

KAUNTEI INDIA TOURS

The Southern *Shakti & Shiva* Sojourn

A pilgrimage through South India's Jyotirlinga shrines and Shakti Peethas

13

DAYS

9

SACRED TOWNS

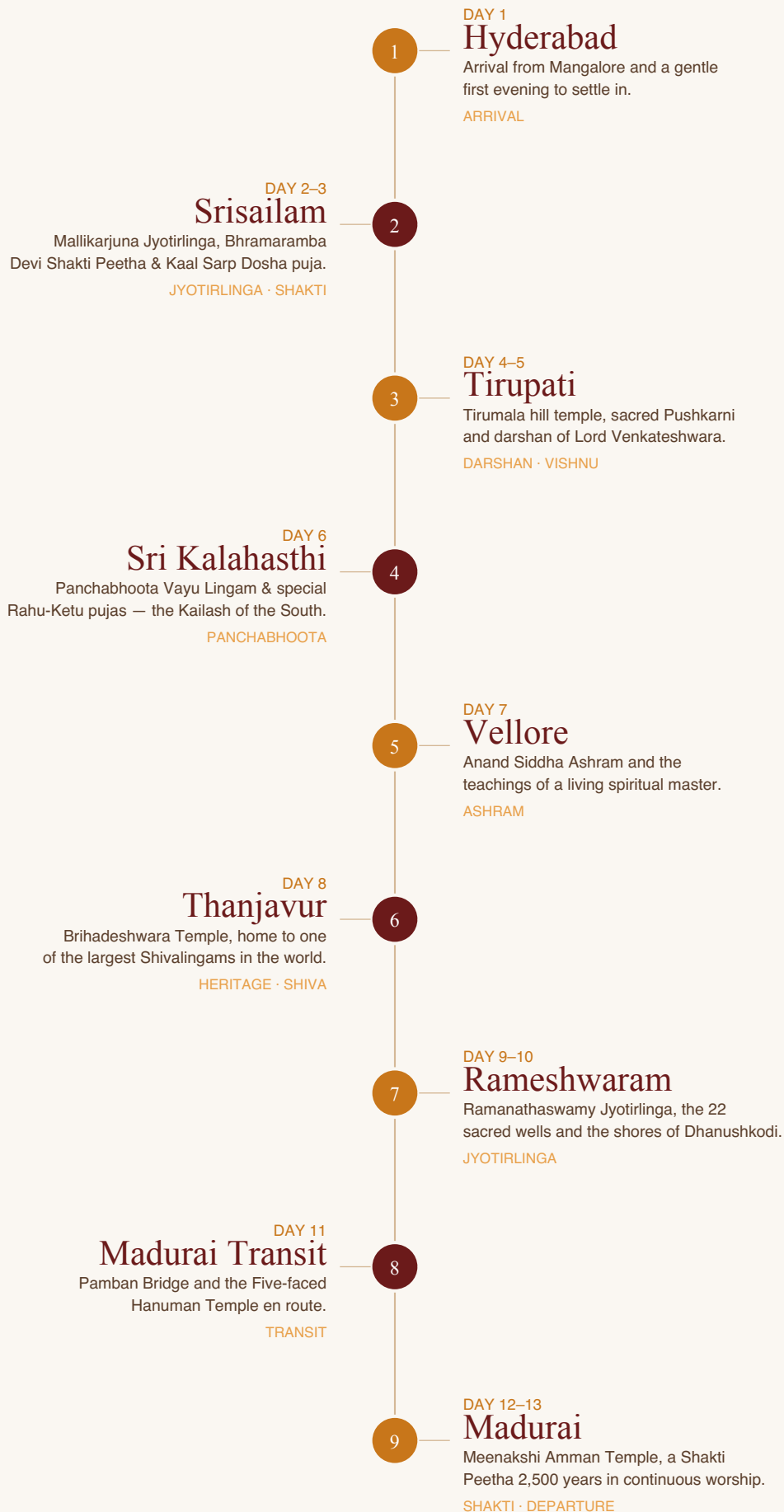
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JYOTIRLINGAS

Hyderabad · Srisaillam · Tirupati · Vellore · Thanjavur · Rameshwaram · Madurai

THE ROUTE

Nine sacred towns — one unbroken thread of devotion



Thirteen days through Jyotirlingas, Shakti Peethas and living saints

DAY 1

Arrival in Hyderabad

Travel from Udupi via Mangalore to Hyderabad. Check into the hotel and, time permitting, take an easy evening walk before tomorrow's journey to the first Jyotirlinga.

ARRIVAL

DAY 2

Srisailam Arrival

Drive to Srisailam, home to the Mallikarjuna Jyotirlinga — one of the twelve principal shrines of Lord Shiva. Attend the evening aarti at the temple.

JYOTIRLINGA

DAY 3

Srisailam Rituals

Special pooja at the Mallikarjuna Jyotirlinga, followed by the Bhramaramba Devi Shakti Peetha. Optional Krishna River boat ride or Kaal Sarp Dosha puja, one of few temples where this ritual is performed.

SHAKTI · PUJA

DAY 4

Onward to Tirupati

Drive back to Hyderabad and fly to Tirupati, among the most visited Lord Vishnu shrines on earth, where a single darshan is believed to absolve a lifetime's sins.

TRANSIT · VISHNU

DAY 5

Tirumala Temple

Visit Tirumala, hilltop abode of Lord Venkateshwara. A ritual dip in the sacred Pushkarni precedes darshan, followed by the Anjaneya Swami Hanuman Temple.

DARSHAN

DAY 6

Sri Kalahasthi

The Vayu Lingam — one of five Panchabhoota Sthalams representing the elements of nature. A lamp here is said to flicker with no perceptible air movement. Special Rahu-Ketu pujas are offered.

PANCHABHOOTA

DAY 7

Vellore

Visit the Anand Siddha Ashram and the teachings of Maha Ananda Siddha, a living ascetic said to have abstained from food and water since 2003 in service of a Himalayan vow.

LIVING SAINT

DAY 8

Thanjavur

The magnificent Brihadeshwara Temple, home to one of the largest Shivalingams in the world — a masterpiece of Chola architecture and devotion carved a thousand years ago.

BRIHADESHWARA

DAY 9

Onward to Rameshwaram

Complete the Thanjavur visit if needed, then continue to Rameshwaram — site of the Ramanathaswamy Jyotirlinga, linked to Lord Rama's penance after the war in Lanka.

JYOTIRLINGA

DAY 10

Rameshwaram Rituals

Darshan at the Ramanathaswamy Jyotirlinga and a ritual bath across its 22 sacred wells. A dip in the ocean at Agnitheertham, then on to Dhanushkodi where two oceans meet.

SACRED WELLS

DAY 11

Onward to Madurai

Morning visit to the Pamban Bridge and the Five-faced Hanuman Temple, then the drive to Madurai — one of Tamil Nadu's oldest continuously inhabited cities.

TRANSIT

DAY 12

Meenakshi Temple

The Meenakshi Amman Temple, a Shakti Peetha and pilgrimage site 2,500 years in continuous worship, dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi and Lord Sundareswarar. Witness the evening temple ceremony.

SHAKTI PEETHA

DAY 13

Departure

Transfer to Madurai airport for your onward flight to Bangalore, Mumbai or Delhi, carrying the blessings of twelve sacred shrines.

FAREWELL

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*Srisailem is one of only a handful of sites in India sacred as both a Jyotirlinga and a Shakti Peetha —
a place where the masculine and feminine divine are worshipped side by side.*