



Carnatic Music: An Acquaintance to a Divine Music

Many saints and scholars believe that music is the greatest form of tapasya (penance) and the easiest way to reach godhead or to attain salvation. Most of the Carnatic musical compositions are either philosophical in content or describe the various deities or incidents from Hindu mythology. There are others who believe that music itself is divine and that the perfect synchronisation of the performer with the musical sound, Nada, is the real divine bliss. This practice is called Nadopasana. Many musicians and music lovers visualise divine forms in the Ragas or the melodic entities of Carnatic music. – Anonymous



Carnatic music is second only system of Indian classical music after Hindustani music, primarily practiced in southern

Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu (also in Sri Lanka). The main emphasis in Carnatic music is on vocal music; most compositions are written to be sung, and even when played on instruments, they are meant to be performed in singing style of *Vedas*.

Carnatic music is usually performed by a small ensemble of musicians, consisting of a principal performer (usually a vocalist), a melodic accompaniment (usually a violin), a rhythm accompaniment (usually a mridangam), and a *tambura*, which acts as a drone throughout the performance. Other typical instruments used in performances may include the *ghatam*, *kanjira*, *morsing*, *venu flute*, *veena*, and *chitraveena*.

Become acquainted with the different elements of our ancient Carnatic music, its story, origins, and how it developed into various forms by visiting some of reputed institutions and academies of Carnatic. The journey also explores some of the associated temples, and touristic spots. In addition, since this music delves into narration of *Vedas*, we visit schools where *Vedas* are taught. The journey offers a way to immerse oneself in to Indian customs, the vedas, understand the system of Carnatic music along with sightseeing temples and other interesting spots.



The Musical Experience

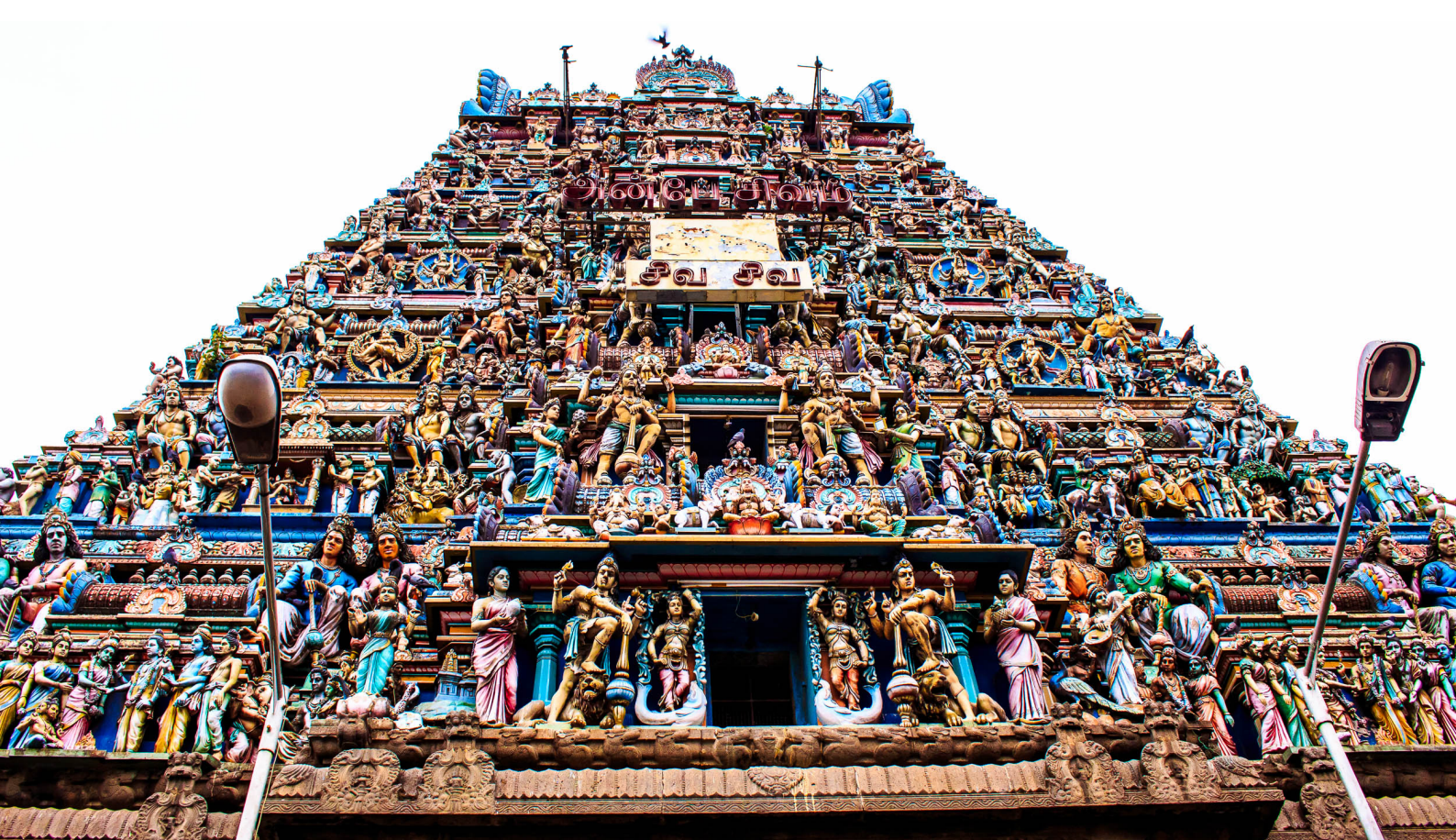
Day 1

Post breakfast. Orientation tour of the garden city of India. Visit sikh temples; drive by the parliament house of the state; a palace, visit gardens with colonial names. After a sumptuous lunch enjoy a dance performance at one of the premier dance institutes or watch an English Play in a theatre. Food tour if time permits. Dinner and overnight.

Day 2

Visit temple devoted to Lord Krishna and a 7000 year old temple discovered by accident in the heart of the city. Acquaint yourself with some basics of Carnatic music, to know what makes it different from other styles of music, Experience the mellifluous vocals at a reputed Indian classical music academy. Enjoy lunch halli or village style. Visit temple dedicated to Nandi. Shop for handicrafts; silks or incenses, traditional handmade toys and knick knacks. Watch a performance by a local band if possible. Enjoy a pub dinner.





Day 3

Drive to the an ancient city ruled by a dynasty also the cultural capital of the state. Enjoy south Indian traditional breakfast enroute. Visit a toy factory watch skilled hands at work (stop by a winery, some wine tasting) and a sumptuous lunch. Arrive in time to watch light show at a palace. A good nights sleep after dinner:

Day 4

Wake up and try yoga; also familiarise with Veda and Vedic preachings. After breakfast visit local Church and Palace. Visit an age old temple to witness poetry by stones with centuries old carvings of musicians and dancers. After lunch watch offerings being made to a god in a temple atop a hillock. The views of the city are spectacular from there. A musical night awaits you with dinner:

Day 5

Visit to a bird sanctuary to glimpse of our two legged friends. After lunch visit local factories of silks and sandalwood — the attires of musicians and dancers. Visit a famous and ancient temple of Lord Vishnu — the the Preserver of the Universe. Acquire that perfect sari or souvenir to take home. Dinner and relax to some classical music.

Day 6

Enjoy a morning guided walk of the city; hear bits of history ending with breakfast and typical south Indian filter coffee. Post lunch take the train to the Detroit of South Asia. Relax in the hotel Dinner and overnight.





Day 7

Post breakfast go on a Morning bazaar tour. Visit famous places of worship admire the architecture and the customs of fresh flowers, sweet smelling incense sticks adding to morning aura of these temple prayers. Post lunch, experience what makes the city's craze towards Carnatic music by visiting another acclaimed classical music institute. Explore the shopping streets at dusk, with some mehendi time for the ladies. Dinner.

Day 8

Visit the most famous dance centre and take a step back in time - discover a living museum of art; architecture, lifestyle and crafts. Lunch. Visit music school for a performance and interaction. Visit a colonial bookstore. Shopping and dinner.



Day 9

Post an early breakfast, visit a reptile bank and witness the crocodile sanctuary. Following that, visit a school of Vedic and Yoga studies, explore why Vedas are an important aspect in our lives. We proceed to a quaint coastal town that is famous for giant open air reliefs, rathas (temples in form of Chariots) and mandapas (cave sanctuaries). Lunch at the beach. Witness a wonderful sunset; relax with dinner and overnight.

Day 10

A sumptuous breakfast later, drive to a French Colony with a picturesque town. Visit an experimental township. Enjoy a performance of folk dance by local youth group. Lunch and enjoy a walk along the promenade. A rangoli Session - learn all about these intricate designs drawn in front of homes, and many other such arts which are a part of our every day south Indian lives. A night at theatre and dinner awaits. Overnight.

Day 11

Head back to the city, after a good satisfying breakfast. Enjoy the rest of the day, with shopping, before flying back home.

Journey Inclusions

- Airfare
- Airport Transfers.
- Sightsceeing.
- Accommodation is arranged for a twin sharing basis in a standard double room in 4 star hotels (or similar standard) with all meals included.
- Driver fees, toll, parking.
- Same driver will be there with you for the entire trip.



Journey Exclusions

- 5% service tax.
- Sightsceeing Cost/Entrance fees.

Hotels

All hotels are at 4 star quality. If in case of unavailability, good 3 star hotels with excellent reviews are arranged.

The above journey, currently tailored for 11 days, can also be extended for a much relaxed (with more touristic places) exploration for 14 or 18 days, depending upon the need. For more information, please contact us, info@tripalfresco.travel | tripalfresco@gmail.com or call +91 73488 73007.

Additional Features and Tours



Learn different Indian cultural and artistic practises, like rangoli, mehendi, classical dance, classical music, flower garland making and many more... These traditional customs have been a part of our every day lives from several centuries with an in-depth reasoning. Explore some of the short courses while on this Bharatanatyam tour.

Explore more of culture, traditions and dances along with extended tour ancient and famous temples. The carving, corridors and pillars of these ancient structure will amaze you with the vibrant, colossal and unique architectures which stands strong even after several centuries. Be a part of this a week long colour tour that you would sure to cherish the experience for a long time to come.

For more details on these additional activities and tours, please contact us, info@tripalfresco.travel / tripalfresco@gmail.com or call +91 73488 73007.

