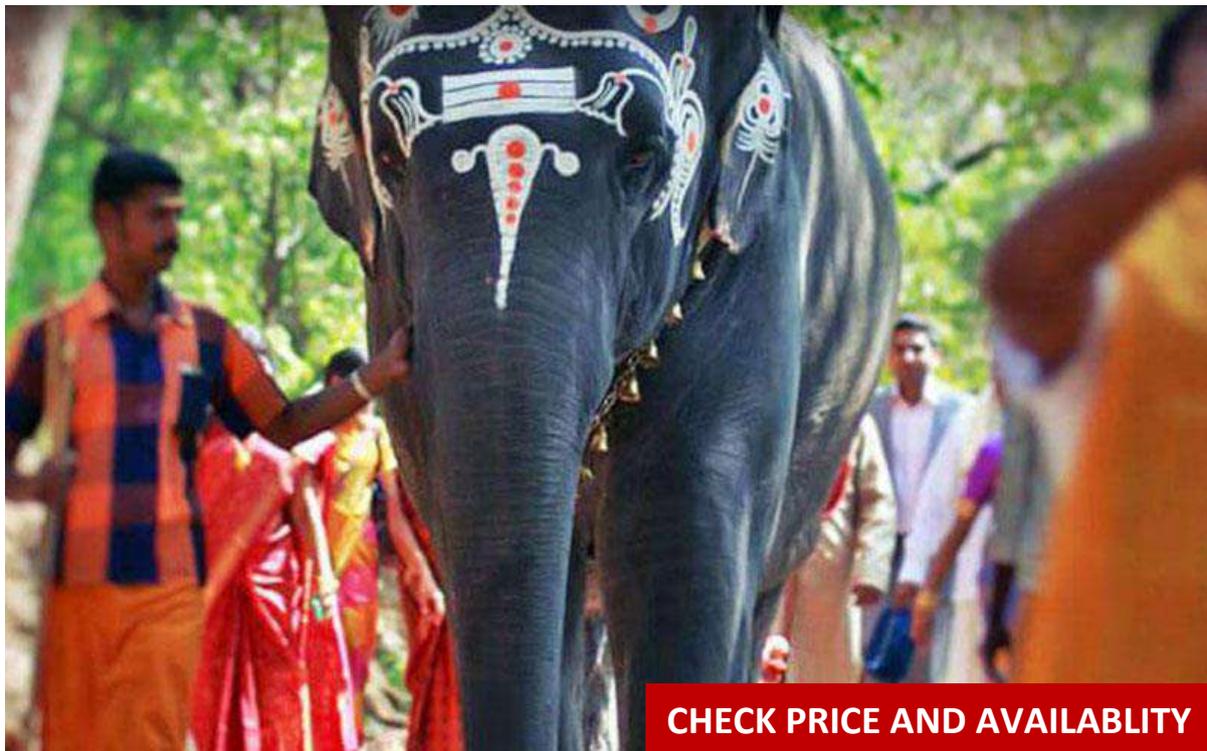


Travel through South India's stunning architecture, wildlife and water world ▼



Reviews



4.5

Start Point

Bangalore

End Point

Chennai

Vacation Style



Activity Level



The coastal area of South India is surrounded by the Great Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. Tourism in South India comprises 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 which will leave you stun 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 cities 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 the 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 Saudha. Overnight stay at hotel in Bangalore.

Highlights: Tipu Sultan's Palace, Statue of Bull Temple, Lalbagh, Vidhan Saudha



Grand South India Tour (17 Days from Bangalore)

Guaranteed Departure India Group Tour Packages

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : Tipu Sultan's Palace

Day 03 Bangalore to Hassan (183 KMS)

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 status is the tallest monolithic statue in the world. Late continue drive to Hassan which is about 52 kms from Shravanabelagola. On arrival check in at Hotel, overnight stay at hotel in Hassan

Highlights: Shravanbelagola

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : No Entrance

Day 04 Hassan to Mysore (119 KMS)

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 which is famous for its beautifully carved temples such as Chenekeshava Temple. Belur is often called as the Benaras (Varanasi) of the South India and sometimes called by the name of Dakshina Varanasi too. Also visit the beautiful Hoysala Temples at Halebid and then continue drive to Mysore. Overnight stay at hotel in Mysore.

Highlights: Belur temples, Halebid temple

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : Belur temples, Halebid temple

Day 05 Mysore to Ootacamund (Ooty) (126 KMS)

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 honeymooners. Spend relaxed evening in the beautiful atmosphere and surroundings of the destination, overnight stay at hotel in Ooty.

Highlights : Mysore Palace, Nandi Bull Temple at Chamundi Hill, Chamundeshwari Temple, Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace.

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : Mysore Palace

Day 06 In Ooty

Udagamandalam, 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 sites in Ooty. Ooty is also a popular destination for movie shootings in South India, overnight stay at hotel in Ooty.

Highlights: St. Stephen Church, Ooty Club, Ooty Lake, Botanical Gardens.

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : Botanical Gardens

Day 07 Ooty to Kozhikode (Calicut) (158 KMS)

Drive to Kozhikode after breakfast. Also known as Calicut, it is an important region of Malabar. It was once the trade and commerce center 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, Bepore Beach, Bepore Fort, Kadalundi Bird sanctuary and Archaeology Museum. Calicut is famous for the beautiful beaches, sea port, festivals and hospitable people.

Highlights: Kappad Beach, Bepore Beach, Bepore Fort, Kadalundi Bird Sanctuary, Museum.

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : Bepore Fort, Kadalundi Bird Sanctuary, Museum

Day 08 Kozhikode (Calicut) to Kochi (181 KMS)

Known as the 'Gateway to Kerala' and 'Queen of the Arabian Sea', Cochin 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 travelers 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-Hindus 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

Highlights: Guruvayurappan Temple, Guruvayura elephant sanctuary, Kathakali dance show.

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : Guruvayoor Elephant Sanctuary, Kathakali Show

Day 09 In 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, ambience and Chinese fishing net.

Optional Visit:

1) Hatha Yoga (Greenix Village) – Hatha Yoga is a practise about balancing the body and mind. In Hatha Yoga class you will get involved in a physical postures and breathing techniques which is done very slowly and in a more static way.



2) The Francis Residence Cooking Class for Lunch / Dinner – At Francis Residence you will get to learn the traditional recipes of Cochin. Also you will get to know about different kinds of flavour used by the old families of Cochin in an Innovative way by recreated by Mr. Francis and his Wife.

3) Kathakali Dance show – Kathakali Dance is the traditional dance form of Kerala, it is performed by artists to tell stories from the Indian epics. It is a unique mixed combination of dance, music and acting.

Highlights: Mattancherry Dutch Palace, Jews Street, St. Francis Church

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : Jewish Synagogue, Dutch Palace

Day 10 Kochi to Alleppey (54 KMS)

Get ready for a delightful experience of travelling in a backwater houseboat of Kerala today. Have your tasty and healthy breakfast at hotel 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 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.

Highlights: Backwater houseboat of Kerala

Included meals : Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included entrances : No

Day 11 Alleppey to Periyar (140 KMS)

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 inside the wildlife reserve. Periyar is also a favourite place of travellers for buying fragrant spices available at the local markets here.

Optional Visit: Evening Kalaripayattu Show

Highlights: spice plantation tour and enjoy boating,

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : Periyar Forest, Spice Plantation Tour

Day 12 Periyar to Madurai (145 KMS)

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. Overnight stay at hotel in Madurai.

Highlights: Meenakshi Amman Temple, Thirumalainayak Palace

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : Thirumalainayak Palace

Day 13 Madurai to Tanjore (189 KMS)

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 as Thanjavur (historical town) and 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 overnight 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.

Highlights: Rock-Fort, Chola Temple, Thanjavur Palace & Museum.

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : Tanjore Art Gallery

Day 14 Tanjore-Pondicherry (175 KMS)

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. Full day sightseeing in Pondicherry & overnight stay at hotel.

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : No Entrance



Day 15 Pondicherry – Mahabalipuram (100 KMS)

Today morning on the Grand South India Group tour you will 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").

Optional Visit: 1) Salt Factory Visit - If want can visit Salt Factory which enroutes on the way to Mahabalipuram from Pondicherry

2) Handmade Paper Factory

Highlights: Shore temple, Arjuna's penance, Five Rathas

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : Five Rathas & Shore Temple

Day 16 Trip to Kanchipuram (65 Kms one way)

Today, we will proceed for same day 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. You will visit Kailasanatha Temple, made in 8th Century AD in the typical Pallava style, with a pyramidal tower, a pillared hall & vestibule, enclosed by a wall. Also visit Ekambaranatha, an 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.

Optional Visit: Movie Theatre in Mahabalipuram - The movie theatre in Mahabalipuram is the first archaeological 7DX movie theatre. The show will be in English language for 30 mins. Movie will include the history about Pallavas who ruled this land from 600 to 750 AD with Kancheepuram

Highlights: Kailasanatha Temple, Ekambaranatha, Kamakshi Amman Temple.

Included meals : Breakfast

Included entrances : No Entrance Fees

Day 17 Mahabalipuram – Chennai – Departure (65 KMS)

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 site for 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.

Highlights: Chennai Government Museum, Fort St. George, Santhome Cathedral, Kapaleeshwarar Temple.

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** – Elephant Sanctuary visit, Bird Sanctuary visit, Boat Ride in Periyar, Kathakali Dance, Spice Plantation visit.
- **Other inclusions** - Govt. of India taxes and Company service charges.

What's not included

- **Other inclusions** - Govt. of India taxes and Company service charges.
- **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

Grand South India Tour (17 Days from Bangalore)

Guaranteed Departure India Group Tour Packages

Trip Map



Accommodation style

Grand South India tour package offers you ultimate mixture of accommodation style. 12 nights at modern city hotels, 02 nights in hill resort at Ooty, 01 night at Periyar in a wildlife lodge and 01 night in a beautiful floating houseboat of Kerala backwaters.

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.

CHECK PRICE AND AVAILABILITY

Tentative Hotels ▼



Hotel Trinity Isle ★★★★★

139 S.C. Road | Seshadripuram, Bengaluru 560020, India

4.0

Facilities

Air conditioned rooms, attached toilets, hot & cold water wi fi, parking, restaurant, travel desk and more....



Mallige Residency ★★★★★

10/90 J.N. Road | Hampi, Hospet 583201

4.5

Facilities

Air conditioned rooms, attached toilets, hot & cold water wi fi, parking, restaurant, travel desk and more....



Hotel MB International ★★★★★

3147 Bangalore Nilgiri Road | Five Light Circle, Intercity Bus Stand Area,

4.5

Facilities

Air conditioned rooms, attached toilets, hot & cold water wi fi, parking, restaurant, travel desk and more....



Grand South India Tour (17 Days from Bangalore)

Guaranteed Departure India Group Tour Packages

Tentative Hotels ▼



Copper Folia ★★★★★

Nellikode Khozhikode Bypass Road | Nellikode, Kozhikode 673016, India

4.0

Facilities

Air conditioned rooms, attached toilets, hot & cold water wi fi, parking, restaurant, travel desk and more....



Classik Fort ★★★★★

Gandhi Square, Poonithura, Tripunithura, Kochi (Cochin) 682038, India

4.5

Facilities

Air conditioned rooms, attached toilets, hot & cold water wi fi, parking, restaurant, travel desk and more....



Periyar Meadows ★★★★★

Thekkady Road, Kumily, Thekkady 685509

4.0

Facilities

Air conditioned rooms, attached toilets, hot & cold water wi fi, parking, restaurant, travel desk and more....



Madurai Residency ★★★★★

14 - 15 Madurai Residency S Marret Street, Madurai 625001

3.5

Facilities

Air conditioned rooms, attached toilets, hot & cold water wi fi, parking, restaurant, travel desk and more....

Grand South India Tour (17 Days from Bangalore)

Guaranteed Departure India Group Tour Packages

Tentative Hotels ▼



Laxmi Hotel ★★★★★

44P, 45P VOC Nagar, Marys Corner, Trichy Main Road, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu 613007



Facilities

Air conditioned rooms, attached toilets, hot & cold water wi fi, parking, restaurant, travel desk and more....



Hotel Le Royal Park 3* ★★★★★

No 168 Kamaraj Salai | Pondicherry, Pondicherry 605013,



Facilities

Air conditioned rooms, attached toilets, hot & cold water wi fi, parking, restaurant, travel desk and more....



Hotel Mahabs ★★★★★

No.68 East Raja Street | Behind SBI-ATM, Mahabalipuram 603 104, India



Facilities

Air conditioned rooms, attached toilets, hot & cold water wi fi, parking, restaurant, travel desk and more....

Location

City centre 1.5 kms, railway station 4 kms, airport 12 kms



La Woods ★★★★★

"#1, Woods Road (Off Mount Road- Anna Salai) (Near Spencer's Shopping Mall & LIC) Chennai - 600002 Tamilnadu, India"



Facilities

Air conditioned rooms, attached toilets, hot & cold water wi fi, parking, restaurant, travel desk and more....

Location

City centre 1.5 kms, railway station 4 kms, airport 12 kms

Clients Reviews *(Please visit our website to see latest reviews)* ▼



Anne C Ipswich, United Kingdom
27 December 2017

"We took a trip from Max holidays in Jan 2018 to Grand South India, it was a group tour. I travelled along with my husband as i have heard the South India is a very romantic destination. Coming back would really say yes, it was an amazing trip and were not at all disappointed. The company managed our whole itinerary for the time we were there in and coordinated with us by email correspondence, including the hotels + car and Driver for the whole trip. The trip started from Bangalore then we covered mostly all the major cities to view pilgrimage sites, scenic views beaches and lot more. Alleppey where we spent a lovely night on a houseboat through the Kerala backwaters, Pondicherry, Mahabalipuram and the trip departed at Chennai. It was pleasure travelling in group.

A great thank you to the team Max Holidays for a truly memorable and wonderful experience."



Phil H Adelaide, Australia
30 October' 2017

"I would really suggest everyone to book tour with Max Holidays. It was my dream to travel to South India, but it was not clear which destinations to travel but then i passed through an itinerary at max holiday's website. Firstly i was scared to book the trip as it is genuine company or not, later i decided not to think too much and take risk to travel in group. Once i board the flight for Bangalore there was proper assistance at the Airport. I travelled with my mother, we met are fellow group members also at airport. An AC vehicle was arranged for us throughout the trip. The guide gave us instructions to stay together where ever we go and took good care of us. We went to many places of south Hassan, Mysore, Ooty, Cochin but the best was the experience of Houseboat at Alleppey. It was great travelling in group me and my mother interacted with all of them. When it was time to leave India my heart filled out, we made good friends. I can never forget dancing on the bus. Everyone was sometimes dancing & singing on the way. Overall it was great trip. Thanks to Max Holidays!!"

