



MONTESSORI TOURS AND TRAVEL

... your window to the world of Montessori

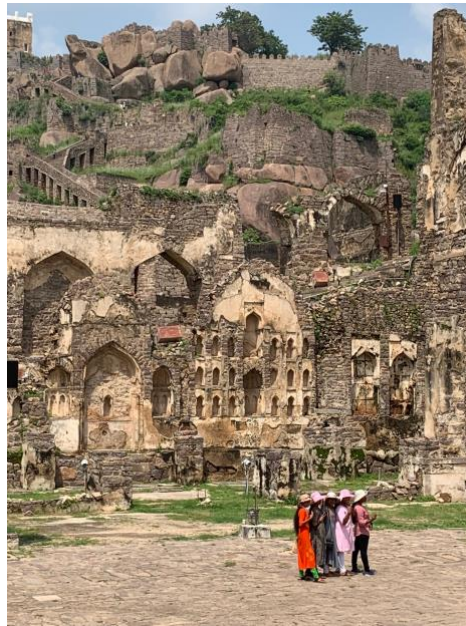
Montessori Tours and Travel invites you to join the

Montessori's India Study Tour

See, explore, discover...

02 January – 12 January 2025 (10 nights)

This small group tour has been designed for the global Montessori Community and lovers of Montessori history to expand their knowledge of Dr Montessori's life, times and legacy in India.



A day out at Golkonda Fort, Hyderabad

Highlights include: Montessori Schools, Montessori Training Centres, Montessori outreach programmes, Indian food, cultural experiences, travelling with like-minded people, exclusive small group tour.

Included in cost: 10 night's accommodation including daily breakfast, all hotel taxes and tourist fees, private transportation, one internal flight, local English-speaking guides, meals as specified in this itinerary.

Small exclusive group tour

COST: Single – AUD 7950 Double / Twin Share – AUD 6660
(Cost subject to change)



Thursday 02 January – HYDERABAD (4 nights)

Welcome to Hyderabad, India, a vibrant city with a potpourri of history, cuisine and eclectic experiences. Hyderabad is also home to the legendary and fragrant Hyderabadi Biryani, a delicious dish worth trying. Founded in the 16th century, the state of Hyderabad became part of the Indian republic in 1950. Today the city is a thriving centre for trade, commerce and technology with a unique character.

Make your own way from the airport to the hotel.

Orientate parts of Hyderabad with a sightseeing tour.

Accommodation: Aalankrita Resort (<https://aalankrita.com>)

Meals: Breakfast

Friday 03 January - HYDERABAD

Meet with Montessori colleagues at *Pragnya Montessori School* (<https://pragnyamontessori.com>) and visit environments for the full range of age groups from young to adolescents.

Enjoy a simple Indian lunch, prepared and served by the adolescents at the *Pragnya Montessori School*.

Do a little browsing and shopping at *Shilparamam*. Engage in some serious cooking in a '*Hyderabad Cook Off*' whilst learning about local foods and flavours and creating culinary delights. Enjoy eating the efforts of your hard work at dinner.

Accommodation: Aalankrita Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Saturday 04 January - HYDERABAD

After breakfast today, put on your comfortable walking shoes for two tours. The initial tour will be at the *Taj Falaknama Palace*, now a 5 star hotel. Designed by an English architect, it is made of Italian marble with stained glass windows and covers an area of 93,970 square metres. Work commenced in 1884 and took 9 years to build.

We will stay at the *Palace* for lunch before visiting the *Golkonda Fort* in the afternoon. Built in 1143, the original mud fort was later fortified between the 14th and 17th centuries. *Golkonda Fort* is one of the most magnificent fortress complexes in India. Early evening will be the Laser and Multi Media Show which will take us back in time to the days of the Nizams.

There will be a narration by Bollywood star Amitabh Bachchan and music of renowned Indian performers.

Accommodation: Aalankrita Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Sunday 05 January – HYDERABAD

Today is your day. Explore at your leisure, catch up on reading or sleep, shop till you drop....

Possible options include a tour of the old city, shopping for lac bangles and pearls from the *Pearl City*.

Accommodation: Aalankrita Resort

Meals: Breakfast

Monday 06 January – HYDERABAD to CHENNAI (3 nights)

Early morning flight to Chennai with transfer from airport to hotel.

Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu is located on the Coromandal Coast. Formally known as Madras, this city is the gatekeeper of South Indian art, culture and traditions.

To orientate and learn more about this fascinating city, during the half day city tour, visit historic sites and temples such as the *Kapaleeshwarar Temple* (over 350 years old and dedicated to Lord Shiva), *San Thomas Basilica* and the *St George Fort Museum*.

Enjoy the tastes of the city on a '*Chennai Food Tour*', sampling the best of local food and learning how Indian food turned so spicy and why Indians love sweet delights. Start the tour hungry and inquisitive.

Accommodation: Park Chennai Hotel (<https://www.theparkhotels.com/chennai>)

(Look for lots of artefacts and enjoy the character of this hotel where classic Bollywood movies were made.)

Meals: Breakfast and Food Tour

Tuesday 07 January – CHENNAI

The *Kalakshethra Foundation* (<http://www.kalakshetra.in>) is an important physical and artistic landmark in India, covering 100 acres. It is a haven within the city and will be the first visit after breakfast.

After lunch, wander the grounds of the *Theosophical Society* and visit the Museum and Montessori display. The *Theosophical Society* was instrumental in bringing Dr Montessori to India. See the *Olcott Bungalow* where Dr Montessori lived.

Accommodation: Park Chennai Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Wednesday 08 January - CHENNAI

Visit *Navadisha Montessori Foundation* (AMI Training Centre) and learn about 'Montessori in India'. There will be books and materials from the Indian Montessori Foundation for sale.

After lunch, we will visit one of the many Montessori schools in Chennai.

Accommodation: Park Chennai Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Thursday 09 January – CHENNAI to PUDUCHERRY (3 nights)

Drive to *Mamallapuram* (about 1.5 hrs from Chennai) and visit the shore temples along the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal. This area is speckled with several UNESCO World Heritage Sites dating back to 3rd – 9th century BC). The area is practically an open – air museum.

After lunch at a local restaurant (*at own cost*), we continue south to Puducherry (about 2 hrs). This city is known for textiles, pottery and its French connection. Puducherry is known as 'la Côte d'Azur de l'Est'.

Late afternoon enjoy a privately curated walk tour of Puducherry visiting the Tamil and French quarters.

Accommodation: Palais de Mahe (in the French Quarter)

<https://www.cghearth.com/palais-de-mahe>

Meals: Breakfast

Friday 10 January – PUDUCHERRY

Today we meet with our Montessori colleagues and visit the Montessori Adolescent Farm.

Accommodation: Palais de Mahe

Meals: Breakfast

Saturday 11 January – PUDUCHERRY

Today's day visit is to nearby *Auroville* (about 40 mins away).

Learn how paper is made from cloth meshes at the *Auroville Paper Factory* and purchase some products only at their factory shop. The *Mason & Co Chocolate Factory* produces organic chocolates with no chemicals or preservatives. Enjoy tasting their wares.

Lunch today will be at *Naturellement*, a garden café run entirely by women. Enjoy the vegetarian and vegan dishes in a relaxed and peaceful atmosphere.

After lunch, experience a 1 hour *Sound Bath*. Experience full body listening through diverse sounds and frequencies of natural instruments played live. A session for wellbeing and harmonisation.

Finish off the day at *Auroville* with free time to shop, wander, learn more about this unique place.

Accommodation: Palais de Mahe

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Sunday 12 January – PUDUCHERRY to CHENNAI

Today is a day on the road as we depart Puducherry for Chennai and return home.

Meals: Breakfast

PLEASE NOTE: Prices quoted are based on such situations as current applicable fuel prices, tax structure, guide fee/entrances and rate of exchange at time of publication. Should there be increases in any of these elements, the quoted price may change.

This tour requires travellers to be able to walk approximately 3+ miles / 5+ kms in any given day.

There will be local foods, local guides, local cultural experiences, local larrikins.
There will be surprises and activities, time to chat, time to play, time to learn, time to wonder.
Tour Leader - Roelie Hartwig

Small exclusive group tour



*This itinerary will always be a work in progress
and what we end up doing on some days may be different to what is stated here.*

*All will be done to ensure the tour proceeds as per the itinerary whilst maintaining the integrity of the tour.
Should this happen your understanding and cooperation will be appreciated.*

This tour will be conducted in English with local guides and local drivers.

**To find out more or to secure a place, please email
Roelie Hartwig at: montessoritoursandtravel@gmail.com**

Inclusions:	Exclusions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Accommodation including breakfast every morning● Private Transport on tour● One internal flight● Sightseeing with local English-speaking guides● Hotel and other applicable taxes, entry fees, tourist fees (subject to change)● Meals (food only) as specified in this Itinerary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Other meals not mentioned in this Itinerary● Alcoholic & other drinks● International flights and airport taxes● Overweight luggage● Full Comprehensive Travel Insurance (compulsory)● Costs associated with passport and visas for India● Personal expenses such as vaccinations, medication, personal items, laundry, beverages etc.● Porterage, tips and gratuities to wait staff, hotel staff, drivers, guides, etc. (Tipping is expected.)● Camera & Video permits at Cultural sights● Other services not listed under <i>Inclusions</i>

COST: Single – AUD 7950 Double / Twin Share – AUD 6660
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