



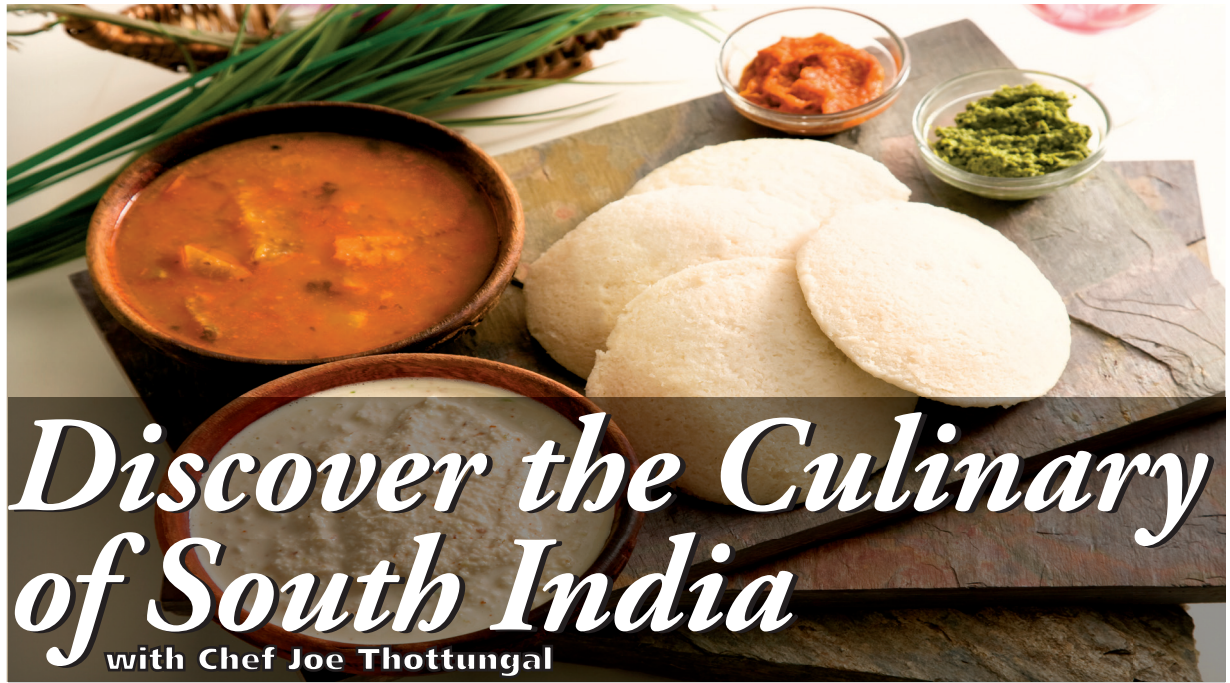
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Discover the Culinary of South India

with Chef Joe Thottungal



Joe Thottungal, Executive Chef at the popular Coconut Lagoon Restaurant in Ottawa is hosting this third culinary tour to India. This time the destination is South India with special emphasis on Kerala - Joe's home state. The 18 days itinerary is designed exclusively to showcase the tantalizing cuisine of South India but also give a real insight into the food and historical culture of India.

Joe personally escorts his guests sampling local delicacies, visiting local fruit and vegetable markets, spice plantations, fish markets as well as historic heritage sites, cultural and religious monuments interacting with locals along the way. The unique features of this tour include live and hands on cooking demonstrations, lessons in haggling with fish mongers to get the best price for their most fresh catch of the day and some unique experiences including an afternoon spent with the senior Joseph Thottungal and his wife Mary -Joe's Mom and Dad. The Thottugals have invited us to their home where Joe got his first cooking lessons from his mom and Mary has very graciously agreed to share and cook some of her best recipes for us to enjoy-truly a once in a life time experience for anyone visiting India!

Accompanied by a local English speaking guide highlights also include an overnight cruise on the famous and ecologically clean Backwaters of Kerala, cultural shows and comprehensive sightseeing with free time for Spa or Ayurvedic treatments, relaxing and shopping.

For further details please see reverse...

TOUR LENGTH ▼

18 Days

TOUR DATE ▼

March 05 to 22, 2017

TOUR PRICE ▼

CA\$ 7,395 per person sharing
CA\$ 1,650 single supplement

PARTICIPANTS ▼

Min 15 Max 24 persons

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES ▼



- **International economy class airfare ex Montreal**
- Overnight at hotels as mentioned or similar
- 36 Meals as per the itinerary (16 Breakfast, 07 Lunch & 13 Dinner)
- All transfers & sightseeing as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees to museums and sites as per the itinerary
- Services of local English speaking tour escort cum guide
- Cooking classes at Mahabalipuram, Cochin, Thekkady and Bekal
- Private Harbor Cruise at Cochin
- Kathakali dance performance at Cochin
- Day cruise with Lunch at Alleppey
- Visit to Kerala family spice garden with lunch cum cooking demo
- Kalaripayattu (traditional martial art) show at Thekkady
- Spice Plantation tour, Thekkady • Boat ride on Lake Periyar, Thekkady
- Guided Jungle Walk at Thekkady • Visit to Tea Museum in Munnar

TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE ▼

- Airport taxes and airline surcharges (Approx CA\$ 540)
- India visa fees • Travel Insurance (highly recommended)
- Tips and gratuities to guides and drivers





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OVERVIEW ITINERARY AND TOUR HIGHLIGHTS ▼

(Detailed Itinerary at <http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india>)

DAY 01: MAR 05, 2017: DEPART FOR INDIA

Our exciting and unique journey of South India begins today as we board our flight to the southeastern city of Chennai previously known as Madras. We are using the award winning Qatar Airways from Montreal. For those wishing to connect from other cities kindly contact us.

DAY 02: MAR 06, 2017: ARRIVE MAHABALIPURAM

Namaste! We are welcomed at Chennai Airport the traditional Indian way with hands clapped together. We take a short drive to Mahabalipuram and are transferred to our Taj hotel. Overnight: Vivanta By Taj Fisherman's Cove, Mahabalipuram (2 Nights)

DAY 03: MAR 07, 2017: MAHABALIPURAM

Morning free time to rest. Late afternoon, we take an interesting excursion to visit the Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram*... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) (B, D)

DAY 04: MAR 08, 2017: MAHABALIPURAM/CHENNAI

After breakfast, we proceed for Chennai. Located on the Bay of Bengal coast, Chennai is the capital of the State of Tamil Nadu... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) Overnight: Taj Coromandel, Chennai (1 Night) (B, D)

DAY 05: MAR 09, 2017: CHENNAI/MYSORE (TRAIN)

An early morning scenic train ride to Mysore on the deluxe Shatabdi with breakfast on board. With it's rich heritage Mysore has never failed to mesmerize us with its magnificent palaces... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) Overnight: Radisson BLU (2 Nights) (B, D)

DAY 06: MAR 10, 2017: MYSORE

We start our day with a visit to the Mysore Maharajah's Palace. Once the seat of power of the ruling Wodeyars, this Indo-Saracenic building is one of the largest of its kind in India and one of the most splendid... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) (B, D)

DAY 07: MAR 11, 2017: MYSORE/BEKAL

Another scenic drive this to Bekal, known for the largest preserved fort in Kerala, the Bekal Fort. Perched atop a hill this fort covers the area of 40 acres... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) Overnight: Vivanta By Taj, Bekal (2 Nights) (B, D)

DAY 08: MAR 12, 2017: BEKAL

Late morning we experience an interesting cooking class passionately conducted by Joe and the hotel chefs jointly followed by lunch... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) (B, L, D)

DAY 09: MAR 13, 2017: BEKAL/THALASSERI/CALICUT

A scenic drive to Thalasseri. We visit Ayisha Manzil a Heritage Home belonging to the Moosa family. Built in 1862, Ayisha Manzil is a colonial guesthouse once known as "Judges Bungalow"... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) Overnight: The Gateway Hotel, Calicut (1 Night) (B, L, D)

DAY 10: MAR 14, 2017: CALICUT/THRISSUR (DRIVE 150 KMS/3 HOURS)

We visit the famous Guruvayur Temple dedicated to lord Vishnu. Here Vishnu is worshipped in his incarnation of Lord Krishna... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) Overnight: The River Retreat, Thrissur (1 Night) (B, L, D)

DAY 11: MAR 15, 2017: THRISSUR/MUNNAR (DRIVE)

The day starts with a leisurely walk through the town seeing the typical Kerala bazaars, interacting with shopkeepers and residents of Thrissur many of who are Joe's childhood friends... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) Overnight: Mountain Club Resort, Munnar (2 Nights) (B, L)

DAY 12: MAR 16, 2017: MUNNAR

Munnar is the showcase of some of the exquisite and interesting aspects on the tea plantations in Kerala's high ranges... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) (B, D)

DAY 13: MAR 17, 2017: MUNNAR/THEKKADY (PERIYAR)

A whole different world as we drive to Periyar (also known as Thekkady). A wild life reserve, it is an ideal place to track wild Elephants, Bison, Deer and numerous varieties of birds... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) Overnight: The Elephant Court, Thekkady (2 Nights) (B, D)

DAY 14: MAR 18, 2017: THEKKADY

Early morning, we take a guided jungle walk through the Periyar Tiger Reserve/ National Park. This three hour relatively easy to moderate walk will give us a chance to see wildlife from close proximity... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) (B, L)

DAY 15: MAR 19, 2017: THEKKADY/KUMARAKOM

Enjoying rural scenery we arrive at Kumarakom and board our private houseboat to take a four-hour cruising along the famous backwaters of Kerala... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) Overnight: Coconut lagoon (1 Night) (B, L, D)

DAY 16: MAR 20, 2017: KUMARAKOM/COCHIN

Short drive to Cochin. European influences in the architecture of this charming town picturesquely located on a number of islands squeezed between the Arabian Sea... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) Overnight: Eighth Baston (2 Nights) (B, D)

DAY 17: MAR 21, 2017: COCHIN

Our day in Cochin and we take full advantage of it. After breakfast we visit Fort Kochi visiting St. Francis Church the oldest European church in India... [Read more on bestway.com/culinary-south-india](http://bestway.com/culinary-south-india) (B, L, D)

DAY 18: MAR 22, 2017: COCHIN/HOME

After an interesting and unforgettable culinary experience of South India, we are transferred to the airport for our flight back home. (B)

