

E.Y.H.O. Tours

South India

Temples and Tea
With Living Heritage of Chettinad

January 22 – February 2, 2024

"All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware." -Martin Buber



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Gift yourself

An eye-opening journey to the riches of South India

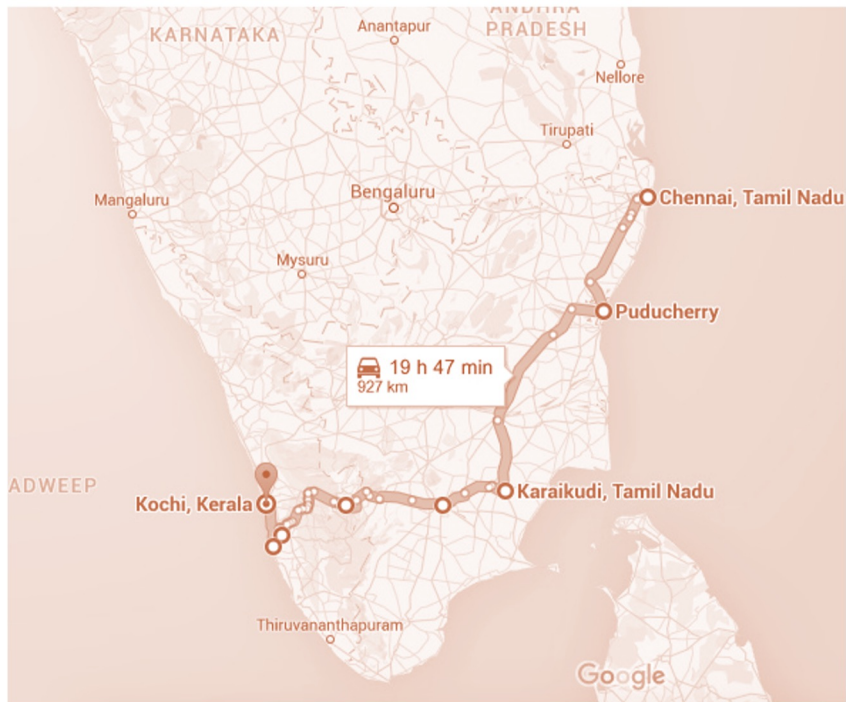
- Visit fabled lands of ancient Malabar and Coromandel coasts
- Trail the tea-draped Deccan plateau
- Tap into temples with a millennium of uninterrupted worship
- Explore Chettinad's unique lifestyle, cuisine, and architecture
- Cruise the verdant backwaters in God's own Country
- French and Dutch vibes in Pondy and Fort Kochi
- Return feeling rejuvenated and inspired

For your trip to South India, there is only ONE person to contact. Her name is Shila Desai. You're in excellent hands – Shelley Kirsch, Toronto

Highlights

- Insider visits with architectural insight to 6th - 12th C temples and monuments of Mahabalipuram, Chidambaran, and Meenakshi
- Cuisine, lifestyle and architecture of fascinating Chettinad
- Tea plantations of serene Munnar
- Backwaters cruising in Kerala
- French and Dutch heritage of Pondicherry and Cochin
- Idyllic beach Ayurveda retreat in Kerala
- Delightful accommodation in colonial tea plantation outposts and boutique hotels throughout
- Packed with inclusions: culinary lessons, artisanal demos, and meals with local families





Your Destination Awaits

Over the mountainous Western and Eastern Ghats and down into the Malabar and Coromandel coasts of South India lie the hidden gems of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Far less visited than the North, South India has a wealth of cultures, unique architecture and history, varied topography, ancient living temples, and some of the subcontinent's tastiest cuisine.

Home to Ayurveda, the best yoga shalas, coconut-tree-lined coasts that give way to fine sandy beaches, vast plains carpeted with tea and paddy, small villages and ornate temples, misty mountains, enclaves of Dutch and French colonial outposts, as well as bustling metropolises complete with skyscrapers next to surviving relics of ancient history.

South India is a destination you'll savour long after your return home.

“What I love about this itinerary . . .

The South is the unadulterated essence of India. Tamil Nadu and Kerala are infused with living history and devotion. Waves of invaders transformed the North but their influence waned this far south. As a result, temples have been in continuous use for a thousand years or more, and unbroken traditions continue from ancient times.

For this tour, I've curated gems of temples, Ayurveda, and Chettiar heritage. On the east coast, I've added Pondicherry for a unique spiritual experience with a Tamil-French flair, and on the west a cruise through emerald-fringed backwaters. Because South India is best experienced slowly, the trick is to do less than more.

Shila

12 Days (11 nights)

Note: International flights into Chennai and out of Kochi. Please contact us for internal travel and transfers not covered in this itinerary.