puducherry (4 Hrs)

After breakfast drive to Puducherry, the capital of the French colonies in India since the 17th century. Arrive into Puducherry and check into the hotel. This afternoon visit the Aurobindo Ashram, a seat of learning and Vedic cultures since ancient times. Later, proceed to the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, noted for its Gothic architecture and stained glass panels. Also visit Auroville, a planned city dedicated to human unity. Overnight in Puducherry.

DAY 05: Puducherry – Tanjore – Trichy

(Approx 4-5 hrs)

After breakfast proceed to Trichy. Enroute visit world famous Brihadeshwara Temple at Tanjore.

Arrive into Trichy and check into the hotel. Later visit the famous Rock fort, which is a landmark of Trichy. Also visit Srirangam Island, a living example of the ancient temple towns of the south. Overnight in Trichy.

DAY 06: Trichy – Madurai (Approx 4 hrs)

After breakfast proceed to Madurai, southern India's oldest city with a recorded history going back to the 6th century B. C. Arrive into Madurai and check into the hotel. Later, visit the ruins of the Tirumal Nayak palaces and world famous Meenakshi Temple, the most perfect example of Dravidian architecture. Later this evening you may revisit the Temple for the evening Aarti ceremony. Overnight in Madurai.

INCLUSIONS

- All transfers and sightseeings as specified in the itinerary by airconditioned vehicle
- Daily breakfast
- Daily dinners
- 1 night accommodation in Chennai
- 2 nights accommodation in Mahabalipuram
- 1 night accommodation in Puducherry
- 1 night accommodation in Trichy
- 2 nights accommodation in Madurai
- All entrances and sightseeing as specified in the itinerary

DAY 07: Madurai

After breakfast the day is at leisure OR you may take an optional full day excursion to Rameshwaram. Together with Kashi, it is considered to be one of the holiest places in India to Hindus, and part of the Char Dham pilgrimages.

The distance from Madurai to Rameshwaram is approx. 177 kms.

The Travelling time is 2.5 - 3.0 hrs one way. Overnight in Madurai.

DAY 08: Depart Madurai

After breakfast proceed to the airport/ railway station and return home with wonderful memories of your holiday with Vacations Exotica.

