

Southern Splendour (4 Nights / 5 Days)

HOW TO BOOK: Please email vasu@kwconferences.com giving your selection of tours and dates

Price per person Twin Sharing including taxes: INR 52,145

Additional Cost including taxes if the double room is to be occupied without sharing: INR 20,900

Mahabalipuram, derived from 'Mamallapuram' is a town in Kancheepuram district in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Mahabalipuram was a 7th century port city of the South Indian dynasty of the Pallavas around 60 km south from the city of Chennai in Tamil Nadu. The name Mamallapuram is believed to have been given after the Pallava king Narasimhavarman I, who took on the epithet Maha-malla (great wrestler), as the favourite sport of the Pallavas was wrestling. It has various historic monuments built largely between the 7th and the 9th centuries, and has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Puducherry, formerly known as **Pondicherry**, is a Union Territory of India. It is a former French colony, consisting of four non-contiguous enclaves, or regions, and named after the largest region, Pondicherry. The territory was officially known as Pondicherry until 2006 when it was renamed Puducherry.

Thanjavur, also known as **Thanjai** or by its anglicised name Tanjore. The name Thanjavur is derived from "Tanjan", a legendary asura in Hindu mythology. Thanjavur is one of the oldest cities in India and has a long and varied history dating back to Sangam period. The city rose into prominence during the rule of the Later Cholas when it served as the capital of the Chola empire. After the fall of the Cholas, the city was ruled by the Pandyas, Vijayanagar Empire, the Madurai Nayaks, the Thanjavur Nayaks, the Thanjavur Marathas and the British.

Thanjavur is an important center of South Indian art and architecture. Most of the Great Living Chola Temples, an UNESCO World Heritage Monument are located in an around Thanjavur. The foremost among the Great Living Chola temples, the Brihadeeswara Temple, is located in the center of the city. Thanjavur is also the home of the Tanjore painting, a painting style unique to the region. The city is an important agricultural center located at the heart of the region, known as the "rice bowl of Tamil Nadu". South Zone Culture Centre in Thanjavur is one of many regional cultural centres established by Indian Government to preserve and promote traditional cultural heritage of India.

Madurai, formerly **Madura** is among the oldest continuously inhabited city in the Indian peninsula. It is an ancient and prestigious city in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, situated on the banks of the River Vaigai in Madurai district.

The city is widely known as the Temple City, and is often also referred to as City of four junctions (*Koodal Maanagar*), Cultural center of Tamil Nadu (*Kalaachaara thalainagar*), City of Jasmine (*Malligai Maanagar*), Sleepless city (*Thoonga Nagaram*), Athens of the East and The City of Festivals (*Thiruvizha nagaram*).

Madurai was the capital city of ancient Southern civilization. Madurai's cultural heritage goes back 2,500 years, and the city has been an important commercial center and has conducted trade as far as Rome and Greece since as early as 550 B.C.E.

TOUR PROGRAM	NIGHT
<p>Day 1) Pre Date: May 21, 2015 Post Date: May 29, 2015</p> <p>Pick up on arrival from Chennai Airport.</p> <p>To drive to Mahabalipuram. Transfer to the Fisherman's cove resort.</p>	<p>MAHABALIPURAM</p> 

13:00 hrs: Lunch

14:30 hrs: Visit Crocodile & King Cobra Bank.

16:00 hrs: Visit Pancha Ratha (5 Monolithic temples), Shore Temple, Arjuna's Penance (largest Monolithic Bas Relief in the world) and the centuries old "stone sculptor's village" (see the hundreds of stone sculptors working on some of the hardest stones).

20:00 hrs: Dinner in the resort.



Day 2)

Pre Date: May 22, 2015

Post Date: May 30, 2015

MAHABALIPURAM/PONDICHERRY (132 km):

07:30 hrs: Breakfast

08:30 hrs: Check-out and drive to Pondicherry, "The French Riviera of the East".

Transfer to the hotel.

13:00 hrs: Lunch.

14:30 hrs: Guided tour through the well planned French styled avenues still preserved with much of the colonial ambience. Enroute visit few 18th century churches. Visit Sri Aurobindo Ashram located on rue de la Marine, is one of the best-known and wealthiest ashrams in India. Auroville (City of Dawn) is an "experimental" township located 8 km North-West of Pondicherry. Auroville is meant to be a universal town where men and women of all countries are able to live in peace and progressive harmony, above all creeds, all politics and all nationalities.

One may visit the hand –made paper center run by Ashram.

20:00 hrs: Dinner in the hotel.

PONDICHERRY



Day 3)

Pre Date: May 23, 2015

Post Date: May 31, 2015

PONDICHERRY/THANJAVUR (177 km):

07:30 hrs: Breakfast

08:30 hrs: Check-out and drive to Thanjavur. Transfer to the hotel.

12:30 hrs: Lunch in the hotel.

14:30 hrs: Visit Brihadeshwara Temple, the world's first complete granite temple. Built in the 11th century, the 66 meters in height, it is the most marvelous architecture of its time. **Brihadeshwara** is a gigantic lingam cut in a monolithic rock is about 8.7mtrs height. There is a huge Nandi within the vicinity of the temple. It is the second largest monolithic **Nandi** in the country. It also houses numbers of unique architectural wonders like the stone atop the temple - this huge tower weighs about 80 tonnes and it has baffled architects how this stone could have been lifted up when no machinery was available. It is believed that a

THANJAVUR



ramp was built from a village 7 km away and this stone was pulled to the top by elephants. Find some time to visit the “Brass craft village”, old palace etc.



Day 4)

Pre Date: May 24, 2015

Post Date: June 01, 2015

THANJAVUR/MADURAI (158 km):

07:30 hrs: Breakfast.

08:00 hrs: Check-out and drive to Madurai the “Temple City of South India” and the “cultural center of the Tamilnadu”. Situated on the banks of river Vaigai, Madurai has a rich cultural heritage passed on from the great Tamil era more than 2500 years old. Madurai was an important cultural and commercial centre even as early as 550 AD. Transfer to the hotel.

12:30 hrs: Lunch in the hotel.

14:30 hrs: Visit Madurai Temple, the largest temple complex of its time. Initially built 2000 years back, the present architecture came into existence in 16th century.

The complex is in around 45 acres (180,000 m2) and the temple is a massive structure measuring 254 by 237 meters. The temple is surrounded by 12 towers, the tallest of which, the famous Southern tower, rises to over 170 ft (52 m) high.

Visit the lanes outside the temples some of which are still resided by the traditional Brahmins with their old traditional style and attires. Visit local markets around the temple and experience the life around the old traditional temple town.

20:00 hrs: Dinner in the hotel.

MADURAI



Day 5)

Pre Date: May 25, 2015

MADURAI:

Later transfer to airport for flight to Hyderabad.

Day 5)

Post Date: June 02, 2015

Later transfer to airport for onward journey.

INCLUSIONS:

The tour cost includes:

- Arrival/Departure transfers, sightseeing, excursion as per programme by an air-conditioned Luxury Car/Coach with services of an English speaking guide for city tour.
- Hotel accommodation in a 5* category on twin sharing in standard room.
- All three meals included in the cost of the tour programme.
- Monument entrance fee wherever applicable.
- The rates/costs quoted above are inclusive of all taxes and Service Tax @ 2.58%.

*** Any increase in the Service Tax is payable by the guest**

EXCLUSIONS:

The tour cost does not include:

- Any additional accommodation not specified in the itineraries.
- Personal expenses like camera/video/handycam fee, laundry, telephone calls, tips,/gratuities , extra at the hotels etc. The cost also doesn't include room service, mini bar, any personal order of juice, tea, coffee, soft or hard drinks, etc.
- Any other services not specified above.
- Wherever, there is no 5* property available, accommodation will be provided at the highest category accommodation available there.

AIRFARES - if applicable will be additional at the time of booking. Airfares from destinations to Hyderabad OR Hyderabad to destinations are not included in the above mentioned costs/rates.