

**#88,3rd main,K.E.B.Layout,B.T.M 1st stage,**

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| **PROPOSED ITINERARY FOR CHENNAI, MAHABALIPURAM & PONDICHERRY.** | | |
| **DAYS** | **PROGRAM** | **STATUS** |
| **DAY-1** | **Departure from Bangalore railway station to Puducherry.**  **(Train runs only on Monday,Tuesday & Saturday)** | **O/N**  **Journey** |
| **DAY-2** | **Arrive @ Puducherry & check-in rooms.**  **After breakfast, sightseeing of Puducherry; visit:**  **Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Auroville beach.** | **Halt @ Puducherry** |
| **DAY-3** | **After breakfast, check-out rooms & depart to Mahabalipuram**  **(3 hours’ drive)**  **Sightseeing of Mahabalipuram; visit:**  **Dakshin Chithra heritage Museum, Crocodile bank, Beach.** | **Halt @ Chennai** |
| **DAY-4** | **After breakfast, sightseeing of Chennai; visit:**  **Santhome church, Ashtalakshmi temple, Snake park, Museum, Marina beach.**  **Drop to railway station & depart to Bangalore.** | **O/N**  **Journey** |
| **DAY-5** | **Early morning arrival @ Bangalore railway station.** | **Tour Concludes** |

**ANYTIME, ANYWHERE,YOUR WAY…**

**PUDUCHERRY:**

* **Sri Aurobindo ashram:** Founded in **1926,** the Sri Aurobindo Ashram has grown, under the Mother's guidance, **from a small group of two dozen disciples into** a large diversified **community with almost 1200 members.** Counting the **400 students** of the **Centre of Education** and the hundreds of devotees who live nearby, **the larger ashram community consists of more than 2000 people.** The focus of community life is the **Ashram main building,** which consists of an interconnected block of houses, including those **in which Sri Aurobindo and the Mother lived** for most of their lives. At its center, in a tree-shaded courtyard, lies the **Samadhi, a white-marble shrine where their bodies are laid to rest.**
* **Auroville Beach:** Auroville beach, **popularly known** as **Auro beach** and as the name suggests, is close to Auroville. Another beach on the East coast and the shore of Bay of Bengal. The beach is used by **surfers- both beginners and professionals.**

**MAHABALIPURAM:**

* **Beach:** A **golden sandy beach** encircled by the **rolling hills and glittering sea.** This beach is **recognized as the pristine beaches** of Tamil Nadu. The Mahabalipuram beach is shored up by the **Bay of Bengal** along with the **dreamy rock cut sculptures.**
* **Crocodile bank:** It extends over an area of about **3.2 hectares,** comprising a wide range of **Indian and African crocodiles,** **alligators and other reptiles** including turtles and snakes.  At the time of its establishment, the total population of the crocodiles was only 30. Presently, it has **14 varieties of crocodiles, 12 species of turtles and 5 types of snakes, with total number of 2,400 reptiles** in the Crocodile Bank.

**CHENNAI:**

* **Santhome church:** Santhome Church in Chennai also known as **Santhome Cathedral Basilica and International Shrine of Saint Thomas Cathedral Basilica,** sits on the tomb built over the **mortal remains of one of the twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ.**  Saint Thomas had **come to India in A.D.52, was martyred in A.D.72** and **buried** in this very site **then known as Mylapore.**  “San Thome” assumes its name from **Saint Thomas.**
* **Ashtalakshmi temple:** Located on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, **the only temple** dedicated to Sri Mahalakshmi. The **Vedas and Puranas say** that **Goddess Lakshmi has emerged out of the oceans when the Devas and Asuras churned the Milky Ocean.** Mahavishnu married her and they both **fulfill the desires of the devotees.** The temple complex is built to worship **eight avatars** of Goddess Lakshmi namely **Wealth, Success, Prosperity, Bravery, Courage, Knowledge, Food and Offspring.** The huge temple complex with **length and breadth** of nearly **65 feet and 45 feet** respectively. The complex was constructed in a manner to represent the **shape of one of the most sacred symbols for Hindus, the Om.** The **foundation for this temple** was laid in the year **1974.**
* **Snake Park:** One of the **ecofriendly biological parks** near Guindy in Chennai. It houses a **variety of reptiles** which includes **deadly king cobras, vipers, pythons, adders, kraits, giant turtles and monitor lizards.** It was **founded by** a prominent wildlife conservationist **Romulus Whitaker.** The park was **established in 1972** in order **to** **preserve endangered reptile species**. This Snake Park in Chennai, **take note of the information furnished** about different types of snakes and the **common misconceptions** surrounding them.
* **Marina beach:** It is said to be the **second longest beach in the world,** extending to a length of **13 km** from St. George Fort to Mahabalipuram. Converting this beach into a tourist spot goes to **Governor Mountstuart Elphinstone Grand Duff,** who took the needed measures during the **1880s.**  There are many **historical monuments** built at the junction of pathway stand which  Annadurai and MG Ramachandran memorials, statues of heroes from Tamil culture, Indo Saracenic buildings, monuments of Tamil scholars, patriots and famous personalities including Mahatma Gandhi and Subhash Chandra Bose.