



★ Anglo Indiago Travels (P) Limited ★

## **SOUTH INDIA, FAMILY BEACH INSPIRING**

Mumbai – Madurai – Periyar – Kochi – Houseboat – Beach Stay  
14 Nights / 15 Days



The colours of its landscapes, the aromas and sounds, and the deep gazes of its people will excite you from your arrival in Delhi. Beyond the chaos and madness of some of its streets, India holds for you a treasure of unforgettable sensations and new learning, travelling through a land full of contrasts on this compact India tour, jam-packed with unforgettable highlights.

Experience the majestic Taj Mahal, the history of massive forts, the opulence and splendour of Rajasthan's palaces, the bustle and buzz of markets and bazaars.

Finish your vacations, resting at idyllic strips of sandy beaches and enjoying seafood. The southern state is the perfect place with unspoiled waterfronts, rich coastal culture, and ayurvedic resorts that mingle beachy culture with soothing treatments. Goa's beaches are lovely swaths of sand where the Arabian Sea kisses the sand and colourful beach shacks are framed by thick coconut palms.

## ITINERARY

### **Day 01: Arrive Mumbai**

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. **Note>** No meals neither early check in is Included on day1. (Standrad Hotel check in 14h)

### **Day 02: in Mumbai**

After breakfasts whole day sightseeing with English speaking guide. Your day begins visiting the Elephanta caves, located on an island about 10 kilometres away from the shores of Mumbai. These caves comprise of temples carved from solid rock dating back to the 7th century. The main attraction is the three-headed bust of Lord Shiva, famously known as 'Trimurti'.

In the afternoon, visit rest of the places in Mumbai. A photo stop at the Gateway of India, drive past Mumbai University, the hanging gardens, the Gateway of India, Tower of Silence, the Dhobiwalas (washer men), Prince of Wales Museum and the central Maidan (lawns where cricket is played). Most of the monuments built during the British era. You may choose to stroll across Fashion Street, a stretch famous for its export clothing and accessories. Later drive past Marine Drive also known as the Queen's Necklace. Later, ascend Malabar Hill to visit the beautifully adorned Jain Temple, Kamala Nehru Park, and the Hanging Garden. Return to your hotel for night stay.

### **Day 03 Fly Mumbai – Madurai**

After breakfast transfer to Mumbai airport in time to take your flight to Madurai, the cultural capital of Tamil Nadu besides being the second largest city in the state. The city derives its name from the divine nectar (Madhu) that was showered from the locks of Lord. The busy city of Madurai is one of the oldest in South India and has been a centre of learning and pilgrimage for centuries.

The 'must see' attraction is the enormous Sri Meenakshi Temple complex in the heart of the old town. It is a "riotously baroque example of Dravidian architecture" and "seethes with activity from dawn to dusk". Other sights include the Market, the Thirumalai Nayak Palace, the Gandhi Memorial Museum and the Madurai Government Museum.

Check in and rest of the day free. Night stay in Madurai.

#### **Day 04      in Madurai**

Full Day Sightseeing of Madurai including Thiruparamkuntam. Madurai is famous for the Sri Meenakshi temple complex. The gopurams are covered by a coloured profusion of Hindu gods and goddesses, animals and mythical figures.

A visit to Madurai shows the visitor the spiritual side of South Indian culture. The temple complex is a hive of activity from early morning until evening, attracting pilgrims and tourists alike. For 10 rupees the resident elephant will place a "tilak" on your forehead with his trunk. Rest of the day explore the local market. Night stay at Madurai.

#### **Day 05      Madurai – Thekkady (Periyar)**

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. Its, 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 those 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 – Cochin**

After breakfast drive to Cochin, a beautiful city situated on the Western Coast of India facing the Arabian Sea, and rightfully called the 'Queen of the Arabian Sea'.

In the evening enjoy Kathakali dance. 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. Night in Cochin.

### **Day 08: 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.**

In the afternoon time free for shopping if you wish. Night in Cochin.

### **Day 09: Cochin - Alleppy (Houseboat)**

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 crew members and a cook. Traditional lanterns are used as lights. Your holiday in this tranquil world is the comfortably furnished houseboats.

## **Day 10: Alleppy - Beach stay**

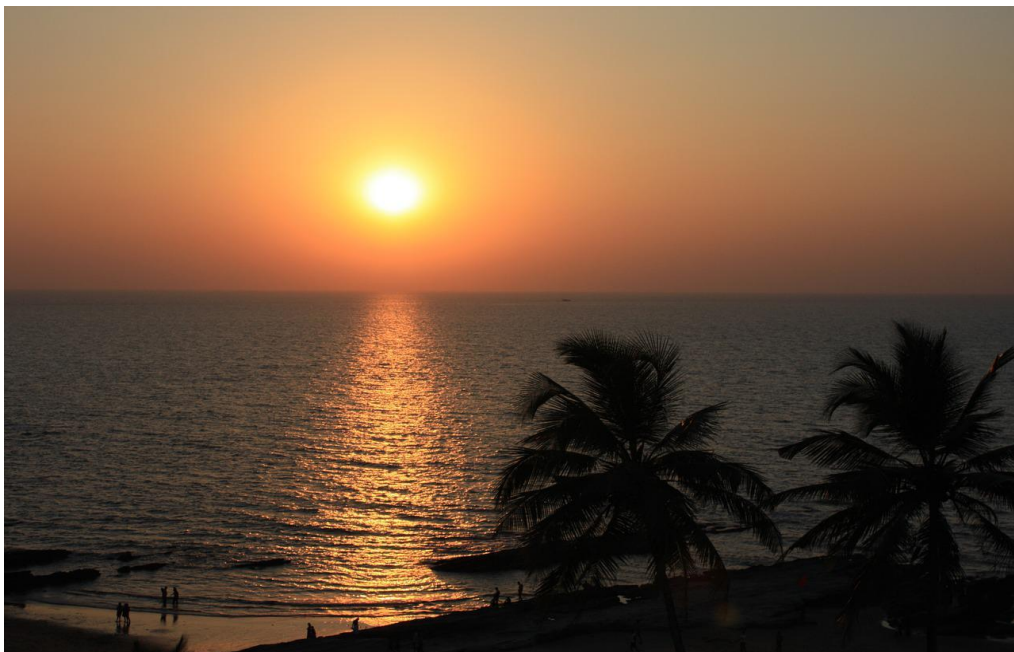
After breakfast, disembark at Houseboat and transfer to your hotel at the beach stay.

Goa epitomises India's beach scene for many travellers. Make your way to Kerala if you prefer seaside tranquillity and late-night festivities. The southern state is the perfect place for your next retreat, with unspoiled waterfronts, rich coastal culture, and ayurvedic resorts that mingle beachy culture with soothing treatments.

We suggest these 5 destinations in Kerala to inspire your sunny holidays, and you can choose any of them for your beach stay. However, you can include Goa beaches always if desired.

So, we have put up the perfect list for those of you who are having trouble deciding on the right coastal destination, all ready for a sunny vacation.

1. Marari Beach
2. Varkala
3. Kovalam
4. Neeleshwar Hermitage
5. Niraamaya Retreats Surya Samudra



Please let us know the number of days you wish to stay at the beach that we can arrange the programme accordingly.

**Note >** Beach resorts and hotels are always subject to availability.

### Marari Beach:

- Stay at Marari Beach, an eco-resort maintained by CGH Earth, to experience the tranquillity of Malabar's unique coastal culture. The sea-side village experience set on 30 acres with coconut groves, lily ponds, fruit trees and a large organic farm.
- The seaside resort, Marari beach in Mararikulam, is a tribute to the fisherfolk of this region who populate its spirit in obvious and subtle ways. The guest cottages echo their dwellings in style and character while our cuisine reflects the culinary subtleties of these people whose sensibilities and culture have been influenced by the charms and challenges of the oceans

### Varkala:

- Varkala Beach, with its dramatic red cliffs, is not only one of Kerala's top beaches, but also one of India's most beautiful beachfront segments. Varkala, also known as Papanasham Beach, is particularly popular with backpackers and New Age travellers, and its waters are said to cleanse bathers of their sins. Varkala was created for hours of sunbathing, and its pristine natural beauty makes it a must-see for travellers of all stripes.

### Kovalam Beach:

- Beautiful Kovalam...and its three gorgeous beaches...can be found in southern Kerala. All three (Hawa Beach, Lighthouse Beach, and Samudra Beach) have been popular among the international jet set for than a century, thanks to its silky sand, gently waving palm trees, and crescent shorelines. If you want to stay longer, the luxury Leela Kovalam, which bills itself as India's only cliff-top beach resort, is perfectly situated for waterfront adventures (the infinity pool is just the place to take in sunset views).

### Neeleshwar Hermitage:

- You're never far from the water at Neeleshwar Hermitage. The luxurious resort's 18 cottages are modelled like traditional fishermen's huts and provide breath taking views of the Arabian Sea, which is just steps away. Spend your days between Ayurvedic treatments strolling along the beach or going on a bird-watching tour to see if you can spot the Malabar Coast's white-bellied sea eagles.

### Niraamaya Retreats Surya Samudra:

- Retreats Niraamaya Surya Samudra is bordered on one side by Kerala's beautiful greenery and the Arabian Sea on the other. Many of the retreat's cottages have private sundecks and clear views of the waves, and the beach is only a 100-meter walk away. Surya Samudra also provides unique seaside experiences, such as a Backwater Cruise and Beach Picnic, where you may relax on the neighbouring Golden Sand Beach with sunbeds, a gourmet picnic basket prepared by the hotel's chef, and a cool glass of wine after cruising leisurely around the backwaters.

### Goa beaches:

- The 'sunshine state,' Goa, has long been a sanctuary for visitors seeking sun, sand, and sea. It's no surprise that so many people go to Goa for their beach vacations, with 105 kilometres of magnificent coastline and an unending array of idyllic beach locations. The laid-back and picturesque state is all about relaxation, so finish your vacations, resting at idyllic strips of sandy beaches and enjoying seafood in Goa. Goa's beaches are lovely swaths of sand where the Arabian Sea kisses the sand and colourful beach shacks are framed by thick coconut palms.

### **OPTIONAL.**

### **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 5000 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.

## Final Departure

- At last day of your holidays, we will drop you at nearby airport for your onward journey.

## Information on airlines:

- If you are flying economy class on an international aircraft, you must check in 3 hours before to departure.
- For domestic aircraft, we advise to check in 2 hours before to departure.

## SOME OPTIONAL SUGGESTIONS.

- These are only suggestions and are subject to change at any time. Most places require reservations in advance and are payable.

- ✚ Please always check the travelling period for beach stays, as the beach stays are not recommended during monsoon season.
- ✚ Beach resorts are always subject to availability.
- ✚ The car, chauffeur and guide will not be available during beach stay.
- ✚ The itinerary can be changed as needed if necessary.
- ✚ During your journey, you can get an Ayurvedic massage if you decide.
- ✚ Yoga and meditation are also available for you to try.
- ✚ A mock wedding can be held throughout the tour. (No legal significance)
- ✚ Cooking demo and dinner can be arranged with a local family.