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PRE / POST TOUR

TEMPLE TRAILS OF TAMILNADU

2N CHENNAI+02NKANCHIPURAM+2N MAHABALIPURAM + 2N PONDICHERRY + 2N TANJORE+ 2N TRICHY

Day 1: Arrival in Chennai

Gateway to South India

- **Morning:** Arrive at Chennai International Airport. Meet your driver and transfer to your hotel.
- **Afternoon:** Visit Fort St. George, San Thome Basilica, and Kapaleeshwarar Temple in Mylapore.
- **Evening:** Stroll along Marina Beach, one of the longest urban beaches in the world.

Day 2: Chennai

Culture & Heritage

- **Morning:** Visit the Government Museum and National Art Gallery for Chola bronzes and South Indian art.
- **Afternoon:** Explore George Town for local markets and colonial architecture.
- **Evening:** Attend a Carnatic music or Bharatanatyam dance performance if available.

Day 3: Chennai to Kanchipuram

(Approx. 2 hours drive)

- **Morning:** Drive to Kanchipuram, one of India's seven sacred cities, known for its temples and silk weaving.
- **Afternoon:** Visit Kailasanathar Temple, Ekambareswarar Temple, and Varadaraja Perumal Temple, masterpieces of Dravidian architecture.
- **Evening:** Visit a silk weaving center to see artisans at work. Dinner at your hotel or a local vegetarian restaurant.

Day 4: Kanchipuram to Mahabalipuram
(Approx. 2 hours drive)

- **Morning:** Drive to Mahabalipuram, a UNESCO World Heritage site on the Coromandel Coast.
- **Afternoon:** Visit the Shore Temple, Pancha Rathas (Five Rathas), and Arjuna's Penance, all carved from granite in the 7th century.
- **Evening:** Relax at the beach or enjoy seafood at Moonrakers or The Wharf (Radisson Blu Temple Bay).

Day 5: Mahabalipuram
Art & Ocean

- **Morning:** Visit the Mahishasuramardini Cave Temple and Krishna's Butter Ball.
- **Afternoon:** Explore local stone-carving workshops and handicraft stores.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a sunset walk along the beach or a cultural show at your resort.

Day 6: : Mahabalipuram to Pondicherry
(Approx. 2 hours drive)

- **Morning:** Drive to Pondicherry, the former French colony known for its colonial charm and spiritual vibe.
- **Afternoon:** Stroll through the French Quarter, visiting Notre Dame des Anges Church, Aurobindo Ashram, and Promenade Beach.
- **Evening:** Dine at Le Dupleix or Villa Shanti for French-Indian fusion cuisine.

Day 7: Pondicherry
Auroville & Local Life

- **Morning:** Visit Auroville, the international community dedicated to peace and sustainable living. See the Matrimandir (view from outside).
- **Afternoon:** Explore the Tamil Quarter for heritage homes and local markets.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a sunset cycle ride along the promenade or relax at a café.

Day 8: Pondicherry to Tanjore
(Approx. 5 hours drive)

- **Morning:** Drive to Tanjore (Thanjavur), the cultural heart of Tamil Nadu.
- **Afternoon:** Visit the Brihadeeswarar Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of India's grandest Chola temples.
- **Evening:** Explore Tanjore Palace and Art Gallery, known for bronze sculptures and Tanjore paintings.

Day 9: Tanjore
Art & Tradition

- **Morning:** Visit a Tanjore painting workshop to see traditional gold-leaf art.
- **Afternoon:** Take a short excursion to Darasuram Airavatesvara Temple, another Chola masterpiece.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a classical music or dance performance if available.

Day 10: Tanjore to Trichy
(Approx. 1.5 hours drive)

- **Morning:** Drive to Trichy (Tiruchirappalli), a city blending history and spirituality.
- **Afternoon:** Visit Srirangam Temple, the largest functioning Hindu temple complex in the world.
- **Evening:** Climb the Rock Fort Temple for panoramic views of the city and the Cauvery River.

Day 11: Trichy
Temples & Traditions

- **Morning:** Visit Jambukeswarar Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva and representing the element of water.
- **Afternoon:** Explore local markets for bronze idols and traditional jewelry.
- **Evening:** Relax at your hotel or enjoy a quiet walk along the riverbanks.

Day 12: Departure
Trichy Airport

- **Morning:** After breakfast, transfer to Trichy Airport for your onward flight.