

**Southern India -
Coconuts and Spices**

Land only All taxes included

From \$4 957 15 days and 29 meals

**Chennai – Mahaballipuram – Pondichery – Tanjore –
Karaikudi- Madurai – Periyar –Allapuzha – Kochi –
Bangalore - Mysore - Mumbai**

Southern India is noteworthy for the exuberant architecture of the Dravidian people, and preserves many remains of the Portuguese, French, Dutch and English explorers that established their trade missions here to control the spice trade.

**Guaranteed departure
with 2 persons**

**Individual tour with
private guide and
driver**

Day 1

Mumbai

Arrival in Mumbai. Meeting and transfer to your hotel near the airport.

Day 2

Mumbai – Chennai (by plane)

Fly to Chennai, meet and transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon, a short city tour including the Marina built in 1842 which follows the beach for 13 Km. Optional visit to the Government Arts Museum with its fine bronzes. (Closed Fridays) (B)

Day 3

Chennai – Mahaballipuram

Chennai is the capital of Tamil Nadu, or Tamil country. City tour including Fort St George built in 1650 and its museum, also St Mary's Church, the first English church in India and the oldest British building to survive. Visit the Mylapore temple area to see the 16th century Kapleswarar temple and the vegetable and flower market. After lunch transfer to Mahaballipuram. On arrival check into the hotel. Overnight at the hotel. (B.D)

Day 4

Mahaballipuram – Kanchipuram - Mahaballipuram

After breakfast, drive to Kanchipuram, which is one of Hinduism's seven most sacred cities. Apart from being a center of pilgrimage, it is also famous for its silk weavers. After lunch at Kanchipuram, proceed to Mamallapuram. This open-air museum of Tamil art in living rock includes cave temples, an enormous bas-relief depicting scenes from the Indian epic the Mahabharata, and an amphitheatre of chariot shaped temples. The landmark of this marvellous collection is the Shore

Temple, an UNESCO a World Heritage monument. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B.D)

Day 5

Mahaballipuram – Pondicherry

After breakfast at the hotel depart for Pondicherry. On the way, stop in Auroville and Aurobindo Ashram. On arrival transfer to the hotel. After lunch, visit of the city, which consists of four former French coastal settlements transferred to India in 1954. See Raj Nivas, former residence of the Lieutenant Governor, (exterior only) the Romain Rolland Library, the Pondicherry museum, the Holy Heart of Jesus Church, with its three large stained glass windows, Notre Dame des Anges Church and its two remarkable towers, and the Institute of Indian History. Dinner and overnight at the Hotel. (B.D)

Day 6

Pondicherry – Tanjore

Drive to Tanjore. City tour including the Brahadeeswarara Temple, built in 1009, and listed as one of the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B.D)

Day 7

Tanjore- Madurai (158Km)

After breakfast, drive to Madurai, city of nectar,. Stop in Karaikudi to see a dance school, palatial houses and a tile factory. Lunch at a local restaurant. Drive to Madurai an important trade centre since the 6th Century, whose old town was laid out in the pattern of a lotus with the Meenakshi Temple at the centre. After dinner, attend an Evening Prayer ceremony at Meenakshi Temple, Overnight at the hotel. (B.L.D)

Day 8

Madurai

Enjoy a stroll in the vegetable market and the tailor's street where clothing is still made on old pedal machines. An interesting insight on local economies. In the afternoon, visit the Meenakshi Temple : it is an outstanding structure dedicated to the "fish eyed goddess", and profusely covered in very colourful carvings, which are believed to be an encyclopaedia of Indian dance poses. Visit Tirumalai Nayak Palace, built in 1636 and restored partially in 1870. (B.D)

Day 9

Madurai - Periyar (160Km)

Departure for Periyar National Park, one of the most beautiful natural reserves in India. Check into the hotel. Then enjoy a boat ride to observe the elephant, deer and gaur herds. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B.D)

Day 10

Periyar – Allapuzha (180Km) – Cruise

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to Allapuzha. Board your houseboat for a two day one night cruise on the backwaters. These former rice boats each have their own chef, private kitchen and one to three cabins. Along the way you will pass rice fields, tiny villages, boats transporting children to school and farmers transporting their produce to the market, as well as women completing household tasks such as laundry and washing utensils. Lunch will be served on board the houseboat. Dinner and overnight on the houseboat. (B.L.D)

India

Day 11

Allapuzha – Kochi (90Km)

Disembark from the houseboat at Allapuzha jetty and drive one hour to Kochi. On arrival check into the hotel. Depart for a city tour of Kochi. Visit Mattanchery Palace, built by the Portuguese in 1557 and renovated by the Dutch in 1663. Continue with the oldest synagogue in the region and St. Francis' Church, where Vasco Da Gama was buried. Observe local fishermen working with their Chinese fishing nets, and the spice market. This evening attend a dance performance including Kathakali with its spectacular costumes and make-up. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B.D)

Day 12

Kochi – Bangalore – Mysore (by plane and car)

Morning transfer to the airport for the short flight to Bangalore. Meeting and drive

to Mysore. On the way, visit Somnathpur, and the famous temple of Kesava built in the late 13th century. A walk around the temple will allow you to admire the bands of sculptured figures that are particularly fine. Overnight at the hotel. (B.D)

Day 13

Mysore

Tour this ancient royal capital, which is famous for its silks, sandalwood and various palaces, including the largest palace in India and its art gallery, built in Indo-Persian style in 1897 by Henry Irwin, an English architect. Visit Chamun Deswari Temple dedicated to the goddess Kali, and continue on to Chamundi Hill, from where you have a panoramic view of the city. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (B.D)

Day 14

Mysore – Bangalore - Mumbai (by airplane)

Drive back to Bangalore, the Silicon Valley of India as well as a city of gardens, parks

and stately buildings. The city tour includes Lal Bagh, a botanical garden laid out by Hyder Ali in the 17th century; It has a rare collection of trees, plants and herbs from many countries. The tour ends with the Bull Temple dedicated to Shiva's vehicle, the bull Nandi. Transfer to the airport for the flight to Mumbai. Meeting and transfer to the hotel. (B.D)

Day 15

Mumbai

Morning tour of the Elephanta caves. Return to the hotel for check out. Your luggage can be kept in storage until departure this evening. Continue the tour with the Gateway of India, pass the Afghan Church, and Marine Drive. Stop at the Hanging gardens and a Jain temple. Keep on the lookout for the Dabah Wallahs, Mumbai's delivery boys. Stop at Dobhi Ghat where Mumbai's laundry is washed, and continue on to Crawford Market. Return to the hotel for a change and transfer to the airport. (B.L)



Daily Departure/ Price per person

City	4* Hotels		4* and 5* Hotels	
Mumbai	Ambassador (Sup)	4*	Ambassador (Exec)	4*
Chennai (Madras)	Raddison GRT	4*	Radha Park Inn	5*
Mahaballipuram	GRT Hotel Temple Bay	4*	Fisherman's Cove	5*
Pondicherry	Le Duplex	4*	Le Duplex	4*
Tanjore	Sangam	4*	Sangam	4*
Madurai	GRT Regency	4*	Taj Garden Retreat	5*
Periyar	Spice Village	4*	Cardamon County	5*
Allapuzha	AC Houseboat		AC Houseboat	
Kochi	Taj Malabar	4*	Trident	4*
Mysore	Royal Orchid Metropole	4*	Reegalis	4*
Mumbai	Ambassador (Sup)	4*	Ambassador (Exec)	4*
Daily departure	Double occ.	Single suppl.	Double occ.	Single suppl.
April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010	\$ 4957	\$ 1650	\$ 5931	\$ 2162

Surcharge per room per night

Hotels	City	Dec. 23 – 27, 2009	Dec. 28, 2009 – Jan. 5, 2010
Fisherman's Cove	Mahaballipuram	\$ 123	\$ 256
Taj Garden	Madurai	\$ 53	\$ 100
Taj Malabar	Kochi	\$ 130	\$ 240

Surcharge per room per night

Hotels	City	Dec. 21 2009 – Jan. 10 2010
GRT Hotel Temple Bay	Mahaballipuram	\$ 47
GRT Regency	Madurai	\$ 40
Cardamon County	Periyar	\$ 63
Spice Village	Periyar	\$ 70
AC Houseboat	Allapuzha	\$ 90
Le Duplex	Pondicherry	\$ 73

Surcharge per room per night

Hotels	City	Dec. 21 2009 – Jan. 10 2010
GRT Hotel Temple Bay	Mahaballipuram	\$ 47
GRT Regency	Madurai	\$ 40
Cardamon County	Periyar	\$ 63
Spice Village	Periyar	\$ 70
AC Houseboat	Allapuzha	\$ 90
Le Dupleix	Pondicherry	\$ 73

Your package includes :

- Three domestic flights;
- Accommodation in the hotels of your choice in double occupancy or single with supplement;
- Hotel taxes and service charges;
- Tours, excursions and cruise as per the itinerary by air-conditioned vehicle;
- Local English speaking guides;
- Meals mentioned in itinerary;
- Handling of one piece of baggage (20Kg);
- Tours Hai International travel bag.

Not included :

- Visa fees : CA \$115; (please provide the Tours Hai International general form, and the Indian Government visa form duly completed and signed, 2 passport size photos and the original passport which must be valid six months after the return to Canada.)
- Local airport taxes payable on location;
- Meals not mentioned in itinerary;
- Drinks, gratuities, and expenses of a personal nature;
- Travel insurance.

