

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL PTY. LTD.

33 Smith Street, Kempsey
NSW 2440
Australia

Email: info@macleayvalleytravel.com
Website: www.macleayvalleytravel.com

Telephone (02) 6562-6699
Toll Free 1800 81-0809
Fax (02) 6562-6276



SOUTHERN INDIA TOUR

Two Week Conducted Tour

only **\$5,335** per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes & levies

This price is great value as it includes all of the following:

- ◆ Economy Class airfares from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane into Chennai and out of Cochin with Singapore Airlines, plus a domestic flight within India.
- ◆ A 13 day tour of Southern India including Malabalipuram, Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore), two nights each in Ooty and Munnar, both located in the Western Ghat Mountains, and an overnight cruise on the Backwaters of Allepey in a houseboat.
- ◆ Very good accommodation, mainly 3½ to 5 star.
- ◆ Many meals.
- ◆ Entrance fees to many attractions.
- ◆ All transport and transfers.
- ◆ Prepaid gratuities for the guide and drivers.
- ◆ Services of Indian tour guides and if there are 15 or more participants there will be an Australian tour escort.



If you require a single room there is an extra charge of \$1,350.

It is planned to restrict the number of participants to a maximum of approximately 25 people.

**Tour departs Australia 18th February
and returns 3rd March 2027**

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Southern India Tour

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

18.02.27 Australia – Singapore - Chennai, India

Depart Brisbane at 9.10am on SQ 256, arriving in Singapore at 3.10pm.

Depart Melbourne at 10.35am on SQ 238, arriving in Singapore at 3.15pm.

Depart Sydney at 12.15pm on SQ 232, arriving in Singapore at 5.35pm.

All passengers depart Singapore at 8.35pm on SQ 528, arriving in Chennai at 10.10pm.

Upon arrival in Chennai, we are met and transferred to the hotel for a two night stay.

Accommodation: Grand Chennai by GRT Hotels or similar

19.02.27 Chennai

(B/D) Chennai is the capital of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu and is situated on the Bay of Bengal in eastern India. In the morning we enjoy a city tour to see and experience the city's rich architectural and cultural wealth. We begin with a visit to the Bronze Gallery in Chennai Government Museum. Next we visit Fort St George, built in 1644, and then Saint Mary's Church. Following this we drive past Chennai High Court and the flower market. We also drive through Marina Beach and see the lighthouse. We visit the Santhome Cathedral, which is a Roman-Catholic church built in the 16th century by Portuguese explorers. The church is said to have been built over the tomb of St Thomas, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. It is one of only three churches in the world to be built over the tomb of an apostle of Jesus. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Grand Chennai by GRT Hotels or similar

20.02.27 Chennai – Mahabalipuram

(B/L/D) After breakfast we depart the city and visit Dakshina Chitra Museum, which is a living-history museum in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, dedicated to South Indian heritage and culture. Following this we continue south to Mahabalipuram, where we have an included lunch. Later we enjoy a tour of the town, which was previously known as Mamallapuram and is located on a strip of land between the Bay of Bengal and the Great Salt Lake. We visit the famous rock cut temples and the 7th century Shore Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The beauty of this area is not only due to the wonderful architecture but also the vast casuarina trees, the silvery sandy beach and the classical handmade crafts. With its picturesque location on a rocky outcrop between the beach and a lagoon, this area is a happy combination of history, good beaches, hassle-free tourism and fabulous fish and lobster. It is renowned for its series of charming Rathas and the spectacular carved relief depicting Arjuna's Penance. The magnificent Shore Temple built by King Rajasimha in the 7th century houses the shrines of both Shiva and Vishnu. The Krishna Manadapam has a bas-relief of Lord Krishna lifting the Govardhan Hill on his fingertips. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Four Points by Sheraton Mahabalipuram Resort or similar

21.02.27 Mahabalipuram – Chennai – Bengaluru

(B/D) After a leisurely breakfast this morning, we leave for Chennai airport for our flight to Bengaluru. Upon arrival in Bengaluru we transfer to our hotel. In the afternoon we have a tour to see Tipu Sultan's Palace and Vidhana Soudha.

Accommodation: Holiday Inn, Racecourse Road or similar

22.02.27 Bengaluru – Mysore

(B/D) Today we head to Mysore. Enroute we stop at Srirangapatna Fort. We visit the magnificent Maharaja's Palace and drive to Chamundi Hill to admire the 12th century Sri Chamundeshwari Temple and Nandi Bull.
Tonight, enjoy a traditional cooking demonstration hosted by a local family.
Accommodation: Grand Mercure Hotel or similar

23.02.27 Mysore – Ooty

(B/D) We journey up into the Western Ghats to the beautiful hill station of Ooty. Relax and appreciate the peace and natural splendour of this quaint town. You may wish to visit the botanical gardens, or have an uphill walk to visit a small village, gaining an insight into the lives of the local people. We have a two night stay in Ooty.
Accommodation: Fortune Sullivan Court or similar

24.02.27 Ooty – Coonoor – Ooty

(B/L/D) All aboard the miniature, narrow gauge 'Toy Train' to the 2nd hill station of Coonoor. We spend some time walking around and appreciating the beauty of this quiet hill station before returning to Ooty. Lunch and dinner are included today.
Accommodation: Fortune Sullivan Court or similar

25.02.27 Ooty – Coimbatore – Munnar

(B/L/D) Today we have a long drive by coach to Munnar, via the city of Coimbatore. Munnar is situated at the confluence of three mountain streams at an altitude of approximately 1600m above sea level. This hill station was once the summer resort of the British Government in South India. Sprawling tea plantations, picture-book towns, winding lanes and holiday facilities make this a popular resort town. Munnar also has the highest mountain peak in South India, Anamudi, which towers over the area at a height of 2,695 metres. Upon arrival in Munnar we check into our hotel for a two night stay. This evening we have an included dinner.
Accommodation: Amber Dale Hotel or similar

26.02.27 Munnar

(B/D) Enjoy a morning sightseeing tour of Munnar. Once a favourite summer resort town of the British, the hill town of Munnar is set amidst dramatic mountain scenery, with craggy peaks, tall red wood trees and some of the world's highest tea plantations. We pass through high altitude forests, manicured tea gardens, cardamom plantations and winding roads as we make it to a family-owned resort within a cardamom forest. Munnar is famed for its trekking routes and a refreshing trek is on offer. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Dinner this evening is included.
Accommodation: Amber Dale Hotel or similar

27.02.27 Munnar – Kumarakom

(B/L/D) We have a 4½ hour drive to Kumarakom, which is called 'One of the Ten Paradises on Earth' by National Geographic Traveller. Kumarakom is a stunningly beautiful cluster of backwaters and fishing villages set against the backdrop of the Vembanad Lake in Kerala. This tranquil emerald peninsula is part of the Kuttanad region. An enchanting backwater destination, Kumarakom is truly one of the gems of Kerala, offering travellers exotic sights of flora and fauna, boat cruises and fishing experiences. The area has palms,

coconut groves, lush paddy fields, kettuvalloms (traditional rice barges), rafts/canoes, rich marine life and panoramic views of the backwaters with their intricate waterways and canals. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Backwater Ripples or similar

28.02.27 Kumarakom – Allepey (backwaters houseboat)

(B/L/D) This morning after breakfast we board our private houseboats for a cruise through the backwaters of Allepey, which is one of the lowest lying areas in India. The Kuttanad region of Kerala is called the rice bowl of the state, where the rice is actually grown on water-filled fields reclaimed from the sea. The area has endless stretches of paddy fields, small streams and canals, bridges, a silver beach, serene lagoons and emerald coconut palms. The town has at least six navigable canals that are its lifeline, connecting the city to the intricate thread of backwater trails and earning it the name ‘the Venice of the East’. Allepey lies between the Arabian Sea and a vast network of rivers flowing into it, explaining its unique blend of fresh and saltwater eco-systems. Traditionally, the Kettuvalloms were old barges used to ferry rice and spices. Today they are modified houseboats equipped with comfortable facilities, giving guests a unique way to explore the gorgeous backwaters. On the cruise we will likely see villagers go about their traditional occupations such as fishing and agriculture.

Each boat has a fully equipped kitchen and an experienced cook to prepare authentic Kerala cuisine with seafood specialities and fresh vegetables. The waterways of Kerala play a major role in the economy of the state as they link remote villages and islands with the mainland. Lunch and dinner are included today.

Accommodation: Deluxe Houseboat or similar

01.03.27 Allepey – Cochin

(B/D) This morning we have breakfast onboard and say goodbye to our houseboat. We proceed on a two hour drive to Cochin, which is situated on the south-west coast of the Indian Peninsula in Kerala. Its importance over the centuries as a strategic maritime centre has earned it the name ‘Queen of the Arabian Sea’. Cochin is also called the ‘Gateway to Kerala’. Over the centuries the Arabs, British, Chinese, Dutch and Portuguese have left their imprint on the trade, history, heritage, culture and development of the city in the form of a rich and cosmopolitan legacy. Cochin is perfectly flanked by the stunning Western Ghats mountain range to the east and the lovely Arabian Sea to the west.

This evening we enjoy an enthralling performance of Kathakali, which is an ancient dance drama of Kerala and is one of the oldest forms of theatre in the world. Performances are traditionally based on themes from Hindu mythology, especially the two epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Kathakali has an unbelievably elaborate make-up ritual that takes hours to complete. The colours used in the make-up are determined by the nature of the characters depicted by the dancers. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Holiday Inn Hotel or similar

02.03.27 Cochin – Singapore

(B/D) This morning we enjoy a tour of Cochin. The Fort Kochi Heritage Zone is wonderfully cosmopolitan, with a beautiful mix of Malayali Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Jews. Fort Kochi is where the influence of the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British can be seen the most. The area has charming old-world streets and buildings. See the ancient Chinese fishing nets, distinctly unique to Cochin. It is believed that traders from China introduced these nets here. Remarkably, outside of China, these nets are found only in Cochin. The St. Francis Church is said to be India’s oldest European church. It was originally built by Portuguese friars in 1503. Vasco da Gama was buried in this church in 1524 before his

remains were moved to Portugal. The Dutch Palace (Mattancherry Palace) was built by the Portuguese in 1555 as a gift for the Maharaja of Cochin. It was renovated again by the Dutch in 1663. Now the palace houses rare royal memorabilia and artefacts.

We have a 5pm late checkout from our hotel rooms before being transferred to a restaurant for a farewell dinner. After dinner we are transferred to the airport for our flights home.

All passengers depart Cochin at 11.05pm on SQ 535, arriving in Singapore at 6.10am the next morning.

03.03.27 Singapore – Australia

Brisbane passengers depart Singapore at 7.05am on SQ 265, arriving in Brisbane at 4.55pm.

Sydney passengers depart Singapore at 7.05am on SQ 241, arriving in Sydney at 5.55pm.

Melbourne passengers depart Singapore at 7.45am on SQ 207, arriving in Melbourne at 6.10pm.

Tour Difficulty Ratings & Advice

1	2	3	4	5
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Tour Difficulty Level 3

This tour rating typically involves a good level of physical activity, such as ascending stairs, getting into a bathtub shower, being responsible for your own luggage at airports and hotels, walking distances of up to 500 metres at a time over possible uneven ground and/or cobblestone streets. Walking tours of considerable distances should be expected on tours with this rating as well as some early departures.



Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Southern India Tour

Deposits and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 8 weeks prior to departure. Macleay Valley Travel has to adhere to strict payment deadlines and your booking on the tour may be cancelled if final payment is not received by the due date, with no refund applicable.

Insurance - Adequate travel insurance that includes medical coverage for Covid-19 is required. Please contact your preferred travel insurance provider. The responsibility to obtain adequate travel insurance rests with the passenger. Proof of your travel insurance is required to be presented to us on or before the final payment date of the tour.

Refunds and Cancellations - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline. Any refund for a cancelled booking will not be paid until the airline(s) provide the refund to Macleay Valley Travel.

Airline Tickets - Please note that any changes made to airline tickets once they have been issued will likely incur high cancellation and/or reissue fees. These fees are typically set by the airline and are outside of our control.

Passports - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. An Indian Evisa is required for Australian passport holders and can be obtained at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html> The current price is USD \$40 per visa for 1 year validity, subject to change.

Limitation of Liability concerning Covid-19 - It is possible that there may be outbreak(s) of Covid-19 during this tour. Whilst we take necessary safety precautions, Macleay Valley Travel cannot be held responsible for any quarantines or other associated costs brought about by quarantines, border closures and/or travel delays. You are aware that Covid-19 is a highly contagious and potentially dangerous disease that may result in significant personal illness and even death. You acknowledge that you are voluntarily participating in the tour with knowledge of the inherent risks of Covid-19, and you agree to assume all risks.

Basic Tour Price and Taxes - Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Not Included in the Cost - All items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals, (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. Also travel insurance and departure taxes. Similarly, credit card payments (Visa/MasterCard) can only be accepted if 1.2% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 2% surcharge for payments made using American Express.

Breakaway - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel. A post tour deviation from the set itinerary may be permitted under certain circumstances. Please contact our office for prices. Pre-tour extensions are usually not permitted.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices.

Health and Fitness - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. The Health & Fitness Questionnaire located on the last page of this itinerary needs to be completed in full by each passenger and accompany your booking form. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. It is strongly recommended that you are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, but this is not mandatory. Passengers must comply with any specific Covid-19 requirements that may be imposed by airlines and/or authorities of the destinations visited.

Twin Share Bookings - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

Airline Seating - Seating requests will be passed onto the airline, however please note that Macleay Valley Travel has no direct control over group seating and requests are not guaranteed.

Disclosure of fees or commissions received from third parties - Macleay Valley Travel Pty Ltd may receive fees, commissions, gifts or financial incentives from third parties under this contract.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, pandemics, endemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ **PostCode** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Nationality: _____ Preferred Name: _____

Passport Nationality _____ Preferred Name: _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE

Special Dietary Needs – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Any existing medical conditions? – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

In case of emergency, please notify:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$400 per person and the health & fitness form.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name. If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, the airline will charge a reissue fee.

HEALTH & FITNESS QUESTIONNAIRE

Macleay Valley Travel strives to make our tours enjoyable experiences for all passengers, however some countries and tour services lack the standards that you can typically expect in Australia.

To help ensure your personal safety and enjoyment on tour, please answer the following questions. The information you provide will be treated confidentially and will be used to check that the transportation, accommodation and facilities on tour are suitable for you:

1. Do you have any allergies? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details and severity: _____
2. Can you walk 500 metres to 1km in distance comfortably and unaided? Yes / No
3. Can you negotiate uneven, undulating and sometimes challenging terrain? Yes / No
If no, please provide details about these limitations: _____
4. Do you use a mobility aid? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No
If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____
6. Are you taking any medical equipment to assist you? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
7. Do you suffer from any condition which may cause you to experience memory loss or become disoriented? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
8. Are you asthmatic or do you have other breathing difficulties? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details (travelling to high altitudes is not recommended): _____
9. Do you require supplementary oxygen? Yes / No
10. Are you currently taking medication? Yes / No
If yes, are you able to administer your own medication? Yes / No
11. If you have any other medical information that is not covered in the previous questions, please provide a description here: _____

The information you supply us will be passed onto relevant travel suppliers who will do their best accommodate you. However, it is very important to remember that meeting your needs cannot be guaranteed, especially when travelling to third world countries.

DISCLAIMER

I confirm that the information provided on this questionnaire is both true and correct and I understand that there is no guarantee that all these needs will or can be met. I agree that Macleay Valley Travel may offer a recommendation with regard to fitness to travel, based on the information I have provided. I also understand that this information may be passed onto those responsible for supplying the land arrangements for my travel, and that my information will not be communicated to any party which is not directly responsible or otherwise associated with my travel arrangements. I further confirm and agree that should I choose not to disclose information which subsequently requires me to return or be returned home from a tour or cruise, Macleay Valley Travel is not responsible for any costs associated with cancellation penalties, airfares, land transportation or any other related hardship. Please note that a refund for lost touring cannot be claimed. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to update the information I provided to Macleay Valley Travel immediately should my circumstances change.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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If no, please provide details about these limitations: _____
4. Do you use a mobility aid? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No
If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____
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If yes, please provide details: _____
7. Do you suffer from any condition which may cause you to experience memory loss or become disoriented? Yes / No
If yes, please provide details: _____
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If yes, please provide details (travelling to high altitudes is not recommended): _____
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Signature: _____

Date: _____