

South India: Exploring its Living Heritage of Temples, Art, Architecture and Crafts

January 17th - February 2nd, 2024

The Society for Asian Art invites you to South India to explore its living heritage of temples, art, architecture and crafts. On this curated trip, we will interact with scholars, craftspeople and other experts, stay in some gracious hotels, and experience the culture and living traditions of southern India.

Itinerary

Chennai (2 nights) January 17th – 18th

- Chennai Museum, Private cultural evening

Mamallapuram (2 nights) January 19th–20th

- Via Dakshinchitra Heritage Museum
- Group of monuments at Mamallapuram (6th–9th century), a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Meet a traditional sculptor

Pondicherry (2 nights) January 21st–22nd

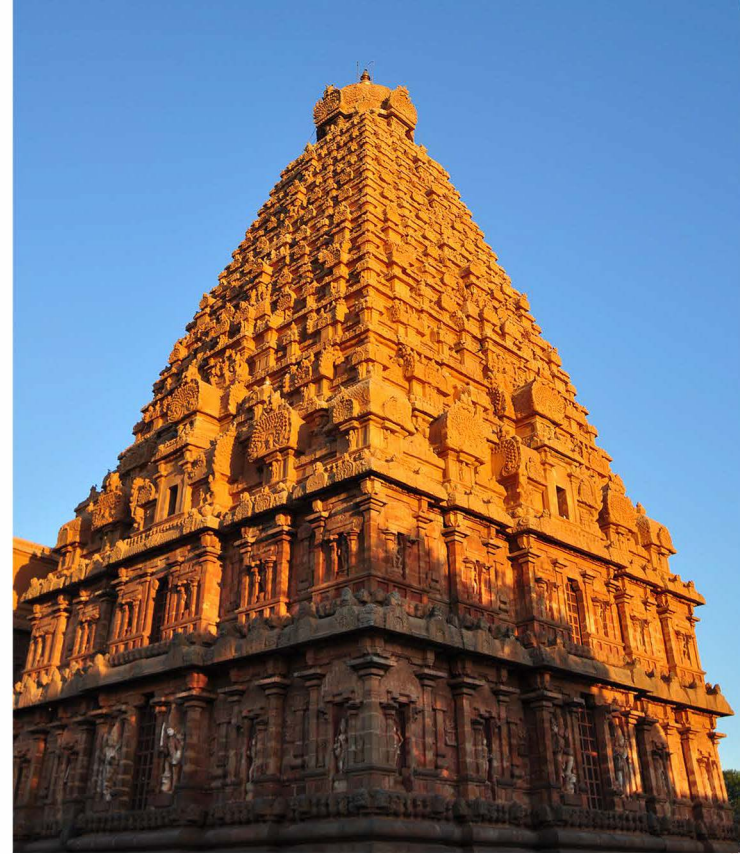
- Via Kanchipuram, to see 7th–8th century temples, a Weaver's workshop
- Free / Leisure day in this French+Tamil coastal town.

Kumbakonam (1 night) January 23rd

- Via Chidambaram, temple of Nataraja, the dancer, one of south India's most important temples.
- 11th century Temple in Gangaikondacholapuram, part of the Great Living Chola Temples UNESCO World Heritage Site

Thanjavur (2 nights) January 24th–25th

- 12th century Temple in Darasuram, part of the Great Living Chola Temples UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Workshop where bronze idols are made using the lost-wax process
- Thanjavur palace, museum, library; 11th century Brihadeshwara Temple part of the Great Living Chola Temples UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Meet artists who make traditional Thanjavur-style paintings



Trichy (1 night) January 26th

- Temple town of Srirangam, the largest temple complex in India.

Kochi (2 nights) January 27th–28th

- Muziris Heritage: Visit one of India's oldest mosques, a 17th century synagogue and an 18th century palace

Bangalore (2 nights) January 29th – 30th

- Museum of Art and Photography
- Meet a private collector of carpets of Central and West Asia.
- Celebratory dinner

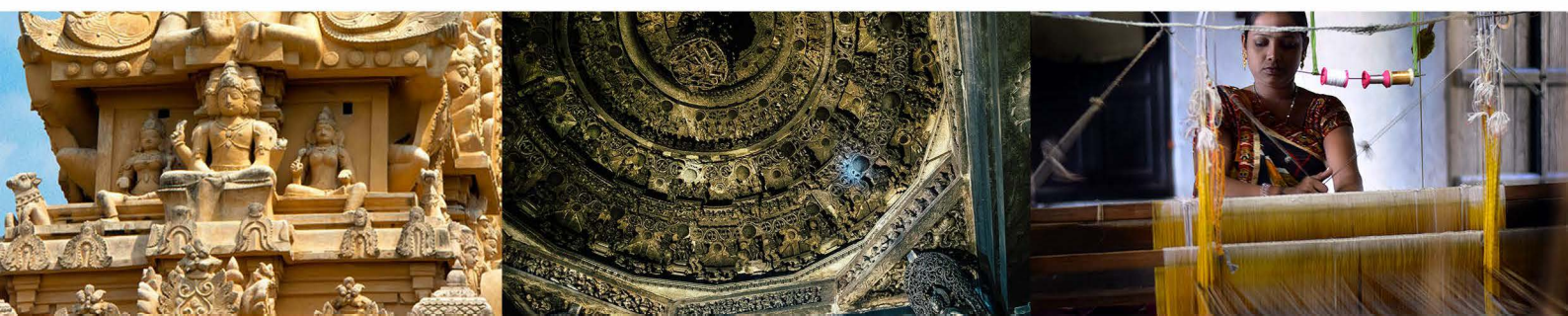
Hassan (1 night) January 31st

- Hindu and Jain temples of the 12th century Hoysala dynasty in Belur and Halebidu

Bangalore (1 night) February 1st–2nd

- National Gallery of Modern Art
- 19th century Tudor-styled Bangalore Palace

Transfer to the airport for flights to the US.



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Pricing

- \$5,500 USD per guest, assuming double occupancy.
- The trip price assumes minimum of 20 (twenty) guests
- Single supplement is \$1,800 USD.

Inclusions

- Accommodation based on double occupancy (modern hotels and resorts)
- All Breakfasts
- Two special dinners, one reception with snacks, four local lunches and one packed lunch.
- A selection of wine is included in the two special dinners and the reception.
- Unlimited drinking water
- Economy class flights from Trichy to Kochi and from Kochi to Bangalore (One checked bag weighing a maximum of 15kg included)
- All sightseeing, excursions and travel in private air-conditioned coaches
- Monument entry fees
- Tips to guides, drivers and porters
- Arrival and departure airport transfers (guests may be grouped with other guests flying at the same time)
- English speaking guides
- Talks, briefings and interactions with English-speaking scholars

Exclusions

- International airfare to and from India
- Passport and Visa expenses
- Alcoholic drinks with meals (except where specified)
- Medical expenses and immunizations
- Medical insurance
- Travel Insurance
- Excess luggage charges on flights
- Personal charges such as telephone calls, laundry, spa and room service expenses
- Items of a purely personal nature
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Any item not specifically listed

Important Notes

- Travel to India requires a Visa for which you will need to make your own arrangements.
- Baggage allowance on domestic flights within India is 15kg and 7kg for cabin baggage. This is lower than baggage allowance on international flights. Participants will have to pay for any excess baggage on domestic flights within India.
- We encourage all participants to take travel and medical insurance.
- While we hope you love the itinerary outlined here, we reserve the right to make changes in the itinerary before and during the trip to maximize the success of the trip.

Difficulty Level: DIFFICULT

Trip participants must be able to climb and descend steep and uneven stairs in temples, often without railings, and walk through congested narrow streets. Coaches and transfers will not have a WC on board: participants must be able to go for a reasonable time without a bio break (obviously we will stop for emergencies if needed). They must be able to tolerate bus-rides of about 5 hours on roads that will have potholes. Trip participants must be able to tolerate the extreme sun, high humidity (70-80 percent) and heat (temperatures around 90 Fahrenheit). They must be able to stand unassisted for extended periods in museums, temples and at historic sites. They should be able to keep pace with the group.





Tour Operator: CARNELIAN HERITAGE CONSULTANTS LLP (CHC)

Please email completed forms, pages 3 & 4, to carnelian.blr@gmail.com.

RESERVATION FORM

Please note that you must be a member of the Society for Asian Art to go on this trip. If you are not currently a member, you may join or renew at the SAA website, www.societyforasianart.org/membership/join-renew.

I would like to reserve _____ space(s) for the South India tour.

Trip Participant(s) Information:

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____
(Names exactly as they appear on passport)

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Passport # _____
(Must be at least valid for 6 months from trip date)

Date & Place of Issue _____

Citizenship: _____

Marital Status: _____

Occupation: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of birth: _____

Trip Participant(s) Information:

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____
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Cell Phone: _____

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(Must be at least valid for 6 months from trip date)

Date & Place of Issue _____

Citizenship: _____

Marital Status: _____

Occupation: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of birth: _____

Person to be notified in case of emergency:

Name (& relationship): _____

Telephone _____

Please describe any health problems

Food/dietary restrictions

Accommodation:

_____ Single supplement

_____ Double Occupancy. I will be sharing a room with (name): _____

We would like a room with: _____ One large bed ___ Two beds

_____ Double Occupancy. Please assign me a roommate

_____ I would prefer a roommate but will pay the single supplement if one is not available.

(Single travelers for whom roommates are not available are subject to single supplement charges)

(Please note that single rooms are in limited supply. They will be given on a first come, first served basis)

Payment:

\$1,200 USD advance deposit per person is required to process your reservation. Balance is due before September 15th 2023. Carnelian Heritage Consultants LLP will send a secure payment portal once you have been accepted on the trip.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

As we plan your tour arrangements many months in advance, we may occasionally have to make changes or cancel the whole tour (for lack of participation or due to Force Majeure events) and we reserve the right to do so at any time.

We accept your tour booking on the understanding that you realize that safety facilities in the developing world – in the vehicles, on the roads and at the tourist sites – often do not match ours in the USA.

Participants will be accepted on the trip according to when their complete registration arrives at the office of CHC in Bengaluru.

Registrations will be accepted on-line and using credit card only.

Any special hotel rooms with additional amenities or views or upper floors may entail a supplement that guests will be responsible to cover.

Cancellations & Refunds:

Cancellations must be received by email, and will be processed according to the date the notice is received. Although a verbal cancellation is appreciated, it will not be accepted as final notice. Money will be refunded minus the following cancellation fees/penalties per person:

From time of booking up to 120 days prior to January 17th 2024: \$250 per person
119-90 days prior to January 17th 2024: \$1,000.00 per person
89-60 days prior to January 17th 2024: 50% of total cost
60-0 days prior to January 17th 2024: No refund

Release of Liability:

CHC gives notice that all tickets, vouchers and coupons issued by them, and all arrangements for transport or for conveyance or for hotel accommodation, are made by them as Agents of the Tour Participants upon the express condition that they shall not be liable for any injury, loss, accidents, death, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason or by defect of any vehicle or through the act or default of any person or company engaged in conveying or housing the passenger on in connection therewith or any of hotel proprietor or employee. CHC can accept no responsibilities for losses or incidental expenses due to delay or changes in schedules, hotel overbooking, or defaults, sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other causes. All such expenses will have to be borne by the Tour Participants.

Any disputes are subject to Bengaluru jurisdiction.

I have read and accept this entire Release of Liability and I have read and accept the complete Terms and Conditions of the trip I am booking, including notification of cancellation penalties. I fully understand all contents of this document and agree to the same.

SIGNATURE (1) _____ Date _____

SIGNATURE (2) _____ Date _____



ABOUT THE SCHOLARS AND EXPERTS

Dr. Sharada Srinivasan

Dr Sharada Srinivasan is a Professor in the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. She is an archeologist researching ancient mining, archaeometallurgy and archeological sciences. Prof. Srinivasan has made pioneering contributions by exploring engineering applications in the materials characterization of archaeological metals, early ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy and artisanal technologies. She has written extensively on archeometric characterization and finger-printing of metal artefacts and prized South Indian and Chola metal icons using frontline lead isotope ratio geo-chemistry and analysis and the early use of leaded bronze, brass and metallic zinc. She received the Padma Shri award of the Government of India for her work in Archeology in 2019. She was elected as International Honorary Member of American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2021. She is Fellow of Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland. She is also an accomplished Bharatanatyam dancer.

Gayathri Iyer

Gayathri Iyer is an art historian and a Bharatanatyam dancer with a special interest in the Abhinaya tradition of the Kalanidhi Narayanan style. She has trained under Bragha Bessell, Vigneshwary Jeyagandhi and Minal Prabhu of Kalakshetra. Upon completion of a Master's Degree in Arts and Aesthetics with a specialisation in Bharatanatyam in the context of Visual Arts, Theatre and Cinema, she obtained an MPhil in Indian Art History from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. She is currently working on her PhD under the art historian Prof Naman Ahuja.

Dr. Benny Kuriakose

Dr Benny Kuriakose is an architect and designer known for his work on sustainable architecture. He is the founder of Benny Kuriakose and Associates, an architect and consulting company in Chennai, India. He received the Charles Wallace India Trust Award for a Master's degree in Conservation Studies from the University of York, UK, and earned his PhD from the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras, India. Benny is more for his work for the design of the public buildings and the transplantation of the buildings in the Dakshinachitra heritage village in Chennai. Major architectural works include the Muziris Heritage Project in Kochi, the design of the tsunami-affected villages of Chinnangudi, and Tarangambadi in Nagapattinam District, and others. Benny has offered his services as a consultant to UNDP, UNESCO, various State Governments, and other organizations.

Anirudh Kanisetti

Anirudh Kanisetti is a history researcher and writer. He is the author of the critically acclaimed Lords of the Deccan: Southern India from the Chalukyas to the Cholas, presenting a new history of early medieval India. He has received grants from the Princeton Center for Digital Humanities and the India Foundation for the Arts and his writing has been featured in The Hindu, The New Indian Express, LiveMint, and The Print, among others.

Dr. PJ Cherian

Dr PJ Cherian is a historian, former Director of the Kerala Council for Historical Research and is now director of the PAMA Institute for the Advancement of Transdisciplinary Archaeological Sciences.

About Carnelian Heritage Consultants LLP (CHC):



CHC is a Bangalore-based niche travel company specializing in in-depth tours to places of historical, cultural and heritage interest in India.

Our team members:

Aravind Chandramohan

Aravind Chandramohan is Founder Director of a city-based power tools manufacturing company. He is co-founder of a very popular restaurant in his home town of Tumkur, near Bangalore. He brings to Carnelian his entrepreneurial skills from his wide-ranging interests in industrial design, hospitality, furniture and architecture. Aravind is Co-Convenor at the Bangalore Chapter of INTACH. Aravind is a connoisseur of food, and loves automobiles and motorbikes.

Meera Iyer

Meera Iyer is a writer and independent researcher. She is the author of the popular book Discovering Bengaluru: History, Neighbourhoods, Walks on Bengaluru's history and heritage; and the editor of Eleven Stops to the Present, an anthology of children's historical fiction set in Bengaluru. Her other recent writing includes an essay on Hoysala temples in the book Where the Gods Dwell: Thirteen Temples and their (hi)stories. She is a columnist with a local newspaper and has hundreds of articles on history, heritage and culture in several newspapers and magazines. Meera has a PhD in Forest Ecology from Michigan State University. She loves forests, potsherds, chocolate and green tea.

Pankaj Modi

Pankaj Modi is a conservation architect with more than 20 years of experience in the field of conservation and restoration of heritage buildings. He has done a specialisation in Wood Architecture from Norway. He has been involved in several restoration projects around the country with both government and private agencies. He recently co-authored a book Domes and Vaults in South India. He is a visiting faculty in several architecture schools in Bangalore. He is Technical Co-ordinator at the Bangalore Chapter of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). Pankaj loves working on restoration of old buildings, taking their stories to people and making them engage with history.