

The logo for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) is displayed at the top. It consists of the letters 'V', 'M', 'F', and 'A' in a stylized, serif font. The 'V' is grey, the 'M' is orange, the 'F' is green, and the 'A' is blue. The background of the entire page is a photograph of an ornate Indian temple interior with colorful arches and murals.

VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

The background of the poster is a photograph of an ornate Indian temple interior. The architecture features colorful arches (shikharas) and pillars in shades of red, yellow, and blue. The walls are covered in intricate murals and carvings. A central dome is visible in the background.

SOUTH INDIA

Great Indian Realms

February 13 to 28, 2015

Dear Friends,

More than any other part of the Indian Subcontinent, South India preserves the country's ancient cultural traditions. Daily life blends secular and religious activities so thoroughly that the two are rarely distinguished. Join us as we traverse a landscape dotted with sacred sites and stunning temples where colorful rites are celebrated just as they have for millennia.

Begin in Chennai (formerly Madras), the region's British colonial capital. We will visit a museum with bronzes rivaling the Italian Renaissance's best and stone carvings that redefine the sculptor's art. From Chennai we visit the rich and evocative temples of Kanchipuram, also known for its exquisite silk, and the extraordinary 7th-century rock-cut monuments of Mahabalipuram.

See South India's most majestic temple in Thanjavur, as well as more of the most sublime bronzes ever cast. Join pilgrims washing away sins along the river at Srirangam and follow the evolution of the south Indian temple at Gangaikondacholapuram, Kumbakonam, and Darasuram. In Madurai, at one of India's most lively temples, we will witness a ceremony that has been performed every evening for at least 2,000 years, in which Shiva is brought to his wife Meenakshi by priests on a palanquin, accompanied by musicians and fan-bearing attendants.

We cross the Indian Peninsula through the high, cool Western Ghats, where we learn about the tea industry in Munnar, and then continue to Kochi (Cochin), where Dutch, Portuguese, and English traditions blend with the indigenous culture. At this ancient Indian Ocean trading center, we cruise through the backwaters, visit Christian and Jewish houses of worship, and experience the traditional dramatic dance form known as Kathakali. Finally, we conclude with two days in cosmopolitan Mumbai (Bombay), with its rich Victorian legacy and vibrant street life.

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Dr. John Henry Rice, with VMFA since 2008, is the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Curator of South Asian and Islamic Art. He received a Ph.D. and M.A. in the History of Art from the University

of Pennsylvania, and a B.A. in Art and Architectural History from Wesleyan University. A specialist in medieval and early modern South Indian art and architecture, his doctorate focused on the politics and patronage of temple-building in Vijayanagara-period coastal Karnataka. Dr. Rice helped lead VMFA trips to North India in 2011 and 2013 and looks forward to returning to the south. ♦

Please join us on this remarkable journey as we discover the timeless treasures and hidden gems of South India.

Sincerely,

Adele "Hutch" Livingston
Coordinator of Member Travel



SOUTH INDIA

Great Indian Realms

FEBRUARY 13 TO 28, 2015

U.S.A. DEPARTURE

Friday, February 13 Depart from Washington, D.C.'s Dulles International Airport on a morning flight to Dubai and connect with the flight to Chennai.

CHENNAI (MADRAS)

Saturday, February 14 Arrive in the late evening in Chennai, the largest metropolis of South India, and transfer to the Vivanta by Taj Fisherman's Cove, outside the city.

CHENNAI

Sunday, February 15 Following a morning at leisure and an early lunch, depart for Kanchipuram, the "golden town of a thousand temples," and a living museum of South Indian carving and architecture. The reliefs carved at the behest of an early Pallava Dynasty king, the carved pillared halls of the Vijayanagara Dynasty, and the various temples all demonstrate the quality and diversity of Tamil art. Tonight, gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel.

CHENNAI

Monday, February 16 Drive to the ancient seaport of Mahabalipuram, famous for its Shore Temple and carved scene depicting Arjuna's Penance. After lunch, drive into downtown Chennai for a visit to the Government Museum. View the collection of South Indian stone sculptures, some dating to the 2nd century B.C.E., and the 10th- to 12th-century Chola Dynasty bronzes of unrivaled quality. Attend a private dance performance before returning to the hotel. Dinner and the evening are at leisure.



Carved Ganesha in a row

CHENNAI | TRICHY | THANJAVUR

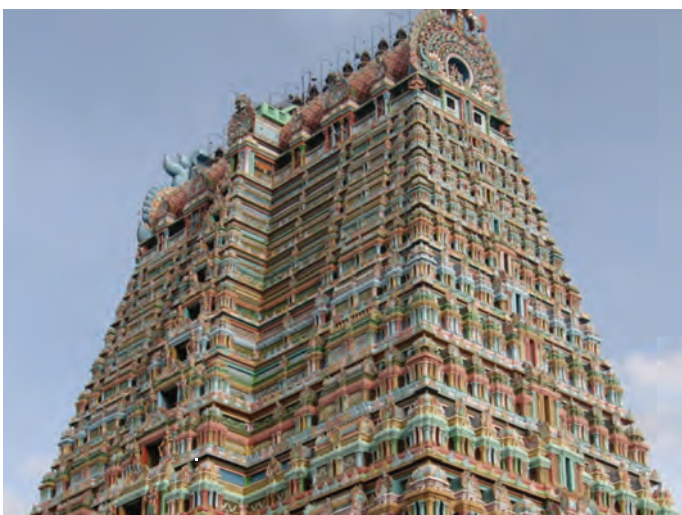
Tuesday, February 17 Board an early afternoon flight to Trichy (Tiruchirapalli). Upon arrival, visit a Vijayanagara temple at Srirangam, with endless courtyards, a famous pillared hall, and a bathing *ghat* where the faithful wash away their sins. Continue to Thanjavur for three nights at the Hotel Sangam. Dinner is at the hotel.

THANJAVUR

Wednesday, February 18 Drive to Gangaikondacholapuram to see the temple of Shiva whose architecture is noted for a new flexibility and elegance. Continue to Kumbakonam, with its many temples containing colorful semi-erotic sculptures. After lunch, continue to the nearby Darasuram Temple, an exquisite early 13th-century structure, whose proportions and carving show the remarkable skill of the Chola craftsmen. Return to the hotel for dinner.

THANJAVUR

Thursday, February 19 Today we visit the Brihadiswara Temple and the Bronze Gallery. Built in 1010, Thanjavur's "big" temple is a UNESCO World Heritage site and the most important of the Chola Dynasty shrines. The Bronze Gallery, although small, has the best Chola bronzes in the world. Return to the hotel for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Following dinner, enjoy a performance of Carnatic Music at the hotel.



Srirangam Temple Gopuram, Trichy



Meenakshi temple detail, Madurai.

THANJAVUR | MADURAI

Friday, February 20 A morning drive takes us to Madurai, arriving in time for lunch at The Heritage Madurai hotel, where we stay for two nights. A fabled city, Madurai is dominated by temple towers crowning a complex of shrines and colonnades. After an early dinner at the hotel, visit the Meenakshi Temple for the evening ceremony, wherein the statue of Shiva, Meenakshi's husband, is brought to her in a pageant of swirling life.

MADURAI

Saturday, February 21 Spend the day in Chettinad, where beautiful mansions were built by the wealthy Chettiar merchants and bankers. Lunch is arranged at Chettinadu Mansion, a 100-year-old architectural marvel, now a heritage hotel. In the late afternoon drive back to Madurai, where the balance of the day is at leisure.

MADURAI | MUNNAR

Sunday, February 22 Following breakfast, return to the gigantic Meenakshi Temple with its many courtyards and towers. Browse the bazaar between the outer and inner eastern walls of the temple, where garland makers and toy sellers ply their trades. After lunch, drive from the province of Tamil Nadu into Kerala, ascending the mountains renowned for tea production. The center of Kerala's tea industry, Munnar boasts high hills blanketed with well-kept estates. Arrive at the Siena Village hotel in time for dinner.

MUNNAR | KOCHI (COCHIN)

Monday, February 23 This morning's visit to a tea plantation will focus on local tea production. After lunch, pass spice and rubber plantations and admire the scenery along one of India's most beautiful *ghat* roads during the drive to the great seaside trading center of Kochi. Accommodations for two nights are at the Vivanta by Taj Malabar, located on Willingdon Island. Dinner is at leisure before attending a performance of traditional Kathakali dance.

KOCHI

Tuesday, February 24 Drive through one of India's most beautiful and serene landscapes to Alleppy for a morning backwaters cruise. As we glide through the vast network of canals, lakes, and lagoons, view majestic scenery and colorful scenes of rural life. Lunch is served on board. Return to Kochi where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

KOCHI | MUMBAI (BOMBAY)

Wednesday, February 25 Stroll in the winding streets lined with 500-year-old Portuguese houses on our way to the district of Fort Kochi. Visits in Fort Kochi include St. Francis Church, perhaps the oldest church in India; the cantilevered Chinese fishing nets; the 16th-century Paradesi Synagogue; and Mattancherry Palace. Following lunch, transfer to the Kochi airport for the flight to Mumbai. Upon arrival, continue to the historic Taj Mahal Palace for check-in and dinner.



Photo by Jorge Royan.

Chinese fishing nets in Fort Kochi

U.S.A. ARRIVAL

Saturday, February 28 Following an early morning connection in Dubai (or other airport), arrive at Washington, D.C.'s Dulles International Airport in the morning of the same day. ■



Photo by Joe Raviv.

Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai

MUMBAI

Thursday, February 26 This morning cruise to the extraordinary cave temples on nearby Elephanta Island, to see the huge triple-head of Shiva. After lunch, visit the Prince of Wales Museum, built to commemorate King George V's first visit to India in 1905. View the outstanding collection of Indian sculptures and miniature paintings. Gather for a farewell dinner at the hotel.

MUMBAI | DEPARTURE

Friday, February 27 A morning tour of various neighborhoods includes a stop near the bustling train station to see the intricate lunch delivery system performed by tiffin *wallahs* (deliverymen), and at the Dhobi Ghat, Mumbai's famous open-air laundry service. The balance of the day is at leisure. Rooms are reserved until our transfer to the airport for evening flights home.



Photo by Andy Hry.

Elephanta Island caves

PROGRAM RATE PER PERSON \$6,995 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$1,545

Rate Includes

- Fourteen nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Twelve lunches and eight dinners. Local beer or wine with dinner
- Airport / hotel group transfers and portage for those on suggested group flights
- Escorted sightseeing by private motorcoach with a national guide and entrance fees for included visits

- Two internal flights: Chennai/Trichy...Kochi/Mumbai
- Enrichment program of lectures
- Taxes and service; gratuities to local guides and drivers

Not Included in Rate International airfare; passport and visa fees; alcoholic beverages other than wine / beer at included dinners; personal items and expenses; airport transfers for those not on suggested flights; baggage in excess of one suitcase; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

AIRFARE Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA) will be pleased to assist with air travel arrangements for this program, including specially negotiated group airfare when available, suggested group flights, or your own individual requests, for a processing fee of \$40 per person. Complete details will be provided in your Confirmation Mailing.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE A deposit of \$1,500 per person, payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*, of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment, by check only, must be received 120 days prior to departure.

HEALTH All participants must be in good health. This program involves extensive walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs at monuments and other locations not handicapped accessible and climbing into various conveyances. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation.

INSURANCE TRIP CANCELLATION / EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION / BAGGAGE / ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. CANCELLATION PENALTIES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED. AAA will send an insurance application upon receipt of deposit, although you may select an alternative insurer of your choice.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) and AAA. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares and currency exchange rates in effect as of the time of brochure printing and subject to change without notice. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE The participation of VMFA is limited to educational sponsorship of the program described in this brochure (The Program). AAA acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations and all other services, relating to The Program. AAA, VMFA and/or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of The Program. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. Nor will AAA or VMFA and/or their agents be responsible for loss, injury, damages or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes in connection with The Program or anything beyond their reasonable control. AAA is not responsible for transportation or other program delays and changes, nor additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the participants, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to AAA or VMFA. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility

of the participant at all times. AAA and VMFA reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time, or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by AAA or VMFA to be in the best interest of the participant's health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.

CANCELLATION POLICY AAA must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; ship charters; communication expenses; development/promotional expenses and the loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to the offices of AAA and are subject to a \$350 non-refundable administrative fee. All refunds are limited to amounts actually received by AAA and are the sole responsibility of AAA; VMFA shall have no liability for refunds. At the time AAA receives written notification of cancellation, the following cancellation charges will apply: cancellations received between 120 and 91 days prior to departure, 20 percent of the program cost per person; those received between 90 and 61 days before departure, 50 percent of the program cost per person; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation on or after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason. Air cancellation charges, if any, will be assessed in accordance with airline regulations. All group fare tickets must be issued no less than 30 days prior to departure. NOTE: Neither AAA nor VMFA shall be liable for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket. In the case of a cancellation due to shortage of participants, AAA will attempt to notify all participants at least 45 days prior to departure. However, AAA reserves the right to cancel The Program prior to departure for any reason and, in such case, reimbursement of refundable costs of the trip by AAA shall constitute full settlement with the participant. In the unlikely event that a dispute arises between a participant and AAA or VMFA, the following conditions will apply: (a) the dispute will be settled by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in New York, NY; (b) the dispute will be governed by New York Law; (c) the maximum amount of recovery to which a participant shall be entitled under any and all circumstances will be the sum of all monies actually received from the participant by AAA. The participant agrees that this is a fair and reasonable limitation on the damages, of any sort whatsoever, that a participant may suffer. Upon payment of the deposit to AAA, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

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Academic Arrangements Abroad

On the cover: Tanjore Royal Palace (Thanjavur). Photo by Melanie-m.



SOUTH INDIA | February 13 to 28, 2015

RESERVATION APPLICATION

To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,500 per person (of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: VMFA, Attn: Hutch Livingston, 200 North Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23220-4007.

NAME IN FULL AS ON PASSPORT

NAME IN FULL AS ON PASSPORT

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

TELEPHONE (HOME)

(BUSINESS)

FAX

E-MAIL

Accommodations

I wish to share a room with _____

Double Twin Single (at a supplement of \$1,545 limited availability)

Form of Payment

- Enclosed is my check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*)
 Credit card (may be used for deposit only)

NAME AS ON CREDIT CARD

3- OR 4-DIGIT SECURITY CODE

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

Each participant must sign below. I/We confirm that I/we have read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this program. I/We agree to full payment by check 120 days prior to departure.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

DATE

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

DATE

For more information, please telephone Academic Arrangements Abroad at (800) 221-1944 or (212) 514-8921
web: www.arrangementsabroad.com ■ email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com