

South India trip reports by past travellers

South India with E.Y.H.O. Tours was the beginning of my love affair with India and its unique arts and culture. Travelling with a small group was marvellous. The tour itself was beyond my wildest expectations - the personal touch that was provided by Shila and her professional and knowledgeable tour guides made for an intimate experience - of the country, the people, the beauty, art and spirituality. Every day was a wonder that unfolded smoothly from start to end. The sense of pulling back the curtain on usual tourist destinations and going beyond to unique experiences with local hosts and people. The accommodations were unique - a gorgeous houseboat, an old Gentleman's Club converted to the most luxurious hotel, desert glamping, unique small boutique hotels, etc. I felt steeped in the culture of South India. I would highly recommend this trip whether it is a first time in India or not. – Dalia Margalit Faircloth, Vancouver

This should be an annual trip not a one-off! For me and my friends invited to celebrate my 65th birthday on this adventure, it was beyond memorable from the beginning in Chennai to the tip of Cochin in Kerala. The temples were outstanding, the colour and architecture sang to those of us interested in history and culture. The colours still explode in my mind when I daydream. So many local stories intertwined . . . Pondicherry is not to be missed. Chettinad was a revelation in the company of an insider. I waited 35 years to return to India - my first trip was to Rajasthan, and had wanted to go to back to the south of India ever since! It more than lived up to expectations. Shila in particular was beyond special. – Nancy Singer, Toronto

Jaw-dropping exploration of a part of India beloved by Indian tourists and little known by the rest of us who focus on more publicized areas. An explosion of colour everywhere one looks - from the clothing to the painted buildings to the floral offerings. Highlights for me included the awe-inspiring Meenakshi women's temple, joyful dance classes at Kalakshetra, and the exquisite mansions of Chettinad. But I am arbitrarily selecting from an embarrassment of riches. This trip will change your view of India - and maybe of yourself. It still resonates with me, four years later. – Lyndsay Green, Vancouver

The South India tour takes in things you would never see anywhere else - not even in India. This includes the French atmosphere of old Pondicherry, the amazing mansions of the Chetinars who were the banking class, the amazing temples of Tamil Nadu including the rock-cut temples by the sea at Mamallapuram and the great Minakshi temple at Madurai, tea gardens and the backwaters of Kerala. In addition you stay at some wonderful places including a tea planter's bungalow and a houseboat on the backwaters. The food of South India is great, too. I would recommend this tour to anyone with a passion for India. Read Arundhati Roy's The God of Small things to get a flavour of the region. - Kathie Kurtz, Fergus, ON (repeat traveller 7x)

