

Art | Architecture | Gardens | Textiles | History

South India Design Tour

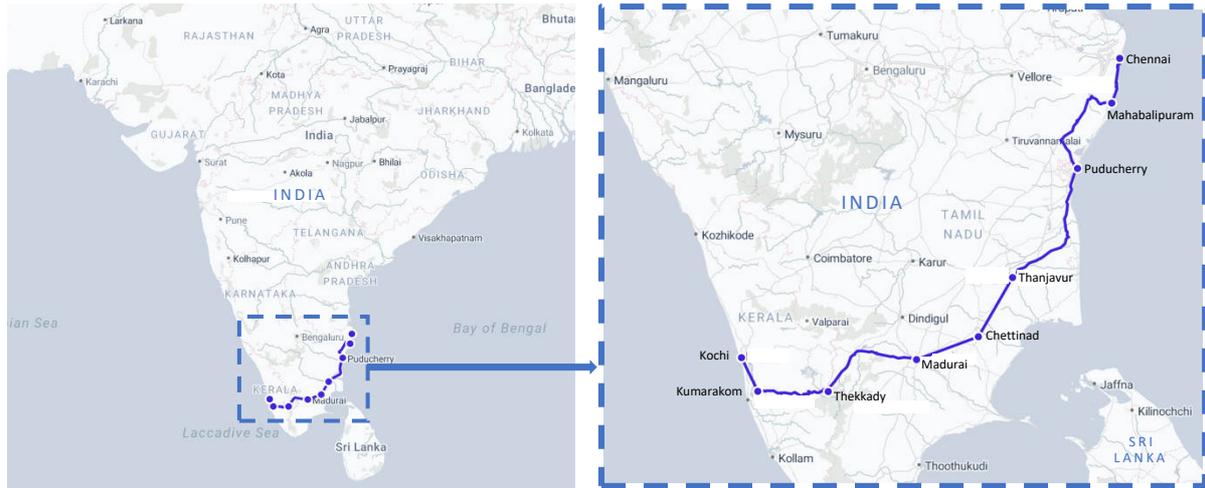
A 16-night journey that begins in the bougainvillea-lined streets of French colonial Puducherry, travels through the ancient Hindu heartland of Tamil Nadu, winds through Kerala's lush tea and spice plantations, cruises along its backwaters and concludes in the cultural capital of Kochi



SOUTH INDIA

4-20 JANUARY 2027

BOOKINGS CLOSE 28 AUGUST 2026



AT A GLANCE

Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th to 20th January 2027 (17 days, 16 nights)
Hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taj Fisherman's Cove Resort, Chennai • Palais de Mahe, Puducherry • The Lotus Palace, Chettinad • Visalam, Chettinad • Heritage Madurai, Madurai • Spice Village, Thekkady • Coconut Grove, Kumarakom • Eighth Bastion, Kochi
Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfasts daily (16), lunches (1), afternoon teas (7) and dinners (1)
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air-conditioned private vehicles (private airport transfers included) • Boats for exploring Periyar Tiger Reserve and Kerala's backwaters
Your Host	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour leader: designer, Nicole Court (Sydney based) • Tour manager (India based) • Specialist local guides
Group size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8-16 guests
Pricing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUD\$15,950 per person, twin share • AUD\$6,500 single supplement
Bookings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deposit of AUD\$1,000 is required to reserve a spot on this trip (please see Tour Details on page 26 for the full payment schedule)
Itinerary Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curated art, architecture, landscape, textile, craft and history-focused excursions for an insider's perspective into South India • Exploring French-colonial Puducherry's bougainvillea-lined streets • Witnessing the devotion of pilgrims at India's most sacred temple, perfectly timed with Tamil Nadu's peak Hindu festival season • Tea and spice gardens in the hills of the Western Ghats • Boating in Periyar National Park and the backwaters of Kerala • Historic Kochi's art galleries, antiques warehouses and cool cafes, amidst centuries-old Portuguese and Dutch architecture • South India's most beautiful hotels, including a Geoffrey Bawa-designed retreat and two exquisite Chettinad mansions
Best time of year to visit?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December and January have the coolest temperatures – sunny 28°C to 32°C days and balmy 20°C evenings make for lovely travelling weather



NICOLE COURT (TOP LEFT); PUDUCHERRY

MEET YOUR HOST: NICOLE COURT

AN ARTISTIC JOURNEY THROUGH SOUTH INDIA WITH A DESIGNER

Join Sydney-based designer Nicole Court on an immersive, 16-night journey through South India's intricate beauty, layered history and living traditions.

This one-of-a-kind tour, handcrafted by Nicole in collaboration with local experts, invites you to explore South India through a designer's lens – from historic homes and lush gardens to workshops, temples, and quiet corners of architectural wonder. With her thoughtful eye, deep respect for craftsmanship, and warm, personal approach, Nicole creates space for real connections – not just to places, but to the people who shape them.

This is not a typical tour. It is an invitation to see more, feel more, and slow down, in the company of like-minded travellers and a host who has spent a lifetime chasing beauty and meaning around the world.

ABOUT NICOLE COURT

Nicole Court is a multi-disciplinary designer whose career spans more than three decades across textiles, interiors, homewares, publishing, and landscape design. She has been working and travelling in India for over 30 years, and her work has been deeply shaped by this enduring connection, guided by a profound appreciation for craftsmanship, history, and the quietly extraordinary.

For over a decade, Nicole's textile and homeware collections, handcrafted in India to her designs, were stocked in leading boutiques throughout Australia and New Zealand, and featured in publications including *Belle*, *Vogue Living*, *Inside Out*, *Gourmet Traveller*, *House & Garden*, and *Marie Claire*.

Today, Nicole curates immersive cultural journeys and creative projects that draw on her extensive design experience and long-standing relationships across the region. Her connection to India is both personal and generational. Her aunt, Robin Duffecy (a writer, editor, stylist, and interior designer) lived in Delhi for many years, forming close friendships with some of the country's leading creative figures. Over time, these relationships became Nicole's, evolving naturally across generations and becoming part of the fabric of her own life and work.

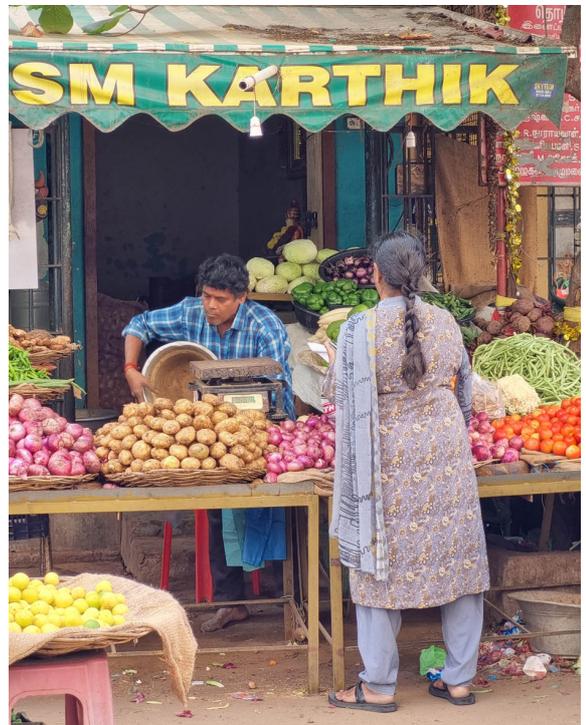
Whether designing an itinerary or collaborating on a new venture, Nicole brings a refined sensibility to everything she does – thoughtful, tactile, and effortlessly elegant,

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Design-led discovery: Explore South India's architectural treasures, lush gardens, and rich artistic traditions with a designer, revealing the stories and details behind each place.
- Meaningful encounters: Meet local artists, curators, and creatives in private settings – from home studios to heritage houses.
- Beautifully balanced: Enjoy a curated pace with time for conversation, contemplation, and every comfort thoughtfully chosen.
- A personal touch: This tour reflects Nicole's passion, insight, and care and is designed to feel more like travelling with a generous friend than a tour leader.

Join Nicole Court on a unique and intimate exploration of South India – where art, design, and culture come together in ways that are deeply inspiring and quietly unforgettable.

Instagram: @nicolecourtdesign



TAMIL QUARTER, PUDUCHERRY

INTRODUCTION

SOUTH INDIA IS RENOWNED FOR ITS ART, ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS AND SPICES.

Sacred rituals, deeply rooted in tradition, continue to play a vital role in daily life. Women, clad in colourful saris, adorn their hair with fragrant flowers, embodying the region's beauty and grace. Indian textiles, once one of the world's most valuable trading commodities, were central to the cultural exchange between East and West, and the bustling ports of South India, which flourished when trade winds and maritime routes connected distant lands, boast fascinating histories of foreign interactions – from the Roman Empire to the East India Company.

You are invited to join us in January 2027 for an Art, Architecture & Design Tour to South India, an intimate and curated journey led by design expert, Nicole Court. Together, we will uncover South India's most exquisite cultural expressions: from Tamil temples and palaces, and traditional crafts, to Puducherry's French colonial architecture. This journey is immersive and personal – offering behind-the-scenes access to private homes, galleries, spice gardens, artists, temples and archaeological sites.

Over 17 days, we will wind through South India's highlands, plains and coasts, encountering heritage in both grand and everyday forms. The medieval city of Thanjavur, with its colossal temple, offers awe-inspiring moments for lovers of early Asian architecture. In Chettinad, we will catch a glimpse of its once majestic grandeur in the now-abandoned mansions of merchant princes. In the highlands of Thekkady, we will meet spice growers and tea planters, before descending to the coast to explore Kerala's backwaters. Nicole will guide us through private homes and studios, and share insights into Tamil symbolism, Indo-colonial design and decorative arts that fuse Indian, Moorish, Dutch, and British influences.

Expect moments straight out of an artist's sketchbook: floating lotus pools at dawn; the scent of wet sandalwood after temple prayers; a weaver's nimble hands at work; wild elephants at play as we float past on boats; Kathakali classical dancers applying their intricate makeup; rolling hills carpeted in neatly ordered tea bushes; and the stillness of Periyar's lake reflecting the sky. The accommodations are just as transportive. Imagine a stay the heart of Puducherry's charming French Quarter; swimming in a stepped temple-style pool designed by Geoffrey Bawa, famous for his Tropical Modernist architecture; staying in an Art Deco mansion surrounded by lush gardens; or having your afternoon tea served from a boat whilst staying in a traditional wooden Kerala house on the lake. Each property offers its own rhythm – always deeply rooted in its setting and in harmony with local culture.

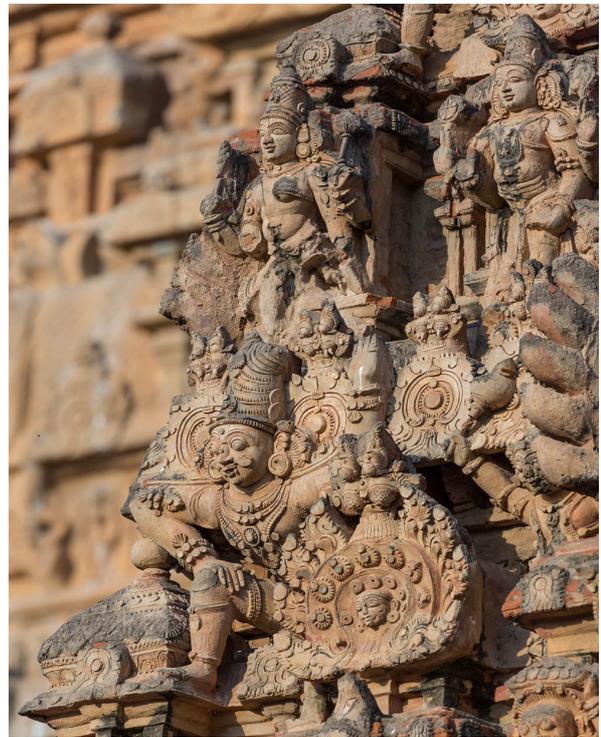
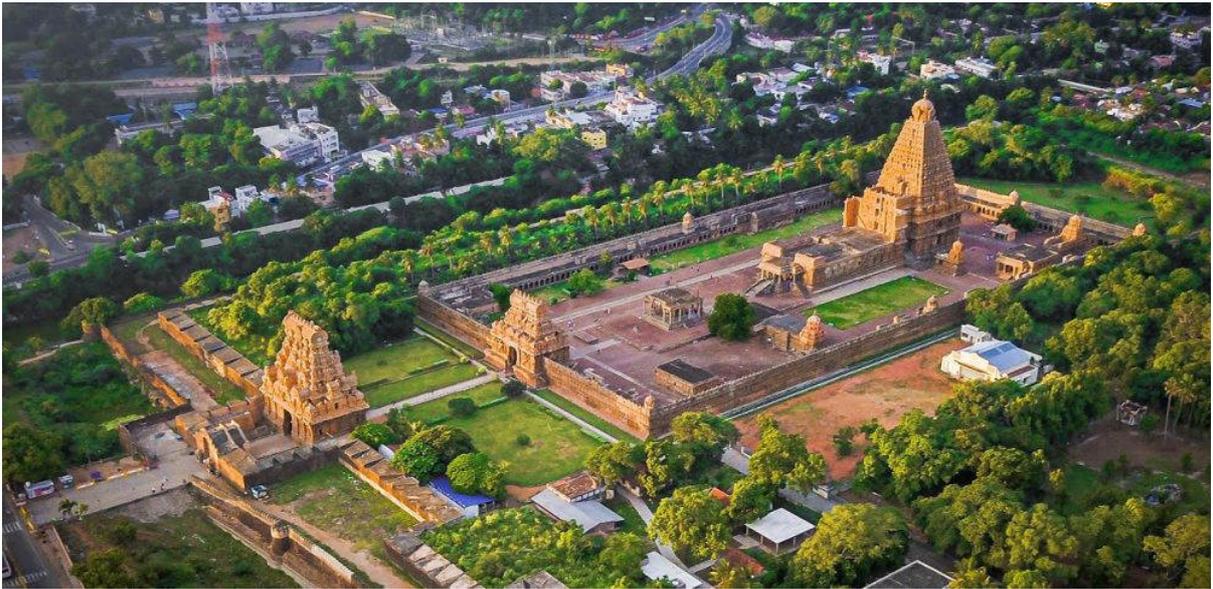
This is an opportunity to experience a deeper South India – not just a holiday, but a richly textured creative pilgrimage. Our journeys are always personal in scale. This tour has a minimum of 9 guests and a maximum of 16 – a size that allows for genuine encounters with artists, curators, chefs, community leaders, and naturalists who bring meaning to place. Whether you are drawn to textiles, gardens, architecture, or simply the sensory pleasure of travel, this tour promises to be transformative and unforgettable.

CONSCIOUS LUXURY

Every property and partner we work with is selected with intention. Our hotels are part of a small community of hoteliers and heritage custodians who understand luxury as an immersive and responsible experience. They share common values:

- Preserving architectural and cultural heritage
- Supporting environmental conservation and sustainable land use
- Empowering local communities through training and employment
- Offering exceptional hospitality, design, and a strong sense of place

This is luxury with integrity – slow, soulful, and enriching. It is travel that celebrates beauty, heritage, and the art of meaningful connection.



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE-LISTED BRIHADISHWARA TEMPLE IN THANJUVAR (c. 1010AD)

ITINERARY SUMMARY

A 16-night Insider Journey with Nicole Court

Art | Architecture | Spices | Textiles | History

Day 1 • Arrive in Chennai

- Arrive at Chennai Airport – be met on arrival for your private transfer to our seaside resort.
- Meet Nicole and your fellow travellers at a welcome afternoon tea.

Stay: *Taj Fisherman's Cove Resort & Spa, Chennai (Deluxe Room Sea View) | Meals: Afternoon Tea*

Day 2 • Mahabalipuram's UNESCO World Heritage-listed rock-cut temples

- Explore Mahabalipuram's 7 and 8th century World Heritage-listed rock-cut Hindu temples.
- Continue to Puducherry and settle into our elegant hotel in the French Quarter.

Stay: *Palais de Mabe, Puducherry (Palais Chambre Deluxe) | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 3 • The streets of French-colonial Puducherry overflowing with bougainvillea

- Visit the flower markets in Puducherry's vibrant Goubert Market.
- An afternoon stroll through the charming French Quarter. Its streets are filled with colonial villas painted in yellow, pink, blue and green, with doorways overflowing with bougainvillea.
- Enjoy time to shop and explore at leisure.

Stay: *Palais de Mabe, Puducherry (Palais Chambre Deluxe) | Meals: Breakfast*

Day 4 • Spiritual Auroville and the Matrimandir

- Visit Auroville, an experimental township dedicated to human unity, and home to the striking Matrimandir, before returning to Puducherry for a relaxed afternoon.

Stay: *Palais de Mabe, Puducherry (Palais Chambre Deluxe) | Meals: Breakfast*

Day 5 • Tanjore's cultural heritage and UNESCO World Heritage-listed Brihadeeswarar Temple, one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites in India

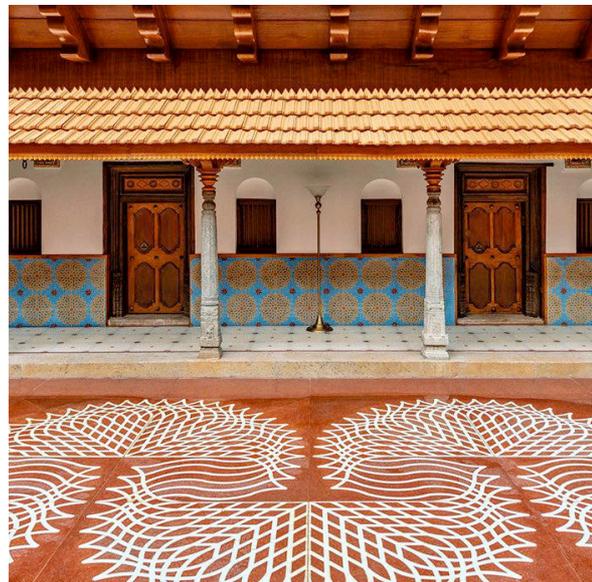
- Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Brihadeeswarar Temple.
- A Tanjore painting studio visit, and a viewing of rare manuscripts at India's oldest library.
- Continue to Chettinad to stay at the Lotus Palace, a newly restored 250-year-old mansion, with a contemporary sensibility that is a meditation on colour.

Stay: *The Lotus Palace, Chettinad | Meals: Breakfast*

Day 6 • A special harvest festival celebration and the faded mansions of Chettinad

- We will attend a special celebration in the lead-up to Tamil Nadu's biggest festival – Pongol, the harvest festival.
- A village walk to admire and visit some of the area's 11,000 mansions (now mainly abandoned) which were built during the height of the Chettiar community's power, wealth and influence in the 18th to 20th centuries.
- Afternoon at leisure.

Stay: *The Lotus Palace, Chettinad | Meals: Breakfast*



THE LOTUS PALACE, CHETTINAD

ITINERARY SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Day 7 • Chettinad: Antiques shopping, a cooking lesson with a chef and a stay in a restored Art Deco mansion

- Shopping in the renowned antique shops of Chettinad.
- This afternoon we change hotels to experience an Art Deco mansion that feels like stepping onto a film set. Originally built by one of Chettinad's wealthiest families as a wedding gift for their daughter, it offers a glimpse into a remarkable era of opulence.
- Learn to cook Chettinad cuisine.

Stay: *Visalam, Chettinad (Chettinad Room)* | *Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea*

Day 8 • Chettinad: Ancient temples, handloom weaving and sacred groves

- A visit to a 9th century temple built by the Pallavas in the Dravidian style of architecture.
- Visit to the local handloom weavers.
- A special visit to a sacred grove in a forest filled with offering of terracotta horses.

Stay: *Visalam, Chettinad (Chettinad Room)* | *Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea*

Day 9 • One of Chettinad's grandest mansions and a visit to the tile makers

- A tour of one of the grandest mansions, famous for its exquisite tiles, followed by a visit to the artisans still making handmade tiles in the traditional way, before an afternoon at leisure.

Stay: *Visalam, Chettinad (Chettinad Room)* | *Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea*

Day 10 • Madurai's Dravidian architecture, a stay at a Geoffrey Bawa-designed hotel

- Travel to Madurai this morning to stay at Heritage Madurai, designed by Sri Lankan architect, Geoffrey Bawa, with its temple-inspired stepped pool and 17 acres of lush gardens.
- Free time to enjoy our hotel before we explore the iconic Meenakshi Amman Temple.

Stay: *Heritage Madurai, Madurai (Luxury Plunge Pool Villa)* | *Meals: Breakfast*

Day 11 • Madurai's flower markets and an Indo-Saracenic palace

- Visit Madurai's vibrant flower market where locals gather to select festival blooms for decorating their homes for Pongol before continuing to an impressive 17th century Indo-Saracenic palace that reflects the city's layered architectural heritage.
- Afternoon at leisure.

Stay: *Heritage Madurai, Madurai (Luxury Plunge Pool Villa)* | *Meals: Breakfast*

Day 12 • Pongol festival in Madurai, then to the spice gardens of Kerala's lush hills

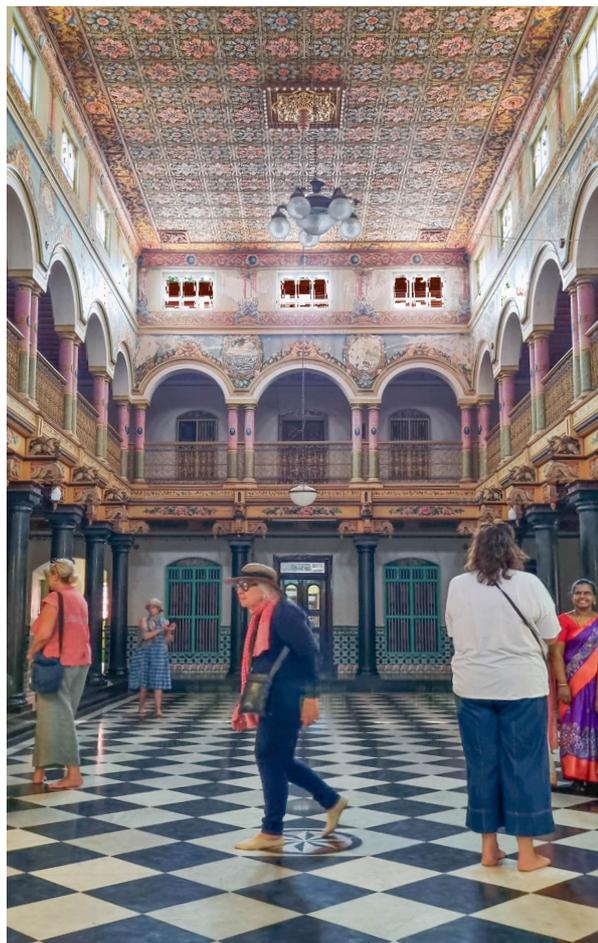
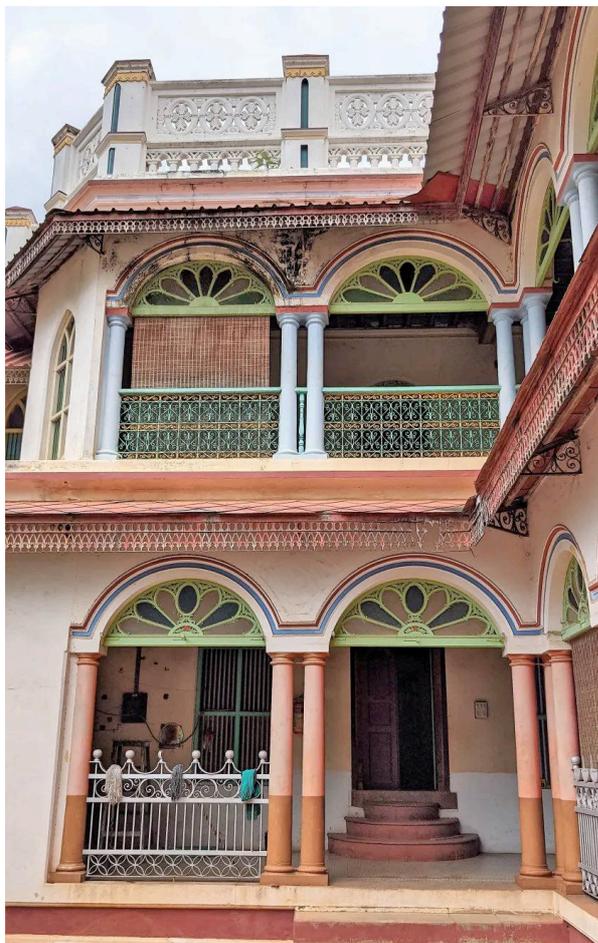
- Start the day celebrating Pongol, the harvest festival dedicated to Surya, the Sun God.
- A scenic drive up into the Western Ghats to Thekkady, and a botanical spice walk.

Stay: *Spice Village, Thekkady (Spice Garden Cottage)* | *Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea*

Day 13 • Boating in Periyar National Park, a tea plantation visit, and a cooking class

- Morning cruise in Periyar National Park.
- Tea plantation visit hosted by the estate manager with a tea-tasting.
- Cooking class to learn about spices used in Kerala cuisine.

Stay: *Spice Village, Thekkady (Spice Garden Cottage)* | *Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea*



CHETTINAD MANSIONS, A WEAVERS' STUDIO VISIT AND SHOPPING AT THE ANTIQUES MARKETS

ITINERARY SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Day 14 • A scenic journey through the Western Ghats to Kerala's tranquil backwaters

- A scenic drive down the Western Ghats to Kerala's backwaters, stopping at Kerala's most iconic umbrella maker on our way to Vembanad Lake.
- We will arrive at our lakeside retreat by boat.

Stay: *Coconut Lagoon, Kumarakom (Heritage Bungalow)* | **Meals:** *Breakfast, Afternoon Tea*

Day 15 • Kochi & Keralan Classical Dance Performance

- Enjoy a relaxed morning at our lakeside retreat before travelling to Kochi.
- See the artists apply their elaborate makeup before a Kathakali dance performance.

Stay: *Eighth Bastion, Fort Kochi (Bastion Room)* | **Meals:** *Breakfast*

Day 16 • Exploring historic Kochi & Farewell Dinner

- Mattancherry Palace's extraordinary 17th century murals
- Explore the atmospheric Jewish quarter and its art galleries and antique shops.
- Free time to explore Kochi's hipster cafes and historic fort area, followed by a farewell dinner to celebrate our journey and reflect on the experiences we have shared.

Stay: *Eighth Bastion, Fort Kochi (Bastion Room)* | **Meals:** *Breakfast, Dinner*

Day 17 • Departure

- Enjoy a relaxed morning before your private transfer to Kochi Airport.

Meals: *Breakfast*

"All I can think about is the next tour I will do with Nicole Court. I don't think there is any better recommendation for a travel experience than that."



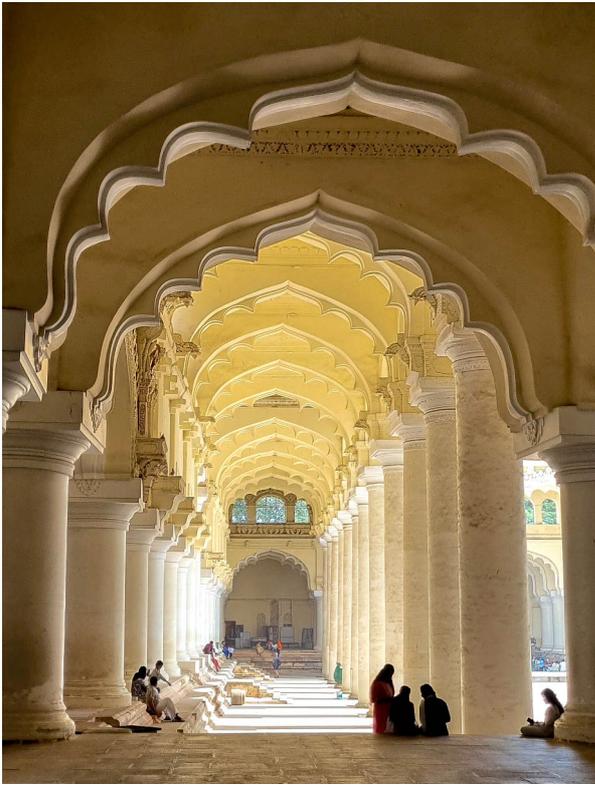
I have just returned from her Design & Architectural Tour of Southern India and am still processing all the amazing places and experiences, and, of course, the several thousand photographs I took along the way.

As a first timer in India, it was incredibly reassuring to be guided by Nicole and her outstanding team of local experts. Every detail was thoughtfully handled, from the beautiful hotels, delicious meals, seamless transportation, unforgettable excursions, and visits with remarkable artisans.

Each day was a completely new experience and feast for the senses. I totally fell under India's spell and that is entirely due to Nicole's ability to lead us to the best southern India has to offer.

People keep asking me for my top 3 highlights, but that's impossible – every single day was full of them.

Laura Reid, Sydney (South India January 2026)



MADURAI

TESTIMONIALS

I HAVE NOW DONE TWO TOURS WITH NICKY. Two unforgettable, wow every single day, in fact, often multiple times a day, wow! moments. It was evident from the moment I landed in Delhi, warmly greeted, walked through the airport, onto a waiting bus and into the comfort of the first of many beautiful hotels. All the way through to the moment I flew out again, filled to the brim with awe and delight.

Every single detail of the tour was thoughtfully curated. Nicky is a natural curator. Her attention to detail. Her love of all things India. Her passion for authentic human experiences all shine through with grace and love. Yes, love. I feel spoilt by my two incredible tours through India with Nicky. I'm not sure there is any other way to do it now!

Sally, Sydney (two tours – Calcutta & India's North-East and Rajasthan)

NICOLE COURT'S DESIGN TOUR WAS A LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE THAT CANNOT BE MATCHED. Travelling with my sister, for my 50th birthday present, this tour was a complete success for me; the places we travelled to, the experiences that were curated and timed perfectly to build up our understanding of this complex and wonderful and diverse culture and place. I experienced utter beauty and fulfillment in many forms, be it the world class hotels, food or seamlessly planned activities.

Mostly it was a wonderful human experience, feeling safe and totally cared for, allowed me to confidently explore this foreign country, supported and connected to both Nicky and our guides, and finding new connections with a fantastic tour group that have ensured I have some wonderful new friends for life. I cannot recommend Nicole Court's Design Tours highly enough.

Jacqui Williams, Perth

THE METICULOUS PLANNING OF THE DESIGN TOUR TO INDIA, the attention to detail, lovely surprises along the way, and our extremely knowledgeable guides all made this experience incredibly enlightening, where history, creativity and spirituality entwine, an unforgettable adventure for anyone passionate about design, textiles and architecture.

Spice scents, tiles, saris, hand-painted walls, incense, etched glass, hand-blocked prints, and temple bells have left an indelible mark on my soul. I feel completely spoilt and privileged to have been. It far exceeded all my expectations. I would go again in a heartbeat with Nicole and the team. Highly recommended. A huge thank you. Heart open.

Suzanne Maher, Bellingen NSW

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE MOST MAGICAL AND AMAZING TRIP. We were so well looked after at every moment and felt so safe, secure and well supported. Mum is still buzzing from the trip and her face lights up when people ask her about it. I've made us a photo book and she's showing everyone. Such great memories for us both to treasure.

It was also really special to spend time with you and watch you work and weave your magic. You have a real gift for what you do and you always operate with such grace, authenticity and a real sense of ease and calm. And fun!! So many giggles and so much fun. I can really feel the love in what you do - even though I know it's not always as easy as you make it look.

Lara Esden, Sydney



HERITAGE MADURAI (DESIGNED BY GEOFFREY BAWA)

TESTIMONIALS (CONTINUED)

I'VE BEEN TO NORTH INDIA TWICE BEFORE, but doing a tour with Nicky Court on her Design Tour is by FAR the best way to see India. You see the best of the best along with the chaos, but knowing you are safe and well taken care of. Just sit back and trust! There was something wonderful in every day along with pleasant surprises. We saw the most unique places, beautiful palaces, tombs, and ruins along with how the masses live on the streets, compatibly with cows, dogs, elephants, camels, donkeys, goats, sheep, bicycles, rickshaws, tuk-tuks, motor bikes, cars, buses, and trucks. The two most challenging components are the air and water quality but that faded as we basked in the glow of all that was so wonderful!

MJ, Sydney

FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY STEPWELLS IN AHMEDABAD, to the spotted leopard spotting, the textile exhibitions and the fabulous palaces of Rajasthan, the India tour was full of surprises and “wow” moments. Along the way the accommodation was superb and the company great fun. Nicky and her team went to no end of trouble to ensure everything went smoothly and that we got the most out of all our visits. Grateful for the opportunity to learn so much about Indian architecture and culture from our expert guides. Highly recommended!

Anne W, Sydney

- What would you do again: All of it
- Funniest moment: Hooning around in tuk-tuks wherever we were
- Favourite hotels: RAAS Jodhpur, RAAS Chhatrasagar and Samode Haveli, Jaipur
- Best meal: The food everywhere was amazing, but it was also about the gin and tonic
- Most enjoyable experience: The colours and the textiles (especially the Calico Museum and the Anokhi Museum), architecture in Ahmedabad, the leopard adventure, the stepwell dinner, bird watching on the lake, palace visits, and the shopping in Jaipur!!

Sarah Ogilvie, Melbourne (two tours – Rajasthan and South India)

IT WAS AN AMAZING TRIP and I would recommend it to other Kiwis and Aussies – I feel that it was the right balance for us and Nicky knows what we want. Going in the winter is highly recommended. The trip was well run and organised. All the hotels were good. Highly recommend this trip to anyone wanting an informative trip to India with no hassles.

Michelle, New Zealand

NICKY TOOK US ALL ON A MAGIC CARPET RIDE through Calcutta and India's North-East on her Design Tour. I have been to India many times, and I have been on a lot of group tours – this was one of the best I have experienced. Nicky was a great host and showed us things we would never have discovered ourselves, in a less travelled part of India.

Susan B, Sydney (two tours – Calcutta & India's North-East and Rajasthan)

TRAVELLING WITH 'DIETARY REQUIREMENTS' was not a problem with Nicky as our leader. She ensured that all our accommodation chefs were warned in advance and I never ever had an upset stomach. This is a small example of the attention to detail and care Nicky takes in planning her tours. Not to mention the wonderful places and people we saw, and accommodation we stayed in. I highly recommend Nicky's Design Tour.

Karen Robinson, Sydney (two tours – Calcutta & India's North-East and Rajasthan)



SPICE AND TEA GARDENS; WILDLIFE OF THE WESTERN GHATS IN KERALA

TESTIMONIALS (CONTINUED)

I'VE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM INDIA and was fortunate enough to be part of Nicky Court's Design Tour. As I was travelling alone, I did have some reservations about how I would manage, never having been to India before and being a little nervous in unfamiliar places. Fortunately, everything was taken care of with thoughtfulness and care. From the moment I alighted the plane until the moment I boarded to return home everything was looked after. The detail of what we did down to where the next clean bathroom would be, were all taken care of. I enjoyed hearing about the history of beautiful buildings. We experienced delicious meals in beautiful locations, from a Mughal-inspired garden to a step well, lit with hundreds of candles. The timing of our glamping in the beautiful wilderness park was impeccable. After a week of taking in so much history, culture and horns beeping it was lovely to enjoy the solitude and see the stars. Nicky is a kind and gracious woman whose care for others made the trip what it was. Her humbleness and willingness to help with any issue made everything seamless and stress free for the guests. Her knowledge and cultural insight was fantastic and we were well informed throughout the trip, much has stayed with me as I've settled back into life at home. Thank you for everything, I would highly recommend any trip to India that Nicky would organise.

Carla M, Sydney

MY TRIP TO INDIA with Nicole Court was just magical. Her knowledge and care and kindness for us all was outstanding. I have been to India many times but never like this. A small group of like-minded travellers, some were travelling to India for the first time. Everything was organised so it was hassle free. At times India can overwhelm but there was a great mix of excursions and relaxation. We stayed in luxury small hotels and palaces which were divine. I cannot recommend this trip highly enough or India. India's people, culture, customs are intoxicating and with Nicole you are immersed fully. Thank you so much.

Denise Wright, Melbourne

NICOLE'S INTRICATE DETAILED ITINERARY allowed us the privilege of experiencing unique insights into the personal lives of those connected to art and culture.

If you haven't been to Calcutta (Kolkata) and her surrounds, it is probably the most interesting place to visit in India. I've been to many places in India but I found Calcutta, the most affecting, indeed overwhelming. Perhaps it was the connection with my family's ties in the jute business in the late 70's and the fact that very few tourists venture.

Highlights included traversing through the backstreets, inhaling the flower market scenes, witnessing statue makers preparing for the Durga Puja ceremony, idyllic sunset drinks and dances on Hooghly River barge...

Complete chance to see not one, but three, magnificent synagogues (although only 17 Baghdadi Jewish members remain after the majority voluntarily left after Indian independence in 1947).

Nicole certainly gets the balance right: exploring and seeing the essence of each place, as well as having some peaceful times in the tea fields of Darjeeling.

So many highlights – the sound of a conch shell mixed with the aromatic essences that were burnt with each ceremonial welcoming by our hosts; Nicole's direction; her on-ground experienced network (Husna, Mrinalika, Akshita and Minx) all giving us a sense of inclusiveness and fine hospitality.

Indeed, trust is the word to have as one's mantra, allowing the serendipitous adventure to unfold.

Jane Grossberg, Sydney



THE BACKWATERS, KERALA

TESTIMONIALS (CONTINUED)

I HAVE COME BACK TO EARTH AFTER THE WONDERFUL TRIP YOU ORGANISED FOR US. I feel privileged to have travelled with you in such an understated and interesting way, just how I like it. We could never have envisaged an itinerary like that so thank you. You did it all with calm efficiency. Aditya was very kind and helpful to us. And the driver, what a man, not a worrying moment as he weaved his way amongst all that life along the roads.

Sophie Wilson, Sydney (two tours – Madhya Pradesh and South India)

THANK YOU FOR A MEMORABLE HOLIDAY. I was conscious (but not too) of the hard work that you put in to make it so. On reflection it is hard to pinpoint single events as all the days were so individually rewarding, rather like a colossal film set on a Cecile B. DeMille scale.

Just riding on the coach with kaleidoscopic images of village and road life was fascinating enough to say nothing of the set pieces which will live in both our memories. To cap it all my scepticism about seeing tigers in the wild (a private childhood fantasy bound up with Jim Corbett) was fully bowled at Panna.

We have done a lot of travel in our lives, at coffee today we both reflected that this trip was right up there and gave some insight into Robin and your fascination with the place.

It is no surprise after absorbing *The Golden Road* that India was a very major influence of cultures East and West well before the birth of Christ and will continue to be. We eschewed our hippy peers all those years ago who left to pay homage and I take all that back.

I acknowledge how much personal insight, attention to detail, romance and good taste that endowed this trip, thank you for allowing us to share it.

Tim Wilson, Sydney (two tours – Madhya Pradesh and South India)

ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS THE NEXT TOUR I WILL DO WITH NICOLE COURT. I don't think there is any better recommendation for a travel experience than that. I have just returned from her Design & Architectural Tour of Southern India and am still processing all the amazing places and experiences, and, of course, the several thousand photographs I took along the way.

As a first timer in India, it was incredibly reassuring to be guided by Nicole and her outstanding team of local experts. Every detail was thoughtfully handled, from the beautiful hotels, delicious meals, seamless transportation, unforgettable excursions, and visits with remarkable artisans. She also shared tips on shopping, spa treatments, and much more. But as Nicole says, you do have to leave room for the unexpected in India, and those were the magical things that can't be pre-planned but give such joy.

Each day was a completely new experience and feast for the senses. I totally fell under India's spell and that is entirely due to Nicole's ability to lead us to the best southern India has to offer. People keep asking me for my top 3 highlights, but that's impossible – every single day was full of them.

Laura Reid, Sydney



ATMOSPHERIC OLD KOCHI: A MIX OF DUTCH ARCHITECTURE, CHINESE FISHING NETS, ANTIQUES SHOPS, KATHIKALI (A SACRED KERALAN DANCE FORM), CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERIES AND COOL CAFES

TOUR DETAILS

How to Reserve Your Place

To secure your place on this journey, please request a Booking Form from:

nicole@nicolecourt.com.au

Your booking is confirmed upon receipt of your completed form and the **AUD \$1,000 deposit**.

Payment Schedule

The following payment schedule applies:

- **At time of booking**
AUD \$1,000 deposit
- **28 August 2026**
Additional payment due, bringing your total paid to **25%** of the tour cost
- **28 September 2026**
Final balance of **75%** due

For later bookings:

- Bookings after **28 August 2026** require a **25%** payment
 - Bookings after **28 September 2026** require **full payment** at time of booking
-

Tour Dates

Design Tour to South India

4 – 20 January 2027

17 Days | 16 Nights

Inclusions

Your journey has been designed for comfort, ease and enrichment. The following is included:

- 16 nights carefully selected hotel accommodation
 - All meals, beverages and minibar as outlined in the itinerary
 - Private airport arrival and departure transfers
 - Ground transport by air-conditioned coach and private vehicles with expert drivers
 - Complimentary bottled or filtered water throughout the tour and in all hotels
 - Specialist local guides at key destinations
 - Tour leadership by **Nicole Court** and full support from your accompanying Indian tour manager
 - Entrance fees, monument charges, taxes and all gratuities
 - 24/7 support from our experienced Indian travel team
-

Exclusions

The following items are not included:

- International flights
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- Alcoholic beverages
- Visa costs

TOUR DETAILS (CONTINUED)

Exclusions (continued)

- Comprehensive travel and health insurance (required)
 - Medical expenses
 - Costs associated with voluntary or unavoidable itinerary changes
 - Personal expenses such as snacks, laundry, telephone calls and internet
 - Video camera fees at certain museums and sites
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Cancellation Terms

Should you need to cancel your booking, please notify us in writing by email.

- Cancellations **before 28 August 2026**: deposit is retained
 - Cancellations **after 28 August 2026**: 25% cancellation fee
 - Cancellations **after 28 September 2026**: 100% cancellation fee
-

Minimum Numbers

This tour requires a minimum of **8 guests** by **28 August 2026** to proceed.

- Please wait for written confirmation before booking flights (or ensure flights are refundable). If minimum numbers are not met, you will be notified on **31 August 2026**.
 - The tour may then be cancelled or re-costed.
 - If re-costed, you may accept the new cost or cancel your booking within 1 day of notification.
 - If the tour is cancelled — or if you choose not to proceed with a revised cost — you may elect to receive either a **full refund** of all payments (including deposit) or a **credit** toward future arrangements, processed within **5 business days**.
-

Booking Terms & Conditions

For full details, please refer to the

“Design Tour to South India January 2027 Booking Form with Terms and Conditions.”

Medical

All hotels have access to on-call doctors should assistance be required.

Dietary Requirements

We are pleased to accommodate dietary needs wherever possible.

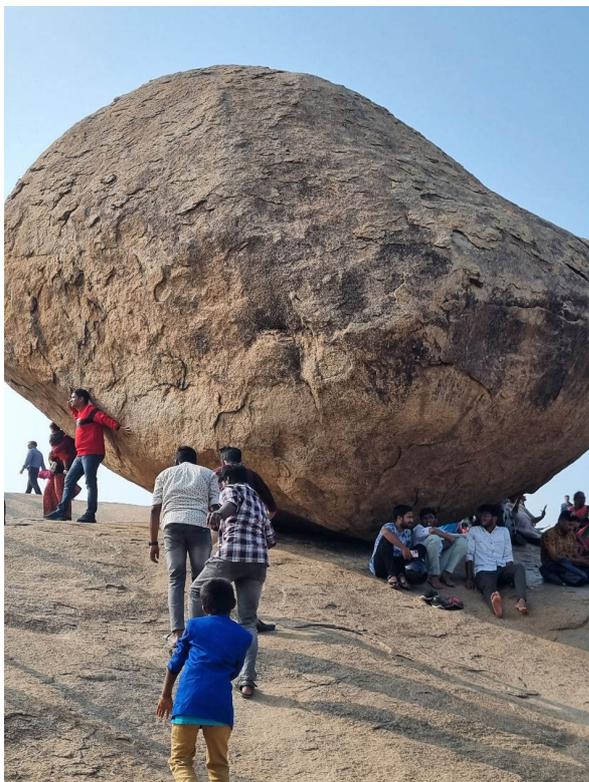
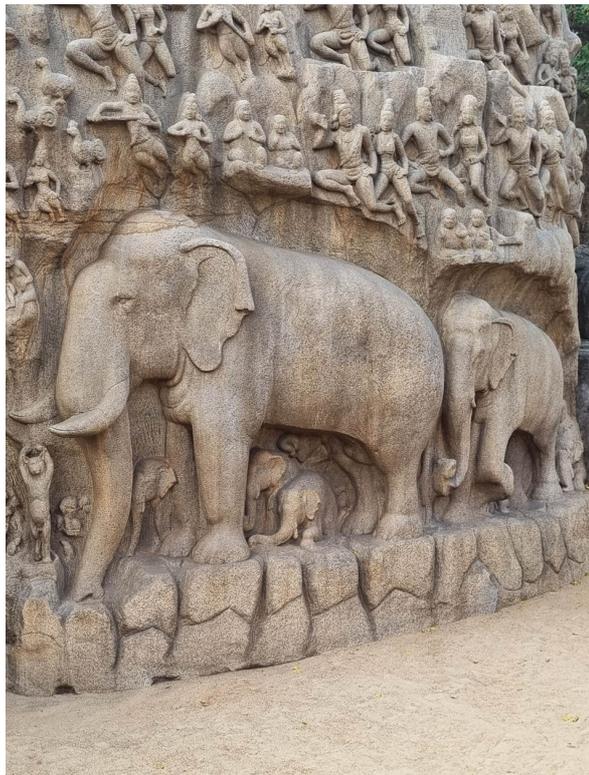
Please advise us at the time of booking so arrangements can be made in advance.

Flexibility

This itinerary has been crafted with great care.

However, travel in India occasionally requires minor adjustments.

If an activity must move to a different day, or if a site is unexpectedly closed, an alternative of equal interest and quality will be arranged.



MAMALLAPURAM – UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE-LISTED MONUMENTS