



Babaji's Kriya Yoga Pilgrimage to South India



February 9th to 23rd, 2017

with Acharyas Satyananda, Sita Siddhananda and Sharana Devi

In 2017, we will offer again our traditional pilgrimage tour to sacred sites of South India and the Tamil Siddha Yoga tradition, offered exclusively to our initiates and aspirants of Babaji's Kriya Yoga. This is a **new itinerary**, which will interest previous years' pilgrims as well.

Our tour guide Acharya Satyananda from Germany has done several pilgrimage tours for us in India and has been teaching Babaji's Kriya Yoga in India for more than a decade now. This time he will be accompanied by our Acharyas Sita Siddhananda from France and Sharana Devi from Brazil, who have joined our previous pilgrimages in India.

The tour will be guided in English, accompanied with translation into French, Portuguese and German by our Acharyas.

Travel Itinerary

In a pilgrimage, one seeks to come close to the Divine by visiting, worshipping and meditating in sacred places which provide a terrestrial „doorway“ to the infinite and the absolute. One may easily experience the „Divine Presence“ in such places, which have been sanctified by the spiritual practices of many yogis and saints.

During this pilgrimage, we will visit a variety of such holy places of South India's ancient and profound spiritual culture. We meet with several living spiritual masters; we practice Kriya Yoga with a group of other initiates, in ashrams, old temples, samadhi shrines, on mountain tops and at the seaside; we visit our own ashram in Bangalore and the ashrams of two world-renowned great Indian sages of this century, in Tiruvannamalai and Pondicherry; we travel through beautiful the natural countryside of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, with countless coconut trees, the beautiful Western Ghats mountain range, and the shores of the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea.

There will be group practice of Kriya Yoga *sadhana* at least twice daily to deepen your experience, and a daily *satsang* meeting for sharing outer and inner experiences, guided by our Acharyas, to deepen your external experiences by turning them inward.

The itinerary of this tour covers new destinations which we have not visited before. This makes the tour interesting for those pilgrims, who have already attended our previous South India tours.

It also includes those important destinations which we want new pilgrims, in particular, to experience. All of the selected destinations provide new inner experiences each time they are visited.

The character of the whole tour is imbued with the vibration of a traditional pilgrimage. It is not designed as a tourist trip; however, it will provide a new level of comfort required for Westerners. It is



scheduled to coincide with the most pleasant warm weather conditions in South India during winter time. The hotels have been selected for their Western style new facilities as much as possible. Ground transportation will be in a comfortable air-conditioned bus.

It will be an unforgettable transforming experience in the homeland of Yoga, which will inspire you to appreciate the rich cultural tapestry, which has given birth to Babaji's Kriya Yoga.

Arrival and departure dates

The tour officially starts Thursday morning, on February 9th, in Bangalore. We will meet at the hotel lobby at 10 a.m. to leave together to our Babaji's Kriya Yoga Ashram. Arrival by international flight is to International Airport Bengaluru (BLR), during the night of February 8th to 9th, or according to your personal precedent journey. The latest possible flight arrival time is 4 a.m. on February 9th, with no time for rest before the tour starts officially.

We recommend to arrive early enough, either during the previous day of Wednesday, February 8th, or even earlier during the previous night (which requires an additional hotel night), to have time to rest and relax after a taxing long haul flight, and to get accustomed to the local time zone and environment, before the tour starts.

The tour officially ends Wednesday late evening, February 22nd, in Kerala, in our hotel Lulu ICC in Thrissur. This allows departing earliest during the late night into Thursday 23rd or during the next day, from Kochi International Airport (COK), with a local connection flight either to the Gulf States or to an India hub, or according to your individual onward journey. A non-stop international flight to Bangalore requires a local connection flight from Kochi to Bangalore.

Itinerary

Please see attached the detailed itinerary with travel days and destinations.

Registration

Contact

For registration and questions to the tour organizer, contact M. Govindan Satchidananda satchidananda@babajiskriyayoga.net (French, English).

For questions regarding the tour, contact your Acharyas
Satyananda satyananda@babajiskriyayoga.net (German, English),
Sita Siddhananda sita@babajiskriyayoga.net (French),
Sharana Devi sharanadevi@babajiskriyayoga.net (Portuguese).

General information is given on our website www.babajiskriyayoga.net, and more details about the journey are given after confirmed registration.



Costs: The amount for participation in the proposed trip payable to the tour organizer is **EUR 2100** or **US\$ 2,300** or C\$ 2,875. This amount includes the costs of local ground transportation by bus in India and hotel accommodation for the 15 local nights of the itinerary. Not included are the flight tickets for your international return flight, your tourist visa for India, as fees vary from country to country, and your daily meals, according to personal meal preferences, which vary on average around 10 Euros per day. Rooms for the group are reserved as twin bed double occupancy (king size or single beds depending on availability). Single occupancy can be reserved on demand for additional **EUR 400** or **US\$600** or C\$800 which covers the hotels' single room rate difference.

Reservation: To register for the tour, email to M.G. Satchidananda, or call the Quebec office at <+1 450-297-0258>, or email to Sita Siddhananda or Satyananda. Make a **deposit** of **EUR 300** or **US\$450** or C\$600 to reserve your place, or pay the full amount at once. The deposit should be paid as early as possible after registration to ensure your place. The **balance** of the amount must be received latest by December 1st, 2016; this is required to fulfill the hotels' demand of full advance payments for our reservations.

Payment: in Europe, pay by bank transfer to the account of M. Govindan at Deutsche Bank, IBAN: DE09500700240072310600, with subject: South India Pilgrimage 2017. In America, pay on our website by credit card ([enroll in activity](#)).

Your Accommodation is booked by the tour organizer for the 15 nights from Monday night Feb 8th into 9th, until Wednesday night Feb 22nd into 23rd, inclusive. We offer you help with the booking for your local hotel accommodation for the days before or after the official itinerary, which have to be paid individually, in case you choose to have a relaxed arrival or departure one or two days earlier or later.

Booking of Your International Flights: Please book your own tickets for your international flight to India and return. Our local India travel agent is not allowed to book flights for foreigners without the original passport at hand, and this allows you to adjust your personal trip to India by choosing individual arrival or departure dates and airports. Arrival airport for the international flights is Bengaluru International Airport [BLR], departure airport for the international return flights is Kochi International Airport [COK]. International non-stop return flights to Bangalore require a local connection flight from Kochi to Bangalore. We recommend to book the international flight only with one airline which offers flights to Bangalore and Kochi, for example the UAE hubs (Emirates, Etihad, Oman, Qatar, Gulf), they offer reasonable tickets, or with a cooperation line in India (Air India or Jet Airways via Mumbai or Delhi). Only this provides baggage check-through to your final destination and a warranty in case of delay, (which is not given if separate flights are booked independently through the internet or with stand-alone low-budget carriers.)

A Travel or flight insurance for the dates of the trip should be included in the flight booking if required.

A Tourist Visa is required for India. The visa must be obtained from the designated Indian Mission in the country of your permanent residence and must be applied for online through the official website of the Indian immigration services (indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa). The application should be submitted early enough as the processing time can vary; the costs vary from country to country.

Vaccination for tropical conditions is not required for this style of travel during this time of the year and in the present mild hygienic conditions in South India and Sri Lanka.



Itinerary

- Tue, 7. Departure flights from America to India.
- Wed, 8. Departure flights from Europe to India.
- For those who arrive a day earlier, first local India shopping opportunity in Bangalore, or an additional day for rest and adjustment to India's time zone and climate.
- N. 8-9. Night or early morning flight arrivals to Bengaluru Airport, or at train and bus stations. Stay at the comfortable Hotel The Citrine for 3 nights, located in Malleshwaram city close to our Ashram and the interstate bus station.
- Thu, 9. At 10 a.m., after breakfast, first official meeting of the group. At noon, visit Babaji's Kriya Yoga ashram and publication center in Malleshwaram, in the city of Bangalore. Babaji's Kriya Yoga Puja to sanctify the pilgrimage, and a starting *satsang*. In the afternoon, visit Mr. Sitaram's retreat outside Bangalore with a beautiful arboretum of many sacred trees and typical cultural plants of India, see an unknown ancient Hanuman shrine and a historic Homa fire site of ancient Vedic times.
- Fri, 10. A day for group yoga practice and to allow arriving at your inner pilgrimage as well. Visit the School of Ancient Wisdom retreat center, a uniquely beautiful tranquil place in colonial style with residential seminar facilities surrounded by nature and filled with botanical greens and birds, founded by a lady who was associated with the famous Theosophical Society. (Before writing down Babaji's teachings of the „Voice of Babaji“, V.T.Neelakantan was a renowned writer for the Theosophical Society.) In the afternoon participate in an opening fire ceremony at the fire place where we hold our *mantra yagnas*, to further prepare us for our outer and inner pilgrimage.
- Sat, 11. Travel to Tiruvannamalai. Visit the Ramana Maharshi ashram at the base of the holy mountain Arunachala, a famous destination for many western spiritual seekers since his life time, meditate in the small hall where Ramana spent many years and taught devotees absorbed in Samadhi. Stay at Hotel Arunai Anantha for 2 nights.
- Sun, 12. Walk in a beautiful nature on the Arunachala mountain, explore ancient meditation places like the cave of Saint Virupaksha whose body is enshrined inside, and the Skanda ashram refuge where Ramana spent six years. This mountain area was sanctified by the shepherd Siddha Idaikadar. Evening visit during evening temple activities to the Arunachaleshwarara-Shiva-Temple in the city, where Ramana spent many years absorbed in Samadhi, and Siddha Arunagirinathar composed famous songs about Muruga.
- Mon, 13. Travel to Pondicherry by South India's eastern seashore at the Bay of Bengal, in ancient times established by Siddha Agastyar (Vedapuri), and until recently a French colony, where the famous philosopher Sri Aurobindo sought asylum from the British and established his ashram with „the mother“. Now the city with colonial atmosphere is populated and visited by many Westerners and offers shopping opportunities and an ocean beach boardwalk. Stay at Hotel Ananda-Inn for 2 nights.
- Tue. 14. In the morning, visit the Sri Aurobindo Ashram with the samadhi shrines of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, where they lived in seclusion for many years. In the afternoon, visit international Auroville community park with its spectacular 'Matri Mandir' dome architecture and huge old vibrating Banyan trees; in the evening enjoy the Bay of Bengal ocean beach.



- Wed, 15. Travel to Trichy (Tiruchirappalli). On the way, visit the Babaji Nagaraj Mandir Shrine in the small village Parangipettai (Puerto-Novo), established by Yogi S.A.A. Ramaiah. In the evening, visit famous historic Srirangam temple, one of the biggest temple premises in India which resemble a city within a city, with the *jiva samadhi* shrine of Saint Ramanuja who established the philosophy of „qualified monism“. Stay at Hotel Sangam in Tiruchirappalli.
- Thu, 16. Travel to Palani Malai, an ancient temple of the deity Muruga on top of a sacred mountain in the midst of central South India, where usually no Westerners go, with statues of 18 Siddhas and the *jiva samadhi* shrine of Siddha Boganathar, who established the place and created a statue of Muruga out of 9 secret alchemical substances. Visit the ashram of Boganathar's disciple Pullipani, personal *satsang* with present successor Swami Sivananda Pullipani and our local friend Swami Yogi Venkatesh. Stay in Hotel Vel's Court for 2 nights.
- Fri, 17. Early morning ascend climbing 1,008 steps to the top of the hill, like thousands of Indian pilgrims do for hundreds of years, attend a special *puja* (a sunrise *arati* worship service for *darshan* of the deity Lord Dandaswamy, Muruga), experience the intensity and wildness of a very exotic ancient cult of worship under guidance of Venkatesh, then meditate in the Jiva-Samadhi shrine of Siddha Boganathar. In the afternoon, rest or walk in Palani spending time with Swami Venkatesh.
- Sat, 18. Travel to Muttalamada at the foothills of Kerala's Western Ghats, meet our friend Sai Swami Sunil Das in his ashram, placed within beautiful nature in a wild animal nature reserve with a stunning view to the mountain range, have lunch and participate in the ashram's Shirdi Sai Baba *puja* ceremony for World peace and love with Sunil Das, a disciple of the famous Indian spiritual leader Sathya Sai Baba. Travel to Palakkad and stay in Hotel Indraprastha for 2 nights.
- Sun, 19. Meet and have *satsang* with Swami Ritodgata, a disciple of famous Swami Tathata, in his ashram in Palakkad. Visit a well preserved historical Brahmin village to catch a glimpse of authentic Indian religious neighborhood village life style.
- Mon, 20. Travel westward to Thrissur and to Guruvayur at the Kerala coast. Meet and have *satsang* with our friend Sai Swami Hari Narayanan in his Shirdi Sai Temple of Peace and Light. Stay at the comfortable Hotel Lulu ICC for the last 3 nights.
- Tue, 21. At India's west coast, at the Arabian Sea, enjoy a boat-trip on Kerala's famous „backwaters“ (shallows right behind the ocean frontline), visit an Elephant sanctuary, in the evening perform together with Swami Hari Narayanan a holy *homa* fire ceremony.
- Wed, 22. Last day for group *sadhana* and *satsang*, last shopping opportunity in Thrissur, preparation for your return or onward journey.
- N. 22-23. Departure flights to international destinations from Kochi Airport. Or stay for a later departure or to continue your individual journey afterwards.
- Thu, 23. Arrival to destinations in Europe or America.