



# JOURNEY THROUGH SOUTH INDIA & SRI LANKA



**Tour Route:** Chennai (2) - Bangalore / Hassan (1) - Mysore (2) – Ooty (1) – Kochi (2) – Periyar (1) – Kumarakom (1) – Kovalam (2) – Colombo / Sigiriya (2) – Kandy (2) – Nuwaraeliya (1) – Colombo (1)

**Tour Duration:** 18 nights / 19 days

**Domestic Flight:** Chennai - Bangalore; Trivandrum - Colombo

**Day 1: Australia to Chennai (D)**

Fly from Australia to Chennai. After clearing airport formalities, meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel for overnight stay.

**Day 2: Day in Chennai (B / L / D)**

After breakfast, enjoy a city tour of Chennai, visiting the National Art Gallery and St Mary's church, India's oldest surviving Anglican church. Also visit Fort St George, built in the 17th century and San Thome Basilica, where St Thomas the apostle remains buried.

This afternoon, embark on a short drive to Mahabalipuram, to visit the shore temple, one of the

oldest temples in south India belonging to the early 8th century AD and Arjuna's penance, the world's largest bas-relief consisting of figures of Gods, men, beasts, birds and representing the entire creation. Also visit monolithic rock cut shrines called 'Five Rathas'. Drive back to Chennai for overnight stay.

**Day 3: Fly Chennai to Bangalore; Drive Bangalore to Hassan (B / L / D)**

This morning, catch your flight to the hi-tech Indian city of Bangalore. This morning, enjoy a city tour of Bangalore visiting the Government museum, one of the oldest museums of India; Vidhan Soudha, the state legislative chambers, and the beautiful botanical

gardens called 'Lal Bagh Gardens'. Later, drive to Hassan and check in at your hotel for overnight stay.

**Day 4: Hassan to Mysore (B / L / D)**

Today, visit the famous Hoysala Temple Complex, still in active worship, in Belur. Also visit Halebidu, the erstwhile capital of the Hoysalas. The Hoysaleswara Temple here perched on a star-shaped base amidst lawns, is a sculptural extravaganza. This afternoon, drive to Mysore for 2 nights stay.

**Day 5: Day in Mysore (B / L / D)**

Today, enjoy a city tour of Mysore visiting the Maharaja's Palace, one of the biggest palaces in India; St Philomena's Church; and Sri Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery in the Jag Mohan Palace, which has a collection of exquisite paintings. In the evening visit the Chamundi hill and Bull temple to see the daily prayers and rituals being performed by priests.

**Day 6: Mysore to Ooty (B / L / D)**

This morning enjoy a scenic drive to Ooty. Known as the Queen of the Blue Mountains, Ooty is famous for its rolling hills covered in pine and eucalyptus, sparkling waterfalls and its coffee and tea plantations. This afternoon, enjoy a tea plantation and factory tour and learn the secrets to a perfect brew. Evening at leisure in Ooty

**Day 7: Ooty to Kochi (B / L / D)**

After breakfast, drive to Kochi, the commercial capital and the most cosmopolitan city of Kerala. Kochi, also known as the Queen of the Arabian Sea, has one of the finest natural harbours in the world and is an important spice trading centre.

This evening, watch a spectacular performance of Kathakali, one of the oldest theatre forms in India, displaying a spectacular combination of drama, dance, music and ritual.



**Day 8: Day in Kochi (B / L / D)**

Today, enjoy a city tour of Kochi, visiting the Dutch Palace, Jewish Synagogue, Fort Cochin, St. Francis Church and Chinese fishing nets. Enjoy an evening at leisure in Kochi.

**Day 9: Kochi to Periyar (B / L / D)**

After breakfast, drive to Periyar (Thekkady), the wildlife and spice plantation hub of Kerala. This afternoon enjoy a spice plantation tour. Various kinds of spices are cultivated in Thekkady region, such as pepper, cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, ginger, turmeric and curry leaves. You also get the opportunity to shop for fragrant spices at a local market.

**Day 10: Periyar to Kumarakom (B / L / D)**

Enjoy an early morning visit to the Periyar Wildlife sanctuary, one of the finest elephant reserves of south India. Take a boat cruise on Lake Periyar, spotting migratory birds and local wildlife around the lake.

After breakfast, drive to Kumarakom, a coastal town in the backwaters of Kerala. This afternoon, enjoy a sunset motor boat cruise in Kerala backwaters. Kerala backwaters consist of a complex network of lagoons, lakes, & canals and are best experienced while slowly cruising down the labyrinth of canals, observing local village life on the banks of the backwaters.

**Day 11: Kumarakom to Kovalam (B / L / D)**

This morning, drive to Kovalam, one of the most serene and beautiful beaches of south India.

Enjoy a day at leisure relaxing and unwinding in the tranquility of Kovalam.

**Day 12: Day in Kovalam (B / L / D)**

On your last day in India, enjoy a day at leisure by the tranquil beaches of Kovalam or pamper yourself with the various Ayurveda and Spa treatments offered by your resort.

**Day 13: Kovalam / Trivandrum – Colombo / Sigiriya (B / L / D)**

After an early breakfast, drive to Trivandrum airport to catch your flight to Colombo, the capital city of Sri Lanka. After clearing airport formalities at Colombo, drive to Sigiriya. En-route visit the fishing village in Negombo which is the center of the island's fishing community. Continue drive to Sigiriya, and enjoy an evening at leisure.

**Day 14: Day in Sigiriya (Excursion to Polonnaruwa) (B / L / D)**

After breakfast visit the Sigiriya rock built by King Kassapa in the 5th century AD. The Lion Rock is a citadel of unusual beauty, rising 200m from the scrub jungles. See the world famous frescoes of the 'Heavenly maidens' of Sigiriya in a sheltered pocket of the rock.

This afternoon drive on to Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka's medieval capital from 11th to 13th century AD. Afternoon tour of this ancient city includes a visit to some well preserved ruins of ancient halls, chambers, royal pavilions, sculptures, beautiful parks and water reservoirs.

**Day 15: Sigiriya to Kandy (via Dambulla and Matale) (B / L / D)**

After breakfast, drive to Kandy. Enroute visit the rock cave temple of Dambulla, where King Valagambahu took refuge in the 01st century B.C. Dambulla is the most impressive of Sri Lanka's cave temples. The complex of five caves with over 2000 sq. meters of painted walls and ceilings found here are over 2,000 years old. The caves contain over 150 images of the Buddha, of which the largest is the colossal figure of the Buddha carved out of rock and spanning 14 meters. Also stop at Matale to visit spice gardens and batik factory. Upon arrival in Kandy, enjoy an evening at leisure.

**Day 16: Day in Kandy (Excursion to Pinnawela) (B / L / D)**

After an early breakfast drive to the Elephant Orphanage at Pinnawela. This elephant orphanage was set up by the Sri Lankan government to rescue and rehabilitate elephants orphaned at the hands of poachers in the jungles. This morning witness the feeding of elephants, where baby elephants are bottle fed with milk. After the feed, see the elephants being taken to a nearby river for their daily bath.

This afternoon, explore Kandy, Sri Lanka's most beautiful town, set 488 meters above sea level. Drive along the Upper Lake road to get a panoramic view of the lake and its surrounds. Visit the focal point of the town, the golden-roofed 'Dalada Maligawa', where the sacred tooth relic of the Buddha is enshrined. Later, wander around the beautiful bazaars of Kandy. This evening, enjoy a Sri Lankan cultural show.

**Day 17: Kandy to Nuwaraeliya (B / L / D)**

After breakfast, drive to Nuwaraeliya. Enroute visit the Botanic Gardens at 'Peradeniya', which house more than 4000 species of plants. This garden is best known for its orchid collection, the largest in Asia.

Then, visit a tea plantation and witness the manufacture of the world's famous 'Ceylon Tea'. Upon arrival at Nuwaraeliya, enjoy an evening at leisure.

**Day 18: Nuwaraeliya to Colombo (B / L / D)**

Enjoy a morning at leisure in Nuwaraeliya. Later, drive to Colombo. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure or browse through the shopping streets of Colombo.

**Day 19: Colombo to Australia (B)**

After breakfast, enjoy a city tour of Colombo, visiting the commercial city centre, built by the Portuguese in the 16th century. See the busy markets and bazaars of Pettah, visit a Buddhist and a Hindu temple, an old Dutch church and continue to the Cinnamon Gardens residential area. Tonight, you will be transferred to the airport to catch your flight back home.

**PRICE INCLUSIONS**

- International and India domestic economy airfares.
- Australia / India airport and departure tax;
- Accommodation on Sri Lanka twin sharing basis at 4\*/ heritage hotels or best available hotel in the region.
- All meals included (i.e. breakfast, lunch and dinner).
- All monument entrance fees included.
- Meeting and assistance on arrival and departures.
- Local English Speaking Guide for sightseeing tours. English speaking escort to accompany the group for minimum group size of 8 passengers.
- Chauffeured air-conditioned vehicles for all transfers, excursions and sightseeing tours.
- All currently applicable taxes.
- Kathakali Cultural dance performance in Kochi.
- Boat cruise at Lake Periyar.
- Sunset motor boat cruise in Kumarakom back waters.
- Sri Lankan cultural show in Kandy.
- India and Sri Lanka visa fee for Australian passport holder;

**PRICE EXCLUSIONS**

- Air fuel surcharge \$380 at brochure printing (subject to airline fluctuation).
- Expenses of personal nature like laundry, telephone, fax, internet, beverages, camera / video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses,
- Local payments in domestic currency, such as tips and gratuities.
- Any other services not mentioned in Price Inclusions above.



**DEPARTURES**

**Journey Through South India & Sri Lanka (Departure from SYD/MEL/BNE/ADL)**

Departure dates below are guaranteed on minimum of 4 passengers or above	Twin share Price
01Nov.2009; 28Feb.2010; 28Mar.2010;	AU\$ 5,260
18Apr.2010; 23May.2010; 29Aug.2010; 12Sep.2010	AU\$ 5,390
29Nov.2009; 24Jan.2010;	AU\$ 5,900
27Feb 2011; 27Mar 2011; 24Apr 2011	AU\$ 5,580
28Nov 2010; 05Dec 2010; 30Jan 2011;	AU\$ 6,180
Land only: AU\$ 4,240; Single room supplement: AU\$ 1,380	