

# TAMIL NADU

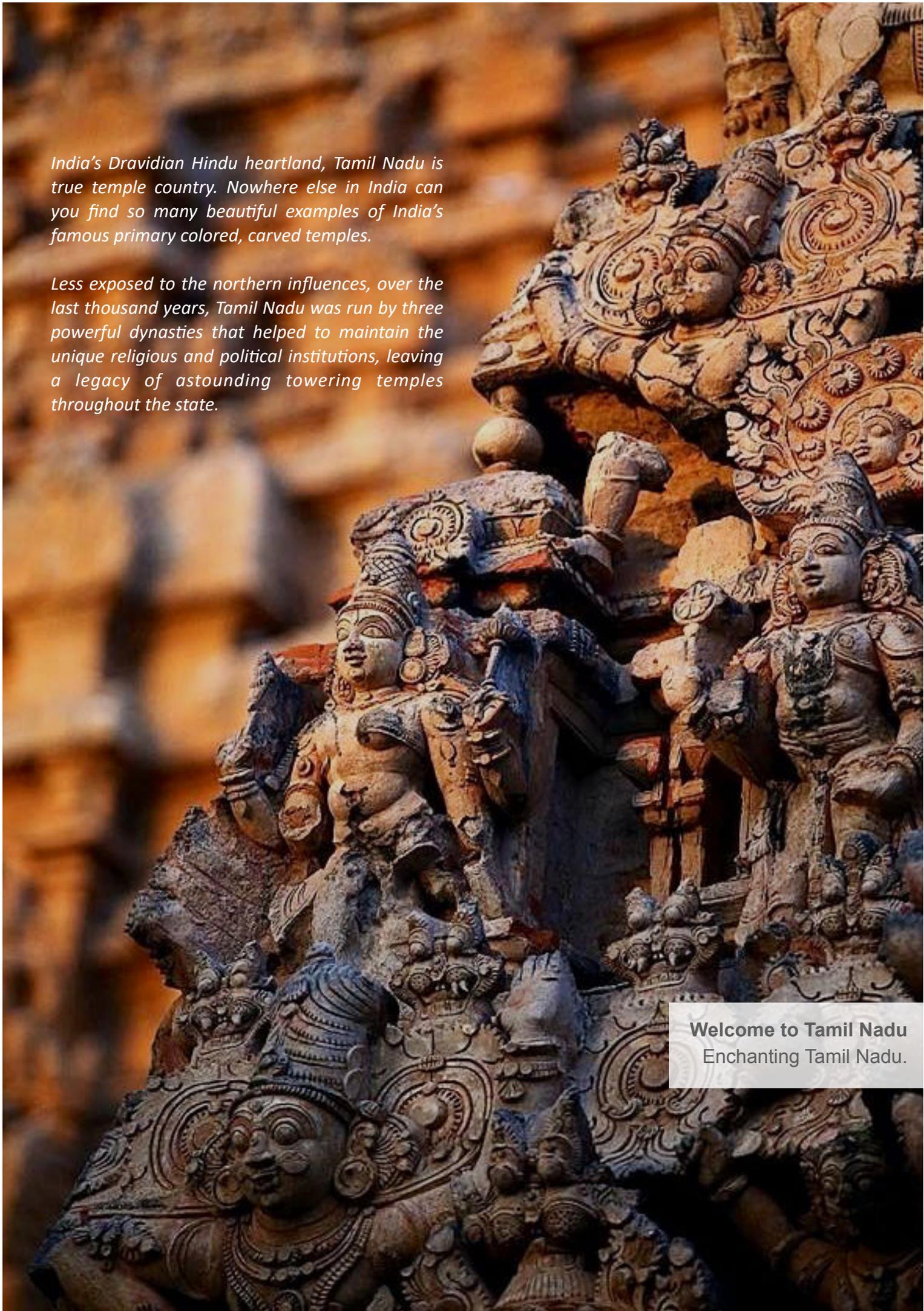
South India



*India's Dravidian Hindu heartland, Tamil Nadu is true temple country. Nowhere else in India can you find so many beautiful examples of India's famous primary colored, carved temples.*

*Less exposed to the northern influences, over the last thousand years, Tamil Nadu was run by three powerful dynasties that helped to maintain the unique religious and political institutions, leaving a legacy of astounding towering temples throughout the state.*

**Welcome to Tamil Nadu**  
Enchanting Tamil Nadu.



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# Sanyog Gupta Voyages

Luxury Destination Management Company

As we have evolved as a company, we have come to realise that our love lies not in booking tour packages, but in showcasing the unique experiences across the nations we serve. We realised that there are many secret corners of our world, rare moments, mysteries and stories.

Our company owned by a family, but run professionally. We have hierarchical systems which are driven by our core family values. We have come to understand we do not want to be the largest company globally. We have never tried to be the richest or the most influential. I say, we just want to be the bestest in what we do.

We are a family tradition for over three decades that have been highlighting this part of the planet. All over Indian sub-continent, we have grown to become a popular, valued and autonomous DMC providing the finest cultural experiences, personal immersions and natural wonders. We are here to build stories for our clients, tales of love, of wonderful excitement. We are proud of our past and its legacy.

**‘We are real voyagers and love varying voyager’s life!’**

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Sanyog Gupta  
President - Sales & Marketing

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THIS IS THE TIME  
THIS IS THE PLACE  
THIS IS TAMIL NADU

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# TAMIL NADU

To feast on the Dravidian architectural and cultural heritage, opt for Tamil Nadu tours. One of the largest states in India, Tamil Nadu has it all - beaches, hill stations, world heritage sites, and a colorful culture. Exhibiting the soul of south India, Tamil Nadu is the best remembered for its extravagant locales and architectural marvels.

## IT ALL STARTS WITH VANAKKAM

Tamil Nadu is in the south-eastern corner of India. Above all, it has a great history dating back thousands of years. This Tamil speaking Dravidian state has seen the powerful Chola and Pallava dynasties leave behind temples of undeniable beauty.

Furthermore, they have left stunning colourful stone carvings and bronze sculptures that impress any visitor.

A tour of Tamil Nadu doesn't have to involve seeing a long list of temples, as its rural heartlands are exceptionally interesting. For instance, a visit to the rural district of Chettinad or the hills around Kodaikanal gives your tour a perfect balance.

The British established the capital of Tamil Nadu, Madras (now Chennai), in the 17th century. Moreover, the French established Pondicherry, the Danes at Tranquebar and the Dutch at Cuddalore. For those interested in temples, you can explore Kanchipuram, close to Madras. The rock-cut shore temples of Mahabalipuram are undeniably exquisite.



## ITC Grand Chola

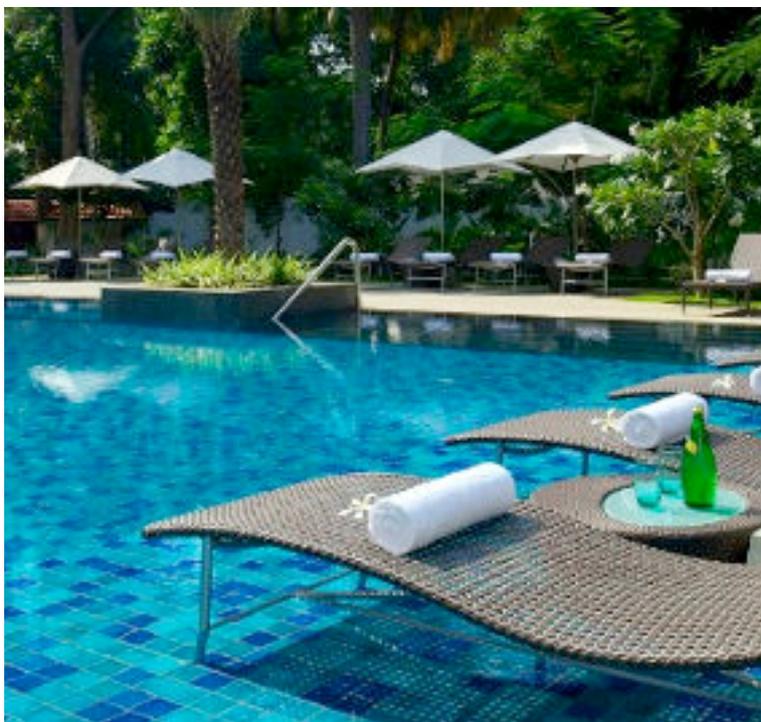
With its awe-inspiring size and grandeur, ITC Grand Chola is a veritable destination unto itself. Located in the heart of Chennai the hotel is a palatial tribute to Southern India's greatest empires – the Imperial Cholas. There are four separate entry points, each with its distinct artistic identity.

The hotel welcomes guests in 522 rooms and 78 serviced apartments, each of which is a triumph of design aesthetics. The ten food and beverage outlets bring regional, national and global cuisines to the cognoscenti. It offers one of the largest conference, banqueting and exhibition spaces in the country.

## The Leela Palace Chennai

The Leela Palace Chennai offers luxurious, safe, and clean hotel rooms and suites for its guests. This 5 star hotel in Chennai is an ode to the majestic palaces of the Chettinad dynasty, courtesy of its grandeur and space. This luxury hotel in Chennai is set in a lush green environment overlooking the sea.

Large open vistas meet exquisitely decorated walls and beautiful art pieces to create an experience that is as lavish as it is soothing. The Suraksha initiative in this 5 star hotel in Chennai ensures the safety of all its patrons. Also, its exclusive location near the beach makes it the perfect venue for all your dream events and celebrations.



## Taj Hotels, Tamil Nadu

Taj, World's Strongest Hotel Brand\*, is an iconic hospitality brand from the Indian Hotels Company Limited. The brand continues to be one of the most revered and loved hospitality brands with a legacy of over 116 years of impeccable service and genuine warmth.

- Taj Coromandel, Chennai
- Taj Connemara, Chennai
- Taj Fiserman's Cove, Chennai
- Taj Club House
- Taj Wellington Mews
- The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai, Madurai

## Sinna Dorai's Bungalow, Valparai

With its roots dating back to the colonial era when the British first started cultivating tea in the area, Sinna Dorai's Bungalow is hidden within the depths of the thick foliage of the Anaimalai Hills.

The bungalow was originally owned by British planter GA Carver Marsh & offers accommodation in rooms that are mostly the same since the time they were built.

The area is also great for wildlife enthusiasts and bird lovers.



## Park Hyatt Chennai

Park Hyatt Chennai is one of the most luxurious hotels in Chennai located just 15 minutes away from the Chennai international airport overlooking the Guindy forest reserve.

With thoughtful amenities and features, exquisite decor, and unparalleled elegance, our Chennai luxury hotel is an unforgettable destination for the luxury traveller.

## GRT Hotels

For more than 50 years, G.R. Thanga Maligai, popularly known as GRT has pioneered the art of combining unparalleled craftsmanship and rich heritage to create timeless designs. Branching out from GRT Jewellers, GRT Hotels & Resorts features 16 upscale hotels and luxury resorts in the most desirable destinations across South India.

- Radisson Blu Chennai
- Regency Kanchipuram
- Radisson Blu Mahabalipuram
- Great Trails Yercaud





## Hilton Chennai

Located in the city's business and technology district, we're less than 500 meters from Olympia Technology Park and Tamarai Technology Park, a 10-minute drive from Chennai Trade Center, and 12 kilometers from central Chennai. Our rooftop infinity pool is surrounded by palm trees and boasts views of the city, and there's five dining options to explore.

## Crowne Plaza Chennai

Chennai's premier business hotel located in the heart of Chennai city a mere 12 km away from Chennai International Airport and in close proximity to business and financial hubs such as BNP Paribas, Barclays, Cognizant, Cisco, Oracle, Shell, Emerson, Hewlett Packard, Siemens, HCL, Microsoft, Caterpillar, Lenovo, IBM among others. The hotel is also in close proximity to numerous cultural attractions, such as Mylapore Temple, Mahabalipuram, and DakshinaChitra.



## Tenerife Hill – the Tranquiltea, Coonoor

Tranquiltea's top-notch farm stay comes with splendid views of the Nilgiris and cosy nooks—perfect for curling up with a fat novel and a fine cup of chai. It's clear the emphasis is on exclusivity here: The bungalow hosts only one family at a time, and each bedroom opens out to its own garden. The property, situated about 22km/50min from Ooty, is great for unwinding over a long weekend, or as a pit stop if you're road-tripping through south India.

## Le Royal Meridien Chennai

Once a tiny fishing village, Chennai (formerly Madras) is now a lively metropolis and the capital of the state of Tamil Nadu.

Situated on 3.5 acres of exquisitely landscaped gardens, the architectural wonder of Le Royal Méridien Chennai inspires guests to explore the city's allegiance to ancient traditions.

Located between the international airport and the business district, Le Royal Méridien Chennai features meeting and banquet space for up to 1,500 guests, five restaurants and bars, a state-of-the-art fitness center and a splendid outdoor pool with whirlpool.



## La Maison, Kotagiri

LA Maison bungalow was probably built in 1888 by a Scottish man called Kay. The Scottish were the first who changed primitive forests into lands for agriculture on a larger scale. They deforested most of the valley and built stone walls to get flatter lands and reduce rain erosion.

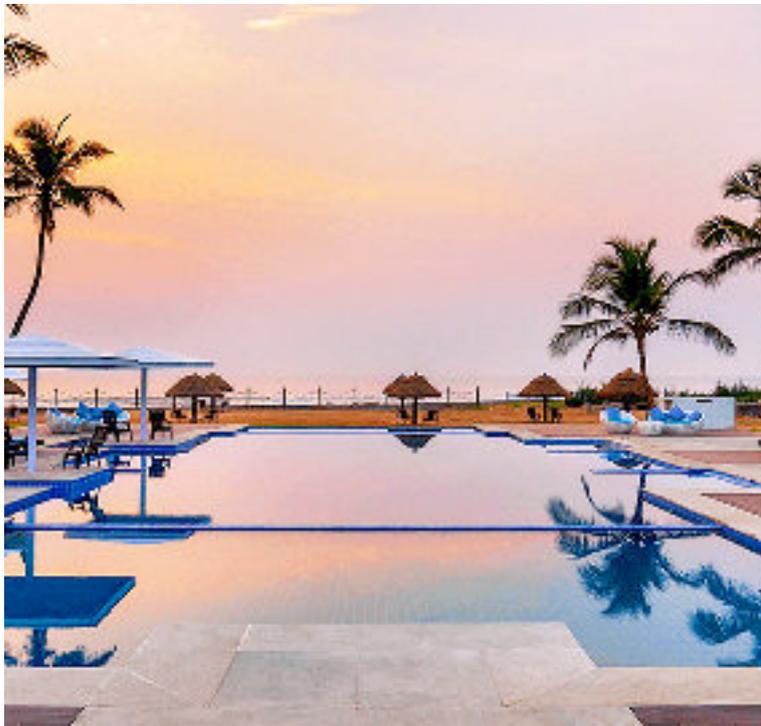
LA Maison was built in a forest where tribes and their ancestors hunted wild animals including tigers. The first tea plantation started in the 1920's. The house came into local hands (twelve owners) in the 1960's, and was bought by Frenchman Benoit Siat in 2007. The heritage bungalow and ten acres of land acquired, took twenty months of renovation and opened its doors on December 2009.



## InterContinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort

Situated along the scenic coastal highway, Intercontinental Chennai Mahabalipuram Resort embodies history of Coromandel Coast. Tucked away between casuarina groves the Beach Resort boasts of 15000 Sq feet garden space with private beach making it an ideal choice for Destination Weddings and Private Events. A scenic paradise with 105 rooms (Including Ocean View Suites) exclusive kids facility, 3 award winning restaurants and luxurious Spa & Salon. 45 kms from Chennai International Airport.





## Welcomhotel Kences Palm Beach

Spread across nine landscaped acres overlooking the Bay of Bengal, this green and refreshing beach resort brings you close to the Shore Temple and other ancient monuments of Mamallapuram, now a recognised UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Look forward to clean sandy beaches, the eternal sound of the waves and the gentle sea breeze. Tucked away amid lush greenery and swaying palm trees, the hotel offers rooms, cottages, bungalows and villas to create the perfect blend of comfort, privacy and staying close to nature.

## Grande Bay Resort & Spa

Vacations are about making memories. The best memories are made during the best experiences. Grande Bay Resort and Spa, a boutique hotel set on ECR, along the picturesque coast of the Bay of Bengal, works hard to create those memories for you, your friends and your family. Whether it is a weekend getaway, a special staycation or a holiday, all you need to do is to choose to share it with Grande Bay.

We take your experience personally. All our rooms are designed to ensure the luxury of space - perfect for everyone from couples, to large groups of friends. With just 43 well laid-out rooms Grande Bay is still small enough to ensure that you have personalized service, easy accessibility and complete privacy.



## Sheraton Grand Resort & Spa

Experience effortless service and a welcoming environment at Sheraton Grand Chennai Resort & Spa.

Our beautiful beach resort in Mahabalipuram, India offers a lovely location that overlooks the Bay of Bengal, making it the ideal place to escape the hustle and bustle of every day. Settle into one of our luxury hotel rooms or suites with free Wi-Fi and a private balcony or patio with outstanding views, before exploring our resort offerings.

Go for a walk on the beach, take a dip in our infinity pool or relax at the spa.

## The Tamara Kodai

Set high in the hills of Kodaikanal, The Tamara Kodai provides a luxury, heritage experience unlike any other. More than 2,000 meters (6,500 ft) above sea level is a picturesque luxury Kodaikanal hotel dating back to the 1840s.

The building itself was originally called Baynes Bungalow owned by British District Judge, Mr. Baynes. One of the first few houses to be built in the region, Baynes Bungalow was sold to Father Louis Cyr in 1860, when it was renovated and reopened as La Providence. T

his stunning building was used as a rest houses for priests of Nagapattinam...



## Red Hill Nature Resort, Ooty

The Resort has sweeping, dramatic 30-mile views of the majestic Avalanche mountains and lakes. The experience blends the comforts of home with the quality you would expect from a top-rated exclusive estate resort. Privacy and seclusion are complemented by as much – or as little – contact as you choose to have with the area's charming historical sites and activities; surrounded by tea plantations, enjoy fine cuisine from the traditional hospitality of the Badaga community.

Red Hills is uniquely defined by its incredible lake and mountain views which is designed to give you privacy, seclusion and a sense of ownership of the entire mountain range.

## Heritage Madurai Hotel

Heritage Madurai rings with historic charm that echoes in every hallway and every room. Lounge by the Olympic-sized temple tank pool, or luxuriate in a plunge pool in your own private villa.

Dine under a 200 years old banyan tree, serenaded by bird calls while enjoying the perfect meal prepared by your own personal chef, perfectly tempered to your particular taste buds. Take a leisurely 'historic' walk through the corridors where every stone has a story to tell. There is more to Heritage Madurai.





## Svatma Hotel Thanjavur

Set in the idyllic village of Asikkadu is our brand new centre of holistic wellness, Svatma Ramnivas Mayavaram. In our busy lives, it is important to alter both physical and emotional attributes to draw energy and wellness from nature. It is well known that good health is best achieved in consonance with nature.

Svatma Ramnivas is an oasis of calm surrounded by lush greenery and organic farms. Our guests enjoy holistic wellness and healing through methods used in Siddha – the ancient system of medicine and healing.

## Visalam – CGH Earth, Chettinad

"Visalam is a heritage house of rare distinction. It is an endearing symbol of paternal love that equally captures the soul of Chettinad, a region renowned for its palatial homes, fiery cuisine and colourful culture.

This CGH Earth experience is a window to the unique ways of life of the prosperous trading community of the Chettiars of Tamil Nadu. "



## Chidambara Vilas - A Luxury Heritage Resort

Chidambara Vilas recreates an authentic experience of the luxurious Chettinad lifestyles of the last century, through a heritage Chettiar palace that preserves 108 years of history.

From sights and sounds, culture and tradition to architecture, furniture and the world famous Chettinad cuisine, get transported to a world from a century away.

## Chettinadu Mansion, Kanadukathan

Welcome to Chettinadu Mansion, in existence since 1902. Located in Kandukathan in Tamilnadu, declared as a Heritage Village by the Government of India. The Mansion is spread over a sprawling 80,000 square feet in area.

The Heritage of the Mansion has been carefully protected and just 12 rooms are open to guests who get the privilege of privacy. The charm of the resort is that it gives you the true experience of the life in the bygone era. The owners of the resort live in, to give you an account of the village and the Mansion from the 1900s to the present day.



## Daiwik Hotel, Rameswaram

Daiwik Hotels, Rameswaram is a full service mid segment hotel with all modern amenities for a discerning traveler.

The Rameswaram hotel offers, 90 generously sized, well-appointed rooms in three categories, Superior, Deluxe and Suite. The design of the Rameswaram hotel takes inspiration from the intangible spirit of temple design. It is rated one of the best hotels in Rameswaram for food and hospitality. Amongst the hotels in Rameswaram near the temple, Daiwik Hotel is located just 3 kms away from the Ramanathaswamy temple. Book room with best tariff.

## La Villa Puducherry

Two French architects, Tina Trigala and Yves Lesprit, harmoniously extended La Villa's colonial facades, creating an interplay with horizons of white walls. The spacious and cool rooms are veiled in precious fabrics and furnished with contemporary designs made from old wood.

A custom- made swimming pool borders the shady, lush garden. Here is an elegant interplay of influences and eras, just as you'd find in old Pondicherry— which is visible just a few steps away at Villa Shanti, the sister hotel that sprang from the same inspiration. "





## Ocean Spray Puducherry

Unwind in spacious rooms and majestic villas boasting of refined and elegant interiors equipped with every amenity you can imagine. Slip into your own private Plunge or enjoy a languorous swim under a canopy of stars in the complete privacy of your infinity pool. We promise you a lifetime experience at our luxury beach resorts in Pondicherry.

The rooms and villas at the resort are inspired by nature, offer ultimate comfort and breathtaking picture postcard views.

## Sparsa Resort Kanyakumari

Sparsa Kanyakumari is undoubtedly one of the best luxury resorts in Kanyakumari. It is conveniently located at a walking distance from the shore, with rooms overlooking the blue ocean on the one side and offering tourists a glimpse of the typical quaint town on the other end.

An aesthetically pleasing decor & a sophisticated ambience is what sets us apart from the many hotels and resorts in and around Kanyakumari. In fact, the Sparsa experience is palpable right from the time you step in – a design that reflects understated luxury, a warm and friendly atmosphere, and staff that embody the values of service.



## Palais de Mahe - CGH Earth

'An address in the French Quarter with a distinct colonial stamp.'

"Palais de Mahe lies close to the sea side promenade, barely 50 metres from the cool breezes and gentle rumblings of the Bay of Bengal.

This signature hotel - with its majestic courtyard, deep verandahs, attractive pillars and period furniture - combines south Indian fire and flavor with French intensity and fervor to bring you an experience that is in every way unforgettable."



## Le Pondy Beach Resort

Le Pondy, situated at Pondicherry is a premium leisure resort beautifully lounged at an estuary between Chunnambar River and the Bay of Bengal.

Le Pondy celebrates Pondicherry in all its true sense - the spirit, the architecture and the revelry. Pondicherry is one of the most popular tourist destinations in South India. It is also known as The French Riviera of the East.



## Mantra Koodam - Kumbakonam

'A journey steeped in legend, in a town blessed by the divine.'

"Meandering, tree-covered paths in Kumbakonam lead you to Mantra Koodam. Tucked away in a quiet corner of Veppathur village, it's an ode to the region's rich legacy. Where historical, cultural and spiritual experiences blend, to take you on a journey through time, designed around the Tamil Panniyar and Brahmin way of life and crafted by nature's own wonders. "

## JKR Resort & Spa Rameswaram

There's so much more to Rameswaram than you are probably aware of. Besides its spiritual significance, the lively little town is an exciting destination for enthralling holidays.

Present at the tip of the Indian peninsula, Rameswaram rejuvenates your soul with a breathtakingly lovely beaches, the charming Mannar Island and a multitude of local attractions like wildlife and watersports.

Rameswaram is famous for the magnificent Ramanathaswamy Temple – one of the 12 Jyotirlinga shrines.







# DESTINATIONS



# Chennai

Before the arrival of the British in 1639, Armenian and Portuguese traders used to live in the Santhome area. It was a fishing village, in what used to be called Madrasapatnam, with Madras as its shortened name. The British bought the piece of land from the King of Vijayanagar, and built Fort St. George. Today, it houses the Secretariat Complex of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Weaving of cotton fabrics was the flourishing local industry at that time. So, the British invited weavers and traders to settle by the fort.

The most distinctive buildings in the city are the seven large temples in George Town, Mylapore and Triplicane. The Chepauk Palace, University Senate House, and the High Court Buildings stand tall and regal; so do some of the city's eloquently engineered marvels like The Santhome Church, St. Andrew's Church, St. George's Cathedral... the stamp of the British era is still very visible in many parts of Chennai.

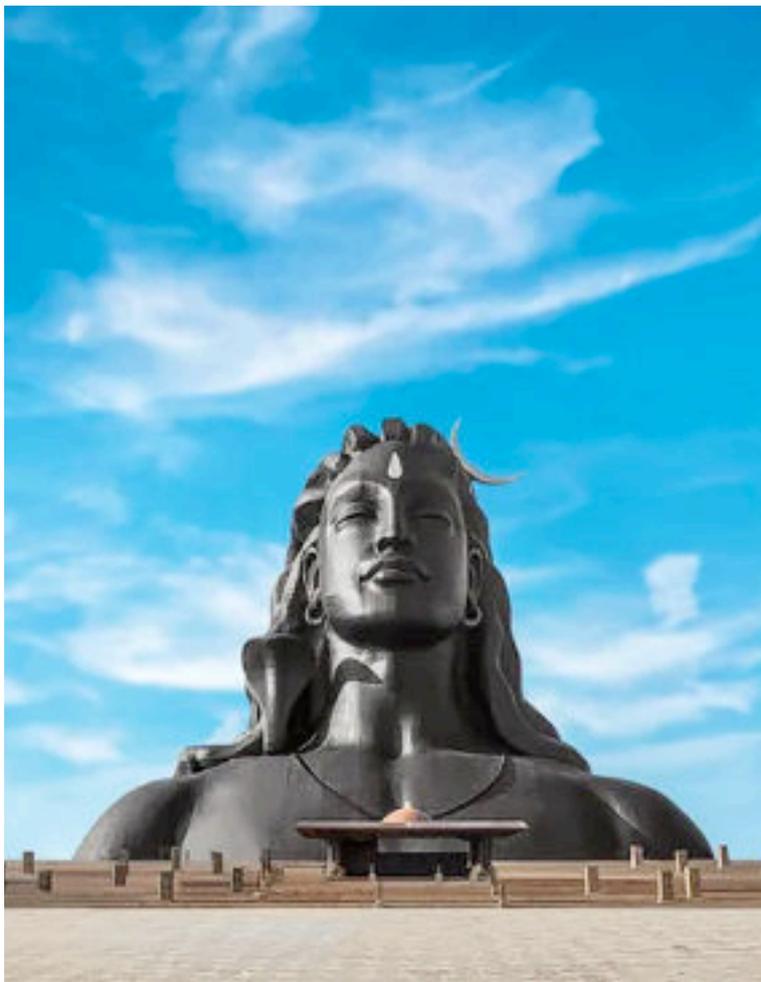


# Chidambaram

This town in Cuddalore District is believed to be quite ancient and has been ruled at different times by the Pallavas, Cholas, Pandyas and the British.

The town is famous for the Thillai Nataraja and Thillai Kali temples. One of the 108 Divya Desams of Lord Vishnu, Divya Sri Govindaraja Perumal, is part of the Thillai Nataraja Temple.

Chidambaram also has the Annamalai University, one of the oldest and most prominent in the state, that was established in 1929.



## Coimbatore

Known as Kovai today, it has been dubbed as the Manchester of the South. With a presence of more than 100 textile units and over 25,000 engineering industries, two special economic zones and aviation spare parts manufacturing facilities, Kovai competes with the state capital - the City of Chennai.

So, it's no surprise that Coimbatore City, the second largest in the state, is the District Headquarters of Coimbatore District.

Coimbatore is special from a geographical perspective. It is located near the Palghat Gap – a low mountain pass in the Western Ghats. By virtue of this location, winds sweep through this city and it enjoys a pleasant climate most parts of the year.

Historically it was called Kongu Nadu, and it is now locally called Kovai in short. In the earlier times it was a village, ruled by the tribal chieftain called Koyan or Kovan. It was then ruled by Karikala Cholan, and later by the Kings of Rashtrakudas, Chalukyas, Pandyas, Hoyasalas and Vijayanagar.

## Kanchipuram

It's one of the seven holiest towns in the country, and a visit to this place gives a person salvation. Situated on the northern bank of the holy Vegavathi river, a tributary of the Palar, it is a sacred destination for Hindus, Buddhists and Jains alike. It was a centre of education and was known as ghatikasthanam [place of learning] not just for Hindus but for Buddhists and Jains as well, between the 1st and 5th Centuries. And it has been a key place for both Shaivism as well as Sri Vaishnavism. The city was regarded as the Benares of the South.

Though an ancient town, it had around 1000 temples, though only 126 of them are found today. 14 of the 108 Divya Desams of Lord Vishnu are in Kanchipuram.

Over the years the silk industry has flourished here, and Kanchipuram silks are world famous. Most of the town households are involved in this trade in some way or the other. Pure mulberry silk with dazzling colours, and fine Zari work [gold/silver thread linings] is the hall mark of Kanchipuram silks.



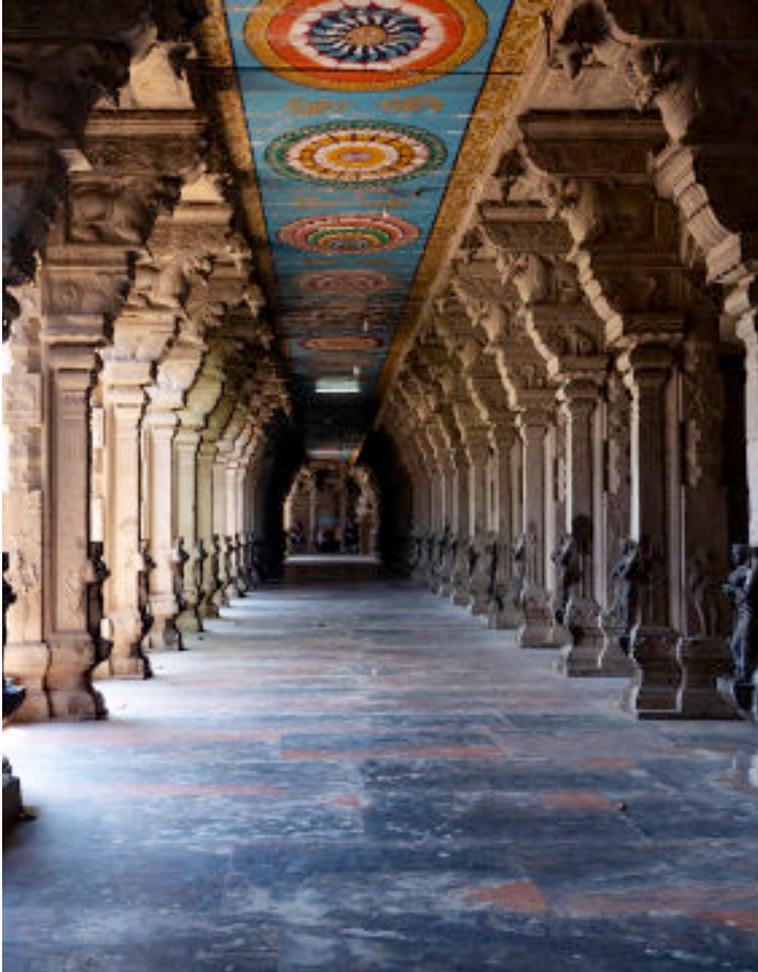
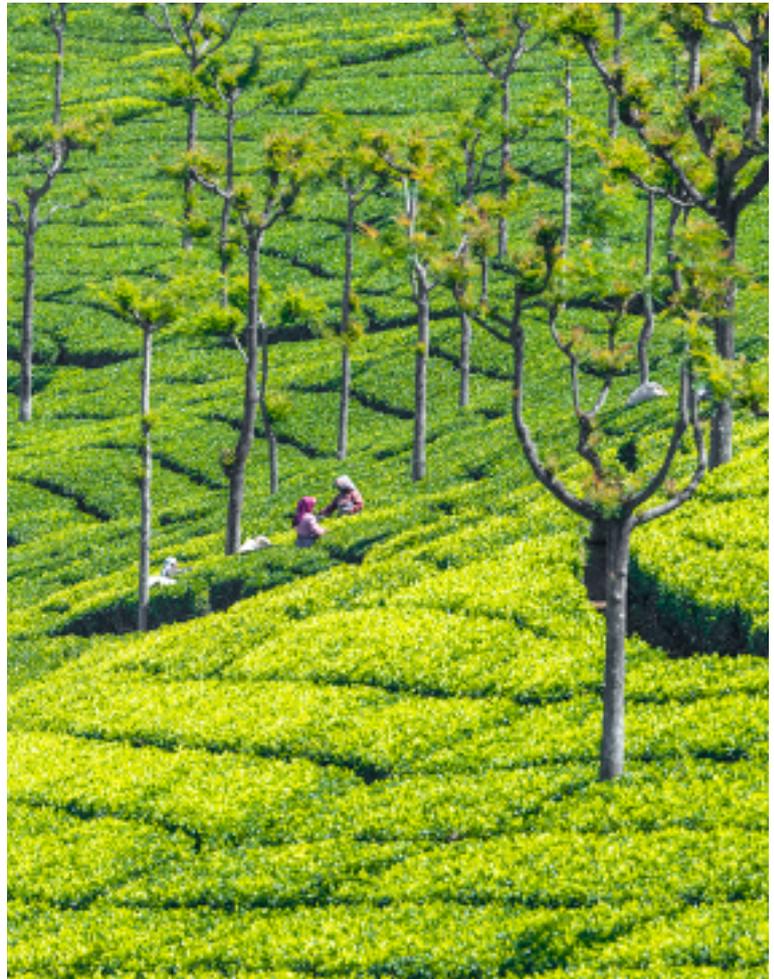
# Kodaikanal

In the year 1821, while surveying the mountain ranges of Palani, Lieutenant Ward, an Englishman, climbed up from Kunnayan Village of Vellagavi to Kodaikanal, where the earliest residents were the Palaiyar tribals. Later, in 1834, J C Wroughten, the then sub-collector of Madras and C R Cotton, a member of the Board of Revenue, built a small bungalow at the head of the Adukkam pass. But after the visit of Dr. Wite in 1836, and his observations about the hill station, botanists began moving into Kodaikanal.

This exotic location at 7000 feet and above, attracted many more. A boat club was set up in 1890. Today, a well-lit 9 km circular cycling and walkers' path around the lake is a big attraction.

It is not known how the place earned the name Kodaikanal, but the Tamil interpretation could mean "Gift of the forest".

Kodaikanal is the most famous for Kurinji flowers. These flowers bloom once in 12 years and turn the slopes into carpets of colour giving it brilliance and grandeur.

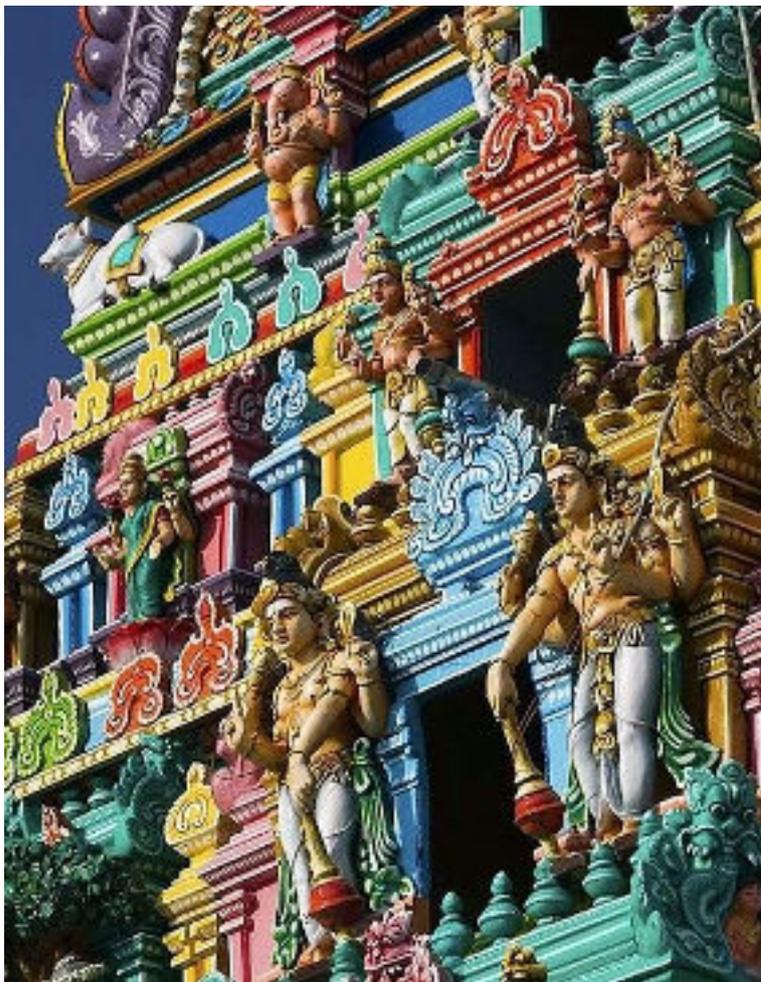


# Kanyakumari

Kanyakumari is a coastal town in the state of Tamil Nadu on India's southern tip. Jutting into the Laccadive Sea, the town was known as Cape Comorin during British rule and is popular for watching sunrise and sunset over the ocean. It's also a noted pilgrimage site thanks to its Bagavathi Amman Temple, dedicated to a consort of Shiva, and its Our Lady of Ransom Church, a center of Indian Catholicism.

Also known as Cape Comorin, it is in the southernmost tip of India and is referred to as the Land's End.

Set at the confluence of three oceans [The Bay of Bengal, The Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea], it is also called Koodal, and it's perhaps the only place on earth where you can see the sun rise and set in the ocean. Its hue changing beaches are quite a sight to behold.



## Madurai

Madurai an ancient city, historically called the Athens of the East, has been visited by the Romans and Greeks as there were sound trade connections till the 10th Century.

Lord Shiva is said to have appeared in the dream of King Kulasekara Pandya and dropped madhu [nectar] from his matted hair, and hence it was called Madhurapuri – which got truncated as Madurai with the passage of time.

The Meenakshi Amman temple is the city's most important landmark. It is one of the five sabhas [divine dance stages] called as Velli Ambalam [Silver Hall].

Madurai is also famous for its trade mark Chungudi cotton saris, colour dyeing, motifs, handicrafts and brassware. It is called as ThoongaNagaram, which means a city that never sleeps.

## Mamallapuram

Mahabalipuram is also known as Mamallapatna or Mamallapuram. It was one of two major port cities for the Pallava kingdom in the 7th century. Known for its 7 pagodas that once stood on its shores, only one of it survives now and is known as the Shore Temple. The other pagodas have been consumed by the sea. The town has been named after Narasimhavarman 1, who was also known as Mahabali.

Known for its magnificent royal monuments that have been carved out of single rocks, it has temples in the form of Chariots called Rathas, a giant open air rock relief and the Shore Temple.

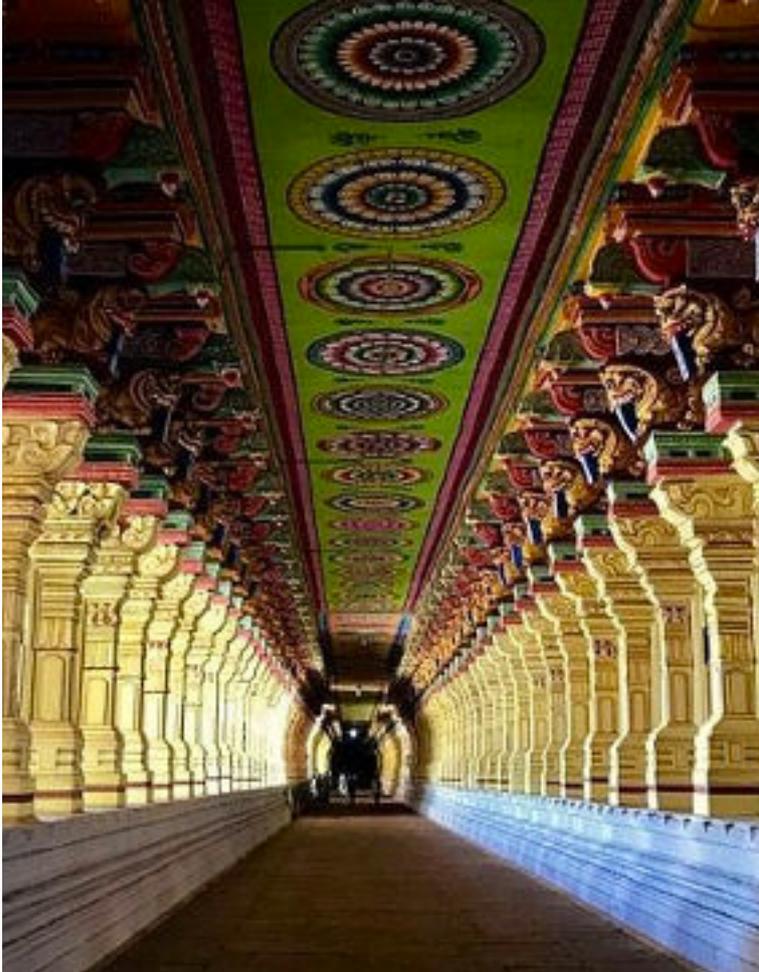
SthalaSayana Perumal is also known as Thirukadalmalai temple, is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and revered as one of the 108 Divya Desams which is located in Mamallapuram. This is considered the birthplace of Boothazhvar, the second of 12 Alvars. The temple is one among 32 monuments in Mamallapuram.



# Ooty

In 1819 John Sullivan, the then Collector of Coimbatore, was enthralled by the beauty of the place which resembled Switzerland more than any other country in Europe. He bought a parcel of land from the local toda people for one rupee, and built himself a bungalow at Dhimbatti. The “Stone House” as it stands even today, is the oldest house in the town that he founded called Ootacamund – a word that originated from the tamil words Othakal (single stone) Mandu (the name of a toda village), as the place was referred to centuries ago. With the patronage of the British, it blossomed and bloomed and soon it became the Summer Capital of the Madras Presidency.

If you're a connoisseur of tea or have been born with a green thumb, Ooty is truly your cup of tea. From sprawling flower decked gardens to massive tea estates, from an elephant ride into the jungle to a fresh bath in a waterfall, there are unforgettable experiences for you everywhere, and at every corner.



# Rameswaram

Rameswaram is one of the holiest places in India and is located on the beautiful Pamban island. It is 570 kms from Chennai and is a major pilgrim center. According to mythology, Lord Rama and his army created a bridge 40 kms across the sea, to Mannar in Sri Lanka, to rescue Sita from the clutches of Ravana.

On his return, after slaying Ravana, Lord Rama is said to have atoned for his sins, and prayed to Lord Shiva in Rameswaram at the magnificent Ramanathaswamy Temple. It is said that a visit to Varanasi is not considered complete if Rameswaram isn't included in the visit.

There are 22 holy temple wells here, of which one is outside the temple and forms the Agni Theertham. It is believed that the number 22 refers to the number of arrows in Lord Rama's quiver.



## Salem

Located on the banks of Thirumanimutharu river, this place, surrounded by mountains is called Sailam, and hence the name Salem. The town and surrounding hilly regions were part of the Chera dynasty and had trade routes with the Romans. Silver coins from a Roman emperor Nero Claudius Caesar were discovered here, leading to the belief that its connections are ancient indeed.

The region is known as Kongu Nadu and Mazhanadu, and the city is nicknamed Steel City or Mango City. Salem district was the first district to be formed in India in 1792.

It is a major textile center with a history of handloom and spinning mills going back to the pre-independence times. The Salem Steel Plant is very famous, as are the delicious mangoes from this place.

## Thiruvannamalai

This is a pilgrimage town that has a sacred hill. In this place Lord Shiva is known as Annamalayar or Arunachaleswarar, and hence this place has earned the name Tiruvannamalai. It is the largest temple in the world dedicated to Lord Shiva, making Tiruvannamalai truly the capital of Saivism.

The deity is found atop a hill in most holy places, but in the case of Tiruvannamalai the hill itself is the deity [Lord Annamalayar]. Arunam means sun [which is the colour red] and Asalam means Giri or mountain. The holy hill which is 2668 feet high is red in colour.

The Karthigai Deepam is a very special event at the Tiruvannamalai, where a huge fire is lit on top of the holy mountain. The entire mountain is considered a Shiva Linga and 3500 kgs of clarified butter are used to light it. Called the Maha Deepam, it can be seen from 35 kms away.



# Thanjavur

Thanjavur, a delta area, is believed to have derived its name from Tajan, a mythical demon. It's an important center for arts and crafts and has the most of the Great Living Chola Temples that are UNESCO World Heritage Monuments in this fertile region. The city served as a capital of the Chola Empire.

It was called CholakulaVallipattinam during the reign of the Cholas and is rich historically as well as culturally. It was significant in Burmese history around 3rd BC, and a mention of a Buddha Viharam built by King Asoka finds mention. The same viharam finds a place of mention in a book by Hiuen Tsang.



# Tiruchirappali

Welcome to one of the oldest inhabited cities in India, whose recorded history begins in the 3rd Century when it was ruled by the Cholas. As was the case in those ancient times, it was run by other dynasties to follow - the Pallavas, Pandyas, Vijayanagar Empire, Nayak Dynasty, the Carnatic State...and finally the British, who called it Trichnopoly.

Its prominent monuments from the ancient times are the Rock Fort, the Ranganathaswamy Temple at Srirangam and the Jambukeswar Temple in Thiruvanaikaval. The home of Robert Clive and the 18th Century Church are also two important landmarks in this city.

Experts believe that the name Tiruchirappalli evolved from Chiruta-palli [which means little town]. Others speculate that it could have evolved from a 16th Century rock inscription Tiru-ssila-pali [which means holy rock town]. Yet a few others speculate that it could have evolved from Tiru-chinna-palli [holy little town].



## Vellore

Certainly, one of the sought-after tourist places in Tamil Nadu is Vellore. Also known as the 'Fort City', the magnificent city of Vellore comprises oodles of historical monuments and pilgrimage sites. The city once was once a home to various powerful dynasties which include, The Pallavas, The Cholas, Carnatic Empire, and the Vijayanagar Kingdom.

Located some 139 km west of Chennai and 166 km north of Puducherry, Vellore is a perfect place to get glimpses of Tamil Nadu's rich cultural heritage through its attractions. The serenity and beauty of the city's temples are hard to put into words.

Just a visit to Ratnagiri Temple and Roman Catholic Diocese can complete your hunt for spirituality and give you a meaningful vacation. Vellore is the best sightseeing place in Tamil Nadu with forts, observatory, and a zoological park. The most appropriate way to witness the beautiful cultural heritage of the city by visiting Vellore Fort for which the city is largely famous.

## Velankanni

Twelve kilometres from Nagapattinam, one of the most revered Christian Pilgrim Centers of the State called the Basilica of our Lady of Good Health is a highly popular Roman Catholic Latin Rite shrine. Pilgrims of all faiths and religions throng this shrine as devotees believe that Virgin Mary has miraculous healing powers. Its origins can be traced back to the 16th Century.

There are three miracles associated with this church. As the legend goes, it is believed that Virgin Mary appeared before a shepherd and asked for milk to feed Jesus. And since then the sheperd's pitcher never ran dry. Later, at the end of the 16th Century, Virgin Mary appeared to cure a lame boy – and the Church was constructed after this miracle.

Velankanni is famous for its annual feast celebrated from 29th August for 10 days. Annually 20 million people flock to this shrine, of which around 3 million are estimated to visit the shrine during the annual festivities alone.



# Pondicherry

Oh the charm of the French world meeting the sea life - how can one not fall for something so surreal yet so real?

The quietude of the alleys and the bustling boulevards; the amalgamation of Tamil and French cuisines and architecture; and the jaunty crowd, all make Pondicherry a compelling place to visit in India.

The Union Territory of Pondicherry blessed with picturesque coastline is indeed a destination for beach lovers where they can enjoy multiple water activities. The colonial architecture compliments the beach life whereas the far situated Auroville add another dimension to Pondicherry tourism.

If there is one tourist destination in India that can cater to your need for a relaxing holiday, Pondicherry has to be it.



# Erode

Known as the Turmeric City or Yellow City, Erode was part of Coimbatore till it was renamed. Located on the banks of the mighty Bhavani and Cauvery rivers, it is among the largest producers of turmeric and has earned a GI tag. Erode is also a large producer of plantain, coconuts and white silks.

This district is also famous for its handloom, power loom and readymade garments. Fabrics and rugs made in Erode are famous throughout India, and it has a large export market as well. Known for its bed sheets, cotton saris, dhotis, lungis, towels, carpets and printed fabrics it is also called the Texvalley of India or the Loom City of India.

The name Erode is believed to have its origin from EeruOdai, meaning two streams. It has two water courses in its vicinity – the Perumpallam and the Kalingarayan Canal.

# EXPERIENCES

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# ARTS & CRAFTS

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The state of Tamil Nadu has numerous interesting arts and crafts. From traditional bronze statues to musical instruments, Tamil Nadu has a lot to explore and marvel at.

The revered and traditional art form depicting the sacred deities is embellished with semi-precious stones, pearls, glass pieces and gold and colored in the vibrant hues. The modern Tanjore paintings however portray floral motifs, animals, birds as well as pretty human figures.

# CUISINES

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There's much more to Tamil cuisine than just idly, sambar and filter coffee. The truth is that the cuisine of Tamil Nadu is rich and diverse – over 27 types of sambar and 45 types of rasam are made by the Iyers alone. The Nadar community has a menu card of over 800 dishes. Similarly, the Chettiars, Mudaliars, Iyengars, Goundas and Naidus have their own distinctive cuisine, which is rarely seen on restaurant menus.

Though the same ingredients are used, the flavour changes with the style of cooking. Tamil Nadu cuisine can be categorised under six major heads – Chettinad Cuisine, Kongunadu Cuisine, Nanjil Nadu Cuisine, Pandiya Nadu Cuisine, Tamil Brahmin Cuisine and Temple Cuisine.

# BOAT HOUSES

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Also known as Raindrop Boat House, is a water sport facility located on the East Coast Road, 36 km to the south of Mamallapuram and 92 km from Chennai in India. It was developed by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation on the Odiyur lake back waters.

It has rowing, cruising, speed boating, waters cooting and kayaking facilities. \*In 2007, Mudhaliarkuppam Boat House became the first of the eight boat houses of Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation to offer water scooters.

The boat house organises motor boat trips to the beach island located in the Odiyur lake. Mudaliarkuppam is located in the district of Kanchipuram, 92 km from Chennai and 36 km down Mamallapuram on ECR (East Coast Road).



# ASTROLOGY

Naadi Astrology has been practiced in Tamil Nadu for over 4000 years. It is a vast documentation created by Sage Agastya, on palm leaves called "Olai Chuvadi", which showed the world that every individual on earth has a predestined journey – and that the past, present and future are strongly interlinked.

These documents were found to have been strewn around the Vaitheeswaran Temple sometime around the 12th Century, and the Nayanar community made exact copies.

These were obtained by the families of astrologers at the Vaitheeswaran Temple and have been passed down the generations ever since.

Any individual can have his or her Naadi checked by providing their thumb prints. Around 108 aspects of the thumb print are then analyzed to locate the relevant bundle of Naadi leaves for the prediction.

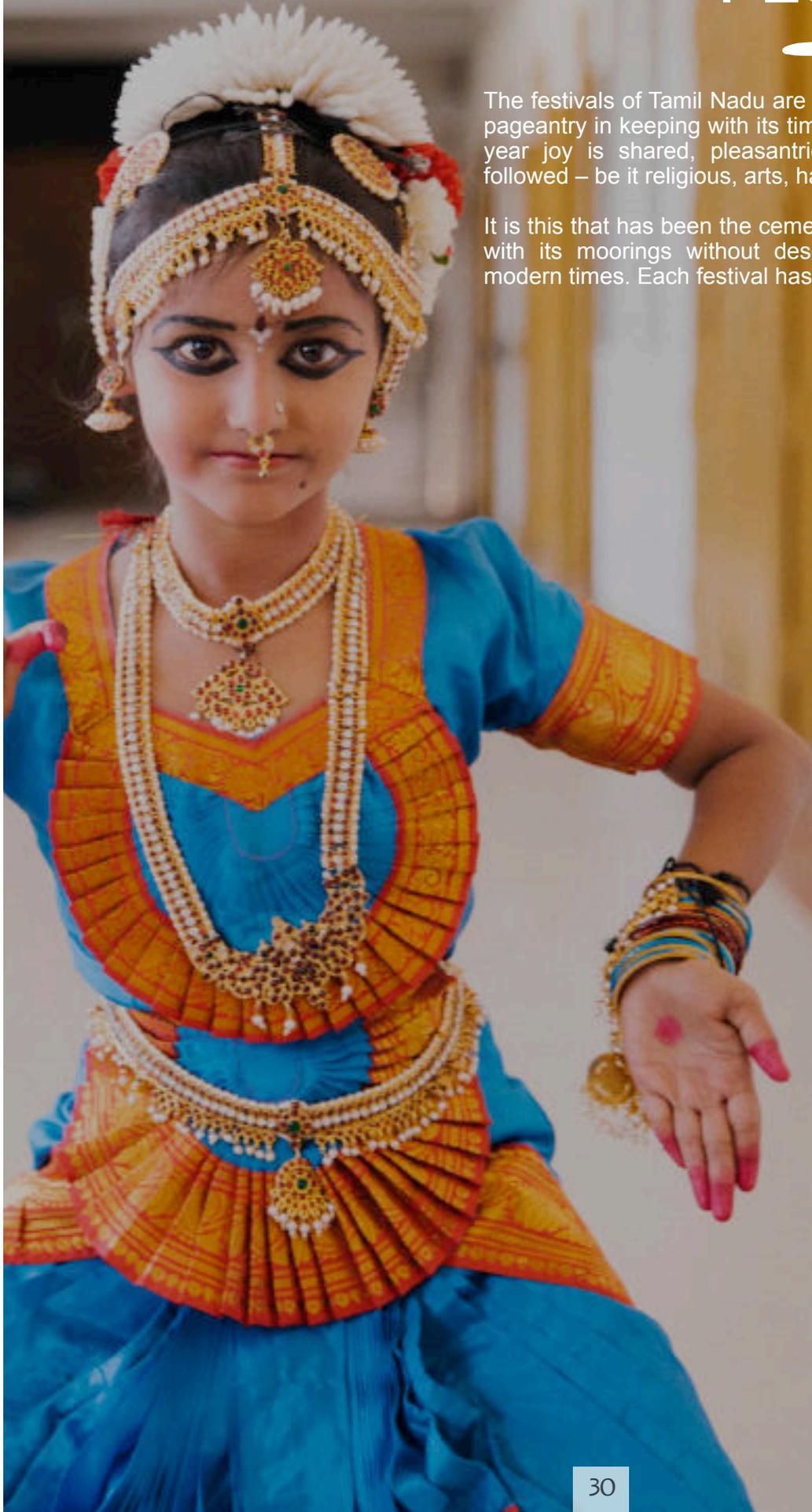
It is believed that only those who have the "karma" to have their predictions read would be able to access the predictions of their future. The predictions are given in different "Kandams", or chapters - health, success, family...and so on.

# FESTIVALS

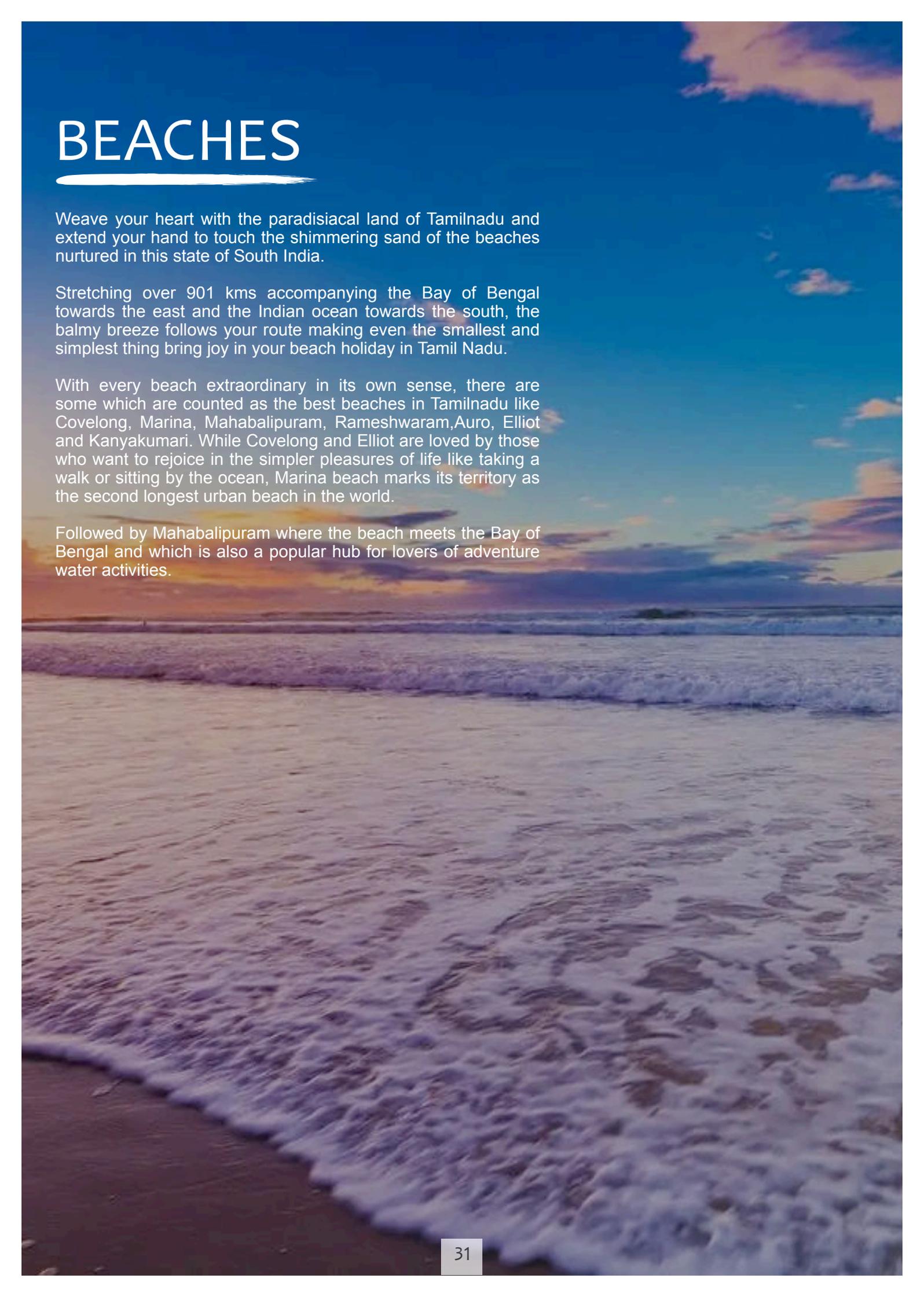
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The festivals of Tamil Nadu are celebrated with great pomp and pageantry in keeping with its time-tested traditions. Through the year joy is shared, pleasantries are exchanged, rituals are followed – be it religious, arts, harvest or seasonal celebrations.

It is this that has been the cement for such a rich culture to stay with its moorings without deserting the past even in these modern times. Each festival has a meaning and a cause.



# BEACHES

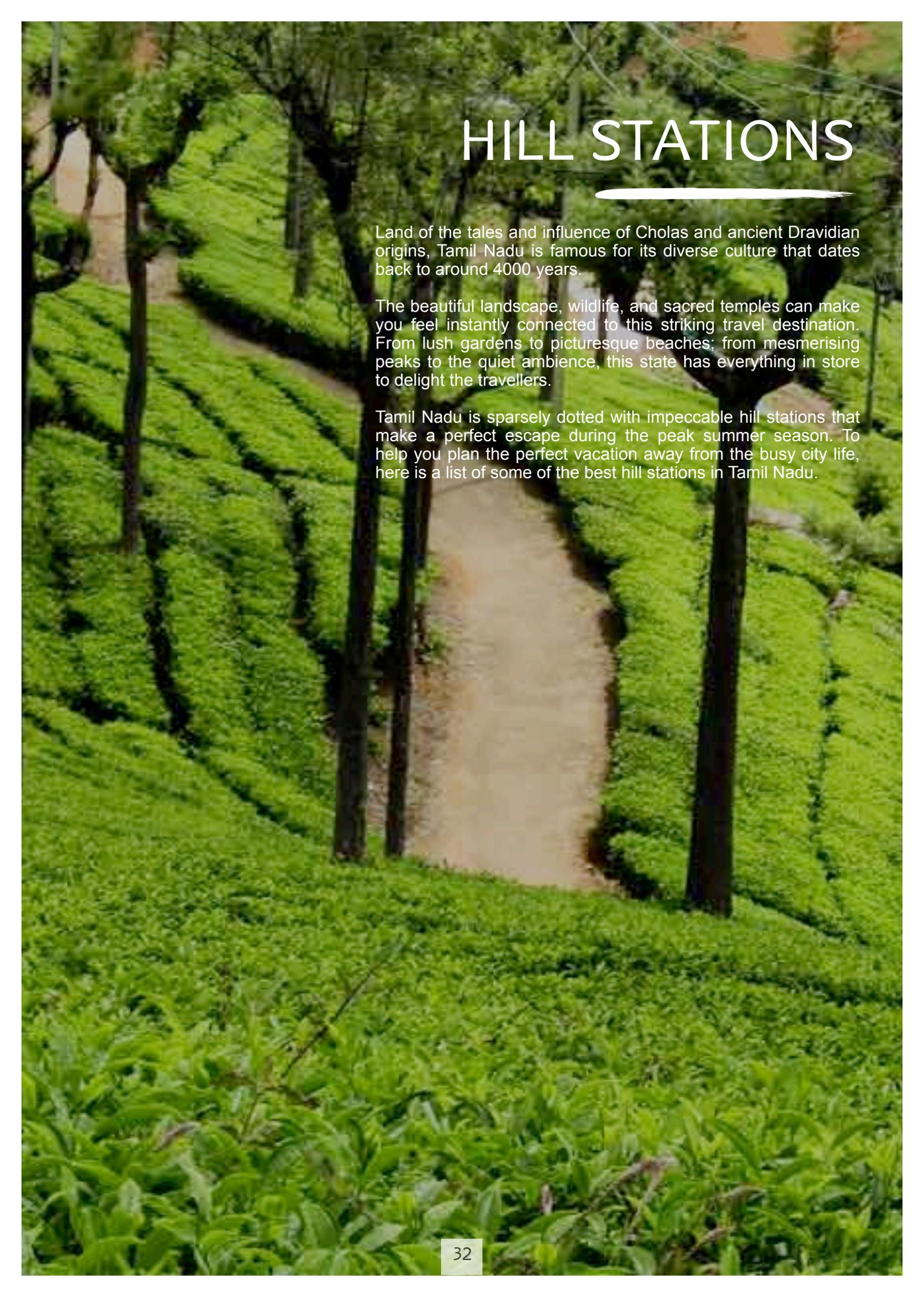


Weave your heart with the paradisiacal land of Tamilnadu and extend your hand to touch the shimmering sand of the beaches nurtured in this state of South India.

Stretching over 901 kms accompanying the Bay of Bengal towards the east and the Indian ocean towards the south, the balmy breeze follows your route making even the smallest and simplest thing bring joy in your beach holiday in Tamil Nadu.

With every beach extraordinary in its own sense, there are some which are counted as the best beaches in Tamilnadu like Covelong, Marina, Mahabalipuram, Rameshwaram, Auro, Elliot and Kanyakumari. While Covelong and Elliot are loved by those who want to rejoice in the simpler pleasures of life like taking a walk or sitting by the ocean, Marina beach marks its territory as the second longest urban beach in the world.

Followed by Mahabalipuram where the beach meets the Bay of Bengal and which is also a popular hub for lovers of adventure water activities.



# HILL STATIONS

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Land of the tales and influence of Cholas and ancient Dravidian origins, Tamil Nadu is famous for its diverse culture that dates back to around 4000 years.

The beautiful landscape, wildlife, and sacred temples can make you feel instantly connected to this striking travel destination. From lush gardens to picturesque beaches; from mesmerising peaks to the quiet ambience, this state has everything in store to delight the travellers.

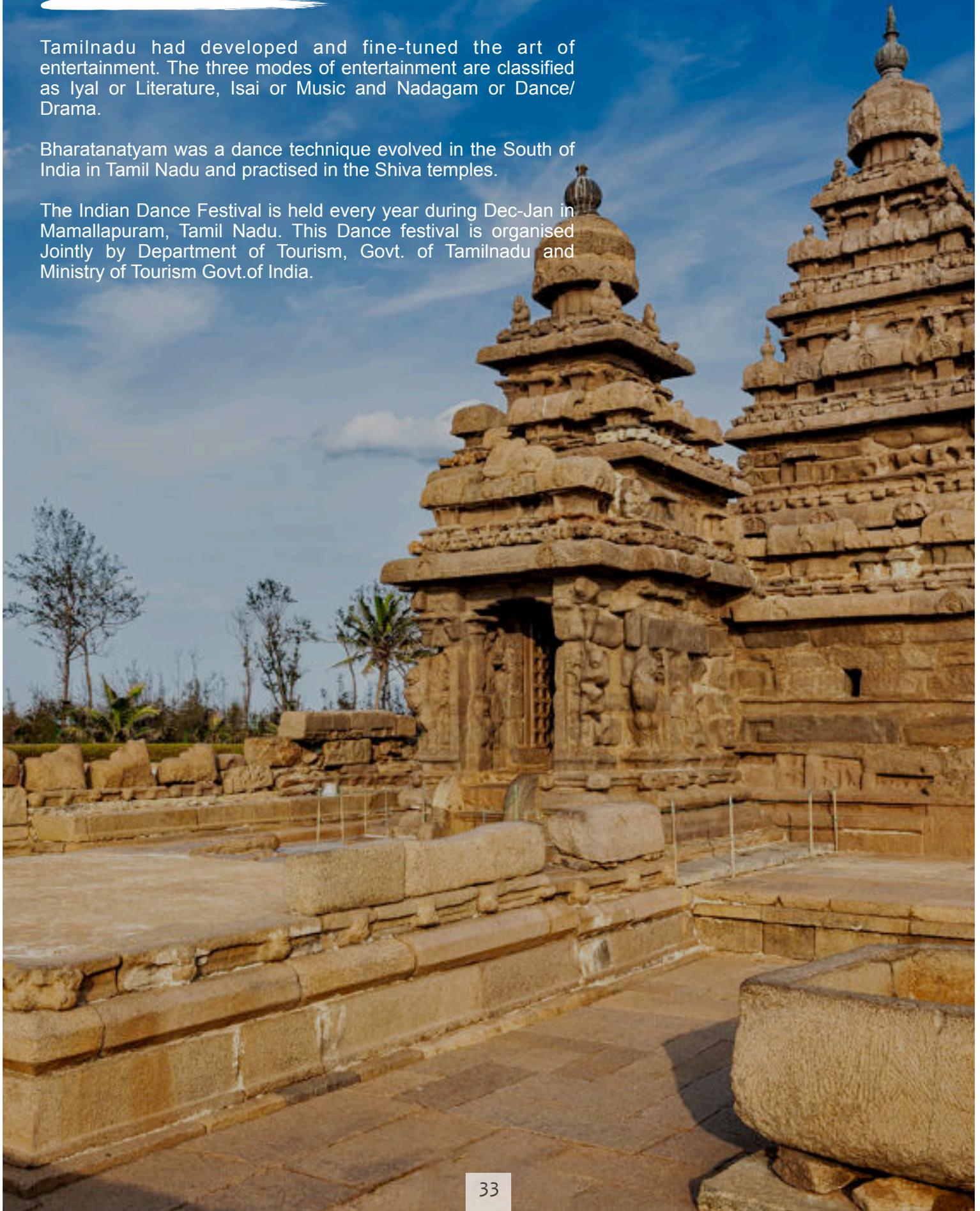
Tamil Nadu is sparsely dotted with impeccable hill stations that make a perfect escape during the peak summer season. To help you plan the perfect vacation away from the busy city life, here is a list of some of the best hill stations in Tamil Nadu.

# FINE ARTS

Tamilnadu had developed and fine-tuned the art of entertainment. The three modes of entertainment are classified as Iyal or Literature, Isai or Music and Nadagam or Dance/ Drama.

Bharatanatyam was a dance technique evolved in the South of India in Tamil Nadu and practised in the Shiva temples.

The Indian Dance Festival is held every year during Dec-Jan in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu. This Dance festival is organised Jointly by Department of Tourism, Govt. of Tamilnadu and Ministry of Tourism Govt.of India.



# SPIRITUAL

Tamil Nadu is spiritual country. There has always been a coexistence of numerous religions from Shaivism to Vaishnavism to Buddhism to Christianity to Islam among the people of the state.

It is home to 38,615 temples [as per the Hindu Religious Endowments Board], around 1000 churches, 10 dargahs & hundreds of mosques, and numerous other temples of all faiths scattered all over. Come, explore its rich spiritual offering and enjoy the warmth of its people.

# WILDLIFE

Gleaming in the realms of South India as a popular wildlife tourism destination, Tamil Nadu is the answer to all your fantasies for a perfect vacation.

The state is like a treasure for travellers who love to enjoy not just the temples and other architecture marvels but dream of a perfect wildlife safari in some of the most popular reserves harbored on the land. To begin with the state covers an protected area of 7,072.95 sq. km which is almost 30.92% share of the State's Forest area.

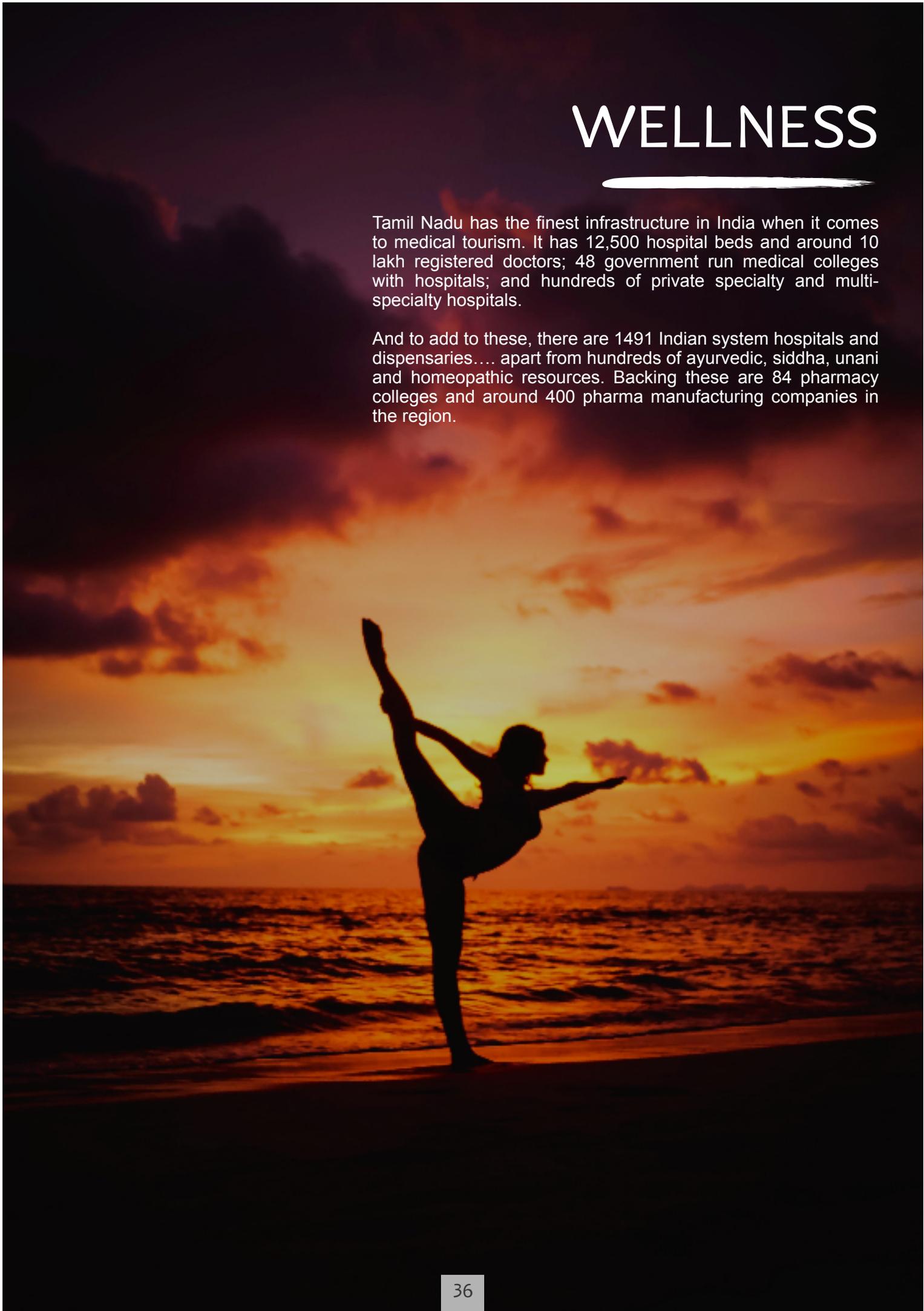
Going by the facts, the state is home to 5 National Parks, 4 Tiger Reserves, 15 Wildlife sanctuaries, 2 conservation reserves and 15 bird sanctuaries which are rooted and built under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

# WELLNESS

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Tamil Nadu has the finest infrastructure in India when it comes to medical tourism. It has 12,500 hospital beds and around 10 lakh registered doctors; 48 government run medical colleges with hospitals; and hundreds of private specialty and multi-specialty hospitals.

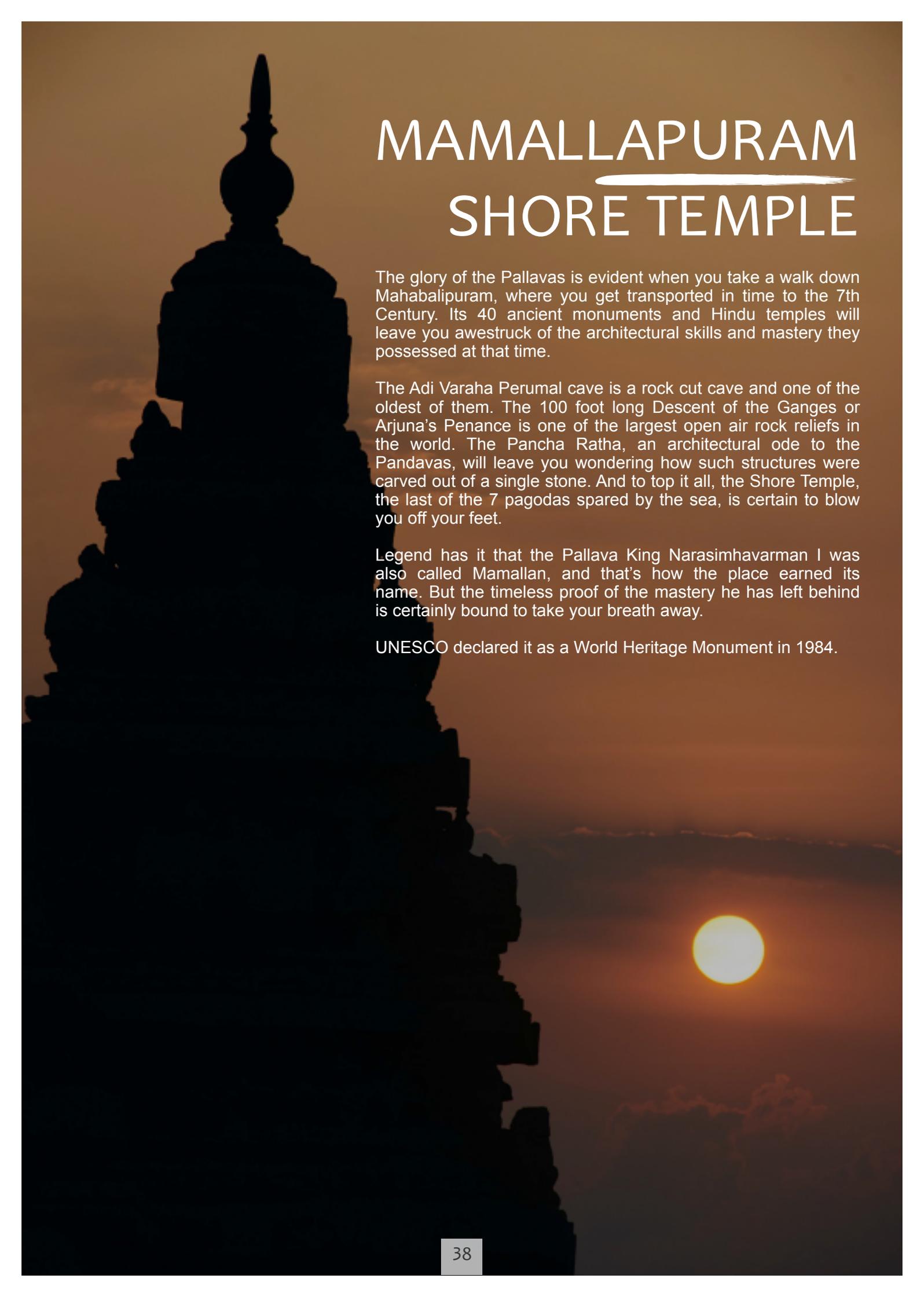
And to add to these, there are 1491 Indian system hospitals and dispensaries.... apart from hundreds of ayurvedic, siddha, unani and homeopathic resources. Backing these are 84 pharmacy colleges and around 400 pharma manufacturing companies in the region.



# HERITAGE SITES

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The background of the page is a photograph of a sunset over a body of water. On the left side, there is a large, dark silhouette of a temple tower, likely the Shore Temple in Mamallapuram. The tower has a tall, pointed spire at the top. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and brown, with a bright sun low on the horizon. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the light from the sky.

# MAMALLAPURAM

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## SHORE TEMPLE

The glory of the Pallavas is evident when you take a walk down Mahabalipuram, where you get transported in time to the 7th Century. Its 40 ancient monuments and Hindu temples will leave you awestruck of the architectural skills and mastery they possessed at that time.

The Adi Varaha Perumal cave is a rock cut cave and one of the oldest of them. The 100 foot long Descent of the Ganges or Arjuna's Penance is one of the largest open air rock reliefs in the world. The Pancha Ratha, an architectural ode to the Pandavas, will leave you wondering how such structures were carved out of a single stone. And to top it all, the Shore Temple, the last of the 7 pagodas spared by the sea, is certain to blow you off your feet.

Legend has it that the Pallava King Narasimhavarman I was also called Mamallan, and that's how the place earned its name. But the timeless proof of the mastery he has left behind is certainly bound to take your breath away.

UNESCO declared it as a World Heritage Monument in 1984.

# AIRAVATESVARA TEMPLE

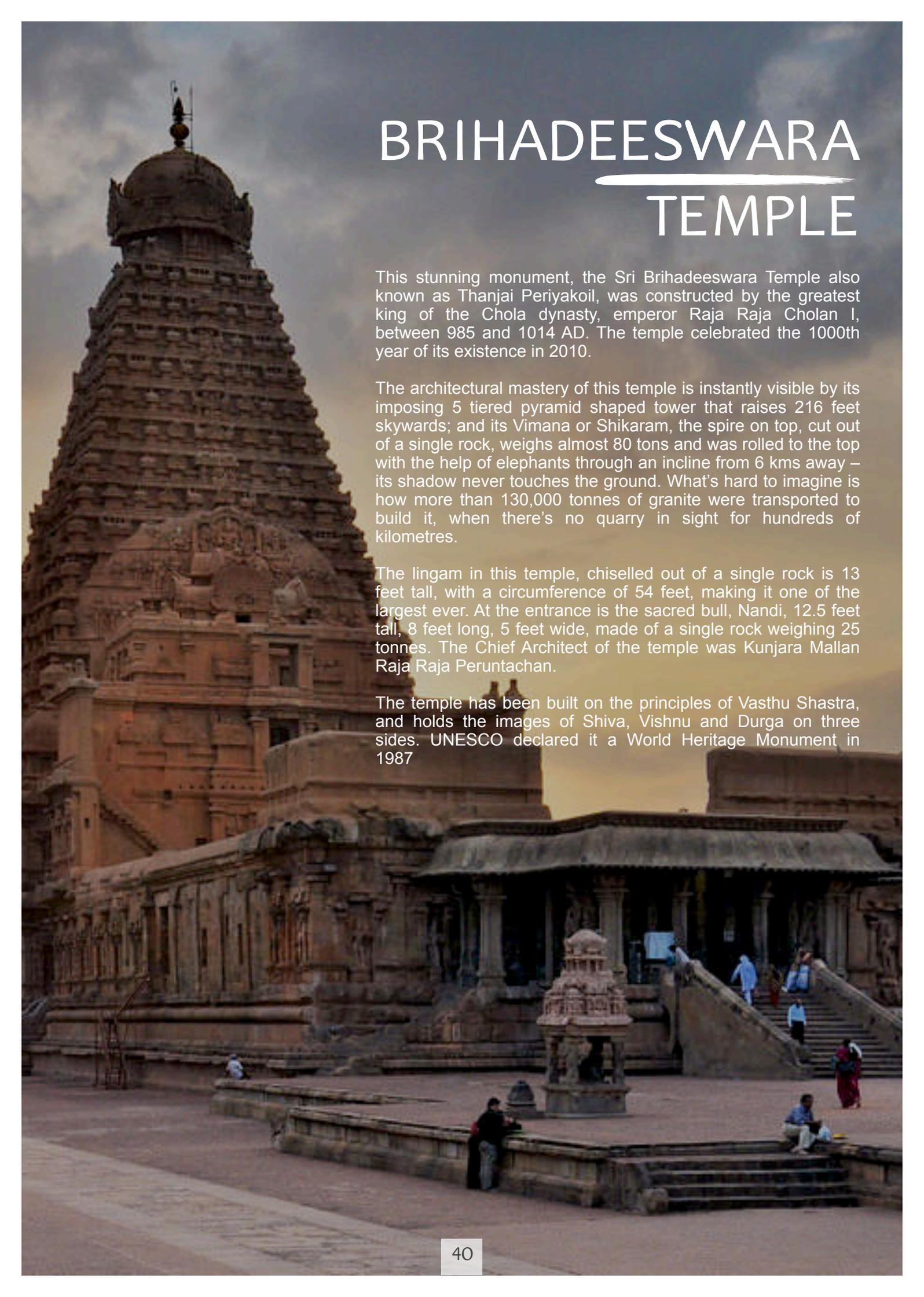
This stunning monument, the Sri Brihadeeswara Temple also known as Thanjai Periyakoil, was constructed by the greatest king of the Chola dynasty, emperor Raja Raja Cholan I, between 985 and 1014 AD. The temple celebrated the 1000th year of its existence in 2010.

The architectural mastery of this temple is instantly visible by its imposing 5 tiered pyramid shaped tower that raises 216 feet skywards; and its Vimana or Shikaram, the spire on top, cut out of a single rock, weighs almost 80 tons and was rolled to the top with the help of elephants through an incline from 6 kms away – its shadow never touches the ground. What's hard to imagine is how more than 130,000 tonnes of granite were transported to build it, when there's no quarry in sight for hundreds of kilometres.

The lingam in this temple, chiselled out of a single rock is 13 feet tall, with a circumference of 54 feet, making it one of the largest ever. At the entrance is the sacred bull, Nandi, 12.5 feet tall, 8 feet long, 5 feet wide, made of a single rock weighing 25 tonnes. The Chief Architect of the temple was Kunjara Mallan Raja Raja Peruntachan. The temple has been built on the principles of Vastu Shastra, and holds the images of Shiva, Vishnu and Durga on three sides.

UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Monument in 1987.





# BRIHADEESWARA TEMPLE

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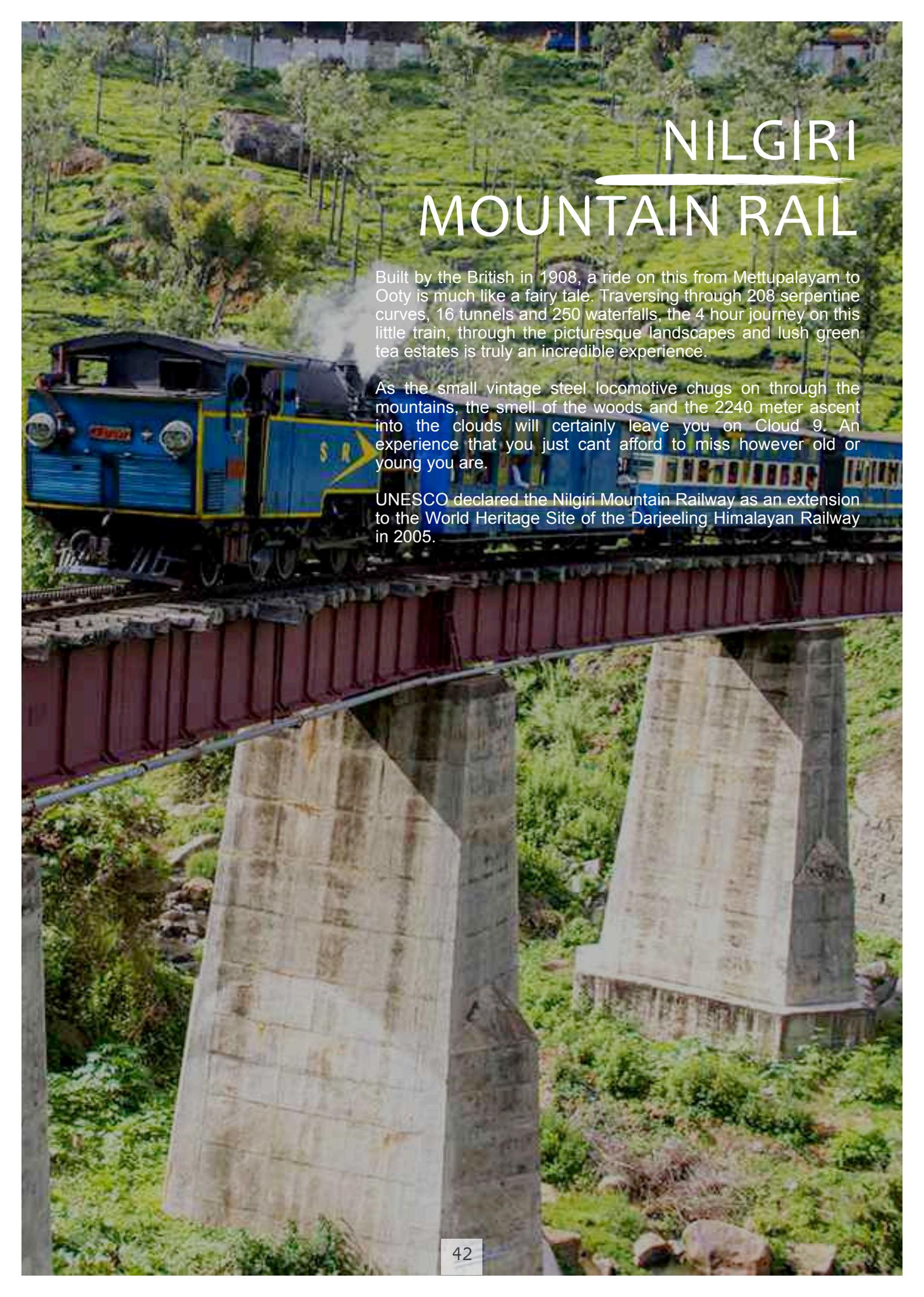
The temple has been built on the principles of Vasthu Shastra, and holds the images of Shiva, Vishnu and Durga on three sides. UNESCO declared it a World Heritage Monument in 1987

# GANGAIKONDA CHOLAPURAM

Rajendra Chola earned the name Gangaikonda Cholan when he successfully transported Ganges water in a golden pot and sanctified its water body. He then built a Shiva temple, Gangaikonda Choleswaran and shifted the Chola capital from Tanjore to Gangaikonda Cholapuram.

What's noteworthy about this poetry in stone are its richly carved sculptures that are intricate and imaginative. The bronzes of Bhogasakti and Subrahmanya are masterpieces of the Chola era.

This temple possesses a really large Shiva Lingam carved out of a single rock. The shadow of the temple Kalasam does not fall on earth. Also, there is a stone called the Chandra Kanta Kal that has been kept under the lingam, which is believed to keep the temperature under control whether it's summer or winter. UNESCO declared this a World Heritage Monument in 2004



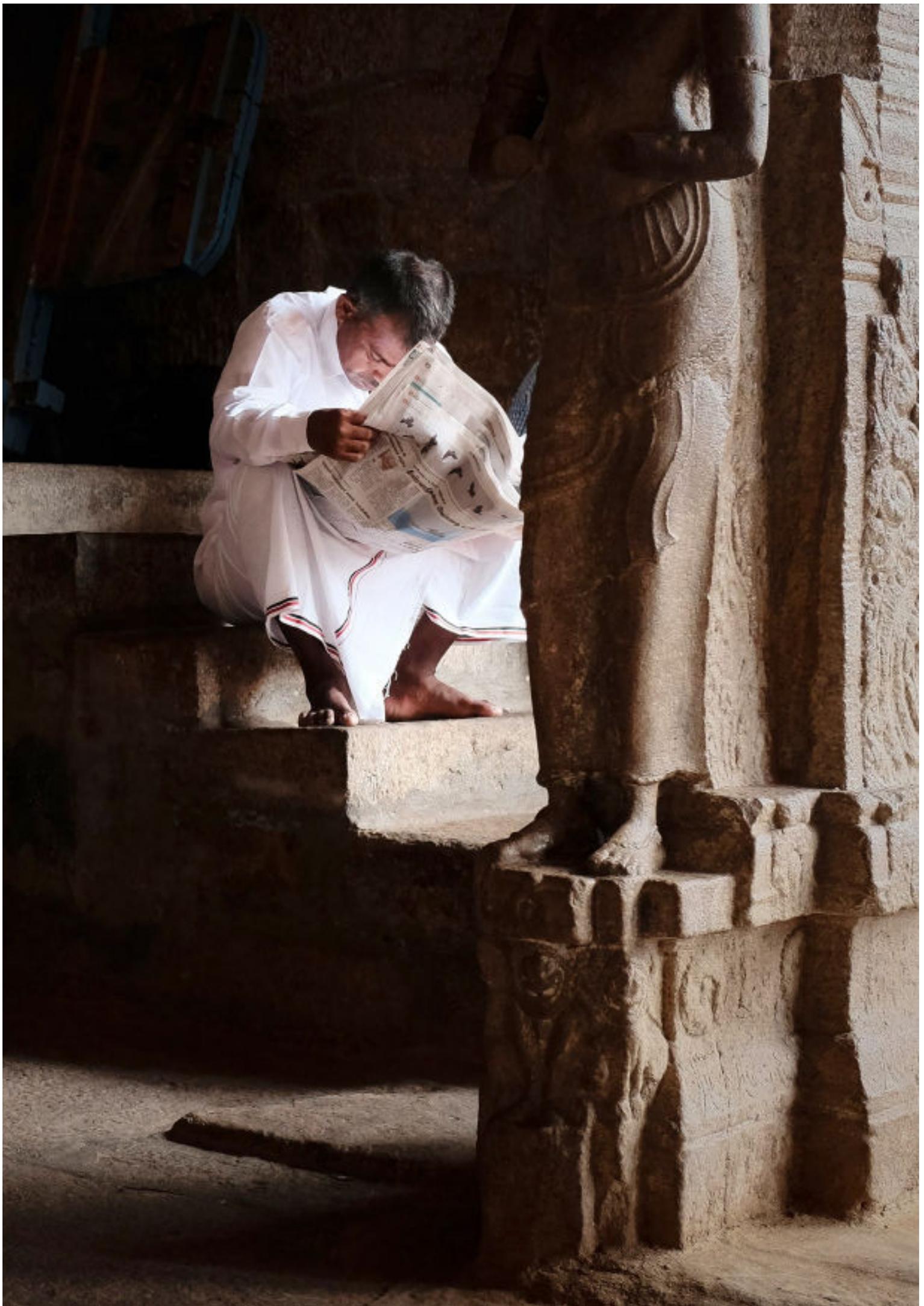
# NILGIRI MOUNTAIN RAIL

Built by the British in 1908, a ride on this from Mettupalayam to Ooty is much like a fairy tale. Traversing through 208 serpentine curves, 16 tunnels and 250 waterfalls, the 4 hour journey on this little train, through the picturesque landscapes and lush green tea estates is truly an incredible experience.

As the small vintage steel locomotive chugs on through the mountains, the smell of the woods and the 2240 meter ascent into the clouds will certainly leave you on Cloud 9. An experience that you just cant afford to miss however old or young you are.

UNESCO declared the Nilgiri Mountain Railway as an extension to the World Heritage Site of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway in 2005.





# SPECIALITIES



# LEISURE TOURISM

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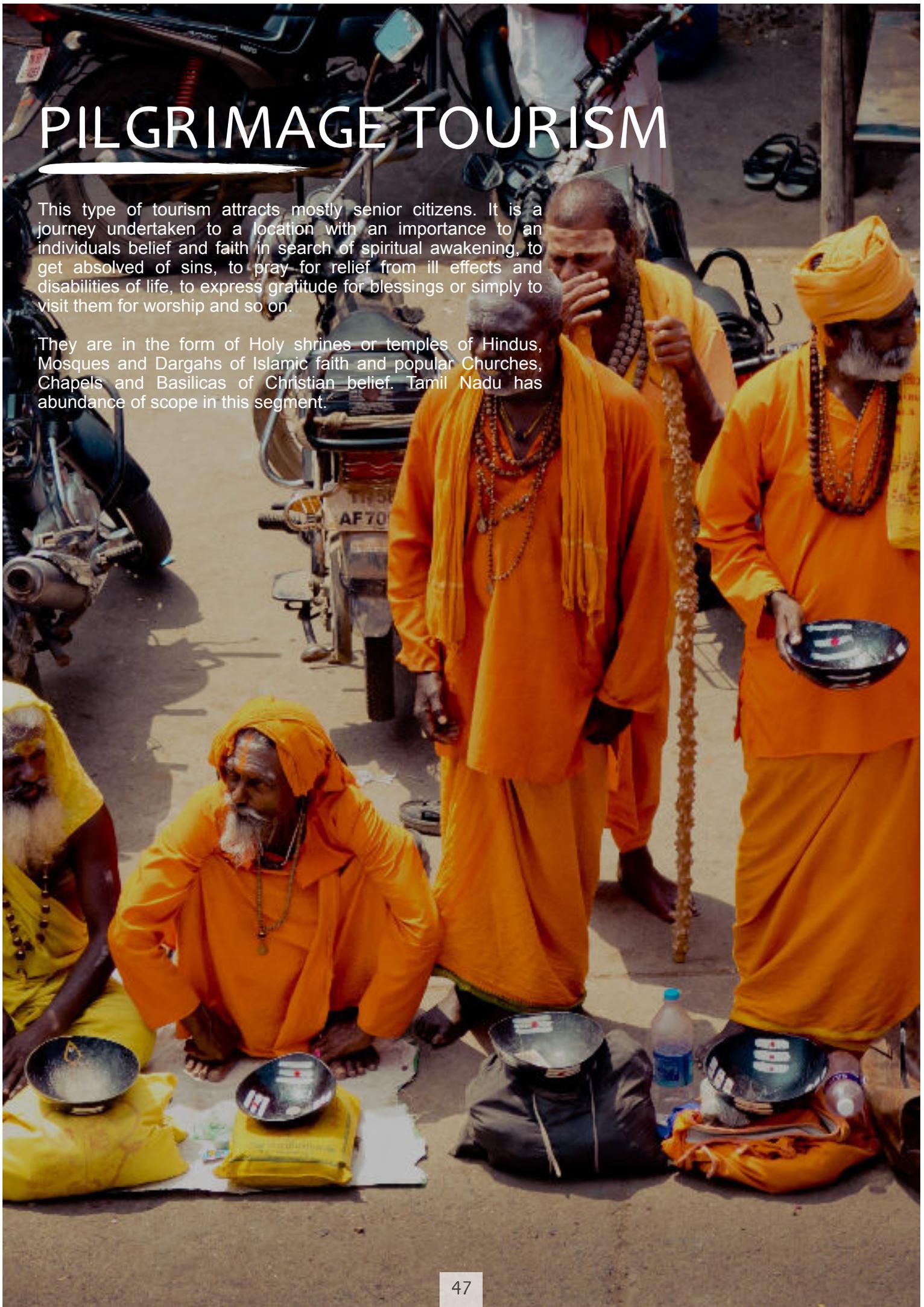
The leisure and tourism industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. It covers a whole spectrum of activities like visiting a place of tourist attraction, Beaches, Waterfalls, Zoological parks, Hill Stations, a stay in the beach side cottages, dine in an exotic location little away from home, at times even a short travel abroad.

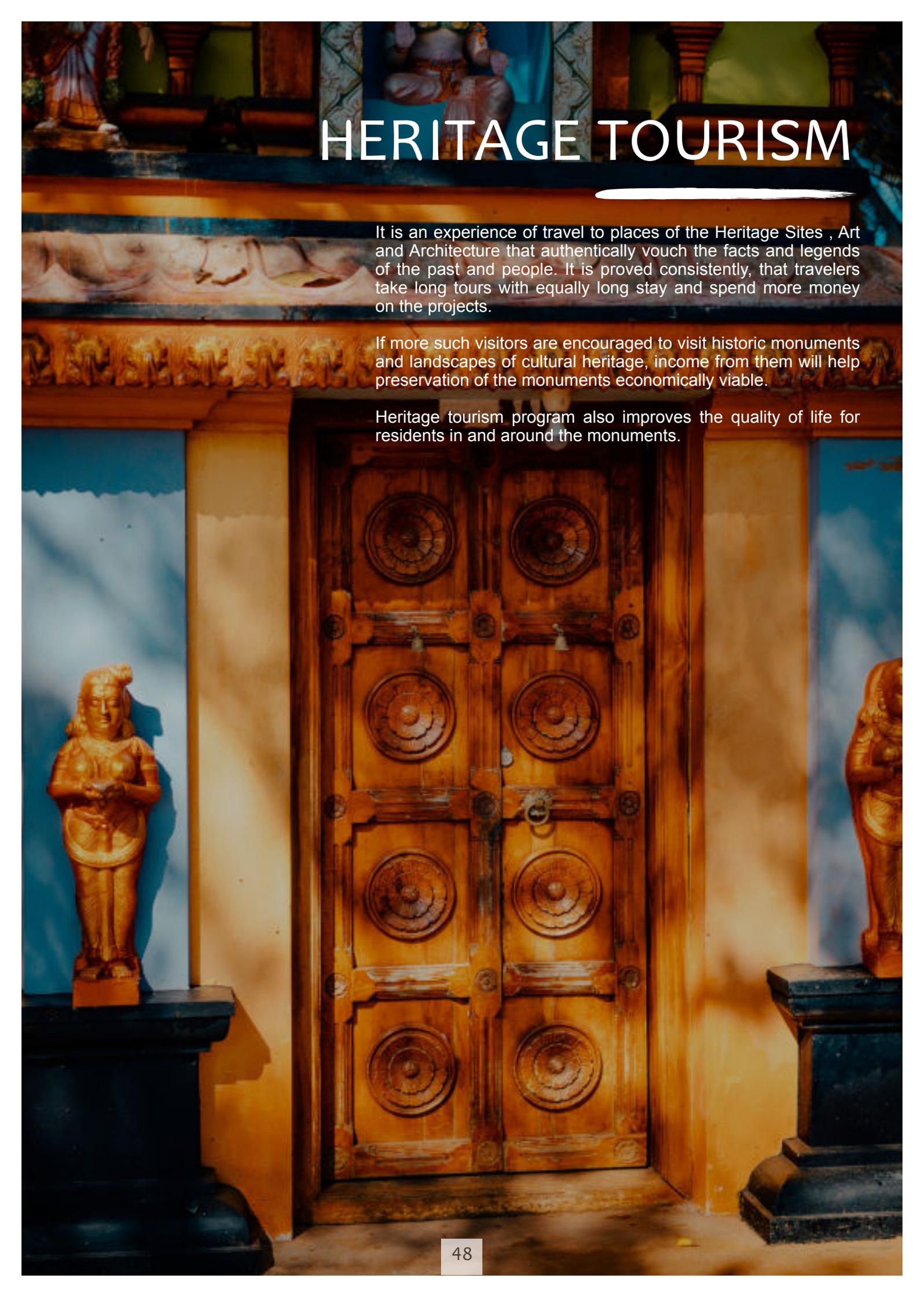


# PILGRIMAGE TOURISM

This type of tourism attracts mostly senior citizens. It is a journey undertaken to a location with an importance to an individual's belief and faith in search of spiritual awakening, to get absolved of sins, to pray for relief from ill effects and disabilities of life, to express gratitude for blessings or simply to visit them for worship and so on.

They are in the form of Holy shrines or temples of Hindus, Mosques and Dargahs of Islamic faith and popular Churches, Chapels and Basilicas of Christian belief. Tamil Nadu has abundance of scope in this segment.





# HERITAGE TOURISM

It is an experience of travel to places of the Heritage Sites , Art and Architecture that authentically vouch the facts and legends of the past and people. It is proved consistently, that travelers take long tours with equally long stay and spend more money on the projects.

If more such visitors are encouraged to visit historic monuments and landscapes of cultural heritage, income from them will help preservation of the monuments economically viable.

Heritage tourism program also improves the quality of life for residents in and around the monuments.

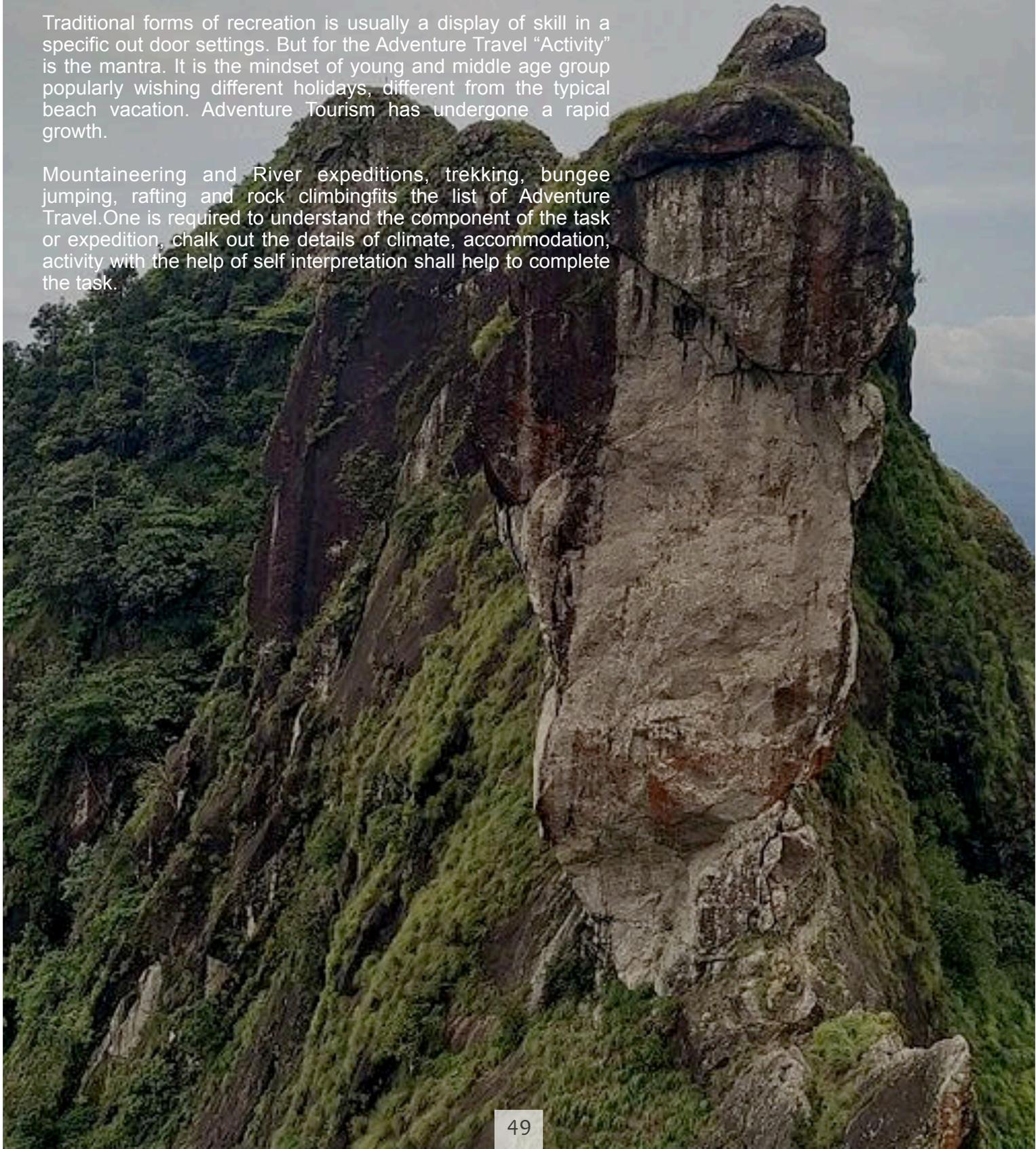
# ADVENTURE TOURISM

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It is a form of tourism involving exploration , travel , trek , or explore remote areas where the traveler learns to expect the unexpected. Tough mental and physical condition appears to be the fitness factor for this travel.

Traditional forms of recreation is usually a display of skill in a specific out door settings. But for the Adventure Travel “Activity” is the mantra. It is the mindset of young and middle age group popularly wishing different holidays, different from the typical beach vacation. Adventure Tourism has undergone a rapid growth.

Mountaineering and River expeditions, trekking, bungee jumping, rafting and rock climbing fits the list of Adventure Travel. One is required to understand the component of the task or expedition, chalk out the details of climate, accommodation, activity with the help of self interpretation shall help to complete the task.



# MEDICAL TOURISM

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Developing economy, abundance of well trained health care professionals, efficient outsource of world wide customer care services, our country is the world's best international cost conscious Medical SERVICE Destination.

Tamil Nadu has been Internationally classified as an affordable and state –of- the – Art EXCELLENT HEALTH CARE provider for patients from across seas and borders.

The State has Ultra-Modern Hospitals, talented Medical Professional, State–of- the –art Medical Facilities both in Government and Private Sectors. These Medical Facilities have treated and cured many who came with serious ailments and returned with good health.

# ECO TOURISM

Hill Stations, Waterfalls, Forests, Bird Sanctuaries and beaches are available in plenty for those who evince interest in nature.

TTDC has set up a separate Eco-Tourism wing including an officer from the Forest Department. The vision is to make Tamil Nadu a world renowned destination specializing in sustainable tourism through focused efforts on creating synergy among all stakeholders, encouraging capacity building and public-private partnership with revenue generating strategies.

“Take the memories from here – Leave only your foot print – not the litter” should be the Motto of every tourist.

# CULTURE TOURISM

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It is the sub set of tourism related to a tourism connected with a country or region's culture and practices. Museum, Theatres, Beaches, Rural areas show casing the traditions of indigenous festivals and rituals are some forms of this tourism.

This tourism segment is popular throughout the world and its role can play in regional development in different world regions. People intend to visit nearby places to enjoy and interact with their relatives, kith and kin.





# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Welcome to Tamil Nadu

Boasting cultural opulence; gorgeous coastline; wildlife richness; hill stations to be enamoured of; and temples with intricate carvings to imbibe spirituality, Tamil Nadu is a destination in India that cannot be ignored. Making its place in New York Times 2016's edition as one of the top places to visit in the world, Tamil Nadu beckoned being a popular tourist destination worldwide. Need a relaxing holiday or a spiritual one, exploring the mystery of cosmic powers? Tamil Nadu caters to your interests, and thus, is the right travel destination in India for you to quench your thirst for exploration.

## People

The area's population evidently has changed little over the centuries. As speakers of a Dravidian language, the Tamils, who constitute the majority of the population, are understood to be descendants of the early inhabitants of India (the so-called Dravidians), who were driven southward between about 2000 and 1500 bce when the Aryans (speakers of Indo-Aryan languages) descended into the Indian subcontinent.

In addition to the Tamils, the population includes various indigenous communities, who live primarily in the hill regions; these people also speak Dravidian languages.

## Climate

Mainly tropical, the climate of Tamil Nadu is known for its warm and humid summers and moderate winters. Temperatures have known to rise almost as high as 40 ° C. However, the proximity to the sea is beneficial in bringing moisture laden sea breezes into the land during the night, which brings a welcome relief from the oppressive heat of the day.

## Cultural Life

Hinduism lies at the core of the culture of Tamil Nadu. Among the most famous of the state's temples, which number in the tens of thousands, are the 7th- and 8th-century structures at Mamallapura, which were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.

The gopurams, or gateway towers, of such temples are dominant in most towns, particularly Chidambaram, Kanchipuram, Thanjavur, Madurai, and the Srirangam pilgrimage centre in Tiruchchirappalli. The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Administration Department is responsible for the administration of the state's temples and sanctuaries.

## Shopping

Tamil Nadu is a shopper's paradise. Rich in heritage whose origin dates back to ages immemorial, the entire state of Tamil Nadu has something to offer to its guests. You will be experiencing shopping in Tamil Nadu to the fullest in order to bring home loads of souvenirs with unforgettable memories.

# LUXURY JOURNEYS

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# Classical Tour of Tamil Nadu

Duration: 05 Nights / 06 Days

Places: Chennai | Kanchipuram | Mahabalipuram | Pondicherry | Tanjore | Trichy | Madurai

From: US \$ 1800 pp

Glimmering like a jewel in the treasure trove of South India, Tamil Nadu is that one state where you will see all your worries fading away. The state is endowed with the beauty of Chennai, the largest city and capital of Tamil Nadu and this is the exact place from where your journey commences.

Along with its beautifully sculpted temples like Kapaleeswarar Temple, Kailasanatha Temple, Seashore Temple, museums, ashrams and palaces, Tamil Nadu welcomes you for a once in a lifetime experience. Tour My India offers a perfect 5 nights 6 days Tamilnadu tour package curated especially with all things nice that you would not like to miss once here.

We try the best in our capacity to come forth with travel packages that are brimful with best of accommodation, food and all the exceptional services you would wish for, in your tour. So come and sojourn in the state that is best known for an impeccable experience through temples like Madurai Meenakshi Amman, Jambukeshwara and Brihadeeswara Temple as you visit Madurai, Kanchipuram and Thanjavur.



# Spiritual Tour of Tamil Nadu

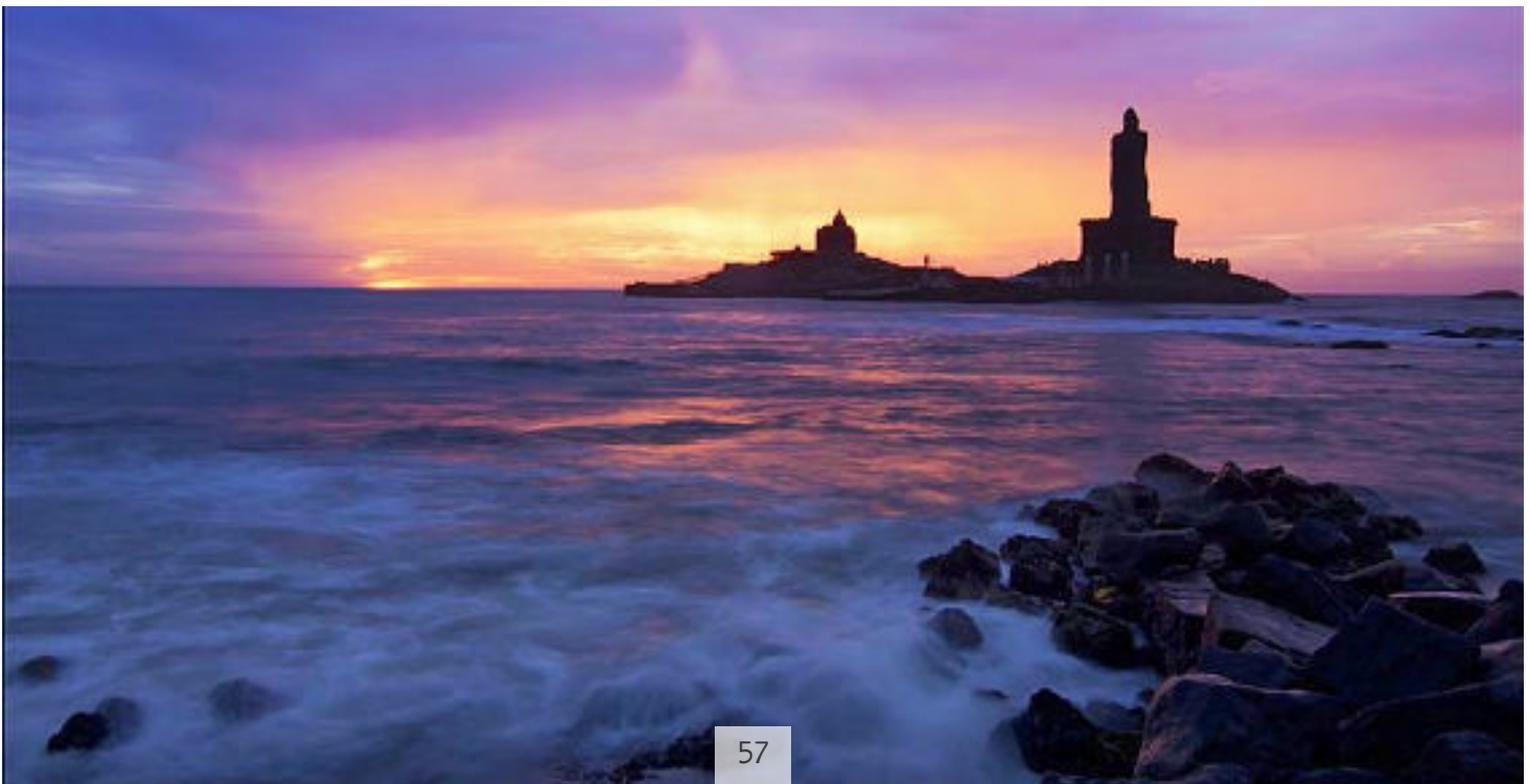
Duration: 09 Nights / 10 Days

Places: Chennai | Mahabalipuram | Pondicherry | Trichy | Tanjore | Rameswaram | Madurai | Kanyakumari | Trivandrum

**From: US \$ 2600 pp**

Come and delve into Tamil Nadu's magical creations of natural wonder and scenic brilliance intact with tales of the past in its many destinations. The south Indian states are one of the best places for relishing the history, however, apart from that, this 9N/10D spiritual temple tour package around Tamil Nadu will offer you an itinerary filled with shrines, beaches, architecture and gardens.

The temple tour will start from Chennai where you can relax in the beach and visit the city. Later, drive down to the fishermen town, Mahabalipuram and check - out some age-old work of stone sculptures in attractions such as Shore Temple, Caves, Krishna Mandapam, Five Rathas and Arjuna's Penance. A stop at Pondicherry to sightsee places like Manakula Vinayagar Koil Temple, the Sacre Coeur Church, the Raj Nivas and Sri Aurobindo Ashram is always pleasant. On the following days, you can visit the 300 m long ancient Kallanai dam in Tiruchchirappalli and temples like Ranganathaswamy, Rockfort and Jambukeshwara. The itinerary also includes an excursion tour to Thanjavur. Also, a further down towards Rameshwaram and Thirumalai Nayak Mahal, Meenakshi Temple and Mariamman Teppakulam in Madurai. This tour package also includes a trip to Kanyakumari, here you can witness the beautiful sunset.



# Tamil Nadu Tour with Kerala

Duration: 13 Nights / 14 Days

Places: Chennai | Mahabalipuram | Pondicherry | Kumbakonam | Tanjore | Madurai | Periyar | Kumarakom | Cochin

**From: US \$ 4800 pp**

Come explore two beautiful states of southern India, Tamil Nadu and Kerala that replete with galore and fragrance, lush greenery and vivid beauty. In our 13N/14D tour package, we will pamper you to the fullest by providing a list of amazing itinerary that will tour you around inspiring places. Our first stop from the itinerary will drop you to Chennai. After a visit to Chennai, you will further be taken down towards the ancient fishing town of Mahabalipuram. Here, you can visit the age-old temples, explore the sculpted rocks and lie on the beach overlooking the golden sunset.

Our tour package will also guide you to Tamil Nadu's beautiful place where once the French ruled in Pondicherry. Kumbakonam is a sacred destination in Tamil Nadu that houses four large temples dedicated to Sarangapani, Kumbeswarar, Brahma and Nageswarar. You can visit all the planetary temples and also explore the village lifestyle while here. While in Tamil Nadu, our package will also take you to visit Tanjore and Madurai. Further down towards the south-west of India, you can visit one of Kerala's best places to see wildlife at Periyar National Park. A drive to one of the scenic destination of backwaters Kumarakom in Kerala is always heart-warming. The last stop will lead you to Cochin.



# Saffron & Sandalwood

Duration: 16 Nights / 17 Days

Places: Bangalore | Mysore | Kabini | Bangalore | Madurai | Chettinad | Trichy | Tanjore | Pondicherry | Mahabalipuram | Chennai

**From: US \$ 5900 pp**

This exceptional journey concentrates predominantly on the southern states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, providing a varied insight into their Dravidian roots and their princely and colonial past.

Explore the exotic temple towns of Madurai and Thanjavur before heading for the Coromandel coast and Puducherry (Pondicherry), with its relaxed atmosphere and proliferation of French colonial architecture.

In contrast, Chennai had stronger links with the British, evidence of which can be seen clearly during the course of this tour.

Leaving the cities behind, travel back inland by train for a couple of days of game viewing in the jungle at Nagarhole National Park, before traveling to the ancient dynastic capital and 'sandalwood city' of Mysore with its plethora of palaces, monuments and mausoleums.



# Tamil Nadu & The Andamans

Duration: 11 Nights / 12 Days

Places: Chennai | Pondicherry | Mahabalipuram | Chennai | Port Blair | Havelock Island | Port Blair  
| Kolkata | Delhi

**From: US \$ 4400 pp**

Discover the history and heritage of Tamil Nadu beginning in the capital city of Chennai, formerly Madras and home of the East India Company.

Travel to shore temples, white washed churches and the former French colony of Pondicherry. Replete with pretty boulevards, gendarmes and some of the best boulangiers of the East. Then on to the remote and little known islands of The Andaman & Nicobar Islands, way off the eastern coast of India.

Explore the jungle hinterlands and virgin coastline offering some of the worlds best beaches & diving. Then end your journey in the historic city of Kolkata.

A vibrant, cultured cosmopolitan city built over the years by the descendants of the citizens who come from all over the globe to create the showpiece capital of the British Raj.



# Luxury Train Tour of South India

Duration: 07 Nights / 08 Days

Places: Bangalore | Chennai | Mahabalipuram | Pondicherry | Trichy | Tanjore | Madurai | Trivandrum | Cochin

From: US \$ 4200 pp

The Golden Chariot is a luxury tourist train that connects the popular tourist sites of South India. On this journey, you will experience Indian hospitality in its purest form - warm, welcoming and luxurious! Your journey will start in the Silicon Valley of India - Bangalore.

You will then embark towards the capital city of the state of Tamil Nadu - the state which is known as the cultural center of South India. Mamallapuram is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Pondicherry is a former French colony which still exudes a European aura.

The exquisite temples of Tiruchirapalli will blow your mind while the beauty of Madurai temple architecture will mesmerize you. Your luxurious journey will culminate on the sinuous backwaters of Kerala, the state known as God's own Country.

Throughout this South Indian sojourn, you will travel, eat and sleep in style on board the carriages of the Golden Chariot. So come and indulge yourself in unadulterated opulence and beauty.



# Best of Tamil Nadu & Kerala

Duration: 14 Nights / 15 Days

Places: Chennai | Mahabalipuram | Pondicherry | Tanjore | Madurai | Munnar | Periyar | Marari | Cochin

From: US \$ 6700 pp

Towering temples, mist shrouded hills and palm fringed beaches are just a few of the incredible sights that await you on this wonderful tailor-made itinerary. The two southernmost states of India are Tamil Nadu and Kerala which are incredibly different to one another and complement each other perfectly.

The journey starts from Chennai on the shores of the Coromandel Coast. Explore the exciting city of Chennai, as well as Mahabalipuram, a charming town full of ancient archaeological wonders and World Heritage-listed temples and carvings. From here, head to the old French colony of Pondicherry. Continue through the heart of Dravidian India, visiting some of the subcontinent's most impressive temples, before arriving in Tanjore. End your stay in Tamil Nadu with a night in Madurai. From Madurai, head to the rolling Cardamom Hills for a night in Munnar, South India's largest tea-growing region and where you will have a chance to pick your own tea. And then to the serene backwaters where you will enjoy the warm hospitality at a traditional Keralan home stay. Spend a few days by the beach on the Malabar Coast staying on an old coconut plantation, before ending the tour in the ancient city of Cochin.



# Grand Tour of South India

Duration: 19 Nights / 20 Days

Places: Chennai | Pondicherry | Tanjore | Chettinad | Madurai | Periyar | Vazhoor | Kumarakom | Mararikulam | Cochin

From: US \$ 8900 pp

This fabulous journey around South India cherry-picks the region's highlights including the colonial charm of Cochin, the buzzing temple-town of Madurai and the fabulous architecture of Tanjore and Pondicherry.

Start your South India family adventure with the colonial city of Chennai. The next stop of your adventure will take you to the old French town of Pondicherry. After two nights in 'Pondi' continue your journey to Tanjore, where you will spend two nights at Svatma Tanjavur. Continuing on from Tanjore you will spend two nights in Chettinad, followed by two nights in the colourful and extrovert town of Madurai. Come to Periyar next where you will be truly submersed by the South Indian jungle. Vazhoor will be your next stop where you can wander the fertile cocoa, pepper, coffee, pineapple, papaya and banana plantations. Onwards with your journey and you will reach tropical Kumarakom, fringed by the Keralan Backwaters. The final phase of your adventure will reward you with some much needed R&R in the sleepy fishing village of Mararikulam at the Marari Beach Resort, before heading to Cochin to explore the winding canals of the Backwaters.



# Mystical Tamil Nadu Tour

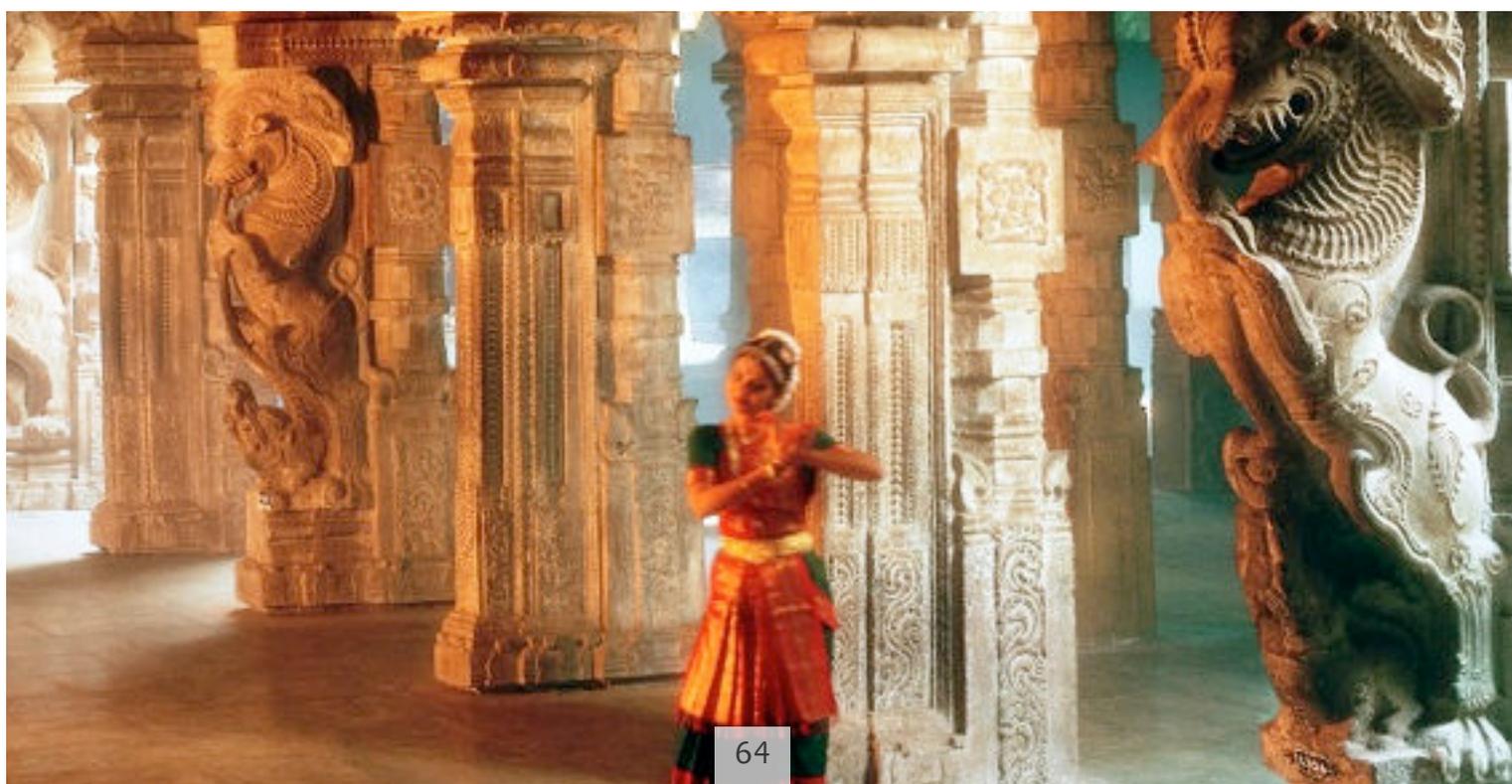
Duration: 13 Nights / 14 Days

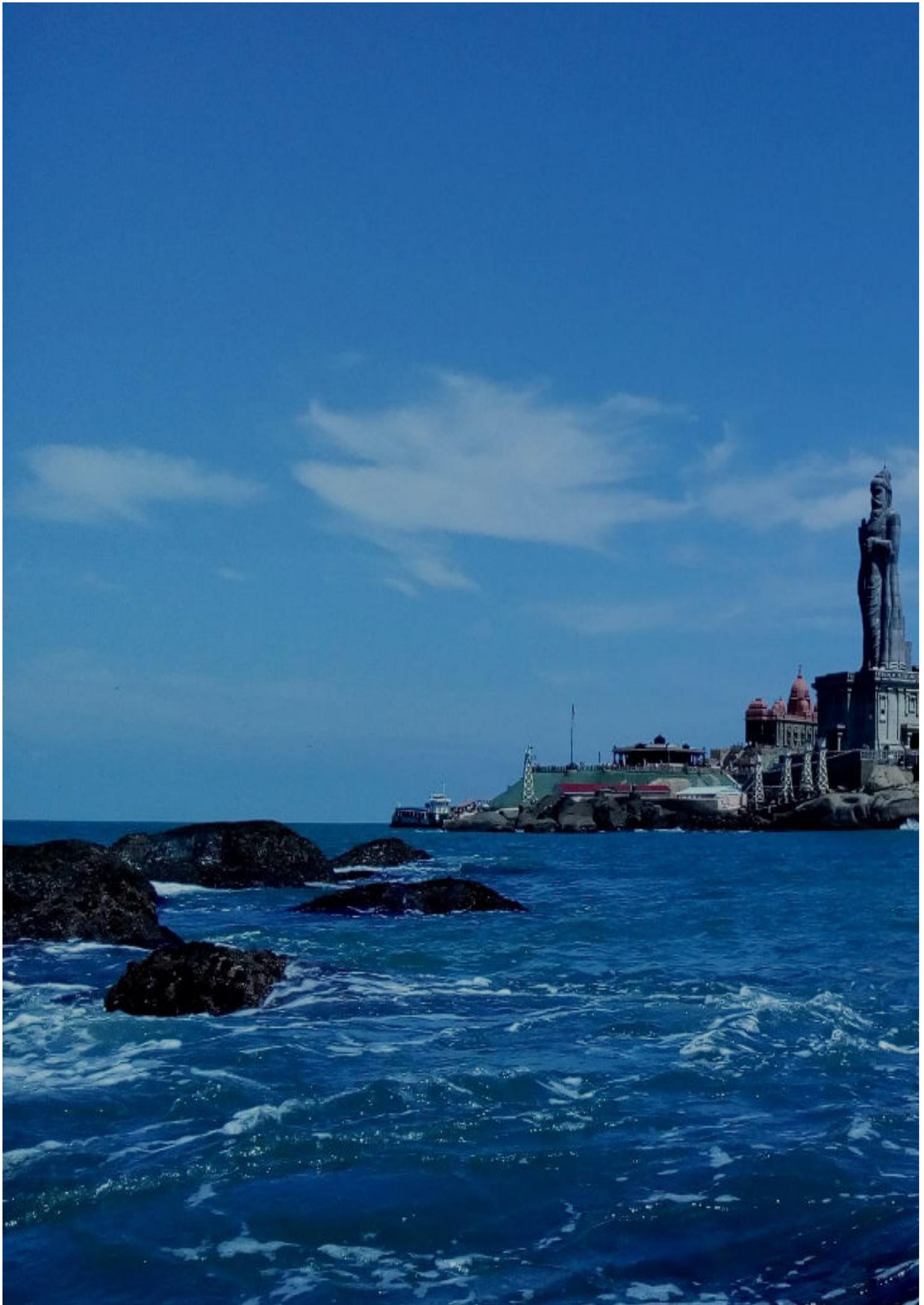
Places: Chennai | Madurai | Chettinad | Tanjore | Tranquebar | Pondicherry | Mahabalipuram | Chennai

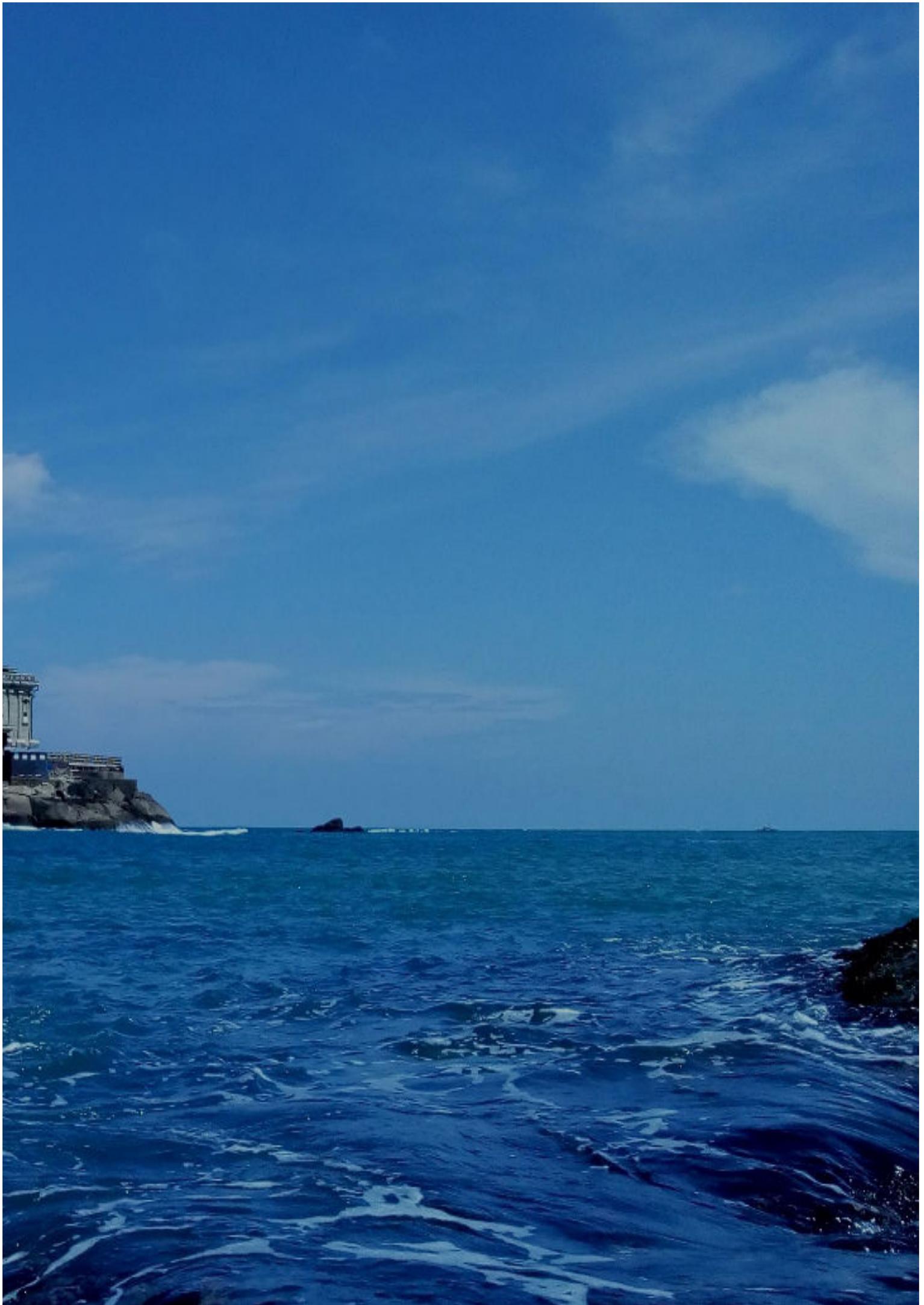
From: US \$ 5990 pp

Exploring the myths and legends of the sacred south east, this journey encapsulates the very essence of mystical Tamil Nadu, providing a comprehensive insight into its Dravidian roots, imperial past and rural charms.

From Chennai fly down to Madurai, one of the oldest cities in India and often referred to as 'the city that never sleeps'. At the heart of it all is the dazzling Meenakshi Temple, a maze-like structure ranking among India's greatest temples. The unusual Chettinad region, with the extraordinary Art Deco mansions will capture your heart, before being swept off your feet with more magnificent Hindu temple complexes in Tanjore. Capital of the great Chola empire during its heyday, the past is still very much present with thousands of people flocking to worship at the Cholas' grand Brihadeeswarar Temple daily. Head to the quiet former Danish settlement of Tranquebar and then onto the historic French town of Pondicherry, both of which still holding onto their charming colonial roots. Finish with a few days in the relaxed town of Mahabalipuram, where you can combine the impressive UNESCO sites with some relaxing time on the beach.







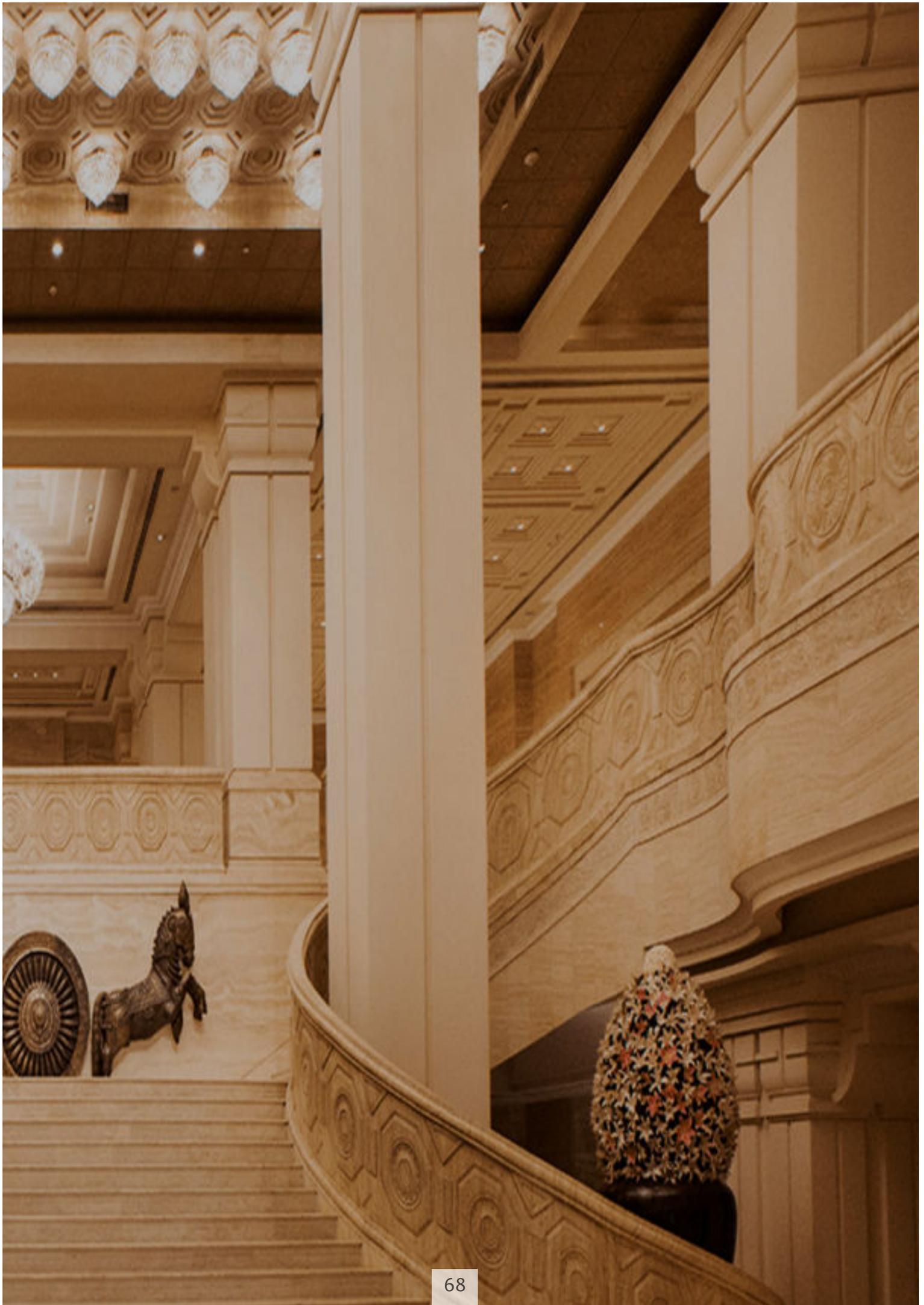
# MICE TOURISM



Hill Stations, Waterfalls, Forests, Bird Sanctuaries and beaches are available in plenty for those who evince interest in nature.

TTDC has set up a separate Eco-Tourism wing including an officer from the Forest Department. The vision is to make Tamil Nadu a world renowned destination specializing in sustainable tourism through focused efforts on creating synergy among all stakeholders, encouraging capacity building and public-private partnership with revenue generating strategies.

“Take the memories from here – Leave only your foot print – not the litter” should be the Motto of every tourist.

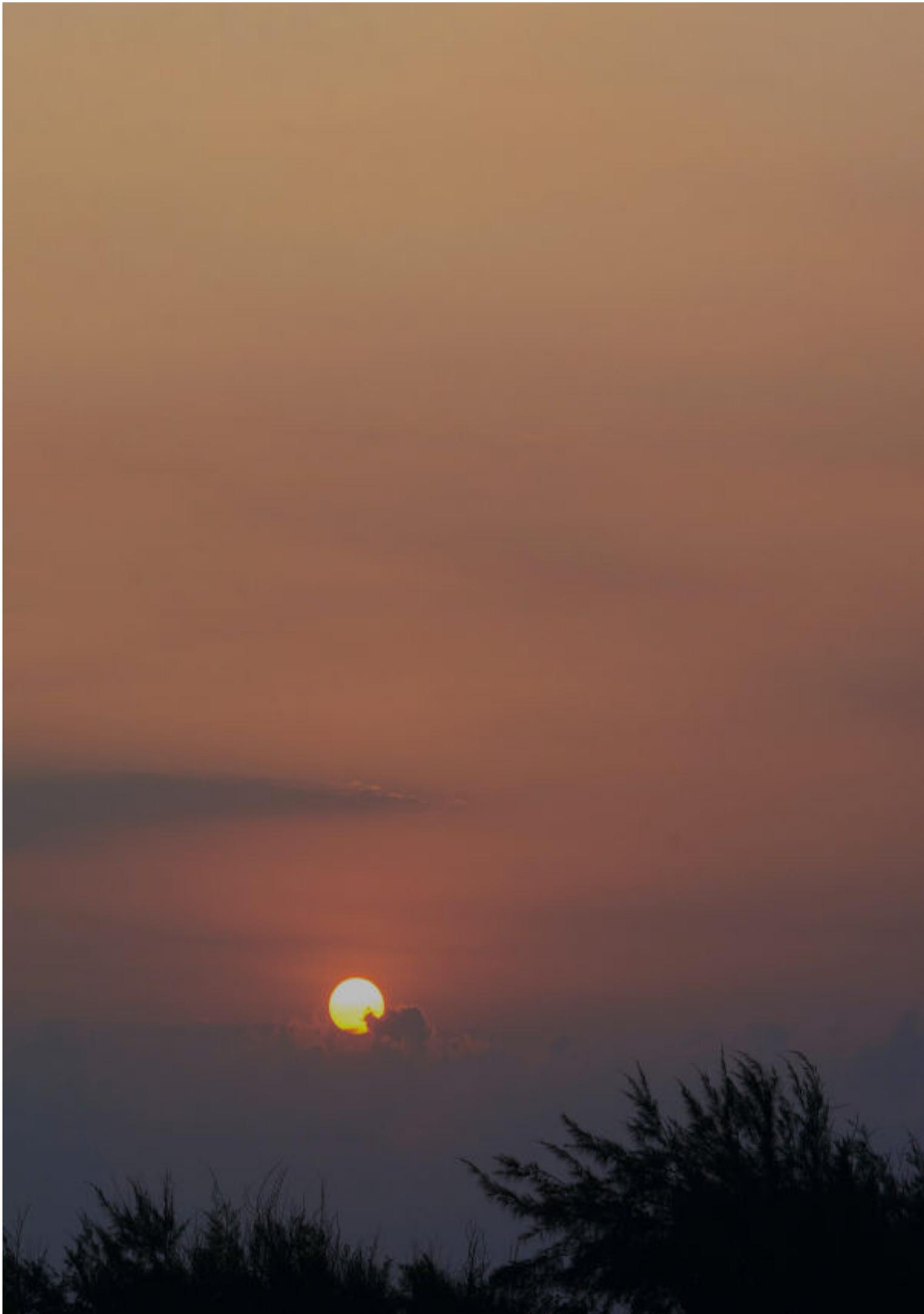






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