A GLIMPSE OF INDIA TOURS

SELF-REALISATION IN THE LAND OF TEMPLES—TAMILNADU

ESCORTED TOUR - 14 nights / 15 days in India
FROM 24 JANUARY 2027 TO 7 February 2027 in India



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Incredible India

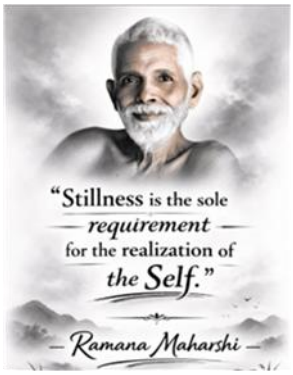
Self-realisation in the Land of Temples Tamilnadu

ESCORTED TOUR - 15 days / 14 nights

Chennai (Madras) – Madurai – Thanjavur – Chidambaram – Pondicherry - Thiruvannamalai – Kanchipuram - Mahabalipuram – Chennai



South India the cradle of the Dravidian culture in India, presents a living history of ancient Hindu Kingdoms largely unperturbed by the invaders who ransacked the Northern plains. **Tamilnadu** is home to many ancient Hindu temples built several centuries ago (which are still in use as places of worship) and palaces of Kings from bygone eras. This tour commencing at **Chennai (Madras),** the capital city of Tamilnadu is designed to take you on a tour of the Hindu heritage while savouring the local cuisine and experiencing local crafts and culminating in a beach resort in Mahabalipuram. The highlight of the tour is the **Ramana Maharishi Ashram in Tiruvannamalai**, a profound symbol of spiritual enlightenment drawing seekers from diverse backgrounds captivated by the allure of self-inquiry and the teachings of non-duality.



The **Ramana Ashram,** situated at the base of the revered Arunachala mountain in Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu, India, stands as a profound symbol of spiritual enlightenment. Founded by the esteemed sage Sri Ramana Maharshi, this sacred sanctuary has evolved into a revered pilgrimage site, drawing seekers from diverse backgrounds who are captivated by the magnetic allure of self-inquiry and the teachings of non-duality. Sri Ramana Maharshi's spiritual journey began with a transformative awakening at the tender age of sixteen. In 1896, he left his familial home in Tiruchuli and embarked on a pilgrimage to Arunachala, where he eventually settled within the secluded caves encircling the sacred hill. For years, he dwelled in solitary contemplation, delving into profound depths of self-realization. The word of Ramana Maharshi's presence spread far and wide, beckoning disciples and devotees seeking guidance on the path to enlightenment. The essence of Ramana Maharshi's teaching is found in a small booklet called '**Who am I?**' This little booklet contains the first set of instructions given by Ramana Maharshi. They are directly from his unique experience of self-realization Who am I? The Ramana Ashram remains a steadfast sanctuary for truth-seekers, where the cacophony of the mind subsides, and the essence of pure awareness permeates the heart. As the sun sets behind the majestic Arunachala mountain, casting its ethereal glow upon the ashram grounds, one can't help but be enveloped by a profound sense of reverence for this sacred abode, where the eternal dance of the Self unfolds in silent splendor.



This tour visits several well known **Hindu temples** in Tamilnadu built in the Dravidian style of architecture, several centuries ago. **Hinduism** is the world's oldest active religion, originating in India over 4,000 years ago. Often referred to as Sanatana Dharma ("the eternal path"), it has no single founder, single holy book, or rigid structure. Instead, it is an umbrella term for a vast, diverse family of philosophical and spiritual traditions. A Hindu temple is a spiritual destination for many Hindus, as well as landmarks around which ancient arts, community celebrations and the economy have flourished. Dravidian temples are generally enclosed within a compound wall with gateways in the centre of the four walls the gateway is crowned with a tall structure known as the Gopuram visible for long distances to guide pilgrims. The main temple located in the centre of the courtyard has a stepped pyramid shaped tower known as Vimana and the inner sanctum sanctorum which houses the principal deity is called the garbagraha. Large halls for cultural performances and a temple tank for water supply are usually found within the temple complex.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Chennai



Arrive Chennai (Madras). Chennai, also known as Madras, is the capital and largest city of Tamil Nadu, the southernmost state of India. It is located on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal. In 1639 CE, the British East India Company obtained a grant for a strip of coastal land which then contained the fishing village of Madrasapattinam. By the late 18th century, the British had conquered most of the region and established the Madras Presidency with Madras as the capital. Met on arrival and transfer to hotel. Welcome dinner. Overnight in Chennai (Madras).

Day 2: Chennai

Orientation talk followed by sightseeing tour of Chennai (Madras). Chennai - city tour - places to visit include Kapaleeshwarar Temple, Santhome Cathedral, Government museum, Fort St. George, driving past Marina Beach and the impressive array of government and university buildings housed in structuress built in the British period. Overnight in Chennai.

Day 3: Chennai - Madurai

Flight to Madurai. Later in afternoon proceed for city tour of Madurai. Meenakshi Temple dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi and Lord Siva with a history dating back 2000 years and famous for its 1000 pillar corridor. Also visit the Palace of King Tirumalai Nayak, a gracious building in the Indo saracenic style, famous for the Stucco work on its domes & arches.. Evening visit to Meenakshi temple to witness night ceremony. Overnight in Madurai.

Day 4: Madurai - Thanjavur



Checkout and visit the Gandhi Memorial museum en route to Thanjavur. The museum displays a visual biography of Gandhiji including photos, sculptures, manuscripts, and selected copies of his letters and renderings. There is also a special section depicting the history of the India freedom movement. Overnight in Thanjavur.



Day 5: Thanjavur

Visit the Sri Brihadeshwara Temple built by the great Chola king, Raja I in the 10th century AD. This superb monument has been listed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Continue your tour to Tanjore Palace & Museum reminiscent of the Nayak dynasty and subsequent influence of the Marathas. Conclude your day by visiting a local Veena (musical instrument) making workshop to see artisans at work, carving the instrument from a single block of jackfruit wood. Overnight in Thanjavur

Day 6: Thanjavur – Pondicherry



Morning drive to Pondicherry. Enroute visit Gangaikonda Cholapuram, built around 1025–1035 CE by Rajendra Chola I, is a masterpiece of 11th-century Chola architecture. Its intricate carvings and towering vimana showcase the artistic peak of the Chola empire. Continue your drive to Chidambaram and visit the famous 9th century Shiva Temple. Chidambaram is associated with Nataraja or Shiva in his Ananda Tandava pose (the Cosmic Dance of bliss). Continue your drive to Pondicherry. Overnight in Pondicherry.

Day 7: Pondicherry



In the morning visit Auroville an experimental community of people from 50+ countries, built on ideals of human unity, sustainability, and collective living. You will explore its history, ecology, economy and unique decision-making systems. The tour begins with treats from the Auroville Bakery followed by the Visitors Centre's exhibits on reforestation, waste management, women's empowerment and organic farming plus a chance to shop for Auroville's renowned products. Depending on your interests, you may visit creative units such as Wallpaper, musical instrument and dyeing workshops, bamboo research centres, and organic farms. You'll also view the iconic Matrimandir from outside.

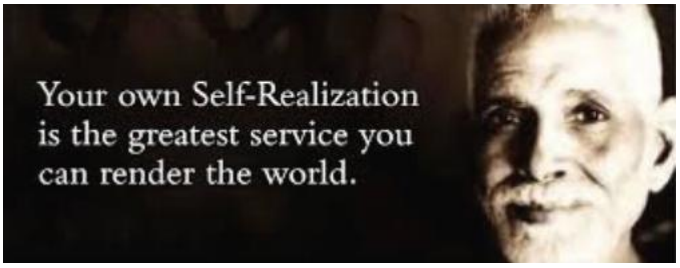
Afternoon, an exclusive French Connections walking tour (approximately 02 hour) takes you to Aurobindo Ashram, Heritage / govt. buildings, museum, paper factory, cafes, walk on promenade area / beach side. Rickshaws will be available if needed. Overnight in Pondicherry.

Day 8: Pondicherry - Thiruvannamalai



Morning drive to Thiruvannamalai. Later in afternoon, visit Tiruvannamalai (Tiruvannamalai Arunachala) Temple. The Lord Annamalaiyar (Arunachaleswarar) temple has a unique architecture. It is backed by the contributions of various skilled workmen employed by different dynasties. The greatness of this temple architecture is well described by the Tamil poets of the seventh century in their works of literature. Next visit Virupaksha cave, one of the ancient caves in India with its history dating back to the 13th century. The cave is located on the eastern slopes of the Arunachala Hill. The cave gained importance after Sri Ramana Maharshi stayed in the cave for 16 years. Overnight in Thiruvannamalai.

Days 9: Thiruvannamalai



Morning and afternoon meditation sessions at the Ramana Maharishi ashram. Optional activities will be available for non-meditation members from bullock cart rides, kili josiyam (parrot fortune reading), learning to milk a cow and pottery making. Overnight in Thiruvannamalai. Guide services not provided for these 3 days of meditation. Optional activities for Non-mediation members – You may choose any in-house activities or simply enjoy Spa or Pottery at hotel. From bullock cart rides, kili josiyam, learning to milk a cow, pottery making, just take your pick to create some truly unforgettable moments (Inhouse activities are complimentary). Overnight in Thiruvannamalai.

Days 10: Thiruvannamalai

Morning and afternoon meditation sessions at the Ramana Maharishi ashram. Optional activities will be available for non-meditation members. Overnight in Thiruvannamalai

Days 110: Thiruvannamalai

Morning and afternoon meditation sessions at the Ramana Maharishi ashram. Optional activities will be available for non-meditation members. Overnight in Thiruvannamalai



Days 12: Thiruvannamalai – Kanchipuram - Mahabalipuram Drive to Kanchipuram known as the Golden City of a Thousand Temples, one of the oldest towns in India. It is famous for both its temples and its hand-woven silks. Most of the temples are well preserved till date, which were built during 7th and 8th century AD. The prominent temple of Kanchipuram is the Ekambareshwar Temple. Also visit the local centres or home of the weavers of the world famous Kanchipuram silk sarees and watch them create magic out of silk thread into saris. After visit drive to Mahabalipuram. Overnight in Mahabalipuram.

Days 13: Mahabalipuram



Mahabalipuram was the second capital and seaport of the Pallava kings in the 3rd century AD. Visit the historical town and the fabulous shore temple and the Rathas and Krishna's Butterball, a gigantic granite boulder perched on a smooth slope, seemingly defying all laws of physics. Evening enjoy the seaside and walk on the sandy beach. Overnight at hotel.

Day 14: Mahabalipuram

Early risers can enjoy the sunrise on a clear day. Morning visit Fisherman's village and interact with people engaged in fishing, learn about their life style and the various techniques and tools they use for fishing. Later visit, Dakshina Chitra, a heritage village with an array of displays depicting the life pattern of people in South India. The exhibits portray the living beliefs of art, folk performing-arts, craft and architecture of South India. Rest of the afternoon is kept at leisure to enjoy beach side or relax at hotel or experience optional activities around the area. Farewell dinner. Overnight at Mahabalipuram.

Day 15: Mahabalipuram - Chennai - Departure

Drive to Chennai international airport to connect the flight for onward destination.

Hotels envisaged

Chennai	The Park
Madurai	Heritage Madurai
Thanjavur	Great Trails by GRT
Pondicherry	Lepondi Resort
Thiruvannamalai	Halez Sparsa resort
Mahabalipuram	Welcomhotel by ITC Kences
	Palm Beach resort

Hotel accommodations are subject to availability at the time of booking. Equivalent hotels may be used if necessary due to unavailability etc.
Hotel Check-In time is 14:00 hrs & check out time is 1200 noon.

Tour prices

Twin share – Aus Dollars 5900 (Land costs) per person
Single supplement – Aus Dollars 1400 per person

Not included in holiday price:
International flights, airport taxes, costs of passports, visas, travel and other insurances. Immunisation, excess baggage, meals (excluding breakfasts and two dinners), tips to tour guides, items of personal nature such as phone calls, taxis, laundry, room service, drinks, minibar, camera/video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, etc

Tour inclusions

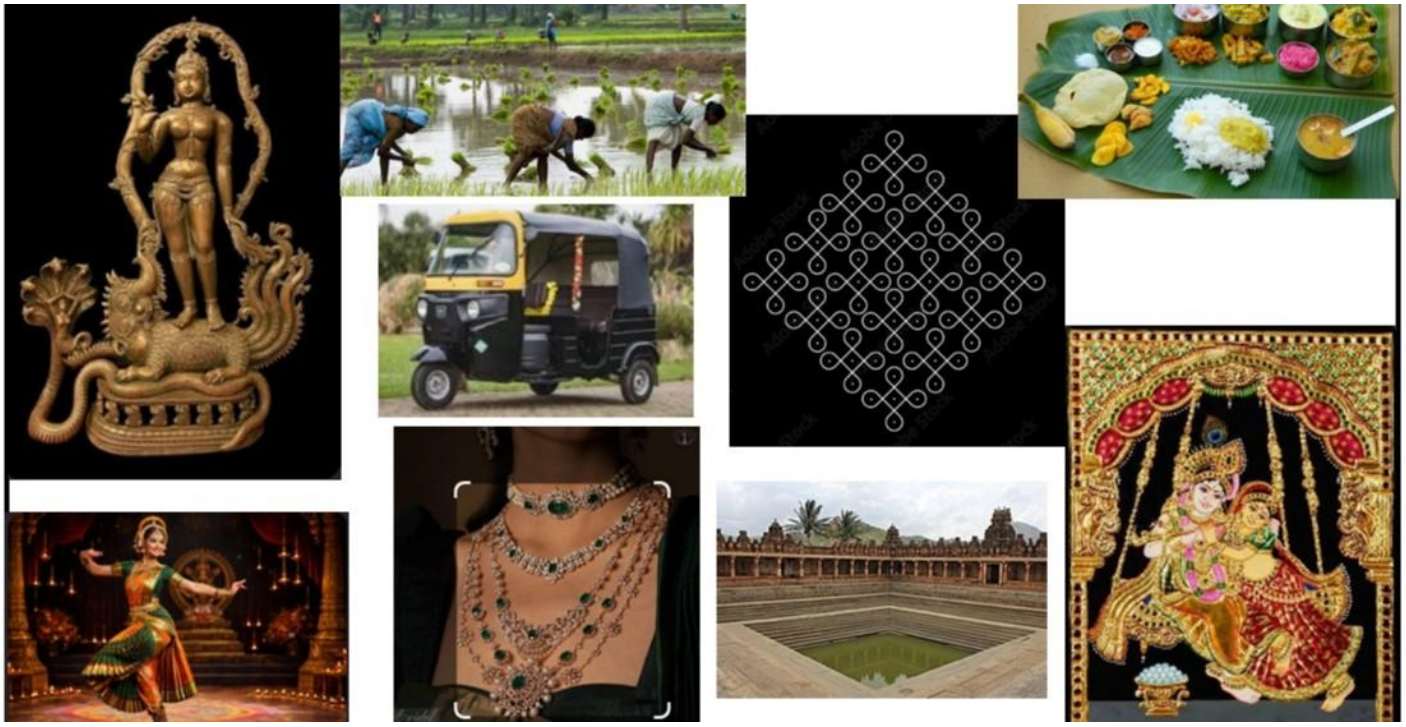
Land transportation using a suitable air-con vehicle.
Accommodation on twin sharing bed & breakfast basis.
Train tickets
Fully escorted tour and local English speaking guides in all cities
Sightseeing tours
Entrances to the monuments
Pre-tour meeting in Sydney and tour notes
Welcome and farewell dinners

Tour notes

The itinerary is subject to changes if necessary
Hotel Check-In time is 14:00 hrs & check out time is 1200 noon.
This tour will involve extensive walking in all the cities visited.
Adequate shopping stops will be provided
Optional activities will be available.
Tipping is essential - the tour leader will collect money from the group at the beginning of the tour and organise group tipping for the entire trip
Dress in a modest and respectful manner for temple visits. Avoid sleeveless tops, deep-neck dresses, shorts, mini-skirts, tight or revealing clothes, transparent or flashy outfits. No footwear is allowed inside the temple premises. Footwear stands are available near major entrances. Socks can be worn. Entry to main sanctum-Sanctorum area is prohibited for non- Hindus in most temples. Photos and videography are subject to permission, check with guide / follow the temple instructions.

OPTIONAL TOUR EXTENSION

You can choose to start with a Golden Triangle tour extension (Delhi-Agra-Jaipur) 6 nights / 7 days from Jan 18 to Jan 24, 2027 with a full moon viewing of the Taj Mahal on Jan 21, 2027. Ask for brochure



Tour conditions

These terms and conditions must be read before making a booking. They form part of your booking contract with Boutique Travel Services, Sydney and Darshan Events, Sydney.
This tour itinerary and cost is based on conditions and transportation, land costs and exchange rates as of June 2026 and is subject to currency fluctuations, local Government taxes and increases in fuel prices.
Darshan Events and Boutique Travel Services, Sydney reserve the right to vary the itinerary, accommodation or price due to reasons outside their control.
Darshan Events and Boutique Travel Services, Sydney reserve the right to cancel the tour if the minimum requirement of numbers (10) is not met. This will be decided before final payment is due and your deposit will be refunded.
Where possible, we will attempt to match singles willing to share. However, this cannot be guaranteed, and the single supplement will apply should no match be possible.
A service fee may be incurred for individual alterations to the group tour arrangements in addition to fees and charges levied by our suppliers which are listed under main T&Cs and will be provided before deposit payment.

Booking:
To reserve your place please forward a) your completed booking form, b) Boutique Travel Services (Hello World) Terms and Conditions duly acknowledged and signed and c) a non-refundable deposit of Aus $500 per person before 24 October 2026. Receipt of the deposit indicates that the passenger has read and is in agreement of all the proposed travel arrangements and all the terms and conditions set forth in this brochure and in the Boutique Travel Services (Hello World) terms and conditions. The balance must be received on or before close of business 23rd November 2026. If the balance is not received by the due date, we reserve the right to regard the booking as cancelled and to apply the appropriate cancellation fees.
Bookings made after 24th November will be subject a late Aus $150 booking fee of to cover communication and other costs.

Payment:
For payment of deposit by credit card please use link below and advise once you have made the payment by email.
https://pay.travelpay.com.au/BOUTIQUET
For payment by bank transfer please use our account details below and send us a copy by email:
Bank: Australian Mutual Bank (Cuscal Ltd);
Name: Lovan Pty Ltd
BSB: 611-100 Acc No: 100114849 Ref: (your last name)

Cancellations:
#CANCELLATION POLICY: LAND ARRANGEMENTS
Cancelled before 23rd November 2026: Loss of deposit
Cancelled between 24th November 2026 and 8th December 2026: 20% of total cost
Cancelled between 9th December 2026 and 23rd December 2026: 30% of total cost
Cancelled between 24th December 2026 and 8th January 2027: 60% of total cost
Cancelled on or after 9th January 2027: 100% of the tour cost
There will be no refund for any unavailed tours, accommodation or other services.

Not included in holiday price:
International flights, airport taxes, costs of passports, visas, travel and other insurances, immunisation, excess baggage, meals (excluding breakfasts, welcome and farewell dinners), tips to tour guides, items of personal nature such as phone calls, taxis, laundry, room service, drinks etc.

Visas:
Australian citizens can obtain e-visas for travel to India upon payment of the appropriate fees. Other nationalities need to check online their eligibility for e-visas. Please visit https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/ for further information and to apply for e-visa.

Baggage allowance:
The free baggage allowance for passengers on tour in India is 20 kilos per person and 7 Kg cabin baggage. Any charges for baggage in excess will be at the passenger's expense.

Insurance:
Travel in this tour group will not be permitted without adequate travel insurance for the full duration of the travel arrangements in respect of illness, injury, death, loss of baggage and personal items, cancellation and curtailment and will be issued by Boutique Travel Services, Sydney.
If insurance cover/policy is obtained through channels other than Boutique Travel Services, Sydney, details of such must be provided at the time of paying the final balance. Please check with your credit card issuer if you have travel insurance cover attached to the card as that would be beneficial to you.

Health and Immigration:
It is the responsibility of the passenger to ensure the validity of the passport and obtain the necessary visas for travelling in India. It is also the responsibility of the passenger to complete all medical vaccinations and immunisation as recommended by the Australian authorities for travel to India / return to Australia, prior to departure.

Authority of Tour escort:
At all times before and after the commencement of the tour, the decision of the tour escort will be final on all matters pertinent to the safety and wellbeing of the tour participants.
#At all times, the laws, customs, currency and drug regulations of all countries visited must be strictly complied to. Failure of this or interference with the well-being of the group may result in the tour escort asking the party to leave the tour and, in that event, all rights to any refund from Boutique Travel Services, Sydney or any other recourse will be forfeited.

Disclosure of Medical conditions:
You are required to make full and true disclosure in the Booking form of all ailments and physical or psychological impairments of which you are aware that may affect in any way your ability to undertake the tour without endangering your health or the health or safety of the other tour participants or the orderly progress of the tour. If necessary, we may ask for a medical report at your cost from a medical practitioner nominated by us concerning your physical and psychological medical condition prior to making the full payment. Upon production of the report, we may at our discretion, terminate your booking without being bound to provide reasons for the same. If your booking is terminated by us under these circumstances the deposit paid by you towards booking fees will be refunded to you in full. If due to other circumstances you are unable to travel due to health reasons, all cancellation terms will apply and you may submit your claims to your travel insurance.

Responsibilities:
Bookings are accepted subject to the following conditions:
Boutique Travel Services, Sydney is the Licensed Travel agent who will issue all international air tickets and travel insurances for the tour group from Australia and coordinate payments between clients and the Indian tour operators. They act as coordinator for all persons in the tour group with the tour operator in India in respect of all transportation, sightseeing and hotel accommodations. Darshan Events is the Tour consultant of the tour operations and is responsible for finalizing itineraries, liaising with the Indian tour operator, selecting tour escorts and for the marketing of the tours. TransIndia Holidays is the India tour operator.
Boutique Travel Services and Darshan Events finalise all arrangements for this tour upon the express condition that they shall not be liable for any injury, damage or loss arising directly or indirectly from accidents, inadvertent errors in the bookings, delays in general, transport failures, strikes, wars or natural disasters or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of any default in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft or through the acts of default of any company or persons engaged in conveying or accommodating passengers or in the carrying out of arrangements of the tours or otherwise in connection therewith.
Boutique Travel Services and Darshan Events will endeavour to operate the tour as described. However, they reserve the rights in any way they see desirable or necessary to alter or substitute routes, timetables, itineraries, schedules, carriers, and accommodation. No refund will be made for any unused services which are included in the tour price.
Boutique Travel Services and Darshan Events further reserve the right to cancel or withdraw the tour or holiday organised by them or to decline to accept any person on any such tour or holiday and disclaim all responsibility for any losses occasioned by the foregoing.
Boutique Travel Services and Darshan Events shall not be responsible for any loss or injury of whatever description howsoever arising (whether through negligence or otherwise) which you may suffer in the course or consequence upon your travel arrangements.
All exchange orders, receipts, coupons, contracts and tickets are issued subject to any and all the tariffs, terms and conditions specified by the suppliers and all services are subject to the laws of the country where the services are provided.
Boutique Travel Services and Darshan Events shall not be responsible for any acts by any group member contrary to the laws of Australia or any other country during the course of the tour and is not obliged to provide legal or any other form of assistance to the said member.

Laws of New South Wales:
This contract is subject to the laws of New South Wales and is to be interpreted in accordance with that Law.

DISCOUNTS (Choose any one of the following!)

Are you a returning customer? Tell us which Darshan Events 'A Glimpse of India tour' you had joined and avail a $50 discount.
Are you travelling with your spouse / partner? We are happy to give a discount of $50 per person.
Introduce a friend and when they join the tour, you will get a $50 discount