

**TOUR NAMR: SOUTH INDIA TOUR**  
**TOUR DAYS: 22 NIGHTS & 23 DAYS**

**CHENNAI (ARRIVAL) – MAMALLAPURAM – TANJORE - KUMBAKONAM – TRICHY – MADURAI – KOVALAM – ALLEPPEY – COCHIN –ATHIRAMPALLY - METUPALAYAM - MUDUMALAI – MYSORE – BANGALORE (DEPARTURE)**

**TOUR LODGING INFO: 21 Nights Hotels +01 night in house boat**

Accommodation is provided on room with breakfast basis at the listed hotels or equivalent. For Lunch and dinner there would be an additional supplement. Except on House Boat the accommodation will on full board basis. We have used Standard category comprising of 03 star hotels. A hotel list is as follows:

PLACES COVERED	NO OF NIGHTS	HOTEL	ROOM TYPE
Mamallapuram	05	Mamalla heritage	Standard AC Room
Tanjore	01	Gnanam	Deluxe AC Room
Kumbakonam	01	Paradise resorts	Neragathu Veedu
Trichy	01	Grand Grandenia	Standard AC Room
Madurai	02	Madurai residency	Premium Deluxe Room
Kovalam	04	Jasmine Palace	Standard Room
Alleppey	01	AC House boat	AC Houseboat
Cochin	01	Four Seasons	Standard AC Room
Athirampally	01	Rain forest	Luxury Room
Mettupalyam	01	EMS Mayura	Standard AC Room
Mudumalai	02	Jungle retreat	Standard Room
Mysore	02	United 21	Standard Room

**TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- Accommodation on twin sharing basis at listed hotels or equivalent
- Transportation/Transfers by Air Conditioned vehicle for entire tour as per itinerary
- Traditional Dinner in Mamallapuram
- One night Accommodation at House boat on full board basis , cruises : Alleppey - Round trip
- Toy Train tickets from Coonoor – Ooty
- Bicycle Rishaw tour in Madurai
- Kathakali Dance show tickets
- All applicable taxes

**TOUR PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- Meals other than those listed in above inclusions
- Entrances fees, camera fees, Special guides
- Expenses of personal nature such as tipping, porters, laundry, telephones, etc.
- Inland/International flight charges if any
- All other than those listed in above inclusions

## **TOUR ITINERARY:**

### **DAY 01 :**

Room Reserved for early check in .

### **DAY 02 : ARRIVAL CHENNAI / TRF TO MAMALLAPURAM**

Upon arrival in Chennai Airport you are transferred to Mamallapuram. Check in and rest of the day free for own activities. (Overnight stay in Mamallapuram).

### **DAY 03 : MAMALLAPURAM**

Day free for own Activities. (Over night in Mamallapuram) No transport.

### **DAY 04 : MAMALLAPURAM SIGHTSEEING**

After breakfast depart for the sightseeing of Mamallapuram visiting - "Arjuna's Penance" the large bas-relief on **the face of a huge rock which depicts animals, deities and other semi divine creatures, the "Five Rathas", composed of five monolithic temples where each temple is created in a different style and derive their names from** the champions of the Mahabharata. Afterwards, we visit the world heritage listed "Shore Temple", a small romantic temple in the final phase of Palava art. For Dinner we take you to a traditional Indian restaurant. . Return to hotel (Overnight stay in Mamallapuram) No transport.

### **DAY 05 : MAMALLAPURAM**

Day free for own Activities. (Over night in Mamallapuram) No transport.

### **DAY 06 : MAMALLAPURAM - TANJORE - (220km/5h)**

Depart from hotel and drive to Thanjavur - Dozens of temple architecture of Chola dynasty are scattered all over the town. Enroute we stop at Chidambaram is famous for the Nataraja Temple. Chidambaram deified Shiva in his most poetic form as the Cosmic Dancer by building this temple & Gangaikonda Cholapuram where you sight a famous Shiva Temple featured by its beautiful high towers and full with many small sculptures depicting stories from old epics. (Over night in Tanjore).

### **DAY 07 : TANJORE - (40km/1.5h)**

Morning after Breakfast we proceed visit Brahadeshwara Temple, an exquisite example of the Chola architecture built by Raja Chola in 10th Century AD, declared a world heritage monument with several pillared halls, shrines and 250 Linga enshrined along the outer walls. The Royal palace museum has a superb collection of Chola bronze statues from 9th to 18<sup>th</sup> and then to to Dharasuram, where we visit "Airatesvara Temple" constructed in 12th century by Raja Raja II in memory of the white elephant Airavath ,we drive to Leprosy Centre & further proceed to Visit the Kumbakonam temples . (Over Night in Kumbakonam).

### **DAY 08 : KUMBAKONAM - TRICHY - (125km /5h)**

After breakfast check out from the hotel and drive towards Trichy. Afternoon we visit 'Srirangam' one of the most important pilgrims center, which is located in an Island just 7 km from Trichy. The little Island of a town flanked by the rivers Cavery and Kollidam from both sides is enclosed within seven walls of the gigantic Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple with 21 Gopurams, among that Rajagopuram is the largest one. Next we will visit the spectacular Rock Fort temple, 83 m high rocky outcrop, it has main two temples: Sri Thayumanaswamy Temple, dedicated to Shiva, halfway to the top and Vinayaka temple which is dedicated to Ganesh. It is a stiff climb to the top up the 437 stone - cut Steps from where you can get wonderful view from the top. In evening optional visit of Gandhi Market - one among most interesting markets in South India. (Over night in Trichy).

**DAY 09 : TRICHY - MADURAI - (95km/4h)**

After breakfast check out from the hotel and drive to Madurai – the old city of Tamilnadu. The name Madurai reminds the city of the legend that a drop of sweet nectar from the hair of the god Shiva fell to earth here. ‘Madhuram’ means ‘sweet’ in Sanskrit. On arrival check in to hotel and rest of the day free for own activities. (Overnight stay in Madurai).

**DAY 10 : MADURAI SIGHTSEEING**

After breakfast depart for the sightseeing of Madurai in the bicycle rickshaw. The Bi-Cycle Rickshaw tour of Madurai offers you a memorable experience of being in this old city. It takes you to the interesting narrow streets & lanes of Madurai showing the typical life of people in here. The Rickshaw pullers of Madurai were getting very unpopular with the locals, as the locals preferred the more modern mode of transport. The Cycle Rickshaw - the most eco friendly form of transport was fast being phased out, and the hundred and twenty rickshaw pullers of Madurai were being deprived of a lively hood, as they were unable to buy the modern forms of transport like the auto rickshaw/taxi etc. To give these pullers another lease of life we at Hi-tours have designed this tour as part of our commitment to promote responsible tourism. By taking this tour you are supporting the rickshaw pullers and at the same time, encouraging the locals to use the rickshaws and all of this in a very eco friendly way. By Cycle Rickshaw we visit - Flower/Fruit & Spice Market, Tirumalai Nayak Palace, Gandhi Museum ( closed on Monday ) , Small scale Industry like Vessel making & Cloth making. (Overnight stay in Madura).

**DAY 11 : MADURAI - KOVALAM - (290km / 6.5h)**

After breakfast check out of the hotel and drive towards Kovalam – the land of beaches. Enroute visit Padmanabhapuram Palace (closed on Monday), an archaeological museum which contains fine architectural works, sculptures, mural paintings and old weapons. Enroute visit to rubber plantation Banana plantation & waterfalls. On arrival check in the hotel and rest of the day free for own activities. (Overnight stay in Kovalam).

**DAY 12 - 14 in KOVALAM**

Free for own activities. (Overnight stay in Kovalam)  
*(No transport provided).*

**DAY 15 : KOVALAM – ALLEPPEY - (165km / 4.5h)**

Cruises: Alleppey Round trip

After breakfast check out of the hotel and drive towards Alleppey. On arrival check in to the private house boat in Alleppey, which take you on a tour to the splendid area full of canals, lakes and coves. You can sunbathe on the deck or observe the landscape from the protection of the cabin. The population’s whole life takes place on the water. The people sail, fish, swim and bathe there. They do their washing and their washing up. They are so adapted to the water that you can see people talking for an hour, while they are up to their necks in water. Canoes with huge sails still transport people and you can find vegetable sellers, fisherman and other household materials being brought door to door by small wooden boats. This whole area is surrounded with coconut palms and lush green rice fields. The major cropping here is coconut and it is said that the name KERALA comes from the old name of coconut - KERA. (Overnight onboard houseboat).

**DAY 16 : ALLEPPEY – COCHIN - (65km/1h)**

Depart from House boat and drive to Cochin A port town since early centuries, Cochin, also known as the spice coast of India, attracted traders and invaders from the world over. Needless to say, Cochin offers you some fascinating snippets of history and culture. Afternoon we proceed for sightseeing tour of Cochin visiting - 'The St. Francis Church', the oldest European Church in India, 'The Santa Cruz Basilica' originally built in 1557 by the Portuguese, The Dutch Palace, and Spice market at the narrow streets. Evenings by the Chinese fishing area are very lively with the daily fish market in here. All the live catch from time to time comes to sale. If you are a person who likes to eat fish, then you can buy very fresh fish from here and ask the nearby restaurant to cook the same for you. In the evening visit to see the famous dance drama of Kerala, the Kathakali. This dance is characterised by some great story telling, amazing costumes and extensive make-up. Overnight stay in Cochin.

Jewish Synagogue & Dutch Palace are closed on FRIDAY & Saturday.

**DAY 17 : COCHIN - ATHIRAMPALLY - (65km/1.5h)**

After breakfast check out of the hotel and drive towards Athirampally.- Athirampally is the land of rivers and forests and great waterfalls! The destination houses the largest waterfall in Kerala, the Athirampally waterfall, a major tourist attraction. This patch in Sholayar ranges so beautifully intertwined with lush green forest cover and sizzling silver cascades. On arrival check in the hotel and rest of the day free for own activities. (Overnight stay in Athirampally).

**DAY 18 : ATHIRAMPALLY TO METUPALAIYAM - (240km / 4.5h)**

Check out from the hotel and drive towards Metupalaiyam. On arrival check in the hotel and rest of the day free for own activities. (Overnight stay in Metupalaiyam).

**DAY 19 : METUPALAIYAM –COONOR TO OOTY (BY TOY TRAIN) MUDUMALAI**

*# 662 MTP UAM PASSR; Coonoor /10.40; ooty: 12.05*

Morning after early breakfast, we depart to Coonoor Railway to connect toy train trip Ooty .Further continue drive towards Mudumalai - a 321-km<sup>2</sup> park, situated in the foothills of the Nilgiri at an elevation of 1000m is the forest area between Kerala and Karnataka and it is one of the best sanctuaries in South India where nature has been lavish in providing this sanctuary with thickly wood hills, plateaus, deep valleys, waterfalls, rivers, marshes and streams. Evening (optional will cost Extra) we go jeep safari on River side of the forest. (Overnight stay in Mudumalai).

**DAY 20, MUDUMALAI**

Day free for own activities. (Over night in Mudumalai).

**DAY 21 : MUDHUMALAI TO MYSORE - (110km / 4.5h)**

Check out of the hotel and drive towards Mysore. Enroute visit to Sera and Namdrolling Budhist centre. On arrival check in the hotel and rest of the day free for own activities. (Overnight stay in Mysore).

**DAY 22 : MYSORE SIGHTSEEING**

On a sightseeing tour in Mysore we will visit Maharaja's Palace (Daily10:00am-5: 30pm). Built in Indo Saracenic style with domes, turrets, arches and colonnades, the Palace is a treasure house of exquisite carvings and works of art from all over the world it was once the residence of Wodeyars. Intricately carved doors open to luxuriously furnished rooms. The majestic Durbar Hall has an ornate ceiling and many sculpted pillars. In the evening we will visit Chamundi Hill Standing as the crown jewel of Mysore, Chamundi Hills is the abode of all-powerful Goddess, Chamundi or Chamundeswari with its carved in granite bull. (Overnight stay in Mysore).

**DAY 23 : MYSORE – BANGALORE - (140km/3.5hr)**

*Jet Air 9W-448 DEP BLR 18:40 hrs / ARR Bombay 20:25 hrs*

Depart from hotel and Drive to visit Somnathpur Temple, the village is famous for its splendid and grand Keshava temple that has been built in the Hoyasala style. The temple is famous for its elaborate and intricate sculpturing. The temple is enclosed in a walled courtyard that has a gate and a porch. The temple is built on an elevated star shaped platform further drive to Bangalore airport to board the onward flight to respective destination.

**END OF SERVICES.**