BEST OF TAMIL NADU
Madurai – Rameswaram - Kanyakumari
6 nights & 7 days
Overview

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<td>Rameswaram</td>
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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**Madurai**: Meenakshi Amman Temple, Koodal Azhagar Temple, Thirumalain Nayakar Mahal, Puthu Mandapam, Thiruparakundram Murugan Temple, Gandhi Memorial Museum, Samanar Caves

**Rameswaram**: Ramanathaswamy Temple, Dhanushkodi Beach, Sea World Aquarium, Hanuman Temple, Villoondi Theertham

**Kanyakumari**: Swami Vivekananda Memorial, Triveni Sangamam and Thiruvalluvar Statue, Evening witness the spectacular sunset view

**Day 1: MADURAI**

Madurai

Madurai is situated on the bank of river Vaigai and has been the kingdom of Pandya kings in the past century. The place has a great cultural heritage and strong mythological history to be passed on to the next coming generations. The place is more than 2500 years old and the commercial center was developed in 550 AD. The city is constructed in the form of a lotus and is known as lotus city too. There is a beautiful temple constructed by the Pandyan kings and Lord Shiva is worshiped here. It was believed that divine nectar was showered at that place and due to it the Jasmine flowers bloom in the place all around. Jasmine flower too has its foundation in the city. In 16th century, it was ruled by Nayal emperors and also Christianity has been cultivated in these regions too.

**Day Notes**

- Arrive Airport/Railway Station
- You will be greeted by our chauffeur and drive to hotel. Check-in to the hotel and relax.
- Later proceed for sightseeing of Madurai: Meenakshi Amman Temple, Koodal Azhagar Temple, Thirumalain Nayakar Mahal and after visiting you have a time to shopping in Puthu Mandapam
- Return to the hotel by evening
- Overnight in Madurai

**Included**

BB

Visit to the below sightseeing points

**Meenakshi Amman Temple**

Meenakshi Amman Temple is the holy temple of Hindus located in the city of Madurai in southern India. It is a vast temple of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. It is the best temple in which both God and Goddess are worshipped together. It is the life line of the country, especially southern India as Lord Shiva is the highly worshipped god of the country. It has its foundation way back in the 2500 AD. According to the mythology, Lord Shiva visited Madurai to marry Parvati and it has been the sacred abode of Goddess Parvati since her birth. The wonderful architecture of the place is amongst the Seven Wonders of the World and the construction is highly minute with great art piece incorporated the walls and pillars of the temple.

**Koodal Azhagar Temple**

The temple is situated in the city of Azhaghar, the beautiful city of southern India. It is the temple of Lord Vishnu with great monument of Lord Vishnu encarved in front of the temple. Koodal is the second name for the city of Madurai and Koodal temple
indicates the temple of Madurai as suggested by its name. It is one of the oldest temples in southern India and is one of the 108 temples of lord Vishnu constructed all over India.

Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal
Thirumalai Nayak Mahal was constructed way back in the 17th century. Several buildings and temples had been constructed by him in the region and they have been splendid piece of construction. It was constructed by kings of Muslim dynasty which covered several regions of Coimbatore, Madurai districts and other few places in southern Tamil Nadu. It is a great piece of art and all of the sculptures are encarved in the Madurai style.

Puthu Mandapam
A ‘Mandapa’ or Hall near the Meenakshi Amman Temple, the place is a shopping street filled with some of the oldest shops in Madurai. The shops date back to around 1921 and are passed down from generation to generation. A walk here is a walk through history since the Mandapam itself holds some fascinating stories. The place was used for meetings by Indian freedom fighters during the British Raj. Today the 125 pillared historic place gets lost in the lights and buzz of the shops which have engulfed it, but still exudes vibrancy.

Day 2: MADURAI

Day Notes
- After breakfast proceed for sightseeing of Madurai
- Visit sightseeing Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple, Gandhi Memorial Museum and Samanar Caves
- Return to the hotel by evening
- Overnight in Madurai

Included
BB
Visit to the below sightseeing points

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple
One of the most ancient (believed to be built before the 7th century) and lavishly carved temple in south India, the Thiruparankundram Murugan temple makes a first time visitor rather speechless just by its gigantic size. The colours that burst at the entrance gives a peek of what lies inside and the story behind the temple only adds more charm to the place. Mythology says this is where Lord Murugan married Deivayanai, the daughter of the king of heaven - Indra. The whole temple is a pleasure to walk through - every wall and pillar is graced with intricate carving of gods and goddesses from the Indian Mythology.

Samanar Caves
Located 11 kilometres from Madurai, The Samanar hills are home to ancient Jain Carvings that date back to the 9th Century. The caves have two main sculptures - Settipodavu (Mahavira) and Pechipallam (Thirthankara). It was here that hundreds of Jain
monks undertook ‘sallekena’ or ‘fast unto death’. The incident is mentioned in 2000-year-old Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions and Vatteluttu writings which were recovered by Archaeologists. The caves are an intrinsic part of the region’s history and are a must-see when in Madurai.

Gandhi Memorial Museum
A palace built in the 17th century was converted to a Museum and inaugurated by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1959 to hold all the precious belongings of M.K. Gandhi who was brutally assassinated with a gunshot after the Indian independence. The museum pays tribute to his endeavours and has a section of exhibits which show the freedom struggle of India. Highlights include over 100 articles belonging to Mahatma Gandhi including the blood stained cloth in which he was assassinated.

Day 3: MADURAI – RAMESWARAM (175 km / 4 Hrs)

Rameswaram
Rameswaram one of the most renowned pilgrim places in the region and is located on a beautiful island in the lower side of India and is separated by a small Pamban channel from Sri Lanka. Rameswaram is the holiest pilgrimage place for the Hindus. Every year several people visit the place with holy intentions of offering sacred prayers to Lord Rama. It falls in the Gulf of Mannar and is a peninsula. According to the Hindu mythology, this is the place where Lord Rama created a bridge across the sea to Sri Lanka. Lord Shiva too is worshipped in this place. It’s a place where Ravana was killed and hence it has a great historical foundation.

Day Notes
- After breakfast check out from hotel and drive to Rameswaram
- Arrive in Rameswaram. Check-in to the hotel and relax
- Post lunch proceed for sightseeing of Rameswaram: Sri Ramanathaswamy Temple, Five Faced Hanuman Statue and Pamban Bridge
- Return to the hotel by late evening
- Overnight in Rameswaram

Included
BB & Dinner
Visit to the below sightseeing points.

Sri Ramanathaswamy Temple
This is one of the very few temples in the history of India which is built in the Dravidian style architecture. Sri Ramanathaswamy Temple is famous for its collection of Lingas, which were made up of sand, salt, stone and other elements. According to stories, there were around 112 ponds here out of which only 12 are left. This popular tourist attraction in Rameswaram with the second largest pillared corridor in the world is one of the must visit tourist places in Rameswaram.
Five Faced Hanuman Statue
Situated just 2 km from Rameswaram Temple, this temple is famous for the five manifestations of Lord Hanuman and is listed among the most prestigious places to see in Rameswaram. This famous idol is carved out of a large Senthoooram Stone which was considered very precious in ancient times. The Hanuman Temple is said to house stones used to build the Rama Setu, the bridge built by Hanuman’s army of monkeys in order to rescue Goddess Sita from Lanka.

Agni Theertham
One of the 64 sacred baths in India, Agni Theertham is always on the top of the list when talking about the best places to visit in Rameswaram. It is believed that bathing in this sea will rid one of his/her sins and make them pure. Holistic rituals such as those for the dead ancestors are performed on the shores of this pristine beach. Pilgrims wishing to take a sacred bath are first supposed to take a dip here and then proceed for the bath inside the Rameswaram Temple.

Annap Indira Gandhi Road Bridge
The Annap Indira Gandhi Road Bridge or Pamban Bridge is a cantilever bridge on Palk Strait that boasts of being the first sea bridge of India and connects Rameswaram Island with the Indian mainland. The bi-lane road next to the bridge allows one to get a clear view of this railway bridge and of its amazing double leaf bascule which raises itself to let ships pass from underneath it. Containing 143 pillars, each of which is 220 feet long and weighs 100 tonnes, the bridge is among the most fascinating places to see in Rameswaram.

Day 4: RAMESWARAM

Day Notes
- After breakfast proceed for sightseeing of Rameswaram
- Visit Dhanushkodi temple, Kothandaramaswamy Temple and Adam’s Bridge
- Return to the hotel by late evening
- Overnight in Rameswaram

Included
BB
Visit to the below sightseeing points.

Dhanushkodi Temple
Dhanushkodi is a wonderful temple on the southern tip of India and it was completely washed away by the cyclone. The location of the place is wonderful and it being an island is covered by waters on all the four sides of it. It is located near the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean on the other side. The seas are in the shape of bow and arrow when viewed from the top. The arrow head is considered to be a sacred place for worship by the Hindus and people from far and wide come there to offer sacred prayers to the deity. Lord Rama has his pious feet even in this temple and whole story of Ramayana revolves here as well. It is a wonderful pilgrim place for the followers of Lord Rama. The place stays to be around 18 kms from Rameswaram and one can easily travel by road.
Kothandaramaswamy Temple
Situated in Dhanushkodi, Kothandaramaswamy temple is lined along the shallow beaches, historical ruminants, and vast horizons of the azure sea. One of the best tourist spots in Rameswaram, this is a ruin of the temple described in Ramayana. This temple holding the deities of Rama, Lakshman, Sita & Hanuman is believed to be the residing spot of Vibhishana, the younger brother of Ravana.

Adam’s Bridge
The Adam’s Bridge or Rama Setu is a historic bridge connecting the Rameswaram island of India to the north-western coast of Sri Lanka. The bridge is a network of limestone shoals that start from Dhanuskodi, the tip of India’s Pamban Island, which in turn is connected to the Indian mainland by a 2 km long bridge. Always a topic of hot debate among historians and archeologists, the bridge is among the most preferred tourist places in Rameswaram.

Day 5: RAMESWAR AM – KANYAKUMARI (310 km / 6 hrs)

Kanyakumari
Kanyakumari, famous for being the southernmost tip of the Indian Peninsula is a temple town that invites pilgrims from all over the world. Kanyakumari also known as Kanniyakumari, formerly known as Cape Comorin, is a town in Kanyakumari District in the state of Tamil Nadu in India. The name comes from the Devi Kanya Kumari Temple in the region. It is the southernmost tip of peninsular India. Kanyakumari town is the southern tip of the Cardamom Hills, an extension of the Western Ghats range. The city also has many beaches like the Kanyakumari beach, Colachel Beach, Sanguthurai beach etc, where travellers can enjoy sighting some of the best sunrises and sunsets.

Day Notes
- After breakfast check-out from the hotel and drive to Kanyakumari
- Reach Kanyakumari by late noon, check-in to the hotel and relax
- In the evening you may wish to visit the beach to watch sunset
- Overnight in Kanyakumari

Included
BB
Day 6: KANYAKUMARI

Day Notes
- You may wish to visit the beach to view the sunrise at wee hours
- Post breakfast, proceed for sightseeing of Kanyakumari
- Sightseeing of Kanyakumari: Thiruvalluvar Statue, Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Gandhi Memorial Mandapam, Tsunami Memorial Park and Bhagavathy Amman Temple
- Return to the hotel by early evening and relax. Rest of the evening at leisure
- Overnight in Kanyakumari.

Included
BB
Visit to the below sightseeing points.

Thiruvalluvar Statue
The Thiruvalluvar Statue has a height of 95 feet (29 m) and stands upon a 38 foot (11.5 m) rock that represents the 38 chapters of “virtue” in the Thirukkural. The statue standing on the rock represents “wealth” and “pleasures”, signifying that wealth and love be earned and enjoyed on the foundation of solid virtue.[12] The combined height of the statue and pedestal is 133 feet (40.5 m), denoting the 133 chapters in the Thirukkural. It has a total weight of 7000 tons. The statue, with its slight bend around the waist is reminiscent of a dancing pose of the ancient Indian deities like Nataraja. It was sculpted by the Indian sculptor Dr. V. Ganapati Sthapati, who also created the Iraivan Temple.

Vivekananda Rock Memorial
The Vivekananda Rock Memorial is a popular tourist monument in Vavathurai, Kanyakumari, India. The memorial stands on one of two rocks located about 500 metres east of the mainland of Vavathurai, India’s southernmost tip. It was built in 1970 in honour of Swami Vivekananda who is said to have attained enlightenment on the rock. According to local legends, it was on this rock that Goddess Kumari performed austerity. A meditation hall (Dhyana Mandapam) is also attached to the memorial for visitors to meditate. The design of the mandapa incorporates different styles of temple architecture from all over India. It houses a statue of Vivekananda. The rocks are surrounded by the Laccadive Sea. The memorial consists of two main structures, the Vivekananda Mandapam and the Shripada Mandapam.

Gandhi Memorial Mandapam
The Gandhi Memorial Mandapam has been built on the spot where the urn containing the Mahatma’s ashes was kept for public viewing before immersion. Resembling central Indian Hindu temples in form, the memorial was designed in such a way that on Mahatma Gandhi’s birthday, 2 October, the first rays of the sun fall on the exact place where his ashes were kept.

Bhagavathy Amman Temple
Bhagavathy Amman Temple is a 3000-year-old temple dedicated to Goddess Kumari Amman located at Kanyakumari. Kumari Amman is one of the forms of Devi, popularly known as “Kumari Bhagavathy Amman”. Kumari Bhagavathy Amman temple is the first Durga temple created by Lord Parasurama and one of the 108 Shakthi Peethas. This temple is situated at the shore of the Laccadive Sea. Kumari temple has been mentioned in Ramayana, Mahabarata and Purananooru.
Day 7: KANYAKUMARI – DEPARTURE

Day Notes
- After breakfast check-out from the hotel
- Transfer to Madurai Airport/Railway Station for return journey.

Included
BB

PRICE

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<th>No. of Guest</th>
<th>3* Catg</th>
<th>4* Catg</th>
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<tr>
<td>2 Adults</td>
<td>Rs.26,150/- per adult</td>
<td>Rs.32,300/- per adult</td>
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<td>Child with Additional Mattress</td>
<td>Rs.12,570/- per child</td>
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<td>Child without Additional Mattress</td>
<td>Rs.7,500/- per child</td>
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HOTEL INFORMATION

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<th>Hotels</th>
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<th>4* Catg</th>
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<td>Star Residency [<a href="http://www.starresidencyhotels.com/madurai/madurai">www.starresidencyhotels.com/madurai/madurai</a>]</td>
<td>Poppy’s Hotel [<a href="http://www.poppyshotel.com/">www.poppyshotel.com/</a>]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
<td>Hotel Sea View [<a href="http://www.hotelseaview.in/">www.hotelseaview.in/</a>]</td>
<td>Sparsa Resorts [<a href="http://www.auromatrixhotels.com/divisions.html">www.auromatrixhotels.com/divisions.html</a>]</td>
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INCLUSIONS:
- Accommodation on double occupancy in well rated 3* or 4* properties
- Breakfast plan on all days
- Usage of hotel/ resort facilities
- Transportation by chauffer vehicle for 7 Days (Includes Fuel, Toll, Parking, Taxes & Driver allowance)
- Sightseeing as per the itinerary
- All govt. taxes as on date

EXCLUSIONS
- Airfare
- Railway fare
- Expense of personal nature
- Meals other than specified in the inclusions
- Additional guest requests, orders and services
- Additional Activities taken up at the resort
- Transport for personal use
- Exigency cost – in case of emergency
- Travel Insurance
- Entrance fee & camera fee at sightseeing points
- Gratitude’s & Portage
**Note**

The Above cost is calculated based on 2 adults travelling together. Any change in the total no. of guests travelling with result in change of rates.

In case of non-availability of the above properties, similar properties will be considered.

Most of our programs are customised and we work in line with the requirements of our clients and hence the final detailed itinerary is prepared 5 days prior to the travel date based on the weather conditions and feasibility of visiting places during sightseeing.

All sightseeing’s are subject to weather conditions, political conditions & traffic conditions in the destination. Any sightseeing missed due to natural calamities / weather conditions is non-refundable.