

The Avatara & Nine Planetary Temples Trip India Trip 2020

Tirupati and Chennai

05 to 19 February 2020



This trip is dedicated to the Avatara Temples of Lord Vishnu near Tirupati and Nine Planetary Temples of Chennai. Avatara are incarnations of Lord Vishnu each related to a planet.

The trip includes a visit to Tirumala temple dedicated to Lord Venkateshwara, which is on the seven hills owned by Lord Varaha who is the Rahu incarnation (Avatara) of Lord Vishnu. Each Avatara is connected to a planet. The incarnation temples we will visit are Sri Rama (Sun), Krishna (Moon), Narasimha (Mars), Parashurama (Venus), Varaha (Rahu) and Matsya (Ketu). We will also visit other powerful temples for Goddess Lakshmi, Sri Vishnu and Lord Shiva and many rare temples.

In Chennai, we will visit the nine planetary temples. Each of the temples will be visited on its appropriate day (e.g. Thursday for Jupiter Temple) and abhishekas have been organized at all the nine planetary temples. This is going to be a very powerful experience. The costs of the Abhishekha will be shared (see below in costs).

We will also visit the Sapta Rishi, seven sages temples dedicated to Lord of Mylapore, Chennai. The seven sages all meditated and did personal purification rituals at these temples.

It's the first time that a Vedic astrology group is visiting many of these temples.

We will do rituals, pujas, abhishekas and prayer ceremonies during this pilgrimage – these costs will be shared where we do a group program. You also need to give Dakshina to the priests who perform the rituals.

The trip begins in Tirupati and ends in Chennai - Flights from many international destinations land in Chennai and you can take a car transfer to Tirupati. Or Fly to Tirupati via International hubs Hyderabad and Bangalore and get flight connections to Tirupati.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 05 – TIRUPATI

This is the last day of the conference and day one of the temple trip.

Those coming for temple trip only – Check-in is from 2 pm onwards. You will need to arrange a transfer from the airport.

Day free to relax.

8:00 pm Group dinner to be shared with the Fresh Talents conference delegates.

Overnight stay at Hotel Fortune Select Grand Ridge, Tirupati



DAY 2: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 – SRI VENKATESHWARA TEMPLE, TIRUMALA, TIRUPATI 40 KM | 1-HOUR DRIVE TO LOCATION

7:00 AM – Sri Venkateshwara Temple. It takes about one hour to reach the temple. It is one of the most important temples for Lord Vishnu. The temple is located on Adi Varaha hills. Sri Adi Varaha is the Rahu incarnation of Lord Vishnu. We will visit the Varaha temple and take a dip in Pushkarni, the sacred waters. It takes around 3 hours to enter the temple even though we have a special entry ticket to visit (cost of special entry is included).

Lunch at Saarangi restaurant – included in the costs.

Overnight stay at Hotel Fortune Select Grand Ridge, Tirupati.



DAY 3: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 – SRI PADMAVATI, KODANDARAMA SWAMY AND KAPILA TEERATHAM TEMPLES



8:00 AM – Sri Padmavati Ammavari temple – This is the goddess Lakshmi temple and a must to visit along with the visit to her husband Lord Venkateshwara.

Sri Kodandarama Swamy – Sri Rama Temple. Sri Rama is the Vishnu incarnation of the Sun. The temple was built in the 10th century, during the reign of Chola kings.

Lunch at the hotel included in the costs.

2:00 PM to 5:00 PM – Workshop with Komilla about the temple trip, Avatara of Lord Vishnu, the seven sages and the Navagraha temples of Chennai.

6:00 PM – Sri Kapila Teeratham is a famous Shiva Temple located at Tirupati. The idol is believed to be installed by Sage Kapila Muni and hence Lord Siva here is referred to as Kapileswara.

Overnight stay at Hotel Fortune Select Grand Ridge, Tirupati.



DAY 4: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – SRI VEDANARAYANA TEMPLE (MATSYA AVATARA FOR KETU) & VAALESHWARA TEMPLE FOR BHAIRAVA 2 HOUR DRIVE

6:00 AM – Sri Vedanarayana Temple is two hours drive. It is a fabulous temple for Matsya Avatara who is the Fish incarnation of Lord Vishnu and represented by Ketu. Today is Saturday and the only day the temple does Abhishekha for all the devotees, we will participate in it.

10:00 AM – Ramagiri Vaaleeswarar temple. This is a remote temple at the foothill of Ramgiri mountains. Old, in a very poor state of repair yet the power of the temple is immense. This is the temple where Bhairava worships Lord Siva and had taken the Shiva Lingham from Hanuman.

Lunch is included in the costs.

Evening **Free**

Overnight stay at Hotel Fortune Select Grand Ridge, Tirupati



DAY 5: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 – SRI PATTABHI RAMASWAMY (SUN AVATARA), SRI LAKSHMI NARASIMHA SWAMY TEMPLES (MARS AVATARA)

2-HOUR DRIVE TO LOCATION, VERY LONG DAY

7:00 AM – Sri Pattabhi Ramaswamy: Sri Rama is the Surya Avatara for Lord Vishnu. We will attend “Thirukalyanam” (celestial wedding) at this temple. You will need to pay to attend the ceremony directly to the temple. Later come back to the temple for lunch which is arranged by the priest.

After the ceremony, we will go to Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple which is only 20 minutes away. Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple is the Mars Avatara for Lord Vishnu. It is a small and very beautiful temple.

Both these temples are very remote and wonderful to visit.

On the return journey, we will visit two very important temple – Srinivasa Mangapuram (Lord Vishnu Temple) and Agatheeswarar Swami Temple (Shiva temple). Both these temples are important pilgrimage places.

Overnight stay at Hotel Fortune Select Grand Ridge, Tirupati.



DAY 6: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10 – SRI KALAHASTI FOR RAHU & SRI PARASURAMESWARA TEMPLE VENUS AVATARA 1-HOUR DRIVE



5:00 AM – Sri Kalahasti is one of the most important Shiva temples for Rahu. We will be doing a special Rahu Kaala Puja which begins at 7:30 am – the reason we must leave so early. The cost of the puja is around \$50 and will need to be given directly to the temple. After the puja, we will visit the main Shiva temple and the special Dakshinamurti shrine.

Visit to the Kalamkari artisans who make beautiful hand painted fabrics and sarees. This is special to Kalahasti area.

Parasurameswara Temple Gudimalam is 45 min drive. This is the oldest temple of India. Constructed in the 2nd century, it is a temple for Parashurama who is the Venus incarnation of Lord Vishnu. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva with a wonderful shrine to Surya.

Overnight stay at Hotel Fortune Select Grand Ridge, Tirupati.



DAY 7: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 – GANESHA KANIPPAKKAM VINAYAGAR KOVIL TEMPLE 2 HOURS

8:00 AM – Ganesha Kanippakkam Vinayagar Kovil – Beautiful Ganesha temple about 1 1/2 hour drive. The temple was constructed in the early 11th century CE by the Chola King Kulothunga Chola. It is a special temple for healing. Devotees visit here to get rid of their disabilities. The deity is Svayambhu (Self-manifested). The deity is seen in the well, full of water.

Overnight stay at Hotel Fortune Select Grand Ridge, Tirupati.



DAY 8: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 – SHRI VENUGOPALASWAMI TEMPLE FOR SRI KRISHNA ON THE WAY TO CHENNAI

9:00 AM Sri Venugopalaswami Temple for Sri Krishna who is the Vishnu avatara for the Moon. This is the only Sri Krishna temple in the vicinity of Tirupati. Sri Krishna transcends the limitations of time and blesses his devotees with peaceful mind and freedom from worries. The drive to the temple is beautiful through the fields of coconuts and mango groves.



Lunch on the way - included in the costs.

Check in at GRT Grand on arrival in Chennai.

The **Journey** from Tirupati to Chennai is 3 1/2 hours.

Overnight Stay at GRT Grand Chennai.

DAY 9: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 – SRI RAMANAADHESWARAR TEMPLE FOR JUPITER



5:30 AM - Sri Ramanaadheswarar for Jupiter. This is the start of a marathon week of a visit to all the Navagaha temples and doing Abhishekha at all the temples. The Abhishekha starts at 6.30 am and the temple is about 30 to 40 minutes away. We will do Abhishekha to both Shiva and Parvati, the presiding deities of the temple. Then visit the Navagraha shrine and do darshan to Brihaspati Jupiter on his special day. Cost of Abhishekha to be shared

Return to hotel for **breakfast**.

Lunch at Amethyst – a very pleasant restaurant – costs included

Afternoon - Karaneeswarar Temple – 1/7 of the Sapta Rishi temples dedicated to the seven sages. The temple deity is Lord Shiva and was constructed by Lord Indira to redeem Kamadhenu, the sacred cow from her curse from Sage Vashista. It is the most stunning temple and Nnavagraha shrine is on a lotus is very unusual.

Optional - Shopping in the evening.

Overnight Stay at GRT Grand Chennai.

DAY 10: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 – MAANGAADU SRI VELLEESWARAR TEMPLE FOR VENUS, CHENNAI



8:30 AM - Maangaadu Sri Velleeswarar Temple for Venus Shukra Venus (Vellee in Tamil) worshipped Lord Shiva at this temple. Special poojas are hence offered by devotees on Fridays - the day dedicated to Venus. Devotees offer white field beans (Mochai) as an offering. We are visiting on Friday and it is also Valentine's Day. We will be doing a special Abhishekha for Lord Shiva and Sri Shukra.

Sri Shukra worshipped Lord Shiva here. When Sri Kamakshi came here to have darshan of Lord Shiva, she saw Sri Shukra worshipping. The Goddess went back as she did not want to disturb the penance of Shukra. Sri Shukra blesses people with wealth, prosperity, good family, vehicles, fame and social status.

4:00 PM - Kapaleeshwarar and Velleeswarar Temples. We visit a second Venus temple today, Velleeswarar Temple is part of the Sapta Rishi temples of Mylapore and is dedicated to Shukracharya (Venus). Vellee means Shukra, Sri Shukracharya worshipped the Lord Shiva here and got back the eyesight he lost at the hands of Lord Vamana. Sri Shukra also blesses us with the right spiritual sight so that we can view God in the right way.

Kapaleeshwarar and Velleeswarar Temples are walking distance from each other and both stunning temples.

Kapaleeshwarar Temple is a superb 7th-century temple – Lord Shiva temple with spectacular goparum with many shrines to the Lord Ganesha, Murughun, Shani and Navagraha. Lord Brahma came to Mylapore and installed the lingam for Lord Shiva as a penance for not respecting Lord Shiva on Mount Kailash. Sri Shukra worshipped here too. Lord Murughan got his spear here from goddess Parvati.

Local shopping near the temple – very good shops for idols and Indian spiritual artefacts.

Overnight Stay at GRT Grand Chennai.

DAY II : SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 – POZHICALUR SRI AGATHEESWARAR TEMPLE FOR SATURN AND KUNRATHUR SRI NAAGESWARAR TEMPLE FOR RAHU



8:00 AM – This is a full day programme as we visit three temples and two Abhisheka for Saturn and Rahu. First, we will visit Pozhichalur Sri Agatheeswarar Temple for Saturn. Lord Shani (Saturn) worshipped Lord Shiva to get rid of his sins. This is one of the most powerful temples for Saturn worship along with Thirunallar and Kuchanor (our group has visited both these temples).

Kunrathur Sri Naageswarar Temple for Rahu. The temple was built by Tamil scholar and poet Sekkizhar who wanted to worship Lord Shiva as the lord of the Nagas, to create a temple similar to Thirunageshwara which is near Kumbakonam. This place became an important place to go for Rahu remedy. We will do an Abhishekha for Lord Shiva and to ask for relief from Rahu issues.

5:00 PM - Virupaksheeswarar Temple Mylapore – Our endless thoughts, movements, restlessness lead us into creating more and more karma and attachments. Lord Shiva in his form of Virupaksheshwara helps us to direct this restlessness towards God and create the ultimate union of the mind body and soul. This is a powerful temple where the sages prayed and is one of the saptarishi temples of Mylapore.

Overnight Stay at GRT Grand Chennai.

DAY 12: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 – KOLAPPAACKAM SRI AGATHEESWARAR TEMPLE FOR SUN , GERUGAMBAACKAM SRI NEELAKANDESWARAR TEMPLE FOR KETU

7:00 AM – Two Abhishekha today for Sun and Ketu. Kolappaakkam Sri Agatheeswarar Temple for Sun is a small temple, very personal. Sri Surya Bhagavan had worshipped Lord Shiva at this temple. Sri Surya Bhagavan has a separate shrine riding the seven horses.

Gerugambaakkam Sri Neelakandeswarar Temple for Ketu is one of my favourite temples. The priest was very knowledgeable. It is small and difficult to access, yet inside is so peaceful and powerful. See below the navagraha mandala – each step has the colour of the planet starting from the top red for the Sun to the multi-colours of Ketu at the bottom.





4:30 PM - Malleeswarar temple, Mylapore, Malle means jasmine and here Lord Shiva is fragrant as jasmine and calms the minds of the devotees with his divine fragrance. Sage Bhrigu worshipped here. This is a small temple, we have to walk a short distance to reach it. (Note - we may combine this temple visit with one of the other Sapta Rishi temples. If so, the evening will be free.)

Overnight Stay at GRT Grand Chennai.

DAY 13: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 - SOMANGALAM SRI SOMANAADHEESWARAR TEMPLE, 2-HOUR

DRIVE

6:00 AM - Sri Somanaadheeswarar Temple for The Moon. Sri Chandra Bhagavan (also called Soma) lost his divine charm and forgot all the 16 forms of arts. As a penance, He created a pond called Soma Teertham and worshipped Lord Shiva here. As a result, he got back his beauty and wisdom. We will do Abhishekha here.

4:30 PM - Two of the Sapta Rishi temples - Sri Vaaleeswarar and Sri Theerthapaleeswarar temples. Sri Vaaleeswarar is where Lord Hanuaman worshipped Lord Shiva to give him physical and mental strength and devotees are blessed with the courage to face the trials and tribulations of life. Sri Theerthapaleeswarar temples are connected to the water element. Sage Agasthya taught the Aditya Hridaya mantra to Lord Sri Rama at this temple.

Overnight Stay at GRT Grand Chennai.



DAY 14: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 – POONDHAMALLI SRI VAIDHEESWARAR TEMPLE FOR MARS

8:00 AM – Sri Vaidheeswarar Temple, Poondhamalli for Mars. It is similar to Vaidheshwaran Koil near Kumbhakonam and special to worship Mars. We will participate in an Abhishekha here as well. The temple is at least 1000 years old and annually the Sun's rays fall exactly on the Shiva lingam in the month of Maasi Magham in February. 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th Feb – our group will be visiting a few days before.

Evening – optional visit to Elliot's beach.

Overnight Stay at GRT Grand Chennai.



DAY 15: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 – KOVUR SRI SUNDHARESWARAR TEMPLE FOR MERCURY



8:30 AM – Sri Sundhareswarar Temple, Kovur is for worship for Budha. We will do abhishekha here as well. Devotees visit here for remedies for Budha Mercury. Sri Budha blesses us with good intellect to overcome weakness in studies, gives marriage and prosperity to the devotees. He himself worshipped Lord Shiva here.

8:00 PM – Farewell Dinner – costs included.

Overnight Stay at GRT Grand Chennai.

DAY 16: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 – LAST DAY

11:00 AM Check-out Transfers to Chennai airport are not included in the cost.

End of Program



HOTEL INFORMATION

City	Hotel	Website
Tirupati	FORTUNE SELECT Grand Ridge	https://www.fortunehotels.in/tirupati-fortune-select-grand-ridge.dh.39
Chennai	GRT Grand	https://grthotels.com/chennai

ACCOMMODATIONS

Check-in 05 February - Check-out 20 February

Costs Per Person - \$2,950-\$3,350 depending on when you purchase the trip, see cut-off dates. This price is based on two people sharing a room. Please check if room share is available.

Single Room Supplement: \$700

Chennai Planetary Temples – Nine Abhishekha ceremonies \$180

Note: this does not include Dakshina offering to the priest at each temple.

Per Person Cost* Includes

- Rooms Twin sharing basis
- Breakfast
- Lunch at Fortune Select Grand Ridge on 05 February
- Lunch at Saarang Restaurant in Tirupati (Tirumala) on 06 February 2020
- Lunch at Fortune Select Ridge on 07 February
- Komilla Workshop on 07 February from 02 pm to 4 pm
- Lunch at Puttur Restaurant on 08 February
- Lunch with Sri Pattabhi Ramaswamy Vayalpad Temple Priest on 09 February
- Lunch at GRT Regency at Tiruthani on 12 February
- Dinner on 05 February at Fortune Select Grand Ridge in Tirupati
- Dinner on 19 February at Grand by GRT in Chennai
- AC Tempo Traveller Van for transport as per program
- Tirupati Darshan (it includes Darshan + APTDC Guide* + 02 Laddus)- 06 February

Tour cost does not include:

- Flight to India, Tirupati
- Insurance
- Medical Expenses
- Lunch & Dinner (other than the above specified);
- Dakshina for the Temple Priests, Archana, Flowers/ Garlands for the deities, Abhishekas
- Entrance fee, Camera fee,
- Personal expenses like phone, laundry, portorage, Wi-Fi,....
- Tips to staff at hotels, and to the drivers and accompanying guide.
- Hotel on 04 February & 20 February; early check in and late checkout at the hotels
- Transfer from and to Airport

* **NOTE:** Per Person Cost of the trip includes a SHARED ROOM. If you want to have your own room, please purchase a "Single Room Supplement". Shared rooms may not be available , booking early is better if you need shared accommodation – please check with Komilla.

CANCELLATION POLICY

\$250.00 service charge on all refunds. Refunds available until August 23, 2019; NO refunds after August 23, 2019.