

South India

Teatime between the seas

Hip, happy, holy: India's tropical south. We explore colonial backdrops by tuk-tuk, hike through mystical tea mountains, and paddle through an enchanted water world. We become culinary fire-eaters and creative street foodies. We learn about sustainable living in Auroville and discover the laid-back pace of the backwaters in Kochi. On the pulse of everyday life, we experience the many bright colours and scents of the country up close. The grand finale: Chilling at a beach resort in Mahabalipuram. What could be better?

- Culture and nature
- Overnight stay on a houseboat
- The backwaters – A wonder of nature
- Beach time on the Bay of Bengal

13 days

09.01.-21.01.2027

Share a room

€1999,-

Have a room all to yourself

€2749,-

MARCO POLO REISEN

South India: Teatime between the seas

Day 1, Sa, 09.01.2027: Europe meets India
Upon arrival in the morning, you are welcomed and taken directly to breakfast. After check-in, a short city tour of Chennai follows. At the Madras Museum, we admire bronzes from the Chola period. But India's second oldest museum has plenty of other treasures to discover. D

Day 2, So, 10.01.2027: A treasure trove of archaeology
Our day begins with a visit to the Santhome Cathedral, which houses the remains of Thomas the Apostle. Afterwards, we continue past the famous Marina Beach, one of Chennai's best-known landmarks, which stretches for 13 kilometres. The route continues past the flower and fruit market, before we stop to visit the impressive Kapaleeshwarar Temple. From there, the journey continues to Mahabalipuram (60 km). B/D

Day 3, Mo, 11.01.2027: Tropical temple in Mahabalipuram
A visit to the fishermen in Devaneri. Camera charged? Between the surreal rock formations and dreamy Mahabalipuram Beach, we literally have a million photo opportunities. On a tour of the city, we discover impressive cave temples and elaborate relief sculptures. These structures, built in the 7th and 8th centuries in the Dravidian style, are mostly dedicated to Vishnu or Shiva. Among the highlights are the famous Shore Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Arjuna's Penance, the Five Rathas, and several Mandapams. The sculptures here tell stories of deities, animals, Hindu legends and everyday life. B/D

Day 4, Di, 12.01.2027: Utopia in Auroville
We continue towards the southernmost tip of India – shortly before Puducherry, we stop at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. After a brief visit to the city museum of the former French colony, we make a pit stop to admire the new age world of Auroville (110 km). B/D

Day 5, Mi, 13.01.2027: Shiva's celestial dance
Palm trees, sugar cane and small villages line our route to Tanjore on the Kaveri plain. On the way, we stop in Tharangambadi. Want to hear some Indian music? Your Scout has a wide selection to choose from. Shiva also has a sense of rhythm: A temple was dedicated to him in Chidambaram as Nataraja, the King of Dance. Another architectural gem of the Chola kings: the Airavatesvara Temple in Darasuram (UNESCO World Heritage Site) (175 km). B/D

Day 6, Do, 14.01.2027: Temples and god makers
The Brihadishvara Temple in Tanjore (UNESCO World Heritage Site) is a whopping 1,000 years old. In Vaitheeshwaran Koyil, fortune tellers can see what your future holds by reading your personal palm leaf. Excursion to Madurai (235 km). At the Meenakshi Temple in Madurai, we witness a pious and lively ceremony in the evening. B/D

Day 7, Fr, 15.01.2027: In the heart of Tamil Nadu
We visit Sri Meenakshi Sundareshwarar Temple, one of India's largest temples and the lifeline of the city of Madurai. Another architectural highlight: Thirumalai Nayakkar Palace. With all that sightseeing, it's time to satisfy your appetite. Explore the city's diverse cuisine and discover how closely culinary art, history and culture are intertwined here. B/L/D

Day 8, Sa, 16.01.2027: A bouquet of aromas
Everything is so green! Lush landscapes and "spicy" mountains escort you over the heights of the Cardamom Hills on a spectacular drive to Thekkady (150 km). In a spice garden, we get tips from the spice masters on how to grow pepper and ginger. In the evening, we get to know the distinctive culture of South India during a demonstration of the traditional martial art of Karalipayattu. B/L/D

Day 9, So, 17.01.2027: Tigers, tea and teak
The morning begins with a leisurely stroll through the tropical landscape where there are plenty of opportunities to become acquainted with the local flora and fauna. Spend the day at your leisure exploring this spice paradise. B/D

Day 10, Mo, 18.01.2027: Behind the tea hills
"God's Own Country" is Kerala's tourism slogan. It's certainly not an overstatement with all these natural splendours! (140 km) You reach the backwaters, the river and canal system of Vembanad Lake, where an air-conditioned, traditional wooden houseboat is ready and waiting – this will be your means of transport and accommodation today. Enjoy a taste of Kerala's culinary specialities during the boat ride. B/L/D

Day 11, Di, 19.01.2027: Tradition in Kumbalangi
After so many culinary highlights, you are no doubt particularly interested in where the many different ingredients come from. During a visit to an Indian village, we learn about the sophisticated techniques used to harvest mussel meat, crab, and coconut leaves. You can enjoy some freshly caught fish before the journey continues to Kochi (60 km). B/L/D

Day 12, Mi, 20.01.2027: In the kingdom of spices
Multiculturalism in the 16th century: Colonial churches, synagogues, spice warehouses and a Chinese fishing harbour – in the old town of Kochi, we follow our guide in the footsteps of adventurers from all over the world. During our final dinner together, we have one last opportunity to savour the unique cuisine of South India and immerse ourselves in the art of Indian dance drama. Late evening transfer to the airport (rooms are available until 12:00 p.m. the following day). B/D

EXTENSION

Day 13-15, Do-Sa, 21.01.-23.01.2027: Beach time
Three more days of relaxation await you on the Arabian Sea! B

Day 16, So, 24.01.2027: Bye-bye, India!
Enjoy the last few relaxing hours under the palm trees. The room is at your disposal until departure. Transfer to the Kochi Airport and return flight (not included in this Marco Polo tour). B

B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner

Flights
Arrival and departure flights are not included in the tour price. We'd be happy to provide you with an individual flight offer.

Hotels
Subject to change

Place	Nights	Hotel	Local rating
Chennai	1	Rain Tree St Marys Road	*****
Mahabalipuram	2	ITC Welcom Kences Palm	*****
Puducherry	1	Shenbaga	****
Swamimalai	1	Indeco Swamimalai	****
Madurai	2	Sterling V Grand	****
Thekkady	2	Amritara Spice Garden	****
Alleppey	1	Houseboat	-
Kochi	2	Casino	*****
Maraikulam	3	The Marari Beach	*****

Travel documents and vaccinations
German citizens require a passport that is valid for at least six months after the end of the trip and a visa, which we would be happy to arrange for you for a fee. Different entry requirements may apply to citizens of other countries. Please contact the relevant consulate for more information. Vaccinations are not mandatory.

Included in the tour price
- Transfers, excursions, and round trip in a local, air-conditioned coach
- 12 nights in a single room
- Breakfast, 4 x lunch, 12 x dinner
- Welcome and farewell dinners at local restaurants
- Train ride from Villupuram to Madurai
- Kalaripayattu demonstration
- Street food tour
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Early check-in
- Room until departure on the last day
- English-speaking Marco Polo tour guide in India

Included in the price / extension
- 3 nights in a single room
- Breakfast
- Transfer to hotel – airport

Price per person from €

13 days	Basic tour		Extension	
Date 2026	DBL	SGL - Surch.	DBL	SGL - Surch
09.01.-21.01.2027	1999	750	950	445

Minimum number of participants: 4 persons; Maximum number of participants: 16 persons.. If the minimum number of participants is not reached, the Tour Operator reserves the right to withdraw from the contract up to 21 days before departure. **Tour Operator:** Marco Polo Reisen GmbH, Riesstrasse 25, D-80992 Munich. **General travel conditions and suitability of travel for persons with reduced mobility:** www.agb-mp.com. **Payment/secured payment certificate:** Payment is only due upon presentation of the secured payment certificate (sent with the travel confirmation) in accordance with Section 651 r (3) of the German Civil Code (BGB). A deposit of 20% of the tour price, up to a maximum of €1000 per person, is due upon conclusion of the contract. The remaining balance is due on the 20th day before departure or at the latest upon receipt of the travel documents. **Travel insurances:** No travel insurance is included in the tour price. We recommend purchasing travel cancellation insurance from the following provider: www.agb-mp.com/versicherung. **Package travel rights:** The standard notification form on your rights in relation to a package holiday can be found at www.agb-mp.com/pauschalreiserechte. **Data protection:** Marco Polo Reisen processes customer data for the purpose of travel implementation and contract execution (Art. 6 (1) (b) of the European Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) and for the purpose of advertising its own services (Art. 6 (1) (f) GDPR). Detailed information and the contact details of our Data Protection Officer: www.agb-mp.com/datenschutz. You may withdraw your consent to the use of your data for advertising purposes at any time: Marco Polo Reisen GmbH, Riesstrasse 25, D-80992 Munich, Tel.: +49 (0)89/50060-411, E-mail: guys.travel@marco-polo-reisen.com.

Booking
Guys.travel
Trademark of Zusammen.reisen GmbH
Taunus Tower
Mergenthalerallee 73-75
D-65760 Eschborn

www.guys.travel
E-mail: info@guys.travel

Telephone & WhatsApp: +49 (0)151 7005 7771

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