

Travel through South India's stunning architecture, wildlife and water world. ▼



The coastal area of South India is surrounded by the Great Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. Tourism in South India comprising of five states Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territories of Puducherry (Pondicherry) and Lakshadweep. South India offers large no. of tourism possibilities from age old history, diversified culture, amazingly carved Hindu temples, Flora and Fauna, Backwaters of Kerala, Palaces and obviously gorgeous beaches. The Grand South India Group Tour designed by Max Holidays is an attempt to introduce the travellers to some of the most popular and some less visited tourist attractions of South India. Starting from the Silicon city of Bangalore the journey goes through the great heritage sites of Belur, Hassan, Halebidu, the great palace of Mysore, green mountains of Ooty, Portuguese and Dutch sites of Kozhikode(Calicut) and Kochi (Cochin), calm and quaint backwaters of Kerala, Tiger reserve of Periyar, Temples of Madurai, Trichy, Tanjore and Mahabalipuram, French colony of Puducherry (Pondicherry) and many other awe inspiring sites with will leave you stunned and make these 17 days in India an everlasting travel experience you will cherish forever. Come, explore the grand south India group tour sites with people of similar interest and different region. Contact our travel expert now and check for the availability for your participation.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 01 Arrive Bangalore

The hub of Internet Technology in India, Bangalore or Bengaluru is one of the most important gateway city of South India tourism with benevolent weather conditions, variety of dining options, beautiful gardens, shopping areas and eye catching architecture in its forts and buildings. Arrive Bangalore and get shifted to your hotel for night stay.

Included meals : no meal

Included entrances : no sightseeing trip

Day 02 Bangalore

After delicious breakfast start your South India Tour package with other group members. The first day you will visit most famous tourist attractions of Bangalore.

Visit 16th century Tipu Sultan's Palace which is a French rosewood building, World's largest granite monolith statue of Bull Temple, The botanical gardens of Lalbagh and the finest architecture of Vidhan Soudha.



Included meals : Breakfast

Included Entrances : Tipu Sultan's Palace

Day 03 Bangalore to Hassan

Travel to the quiet and peaceful town of Hassan today. Hassan is about 185 kms

smooth drive away from Bangalore. On the way stop at the Jain pilgrimage site of Shravanabelagola which is famous for 17 meter high naked statue of Gomateshwara (Bahubali). This statue is the tallest monolithic statue in the world. Later continue drive to Hassan which is about 52 kms from Shravanabelagola. Hassan is a suitable place and has convenient access to the great sites of Belur, Halebidu and Mysore.



Included meals : Breakfast

Included Entrances : No Entrance



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Day 04 Hassan to Mysore

In the morning after lavish breakfast in your hotel take a guided trip to the famous sites of Belur and Halebid. Belur is the capital of Hoysala Dynasty is famous for its beautifully carved temples Chenekeshava Temple. Belur is often called as the Benaras (Varanasi) of the South India Tourism and sometimes called by the name of Dakshina Varanasi too. Also visit the beautiful Hoysala Temples at Halebid and then continue drive to Mysore.



Included meals : Breakfast

Included Entrances : Belur temples, Halebid temple

Day 05 Mysore to Ootacamund (Ooty)

This is your fifth day in South India Group Tour package. Today after breakfast you will be taken for sightseeing tour of Mysore visiting the stunning architecture of Mysore Palace, the huge Nandi bull statue at Chamundi Hill, the 12th century Chamundeshwari Temple and Tipu Sultan's summer palace. Later drive to Ooty known as the 'Queen of the Hills' in South India. 7500 ft above sea level in Nilgiri hills Ooty is a picturesque destination, a former summer retreat of British Empire and a favourite destination for honeymoons. Spend relaxed evening in the beautiful atmosphere and surroundings of the destination.

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : Mysore Palace, Chamundi Hills

Day 06 Ooty

Ootacamund popularly known as Ooty is a gem of the Nilgiri hills. The sightseeing trip of Ooty today will include a visit to St. Stephen Church, Ooty Club, beautiful Ooty Lake and Botanical Gardens of Ooty. The

botanical gardens home to more than 2000 species of plants and it is considered to be one of the most popular sight in Ooty. Ooty is also a popular destination for movie shootings in South India.

Included meals : Breakfast

Included Entrances : Botanical Gardens

Day 07 Ooty to Kozhikode (Calicut)

Drive to Kozhikode after breakfast. Also known as Calicut it is an important region of Malabar. It was once the trade and commerce centre for Arab, Chinese and east African traders. It is the place where the Portuguese merchant Vasco Da Gama landed first in India with 3 vessels carrying 170 men. Visit the less crowded and unspoiled Kappad Beach, Beypore Beach, Beypore Fort, Kadalundi Bird sanctuary and Archaeology Museum. Calicut is famous for beautiful beaches, sea port, festivals and hospitable people.



Included meals : Breakfast

Included Entrances : Beypore Fort, Kadalundi Bird Sanctuary, Museum

Day 08 Calicut to Kochi

Known as the 'Gateway to Kerala' and 'Queen of the Arabian Sea' Kochi is a vibrant city on the south-western coast of India. Besides being a prominent commercial port of Kerala, Kochi (or Cochin) is also very popular among travellers for the indelible marks of British, Dutch and Portuguese rule in this part of India. Today, you will drive to Kochi via Guruvayur where the main attractions are the beautiful Guruvayurappan Temple (non-hindu's are not allowed inside the temple) and world's largest elephant

sanatorium and Guruvayura elephant sanctuary.



Upon reaching Kochi, spend leisurely time, and late afternoon witness live Kathakali dance show performed by local artists of Kerala. It can be a good experience to see the artists getting ready for their performance with colourful costumes and painted faces.

Included meals : Breakfast

Included Entrances : Guruvayoor Elephant Sanctuary, Kathakali Show

Day 09 Cochin

In the morning get ready to explore the city of Cochin blended with British, Jewish and Portuguese culture and buildings. The gateway city to the backwaters of Kerala, Cochin sightseeing trip offers a visit to Mattancherry Dutch Palace built by the Portuguese in 1557 and renovated in 1663 by Dutch, more than 100 years old Jewish Synagogue which displays rare antiques, Jews Street, St. Francis Church famous for its architecture and ambience and Chinese fishing net.

Included meals : Breakfast

Included Entrances : Jewish Synagogue, Dutch Palace

Day 10 Kochi to Alleppey

Get ready for a delightful experience of travelling in a backwater houseboat of Kerala today. Have your tasty and healthy breakfast at your hotel and then take a short drive to Alleppey (Alappuzha) which is the hub of all Kerala backwater journeys. On reaching Alleppey check into your air-conditioned houseboat to start your overnight tour to breathtakingly beautiful and calm backwaters of Kerala. Consisting

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of a network of lagoons, lakes and canal the backwaters of Kerala can be best experienced on a Kerala backwater houseboat trip. Sail throughout the day on the backwater, enjoy your meal and have a cup of hot coffee/tea and view the natural beauty of Kerala on the bank of the water bodies. In the evening after sunset, the houseboat will be hooked near the bank and you will enjoy staying and sleeping in your well decorated and well equipped room on the houseboat.



Included meals : Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Included Entrances : No Sightseeing.

Day 11 Alleppey to Periyar

The floating hotel (houseboat) will start sailing on the backwaters after sunrise and you will enjoy watching the early morning activities of the villages on the other side of the bank. Breakfast will be served and after this you will disembark from the houseboat to take drive to your next beautiful destination of Periyar which is also known as Thekkady or Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. Periyar is South India's most popular wildlife sanctuary spread over in an area of 777 sq Kms, having an artificial lake spread in an area of 26 sq kms. Take a spice plantation tour and enjoy boating in the beautiful lake Periyar inside the wildlife reserve. Periyar is also a favourite place of travellers for buying fragrant spices available at the local markets here.

Included meals : Breakfast
Included Entrances : Periyar Forest, Spice Plantation Tour

Day 12 Periyar to Madurai

Having enjoyed the jungle games in Periyar Wildlife Reserve today you move to Madurai. One of the holiest and oldest

cities of India Madurai is the soul of Tamil Nadu state. Travellers both Indians and foreigners visit Madurai mainly to explore the great Meenakshi Amman Temple dedicated to Sundereshwara and his wife Meenakshi (Lord Shiva and Parvati). Situated on the bank of river Vaigai Madurai has rich cultural heritage more than 2500 years old. Also visit Tirumala Nayak temple.



Included meals : Breakfast
Included Entrances : Meenakshi temple, Thirumalainayak Palace

Day 13 Madurai to Tanjore

Jump to Tanjore (or Thanjavur) this morning. A historical town and a temple city of Tamil Nadu, Tanjore was once the capital of Chola Kings. On the way to Tanjore, stop at Trichy to visit the Rock Fort



The day begins with a drive to Tanjore, which is also known to be as Thanjavur a historical town and popularly known as the temple city. It was also once the capital of Chola Empire as well. En route visit to Trichy, you will visit the Rock-Fort that was the citadel of the Chola dynasty in the medieval period. In the 18th century, the fort witnessed the Carnatic wars fought between the French and the English. Lord Robert Clive's and a Danish Church you can also see within the church. The Rock-Fort is the landmark of Trichy. A climb of 434 steps leads to the ancient temple of

Ganapati on top and a further climb to a Shiva temple. After visit continue drive & upon arrival check-in at hotel for 01 night stay.

Later visit to the beautiful Chola Temple of Brihadeshwara which is capped by a monolithic cupola made of a single granite block weighing 80 tons which was taken to the top with the help of a 6 km long ramp, an old technique used by the Egyptians for building pyramids. Its bronzes and handicrafts make Tanjore one of the highlights of a visit to South India. Also you will visit Thanjavur Palace & Museum, which houses a library, museum and art gallery. The area, known for its craft industry, is covered with fertile plains, whose rice plantations cover most of the requirements out of rice for Tamil Nadu.

Included meals : Breakfast
Included Entrances : Tanjore Art Gallery

Day 14 Tanjore-Pondicherry

Today after breakfast head to Pondicherry which was once the French Colonial town and still bestows the same culture. It was taken over by the Indian government in November, 1954. Now Pondicherry is famous for its Auroville ashram which was founded in 1926 by a French woman. The Auroville ashram brings forward spiritual code of belief that represents a fusion of yoga and modern science. Sightseeing tour and a stay at Pondicherry.



Included meals : Breakfast
Included Entrances : no entrance

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Day 15 Pondicherry – Mahabalipuram

Today morning on the Grand south India group tour you visit Mahabalipuram, a town famous for its rocks carvings and monolithic sculptures. Upon arrival check-in at hotel

Later, visit the Shore temple (one of the oldest temples in south India, belonging to the early 8th century AD), Arjuna's penance (the world's largest bas-relief measuring 27m x 9m - this huge rock consists figures of Gods, men, beasts, birds and represents the entire creation) and Five Rathas (five monolithic temples, each having its own style - also known as the "Panch Pandav Rathas").



Included meals : Breakfast

Included Entrances : Five Rathas & Shore Temple

Day 16 Mahabalipuram – Kanchipuram - Mahabalipuram

Today, we will proceed for the day return trip to Kanchipuram, which is one of the seven holy cities in India. In ancient and medieval India, it was considered as a city of learning for both Tamil & Sanskrit and was considered to be visited by Hsuan Tsang, the famous Chinese traveller. The next trip of Day 16 is Kailasanatha Temple, made in 8th Century AD in the typical Pallava style, with a pyramidal tower, a pillared hall & vestibule, enclosed by a wall. Ekambaranatha, ancient temple is dedicated to lord Shiva. The 57 metres high Raj Gopuram in the temple is one of the tallest towers in South India. The 3000 year old mango tree inside the temple has 4 branches each yielding different variety of mangoes. Kamakshi Amman Temple, built

in 12th century AD, as an important Shakthisthalam, known as Parabrahmaroonpini. The main deity is seated on Brahma, Vishnu, Rudra, Eswara & Sadasiva.



Included meals : Breakfast

Included Entrances : No Entrance Fees

Day 17 Mahabalipuram – Chennai – Departure

On the grand group tour of south India, the 17th day begins in the morning with a drive to Chennai, the gateway and the capital of Tamil Nadu. The first destination on arrival on sightseeing of Chennai is government museum that has a good collection of paintings and sculptures both traditional as well as modern.



After that, next spot to be toured in Chennai is Fort St. George that was originally a warehouse for storing stocks, but founding of the St George for security purposes in 1939 led to the birth of city of Chennai. Within the Fort, the museum has many relics from British period in India on display as collection of contemporary paintings as well as rare military paraphernalia as weapons, uniforms, coins, costumes and medals. The Next destination Santhome Cathedral at the southern tip of famous Marina beach features the beautiful stained glass

window at the basilica depicting the story of St Thomas and the central hall that has 14 wooden plaques depicting events from the last days of Christ.

While concluding the 17th day trip the last destination is the eight-century Kapaleeshwarar temple constructed in Pallavan architecture style. Kapaleeshwar Temple is located in Mylapore in Chennai and is considered by the Hindus to be one of the most sacred Hindu pilgrimages in the Southern Part of India.

In time transfer to the airport to catch the flight back to home.

Included meals : Breakfast

Included Entrances : Fort St. George, Museum, Santhome Cathedral Church

What's Included

- **Airport Services** - Private air conditioned car with driver Company staff for airport assistance
- **Accommodation** - 15 nights in handpicked hotels, 01 night in AC Deluxe houseboat
- **Meals** - 16 Breakfasts, 01 Lunch, 01 Dinner
- **Transport** - All ground transport for sightseeing trips
- **Guides / Escorts** - Expert local tour guides for sightseeing tours
- **Entry Tickets** - Monument and museum tickets
- **Activities** - Boat Ride in Periyar, Kathakali Dance, Spice Plantation Visit
- **Other inclusions** - Govt of India taxes and Company service charges

What's not included

- **Flights** - International or domestic flights are not included
- **Travel insurance** - Please carry a valid travel insurance
- **Visa** - Visa fee and charges
- **Other Fees** - Video / still camera fees wherever it is applicable
- **Meals** - Meals not specified
- **Personal Expenses** - Any kind of personal expenses/bills



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Accommodation style

Grand South India tour package offers you ultimate mixture of accommodation style. 10 nights at modern city hotels, 02 nights in hill resort at Ooty, 01 night at Periyar in a wildlife lodge, 01 night in a beautiful floating houseboat of Kerala backwaters and 02 nights in a resort near beach at Mahabalipuram.

Kerala backwater houseboats are floating hotels with basic amenities for guests. The houseboats float during the daytime and are hooked near the beach for night stay.

you are a single traveller booking the trip on twin share price we will be offering you accommodation with a traveller of same gender only. In the event we do not find any other single traveller willing to share the room, you will be offered a single room only with additional single room supplement cost. For more information in this connection you may also contact our South India group tour specialist in India.

Trip Map



with almost no interruption. However, it is to be noted that inclement weather conditions, flight delays, political reasons, social ceremonies and many other reasons may cause some changes in the itinerary. Such reasons may also cause changes in time, place and order of sightseeing trips of South India group tours.

All sightseeing points are mentioned in the itinerary and will be visited by our expert tour guides. Tickets to such monuments in India Group trip are included for the mentioned monuments and museums etc. For sightseeing trips other than the planned, the traveller must inform our office in advance or communicate to our staff or local tour guide. Such additional sightseeing trips will be subject to availability and can be booked at additional cost only. Our staff and guides work under the supervision of our local expert team in each city, to ensure your safety and minimize any sort of risk. Though we try to offer the travellers the lowest possible price for the trips, but sometimes our price may be slightly higher than our competitors since at Max Holidays there are a team of many local experts engaged in organisation and execution of your Grand South India Group tour. To ensure your safety and quality of services, we recommend that, in the event of any additional sightseeing trip, additional hotel bookings, flight tickets etc you contact our staff in Delhi head office, directly.

Important Notes

The prices indicated with each trip are based on twin share basis. If you are a single traveller and wish to stay in a single room only, you must pay the single room supplement mentioned with each trip. If

For all our fixed departure South India Group Tour packages, the maximum size of the group is 24, but in the event of higher demand on any given date, it may increase upto 30 only.

Indian food is a sheer delight for the traveller. On our India Group Tour Packages mostly breakfasts are a part of the package. In addition to it we also include few lunches and dinners based on our experience for giving you a special local experience. For the rest of the meals, we prefer to offer the travellers flexibility and freedom of choosing meal and local restaurant of their choice. Our guides will suggest you restaurants you can try for a meal. This not only offers you budgeting flexibility but also keeps you free to try something apart from the group activities.

It is the responsibility of the traveller to respect the local culture, customs and nature. Keep the places you travel clean, do not encourage beggars by tipping them.

It is strongly recommended that while travelling in public areas and crowded streets or/and otherwise too, keep your passport, money etc in a neck wallet. Do not carry your valuable jewellery items etc during the trip as you will not require them for the trip. Many hotels also provide the facilities of safety lockers which can be used as per the hotel policy.

Though it is not mandatory for the travellers but in India tour guides, drivers, porters etc expect tips for their service. This is not included in our price and is totally at your own discretion.

Trip Disclaimer

To provide the most accurate and updated information most of our tour itineraries are updated every year. We keep into consideration the reviews of our past travellers on such trips and if need be we incorporate immediate changes for betterment so that our future travellers can be benefitted from it. While booking a seat on our Grand South India Group Tour package of India with us, we recommend that you read reviews of our past travellers, trip notes on the page, FAQs and terms of bookings etc. and ensure that the same are meeting to your plans and satisfaction. If you are interested in our South India group tour package and have some queries before preceding the bookings, you can contact our team via email or phone. Our South India group tour experts will ensure that all your queries are answered with the best available information. The length of this South India group trip is 16 nights and 17 days and we have been operating such trips successfully



How to Book

It is very easy and simple! To book yourself on one of our Grand South India Group tour packages you require selecting date of departure from the list. Please click on the button '2017-2018 Dates & Offers', scroll the page to check all available dates and special offers, to view the offers click the date of your choice and if the dates, price etc are matching with your schedule and budget simply proceed with 'Book Now' option. This option will take you to an online form which you can fill and send our office to check availability of seats on the trip.

While browsing through the 'Dates and Offers' page, you will see icons showing 'Early Bird Offers' and 'Last Minute Deal', to know more just scroll the mouse on the icon. 'Filling fast' icon indicates the Grand South India group tour departures which are becoming favourites among the travellers. The red coloured button indicates the booking for the specific dates have been 'closed'. If you are still interested in joining our group on such a date, we recommend that you immediately contact our India head office by phone or email. We shall try our best to accommodate your request and if not we will definitely offer you alternative trips.

Once your booking request for South India group tour package has been received by our team, they will communicate with you over the phone or email and upon receiving the booking amount from your side they will enrol you in the group departure.

For immediate assistance, you may contact our team at following contact addresses:

Phone : ++91 11 40504050 (board no.)

email : tours@maxholidays.com

For our complete contact information, or to locate our local office near you, please visit our 'contact us' page.

How to Pay

For your bookings with us, you can make payments by any of the following methods:

1. Swift Bank Transfer / Telegraphic Transfer
2. Online Credit Card Payment using 'Secured Online Credit Card Payment Gateway' powered by Visa and MasterCard..

Visa & Insurance

It is compulsory that, on all Max Holidays trips including small group tour packages of India, you carry a valid travel insurance atleast covering your medical expenses in the event of health issues. It is also recommended strongly that the travel insurance you carry should cover additional expenses or loss due to any sudden cancellation, delay in the trip, flights rescheduling etc and other personal liabilities. It is required that on demand from our team you present them a copy of your valid travel insurance and visa for their records and booking requirements. To visit India one must carry a valid Indian visa and the same can be obtained easily from Indian Embassy or Consulate near you. India offers the facilities of eTV or TVOA (Tourist Visa on Arrival) for travellers from about 150 countries listed herein below. E Tourist Visa is completely online service by Indian Govt. and no facilitation is required by any intermediary.

Transport

Bus, Car, River boat, Kerala Backwater Houseboat

List of the countries approved under eTV scheme for VOA (India Visa on Arrival)

Albania, Andorra, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Island, Chile, China, China- SAR Hongkong, China- SAR Macau, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Laos, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niue Island, Norway, Oman, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Island, Tuvalu, UAE, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Vanuatu, Vatican City-Holy See, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Useful links

Visa on Arrival : indianvisaonline.gov.in

Indian Embassies Abroad : www.mea.gov.in www.maxholidays.com



Read Reviews from Group Tours



“I would like to talk about Max Holidays Ltd. First I would like to say something about my inhibition to select a tour company in fear of getting scammed. In the USA we have the Better Business Bureau that we can go to to checkout a business but was unable to for India (not saying there isn't one but did try).”



Paul Pitts, United States of America



“Thank you Rohini and Max Holidays for organizing a perfect visit of Rajasthan. Our 20 days tour went well, smooth and without problems. We planned the visit for many months in advance, and exchanged many mails with Rohini. Her replies were always helpful and prompt. While visiting Rajasthan Rohini was always...”



Doran Justice, Israel



“I would like to thank Max holidays for organizing one of the most fabulous days we had in India. The day with the elephants was so amazing and something we will remember for a lifetime. They organized the whole day for us and it went without a hitch and more than we ever expected.”



Karen Anderson, United States of America



“We have returned from our wonderful trip to India and have now had a chance to reflect on how well you both organised our 'Roots' holiday to New Delhi, where I lived with my Parents and Sisters up to 1957. We found and visited my old school, St. Columba's Boys' School, The Sacred Heart Convent...”



James Muller, United Kingdom

Important : While compiling this information utmost care has been taken for accuracy. This information gives you the tentative idea about the trip. Though we try to offer all services as in shape but circumstances beyond our control may attract changes in the sightseeing, hotels etc. The cost of the trip shown are subject to change unless booked. For more information please read FAQs and Booking Terms on our website.

