

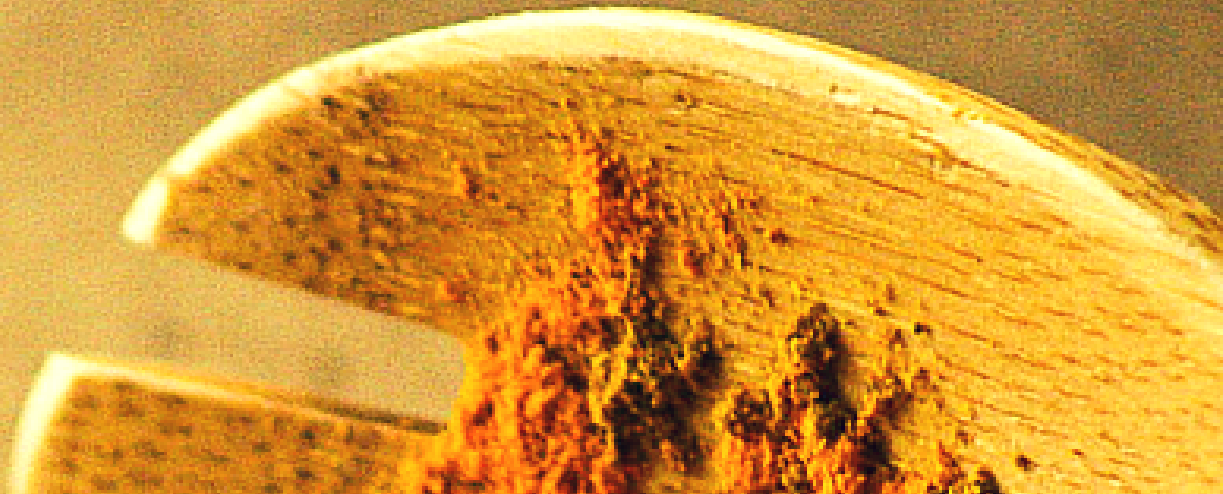
THE CURRY TRAIL

a gastronomic journey through south India

MANGALORE - UDUPI- CALICUT- THRISSUR- COCHIN-
ALLEPPEY- THEKKEDY - MADURAI- KARAIKUDI-
PONDICHERRY - MAHABALLIPURAM - CHENNAI

HIGHLIGHTS

hands on experience on a range of culinary traditions
across Southern India
understand the variance in recipe & taste based on location,
religion & caste
explore the highlights of South India visiting Cochin &
Madurai
visit the spice plantation in Thekkedy
visit the architecturally acclaimed mansions in Karaikudi



This journey starts in Mangalore – a small town in the Western coast of India. This is an interesting town known as a coffee hub & also for fish landing. From Mangalore you drive to Calicut. Here you will visit an affluent Keralian Muslim family. Mrs. Rasheed, the lady of the house specializes in Moplah cuisine, typical of this region. You will have a hands-on experience of delicious Moplah cuisine. From Calicut travel to Cochin. On the way – stop at Thrissur to visit a Hindu Brahmin home for a "pure vegetarian" meal with the family. The science of preparing the meal & the sequence of courses will also be explained by the family. After Cochin you will drive to Alleppey. Here you visit a Syrian Christian family and experience a cooking lesson. This will be an introduction to the variation in ingredients and preparation styles, based on religion & caste. Your next stop is Thekkady – set in the Cardamom hills. After a couple of nights in Thekkady, that combine spice trails and wildlife visits, you will drive to Madurai. Here you will visit one of the most beautiful temples of all – the Meenakshi temple Madurai is the perfect base to visit the village of Karaikudi that is home to spice-infused "Chettinad" cuisine. Continue your journey to Pondicherry where will experience a guided walk in the french quarters. And with that – you fly off to Chennai for a final "smorgasbord" of the melange of flavors of this region.

detailed itinerary

day 1 - your journey begins

- this day marks the beginning of your journey as you get on the plane to Mumbai

day 2 - to managalore

- Transfer to airport to board a flight to Mangalore departing at 10:15 hrs
- Meeting on arrival at 11:50 hrs and drive to Udupi [59 kms/ 1.5 hrs] – the place where “Masala Dosa” - a typical South Indian cuisine was originated
- Late lunch will be organized at Mitra Samaj with Masala Dosa & Goli Baji – two specialized cuisine of Udupi
- Later visit the Krishna temple – one of the most important pilgrim place for the ISKON
- In the late afternoon drive back to Mangalore

day 3 - to the fish landing

- Early morning : Witness the Fish landing and observe the variety of fishes in different shape and sizes.
- After breakfast, transfer to railway station to board a train to Calicut departing at 11:45 hrs
- Arrive Cochin at 15:10 hrs, you will be met by Mr. Rasheed who will take you through the local market. The Sweet Meat Street which is famous for its Mithai Theruvu - a sweet that has made Kozhikode popular in Kerala.

- In the evening, you will be taken to the home of Mr. Rasheed to try your hands on Mopalah cuisine with your host – Mrs. Rasheed followed by dinner and interaction with the family.

day 4 - a veggie affair

After breakfast, transfer to railway station to board a train to Thrissur departing at 09:00 hrs Arrive Thrissur at noon and leave for a Hindu family for a traditional meal. This will be a pure vegetarian meal.

An interactive session with the family will be arranged to understand the cooking and also the reason of serving the meal in their particular way.

Afternoon : Drive to Cochin [80 kms/ 2.5 hrs]

En-route visit a shop to see how banana chips are made and to understand the importance of banana in Kerala

day 5 - to the backwaters

Morning : Embark on a sightseeing tour of Cochin visiting Dutch Palace, Jewish synagogue, St. Thomas church & Chinese Fishing net

After sightseeing visit a local home to have a hands-on experience on Syrian Christian cuisine followed by a meal with the family.

- The family is also a perfect example of Indian diversity where the lady of the house is a Syrian Christian & the male member belongs to a traditional Hindu family – so the family practices both the cultures
- Later drive to Alleppey

day 6 - cruising along

After breakfast explore the village around our home-stay to witness the rural life in Kerala. Also visit 500 years old temple located in Alleppey.

Later transfer to boat jetty to board a House Boat.

Cruise through the backwaters.

Also take some shore excursions to experience the local life along the way.

A typical South Indian lunch will be served on board.

Disembark at Alleppey and drive to Thekkady [4 hrs].

Arrive Thekkady by late afternoon & check-in at the hotel.

day 7 - into the wild

Early breakfast at the hotel

Experience a variety of jungle activities like bamboo rafting, nature walk & a boat ride on Periyar lake

In the evening, witness a Kathakali dance show.

day 8 -spices and temples

Embark on a spice plantation tour to have a detailed explanation on spices

Later drive to Madurai [4 hrs]

Arrive Madurai by mid afternoon & embark on a sightseeing tour of Madurai visiting Meenakshi temple & Tirumal Nayak Palace

day 9 - food of the merchants

After breakfast, proceed for a day excursion to Karaikudi [2 hrs – one way]

Attend an interactive session with the chef on Chettinad cuisine followed by lunch at a local mansion

Later visit the mansions which have a certain architecture belongs to the land

Late afternoon : Drive back to Madurai

day 10 - to the french quarters

After early breakfast transfer to railway station to board a train to Villupuram departing at 07:00 hrs.

Arrive Villupuram at 11:40 hrs and drive to Pondicherry [[2 hrs]

Attend an interactive session with the chef of a well-known restaurant in Pondicherry who specializes in Tamil-French fusion cuisine followed by a lunch.

Later visit Auroville – known as the Universal colony. Also experience a guided walk through the French quarters in Pondicherry.

day 11 - drive to Chennai

After early breakfast , proceed to Chennai [150 kms / approx 3.5 hrs] with a stop at Mahabalipuram.

Visit the historical sites in Mahabalipuram, including Shore Temple.

Later drive to Chennai [1 hr]

On arrival in Chennai, proceed to visit a home for an interactive session on traditional Tamil cuisine followed by lunch

In the late afternoon visit to Kapaleeshwar Temple where a special Blessing ceremony will be organized for you followed by the distribution of "Prasadam" – an offering made to God which is shared by the devotees.

After visit drive to hotel for check-in

day 12 - bid adieu to India

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to airport to board your onward flight back to Singapore departing at 11:50 hrs

journey

starts at

\$ 1998

**cost valid per person in a twin sharing room

cost includes all the arrangements, interactions, visits, meals as listed, and professional assistance throughout the trip

the cost does not include the airfare, personal expenses, visa and airport fee

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