



## *Kerala*

Cochin • Periyar • Alleppey • Kovalam  
(7 nights / 8 days)

### *Routing*

DAY 01	ARRIVE COCHIN	<i>By International Flight</i>
DAY 02	COCHIN	
DAY 03	COCHIN – PERIYAR	<i>By Surface</i>
DAY 04	PERIYAR	
DAY 05	PERIYAR – ALLEPPEY (HOUSEBOAT)	<i>By Surface</i>
DAY 06	ALLEPPEY – KOVALAM	<i>By Surface</i>
DAY 07	KOVALAM	
DAY 08	KOVALAM – TRIVANDRUM DEPART	<i>By International Flight</i>

\*\*\* END OF TOUR \*\*\*



## DETAILED ITINERARY

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### DAY 01 ARRIVE COCHIN

BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

You will arrive today at Cochin Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, OUR representative will meet you as you EXIT the ARRIVAL TERMINAL building after which you would be transferred to your hotel.

**Kochi**, or more familiarly, Cochin is a city of many parts. Around for a long, long time, Kochi played a pivotal role in the development of shipping and trade in the region. Kochi's prime location on the west coast, its fine bay and protected harbour made it popular with seafarers and merchant ships who made frequent stops to stock up on spices, coffee and wood enroute to the rich markets of Europe and West Asia. And so down the ages, Kochi prospered as a busy port city and commercial center. Its seafront is still extremely relevant to Cochin and to India: it houses a Naval Base and one of India's busiest ports.

On arrival, check in for your stay.

**Meal Plan: No Meal**

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### DAY 02 COCHIN

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Cochin in the morning today.

We first drive to **Mattancherry**, where we visit the oldest **Jewish Synagogue** in India, built in 1568 AD. It was destroyed by the Portuguese and rebuilt by the Dutch a century later. This will be followed by visit to **the Dutch Palace**. Built in 1555 AD, its coronation hall and murals at Ramayana are noteworthy features.

From Jewish Synagogue, visit **Chinese fishing nets**. The cantilevered fishing nets line the entrance to the harbour mouth. Chinese traders are believed to have originally introduced them in the 14th century although, today parts of the nets are known by Portuguese names.

End the tour with the visit of **St. Francis Church**. Originally named after Santo Antonio and dedicated to him as the Patron Saint of Portugal, St. Francis Church is the first church to have been in the new European influenced tradition. Originally a wooden building was replaced by the present stone building. Vasco De Gamma died on the site in 1524 and was originally buried in the cemetery. 14 years later his body was removed to Portugal. The church was renamed St. Francis in 1663.

#### **Cultural Connection**

- In the afternoon, a special Kerala Cookery Session is arranged at a Kerala home, with traditional lunch. Your hosts have been involved in 'at Home' hospitality for more than twelve years and belong to traditional Syrian Christian community in Kerala.



### Meal Plan: Breakfast

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#### DAY 03 COCHIN – PERIYAR BY: SURFACE (175 KM / 04-05 HOUR)

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This morning, we drive to Periyar. Upon arrival, check in for your stay.

Towards the evening, visit the Periyar National park for a relaxing tour of the park on boat. With luck, there are many animals to see, including herds of elephants, bison and packs of wild boar that roam through the woods and parade along the shores of the lake just before sunrise and sunset. You can also see different species of apes. The golden langur monkey that lives here is rarely seen in the rest of India. Other animals in Periyar are otters and porcupines. Water turtles can often be seen sunning themselves on the pieces of wood that stick out of the water.

### Meal Plan: Breakfast

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#### DAY 04 PERIYAR

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This morning you will explore the park by taking a guided trek in the famous Periyar National Park. Periyar is South India's most popular wildlife sanctuary, encompassing an area of 777 sq. km. Set on the attractive man-made Periyar Lake; it attracts over 300,000 visitors a year. Though the sanctuary was made a part of Project Tiger in 1973, it is better known for its elephants.

Later in the afternoon your guide will take you around Spice Plantation visit and visit to a local market. The spice plantation in Thekkady is one of the major spice plantations in Kerala.

### Meal Plan: Breakfast

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#### DAY 05 THEKKADY – ALLEPPEY BY: SURFACE (150 KM / 04 HOUR)

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Today, you will drive to Alleppey enroute stopping by at a working rubber plantation to see rubber tapping technique.

Arrive Alleppey and check in to a traditional Houseboat – **Kettuvallam** (It is a rice-boat converted into houseboat with bedrooms and attached toilets). Originally these boats were used as ferries to carry rice from one point to another through the backwater canals.

Cruise in Vembanad Lake and through the backwaters for the whole day. Houseboat is one of the 50 “must do” things as described by the National Geographic Traveler magazine. The backwater cruise through criss-cross narrow canals passes typical Kerala villages, rich with green paddy fields and verdant coconut trees. Watch village belles picking mussels, while their men folk collect sand from the bottom of the canal. Watch the village folk make the golden fiber called coir from coconut husk and transform it into various coir products. Stop over to drink calm fresh coconut water and watch the toddy-tapper tap at work. Watch birds like Kingfishers, pheasant, cormorants, drongos, woodpecker, Bee-eater, kites etc. It's a remarkable experience.

### Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner



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**DAY 06      ALLEPPEY - KOVALAM      BY: SURFACE (170 KM / 04 HOUR)**

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Disembark the houseboat in the morning and drive to the Kovalam.

Kovalam is a beach town by the Arabian Sea in Thiruvananthapuram city, located around 16 km from the city center.

Upon arrival, check in for your stay.

Rest of the day at free for independent activities

**Meal Plan: Breakfast**

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**DAY 07      KOVALAM**

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Later day at free for independent activities.

**Meal Plan: Breakfast**

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**DAY 08      DEPART KOVALAM      BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT**

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Transfer to Trivandrum airport to board your onward connection.  
Hotel check out 12 noon

**Meal Plan: Breakfast**

**TOUR ENDS**

## *Kerala*

### **Hotels Envisaged:**

City	Nights	Deluxe	Superior	Meal Plan
Cochin	02	Crown Plaza - Deluxe City view room	Dream Hotel - Standard room	CP
Periyar	02	Cardamon county - Periyar Cottage	The Elephant Court - Executive Enclave	CP
Alleppey	01	Deluxe Houseboat	Deluxe Houseboat	AP
Kovalam	02	Vivanta by Taj - Superior Charm room	Uday Samudra - Atrium	CP

### **Includes:**

- Accommodation on twin share basis for a total of 7 nights, as per the hotels mentioned or similar.
- Buffet breakfast at all hotels except houseboat, this will be on full board (all three meals) basis.
- All transport services shall be provided as per the program
  - 02 –03 pax - Toyota Innova
  - 04 - 06 pax - Tempo Traveller
  - 07 – 14 pax –Mini Coach
- Services of English speaking local guides during sightseeing tours.
- On time monument entrance fee as per itinerary.
- Cookery session followed by Lunch in Cochin.
- Nature walk, Boat ride on seat basis and meditation in Periyar.
- All current applicable taxes.

### **Does Not Include :**

- International/domestic airfare
- Indian visa charges
- Any expenses of personal nature and insurance
- Any meals not specified in the itinerary
- Any item not specified under 'cost includes'

### **How do we make our clients feel special:**

- Briefing on the tour by our travel professional
- Pre check-in facility at hotels
- Our travel professional keeps in touch, 24x7 contact on tour

### **Special Notes:**

- **This Itinerary can be customized and Pricing is available upon request.**
- Hotel Check-In, Check-out time is 1400 Hrs & check out time is 1200 NOON.
- Rates include only those items specified in your itinerary.
- WE reserve the right to modify itineraries and/or substitute hotels of a reasonably similar quality, when available, should circumstances beyond our control deem it necessary.