

BEST OF KERALA...

10 NIGHTS/ 11 DAYS

Day 01: Arrive Cochin

Arrive Cochin International airport. You will be met by a member of our team at the airport along with car and chauffeur and transferred to your hotel for overnight stay. Rest of the day free.

Day 02: in Cochin

Breakfast. Full day sightseeing of Cochin which includes visiting Mattancherry (Dutch) Palace with its marvellous murals, St Francis Church (the original burial place of Vasco da Gama), the Chinese fishing nets and Jew Town with its old Synagogue and streets full of shops selling antiques and souvenirs. The colourful 'go-downs' used by the spice traders are close by and there are two good book shops near the Synagogue. **Visitors to the Synagogue are asked to dress modestly – no shorts, short skirts or sleeveless tops. Bare shoulders and midriffs are not permitted.** Please note Friday & Saturday are Jewish holiday you will not be permitted inside the Synagogue.

Your visit to Cochin would not be complete without a visit to a performance of Kathakali. This 500-year-old dance drama is performed by all male dancers, accompanied by music, who play out a story, using their eyes, face muscles, hands and feet. A must is to reach the theatre ahead of time, in order to see the performers putting on their incredible make-up and their magnificent costumes.

Day 03: Cochin – Munnar (approx. 3h)

After breakfast transfer by road to Munnar, the most beautiful hill station of Kerala. The road journey from Cochin to Munnar is filled with mesmerizing views of the Cardamom hills and lush tea plantations. Check-in at the hotel. The rest of the day at leisure. Overnight stay in Munnar.

Day 04: In Munnar

After breakfast visit Munnar which includes Indo-Swiss Farm, Mattupetty Dam, Town Market, and Old Munnar Town.

Mattupetty Dam, one of the major sources of hydroelectricity and flocked by birds and animals. This is one of the best tourist places to enjoy boating and view of beautiful maintains of tea plantations

Indo-Swiss Farm is a joint venture of Indian and Swiss government located just 3 Km away from the Mattupetty Dam. This is a hillside cattle village where thousands of cattle grazes freely on the hill.

Continue to Visit the Tea Museum and learn the process of tea. Also, enjoy boating on the Kundala Lake that will allow you the sight of spice garden in Kerala.

In the afternoon, explore the old Munnar and enjoy some local shopping. Overnight stay in Munnar.

Optional, not included: For wildlife lover a short trip to Eravikulam National Park can be arranged on request.



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Day 05: Munnar – Thekkady (Periyar) (approx. 3h)

After breakfast drive to Thekkady, famous for one of the largest Tiger Reserves in India, Periyar national park. Thekkady is the ideal place for those who love nature in its wildest form. Thekkady, high up in the Western Ghats, is a small town close to the entrance of Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary is part of Project Tiger, but tigers and leopards are rarely seen. However, it is said to offer the best chance of seeing wild elephant in the whole of India. There is also a good chance of seeing wild boar, Gaur bison, Sambar deer, Nilgiris langur, macaque monkey, otter and the Malabar giant squirrel, as well as a large variety of birds. Remember at altitude (Periyar is at 900m or more) temperatures can drop dramatically, especially at night.

In the afternoon, enjoy the sunset during the boat ride at Lake Periyar. During your ride you can spot many wild elephants bathing on the lakeside, Bison, wild boars, deer and different kind of birds. Return to hotel for night stay.

Day 06: In Thekkady

After breakfast enjoy a visit to the spice plantation and discover the various kind of spices, such as ginger, garlic, cardamom, vanilla, pepper, cinnamon, coffee, tea, clove and nutmeg

In the afternoon, enjoy the Elephant Junction where if you wish you can ride an elephant or simply watch the elephant bathing. You can also feed them treats such as pumpkins or bananas.

Late afternoon witness one of the most popular martial art and sports of Kerala, Kalarippayattu. Free hand combat is done along with that various implements are also used in these martial arts. You can enjoy the acts of defence and the beauty with which the weapons are used during the martial art. Night in Thekkady.

Day 07: Thekkady – Alleppy (Houseboat) (approx. 4h)

After breakfast drive to Alleppy, the backwaters of Kerala. Your overnight stay will be at the houseboat which includes all meals. The spectacular beauty of Kerala's backwaters needs no introduction. Traditionally, the houseboat was called Kettuvalam, which means a boat made by tying together pieces of wood. Unbelievable as it may sound, not a single nail is used in the making of a Kettuvalam. Jack wood planks are joined with coir rope and then coated with black resin made from boiled cashew nutshells. The materials that go into the making are all local and Eco-friendly bamboo poles, coconut fiber ropes, bamboo mats, coir carpets etc. These traditional country boats were used as the mode of transport in the early times from the isolated interior villages to the towns. But these boat services have been laid off with the developments taken place in the transport services in the recent past. Today these giant 80-foot long crafts have been adapted into luxuriously furnished houseboats. A Kettuvalam usually has one or two bath attached rooms, an open lounge, deck, kitchenette and a crew comprising two oarsmen and a cook. Traditional lanterns are used as lights. Your holiday in this tranquil world is the comfortably furnished houseboats.

Day 08: Alleppy – Kovalam (approx. 5h)

After breakfast drive to Kovalam to a beautiful beach town to relax and “chill out” at the beach for 3 nights. Check in and rest of the day free. Night in Kovalam.



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Day 09: Kovalam

Day at leisure to enjoy the beach. Night in Kovalam.

Day 10: Kovalam

Day at leisure to enjoy the beach. Night in Kovalam.

Day 11: Kovalam – Trivandrum airport and depart

Day at leisure till (check out 12h) your final departure. In time transfer to Chennai International airport for your onward journey.

NOTE: Number of nights at the beach can be increased / decreased as per your requirements.

AYURVEDIC MASSAGE:

- During your stay if you wish you can experience Ayurvedic Massage which is available at most of the hotels during your trip. However, we would suggest doing at Thekkady, at Kolam or any CGH group of hotels.

Ayurveda, India's ancient science of healing is at a conservative estimate, about five thousand years old. It is purely herbal based, its medication made from the roots, the leaves, the sap or even the bark of a tree; from small shrubs and weeds; from spices and their extracts. And sometimes even from precious metals administered in powdered form. No chemicals are used. So, there are no harmful or painful side effects.

End of our services....