






TREASURES OF SOUTH INDIA
13 Days / 12 Nights



-  facebook.com/andBeyondTravel
-  instagram.com/andBeyondTravel
-  twitter.com/andBeyondTravel
-  youtube.com/andBeyondTravel
-  andBeyond.com/stories

Let your imagination soar

About andBeyond

Established in 1991, andBeyond strives to leave our world a better place through the delivery of extraordinary travel experiences and our care of the land, wildlife and people. We are bespoke tour operators for sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, South America and Antarctica. We also own and manage 29 extraordinary lodges and camps across three continents. We positively impact 75 communities and directly conserve our footprint of 1 million acres. Our 2030 vision is to scale our impact through partnerships to support the conservation of an associated 40 million acres of key biospheres and to double our 2020 impact investment, while offering discerning travellers a rare and exclusive experience of the world as it should be.

Welcome to India

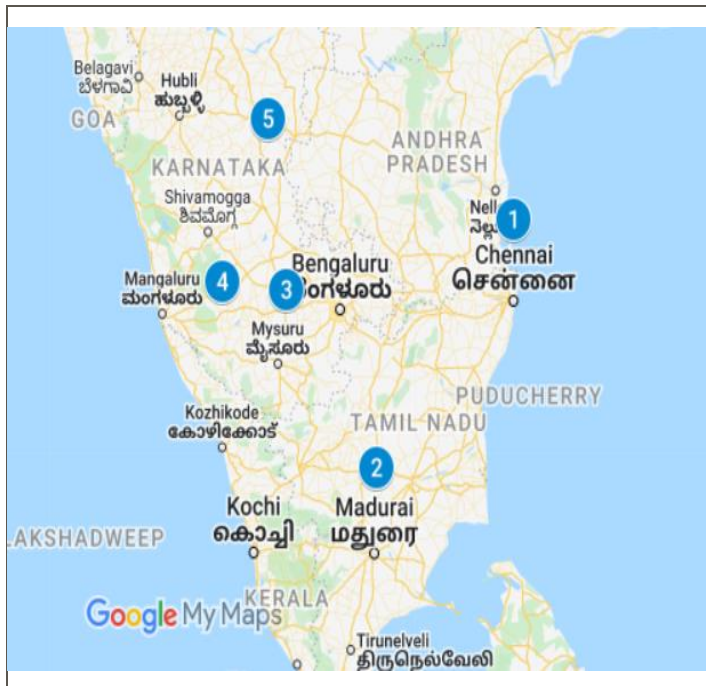
India is the world's largest democracy and covers an area of 3,287,263 km², stretching from the high Himalayas in the north to the tropical rain forests of the southern peninsular. In the shape of a triangle, India is flanked by the Arabian Sea in west and Bay of Bengal in the east. The country's topography is varied - there are deserts and tropical jungles, fertile river plains and high plateaus, 7517 km of coastline and coral reefs. It is a vast country of over 1.4 billion people with over 470 languages, numerous religions, races and cultures. India offers the traveller a multitude of unique experiences ensuring an unforgettable visit. From the vibrant and bustling markets, contrasting cuisines, and extravagant festivals to the serenity of a mountain retreat, India is a destination that will touch your soul.

Best time of year:

October to mid-April



At a glance



12 Nights / 13 Days

1 - Chennai (Day 1,2,3)

2 - Madurai (Day 4)

3 - Mysore (Day 5,6)

4 - Chikmagalur (Day 7,8,9)

5 - Hampi (Day 10,11,12)

AN & BEYOND CUSTOM-DESIGNED ITINERARY

DATE	SERVICE	ACCOMMODATION
Day 1	Arrive into Chennai (Flights to be booked and issued at your end - details to be advised)	Luxury Room - BB
	You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel	
	Spend three nights in Taj Connemara, Chennai	
Day 2	In the morning proceed on a visit to Kanchipuram, home to many ancient temples and long famous for the quality of distinctive silk saris. The 16th century Ekambareswara is the largest of the Shiva shrines, and the 8th century Kailashnath are two of the temples that introduce the design and sculptural skills of southern India architecture. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. Post tour return to Chennai	
	Today welcome Dinner will be organized at Raintree restaurant of your hotel	
Day 3	In the morning proceed on a day excursion to Dakshinachitra and to Mahabalipuram. Explore the Shore Temple, Five Rathas and Descent of the Ganga. Enjoy a splendid lunch in Mahabalipuram.	
	Post visit return to Chennai	
Day 4	Morning transfer to Chennai airport for your flight to Madurai.	
	Upon arrival at Madurai Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel	

	Later visit of Meenakshi Temple, 17th Century Thirumalai Nayak Palace	
	Evening re-visit Meenakshi Temple to witness the bed chamber ceremony	Premium Guest Room - BB
	Spend one night in Courtyard by Marriott Madurai	
Day 5	Morning transfer to Madurai airport for your flight to Bangalore	Business Class Room - BB
	Upon arrival at Bangalore Airport, you will be met and chauffeured to hotel Taj Yeshwantpur for a brunch	
	Post brunch you will be chauffeured to Mysore (3h)	
	Enroute visiting Srirangapatna.	
	Upon arrival at Mysore, check into the hotel	
	Spend two nights in Radisson Mysore	
Day 6	Today morning you will have a private session of Yoga	
	Post breakfast visit colourful Devaraja market and Mysore Palace	
	Followed by visit to the temple atop Chamundi Hill,	
	Afternoon at leisure for independent activities	
	evening you will be taken on a food trail of Mysore	
Day 7	Morning drive to Chikmagalur (4h30)	Jacquzzi Villa - BB
	Enroute visiting Belur and Halebidu temples	
	Upon arrival at Chikmagalur, check into the hotel	
	Spend three nights in The Serai, Chikmagalur	
Day 8	Morning proceed on a walking tour in a coffee plantation	
	Afternoon at leisure for independent activities	
Day 9	Day at leisure to enjoy the various activities offered by your resort	
Day 10	This morning you will be driven for about 6 hours to Hampi	
	Upon arrival at Hampi, check into the hotel	
	Rest of the day at leisure for independent activities	

	Evening an introduction of the History of Hampi with drinks in the hotel followed by dinner.	Terrace Suite with Private Jacuzzi - FB
	Spend three Nights in Evolve Back Kamalapura Palace, Hampi	
Day 11 and 12	Two half days of exploring the Vijayanagar Kingdoms	
Day 13	Morning at leisure for independent activities	
	Afternoon transfer to Vidyanagar Airport for your flight to Bangalore.	

GLOSSARY

BB = Bed and breakfast

FB = Full Board (Breakfast + Lunch + Dinner)

ENTRY/VISA REQUIREMENTS: INDIA

- As for all international travel, the visitor to India is required to be in possession of a valid passport and visa. Travellers from all countries need a visa. Enquire about this from the Indian diplomatic Representatives abroad OR apply online at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>
- *Boarding or immigration can be denied if there is a mismatch of passport details mentioned on the visa letter issued by the Government of India and the passport presented at these checks.*
- **The Visa holder MUST carry a print out of the eTV confirmation. An electronic copy on a phone is NOT sufficient. Without a physical print out the traveler may be denied boarding on the inbound flight, and maybe denied entry**
 - The passport has to be valid for a minimum of 6 months AFTER the departure date from India and at least 2 (two) clear pages available in the passport for immigration stamping.
- **SATELLITE PHONES AND DRONES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN INDIA**

The use of Satellite Phones in India without permits (a very complicated process) is prohibited. It is a criminal, and a jailable offence to be in possession of an unlicensed phone, or to use it. Mobile phones work well throughout most of the country and communications throughout your tour are generally good.

Expect the extraordinary

Day 1: Arrive Chennai

Upon arrival at Chennai Airport you, you will meet your andBeyond representative in arrival hall and later chauffeured to your hotel.

Modern Chennai grew out of a small fishing village called Madraspatnam, when the East India Company chose the location for a new settlement way back in 1639. It is today the fifth largest metropolis in India. Chennai is an important centre for Carnatic music and hosts numerous cultural events and concerts. The city has a vibrant theatre scene and is an important centre for the Bharatanatyam, a classical dance form. Chennai has a varied colonial past.

In 1522, the Portuguese arrived after establishing themselves in Goa on the west coast. The Dutch arrived in 1612 and then the English East India Company. It was called George Town from 1640. when Fort St George was built. In the mid 18th century it was held by the French for three years. Thereafter, Madras remained a major regional headquarters for the British until Independence in 1947. From 1947 it was the capital of Madras State, that was renamed as Tamil Nadu in 1968. In 1996 the city was rename Chennai. It remains a vibrant cosmopolitan city.

If the Taj Connemara, Chennai could speak, it would tell you tales from its history. It was here where the blue-blooded indulged and entertained. Today, this symbolic hotel has been carefully restored to its premier status with influences inspired by the past but with the comforts of the present.

Spend three nights in Taj Connemara. Accommodation will be in a Luxury Room. Your stay is on Bed and breakfast basis.



Day 2: Chennai - Kanchipuram - Chennai

This morning you will drive to the temple town of Kanchipuram. (Approximately two hours' drive). There is an old tradition of seafaring from the east coast of India. Both the Pallavas and Cholas (7th to 9th century) kingdoms created overseas empire long before the Europeans came to Asia. During the the 7th century there was trade with Cambodia, Sumatra, Java, and ports across Asia.

Kanchipuram is one of the seven sacred cities of India. It was successively the capital of the Pallavas, the Cholas and the Rayas of Vijayanagar. During the 6th and 7th centuries some of the best temples in the city were built by the Pallavas. The city was also a great seat of learning.

The Kailasanatha Temple is one of the largest and most ornate ancient temples in the whole of India. Built by the Pallava king Rajasimha in the 8th century, it is dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. The sandstone structure is enclosed within a highly decorative wall which has interior niches forming 58 separate shrines.

The Ekambareswarar Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva has been spoken about by Tamil Poets who lived in the 2nd century. During the rule of the Pallavas, the original structure was pulled down and a new temple was built. The temple in its present form was the work of Krishnadevaraya, the most famous Vijayanagar King in the year 1509.

The Vaikuntha Perumal Temple was built in the late 8th century and dedicated to Vishnu. The temple is dominated by a huge tower and is known for its triple shrine, one on each story and each containing an image of Vishnu. A 'mandapa' with eight columns leads to the sacred shrines within where there are two circumambulatory passages on the first floor. The interior walls of the temple are decorated with relief sculpture depicting scenes from the history of the Pallava dynasty.

Kanchipuram is also known for its high-quality Kanjeevaram silk sarees, woven on hand looms by thousands of families in the town and nearby villages. Silk and sari shops are found along Gandhi Road, southeast of the town. Optional tour of the town's exquisite silk weavers.

Have lunch at a local restaurant and continue on your drive back to Chennai.

Today welcome dinner will be organized at Raintree restaurant of your hotel.

RAINTREE offers authentic cuisine of Chettinadu region in southern Tamil Nadu. Spices from across southeast Asia were brought to Chettinad by local traders and families responded to new influences to create a distinctive cuisine.



Day 3: Chennai - Dakshinchitra - Mahabalipuram- Chennai

Morning proceed on a day excursion to Dakshinchitra and Mahabalipuram.

Dakshinchitra Art Museum : The name 'Dakshinachitra, literally means a 'picture of the South' and it provides an interesting insight into the art and architecture of the peninsula. The Dakshinachitra Art Museum features a reconstruction of traditional houses from different parts of South India. Explore different houses, recreated streetscapes, explore contextual exhibitions, interact with village artisans and witness folk performances set in an authentic ambiance. (Dakshinachitra Museum closed on Tuesday)

Have lunch at a local restaurant

After lunch visit to the rock cut temples in Mahabalipuram. Buildings and monumental sculpture from the 7th to 8th century can be seen here. The Pallava kingdom commissioned, carved, painted and celebrated their stories onto walls made of rock and stone. These stories are now immortal, and showcase how intelligent these archaic people were. Mahabalipuram is a spectacular site situated on the Bay of Bengal, with weathered granite boulders strewn across the landscape. The site includes rock-cut caves and monolithic shrines, structural temples and huge bas reliefs that are considered the greatest examples of Pallava art. Mahabalipuram has been classified as a UNESCO world Heritage Site.

Visit the Five Rathas, Descent of the Ganga and Shore Temple.

Five Rathas, also referred as Pandava Rathas are stunning examples of monumental sculpture. The five structures, each chiselled out of large block of granite, in the shape of Rathas, or chariots, typify monolithic Indian rock-cut architecture.

Descent of the Ganga. This wonderful sculpture also dates back to the mid-seventh century. Standing at a height of (43 feet), the monolith was carved on the face of two huge adjoining boulders, approximately 29 metres (96 feet). The subject of the massive structure depicts either Arjuna's Penance or the 'Descent of the Ganges', or possibly both.

And the visit the Shore Temple. This spectacular temple is perched dramatically on a promontory by the sea, has survived the ravages of time and erosion. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu, it was built by Narasimha Varman-I, the 7th century Pallava king, and is one of the oldest surviving temples in southern India. The two smaller Shiva shrines were added later. The temple has a low boundary wall, with rows of seated nandis (Shiva's loyal companion, a bull) surrounding it.

Post tour return to Chennai.



Day 4: - Chennai - Madurai

Morning transfer to Chennai airport for your flight to Madurai. (IndiGo 6E 7216 Dep 09h50 : Arr 11h15, Economy class)

Madurai is the oldest city in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, has a history of global trade. The is a record by the Greek scholar and ambassador, Megasthenes in the 3rd century BCE. Madurai, the oldest city in Tamil Nadu, both in history and mythology. The Meenakshi Amman Temple, dedicated to Parvati and her husband Shiva, is the central focus of the city.

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Courtyard By Marriott Situated in the center of the city nine kilometer from Madurai Airport and close to the famous Meenakshi Temple.

Later visit of Meenakshi Temple, 17th Century Thirumalai Nayak Palace

The Meenakshi Temple is famed for its many carved and painted halls. This magnificent temple of goddess Meenakshi and Lord Shiva, has the tallest 'gopuram' or temple gateway in the world.

The Thirumalai Nayakar Palace is built in 1636 by the Nayak rulers. The stucco work in its domes and arches are very detailed and eye-catching. The celestial pavilion is an arcaded octagon and it is made up of brick and mortar without a single girder or rafter support.

In the evening re-visit the Meenakshi Temple to witness the bedchamber ceremony or the closing ceremony, where the idol of Lord Shiva and his consort Meenakshi, are carried in a riotous procession, to be confined to the bedchamber for the night.

Spend one night at Courtyard by Marriott. Accommodation is in Premium guest Room with ensuite facilities. Your stay is on Bed and breakfast basis.



Day 5: - Madurai - Bangalore - Mysore

Morning transfer to Madurai Airport for flight to Bangalore. (IndiGo 6E 7172 Dep 8h45 : Arr 10h10, Economy class). On arrival in Bangalore, you will be met and chauffeured to hotel Taj Yeshwantpur to stop for a brunch.

Later chauffeured to Mysore (3h). enroute visiting Srirangapatna.

Srirangapatna was the scene of many battles. The last and decisive battle fought between Tipu Sultan and a combined force of 50,000 men provided equally by the Nizam of Hyderabad and the East India



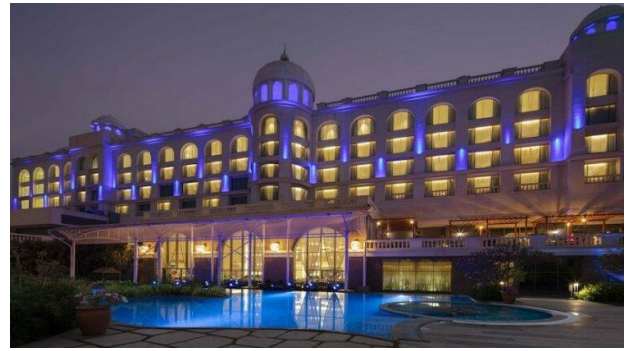
Company under the overall command of General George Harris. This battle was the last engagement of the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War. The Battle of Srirangapatna in May 1799, gave the East India Company control over much of the interior of south India.

Post visit continue your drive to Mysore.

Mysore is traditionally a city of spice, silk and sandalwood and now a major IT centre. It is also a city with a long history and many iconic buildings. The former capital of the Wodeyar dynasty, Mysore has been home to one of the longest established kingdoms in Indian history, and the current Maharaja of Mysore still resides in the opulently-decorated city palace. Rebuilt in 1897 after a fire it remains an imposing central focus of the city.

On arrival check-in at your hotel Radisson.

Spend two nights at Raddisson. Accommodation is in Business Class Room with ensuite facilities. Your stay is on Bed and breakfast basis.



Day 6: - Mysore

Today morning you will have a private session of Yoga.

After breakfast visit the colourful Devaraja market, dating from 1898 that today sells everything from fruits, vegetables to flowers, spices, rattaps and candles.

Later visit the Mysore Palace in the centre of the city. Part of the building remains the residence and seat of the Wodeyar rulers of Mysore. They ruled the region from 1399 to 1950. The palace houses two durbar halls (ceremonial meeting halls of the royal court), incorporates an array of courtyards and is surrounded by gardens.

Then continue onto the temple atop Chamundi Hill, with its iconic Nandi bull statue, the sacred vehicle of Lord Shiva, from where you can have sweeping views of the city below.

Afternoon at leisure for independent activities.

Evening proceed on a food trail of Mysore. In this tour you will have a chance to try some of the city's gastronomical delights. Tease your palate with local specialities like Mysore pak, Mysore masala dosa, Mysore churumuri, and listen to some interesting lore about their preparation and process.



Day 7: - Mysore - Belur Halebidu - Chikmagalur

Morning drive to Chikmagalur. Driving time 4h30

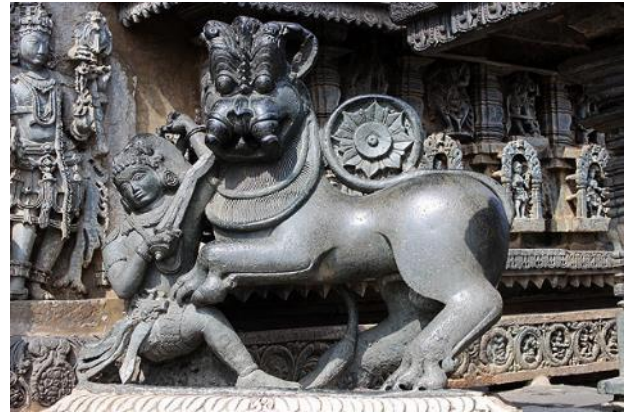
Enroute visit Belur and Halebidu. They were successive capitals of the Hoysala dynasty that ruled much of what is today Karnataka state from the 10th to the 14th century. Belur is most renowned for its Chennakesava Temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu, whereas Halebid has twin temples to Lord Shiva. As with most Indian temples, a plethora of other deities, characters from the epic poems Ramayana and Mahabharata, sculpted forms of animals, heavenly beings and curvaceous women can also be found on the walls and pillars.

Post visit continue your drive to Chikmagalur and on arrival check-in at your hotel.

If you have a penchant for coffee, Chikmagalur's lush plantations, smoky, cottage kilns for roasting beans, and rugged landscape of mountains and valleys with interesting trails for hikers and is a rich paradise for naturalists. The tales of Baba Budan, a 16th century sufi saint, who brought back a handful of coffee beans from Mocha in Yemen, and created a four hundred year old tradition, is sure to capture your imagination.

The Serai, Chikmagalur is a beautifully laid out property located in the middle of a (28.32 hectare) coffee plantation, out of which only (2.83 hectare) have been used for the resort and the rest is a working plantation that produces some of the finest coffee.

Spend three nights at Serai. Accommodation is in Jacuzzi Villa with private pool with ensuite facilities. Your stay is on bed and breakfast basis



Day 8: Chikmagalur.

Morning proceed on a coffee trail. Wander through coffee plantations, as you hear the story of how the coffee beans were smuggled into India 500 years ago, visit roasting kilns, and sample the regional frothy filter coffee - a brew that rivals anything sold at urban cafe franchises.

Afternoon at leisure for independent activities.



Day 9: Chikmagalur.

Day at leisure to enjoy the various activities offered by your hotel

Nature Trails: - Hiking with a naturalist guide through the natural beauty around Chikmagalur can be done anytime. Explore the tranquil trails and enjoy stunning views.

Mullayanagiri Hike :- Hike up the highest peak on the Western Ghats, Mullayanagiri to take in breathtaking views of the surrounding hills and valleys. Duration: 2 hours

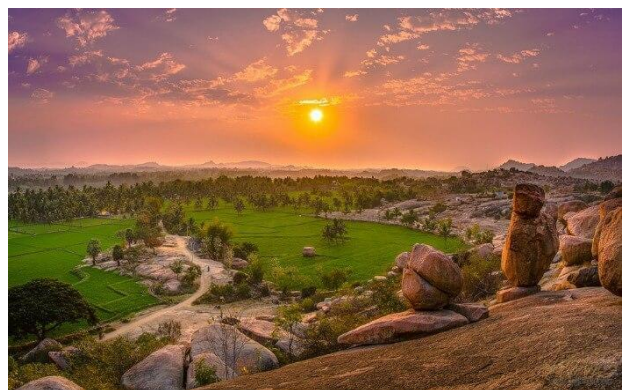
Take a cycle ride into the countryside around Chikmagalur.



Day 10: - Chikmagalur - Hampi

This morning you will be driven for about 6 hours to Hampi

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi was the centre of the Vijayanagar empire and one of the richest cities in India before its collapse and destruction after the Battle of Talikota in 1565. Today the ruins now lie across a vast 4099 hectares (10131 acres) in Karnataka, with giant sandstone boulders, temples, palaces and civil buildings, interspersed by paddy fields and farmland.



Maintaining its spiritual significance, Hampi's main Virupaksha temple still attracts Hindu pilgrims and travellers. The city was larger than any contemporary city in Europe, and its forts, royal complexes, abandoned temples, shrines, gateways, defence check posts, and stables highlight the wealth and sophistication of the Vijayanagar rulers.

On arrival you will check-in to your hotel Evolve Back Kamalapura Palace.

Evolve Back Kamalapura Palace has a palatial style in keeping with its setting. Each room is opulently styled, taking influences from the distinctive local architecture but with all the modern. Expect plush fabrics, grand bathrooms, and elegant and spacious living areas. Spend two days exploring these incredible ruins whilst staying at a truly luxurious resort.

Spend three night in Evolve Back Kamalapura Palace. Accommodation will be in a Terrace Suite with private jacuzzi. Your stay will be on full board basis.



Day 11: -Hampi

Morning proceed on a half day tour of Hampi with the visit to

Vittala Temple famous for a Stone Chariot and Musical Pillars withing the mandap. The temple was built in the 15th century during the rule of Devaraya II, one of the rulers of the Vijayanagara Empire. The temple is dedicated to Vittala and is also called Vijaya Vittala Temple. According to local legend the, the temple was built for Lord Vishnu in his Vittala form, but when he found that the temple was very grand in nature, he returned to live in his modest home in Pandharpur about 300km to the north.

In front of this temple is a stone chariot that originally enshrined Garuda, the vahana, or celestial mount of Lord Vishnu. The chariot, built on a rectangular platform, is built out of giant granite blocks. All around are bands carved with mythical battle scenes.

Narasimha, the half-man and half-lion, is one of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu, and one of the most dramatic Hindu figures. The Lakshmi Narasimha Temple was constructed in 1528 AD when King Krishnadevaraya was ruling. This monolithic structure, which is



(22 feet) in height, has the lord sitting cross-legged position on the coil of a giant seven-headed snake Adishesha. The idol, originally within a now fallen structure, included goddess Lakshmi sitting on Narasimha's lap, but the statue of Lakshmi was destroyed during the battles of 1565. Today you can only see goddess Lakshmi's hand resting on the back of Narasimha.



Post visit return to hotel for lunch. In the afternoon explore the Royal Enclosures of Vijayanagar Kingdom.

The Royal Enclosures were the place where the King of Vijayanagar Empire lived and ruled from. The huge fortified area was the centre of the Vijayanagar Empire. This area was secured by double walls. It had three entrances, two on the northern side and one on the western side. The Royal Enclosure is spread over 5.9 hectares (14.6 acres). It is believed that the complex once housed as many as 43 buildings, all for the use of the royal family.



Few remarkable structures within the Royal Enclosure are:

The Mahanavami Dibba is a pyramidal platform that was vital to the Dussehra festival celebrating the victory of good over evil, during the Vijayanagara Empire. The main attraction of the high platform is its decorative carvings of elephants, horses, soldiers and stately processions.

The King's Audience Hall is a huge structure that was used for hearings by the King. The hall's platform comprises the remnants of 100 pillar-sockets and therefore, is also known as the 100 Pillared Hall.



The Stepped Tank is an elaborate waterbody which was used for ceremonial purposes by the royal household. The decorative structure has an area of 22 m² and a depth of 7 meters. It is a 5 tiered tank and each tier comprises of a few steps. The tank now stores rainwater.

The Underground Chamber is one of the most interesting structures within the Royal Enclosure. It is believed to be a secret chamber where the king held important meetings and discussions with his trusted aides.



Day 12 : Hampi

This morning continue your exploring of hidden gems of the Vijayanagar Kingdom.

The Virupaksha temple is believed to have been functioning uninterruptedly ever since its inception in the 7th century. It is the oldest and the principal temple in Hampi. This temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. was constructed during King Deva Raya II reign. Among all the gopurams (gateways), the eastern is the greatest. It is nine-tiered and 50 meters in height.

During the rule of Vijayanagara kings, the temple decorated with beautiful artwork. The walls of the temples carved with murals, sculptures and cultural events.

Post visit return to your hotel for lunch.



Day 13 : Hampi - Vidyanagar - Bangalore - Out

Morning at leisure for independent activities. Afternoon transfer to Vidyanagar Airport for your flight to Bangalore (Alliance Air 9I 528 Dep 16h45 / Arr 17h55, Economy class).

Journey overview

Accommodation:

DATE	DESTINATION	ACCOMMODATION	DETAILS
Day 1	Chennai	Taj Conemara	Luxury Room Bed and breakfast Basis
Day 2	Chennai	Taj Conemara	Luxury Room Bed and breakfast Basis
Day 3	Chennai	Taj Conemara	Luxury Room Bed and breakfast Basis
Day 4	Madurai	Courtyard by Marriott Madurai	Premium Guest Room Bed and breakfast Basis
Day 5	Mysore	Raddisson	Business Class Room Bed and breakfast Basis
Day 6	Mysore	Raddisson	Business Class Room Bed and breakfast Basis
Day 7	Chikmagalur	Serai	Jacuzzi Villa Bed and breakfast Basis
Day 8	Chikmagalur	Serai	Jacuzzi Villa Bed and breakfast Basis
Day 9	Chikmagalur	Serai	Jacuzzi Villa Bed and breakfast Basis
Day 10	Hampi	Evolve Back Kamalapura	Terrace Suite with private jacuzzi Full Board Basis
Day 11	Hampi	Evolve Back Kamalapura	Terrace Suite with private jacuzzi Full Board Basis
Day 12	Hampi	Evolve Back Kamalapura	Terrace Suite with private jacuzzi Full Board Basis