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Kathakali Dancers, Kerala

AFRICA & INDIAN OCEAN | ASIA & PACIFIC | EUROPE | INDIA & BEYOND | LATIN AMERICA & ANTARCTICA | ARABIA & NORTH AFRICA

WONDERS OF THE SOUTH

16 DAYS & 15 NIGHTS / PRIVATE JOURNEY

MUMBAI, KOCHI, KUMARAKOM, MADURAI, KARAİKUDI, CHENNAI & HYDERABAD

Southern India is an amalgam of exotic flora and fauna, spices, temple bells and miles of ocean and sand. Explore eclectic Kochi and serene Kumarakom, the cultural cities of Madurai and Chennai and the temple city of Tanjore before ending your journey in historic Hyderabad.



2012 DATES *PRICES FROM

Jan 11 - Apr 15	\$ 7,485
Single Supplement	3,190
Apr 16 - Sep 30	6,225
Single Supplement	2,260
Oct - Dec	8,015
Single Supplement	3,575
Internal Air	645

Note: Upon request, your travel consultant can provide an exact price based on your specific dates of travel.

Day 1: Arrive Mumbai

Upon arrival in cosmopolitan Mumbai, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. **The Oberoi (Luxury Room) - 2 nights**

Day 2: Mumbai

Stroll through the old streets in the heart of the City, lined with architecture that invokes Mumbai's kaleidoscopic past and vibrant present. Visit some well-known landmarks with your guide and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. **(B, L)**

Option: This evening, see the city in style on a horse-and-carriage ride.



Elephanta Caves, Mumbai

Day 3: To Kochi

Cruise the clear waters of the bay to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Elephanta Caves (closed on Monday), home to some stunning examples of Indian rock art. Later, fly to the eclectic capital of Kochi. Dine on authentic Kerala cuisine this evening at the residence of a famous culinary expert. **Brunton Boatyard (Standard Sea View Room) - 2 nights (B, D)**

Day 4: Kochi

In Kochi, visit the Portuguese church of St. Francis and the oldest living synagogue in the world. Continue to Mattancherry Palace, built by the Portuguese for the King of Kochi. Later, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. **(B, L)**

Day 5: To Kumarakom

Drive to Alleppey to embark on the traditional rice barge for a leisurely exploration and lunch on

HIGHLIGHTS

- VISIT THE WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING JEWISH SYNAGOGUE IN KOCHI
- SAVOR AN AUTHENTIC KERALAN DINNER AT THE HOME OF AN ACCLAIMED SOUTH INDIAN CHEF
- ADMIRE THE IMPRESSIVE ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES OF THE 18TH-CENTURY CHETTINAD MANSIONS AND THE CRAFTSMANSHIP ON WOOD, SILVER AND GOLD PIECES IN KARAİKUDI
- DISCOVER THE VARIED CULTURES OF SOUTH INDIA ON A VISIT TO DAKSHINACHITRA

OPTIONALS

- TAKE A VICTORIA (HORSE-AND-CARRIAGE) RIDE THROUGH OLD MUMBAI
- WITNESS THE MESMERIZING SOUND-AND-LIGHT SHOW AT GOLCONDA FORT

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE VISIT
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Charminar Tower, Hyderabad

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board. The labyrinthine network of rivers, canals, streams and lagoons which form the famed backwaters offer stunning views. Disembark the traditional boat and drive to Kumarakom. *Coconut Lagoon (Heritage Bungalow) / The Zuri Kumarakom Kerala Resort and Spa (Zuri Deluxe Room) – 1 night (B, L)*

Day 6: To Madurai

Drive through the picturesque countryside to Madurai, renowned for its spectacular Meenakshi Temple. *Heritage (Luxury Villa) – 2 nights (B, L)*

Day 7: Madurai

One of the most important places of Hindu pilgrimage, Sri Meenakshi Temple is filled with a profusion of multicolored images of gods, goddesses, animals and mythical figures. Witness the sacred "aarti" ceremony this evening. **(B)**

Day 8: To Karaikudi

Travel to Chettinad, famous for its fortress-like homes and temples that are architectural marvels. *Visalam (Standard Room) – 2 nights (B)*

Day 9: Excursion to Tanjore

Take a day trip to Tanjore to see the World Heritage Site of Brihadeshwara Temple and Tanjore Palace. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. **(B, L)**

Day 10: To Chennai

Marvel at the unique Chettinad mansions, stroll through bustling markets and visit traditional silversmith workshops before you drive to Madurai for your flight to Chennai. *The Leela Palace (Deluxe Room) – 3 nights (B)*

Day 11: Chennai

After a visit to a traditional dance school, head to the temple city of Mahabalipuram, where you enjoy lunch at a seaside resort. Continue

to visit Dakshinachitra (closed on Tuesday) for a glimpse into the diverse cultures of South India. **(B, L)**



Mahabalipuram

Day 12: Excursion to Kanchipuram

Take a day trip to Kanchipuram, one of the seven ancient sacred cities of India. **(B, L)**

Day 13: To Hyderabad

Explore the highlights of Chennai today, including the revered Kapaleeswarar Temple. Later, board your flight to Hyderabad. *Taj Falaknuma Palace (Luxury Room) – 2 nights (B)*

Day 14: Hyderabad

Your tour of the magnificent city of Hyderabad includes a visit to the striking Charminar Tower and the Salarjung Museum (closed on Friday). **(B)** Option: Attend the sound-and-light show at Golconda Fort.

Day 15: To Mumbai

Explore the 400-year-old Golconda Fort (closed on Friday) before you fly to Mumbai. *The Leela (Premier City View Room) – 1 night (B)*

Day 16: Depart Mumbai

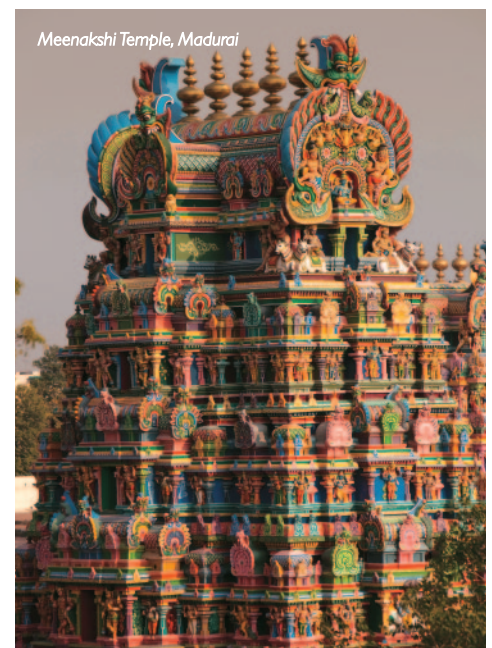
Transfer to the airport for your flight home. **(B)**

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All hotel accommodations as per the itinerary
- Meals as noted in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch & D=Dinner)
- All transfers and transportation on a private basis
- Private sightseeing as described in itinerary including entrance fees and services of professional local guides

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International air travel (USA to India)
- Airport departure taxes
- Flights in India
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance
- Excess baggage fees
- Personal items and alcoholic beverages
- Gratuities to your guides, drivers, porters and hotel service



Meenakshi Temple, Madurai