

retreat | recreate
South India Textiles & Handcrafts Tour: 22 February – 9 March 2027
To do list as at MAY 2026

1. NOW - Carefully read **ALL** documentation.

By booking with us and paying your deposit or full payment, you acknowledge that you have read and understood the Booking Conditions and agree to be bound by the Booking Conditions.

Please continue to refer to the Trip Notes and Booking Conditions until departure.

2. NOW - Once you have received confirmation that you have a place on this tour, please secure your booking with a non-refundable deposit of AU\$1500 per person within 48 hours and email a copy of the transfer receipt to retreatrecreate@gmail.com

For bookings made on or after 7 November 2026, full payment is required at the time of booking.

Australian travellers

Please transfer payment by direct deposit to:

Bank: Westpac Banking Corporation

Account Name: Susan Keeble tours

BSB: 733 037

Account: 649522

Reference: SOUTH INDIA and your name

Travellers outside Australia will require the above **additional** information

Note: all fees and/or currency exchange charges incurred are to be borne by the traveller.

- The SWIFT code for those making international bank transfers is WPACAU2S. For banks requiring an 11-character SWIFT code, please use WPACAU2SXXX.
- Note, Australian banks do not use IBAN codes. If your bank requests an IBAN code, please use the SWIFT code instead.
- Bank branch address: 70 Ferguson St, Williamstown, VIC, 3016, Australia
- Payee address: 11 Bayview Rd, Seddon, VIC, 3011, Australia
- We recommend international payments be made via an online transfer company such as [WISE](#) (link to payee account) or [XE](#). These are low-fee and usually offer a better currency conversion rate than banks.
- We prefer not to accept PayPal payments due to the burdensome fees. If you wish to pay via PayPal you will need to cover this cost.

All travellers are strongly encouraged to take out travel insurance **at the time of booking** so you're covered in the event of cancellation. Refer also to point 5 on this page and the Insurance section of the Trip Notes.

3. ONCE WE REACH OUR MINIMUM GROUP SIZE, WE'LL BE IN CONTACT TO CONFIRM THE TOUR WILL PROCEED. Please don't book flights until you hear from us. In the meantime, you're welcome to start researching flights.

- Your arrival flight should be booked to arrive at Chennai International Airport (MAA).
- Our tour begins at our Chennai hotel **at 6pm on 22 February 2027**. Please be sure you arrive at our hotel in plenty of time for the 6pm welcome briefing meeting, allowing for possible flight and traffic delays.
- We encourage you to consider arriving a day or so before the tour to rest and recover from your flight and/or stay on after the tour to explore further.
- Our tour ends in Kochi on **9 March 2027**. There are no activities planned for that day – you are welcome to depart at any time.
- Your departure flight should be booked to depart from Kochi/Cochin International Airport (COK).
- Please indicate your arrival and departure flight details on the Travel Details Form.
- If you are not comfortable booking your own flights or buying travel insurance online, you may wish to consult a travel agent for assistance.

Arrival and departure transfers

- Your arrival transfer in Chennai **is included** in the tour price and will be arranged to meet your scheduled flight at Chennai Airport.

- Your departure airport transfer in Kochi is **not included** in the tour price however we can assist you with this (at additional cost). Please indicate your request on the Travel Details Form. Alternatively, you are welcome to make your own departure transfer arrangements – our hotel reception staff can assist. Please refer to the Trip Notes for more information.

Pre-tour accommodation at our Chennai hotel and post-tour accommodation at our Kochi hotel can be booked through us at an additional cost (subject to availability). Please forward your requests for additional pre- and/or post tour accommodation **ASAP** and **no later than 31 October 2026** by indicating your request/s on the Travel Details Form. The hotel room prices are indicated on the form. If you are booking yourself into alternative accommodation in Chennai or elsewhere in India, please include your pre-tour accommodation details on your Travel Details Form in case we need to reach you in the days immediately preceding the tour.

4. Purchase travel insurance (if you haven't already done so). This is compulsory for all participants and should cover you for a minimum of medical expenses including emergency repatriation. Refer to the Trip Notes for further information. It is strongly recommended that your insurance also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment, loss of luggage and personal effects. As per the Trip Notes we strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance at the time of booking (paying your deposit). At the very latest you should purchase travel insurance as soon as you've booked your flights.

5. ASAP AND NO LATER THAN 31 OCTOBER - Complete and return the Travel Details Form

6. NO LATER THAN 7 NOVEMBER – Pay your tour balance. Please initiate your payment in advance if necessary (international transfers, credit unions etc), to ensure your payment is **received** by the due date. Refer to point 2 for bank details. Invoices will be issued once all Travel Details forms have been received.

7. DECEMBER - Consult your medical professional or local Travel Doctor for up to date advice regarding recommended travel vaccinations. Allow at least 6 weeks in case any vaccinations require two doses.

8. JANUARY – Apply for your visa. If you're applying for a 1 month e-Visa, **do not apply more than 29 days prior to your expected arrival date** (to avoid your visa expiring before your arrival). **Visas are the responsibility of the individual traveller.** Entry requirements can change at any time, so it's important that you check for the latest information, specific to your nationality. Detailed instructions on completing your visa application will be provided closer to departure.

9. EARLY FEBRUARY

- Arrange for either a global roaming cell/mobile phone package from your provider, purchase an eSIM or hire/purchase a global roaming wifi device. If you intend to purchase a local SIM, please ensure you have arranged and activated the SIM before our welcome meeting on day 1. Refer to the Trip Notes for more information. If you purchase an Airalo e-SIM, you're welcome to use the code SUSAN1062 to receive a small discount. A discount link for Holafly is [HERE](#)
- Upload your travel, eVisa and vaccination certificates to your phone. Carry them at all times during your travels.
- Ensure you have **uploaded WhatsApp** at least two weeks prior to departure and before leaving home as your App Store may not work outside your home country. We use a WhatsApp chat as our communication tool throughout the tour to advise the group of morning start times, general reminders, and for contact in case anyone gets lost!
- **Start packing.** A Suggested Packing List for this trip will be provided closer to departure. In the meantime, refer to the general pack list [HERE](#)

10. Within 72 hours before your arrival in India, complete and submit your e-Arrival card online [HERE](#)

11. GET EXCITED! We look forward to having you travel with us!