



## 27 Jan to 10 Feb 2013 Five Great Elements Temple Trip

[Click here for Fresh Talent of Jyotish Conference schedule](#)

**Meals on your own unless specifically stated**

**Puja costs:** As part of the Temples visits we will be conducting many pujas and prayer ceremonies. The costs of these will be shared by the participants. Komilla will inform you of the costs.

### **27 January'13 (Sunday): Pondicherry - Arrival**

**10 am-** Pick up from Central Chennai Location to be given later and drive to Pondicherry (3 hours). Check in at Annamalai Hotel. Rest of the afternoon free.

**8pm** Dinner– Five Elements Temple Tour orientation and welcome for new guests and farewell conference guests who are leaving.

### **28 January'13 (Monday): Drive to Kumbakonam (175Kms / 5 hours' drive)**

**Enroute visit to Nataraja and Patanjali Temples, Chidambaram**

**8am** Two hour Drive to the Nataraja Temple, Chidambaram (this temple represents Ether). The Chidambaram temple has great significance for Komilla, this was the temple where the first batch of graduating students were given their certificates and we go to the temple to thank and seek blessings. Deekshithar Subramania Swami, the temple trustee will guide and we will visit the inner sanctum. After lunch we visit the ancient Sri Anantheeswarar Patanjali and Saraswati Temple



**Overnight stay at Hotel Paradise resort / Kumbakonam.**

**Five Great Elements Temple Trip with Komilla Sutton**  
**January 27 – February 10, 2013**

**29 January'13 (Tuesday): Gangaikondacholapuram, Uppiliappan and White Ganesha Temple**

**8am** - Visit to Gangaikondacholapuram (30kms / 1 Hour drive each way) –it was erected as the capital of the Cholas by Rajendra Chola I, at the beginning of the 11th century C.E. This great temple of Shiva is next only to the Brihadeshwara temple at Thanjavur in its monumental nature and surpasses it in sculptural quality.



**4pm** - The Uppiliappan Temple is a Vishnu Temple connected to the Tirupati Balaji Temple. The presiding deity in this temple is Lord Uppiliappan Perumal with his consort Bhumi Devi and her father sage Markandeya. We are specially visiting this temple as part of our pilgrimage to Tirupati Balaji Temple, later in the trip.

And on return will visit Shweta Vinayaka temple, the white Ganesha temple.



**Overnight stay at Kumbakonam**

**30 January'13 (Wednesday): Kumbakonam – Thanjavur – Trichy (110kms – 3 hours' drive). Mangala Shani temple at Thirunaraiyur and Brihadeshwara Temple at Thanjavur**

**8am** - Visit and puja at Ramanathaswami Temple housing Mangala Shani Temple. This is a rare Saturn temple where he is with his two wives Jyesta Devi (also known as Neela Devi) and Manda Devi and two sons, Mandi and Gulika. This is where Lord Rama's Father Dasaratha did puja for Shani.



**Five Great Elements Temple Trip with Komilla Sutton**  
**January 27 – February 10, 2013**

**10.30am** - Proceed to Thanjavur. After lunch visit to the Brihadeshwara Temple – The Peruvudaiyar Koyil is the world's first complete granite temple and a brilliant example of the major heights achieved by Cholas. The 'Vimana' – or the temple tower – is 216 ft. (66 m) high and is among the tallest of its kind in the world. Brihadeshwara Temple celebrated thousand years in 2010



Evening drive to Trichy (2hours drive)

**Overnight stay in Hotel Sangam, Trichy**

**31 January '13 (Thursday): Trichy – Jambukeshwara & Brahmapureshwara Temples**

**9am** - Jambukeshwara temple (one of the five Elements temples – this temple represents the Water). Puja and visit unusual temples within the larger temple structure - Saturn with his wife and mother, Moon with his two wives Rohini and Krittika, The temples walls are rich in their carvings and sculpture. Komilla will give a short guided walk through this temple after the puja ceremony.



**4pm** - Brahmapureshwara Temple at Tirupattur. This is the temple where Brahma worships Lord Shiva. It is a rare Brahma temple. There are twelve lingams, and many Ganesha shrines, a tall idol of Brahma in a lotus position and the Samadhi of Patanjali of the Yoga sutras.

**Overnight stay at Trichy, Hotel Sangam**

**Five Great Elements Temple Trip with Komilla Sutton**  
**January 27 – February 10, 2013**

**01 February'13 (Friday): Trichy – Tiruvannamalai (200kms – 4.5 hours' drive) – Visit Ashtalingam in Tiruvannamalai**

**8am** Drive to Tiruvannamalai is the home of Shri Arunachaleshwara Temple and the sacred Arunachala Mountain.

**4pm-** Ashtalingam – Ashtalingam are the eight directional temples that surround the Arunachaleshwara temple. There is a special temple representing each direction, North, South, East, West, North East, South East, North West and South West. We will drive and visit each one of them.

**Overnight stay at Hotel Sparsa, Tiruvannamalai**



**02 February'13: (Saturday) Tiruvannamalai – Girivalam and Arunachaleshwara Temple**

**6:00am** - Optional Sunrise Girivalam (walking around the Sacred Arunachaleshwara Mountain). This is a very special experience like a meditation. The walk is 14 km (around 10 miles). You can choose to walk a shorter distance and come back in a taxi or scooter if unable to do the full distance.

**10am** -Puja at the Arunachaleshwara temple (one of the five elements temple – this temple represents the Fire)



**Five Great Elements Temple Trip with Komilla Sutton  
January 27 – February 10, 2013**

**3pm** - Ramana Maharishi Ashram to walk to the cave and 7pm Ramana Maharishi ashram for evening aarti.



**Overnight stay at Sparsa Tiruvannamalai**

**03 February'13: (Sunday) Tiruvannamalai – Vellore (120kms – 3 hours' drive) & Vellore – Tirupati (120kms – 3 hours' drive)- Golden Temple Vellore**

Drive to Golden temple at Vellore, lunch at Hotel Darling Residency / Vellore, later proceed to Tirupati.

**Overnight stay at Fortune Kences Hotel, Tirupati**



**Five Great Elements Temple Trip with Komilla Sutton  
January 27 – February 10, 2013**

**04 February'13: (Monday) Sri Kala Hasti and Guddimalam**

**9am** - Sri Kala Hasti Siva temple (one of the Five Elements temples– this temple represents the air element. Today is navami tithi a special day for Durga and Sri Kala Hasti is the most important temple for Rahu Ketu and Kal Sarpa yoga remedies. We will be doing a special puja and seek the blessings.



On the return visit Guddimalam temple - a 2<sup>nd</sup> century Shiva temple with rare lingam fully carved. This is off the beaten track, very beautiful and quiet.

**Overnight stay at Hotel Fortune Kences  
Tirupati**



**Five Great Elements Temple Trip with Komilla Sutton**  
**January 27 – February 10, 2013**

**05 February'13 (Tuesday): Tirupati - Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple and Sri Kapileswaraswami Temple**

Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple - the Mother Goddess manifested herself in the holy Pushkarini called Padma Sarovaram in a golden lotus. The Padma Purana gives a vivid description of the advent of the Goddess and subsequent wedding with Lord Srinivasa (Vishnu). It is important to pay homage to the goddess before going to the Balaji Temple in Tirumala.

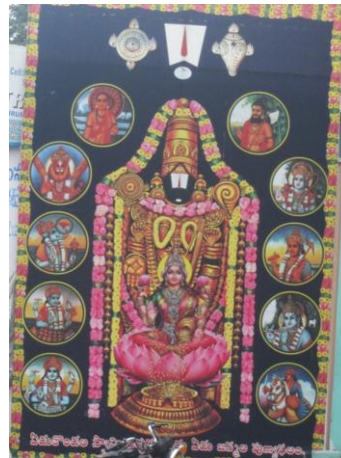


Sri Kapileswaraswami is the only temple dedicated to Lord Siva in Tirupati. It is situated at the foot of the Tirumala Hills. The sacred waterfall called Kapila Teertham

**06 February'13 (Wednesday): Tirumala**

**Lord Venkateshwara Balaji Temple**

**8am** Lord Venkateshwara Balaji temple at Tirumala. We will also visit Varaha Swami, Hanuman and Ganesha temples on the way. This is the most spiritually enhancing experience. There are always huge crowds of devotees at the temple; it usually takes three to four hours of standing in a queue in order to get a darshan of Shri Balaji. This is despite getting into a special queue reserved for overseas visitors. The entire experience of visiting Tirumala is very special even if you decide not to queue to visit the Balaji shrine.



**Overnight stay at Fortune Kences Hotel, Tirupati**

**Five Great Elements Temple Trip with Komilla Sutton**  
**January 27 – February 10, 2013**

**07 February'13 (Thursday): Tirupati – Kanchipuram – Mahabalipuram (240kms – 5.5 hours' drive – Visiting Ekambareshwara temple and Sankaracharya Peetam, Kanchipuram**

**7am** -Drive 3 hours to Mahabalipuram enroute visit to the famous Ekambareshwara temple (this temple represents Earth element). Lunch at Kanchipuram. After lunch visit Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, the monastic order founded by the Adi Sankaracharya. The head of the mutt is referred to as a Sankaracharya. Later proceed to Mahabalipuram.

**Overnight stay at Sea Breeze hotel Mahabalipuram**



**08 February'13 (Friday): Sightseeing Mahabalipuram**

Visit to the Sea Shore temple, Five Rathas (World Heritage Monument) and Arjuna Penance & rest of the day relax at the hotel.

**Overnight stay at Sea Breeze, Mahabalipuram.**



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**January 27 – February 10, 2013**

**09 February'13 (Saturday): Mahabalipuram**

Full free to relax, do Ayurveda and shopping at the excellent shops of Mahabalipuram  
**8pm** -farewell dinner.

**Overnight stay at Sea Breeze, Mahabalipuram**

**10 February'13 (Sunday): End of program.**

Check out time is **11am**. You will need to arrange your own transfers to the airport at Chennai or onward journey. Drive time to Chennai is 2 hrs.

**Hotels**

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Hotel</b>	<b>website</b>
Pondichery	Annamalai International	<a href="http://www.hotelannamalai.com">www.hotelannamalai.com</a>
Kumbakonam	Paradise Resort	<a href="http://www.paradiseresortindia.com">www.paradiseresortindia.com</a>
Trichy	Sangam	<a href="http://www.hotelsangam.com">www.hotelsangam.com</a>
Tiruvannamalai	Sparsa	<a href="http://www.sparsaresorts.com/">www.sparsaresorts.com/</a>
Tirupati	Fortune Kences	<a href="http://www.fortunehotels.in/resort/Tirupati-Fortune_Kences.aspx">www.fortunehotels.in/resort/Tirupati-Fortune_Kences.aspx</a>
Mahabalipuram	Sea Breeze	<a href="http://www.hotelseabreeze.net/">www.hotelseabreeze.net/</a>

\*\*\*All hotels are 3 stars (+).

Program is subject to change.