



INDO ASIA TOURS

Highlights of South India

PTMPPT005

Please contact specialtours@indoasiatours.com

Cochin - Kumarakom - Periyar - Madurai

06 Nights / 07 Days

Travel Proposal

Ref No. 55417





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Program at a glance

Day	City	Hotels		
		Accommodation	Room Type	Meals
Day 01: Sat, 07 Oct, 2023	Delhi / Cochin	Brunton Boatyard	Sea facing Room	--/--/--
Day 02: Sun, 08 Oct, 2023	Cochin	Brunton Boatyard	Sea facing Room	B/--/-
Day 03: Mon, 09 Oct, 2023	Cochin / Kumarakom	Coconut Lagoon	Heritage Bungalow	B/-/-
Day 04: Tue, 10 Oct, 2023	Kumarakom / Periyar	Spice Village	Spice Garden Cottage	B/-/-
Day 05: Wed, 11 Oct, 2023	Periyar	Spice Village	Spice Garden Cottage	B/--/--
Day 06: Thu, 12 Oct, 2023	Periyar / Madurai	Taj Pasumalai	Premium Room Garden view	B/--/--
Day 07: Fri, 13 Oct, 2023	Madurai Departure			

*Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Program Details

Day 01: SAT: 07 OCT 23

Arrive at Cochin (AI 831 – Dep. 1105 hrs / Arr. 1425 hrs)

Today, you will be transferred to Delhi airport to connect the flight to Cochin. On arrival, you will be greeted and assisted by our representative and transferred to the hotel. **(Room will be available from 1400)**

Cochin - Located in the state of Kerala, Cochin or Kochi is an important port city on the southwest coast of the country. A prominent trading center on the Indian spice trading route since the 14th century, it was occupied by the Portuguese in 1503 and later by the Dutch and the British. The blending of the architectural styles of the colonizers with that of the natives has created a unique cityscape. Some unusual sights that one can see in Cochin are Chinese fishing nets, unique to this region, and quaint, quiet localities like the Jewish Quarters. Set on a cluster of islands with the azure waters of the Arabian sea to one side and Kerala's emerald backwaters to the



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other, Cochin truly is the “Queen of the Arabian Sea”. On arrival in Cochin, transfer to hotel.

Later in the evening enjoy Kathakali dance drama in a public theater - A special treat awaits us this evening as we proceed to witness the strength and vigor of Kathakali dance drama, as it enacts episodes from great Indian



epics. The extremely stylized gestures, the elaborate make-up, the masks and the splendid costumes of these all-male dancers, recreates an incomparable sense of pageantry.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals: B/--/--

Day 02: SUN: 08 OCT 23

Cochin

After breakfast enjoy a nice **walk around Fort Cochin area** - This walking tour gives you a glimpse into Cochin's rich history and heritage, showcasing the mixed Dutch, Portuguese, British and Jewish influences that make the city unique. During the tour, we will visit the old quarter of **Fort Kochi**, exploring the quaint streets of this city on



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foot. You will also visit Fort Kochi's seaside promenade and get a glimpse of daily life in Kochi. The duration of the walk will be around 02 Hours.

The tour will start from **St. Francis Church**, the oldest church built by Europeans in India. On his 3rd visit to Kerala, Vasco da Gama, the Portuguese trader who reached India from Europe by sea, fell ill and died in Kochi. He was buried in the St. Francis Church. Later his remains were taken back to Portugal. In spite of that, his burial spot inside the church has been clearly marked out. After spending around 30 Minutes here a short walk will take you to **Santa Cruz Basilica** – A Roman Catholic Church with beautiful paintings on the ceiling. Continue your walk and visit **Dutch Cemetery** close to St Francis Church. From here walk around 10 minutes to reach the **Chinese Fishing**



nets (Cheenavala) that are distinctly unique to Cochin and the culmination point of the walk. It is believed that traders from the court of the Chinese ruler Kublai Khan introduced these nets here. Oddly, these nets are found only in Kochi, outside China! Many fishermen earn their livelihood by fishing using these massive nets. A whole stretch of the coast along Fort Kochi and Vypeen are dotted with these nets. The walk will end here, and your vehicle will pick you up to dive back to the hotel.

Later, return to the hotel and the evening is at Leisure.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals: B/--/--



INDO ASIA TOURS

Day 03: MON: 09 OCT 23

Cochin / Kumarakom (Approx. 60 Kms / 02 hrs drive)

After breakfast drive to Kumarakom. **Kumarakom** - A backwater hamlet bestowed with a wealth of natural beauty, Kumarakom in the south Indian state of Kerala is situated on soil reclaimed from the Vembanad Lake. Kumarakom, a combination of two words, Kumaran, the name of a venerated local deity, and Akam meaning “domicile”, which



translates as “the residence of Lord Kumaran”. With lush paddy fields, coconut groves, water lilies, and mangrove forests till where the eye can see, Kumarakom’s verdant vistas are truly mesmerizing.

On arrival in Kumarakom, transfer to hotel and check in.

The day is at leisure to relax at the resort.

In the evening, enjoy **Sunset boat cruise**.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals: B/--/--

Day 04: TUE: 10 OCT 23

Kumarakom / Periyar (Approx. 140 Kms / 04 hrs drive)

After breakfast, drive to Periyar. **PERIYAR** - Periyar National Park is situated in the hills of the Western Ghats. The centrepiece of Periyar National park is the 5,500-hectare Periyar lake formed by the construction of a dam on the Periyar river in 1895. The dam submerged low-lying forest whose dead tree trunks still jut out of the waters. Along the fringes of the lake are marshy areas with tall grasslands. This is one of the richest habitats of large mammals, as it provides both excellent cover and nourishment in the form of succulent shoots and grasses. Periyar is a veritable paradise of elephants. Herds of playful wild elephants can be seen near the Periyar lake, their favorite haunt for frolicking in the water.

On arrival in Periyar, transfer to hotel.

In the evening enjoy Kalaripayattu performance at a local theatre - The word Kalari meaning battlefield or combat arena and the first references to this form of martial arts and warfare, can be traced back to the Sangam literature era between 300 BC and 300 AD. It is said after learning the art in India, Buddhist monks later spread it to the Shaolin temples as Shaolin Kung Fu.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals: B/--/--

Day 05: WED: 11 OCT 23

Periyar

After breakfast enjoy the visit of Periyar including following:

Enjoy Boat ride at Periyar National Park - Enjoy a Boat Ride in the Periyar National Park. Boat cruises are the best option to explore this reserve and to check out the wilds of Periyar Sanctuary as it forms the major watershed of two important rivers of Kerala, the Periyar and the Pamb. Although it is unusual to see many animals from the boats, still, you may with a bit of luck spot elephants, wild boar, and Sambar Deer by the edge of the water along with breathtaking views of the reserve.

In the afternoon, enjoy the visit to **Spice Plantation**.

Spice Plantation Tour - Enjoy a fascinating and informative visit to a spice plantation as this beautiful town is host



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to some of the most exquisite spices in the country. The visit will enable you to have a deeper understanding of how the spices (used in everyday cooking) are grown, harvested, and processed before they find their way to your



local supermarket. It will also give you a firsthand idea, on the wonderful world of spices and its history, cultivation, medicinal values, economics, etc. The visit is a must for those who care for taste and flavours.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals: B/--/--

Day 06: THU: 12 OCT 23

Periyar / Madurai (Approx. 160 Kms / 04 hrs drive)

After breakfast, drive to Madurai.

Madurai: According to Hindu mythology, the city of Madurai in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu was created when King Kulasekhara Pandya dreamt of drops of madhu or honey dripping down from the matted locks of the Hindu god Shiva. The place where the madhu fell was called Madhupuri, which eventually became Madurai. Located along the banks of Vaigai River, Madurai is also called the “Athens of the East”. A place of great historical

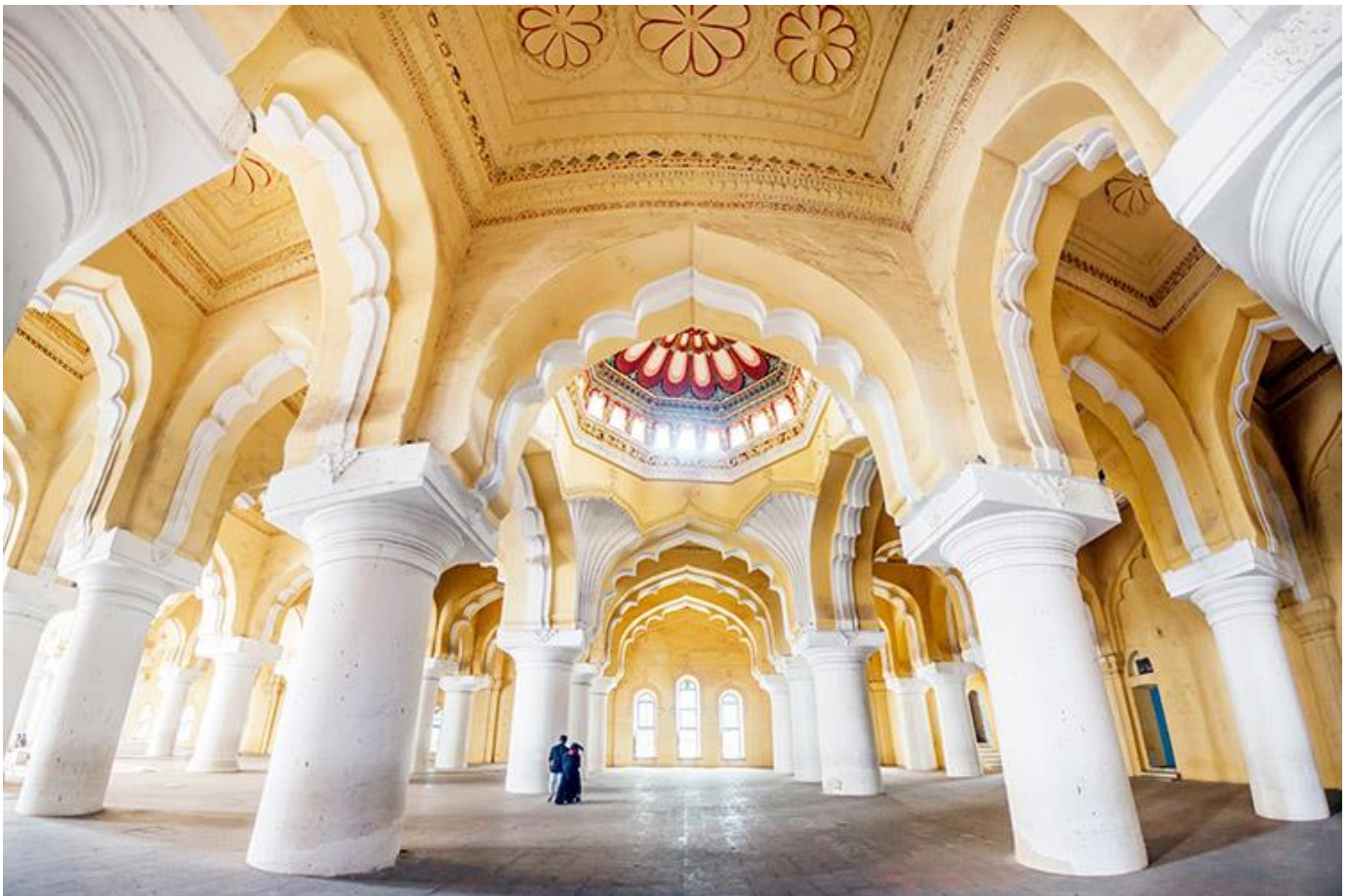


INDO ASIA TOURS

and cultural importance because of its temples, monuments, and ancient cultural wonders, Madurai has earned several sobriquets such as “Temple City”, “The Cultural Capital of Tamil Nadu”, “The City of Jasmine”, and “The City that Never Sleeps”.

On arrival in Madurai, transfer to hotel and check in.

Later, enjoy the visit to following:



Tirumalai Nayak Mahal - This palace (Mahal) was built by Thirumalai Naicker, the greatest of Nayakkar kings of Madurai & is the place where Thirumalai Naicker lived and held his court. The Nayaks ruled on Madurai from 1545 till 1740, after the Pandya kings. The palace complex area was originally four times bigger than it is now, consisting of two portions – Swarga vilasa and Ranga vilasa. Other portions like the palace shrine, harem, theatre, royal bandstand, armoury, and other structures were used to accommodate palanquins, royal chariots, relatives, servants, guests, and other regal paraphernalia.



INDO ASIA TOURS

Meenakshi Devi Temple: A splendid example of Dravidian architecture, it is nearly 2000 years old and located in the heart of the old town. The present temple was designed in 1560, by Vishwanatha Nayak and subsequently built, during the reign of Tirumalai Nayak. There are four entrances to the temple, within an area of six hectares. Each of its 12 towers has a height of around 45 to 50 meters. The temple museum has 985 richly carved pillars and each one surpasses the other in its beauty. The Potramai Kulam or the Golden Lotus Tank is the place where the Tamil literacy society, called Sangam used to meet, to decide the merits of the work presented to them. IMP: It remains closed from 1200 hrs till 1530 hrs. and stop



In the evening enjoy ceremony at Meenakshi Temple - Visit the Meenakshi Temple in the evening and attend the evening ceremony known as the 'Bed time of Gods'. Every night, this ceremony is performed, in which an image of Lord Shiva is carried out from his shrine by temple priests, accompanied by musicians and temple singers, as a procession in a palanquin, to the shrine of his consort Goddess Meenakshi, where he'll spend the night. During the ceremony, a traditional puja (ceremonial worship) is performed, amidst chanting, drum beating, and holy smoke. It is a treat to the eyes and worth witnessing.

Overnight at the hotel.

Meals: B/--/--



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Day 07: FRI: 13 OCT

Madurai / Delhi Departure (6E 2088 Dep. 1425 hrs / Arr. 1735 hrs)

After breakfast transfer to the airport to board a flight for onward destination or back. **(Room will be available till 1200 hrs only)**

End of Services

Price Details

Valid for above dates

Slab	Prices
02-05 Pax	USD 705 per person sharing a double / twin room
06 Pax onwards	USD 612 per person sharing a double / twin room
Single Room Supplement	USD 275 per single Room
Airfare Supplement	USD 266 per person in economy class
Delhi / Cochin Madurai / Delhi	This is the presently available special fare and is subject to change until ticketed.

Cost Includes	Cost does not include
* Double / Twin room on sharing basis	X Any airfares.
* Daily Breakfast.	X Any expenditure of personal nature such as drinks, tips, laundry, telephone charges etc.
* TRANSPORTATION: All ground transportation, as detailed in the itinerary using air-conditioned transport 02-03 pax: Toyota Innova Crysta 04-07 pax: Tempo Traveller 08-14 Pax: A.C Mini Coach	X Any new tax imposed by the Govt.



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15 Pax onwards: A.C Large Coach	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For 02-05 Pax, we will be providing the services of English speaking local guide• For 06 pax onwards, services of an Accompanying English-speaking tour guide from arrival in Cochin till departure in Madurai (Not staying in the same hotels)	
Kathakali Dance performance in Cochin	
Kalaripattu in Periyar	
* Boat ride ride Periyar	
* Monument entrance fee.	
* Currently applicable taxes	