



DECCAN HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

Deccan Heritage Ltd., 20-22 Bedford Row, London WC1R4JS, UK

21st JANUARY – 5th
FEBRUARY 2016

Chennai
Mamallapuram
Kanchipuram
Pondicherry
Chidambaram
Tirichirapally
Thanjavur
Kumbakonam
Darasuram
Gangaikondacholapuram
Chettinadu
Madurai
Thekkady
Kumarakom
Fort Kochi



The Pallavas, the Cholas and the Nayakas, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

During this trip we will explore the interaction between Deccani visual traditions and those that developed south of the Kaveri River - considered the Ganga of the south.

The Pallavas were concurrent with the western Calukyan dynasties that were responsible for the wonderful temple architecture of Badami and Aihole in Western Deccan. By the late 6th and 7th centuries, the Pallavas, had created an empire that reached as far as China and South East Asia. Pallavas and Calukyans were in constant interaction mostly through war, thanks to which certain visual forms were borrowed from each other.

The most famous phase of Pallava art is represented by the rock-cut and freestanding monolithic temples as well as stone reliefs at Mamallapuram, a seaport described by Ptolemy and where Roman coins have been found. During the reign of Mamalla I (7th century) this seaport developed further, and was vital in the dissemination of South Indian culture to Southeast Asia and in the Indian Ocean trade.

The Pallavas were followed by the Cholas (mid-9th -13th centuries) whose artistic contribution goes far beyond their rule. It is during their reign that some of the most innovative and monumental temple structures were built. The bronze sculptures of the Cholas are celebrated throughout the world for their beauty and elegance and so are many of the stone sculptures that decorate the facades of the temples we will visit. Their favourite subject is that of Siva Nataraja or Lord of the Dance. We will have the opportunity to admire both stone and bronze sculptures.

With the collapse of the Deccani kingdom of Vijayanagar in 1565, that controlled a number of regions in Tamil Nadu, their viceroys, the Nayaka princes, asserted their political independence. The Nayakas contributed some of the most original pillared halls and *gopuras* (towered temple gateway) to earlier structures. It is in fact during the 16th and 17th centuries that some of the temple sites assumed their final form. The temple at Madurai is one of their artistic achievements and one of the greatest temple complexes of both the subcontinent and South East Asia.



CHENNAI

THURSDAY 21st JANUARY

ARRIVALS: Travel the night of the 21st to 22nd January to Chennai where a representative will greet and transfer you to Fisherman's Cove Resort in Mamallapuram 35 kms / approximately 1 hr drive.

Rooms are booked from 13 00 Hrs, on 21st January 2016.

Lunch: Fisherman's Cove

Dinner: Fisherman's Cove

Overnight: Fisherman's Cove





FISHERMAN'S COVE

FRIDAY 22nd January

Relaxed morning. After lunch at 13 30 Hrs we will visit the Pallava site of **Mamallapuram** with its rock cut and stone carved monolithic temples, and admire some of the finest rock carved reliefs with stories relating to the Hindu pantheon. Amongst the masterpieces is Arjuna's penance. We will also visit the *Yali* Cave of Saluvankuppam with its unusual themes.



Lunch: Fisherman's Cove

Dinner: Fisherman's Cove

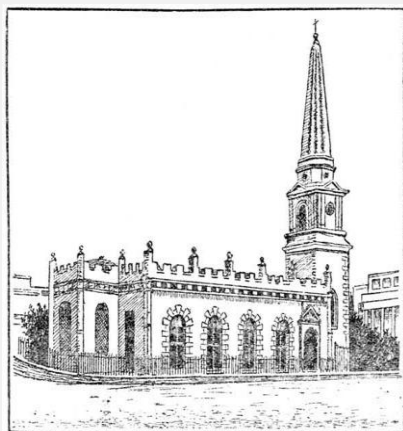
Overnight: Fisherman's Cove



FISHERMANS COVE

SATURDAY 23rd JANUARY

Depart at 08 30 Hrs for **Chennai**, formerly Madras (52 kilometres approximately 90 minutes one way), originally known as Madrasapatnam. Our tour will start with Fort St. George, where the East India Company established its first representation in 1640. We will visit the Fort Museum, Admiralty House and St. Mary's Church



(1678-90), the oldest Protestant place of worship in Asia, where the founder of Yale University and his wife are buried. After lunch we will visit the Museum where stone sculptures and fine examples of Chola bronzes are displayed. After the Museum those that want to return to the hotel can do so, and for those who want to go shopping there are a number of possibilities that can be explored.

Lunch: Connemara Hotel; Dinner: Fisherman's Cove

Overnight: Fisherman's Cove



FISHERMAN'S COVE

SUNDAY 24th JANUARY

Depart at 08 30 Hrs for **Kanchipuram**, (66 kilometres or 90 minutes' drive one way) on the shores of Veganyathi river - the capital of the Pallava kingdom between the 4th and 9th centuries. With no less than 50 temples it is one of India's most vibrant religious centres. We will visit the *Kailasanatha* Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva with its beautifully carved deities. An inscription of a Deccani Calukyan King describes that he refrained from looting its treasures as he was amazed at the perfection of this temple. Our visit to Kanchipuram will continue with stops at Shiva, Vishnu and Jain temples.

We should be back by 17 30 Hrs. If you want to book massages and treatments in the afternoon, please do so before we leave.

Lunch: Picnic ; Dinner: Fisherman's Cove; Overnight: Fisherman's Cove



PONDICHERRY

MONDAY 25th JANUARY



Depart at 08 30 Hrs for **Gingee** (132 kilometres or 2 hours and 30 minutes) and from there to **Pondicherry** (72 kilometres or approximately 2 hours). Those who want to go directly to Pondicherry and bypass Gingee can do so. Those who want to visit the Palace Zone and even perhaps the central hill of Krishnagiri with its panoramic views and then proceed to Pondicherry can choose this option. Please wear comfortable shoes.

Gingee, rose to prominence during the 15th and 16th centuries and is celebrated for its spectacular fortifications, the walls of which join three hills and cover an area of 11 square kilometres. In the plains is the Palace zone, a mosque and a 17th century temple.

Pondicherry was founded by Francois Martin in 1672 and fell to the Dutch in 1693-97, after which it changed hands between the British and the French a number of times. The British destroyed some of the finest buildings of Pondicherry after they captured the city in 1761, before it returned to French control in 1817.



A walk through the streets will reveal a number of beautiful houses such as that of Ananda Rangapillai, the Ecole Francaise d'Extreme Orient and the Institut Francais as well as numerous boutiques.

Pondicherry is also known for its Aurobindo Ashram founded in 1926 by Sri Aurobindo. It can be visited by those that go directly to Pondicherry from Mamallapuram. For those who visit Gingee, a picnic lunch will be provided, and for those who continue to Pondicherry, lunch will be at the Palais de Mahe.

Dinner: Le Pondy ; Overnight: Le Pondy.



MANTRA VEPPATHUR

TUESDAY 26th JANUARY



We leave at 08 30 Hrs for **Chidambaram** (60 kilometres or 90 minutes south of Pondicherry), famous for its Nataraja temple where Shiva is worshipped as the Lord of the Cosmic Dance. Its architectural style and stone sculptures are amongst the finest of the Chola period (12th century). Not too far from Chidambaram is the temple site of **Srimushnam** (40 kilometres) and **Melakadambur Koil** (15 kilometres). We will complete our tour with the majestic temple site of the Chola dynasty in **Gangaikondacholapuram**.

Lunch : Picnic; Dinner: Mantra Veppathur; Overnight: Mantra Veppathur
Note: Temples are closed between 1200 noon and 16 00 Hrs



SWAMIMALAI

WEDNESDAY 27th JANUARY

Depart at 09 30 Hrs for **Kumbakonam** (20 minutes' drive) located on the shore of the Kaveri river - the Ganga of the south. An important religious centre during the Chola period, the ceremonial and religious core of Kumbakonam is the Mahamakam Tank around which are many different temples we will visit.

3 kilometres away is **Darasuram** celebrated for its Chola Airavateshvara temple. The **Daivanayaki** temple with its openwork windows with coiled snakes and the image of the lotus head Lajja Gauri can be seen in the Amman shrine.

After lunch we will continue to the Chola temple of **Vaitheswaran Koil**, where Shiva is worshipped as the God of Healing and Nadi astrology is practised. We will conclude our day with a visit to Suryanar Koil, dedicated to the Sun God.

Lunch: Swami Malai Dinner: Indeco Hotels Overnight: Indeco Hotels, Swami Malai

Note: Temples are closed between 12 00 and 16 00 Hrs



SWAMIMALAI

THURSDAY 28th JANUARY



Depart at 09 00 Hrs for **Tiruchirapalli** (about 100 kilometres and less than a 2 hour drive). We will visit an impressive Chola monument with later additions that are located on the island of Srirangam. The Ranganatha temple dedicated to Vishnu is one of the largest religious complexes in south India. Favoured by the Deccani dynasties of the Hoysalas, it was damaged by the Sultanate invaders from Delhi in 1323. It is the Vijayanagar rulers, from southern Deccan that are responsible for some of the most innovative and monumental sculptural ensembles as the ones in the Sheshshagiri mandapa, or hypostyle hall. The collection of ivory sculptures in the Art Museum is impressive. A short distance from the Ranganatha is Ambukhesvara temple where water and Shiva are worshipped.

After lunch we will visit one of the great temple sites of the Chola Rajas at **Thanjavur** as well as the Museum with its impressive Chola bronzes. We will end our day at the Palace of the Nayaka rulers.



Lunch: Ideal River view Dinner: Indeco Hotels Overnight: Indeco Hotels, Tanjore Palace & Bronze Museum – closed 13 00 Hrs to 15 00 Hrs.



CHETTINADU

FRIDAY 29th JANUARY

Depart at 09 00 Hrs for **Kodumbalur** (135 kms approx 2 hrs drive) to visit an early Chola temple site followed by the Jain rock cut temple at **Sittanavasal** (35 kilometres) with wonderful views of the landscape and **Narthanamalai** (45 kms approx 1 hr) to visit a 9th century Chola temple, and finally a further 20kms distance we visit the **Kudumiyan Malai** temple. We later make our way towards **Pudukkotai**, the great centre of the famous Chettinad merchants.

Lunch: picnic Dinner: Visalam, CGH Overnight: Visalam, CGH group of hotels.



MADURAI

SATURDAY 30th JANUARY

Leave at 09 00 Hrs for **Tiruppattur** (30 kilometers) and one of the rare temples dedicated to Lord Brahma in India.



From Tiruppattur we will travel to **Madurai** (65 kilometres) where the famous temple dedicated to the Goddess Menakshi is located. Invaded by the forces of the Delhi Sultanate in 1323, the city became the capital of the Sultans until 1378 when it was conquered by the southern Deccani kingdom of Vijayanagar.

We will visit the temple with its majestic sculptures of riders and the Palace of the Nayaka rulers (16th-17th centuries). For those who are interested we can organise a visit to the temple during evening prayers.

Lunch: Taj Vivanta, Madurai; Dinner: Taj; Overnight: Vivanta by Taj, Madurai

Nayak Palace, Madurai opens 09 00 Hrs-13 00 Hrs & 14 00 Hrs – 17 00 Hrs



KUMARAKOM

SUNDAY 31st JANUARY

Depart for Kumarakom in Kerala (6 hour drive) at 08 30 Hrs with stop over for lunch at the Thekkady, where you can buy spices and teas. We should reach Kumarakom around 16 30 Hrs and if you want a massage Mr. Reddy will make a booking for you.

Lunch: Spice village, CGH property; Dinner: Aveda; Overnight: Aveda Resort and Spa



KUMARAKOM

MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY

A day of leisure to enjoy the facilities of our hotel. All meals at the hotel.
Overnight: Aveda Resort and Spa.



FORT KOCHI

TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY

At 11 00 Hrs we will board the “Kettuvalam” Traditional House Boat on lake Vembanad. An ethnic Kerala lunch will be served, whilst the boat cruises the narrow canals until 16 00 Hrs. Later, we will travel from Allepey to Fort Kochi approx. 90 minutes drive.



Lunch: On House Boat; Dinner: Malabar House; Overnight: Old Harbour Hotel and Malabar House.

Important: Due to limited inventory, rooms will be allotted on first come basis at Old Harbour hotel. The alternative is the Malabar House which is 400 metres away.



FORT KOCHI

WEDNESDAY 3rd February

09 30 Hrs. Depart with tuk tuks for a visit to the Dutch Palace with its painted narratives of the great Indian epics. We will then visit the oldest Jewish synagogue on the subcontinent and enjoy the shopping possibilities Jewtown offers.



Lunch: Fort House Hotel; Dinner: Malabar House;
Overnight :Old Harbour Hotel and Malabar House



FORT KOCHI

THURSDAY 4th FEBRUARY

We will spend the day in Fort Kochi to visit the churches founded by the Portuguese, Dutch and English. We will also wander around the shops and generally have a relaxing day in preparation for our departure and the END of our trip.

Lunch: Brunton’s Boatyard; Dinner: Old Harbour Hotel; Overnight: Old Harbour Hotel or Malabar House

An escort will take you to the airport. You can catch an international flight from Kochi to different destinations around the world.



FORT KOCHI

FRIDAY 5th FEBRUARY

Check out time 11 00 Hrs

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PRICES

ACCOMODATION BASIS	COST(Indian Rupees INR, assuming 12 Persons travelling)
Twin Sharing per person	386786
Single occupancy	495495

The rate of US\$ to INR as of May 29th 2015 is 1.00 US= 63.00 INR

The rate of Euros to INR as of May 29th 2015 is 1.00 Euros= 69.50 INR

Exchange rates are constantly fluctuating so please check with your bank so that you can transfer the correct amount.

Suite room supplement charges for 3 nights stay at Malabar House: 15000 INR

**In the event that there are fewer than 12 participants a small supplementary charge per person may be applicable in order to run the trip.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- All meals (from Lunch on 21st January to Breakfast on 5th February 2016), including picnics.
- Transfers & visits by 4AC Toyota Innovas (3 persons in one car), a group of 12 persons maximum.
- Services of an English speaking Indian escort (Chennai to Kochi).
- Dr. Philon's expertise for the entire tour.
- Services of English speaking local guides at specific sites.
- Entrance fees and camera fees to all museums and monuments mentioned
- A charitable donation of 70, 000 INR per person to the Deccan Heritage Foundation is included. The funds from our annual trips contributes to the costs of the publication of a new guidebook, or towards one of our projects. The Foundation has already published 7 guidebooks and is preparing an eighth on the Portuguese Forts along the Konkan coast.
- All tips at restaurants, porter's fees, drivers, guides and representatives. Mineral water and soft drinks on board cars only.

Doesn't include: Gratuities for escort between Chennai to Kochi

CATEGORY OF ROOMS:

check in at hotels 14 00 Hrs on 21st January 2016 and check out: 11 00Hrs on 5th February 2016

Chennai	Fisherman's Cove	Premium Indulgence Sea view
Pondicherry	Le Pondy	Sea view rooms
Kumbakonam	Mantra Veppathur	Cottages
Swamimalai	Indeco Hotel	Mixed rooms
Chettinadu	Visalam	Large rooms
Madurai	Vivanta by Taj	Executive rooms
Kumarakom	Aveda Resort	Lake view / front rooms
Fort Kochi	Old Harbour Hotel	Mixed rooms first come basis
Fort Kochi	Malabar House	Mixed rooms alternate

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- International flights; Travel insurance either abroad or during the tour, Visa Charges; Discretionary tips
- Items of a personal nature, phone calls, laundry, in room dining.
- Additional meals / drinks & in Room service. ALCOHOL drinks NOT included.

If you would like to extend your stay in India through, Rightours can make further travel arrangements for you.

VISA

Visas: You require a visa to enter India. This is applied for through VFS Global. <http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk>. Without an Indian visa you will not be permitted to enter India. Please make sure you have one in your passport prior to travel. Certain country's tourist visas will be issued on arrival at Chennai, but you need to apply online much in advance so as to obtain visa on arrival.

Further details: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>

DISCRETIONARY TIPPING: Although Right Tours has included a tipping amount for porters, drivers, guides, within the overall trip price you may wish to give extra tips at your discretion.

Drivers (Cars) per day 500 INR

Guides: 1000 INR

Porters in Hotels (per suitcase) 50 INR

PAYMENT PROCEEDURE:

RIGHTOURS INDIA PVT LTD (G10, Surekha Chambers, Greelands – Ameerpet Road, Hyderabad – 500016. India. Phone: +91 40 40036155, +919849028399)

HDFC BANK LTD A/C NO: 06422320002544 SWIFT : HDFCINBBXXX

ADVANCE: 25% on or before 21st September 2015 75% on or before 21st November 2015

CANCELLATION POLICY

25% will be forfeited by 15th November 2015

100% will be forfeited by 21st November 2015