

CRADLE OF TRADITIONS - 14 Days / 13 Nights

From USD 1162 onwards

CHENNAI MAHALIPURAM PONDICHERRY KUMBAKONAM TANJAVUR TRICHY MADURAI COIMBATORE ++ OOTY MYSORE HASSAN BANGALORE							
CATEGORY	PERIOD	MEAL PLAN	PRICE PER PERSON			MIN. PAX	FROM - TO
			1/2 DBL	SGL SUPPL	1/3 TPL		
Superior	04/01/06 - 09/30/06	BB	1162	296	873	02	Chennai - Bangalore
Superior	10/01/06 - 12/15/06 01/16/07 - 03/31/07	BB	1187	314	891	02	Chennai - Bangalore
Superior	12/16/06 - 01/15/07	BB	1187	314	891	02	Chennai - Bangalore
Deluxe	04/01/06 - 09/30/06	BB	1379	434	1041	02	Chennai - Bangalore
Deluxe	10/01/06 - 12/15/06 11/16/07 - 03/31/07	BB	1487	491	1120	02	Chennai - Bangalore
Deluxe	12/16/06 - 01/15/07	BB	1519	513	1145	02	Chennai - Bangalore

DAY 01 : CHENNAI - MAHALIPURAM

Arrival at Chennai. You will be greeted and assisted at the Airport by GITC representative and transferred to Mahabalipuram. The little seaside town of Mahabalipuram is famous for its rock-hewn temples, sculptures and the world's largest stone bas-relief. Among the noteworthy sites are Arjuna's Penance, Krishna Mandapam, Varaha Mandapam, Mahishasurmardini Caves, Five Rathas and Shore temples. Check in at hotel for 01 night.

DAY 02 : MAHALIPURAM - PONDICHERRY [100 kms/ 3 hrs]

Breakfast. Check out and sightseeing tour of Mahabalipuram. Afternoon, proceed to Pondicherry. A former French colony, Pondicherry is a unique fusion of Indian and French cultures. A 32 km long coastline along a charming French Boulevard town makes it a much sought after gateway, attracting tourists. Check in at hotel for 01 night. Visit the township of Auroville & Aurobindo Ashram.

DAY 03 : PONDICHERRY - CHIDAMBARAM - KUMBAKONAM [71 kms/ 2 hrs]

After breakfast check out and drive to Kumbakonam. En route visit Chidambaram and Gangaikondacholapuram. Check in at resort for 01 night. Dozens of temple are scattered around the town and this is a good base to visit the superb Chola temples nearby, or to head east to the coastal towns of the Cavery Delta. Afternoon visit Darasuram, a 12th century temple dedicated to Lord Siva.

DAY 04 : KUMBAKONAM - TANJAVUR - TRICHY [100 kms/ 3 hrs]

Breakfast. Check out and drive to Tanjavur - the home of Carnatic music, musical instruments, dance

& traditional handicrafts. Visit Brahadeeswarar temple, Palace & Tanjavur paintings. Afternoon, proceed to Trichy. The famous landmark of this town is the Rockfort Temple. Check in at hotel for 01 night. Sightseeing of Trichy covering Rockfort & Srirangam.

DAY 05 : TRICHY - MADURAI

[184 kms/ 4 ½ hrs]
Breakfast. Check out and drive to Madurai. Situated on the banks of river Vaigai, Madurai is one of India's most ancient cities with a history dating back to the 6th century. It was the capital of the Pandyan empire in the 14th century. Main attraction here is the Meenakshi Temple, with its towering gopurams and rare sculptures. Check in at hotel for 02 nights. Rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 06 : MADURAI

Breakfast. Half day city tour covering Meenakshi temple, Thirumalai Naicker Palace & Gandhi Museum. Rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 07 : MADURAI - COIMBATORE

[216 kms/ 5 hrs]
After breakfast check out and drive to Coimbatore, one of the most industrialised cities in the state. Coimbatore serves as an entry and exit point to neighbouring Kerala and the popular hill station of Ooty. Check in at hotel for 01 night. Rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 08 : COIMBATORE - METTUPALAYAM ++ OOTY

[30 kms/ 1 hr + 3 hrs]
Morning (0600 hrs), drive to Mettupalayam Railway station to catch Toy Train to Ooty. This smart little hill train chugs up daily to Ooty from Mettupalayam covering plantations, tea garden, lush forest and pretty little stations on its four hour climb to Ooty. Check in at hotel for 02 nights. Rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 09 : OOTY

Breakfast. Ooty, popularly referred to as the 'Queen of Blue Mountains' is the most famous hill station in South India. Old summer palaces of former Maharajas, now converted into hotels are set in the beautiful parks. Morning, sightseeing of Ooty covering the Botanical Garden, Doddabetta - the highest peak in the Nilgiris, Ooty Lake & the local Market. Afternoon at leisure.

DAY 10 : OOTY - MYSORE

[164 kms/ 4 hrs]
Breakfast. Check out and proceed to Mysore. A city of royal aura and rich heritage, Mysore, is known for its silk, sandalwood and incense sticks. Mysore is a city of palaces, gardens, shady avenues and sacred temples and retains the charm of the old world with its many institutions that propagate Carnatic Classical music and dance. Check in at hotel for 01 night.

DAY 11 : MYSORE - HASSAN

[125 kms/ 3 hrs]
After breakfast take an early morning drive to Hassan. En route, visit Srirangapatna, the erstwhile capital of Tipu Sultan. Later, visit Shravanbelagola, famous for the world's tallest monolithic statue of the Jain Monk Bahubali. Proceed to Hassan. Hassan in the southwest

portion of Karnataka district and is the epicentre to see Belur and Halebid. Check in at hotel for 02 nights.

DAY 12 : HASSAN - BELUR - HALEBID

Breakfast. Day trip to Belur & Halebid. Belur, 34 kms from Hassan is known as the Dakshina Varanasi or Southern Banaras. The serenity of Belur is attributed to the celebrated temple of Chennakeshava. Halebid, 17 kms from Belur has several strikingly beautiful Hoysala temples and Jain shrines.

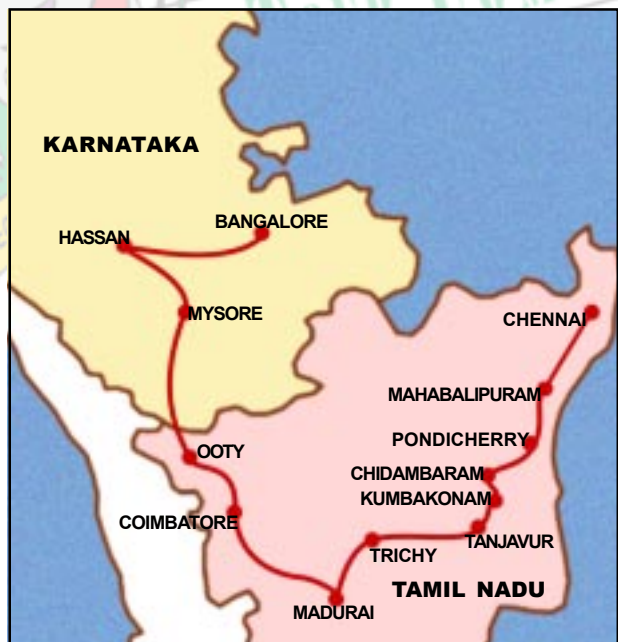
DAY 13 : HASSAN - BANGALORE

[194 kms/ 4 hrs]
Breakfast. Check out and drive to Bangalore. Often referred to as the 'Garden City', Bangalore is known for its beautifully laid out parks and gardens. The main attractions are Vidhan Soudha and Lalbagh; Botanical Garden, Tipu Sultan's Palace and Bull Temple. Check in at hotel for 01 night. Rest of the day at leisure / free to explore the city.

DAY 14 : BANGALORE

On time transfer to Bangalore Airport to connect flight for onward destination.

Tour Concludes!



Map not to scale



Approved by Government of India, Department of Tourism

INCLUSIONS : 13 nights accommodation in double room on twin sharing basis on BB plan. All transfers, sightseeing and excursions as per the itinerary in A/c medium car. Service of a local English speaking guide wherever applicable. Toy train ticket. Entrance tickets. Arrival & departure assistance. All currently applicable taxes (any Govt. or State taxes subsequently introduced will be extra).
EXCLUSIONS: Expenses of personal nature such as hard/soft drinks, still/video camera fees at monuments, laundry, phone/fax, tips & gratuities and travel insurance. Flight tickets. Any increase in fuel costs. Any other item not mentioned in the above clause. 'Inclusions', 'Xmas' and 'New Year eve supplement'.