

## **Package E: Splendors of South East**

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### **DAY 1: ARRIVE AT CHENNAI - MAHABALIPURAM**

*Our services begin here.* You will be greeted with a traditional Indian welcome by our tour executive at the arrival hall of Chennai Airport.

**Chennai** - the gateway to southern India, established in 1639 by the East India Company, is one of the oldest cities of the country. The first British Warehouse came up in 1639 when the British acquired the sandy beach from the local Nayaks on lease. It was called Madraspatinam then. Later by 1654, the Fort St. George was built. Still later the neighboring villages were included in the city which came either as grants or gifts. Triplicane was rented from the Sultan of Golconda in the year 1676. In 1744 Robert Clive worked as a writer from the Fort, later to become a military man of British Army. The Fort House, which housed the Governor and his council, were added in the 17th Century, the Assembly Hall in 1910 and the Secretariat in 1925. After clearing the formalities at the airport, set off for the lovely drive of about one hour to **Mahabalipuram**, which is an ancient coastal port located south of Chennai. Arrive at Mahabalipuram and check in to your seaside resort. **Check-in time is 2 p.m.** Stay overnight at the resort.

### **DAY 2: MAHABALIPURAM – KANCHIPURAM - MAHABALIPURAM**

After breakfast drive to **Kanchipuram** - is the ancient capital of the Pallavas famous as a city of 1000 Temples and still has 124 shrines. The first temple dedicated to Shiva was built in the 7th and 8th century and has paintings on the walls. Temples of Ekambaswara, Kailasanatha, Sri Kamakshi and Varadarajaswamy are of interest. Kanchipuram is also famous for its silks. After sightseeing drive back to **Mahabalipuram**.

**Afternoon** visit the city - built in 7th century, earlier called *Mahabalipooram*, this ancient Pallava port, is today the sight of several antique sculptural marvels. In this ancient seaside town, shrines and huge sculptures cut-out of rocks more than 1200 years back during the reign of Pallava Kings in the region can be seen. The rock carvings depicting mythological episodes - of demons, Gods and animals in battle and others - are truly poems in stone. The only shore temple which remains here is the spectacular two - spired shrine, unique because it houses both Lord Shiva and the Lord Vishnu in its sanctum-sanctorum. Stay overnight at the hotel.

### **DAY 3: MAHABALIPURAM – PONDICHERRY**

Morning, drive to Pondicherry when you arrive, check in to your hotel. Pondicherry, a former French colony, presents an unusual combination of European culture and Indian traditions. Its history can be traced back to Agastya, the revered sage of South India who built his hermitage here in 1500 BC. It became a part of India in 1954, but traces of its history as a French colony still remain in its churches, cuisine, grid-pattern streets and colonial buildings. **In the afternoon** - proceed for a tour of Pondicherry. You also visit the town of Auroville, an oasis of peace and enlightenment. Explore the Ashram and drive back to Pondicherry in the late afternoon. Stay overnight at the hotel.

### **DAY 4: PONDICHERRY – CHENNAI**

Check out of your hotel after breakfast and set off for the lovely drive to Chennai. The journey would take about four hours. Arrive at Chennai and check in to your hotel before starting your tour. A half day city tour – duration about four hours – The tour begins from the 'St. Mary's Church', built in 1678 – 80, this was the first English Church in Chennai. Continue to visit the Saint Thomas Cathedral, built in 1504, then re-built in neo - gothic style in 1893, this Roman Catholic Church is said to house the remains of St. Thomas the Apostle. Later visit the Kapaleeshwarar Temple, an ancient Shiva Temple, constructed in pure Dravidian style and the Sri Parathasarathy Temple, dedicated to Lord Krishna, built in the eight century. Visit the National Art Gallery & Museum and explore the beautiful temple friezes, the bronze gallery, and the Archaeological section. End the tour with a drive by the High Court, Fort St. George, and the Tamil film studios that come second only to Bollywood as they put out hundreds of movies a year. Stay overnight at the hotel.

### **DAY 5: CHENNAI – ONWARD DESTINATION**

You are at leisure in the morning. Check out of your hotel at leisure by noon. Drive to Chennai airport to board your onward flight.

<b>Per Person Land Costs</b> (based on 1 guest traveling alone):	
<b>First Class Level</b>	<b>Single Occupancy</b>
	<b>US \$ 1768</b>
<b>Per Person Land Costs</b> (based on 2 guests traveling together):	
<b>First Class Level</b>	<b>Double Occupancy</b>
	<b>US \$ 949 Per Person</b>

**Hotel to be used:** (First Class Level – 5 Star Hotels)

CITY	HOTEL	NIGHTS
Mahabalipuram	Radisson Resort Temple Bay or Similar	2
Pondicherry	Maison Perumal or Similar	1
Chennai	The Taj or Similar	1

**INCLUSIONS:**

- 4 nights stay at the hotels on entire trip.**
- Hotel accommodation on **single & double** occupancy basis.
- All transfers and sightseeing by your personal A/C **SUV**.
- Check-in time is 2 p.m. and check-out time is 12 noon
- Entrance fees to monuments as per the itinerary.
- Breakfast at all the Hotels
- Services of an English speaking guide as per the itinerary.
- Bottled mineral water for sightseeing/excursions and long drives.
- Representative for assistance on all arrival and departure transfers.
- All currently applicable taxes.

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- Any personal expenses such as tips, laundry and drinks.
- Any extra meals (other than those specifically laid down).
- Personal Travel Insurance, visa etc.
- Entrance fees to monuments.
- Camera fees (both still and video).
- International / domestic flight tickets.
- Miscellaneous

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

- ***WE WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE YOUR CONFIRMATION FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED PACKAGE LATEST BY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014 TO AVAIL THE ABOVE TOUR COST.***

**For Bookings: REACH US AT**

**info@theholidayshoppe.in**