

TAMIL NADU · RELAXED ITINERARY

Hills and Coast

A gentler mix for families who want heritage and coast without a full temple marathon, finishing with three nights of hill relief in Ooty. Fewer long drives, more time in each place.

7 nights / 8 days Route: **Chennai – Mahabalipuram – Pondicherry – Coimbatore – Ooty**

From **₹42,000** per person, indicative

Day by day

Day

1

CHENNAI

Arrive Chennai

Direct flight from Ahmedabad lands by early afternoon. Rest, then an easy evening at Marina Beach (the world's second-longest urban beach) and a look at Kapaleeshwarar Temple in Mylapore if energy allows.

Stay: **Chennai** · Meals: **Dinner**

Day

2

CHENNAI → MAHABALIPURAM

Shore temples and rock carvings

Drive to Mahabalipuram (55 km, 1½ hours). Full day at the UNESCO site: the Shore Temple facing the Bay of Bengal, Arjuna's Penance (the world's largest bas-relief), the Five Rathas, and Krishna's Butter Ball, a giant boulder that appears to defy gravity. Overnight by the coast.

Stay: **Mahabalipuram** · Meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Day

3

MAHABALIPURAM → PONDICHERRY

Into the French Quarter

Coastal drive to Pondicherry (100 km, 2 hours) along the East Coast Road, with a stop at Auroville's Matrimandir viewing point on the way in. Afternoon walking the French Quarter's tree-lined streets — Rue de la Marine, the Promenade, Notre Dame des Anges. Café culture in the evening.

Stay: **Pondicherry** · Meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Day
4

PONDICHERRY

Auroville and the beaches

Morning at Auroville proper (Matrimandir interior needs advance permission, arrange it beforehand) and the visitor centre. Afternoon free — Paradise Beach by boat, or Sri Aurobindo Ashram for those interested. Relaxed second evening in the French Quarter.

Stay: **Pondicherry** · Meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Day
5

PONDICHERRY → COIMBATORE → OOTY

Climb into the Nilgiris

Fly or drive Pondicherry–Coimbatore (drive is 6–7 hours; flying via Chennai is faster for those short on time), then drive up to Ooty (85 km, 3 hours climbing through 36 hairpin bends past Coonoor). Check in by evening; temperatures drop to 12–15°C.

Stay: **Ooty** · Meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Day
6

OOTY

Nilgiri Mountain Railway and the lake

Ride the UNESCO-listed Nilgiri Mountain Railway toy train from Ooty to Coonoor and back (book weeks ahead, especially April–June and October). Afternoon at Ooty Lake for boating and the Government Botanical Garden. Doddabetta Peak viewpoint if the weather is clear.

Stay: **Ooty** · Meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Day
7

OOTY

Tea estates and a free morning

Visit a working tea factory and estate, and the Rose Garden. Afternoon free for shopping — Ooty's homemade chocolate and eucalyptus oil are the usual buys. Last evening in the hills.

Stay: **Ooty** · Meals: **Breakfast, Dinner**

Day
8

OOTY → COIMBATORE → AHMEDABAD

Fly home

Drive down to Coimbatore (85 km, 3 hours) for the flight to Ahmedabad, usually one-stop via Chennai, Mumbai or Bengaluru. Leave Ooty by mid-morning to allow for the descent and airport time.

Stay: — · Meals: **Breakfast**

Inclusions

Included

- + Ahmedabad–Chennai and Coimbatore–Ahmedabad flights
- + 7 nights in inspected 3★/4★ hotels
- + Private AC vehicle for the whole trip (Pondicherry–Coimbatore leg by car or connecting flight, quoted at

Not included

- Lunches
- Auroville Matrimandir permission and Paradise Beach boat ride
- Travel insurance
- GST 5%

booking)

- + Daily breakfast and veg dinner
- + Nilgiri Mountain Railway tickets
- + Airport pickup and drop

Indicative cost

STANDARD

₹42,000–50,000

Per person, twin sharing

PREMIUM

₹65,000–85,000

Per person, twin sharing

Per person on twin sharing, indicative for 2026, including flights. April–June (Ooty's own peak season) runs 20–25% higher and needs 6–8 weeks' advance hotel booking. All prices on this document are indicative for 2026 and confirmed in writing at the time of booking.

Good to know

Getting there. Fly: IndiGo and Air India fly Ahmedabad–Chennai non-stop daily, about 2 h 15 m. Chennai (MAA) is right for Mahabalipuram and Pondicherry. Ahmedabad–Madurai, Ahmedabad–Coimbatore and Ahmedabad–Trichy are usually one-stop (via Chennai, Bengaluru or Mumbai), typically 4–6 hours door to door.

Food. South Indian vegetarian food is naturally vegetarian by default — idli, dosa, pongal, sambar and rice-based meals need no special request, which makes Tamil Nadu one of the easiest states for a strict-veg Gujarati group. Madurai and Chennai both have Gujarati thali restaurants and North Indian options; smaller towns like Rameswaram, Thanjavur and Kanyakumari rely on good South Indian vegetarian hotels, which we pre-select for cleanliness and consistency.

Permits and rules. No permits needed anywhere in Tamil Nadu for Indian nationals. Dress codes are enforced at every major temple: no shorts, no sleeveless tops, and men are often asked to remove shirts or wear a dhoti at inner sanctums (available on hire at the entrance, ₹20–50). Some temples, including parts of Meenakshi and Ramanathaswamy, restrict non-Hindus from the innermost sanctum — signage marks the boundary clearly, and our guides brief mixed-faith groups in advance. Auroville's Matrimandir interior needs an advance online booking, not a permit, but slots fill up so arrange it before travel.

Pack

- Light cotton clothing for the plains — it stays warm November to February too
- A light jacket or shawl for Ooty/Kodaikanal evenings (12–15°C) if the hills are on the itinerary
- Comfortable slip-on footwear — temples require bare feet and you will remove shoes often, sometimes at the outer gate
- A shawl or stole for women, and a spare dhoti-ready outfit for men, for stricter temple sections
- Umbrella or light raincoat if travelling October–December, especially on the coast

- Sunscreen and a hat — temple courtyards are open stone and can be scorching by mid-morning
- Motion-sickness tablets for the Ooty ghat road and the Kanyakumari–Trichy long drive

Want this booked properly?

Send this PDF to us on WhatsApp with your dates and the number of travellers. Hotel names and a firm price within 24 hours.

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WhatsApp · Mon–Sat 10 am – 7 pm