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Treasures of Southern India

5th November 2026 - 16 days from £3995pp*

Join Regent on a captivating journey to Southern India, where serene villages, lush hillsides and emerald tea plantations await. Savour exquisite cuisine and soak in breathtaking scenery.

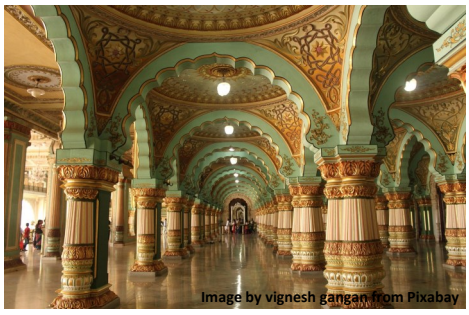

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Image by Wendy Birch

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A deposit of £800pp is required to reserve your place on this tour

FOR FULL HOLIDAY DETAILS AND AVAILABILITY PLEASE CONTACT:-

YOUR LOCAL SPEAR TRAVELS BRANCH. TEL 0333 323 4411

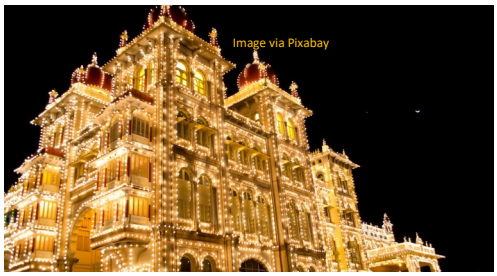
tours@regent-travel.co.uk www.regent-travel.co.uk 63 High Street, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 8AD

Lead price advertised based on a standard twin/double room. Regent (ABTA 89283) act as agent for TransIndus (ATOL 3429, ABTA V0705) , and all bookings are subject to their booking conditions, which can be found in their brochure (copies available in Regent store) or on their website, www.transindus.co.uk. Itinerary & prices advertised are correct at time of going to print, tour itineraries are prepared many months in advance of travel dates therefore Regent reserve the right to make necessary changes (E&OE). Itinerary advertised is subject to change or cancellation dependent on weather conditions, political climate and suchlike. Flight bookings are not issued until approx. 11 months prior to departure and prices, dates & timings are subject to fluctuation and change until this time. Regent will confirm all flight timings and available upgrades prior to departure date. Regent Travel are GDPR compliant.. Leaflet issue 1 - 26/03/25 - SJ

Regent Highlights

Upgraded flight supplement available on request*
(*Subject to availability)

- **Fully escorted by Wendy Birch** (subject to minimum numbers)
- **Return Economy flights from Manchester with Emirates**
- **14 nights accommodation on a breakfast basis in a variety of hotel, including a number of boutique and heritage properties. Including 4 dinners, 7 lunches and 2 evening snacks.**
- **Experience the incredible sights of Bangalore, Mysore, Ooty, Conoor, Madurai, Thekkady, Cochin, Mararikulam and more ...**
- **See Mysore Palace illuminated with over a hundred thousand lightbulbs**
- **Ride the scenic Blue Mountain Railway**



Your Itinerary

Thursday 5th November 2026
Our adventure begins this morning, as we fly with Emirates from Manchester to Bangalore via Dubai. Bangalore is known as the 'Garden City' because of its numerous verdant parks and avenues of jacaranda, gulmohur and cassia. The present location of Bangalore was chosen by a local chieftain, Kempegowda, in 1537, on land gifted to him by the ruler of Vijayanagar, and holds a rich history.

Friday 6th November 2026
Arriving in Bangalore we transfer to 5* **The Paul Hotel** for an overnight stay. Later this afternoon enjoy a tour of the 'Garden City', beginning with a visit to Lalbagh, a botanical garden spread over 240 acres which is home to a wide variety of exotic trees and plants. We will drive past Vidhana Soudha, which houses the State Legislative assembly and part of the secretariat and Tipu Sultan's Palace. Constructed between 1781 and 1791, it was once the summer residence of Tipu Sultan. Finally we visit the Bull Temple, believed to have been constructed in the 16th century and carved out of a single block of granite - a magnificent sight. This evening we have a welcome dinner at the hotel (D)

Saturday 7th November 2026
Today we depart Bangalore for Mysore.(140km approx. 3.5 hrs) The palaces and royal gardens of Mysore, known as 'the Jewel of Karnataka', provide glimpses of its past grandeur, and the area has unique arts, culture and festivals, making it a fascinating region to explore. The rulers of Mysore State, the Wodeyar Rajas, were connoisseurs of art and architecture and enjoyed a lavish lifestyle. Thus the Maharaja's Palace is one of the largest in the country, embellished with stained glass, domes and turrets giving it an ethereal air. The elegant city of Mysore is also ideal for shopping, with its famous Mysore silks printed or woven in brilliant colours and beautiful textures. Immerse yourself in the soft perfume of sandalwood, Mysore's signature scent, which is used throughout the city in temple incense, oil and soap. Afternoon at leisure and then take an evening visit to Chamundi Hill, just outside the city, which is topped by a temple to Chamundi, the Rajas' chosen deity. Enjoy a walking tour of Mysore's colourful markets including the Devaraja Market. Dinner tonight will be enjoyed at a local restaurant. Overnight at 4* **Royal Orchid Metropole** (B,D)

Sunday 8th November 2026
This morning we visit the Ranganathatoo bird sanctuary and ruins of the fort at Srirangapatinam. We have a local lunch followed by a visit to the Mysore Palace this evening, to witness it spectacularly illuminated by over a hundred thousand lightbulbs, a wonderful sight. The palace dominates the centre of Mysore with its beautiful Hindu and Saracenic architecture, and the interior of the palace is lavishly decorated with stained glass, mirrors, pillars, paintings and jewels. Overnight once more at the **Royal Orchid Metropole** (B,L)

Monday 9th November 2026
Departing Mysore, making an early morning drive to the Niligiri hills, in the Western Ghats mountains. We visit the resort town of Ooty (short for Udhagamandalam), founded as a British Raj summer resort, followed by lunch. We then take the Heritage train on the NMR Railway. A UNESCO world heritage site, also known as the "Toy Train" a narrow gauge railway built by the British in 1908. Travelling through lush green valleys, dense forests, and charming hill stations, offering panoramic views of the surrounding hills and tea gardens taking approximately an hour. Upon arrival in Coonoor we transfer to the heritage 5* **Taj Gateway Hotel ,** a short walk from the delightful Sims Park Botanical Gardens, our base for the next two nights**.** (B,L)

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Image by Wendy Birch

Image by Prasad Ganapule via Pixabay

Image by Ahamed Shakir via Pixabay

Image by Akhil Guru from Pixabay

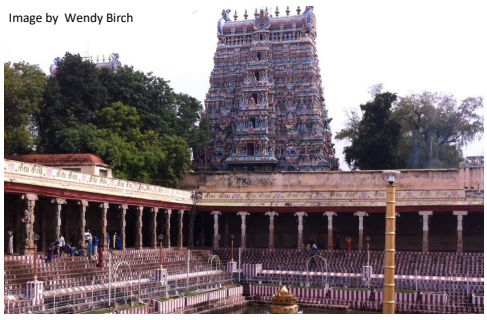


Image by Wendy Birch

Tuesday 10th November 2026
Coonoor is a tea town and the second largest hill station in the Nilgiris. It stands on a lower ridge of the main plateau at an altitude of 1839 metres. Today we take a tour and soak up the scenery of "Tea Country" followed by lunch. Later enjoy a hike in a tea plantation followed by a tea factory visit. Overnight again at the **Taj Gateway Hotel**. (B,L)

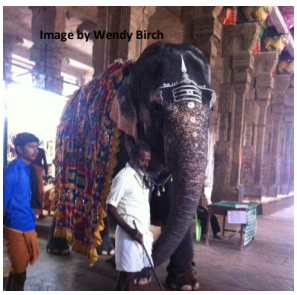
Wednesday 11th November 2026
Today is a travelling day, but never the less a very scenic and interesting one, as we journey from Ooty to Madurai (275km - around 6.5 hrs). With break to enjoy the route and lunch on the way. Madurai, formerly the seat of power for the Pandya dynasty, is one of the oldest cities in the south. It lies along the bank of the Vaigai River and, as with many Hindu cities, the frenetic centre of the city's activity is the main temple - the mighty Meenakshi-Sundareshwarar. The temple is an important Hindu pilgrimage site and is covered in a profusion of brightly coloured stucco figures. Beneath, the dimly lit pillared halls are filled with pilgrims, priests and exotic fragrances. One Hindu legend tells that a few drops of nectar fell from Shiva's hair onto the city, and this changed the name to Madurai, or "City of Nectar". Madurai's other points of interest include the Gandhi Museum, which is dedicated to the life of the great Mahatma Gandhi and includes exhibits such as the dhoti he was wearing when he was assassinated. Arrive at the 5* **Heritage Madurai Hotel**, our home for the next two nights. (B,L)

Thursday 12th November 2026
This morning we enjoy sightseeing in Madurai, which has been a flourishing market town since the 2nd century BC and a centre of power for many dynasties. In a city with such a turbulent past, it is little wonder that its streets and monuments hold such a wealth of stories. Walk through this ancient city and listen to tales that span the gamut of time - some set millennia ago and some more recent; stories that zigzag obscure lines which separate history and myth; stories of the people who put Madurai on the map, and of those who un-made it too; stories of fickle kings and towering monuments; whimsical Gods and extraordinary mortals. Each of these tales will give you a glimpse into the city's heart. This evening following a local dinner, we visit Meenakshi Temple and witness the closing ceremony. Located in the heart of Madurai and surrounded by colourful markets, the temple is a brilliant example of southern temple architecture, with its nine 'gopurams' (temple towers) soaring to almost fifty metres above the gateways and decorated with colourful stucco images of gods, goddesses and animals. Our visit includes the thousand-pillared hall and the Golden Lotus Tank. Overnight once more at the **Heritage Madurai Hotel**. (B,D)

Friday 13th November 2026
Today we drive from Madurai to Thekkady (160km approx. 4 hrs). Thekkady is set amongst endless green slopes in the Cardamom Hills, in the spice-growing region of the Western Ghats. Dense jungle and vast plantations of teak, rubber, cardamom, tea and coffee offer perfect respite from the heat of the coastal plains. Home to the Periyar Wildlife Reserve, famous for elephants., with a variety of other wildlife including barking deer, wild boar, Indian bison and the Giant Malabar squirrel. Designated tiger reserve, the tiger population is estimated at about 40 individuals, these shy creatures can be hard to spot and sightings are rare. Afternoon at leisure and a evening visit to a spice garden followed by tea, coffee and snacks. 4* **Shalimar Spice Garden** where we will spend the next two nights. (B,S)

Saturday 14th November 2026
Early this morning, enjoy a nature walk with our local guide. Pass through moist deciduous forests and marshy grasslands, discovering tropical plant life, bird and butterfly varieties and perhaps even barking deer, sambar and langurs. It is advisable to wear long trousers, long-sleeved shirts and trekking shoes. Less mobile guests may decide to opt out and have a leisurely morning instead. The rest of the morning is at leisure followed by an afternoon boat ride on Periyar Lake for spotting birds and animals . Overnight at **Shalimar Spice Garden** (B)

Sunday 15th November 2026
After breakfast we drive from Thekkady to Kochi (Cochin), (192km approx. 4.5hrs). Kochi is spread across islands and promontories in a stunning location between the Arabian Sea and the Keralan backwaters. The city was formed in 1341 when a flood created a natural safe port, which became the principal harbour for the Malabar Coast's spice trade. The rulers of Kochi invited people of various religions to settle here, attracting Jews and Christians who built places of worship and created their own communities. Today there remains Portuguese, Dutch and British settlers and influences, and Chinese influence in the form of the famous fishing nets - huge contraptions that are still used to lift fish from the bay. The city's greatest concentration of historic sights is in the Fort Kochi area, where the ancient streets are home to the Mattancherry Palace, old spice warehouses, a Jewish synagogue and numerous churches. Enjoy lunch today at a plantations and later arrive at our Boutique hotel the **Malabar House**, home for the next two nights. This evening enjoy an evening sunset cruise around Kochi harbour, an excellent opportunity to get an overall impression of this beautifully located city, revealing Arab dhows, Chinese fishing nets, bazaars, old storage warehouses and traditional mansions. (B,L)



Itinerary Continued...

Monday 16th November 2026
Enjoy a morning tour of Kochi today as we visit the Jew Town, St. Francis Church and see the Chinese fishing nets. The synagogue in Jew Town was built in 1568 and rebuilt in 1664, and its interior is a mixture of styles with hand-painted blue and white floor tiles from Canton, 19th century Belgian oil-burning chandeliers and an elaborately carved ark housing four scrolls from the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. Visitors to the synagogue should be modestly dressed and admission is denied to those wearing short trousers, short skirts or sleeveless tops. The church of St Francis, dating back to 1503, was the first European church in India, built by Portuguese Admiral Albuquerque. The Church was Protestant Dutch, then Anglican and is now a Church of South India. Later enjoy a traditional lunch and the rest of the afternoon is at leisure. This evening enjoy a performance of Kathakali dancing, demonstrating an ancient ritual that plays an important role in Keralan culture. The plays are based on the three major Hindu epics, acted out with elaborate hand gestures, facial expressions and choreographed movements. Overnight at **Malabar House** hotel. (B,L)

Tuesday 17th November 2026
Late morning departure to Alleppey, known as the Venice of the East, on the famous backwaters, a network of tranquil canals and lagoons . Enjoy a Traditional Boat Cruise on the backwaters with lunch cruising the lake and canals. The area holds extraordinary natural beauty, with luscious tropical vegetation, coconut palms and colourful birdlife, including kingfishers, darters and cormorants, and animals such as otters and turtles. Disembark after tea/coffee and snacks in the evening. Later a short journey to the nearby beaches of Mararikulam (approx 45 mins) and the **Xandari Pearl Beach Resort** our home for the next three nights. (B,L,S)

Wednesday 18th November 2026
Enjoy a full day at leisure to take advantage of the facilities our hotel has to offer. Or join our morning guided walk into the local village and visit to the fish market. Overnight at **Xandari Beach Resort.** (B)

Thursday 19th November 2026
A chance to relax with a full day at leisure on the beach and later in the evening enjoy a farewell dinner. (B,D)

Friday 20th November 2026
We have an early departure this morning, transferring back to Kochi (130km approx. 2hrs). Fly home via Dubai, arriving into Manchester early evening with beautiful memories of our outstanding tour. (B)

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner S=Snacks

£1420 Single Room Supplement

Accommodation **(please note: Hotels as listed, or will be alternatives of a similar standard)**

The Paul Hotel , Bangalore - Studio Room

The Royal Orchid Metrople Hotel, Mysore - Royal Wing Room

Taj Gateway Hotel, Coonoor - Standard Room

The Heritage Hotel, Mandurai - Deluxe Room

Shalimar Spice Garden , Periyar - Elegant Room

Malabar House, Fort Kochi - Deluxe Room

Xandari Pearl Beach Resort, Mararikulam - Green Pearl Villa

IMPORTANT INFORMATION :
This holiday may not be suitable for people with limited mobility, due to the busy nature of the itinerary, the various methods of transport used and accessibility maybe limited, especially at ancient sites. All special requests including room, health and dietary must be made at time of booking. Regent must be informed if health alters over the booking period. Contact your local GP or health advisor prior to travel for advice on current vaccinations and health precautions. A visa will be required for entrance to India, at additional expense. Details of this will also be given at the Pre-Tour meeting. **Further tour details of all above information will be given at a Pre-Tour Meeting approximately 3 months prior to departure date.**

A deposit of £800pp is required to reserve your place on this tour

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