

## **KERALA**

**Private transfer for airport and excursions, and overnight stay in a private houseboat with a personal chef included!!!!**

**Indian visa service also available on request!!!**

### **10 Days: Cochin - Munnar - Thekkady - Alleppey - Kumarakom - Kovalam**

Nicknamed Gods own country; famous for its backwaters, Ayurvedic treatment and tropical greenery. Kerala is situated on the lush and tropical Malabar Coast which has begun to attract tourists from far and wide to experience its unique charm, culture and traditions. Revered for its expanse of lush green palm trees, sandy beaches, mountains and intricate maze of backwaters makes this an ideal retreat.

**If the proposed itinerary doesn't tickle your fancy, or you simply wish to travel at your own pace by lengthening or shortening your trip, our experts on the ground can help you tailor make your own Kerala experience. For honeymooners, in addition to helping you plan your tailor made Kerala tour, our dedicated sales team will also help you make your experience as romantic as possible. Large groups are also welcome - the more the merrier!!!**

**We work hard to offer our customers the best rates possible. By working closely with our partners on the ground we can provide unbeatable prices. We constantly re-evaluate all our packages to ensure we offer value for money. We also take quality very seriously, so whilst providing the best rates in the market we do not compromise on standards. We offer a wide range of quality and luxury accommodation to suit all price ranges and requirements at the lowest price possible!!!**

## **ITINERARY**

### **Day 01: Cochin [Arrive in Cochin]**

Arrive in Cochin where you will be assisted on arrival by our local representative and transferred to your hotel for check-in. Later enjoy sightseeing in Cochin by visiting the ancient Dutch Palace, St. Francis Church and Jewish Synagogue. The evening will be free to enjoy at your own leisure. Overnight stay in Cochin.

**Day 02: Cochin to Munnar [130 Kms 4 to 5 Hour Drive]**

In the morning after breakfast, check-out of the hotel and proceed to Munnar by car. On arrival to Munnar proceed to check-in to a pre-booked hotel. You are free to enjoy the rest of the day at your own leisure (take in the natural surroundings or a stroll at the local market. Overnight stay in Munnar.

**Day 03: Munnar**

After breakfast, enjoy a walk in Munnar which is situated near the Anaimudi Peak, the highest peak in the Western Ghats. There are about 30 tea plantations in and around Munnar. The tea estates, hills, lakes and forests inside Munnar range exposes it's beauty. The Munnar hills are covered by tea plants, which gives visitors the impression that they are gazing into a wide green carpet. Later visit Eravikulam Wild Life Sanctuary - the only sanctuary in India where Ibex can be found. Followed by a visit to Kannan Devan Hills where you can have a panoramic view of Munnar Tea Estates & the Lake of Munnar. Overnight stay in Munnar.

Munnar, the former 'summer capital of the British', has become the most sought after holiday destination in South India. It is a splendid gift of nature to the Western Ghats, the eastern border of Kerala, which is 5000ft above sea level. Dense forests, wildlife sanctuaries, and major cash crop plantations cover most of this region. Munnar is known for its variety of animals from elephants to Nilgiri Thar.

**Day 04: Munnar to Thekkady [110 Kms 4 to 5 Hour Drive]**

After breakfast, check-out and proceed to Thekkady by car. On arrival to Thekkady proceed to check –in to a pre-booked hotel. The rest of the day is free to spend at your own leisure. You may choose to spend the rest of the day visiting the Spice Plantation or take part in Elephant Safari (at your own cost). Overnight stay in Thekkady.

**Day 05: Thekkady**

After breakfast you will visit Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, one of India's biggest wildlife sanctuaries covering 777 sq. Km (300 Sq. miles). A reserve specifically for Tigers. Its centre piece, the man-made Periyar Lake at the height of 2000 ft. covers 26 sq. km, running through the forests of the Western Ghats in Kerala. Animals found here include elephants, sambar, gaur, wild boars and birds like the ibis and grey heron. The viewing of animals is by boat and with a bit of extra luck you may be able to see tigers as well. The evening is free to spend at your own leisure. Overnight stay in Thekkady.

**Day 06: Thekkady to Alleppey [110 Kms 4 to 5 Hrs drive]**

After breakfast, proceed to Kumarakom / Alleppey. Kumarakom / Alleppey are a small collection of islands in the state of Kerala. Before its popularity as a tourist town, Kumarakom was an area located near a marshy mangrove on the edge of the Vembanad Lake. In 1878, George Alfred Baker, a missionary from Essex, England, set about clearing the mangrove and replacing it with coconut plantations. Baker was so taken back by the beauty of Kumarakom / Alleppey, he decided to make it

his home and in doing so he became the catalyst for development in the area. Here you will enjoy the Beautiful backwater journey by boat, through the tropical countryside enchanting backwaters of Alleppey by regattas (snake boats) for which Kerala is very famous. While sailing enjoy palm fringed narrow canals winding through the vast expanse of paddy fields and the neat tiny villages lined up along either side of the canal. The Chinese fishing nets, are reminiscent of our past trade links, and can be seen from the boat. Flocks of duck swimming around the banks and tiny birds flying across the sky add to the picturesque landscape. You may decide to enjoy a spot of fishing from the deck of your houseboat. In the evening take in the beautiful sunset from the sun-deck of the houseboats, moving towards Kumarakom. In the evening enjoy a private viewing of the sun setting from the sundeck of your very own houseboat where you will stay overnight. Overnight stay in the houseboat in Alleppey.

**The Houseboats have generated electricity; sitting/dinning area, separate bedroom with attached English toilets, sun deck and fully loaded kitchen with a Chef, and Shrank (Driver).**

#### **Day 07: Alleppey to Kumarakom [40 Kms 1 Hr drive]**

In the morning after breakfast, you will disembark from the houseboat, where you will be met by your driver at Alleppey boat jetty. Later you will be transported to Kumarakom. On arrival check in to a pre-booked backwater resort. The rest of the day is free to spend at your own leisure. Over night stay in Kumarakom.

#### **Day 08: Kumarakom**

In the morning after breakfast, you will visit Kumarakom bird sanctuary. This is spread across 14 acres and is a favourite haunt of migratory birds and an ornithologist's paradise. Egrets, darters, herons, teal, waterfowl, cuckoo, wild duck and migratory birds like the Siberian stork live in the flocks. The rest of the day is free to spend at your own leisure. Over night stay in Kumarakom.

#### **Day 09: Kumarakom to Kovalam [185 Kms 5 to 6 Hrs drive]**

In the morning after breakfast check out & proceed for Kovalam. On arrival check in to pre booked hotel. The evening is free to spend at your own leisure – you may choose to visit Kovalam beach. Over night stay in Kovalam.

#### **Day 10: Kovalam**

In the morning after a leisurely breakfast the day is free for sightseeing in the city of Trivandrum visiting the Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Padmanabhapuram Palace (this palace was in the capital of Travancore before it was shifted to Trivandrum). The wooden palace contains some interesting paintings of the 17th & 18th century, Kuthiramalika Palace Museum, Chitbra Art Gallery, Napier Museum & the Shanghumugham Beach. The evening is free to spend at your own leisure. Overnight stay in Kovalam.

**Day 11: Kovalam to Trivandrum [30 Kms 1 Hr drive] Trivandrum to Mumbai / Home country [by Air]**

In the morning after breakfast check out & proceed for Trivandrum airport to board flight for your onward destination.

**END OF PROGRAM**

**Suggested Hotels:**

**3 Star Hotels**

Place	Nights	Hotel	Room Category	Meal
Cochin	01	Abad Plaza Hotel	Deluxe	RO
Munnar	02	Deshadan Resort	Mountain View	HB
Thekkady	02	Hotel Treetop	Deluxe	HB
Alleppey	01	AC Deluxe Houseboat	Deluxe	FB
Kumarakom	02	Cocobay Resort	Suite	HB
Kovalam	02	Abad Harmonia Resort	Superior	HB

**Please Note:** Rainbow - Deluxe Air Conditioned Houseboat (AC will be operational in room only from 2000 Hrs till 0600 Hrs)

**4 Star Hotels**

Place	Nights	Hotel	Room Category	Meal
Cochin	01	Casino Hotel	Standard	HB
Munnar	02	Mountain Club Resort	Cottage	HB
Thekkady	02	Wild Corridor Resort	Deluxe	HB
Alleppey	01	AC Premium Houseboat	Premium	FB
Kumarakom	02	Lakesong Resort	Punnamada	HB
Kovalam	02	Uday Samudra Resort	Exotica	HB

**Please Note:** Rainbow - Premium Air Conditioned Houseboat (AC will be operational in room only from 2000 Hrs till 0600 Hrs)

**5 Star Hotels**

Place	Nights	Hotel	Room Category	Meal
Cochin	01	Brunton Boatyard Hotel	Standard Sea Facing	HB
Munnar	02	Club Mahindra Resort	Deluxe	RO
Thekkady	02	Spice Village Resort	Standard Villa	FB
Alleppey	01	AC Premium Houseboat	Premium	FB
Kumarakom	02	Coconut Lagoon Resort	Heritage Bungalow	HB
Kovalam	02	The Leela	Garden View Pavilion	HB

**Please Note:** Rainbow - Premium Air Conditioned Houseboat (AC will be operational in room only from 2000 Hrs till 0600 Hrs)

**Meal Plan:**

- RO** : Room only.
- B&B** : Bed & Breakfast (Breakfast only)
- HB** : Half Board (Breakfast & Dinner only)
- FB** : Full Board (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner only)

**Tour Prices:**

	<b>3 Star Hotel</b>	<b>4 Star Hotel</b>	<b>5 Star Hotel</b>
<b>Per Person</b>	<b>** Call us for best price **</b>	<b>** Call us for best price **</b>	<b>** Call us for best price **</b>

Prices are quoted in GBP (£) based on 2 people sharing

Prices exclude Christmas and Diwali

Single supplement prices are available on request.

Discounts are applicable to groups of 6+ persons

Prices for children are available on request

**Ground Transportation:**

From Cochin airport to Trivandrum airport includes all internal transfer, sightseeing, driver allowances, taxes, & parking charges as per the above tour itinerary.

- Vehicle for 02 Passengers will be the AC Tata Indigo.
- Vehicle for 04 Passengers will be the AC Toyota Innova.
- Vehicle for 06 -08 Passengers will be the AC Tempo Traveller.

**Tour Cost includes:**

1. Star deluxe hotels as mentioned above on twin sharing basis including all taxes.
2. Meal plan as mentioned above.
3. Assistance on arrival & Departure points.
4. Transportation as mentioned above including all internal transfers & local sightseeing.

**Tour Cost excludes:**

1. International and internal flights and railway fares
2. All items of a personal nature e.g. portage at airport, hotels tips, laundry, beverages, telephone charges etc.

3. Entrances to the monuments with camera charges.
4. Additional sightseeing and deviation from the itinerary.
5. Transportation as mentioned above including all internal transfers & local sightseeing as per itinerary.

**Tour Conditions:**

1. All Rates & bookings are subject to availability.
2. Tour confirmation only on receipt of full payment.
3. In case of exceptional circumstances where we are not in the position to provide the hotel mentioned, we shall offer a similar hotel/resort.
4. Visits to all the places in the program are subject to them being open on the day of the planned visit
5. All expenses which are not included in the cost of package shall be paid directly by tourist at the time of checkout.