



SOUTH INDIA
TAMIL NADU

JOURNEY
FROM AUGUST 9 TO 29
2026



INDIA, MY LOVE

India is not a country or a border. It is not just geography or history. India is an ancient vibration, a living field that has been sustained for centuries by those who dared to look inward. Here, life was not understood as conquest, but as listening, not as accumulation, but as presence.

India is disconcerting. The same place that is rapidly advancing toward modernity maintains an intimate relationship with the sacred and with nature. Technological impulse and devotion coexist here, as do the unfathomable crowd and silent retreat, the world's largest democracy and a religiosity that permeates every gesture. This contradiction is not a mistake: it is part of its teaching.

India doesn't explain, persuade, or promise. It simply is. Beneath its apparent chaos lies profound patience, wisdom that needs no affirmation. In forests, riverbanks, and anonymous villages, countless seekers have observed the mind and the longing without wanting to get somewhere. From that stillness was born a culture that honored silence as much as words.

India is neither comfortable nor orderly. It dismantles expectations, reveals life without embellishment, and forces us to let go of our control. Those who seek external safety are lost here; those who come with an open mind begin to perceive something more subtle: an invitation to inhabit the moment without demands, to be without searching.

India offers neither enlightenment nor certainties. It offers freedom. And when that freedom awakens, India ceases to be a place. It becomes a quality of presence, a way of walking the world without losing touch with the invisible. That is India. Not a nation. Silent love.

TAMIL NADU: Land of Stone and Water

A slow journey through landscapes, cities, and waters of southern India.

This trip offers a mindful journey through southern India, following a trail that goes from matter to dissolution, from forms carved in stone to the stillness of water. Over the course of twenty-one days, we will try to traverse landscapes, cultures, and cities as stages of the same inner movement, rather than as isolated landmarks.

We will begin on the coast of Tamil Nadu, where ancient art dialogues with the sea, and will slowly move inland: tranquil hills, temple cities, sacred mountains, and lively cities where rituals continue to be part of everyday life. The journey will end at the southern tip of the subcontinent, where the land opens to the ocean and finally dissolves into the canals and estuaries of Kerala, in a setting of water, silence, and vegetation.

This itinerary is not designed for amassing experiences, but for setting a pace. Each stage has been planned to give you time to absorb what you have experienced, alternating days of exploration with time for rest, integration, and personal freedom. The aim is not to see everything, but to spend enough time in each place to experience some of its atmosphere.

September is a lively and changeable month in southern India. The landscape is green and the weather can alternate between sunshine, humidity, and light rain. Far from being an obstacle, these conditions are part of the experience: they invite you to slow down, to listen to your surroundings, and to travel with an open and adaptable attitude, in tune with the reality of the country.

This trip is intended for people with a deep curiosity, cultural sensitivity, and a willingness to be touched by the places they visit. It does not seek exoticism or constant comfort, but rather a more attentive, more human, and more serene way of traveling.





Tamil Nadu, Southern India

Visiting Chennai (arrival), Mahabalipuram, Yelagiri Hills, Tiruvannamalai, Pondicherry, Auroville, Chidambaram, Tiruchirappalli, Srirangam, Madurai, Karaikudi, Kanyakumari, Poovar, Thiruvananthapuram (departure).



Travel itinerary

Day 1 (Aug. 9): Arrival and First Breath of Sea Air

Arrival in Chennai - Transfer to Mahabalipuram

After landing at Chennai International Airport (MAA), we will leave behind the hustle and bustle of the big city. In a journey of approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes, we will head directly south along the Coromandel coast. The landscape widens; the air becomes charged with salt. Arrival in Mahabalipuram, a coastal village where the sound of the waves mingles with history. The afternoon will be spent settling in, recovering from the journey, and taking a first walk at sunset, feeling the breeze from the Bay of Bengal.

Day 2 (August 10): Where Rock Became Divinity

Mahabalipuram: Pallava Monuments

Today we will explore the legacy of the ancient Pallava kings. We will visit the incredible Arjuna's Penance Relief, a 27-meter-long open-air mural carved from a single rock. We will tour the Five Rathas, monolithic temples that look like giant sculptures. Our journey will end at the Shore Temple, located on the beach, where architecture and the sea interacted for centuries. Today's afternoon will be free for you to soak up the area at your own pace.





Day 3 (August 11): Time at the Coast

Free Day in Mahabalipuram

A day with no set plans. You can delve into the sights, relax on the beach, browse the stone carving workshops that perpetuate the local tradition, or simply enjoy the peace and quiet. It's a day for your body to fully adjust to the new rhythm.

Day 4 (August 12): Climbing to the Quiet Hills

Mahabalipuram to Yelagiri Hills

After breakfast, we will leave the coast and head inland. A 3–4-hour drive will take us up winding roads to Yelagiri Hills. This is a simple and authentic mountain destination, far from the crowds of tourists. The air is noticeably cooler. We will spend the afternoon on a leisurely walk around the area, discovering small lakes and quiet villages nestled among plantations.

Day 5 (August 13): Nature and Local Life in the Hills

Exploring Yelagiri

We will spend the day enjoying this natural setting. You can choose between a guided hike to one of the nearby waterfalls, visiting a local market, or simply enjoying the peace and panoramic views. It is a perfect respite between the coast and the spiritual intensity that will come later.

Day 6 (August 14): Towards the Spiritual Heart

Yelagiri to Tiruvannamalai

We will come down from the hills and head towards one of the most powerful places in southern India. The transfer to Tiruvannamalai will take approximately 3 hours. The city is dominated by the sacred mass of Mount Arunachala. Upon arrival, you will feel a tangible change in the energy. We will take a first walk around Ramana Maharshi's ashram, an oasis of silence.

Day 7 (August 15): The Mountain of Fire and Sacred Water

Tiruvannamalai and Excursion to Papanasam

In the morning, we will explore the enormous Arunachaleshwarar temple, dedicated to the fire element. Then, we will take a half-day excursion (an hour-and-a-half drive) to Papanasam. Here, surrounded by woods, we will find natural terraced pools and waterfalls where locals bathe in a ritualistic atmosphere. It's a refreshing and spiritual contrast. Return to Tiruvannamalai in the afternoon.

Day 8 (August 16): Day of Immersion in Tiruvannamalai

Free Day for Depth

A day to experience the city your way. Many choose to walk around the mountain (Girivalam), a sacred 14 km route that can be done by car, partly on foot, or simply sit and meditate in the stillness of an ashram. It is a day to connect with the unique energy of the place.



Day 9 (August 17): A Touch of France in India

Tiruvannamalai to Pondicherry

The scenery will change completely. A 2-and-a-half-hour drive will take us to the east coast, to Pondicherry. This former French colony has a distinctive character. We will stay in the French Quarter, with tree-lined streets and colonial houses. The afternoon can be spent strolling along the bustling seafront (the promenade) and soaking up the relaxed atmosphere.

Day 10 (August 18): The City of Dawn and the Vision of Unity

Pondicherry and Auroville

In the morning, we will visit Auroville, the global village founded by The Mother (Mirra Alfassa) with the vision of human unity, linked to the teachings of Sri Aurobindo. Nowadays, Auroville brings together people of many nationalities in a living experiment of coexistence and the search for harmony. The visit is introductory and contemplative: we will tour the information center and see the Matrimandir from the outside, allowing us to understand the spirit of the place without creating expectations. Back in Pondicherry, we will explore Sri Aurobindo's Ashram and will have free time to enjoy its cafes and galleries.

Day 11 (August 19): The Cosmic Dance

Pondicherry a Chidambaram

We will leave the coastal calm of Pondicherry behind and head back into the symbolic heart of Tamil Nadu. A drive of approximately two hours will take us to Chidambaram, one of the most unique temple cities in southern India. This is the site of the shrine dedicated to Shiva Nataraja, the Lord of the Cosmic Dance, where the entire universe is understood as rhythm, movement, and vibration. The visit is unhurried, allowing us to absorb the ritual intensity, architecture, and unique symbolism of this place, where the visible and the invisible meet.



Day 12 (August 20): The Fort and the Infinite Temple

Trichy: From Dancing to the Sacred River

After breakfast, we will continue our journey inland. A three-hour drive will take us to Tiruchirappalli (Trichy), a historically strategic city located on the banks of Kaveri River.

Our arrival will be relaxed, intended as a transition day. After checking in, we will have the afternoon to rest, wander around, simply watch the daily pulse of the city, or climb the Rock Fort at sunset. The climb on its rock-carved stairs offers panoramic views of Trichy and the Kaveri River, providing a monumental first glimpse of the city.

Day 13 (August 21): The Sacred City in Motion

Srirangam and Sacred Surroundings

Today we will spend the entire day exploring one of the largest and most vibrant religious complexes in India: Srirangam temple. Built as an authentic sacred city with seven concentric enclosures, this space is not one to be visited, but slowly traversed.

We will stroll through its long corridors, courtyards, and inhabited areas, observing how daily life and ritual intertwine seamlessly. Those who wish so may round off the day with a visit to nearby Jambukeswarar Temple, dedicated to the water element, thus bringing a deeply symbolic day to a close.



Day 14 (August 22): The City That Never Sleeps

Trichy to Madurai

A short 2-hour drive will take us to Madurai, one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world. In the evening, we will enjoy an essential experience: attending the “Putu Palli” ceremony at Meenakshi Temple. We will see how the image of the goddess is carried in procession to her bridal chamber, amid chants, incense, and the devotion of thousands of devotees.

Day 15 (August 23): The Divine Labyrinth

Meenakshi Amman Temple

We will spend the entire day exploring the exuberant Meenakshi Amman Temple. It is a labyrinth of courtyards, halls with thousands of carved columns, and towering gopurams (towers) covered with statues of gods, demons, and animals. We will also visit Tirumalai Nayak Palace. The afternoon is ideal for exploring the ancient bazaar surrounding the temple.



Day 16 (August 24): Chettinad's Commercial Heritage

Excursion to Karaikudi

Morning departure from Madurai to Karaikudi, the cultural heart of Chettinad. The journey, approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes long, takes us into a land marked by commercial history, refined architecture, and a well-defined cultural identity.

We will spend the day leisurely touring some of the great Chettiar mansions, witnesses to the prosperity of ancient trade routes that connected southern India with Southeast Asia. We will have lunch featuring the intense and aromatic local cuisine and visit a craft workshop —either Athangudi tile or traditional carpentry— where techniques passed down through generations are still alive today.

We will return to Madurai in the late afternoon, after a peaceful and balanced day that offers a human and aesthetic counterpoint to the ritual intensity of the previous days.

Day 17 (August 25): Towards the End of the Continent

Madurai to Kanyakumari

We will leave Madurai and head to the southernmost point of the Indian subcontinent. The trip to Kanyakumari takes approximately 4 hours. We will check in at the hotel and, in the late afternoon, we will watch the sunset at Cape Comorin, the natural spectacle where the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean meet.



Day 18 (August 26): Trino Sunrise and the Rock of the Sage

Kanyakumari

Watching the sunrise from the beach is a magical experience. We will visit Kumari Amman temple and then go on a boat ride to the Vivekananda Memorial, built on a rocky islet. The rest of the day will be free to soak up the special energy of this spot where the land ends.

Day 19 (August 27): Entering an Aquatic Paradise

Kanyakumari to Poovar

We bid farewell to Tamil Nadu and enter Kerala. A 2-hour drive will take us to the pier in Poovar. A boat will take us through coconut tree-lined canals to our accommodation on Poovar Island. This place is a haven of peace between the Neyyar River, the estuary, and the sea. The afternoon is for enjoying the feeling of having disconnected from the world.





Day 20 (August 28): Canals, Estuary, and Virgin Beach

Full Day in Poovar

Today we will explore this unique ecosystem. We will take a boat trip through the tranquil canals, the estuary where freshwater mixes with salt water, and we will visit the golden, unspoiled beach of Poovar, which can only be accessed by sea. It is a day for connecting with nature and water, the perfect ending to the trip.

Day 21 (Aug 29): End of Shared Trip

Poovar and Thiruvananthapuram Airport

This day marks the end of our journey together. Some of us will return home from Thiruvananthapuram International Airport. Others may continue on their own, staying longer in Kerala or other destinations. We will part ways, bringing with us memories of the places we visited, the moments we shared, and the serenity of the southern waters.





OUR TRAVEL PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the trips we offer is to provide a carefully designed and flexible framework that allows for an authentic and personal experience. Each person experiences the journey in their own way, at their own pace, according to their own interests and needs. This is your trip; it is designed so that you can enjoy it freely and responsibly. We do not seek to impose a specific way of traveling, but to provide the conditions for each traveler to experience places, people, and themselves in a vivid and direct fashion.

ALONE, ALL TOGETHER

During the trip, Uttam Módenes will travel with the group as a coordinator and facilitator. He will not act as a traditional tour guide, but rather as an experienced traveler and expert on the East, someone who can sustain the whole to facilitate displacements and oversee the general framework of the trip. His presence will help the group move smoothly, adapting to changing circumstances along the way, while maintaining a balance between shared and individual experiences. We will travel together, but each one from their own place.

FLEXIBILITY AND FREEDOM

Every traveler is an active part of the journey. In each city and stage of the trip, there will be times set aside for group activities, as well as free time to be and explore on your own, or simply rest, as if you were traveling alone. The difference is that here you know there is a supporting framework, someone who coordinates, accompanies, and cares for you, and ensures that freedom does not mean dispersion, but rather a conscious way of being on the journey.

The price of the trip is €1,685 per person.

What is included:

-  Shared accommodation in a standard double room
-  Transportation between towns in private vehicles
-  Daily mindfulness and presence practices that promote the conscious receiving of impressions

 **Group size:** the trip will only take place if there is a minimum of 10 travelers.

What is not included:

-  International flights (we will help you coordinate them with other travelers)
-  Mandatory travel insurance (essential to participate)
-  Indian visa (€25)
-  Meals
-  Entrance fees to places of interest
-  Tips to guides and drivers
-  Expenses due to unforeseen events or changes in the itinerary
-  Any service not specified in “included”

How to sign up

- By making a first payment of €400
- A second payment of €800 before June 9
- A final payment to complete a total of €1,685 before July 9 (one month before departure).

Once you sign up, you will receive detailed practical information, such as what items to bring, and more.

As the trip nears, we will meet by Zoom to answer any pending questions and finalize details.

Cancellation policy

- The €400 deposit is non-refundable, as costs are already incurred from the moment of registration.
- If you cancel after July 9 without a valid reason or do not show up at the departure point, you will forfeit the full amount paid (€1,685).
- In the event of cancellation by the organizers, the full amount will be refunded.
- We reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary if necessary for the wellbeing of the group.



**For further information,
please contact:**



(+34) 625 673 231



info@camino4.es



escuelacamino4.org