

THE MAGIC OF KERALA

* MUMBAI * COCHIN * MUNNAR * THEKKADY * ALLEPPEY

Day 1 - Arrive Mumbai:

Arrive by air, met at the airport by our representative & transfer to hotel.

Overnight at hotel



Day 2 - To Cochin: Transfer to domestic airport for flight to Cochin. Arrive Cochin and transfer to your hotel for 2-nights Cochin, one of the oldest port cities of India has very rich cultural past and cosmopolitan association and has one of the finest natural harbours in the world. With ferry rides commanding its breath taking view as you cruise around man-made islands with lush green lawns sloping down to the water's edge, Cochin is the oldest European settlement in India and recording a history of visitors who came, saw and stayed for hundreds of years. Layered impressions of Chinese, Arab, Jewish, British, French and Portuguese influences.

In the evening enjoy Kathakali dance performance. Kathakali is a traditional dance form of Kerala and is performed only by men at the local theatre. **Overnight at hotel**

Day 3 - Cochin:

After the breakfast, leave for a half day tour of Cochin which includes visits to the Dutch Palace, the Jewish Synagogue, St. Francis Church and the Santa Cruz Basilica. See the fishermen with their Chinese fishing nets, which dot the harbour as you drive along the coastline.

After lunch, you will be free for shopping at Jewish street where you can walk through the historical Dutch and Portuguese buildings. Also visit Jew Street which is famous for its antiques.

Early evening, enjoy a harbour cruise. Evening is free for shopping in the Ernakulam city or for independent activities. **Overnight at hotel**



Day 4 – To Munnar: After breakfast, take a 4-hour scenic drive to Munnar and en-route visit Tea plantations. Upon arrival at Munnar check-in to hotel for 1-night stay. Situated 1600 metres above sea level, this hill station was once the summer resort of the erstwhile British Government in South India. Sprawling Tea plantations, picture book towns, winding lanes, and holiday facilities make this a popular resort town. Munnar also has the highest peak in South India - Anamudi, 2695 m. Anamudi is an ideal spot for trekking. In the afternoon, visit the 200-year old Lord Durga temple, Old Munnar Town and the town market. **Overnight at hotel**



Day 5 - To Thekkady:

After breakfast, drive to Thekkady in the Western Ghats mountain range and en-route visit a Rubber plantation where you can see the rubber plants, rubber tapping and the processing of Rubber. After the Rubber plantation visit, we will stop for the lunch en-route.



After the lunch, proceed to Thekkady nestling in the Cardamom Hills through rice paddies and tea plantations and en-route visit the fantastic flower nursery and the Connemara tea factory where you can see the tea being processed. Up-on arrival at Thekkady, check-in to the hotel for 2-nights stay. **Overnight at hotel**

Day 6 – Thekkady:

Full day for spice plantation visit with naturalist, elephant ride through the plantation, bathing & feeding of elephants. For your visit to the Spice Plantation, wear closed shoes - it feels like a jungle walk. Spices growing here include vanilla, black pepper, cloves, cardamom, nutmeg and mace, surrounded by coconut palms, bananas and jackfruit.

After the plantation visit, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch, enjoy a 2-hour boat trip on the lake or trekking through the jungle are the usual ways of touring the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. Trips along the large artificial lake surrounded by dense forests offer the opportunity to view wild life specially elephants, wild boar, etc.

Evening has been kept free shopping in the local market. **Overnight at hotel**

Day 7 - To Alleppey:

Today early morning after breakfast you will leave for Alleppey, one of the most important tourist centres in the state, with a large network of inland canals its often called "Venice of the east" by the locals. These large networks of canals provide Alleppey its lifeline.



On arrival check-in to the houseboat, the Rice barge - converted cargo boat - will collect you from the jetty for a lazy journey through the meandering backwaters as you watch rural life which has not changed for centuries. In the evening the boat will anchor safely for the night stay. **Overnight at hotel**

Day 8 - To Mumbai:

Transfer to Cochin airport for your onward domestic flight to Mumbai. Transfer to Mumbai International Airport.

Call us to find the best fare to suit your date.

We can use a wide range of properties including our character / Heritage hotels or even a Maharajah's Palace. To allow us to tailor this arrangement to your taste and budget.

Call 02897 510 794