

# South India Temple Trail

Dravidian temple architecture from Chennai to Madurai — 10 days of towering gopurams.

Duration	10 Days · 9 Nights
Country	India
Locations	Chennai, Mahabalipuram, Pondicherry, Tanjore, Madurai, Rameshwaram, Bangalore, Hampi
From (USD)	\$1145 per person
Difficulty	Moderate
Max group	14

## Overview

Tamil Nadu hosts the most extraordinary Dravidian temple architecture on earth — multi-storey gopurams (gateway towers) covered in thousands of painted sculptures. Visit Mahabalipuram, Tanjore (Brihadeeswarar), Madurai (Meenakshi Amman), Rameshwaram, and Karnataka's Hampi.

## Highlights

- Brihadeeswarar Temple, Tanjore (UNESCO Chola masterpiece, 1010 CE)
- Meenakshi Amman Temple, Madurai (14 gopurams, 33,000 sculptures)
- Mahabalipuram shore temples
- Rameshwaram corridors (4,000 carved pillars)
- Hampi UNESCO ruins

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

### Day 1 — Arrive Chennai

Welcome.

**Stay:** ITC Grand Chola | **Meals:** Welcome dinner | **Transfer:** Airport pickup | **Distance:** 20 km

### Day 2 — Chennai sightseeing

Kapaleeshwarar temple, San Thome basilica, Marina Beach.

**Stay:** ITC Grand Chola | **Meals:** Breakfast | **Transfer:** AC vehicle | **Distance:** City

### Day 3 — Chennai → Mahabalipuram → Pondicherry

UNESCO shore temples + Pondi French quarter.

**Stay:** Le Pondy | **Meals:** Breakfast | **Transfer:** AC sedan | **Distance:** 180 km · 4 hrs

### Day 4 — Pondicherry → Tanjore

Long drive. Evening Brihadeeswarar temple — Chola dynasty's masterpiece.

**Stay:** Svatma Heritage Tanjore | **Meals:** Breakfast | **Transfer:** AC sedan | **Distance:** 190 km · 4 hrs

### Day 5 — Tanjore → Madurai

Drive. Evening Meenakshi temple opening ceremony.

**Stay:** Heritage Madurai | **Meals:** Breakfast | **Transfer:** AC sedan | **Distance:** 200 km · 4.5 hrs

### Day 6 — Madurai — Meenakshi temple

Full day temple immersion — 14 gopurams, 1,000-pillared hall.

**Stay:** Heritage Madurai | **Meals:** Breakfast | **Transfer:** AC vehicle | **Distance:** City

### Day 7 — Madurai → Rameshwaram → return

Day excursion to Rameshwaram (4,000-pillar corridor) and back.

**Stay:** Heritage Madurai | **Meals:** Breakfast | **Transfer:** AC sedan | **Distance:** Madurai → Rameshwaram · 175 km RT

### Day 8 — Madurai → Bangalore (flight) → Hampi

Fly via Bangalore to Hampi.

**Stay:** Evolve Back Hampi | **Meals:** Breakfast | **Transfer:** Flight + sedan | **Distance:** Long day

### Day 9 — Hampi — Vijayanagar Empire ruins

Virupaksha temple, Vittala chariot, Lotus Mahal, royal enclosure.

**Stay:** Evolve Back Hampi | **Meals:** Breakfast, dinner | **Transfer:** Bicycle + AC vehicle | **Distance:** Local

### Day 10 — Hampi → Bangalore → Departure

Drive to Bangalore airport.

**Stay:** — | **Meals:** Breakfast | **Transfer:** AC sedan | **Distance:** Hampi → Bangalore · 350 km

## Inclusions

- ✓ Heritage hotels each city
- ✓ Private AC vehicle + 1 internal flight
- ✓ Temple-specialist guide
- ✓ Daily breakfast
- ✓ All temple entries + special arrangements (no shoes / shoulders covered)

## Exclusions

- X Flights international
- X Visa
- X Lunches & most dinners
- X Tips