

KAUNTEI INDIA TOURS

Arunachala

The Mountain of

Enlightenment

A sacred pilgrimage through Tamil Nadu's living temple traditions

14

DAYS

6

SACRED TOWNS

3

PANCHABHOOTA SHRINES

Chennai · Tiruvannamalai · Vellore · Tiruttani · Kanchipuram · Mahabalipuram

THE ROUTE

Six temple towns circling the fire mountain of Arunachala



Fourteen days circling the sacred fire mountain and South India's temple cities
DAY 1
Arrival in Chennai

Arrive in Chennai, formerly Madras, a blend of colonial heritage, ancient temples and vibrant modern life — and the gateway to Tamil Nadu's sacred temple towns. Rest after the journey.

ARRIVAL

DAY 4
Girivalam Pilgrimage

Walk the sacred Girivalam, a 14-kilometre circuit around Arunachala Hill performed by sages and pilgrims for centuries, passing eight shrines along the way.

PRADAKSHINA

DAY 7
Onward to Vellore

Drive to Vellore, stopping at Mahadeva Malai Temple, a hill shrine to Lord Shiva reached by a long flight of steps — the climb itself an act of devotion.

HILL SHRINE

DAY 10
Thiruvangadu

Visit the Mahishasura Mardini Temple, dedicated to Durga as slayer of the demon Mahishasura, and Thiruvangadu, where Shiva's cosmic dance scattered his jewels to five sacred places.

NATARAJA

DAY 13
Shore Temples

Explore Mahabalipuram's UNESCO World Heritage monuments, anchored by the 8th-century Shore Temple on the Bay of Bengal and the celebrated Descent of the Ganges rock carving.

UNESCO

DAY 2
Onward to Tiruvannamalai

Drive to Tiruvannamalai at the foot of Arunachala Hill, worshipped for millennia as Lord Shiva manifest in the form of fire — not merely a mountain, but a living embodiment of divine consciousness.

SACRED MOUNTAIN

DAY 5
Sri Ramanasramam

Visit Sri Ramanasramam, spiritual home of sage Ramana Maharshi, who taught the path of Self-Inquiry through the question Who am I? — a place of deep stillness.

SELF-INQUIRY

DAY 8
Sripuram & Murugan

Visit the Sripuram Golden Temple, dedicated to Goddess Mahalakshmi and covered entirely in gold plates, followed by the hilltop Rathnagiri Murugan Temple.

GOLDEN TEMPLE

DAY 11
Kanchipuram

Drive to Kanchipuram, one of Hinduism's seven sacred cities, to visit the Ekambareswarar Temple — the Earth element among the Panchabhoota shrines, beneath a mango tree said to be 3,000 years old.

PANCHABHOOTA · EARTH

DAY 14
Departure

Drive back to Chennai for your onward international flight, completing a journey around one of India's most sacred and continuously worshipped mountains.

FAREWELL

DAY 3
Arunachaleswarar Temple

Visit the magnificent Arunachaleswarar Temple, the Fire element among the five Panchabhoota shrines. The complex spans nearly 25 acres beneath a gopuram rising almost 66 metres.

FIRE LINGAM

DAY 6
Virupaksha Cave

Climb partway up Arunachala to the Virupaksha Cave, where Ramana Maharshi lived and meditated for years in the early part of his spiritual life, with sweeping views over the temple town.

MEDITATION

DAY 9
Tiruttani Murugan Temple

Drive to Tiruttani, one of six sacred abodes of Lord Murugan, climbing more than 350 steps to the hilltop shrine where Murugan is said to have entered meditation after his victory over Surapadman.

ARUPADAI VEEDU

DAY 12
Kamakshi Temple to Mahabalipuram

Visit the Kamakshi Amman Temple, a major centre of Shaktism devoted to the divine feminine, then drive to the coastal town of Mahabalipuram.

SHAKTISM

Kauntei India Tours

CRAFTED JOURNEYS · LIVING TRADITIONS

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*Arunachala is considered so sacred that simply circling it on foot — without a single word spoken —
is believed by devotees to be one of the most powerful spiritual practices in all of India.*