



## **Tailor Made Travel: India**

### **Southern India: *The Coromandel***

#### **Introduction**

When Millennia ago, Aryan peoples invaded India from Central Asia, the indigenous Dravidian population was driven southward, away from the plains watered by the Indus and Ganges rivers onto the Deccan Plateau and the fertile lands of the South.

There, more than in any other part of India the ancient brahmanical traditions remained intact and the subsequent Moslem invasions from the eleventh century onwards never achieved the hegemony that they did in the north. Contemporaneously the trade in spices to the Malabar and Coromandel coastal ports brought foreign influences in the form of religions and secular ideas which have left a permanent legacy on the culture of the region

The lush tropical south with its warm, friendly people markedly with the sights, mountains and deserts of Northern India, and introduces the visitor to a new range of delights and fascinations in this most diverse of nations.

Bombay is the gateway to the Deccan and the South, a vital and exciting city. The financial capital of the country it contrasts markedly with bureaucratic and historical Delhi. A visit to Bombay either at the beginning or end of a tour is thoroughly recommended.

#### **Itinerary**

**2 weeks.** Chennai - Mahabalipuram - Pondicheri - Tamjour - Madhurai - Chettinad Country - Trivandra