

# Incredible South India

Tour Duration: 13 Nights / 14 Days


Destinations Covered: Cochin, Thekkady, Kumarakom, Alleppey, Kovalam, Kanyakumari, Madurai, Tanjore, Pondicherry, Mahabalipuram and Chennai.



*“Journeys Without Frontiers”*  
*Small Group Adventures*

## Tour Summary:

## Map

Tour Summary		Map
Day	Place	
Day 1	Arrive Cochin	
Day 2	Cochin	
Day 3	Cochin - Thekkady (Drive: 190 Km / 6 Hrs)	
Day 4	Thekkady:	
Day 5	Thekkady -Kumarakom: (Drive: 150 Km / 3 ½ Hrs)	
Day 6	Alleppey -Kovalam: (Drive: 175 Km / 4 Hrs)	
Day 7	Kovalam	
Day 8	Kovalam-Kanyakumari - Madurai: (Drive: 250 Km)	
Day 9	Madurai	
Day 10	Madurai -Tanjore: (Drive: 195 Km / 4 Hrs)	
Day 11	Tanjore -Pondicherry: (Drive: 150 Km / 4 Hrs)	
Day 12	Pondicherry - Mahabalipuram -Chennai: (Drive: 160 Km / 4 Hrs)	
Day 13	Chennai:	
Day 14	Chennai -Home:	

## Tour Description

This journey takes you to the two most important States of South India. Kerala God's Own Country and the Enchanting State of Tamil Nadu. The tour offers a combination of Natural and the Heritage beauty which South India has to offer. We start our journey with the God's Own Country Kerala by arriving into Cochin the Commercial Capital of Kerala and ending in Chennai the Cultural Capital of South India. One can see the wide contrasts between the two most popular destinations of South India Kerala and Tamil Nadu. At one end, Kerala offers peace, tranquility and is close to the mother earth. It's full of Natural beauty, lakes, Backwaters, Tea estates, spice plantations, beautiful beaches and one can unwind by venturing into the Ayurvedic therapies which are offered throughout the Kerala. A perfect way to unwind your mind, body and soul. Tamil Nadu is quite distinct and has a completely different contrast as compared to Kerala. We tour some of the oldest Hindu temples of the Dravidian culture, an ancient culture distinguished by unique customs. The cultural icons are everywhere - huge temples with towering gopurams(gateways), intricate rock carvings and the shore Temples of Mahabalipuram, a former French Colony - Pondicherry where French is still popular. Above all the tour offers great variety and a chance to experience the mouthwatering food of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

## Trip Highlights

- Services of a local resident English speaking tour manager.
- (Total 29 Meals) 13 Breakfasts, 13 Dinners & 3 Lunches as per the itinerary
- All entrances to the monuments of visit
- Harbour cruise in Cochin
- Witness Kathakali Dance show in Cochin
- Visit the famous Jewish Synagogue in Cochin
- Guided tour of spice plantation in Cochin
- Guided Jungle walk at Thekkady National Park
- Boat ride at Thekkady National Park
- Spend an overnight in your private air conditioned Deluxe Houseboat with your chef on board to serve you with mouth watering delicacies.
- Unwind yourself at the beautiful beach of Kovalam
- (Optional) Indulge and pamper yourself with special Ayurvedic Massage therapies offered at your resort in Kovalam.
- Visit to southern most tip of India , Cape Cameorin popularly known as Kanyakumari.
- Visit to the famous Meenakshi Temple in Madurai
- Visit exquisite Temples of Tanjore.
- Experience the Culture in Pondicherry the only place in India where French is still popular
- Visit the Shore temples of Mahabalipuram – A world Heritage Site.

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 01: Arrive Cochin

Namaste! We are warmly welcomed the traditional Indian way with hands clapped together. After immigration and custom formalities, we are transferred to our Hotel. Rest of the day is free for rest

**Overnight: Casino Hotel (2 Nights)**

#### Activities/Highlights:

1. Arrival transfer from airport to Hotel

## Day 02: Cochin

Our morning tour of Cochin, the commercial capital of Kerala, with one of the finest natural harbors in the world, starts with visit to the oldest European Church in India "St. Francis Church". Today it is governed by the Church of South India (CSI). Vasco De Gama was buried here before his remains were taken back to Portugal 14 years later. Next we visit the Santa Cruz Cathedral Built by the Portuguese in around the 16th century; this Roman Catholic Church is famous for the beautiful paintings on its ceiling. We visit the Jewish Quarter with its old synagogue, and the Dutch palace built by the Portuguese and given to the Raja of Cochin. Later we take a boat cruise to visit the Bolghatty Palace and observe the fascinating Chinese fishing nets in action.

In the evening we enjoy Kathakali Dance Performance. This dramatized presentation of a play usually based on the Hindu epics of Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranas and has a unique combination of literature, music, painting, acting and dance. **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Cochin
2. Guided Tour of St. Francis Church, Santa Cruz Cathedral, Jewish Synagogue and Dutch Palace
3. Harbor Cruise to see Bolghatty Palace and Chinese Fishing nets
4. Kathakali Dance performance
5. Dinner at Hotel in Cochin



## Day 03: Cochin - Thekkady : (Drive: 195 Km / 5 Hrs)

In the morning after breakfast we drive to Thekkady. The Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary (Entry: 0600 to 1800 hrs): Lying close to plantations, in the rich jungles of Periyar in Thekkady is one of the world's most fascinating natural wildlife reserves – the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. Spread across 777 sq km, of which 360 sq. km is thick evergreen forest, the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary was declared a Tiger Reserve in 1978. Noted for its geomorphology, diversity of wildlife and scenic beauty, the Reserve attracts visitors from all over the world. On arrival in Thekkady, we check in our Hotel. After lunch we visit a spice plantation. About 4000 Sq. KM of Idukki district is under spice plantations. The main occupations of the natives are spice farming and trading. The original produce was cardamom, pepper, ginger and turmeric, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, all spice, tea etc. This will give an excellent opportunity to the visitor to see the spice plants and Ayurvedic medicinal plants and buy some garden fresh spices from the plantations. This is a guided Tour and it will take 1-1:30 hours. Later in the evening we return to our hotel. Dinner & Overnight at **Thekkady Wild Corridor (2 Nights) (Breakfast, Dinner)**

### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Cochin
2. Drive from Cochin to Thekkady
3. Guided Tour of Spice Plantation.
4. Dinner at Hotel in Thekkady



### Day 04: Thekkady:

Our day starts with a Jungle walk at the Periyar Wild life Sanctuary. Later we come back to our hotel for breakfast. In the afternoon we take boat ride over the Lake Periyar to watch animals in their natural habitat on the water's edge. While cruising on Lake Periyar, we are likely to see animals like Wild Boars, Sambars, Wild Dogs, Langur Monkeys, Wild Elephants and water birds; darter, grey heron, egret and kingfisher. Evening is free to explore the local bazaars at Thekkady and time to purchase some local spices grown in that area. **Dinner and Overnight is at hotel. (Breakfast, Dinner)**



#### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Thekkady
2. Morning guided Jungle Walking Tour
3. Visit Periyar wildlife Sanctuary with Boat Ride at lake Periyar
4. Dinner at Hotel in Thekkady

### Day 05: Thekkady - Kumarakom: (Drive: 150 Km / 3 ½ Hrs)

Today we drive to Kumarakom. An unbelievably beautiful paradise of mangrove forests, emerald green paddy fields and coconut groves interspersed with enchanting waterways and canals adorned with white lilies. Situated on the Vembanad Lake, in this small water world you will come across plenty of traditional country crafts, boats and canoes which will take you into the heart of the scenic lake. On arrival in Kumarakom we board our traditional houseboat (rice boats - "Ketuvalam") and begin our journey through the picturesque backwaters and small lakes relaxing in the tranquility of Kerala's beautiful scenery -Experience the way of life and activity of the local people. **Overnight: A.C. Deluxe House Boat (1 night) (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**



#### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Thekkady
2. Drive from Thekkady to Kumarakom
3. Houseboat from Kumarakom to Alleppey
4. Lunch at Houseboat
5. Dinner at Houseboat

### Day 06: Alleppey -Kovalam: (Drive: 175 Km / 4 Hrs)

Breakfast on board. Sail to Alleppey & disembark at Puthenagady Jetty. A scenic comfortable drive conveys us to the beautiful Kovalam Beach on the Malabar Coast near Trivandrum. The palm-fringed bays in secluded coconut groves, promise a relaxed stay. The boundless blue waters of the Arabian Sea and miles of white sands washed away by the surf at the feet of the stalwart palms and the rocky promontories make this beach an incredible paradise. **Overnight: Uday Samudra Beach Hotel (2 Nights) (Breakfast, Dinner)**

**Activities/Highlights:**

1. Breakfast at Houseboat
2. Drive from Alleppey to Kovalam
3. Dinner at Hotel in Kovalam

**Day 07: Kovalam**

Day is free to relax on Beach. **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

**Activities/Highlights:**

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Kovalam
2. Dinner at Hotel in Kovalam



**Day 08: Kovalam – Kanyakumari – Madurai:(Drive: 250 Km/ 7 Hrs)**

After breakfast we leave for Madurai, en-route visiting Kanyakumari "Lands End" of India. Kanyakumari is the southernmost tip of peninsular India where the waters of the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea meet. We visit the Temple of Goddess Kumari, Vivekananda Rock Memorial in the sea where Swami Vivekananda mediated. Later after lunch we continue our onward journey to Madurai. On arrival, we check in our Hotel. **Overnight: Fortune Pandiyan -Madurai (2 Nights) (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

**Activities/Highlights:**

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Kovalam
2. Drive from Kovalam to Madurai en-route visiting Kanyakumari
3. Guided Tour of Kanyakumari
4. Lunch at Kanyakumari
5. Dinner at Hotel in Madurai

**Day 09: Madurai**

Madurai situated in southern Tamil Nadu is the second largest city in Tamil Nadu, is an important cultural and commercial centre. Today we visit Madurai. The main city area revolves around Meenakshi Temple, with its baroque example of Dravidian architecture and the four tall gopurams (pillars) with multicolored gods, goddesses, demons and deities. Madurai is famous for the imposing Meenakshi Temple, a structure in the Dravidian style of architecture. The history of the city dates back over 2,000 years when it was the capital of the Pandyas. The most interesting feature of the temple is its Hall of a thousand pillars some of which sound like metal when hit with an object. The metal stone or musical pillar, although made of stone, produces sounds of different metals. Other places of interest include the Tirumalai Nayaka Temple and the Temple Art Museum. **(Breakfast, Dinner)**



**Activities/Highlights:**

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Madurai
2. Guided Tour of Madurai
3. Dinner at Hotel in Madurai

**Day 10: Madurai – Tanjore : (Drive: 195 Km / 4 Hrs)**

In the morning after breakfast we drive to Thanjavur, popularly known as Tanjore, where lies the famous Brihadishwara Temple and its sprawling palace complex. The town is famous also for its distinctive style, a combination of raised and painted surfaces. "Krishna" is the most popular deity depicted, and in the Tanjore School his skin is white, rather than the traditional blue-black. Tanjore was the ancient capital of the Chola Kings whose origins go back to the beginning of the Christian era. Our afternoon tour of World Heritage Site of Tanjore includes in the Shri Brihadishwara temple built by "Raja-Raja" in 1010, which is the crowning glory of Chola temple architecture. The temple, set in spacious grounds, has several pillared halls and shrines. Inscriptions record the names of dancers, musicians and poets a reminder of the significance of this area to the development of the arts. We end our tour of Tanjore with a visit to the Tanjore Palace & Museum which has an eclectic collection of regal memorabilia most of it dating from the early 19th century.

**Overnight: Hotel Sangam (1 Night) (Breakfast, Dinner)**

**Activities/Highlights:**

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Madurai
2. Drive from Madurai to Tanjore
3. Guided Tour of Tanjore
4. Dinner at Hotel in Tanjore



**Day 11: Tanjore – Pondicherry: (Drive: 150 Km / 4 Hrs)**

In the morning after breakfast we drive to Pondicherry. The Union Territory of Pondicherry is situated on the Coromandel Coast of South India, about 160 kms south of Chennai. Pondicherry traces its origin to Saint Agasthya, the revered sage of the south. It was also the site of many a battle between the British and the French, and was the capital of French India, before it attained its independence.

Being a small and quiet enclave of Tamil Nadu, it has imbibed Tamilian culture. Apart from the charming atmosphere, excellent restaurants, and cheap beer, what attracts most travelers to Pondicherry is the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. The ashram, founded by Sri Aurobindo in the year 1926, has brought international reputation to this coastal town. Tours of the ashram, the spiritual tenets of which combine yoga and modern science, are popular within India and abroad. **Overnight: Hotel Atithi (1 Night) (Breakfast, Dinner)**

**Activities/Highlights:**

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Tanjore
2. Drive from Tanjore to Pondicherry
3. Guided Tour of Pondicherry
4. Dinner at Hotel in Pondicherry

### Day 12: Pondicherry - Mahabalipuram - Chennai: (Drive: 160 Km / 4-5 Hrs)

In the morning after breakfast we drive to Mahabalipuram. We visit the World Heritage Site of Mahabalipuram. This group of sanctuaries, founded by the Pallava kings, was carved out of rock along the Coromandel Coast in the 7th and 8th centuries. It is known especially for its Rathas (temples in the form of chariots), Mandapas (cave sanctuaries), giant open-air relief's such as the famous 'Descent of the Ganges', and the temple of Rivage, with thousands of sculptures to the glory of Shiva. After lunch, we continue our journey to Chennai. On arrival we check in our Hotel. Rest of the day is free to relax.

**Overnight: The Pride (2 Nights) (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)**

#### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Pondicherry
2. Drive from Pondicherry to Chennai en-route visiting Mahabalipuram
3. Lunch at Mahabalipuram
4. Guided Tour of Mahabalipuram Temples -World Heritage Site
5. Dinner at Hotel in Chennai

### Day 13: Chennai:

Our tour of Chennai starts with The National Art Gallery & Museum. The museum was established in 1857 and contains one of the best collections of bronzes in the country, including the famous icon of Natraja. Our Next stop is at St. Mary's Church-built in 1680. This was first English Church in Chennai and is India's oldest surviving British church. In the church there are reminders of Clive, who was married here in 1753, and Elihu Yale, the early governor of Madras. We end our tour with a visit to Peoples Park and the beautiful Marina Beach, the second longest beach in the world, and the clock towers. **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

#### Activities/Highlights:

1. Breakfast at Hotel in Chennai
2. Guided Tour of The National Art Gallery & Museum
3. Guided Tour of St. Mary's Church
4. Guided Tour of People's Park and the beautiful Marina Beach
5. Dinner at Hotel in Chennai



### Day 14: Chennai - Home:

The day is free to relax. Check out time 12:00 Noon. The day is free for shopping and other personal activities. In the evening we are hosted a farewell dinner before we are transferred to airport to connect our flight back home. **(Breakfast, Dinner)**

## Inclusions:

<u>Standard Inclusions</u>	<u>Prices DOES NOT Include</u>
Accommodation on twin- share basis in the mentioned hotels for 13 Nights with daily buffet <b>Breakfast as per the itinerary.</b>	Any personal expenses such as laundry bills, telephone bills, alcoholic / Non Alcoholic beverages
<b>(Total 29 Meals)13 Breakfasts, 13 Dinners &amp; 3 Lunches as per the itinerary</b>	Tips and other such cost which is to be paid to the drivers, guides, porters etc.
Transfers and sightseeing as per the itinerary by air-conditioned Vehicle.	Visa fees or International flight tickets and insurance.
All entrances to Monuments of visit as per the itinerary, excluding camera / Video Camera Charges.	Any other services not mentioned in the cost inclusions.
Road tax, Toll Charges, parking fees and driver's overnight wages.	
Services of an English speaking resident tour Manager.	
Harbor Cruise in Cochin (Common Boat)	
Kathakali Dance performance –Cochin	
Boat Ride at Lake Periyar –Thekkady	
Guided Jungle Walking Tour –Thekkady	
All presently applicable taxes.	

## Departure Dates & Tour Price:

Departure Dates		Per Person Cost On Twin Sharing Basis	Single Room Supplement
Tour Start Date	Tour End Date		
20-Sep-2010	03-Oct-2010	USD 1627	USD 742
06-Nov-2010	19-Nov-2010	USD 1747	USD 885
22-Nov-2010	05-Dec-2010	USD 1747	USD 885
20-Dec-2010	02-Jan-2011	USD 1897	USD 1035
17-Jan-2011	30-Jan-2011	USD 1747	USD 885
21-Feb-2011	06-Mar-2011	USD 1747	USD 885
21-Mar-2011	03-Apr-2011	USD 1747	USD 885
18-Apr-2011	01-May-2011	USD 1657	USD 762
24-May-2011	06-Jun-2011	USD 1657	USD 762
21-Jun-2011	04-Jul-2011	USD 1657	USD 762
25-Jul-2011	07-Aug-2011	USD 1657	USD 762
29-Aug-2011	11-Sep-2011	USD 1657	USD 762
26-Sep-2011	09-Oct-2011	USD 1789	USD 894
24-Oct-2011	06-Nov-2011	USD 1931	USD 925
14-Nov-2011	27-Nov-2011	USD 1931	USD 925
19-Dec-2011	01-Jan-2012	USD 2079	USD 1075
23-Jan-2012	05-Feb-2012	USD 1931	USD 925
27-Feb-2012	11-Mar-2012	USD 1931	USD 925
26-Mar-2012	08-Apr-2012	USD 1842	USD 894
23-Apr-2012	06-May-2012	USD 1730	USD 830
29-May-2012	11-Jun-2012	USD 1730	USD 830
26-Jun-2012	09-Jul-2012	USD 1730	USD 830
23-Jul-2012	05-Aug-2012	USD 1730	USD 830
03-Sep-2012	16-Sep-2012	USD 1730	USD 830
17-Sep-2012	30-Sep-2012	USD 1730	USD 830

## Accommodation Details

City	Hotel name	Category of room	No. of nights
Cochin	Casino Hotel by CGH Earth	Standard Room	02
Thekkady	Thekkady Wild Corridor	Deluxe Room	02
Kumarakom -Alleppey	Deluxe A.C. Houseboat	Houseboat	01
Kovalam	Uday Samudra Beach Hotel	Exotica DBL	02
Madurai	Fortune Pandiyan	Standard Room	02
Tanjore	Hotel Sangam	Standard Room	01
Pondicherry	Hotel Atithi	Standard Room	01
Chennai	The Pride	Deluxe Room	02

### Casino Hotel by CGH Earth - Cochin - 5 Star



The Casino hotel is the group's oldest property, dating to 1957, when it catered to a clientele of rough sailors coming off the ships in the harbour. As you'll see, the establishment has come a long way since then.

### Thekkady Wild Corridor - Thekkady - 4 Star



A secluded, Substantial, Eco- friendly , Elevated boutique retreat offering top of the range luxury accommodation situated on a jungle mountain slope, overlooking thousands of acres of lush green valley , uninterrupted view and the glorious sunrise. A heaven of 13 elevated Villas with 33 spacious private rooms and 2 spacious private villas, offering both luxury and wilderness experience, and yet is only 5-8 mins drive from the world famous Periyar Tiger Reserve near Thekkady

### Rainbow Deluxe A.C. Houseboat - Kumarakom - Alleppey



Rainbow Cruises, With Gold Star Rating, is the finest Houseboats in God's own country. A floating holiday on the backwaters highway with Rainbow Cruises is perhaps the most enchanting holiday experience in the world. Step aboard and the native oars men will take you to an amazing world of delights and tranquility with a blend of nature in its entire traditional splendor pampering all your senses and rejuvenating your body

### Uday Samudra Beach Hotel - Kovalam - 4 Star



UDS located at the famed beaches of Kovalam, just 15 meters from the sea, is an exclusive 4 Star leisure beach hotel - a destination by itself. The setting, facilities, people, spa, cuisine and its whole philosophy is dedicated to your personal wellness in a luxurious environment. Just by being at UDS, your stresses start to flutter away; the landscaping has its own serenity, a harmony of a defined architecture, spacious lawns, blue water pools and soaring coconut grooves all set in four tranquil acres by the sea.

### **Fortune Pandiyan - Madurai - 4 Star**



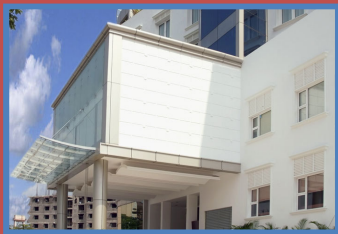
Experience the traditional warmth and hospitality of South India blended sophisticated elegance and modern beauty. The newly renovated Fortune Pandiyan Hotel is set amidst 3 acres of landscaped gardens and offers premium standards in accommodation, cuisine and personalized service.

### **Hotel Sangam - Tanjore - 4 Star**



HOTEL SANGAM located in Thanjavur is just 50 kms from Trichy Airport , 1 Km from Railway Station, 2 Kms from down-town Area. Well designed rooms, luxuriously furnished with all modern amenities. A spectacular view of the Brahadeeshwara Temple and true South Indian hospitality.

### **Hotel Atithi - Pondicherry -4 Star**



Hotel Atithi is the perfect choice for the discerning traveler. This charming four star hotel standing tall with a majestic presence at the threshold of Pondicherry is the icon of hospitality in the city. Hotel Atithi offers 60 well appointed rooms including Standard, Superior, Suites and it is equipped with a multi cuisine restaurant, 24 hour coffee shop, bar, gym and roof top swimming pool where one can indulge in panoramic views of the vicinity.

### **The Pride Hotel - Chennai - 4 Star**



Located in the city center, The Pride, Chennai presents 115 aesthetically-designed luxurious rooms with an exclusive 24 hour coffee shop, multi-cuisine restaurant, bar, roof-top restaurant, two banquet halls, board room, business center, health club, swimming pool and a lot more.

## General Conditions:

- ❖ The prices are on Per Person on Twin Sharing basis in US\$.
- ❖ All prices are subject to any revision of tax and tariff structure.
- ❖ In case there is a further fuel hike we will be forced to charge a fuel surcharge.
- ❖ Jewish synagogues -Cochin is closed on Friday & Saturday.
- ❖ If the US \$ devalues by 5 % or More, BTS – India reserves the right to re-invoice for the correct price or service. A Refund after deducting the administration charges and any kind of cancellation charges towards air, rail tickets, will be made to passengers who choose not to pay an increase, provided BTS-India receives a written cancellation within five days of the price increase notification.
- ❖ Please Note that Smoking is prohibited in Public and all parts of the hotels except in designated bedrooms, where smoking is permitted. Should you desire a smoking bedroom, please let us know. The fulfilment of this request is subject to availability.

## Fuel Surcharges:

All package prices include fuel surcharges based upon prevailing rates at the time of agreements with suppliers. Fuel surcharges are subject to change without notice due to fluctuating oil prices. BTS INDIA reserves the right to amend tour prices at any time prior to receiving your final tour payment due to increases in fuel surcharges imposed by suppliers including airlines, cruise lines, motor coach companies and hotels. **To avoid potential increases, you may choose to pay for your tour package in full at any time. Once Full payment has been received by BTS INDIA, BTS INDIA will not charge any fuel surcharge.**

For Reservations Contact us at:

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