



2020 January Goddess Tour: Highlights of South India:

Highlights:

- *Visit the inner chamber of the Matramandir in the city of Unity, Auroville.*
- *Private temple pujas (celebrations).*
- *Circumnavigate the sacred mountain of Arunachala by the full moon.*
- *Visit the caves of saints and spend time in contemplation on the slopes of Arunachala.*
- *Wander the thousand-year-old stone forts and temples of Gingee.*
- *Visit the ashrams of Ramana Maharshi (Tiruvannamalai) and Sri Aurobindo (Pondicherry)*
- *A blessing from a temple elephant.*

Itinerary Overview: 7 Days: Chennai-Tiruvannamalai-Gingee-Auroville-Pondicherry-Chidambaram-Mahabalipuram-Chennai

Dates: January 7-14, 2020

January 7

Arrive in Chennai

Late evening or early morning arrival. Transfer to the hotel and rest up.

Hotel: The Leela Palace

January 8

Day 1: Chennai-Tiruvannamalai

Welcome to India. After breakfast, we will drive overland to Tiruvannamalai and enjoy the full-moon walk around the sacred mountain Arunachala. Visit the temples by moonlight and pilgrimage with thousands around the mountain.

Hotel: Sparsa Resort



January 9

Day 2: Tiruvannamalai

After breakfast, visit Sikander Ashram, a short journey up the base of the sacred mountain Arunachala for a scenic overlook of the whole city and vast temple complex.

We will have time for mindfulness in several sacred caves along the mountainside. Bask in the bliss and serenity of these ancient spiritual places.

Evening visit to the fire temple, which is one of the most significant Shiva temples in India.

Hotel: Sparsa Resort

January 10

Day 3: Tiruvannamalai via Gingee to Auroville

Gingee Fort is known as an impregnable fortress believed to be built in the 9th century by Cholas and later modified by the successive rulers, known as the "Troy of the East." Wander through the Fort and surrounding Temple Complex.

Hotel: Villa Shanti or similar



January 11

Day 4: Auroville

Morning visit to the magical Matramandir. Enjoy a quiet moment inside this spectacular temple and enjoy the surrounding gardens.

After lunch visit the picturesque Irumbai Temple located in the rural village of Irumbai.

*Recommended stop: Bread and Chocolate for afternoon tea.

Hotel: Villa Shanti or similar



January 12

Day 5: Pondicherry

Morning visit to Pondicherry to the local fish, produce, spice, and flower markets and the revered Aurobindo Ashram.

After lunch, enjoy an afternoon walk to the local temple to be blessed by the temple elephant, and experience a special temple blessing. Enjoy an evening stroll on the Promenade by the Bay of Bengal.

Hotel: Villa Shanti or similar



January 13:

Day 6: Chidambaram

Morning visit to Chidambaram Temple. Chidambaram is an important pilgrim center and a holy place for Saivites. Dedicated to Lord Nataraja, this ancient temple of the Cholas is unique not only because it is devoted solely to the art of Bharatanatyam, (Indian dance) but it is also one of the rare temples where Shiva is represented by an idol rather than the customary lingam. The temple is distinguished by five courts. The idol of Nataraja is installed in the roof of the temple, which is covered with gold plates. The icon is a stunning piece of sculpture that evokes a sense of continuous movement.

Hotel: Villa Shanti or similar



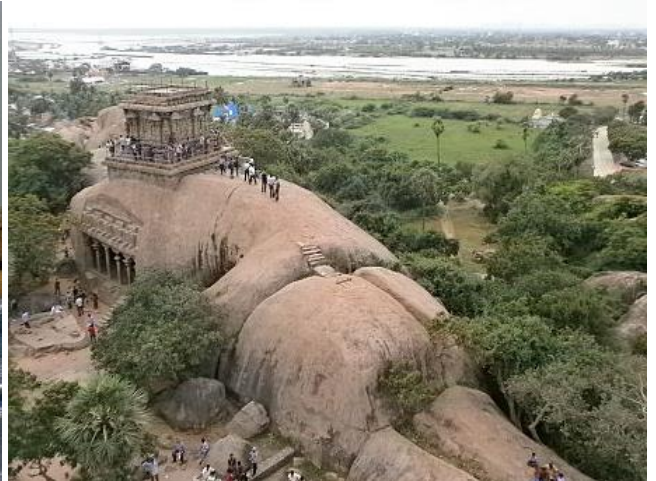
January 14

Day 7: Pondicherry to Mahabalipuram to Chennai

Drive to Mahabalipuram, an ancient port for the Pallava kings during the 7th and 8th centuries whose shore temple and rock carvings are now a World Heritage site. Mahabalipuram has some of the most important buildings in Indian architectural history. The tradition of sculpture continues today with the presence of stone carvers all over the city.

Continue to Chennai and check into hotel for a swim and dinner before late evening international departure.

Hotel: Radisson Blu Airport



Cost Per Person:

\$1699.00 based on double occupancy.

\$2449.00 based on single occupancy.

Cost Includes:

- Full-time guide and tour leader, Rohini Grace.
- Accommodation in four and five-star hotels (listed in itinerary).
- All Indian Domestic Airport transfers.
- Private Air-Conditioned Car with Driver for transfers and sightseeing as per the itinerary.
- Breakfast daily.
- All Taxes including Government and Service Tax.
- Sightseeing per the above itinerary.
- Monument / Entry Charges per itinerary.
- Recommended Packing List, Reading List, Shopping, Spa, and Restaurant Guide.

Cost Excludes:

- Personal Expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, tips, bottled water, Liquor, etc.
- Monument Camera Fees.
- Additional sightseeing or use of the vehicle not mentioned in the itinerary.
- Any other costs NOT mentioned under "Includes" header.