

10 Nights / 11 Days

1N Cochin- 2N Munnar- 1N Thekkady- 2N Kumarakom-1N Alleppey HB
-3N Kovalam(Kanyakumari Excursion)

PACKAGE HIGHLIGHTS:

- In Cochin, Kathakali Dance, Mattancherry palace & Jewish Synagogue
- Trip to Eravikulam National Park, Tea Plantation & Museum, Munnar
- Visit to Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Boat Ride at Lake Periyar, Spice plantation tour & Kalari show
- Cruise through beautiful Kerala backwaters and stay on Houseboat, Alleppey
- Visit - Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary
- Kovalam beaches, Napier Museum, Art Gallery & Kuthiramalika Palace
- Excursion to Kanyakumari
- Services of English-speaking guide during sightseeing tours
- Assistance at airport and sightseeing tours by private air-conditioned vehicle
- Start in Cochin and End in Trivandrum



ITINERARY:

Day 01 Arrival in Cochin

Meet our representative upon arrival in Cochin and drive towards hotel to check-in. Enjoy city tour covering Mattancherry Palace- gifted to the king of Cochin, by Portuguese in 1555, about 500 year old Jewish Synagogue, Chinese fishing nets, local spices market followed by colorful performing art - Kathakali Dance. Later in the evening, return to the hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02 Drive from Cochin to Munnar (120 km/approx. 4.5 hours)

After breakfast, drive to Munnar - derived its name from the confluence of the three rivers around which the town grew. Today, it offers beautiful vistas, cardamom and spice plantations, aromatic oil factories, sights of several endangered species and the purple-blue of the Neelakurinji flowers that bloom every 12 years. Upon arrival, check-in at the hotel and spend evening at leisure. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 03 Sightseeing in Munnar

Explore Eravikulam National Park, home to various elusive and endangered species. It is a great place to enjoy trekking and offers mind-blowing views of the tea plantations. Later, proceed towards Tea Museum (closed on Monday), which gives an insight to the history of tea plantations of this region. Later visit Mattupetty Dam, Eco Point and Flower Garden. Return to the hotel for overnight stay.

Day 04 Munnar - Thekkady (110 kms / approx. 3 hours)

After breakfast, drive to Thekkady (Periyar) and on arrival check-in at the hotel. Enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of Periyar. Set high in the ranges of the Western Ghats in Kerala, is the Periyar National Park and Tiger Reserve. Periyar wildlife sanctuary has a picturesque lake at the heart of the sanctuary. Herds of playful wild elephants have made Periyar Lake their favorite haunt for frolicking in the water. They can be witnessed bathing and swimming here. Enjoy a boat ride on the lake to view the wildlife at close quarters. Other inhabitants of Periyar include the leopard, wild dog, barking deer, mouse deer, Nilgiri langur, bonnet macaque, sambhar, porcupines, squirrels, gaur (Indian bison), wild boar and sloth bear. Later, take a spice plantation tour. The aroma and pleasant ambiance of the spice and tea plantations of Periyar are fascinating. Spices found in Thekkady include pepper, clove, cardamom, nutmeg, ginger, turmeric, vanilla and curry leaves. In evening, watch traditional Kalari show. **(Optional) - You can also enjoy an elephant ride in Periyar.** Return to the hotel for overnight stay.

Day 05 Thekkady - Kumarakom (130 kms / approx 4 hours)

After breakfast, check-out from the houseboat and proceed to Kumarakom - a charming emerald peninsula jutting into the picturesque Vembanad Lake dotted with innumerable traditional country rafts, boats and canoes. The fresh water of the lake flows into the mainland, making a labyrinth of lagoons, canals and waterways. Spend the rest of the day at beautiful resort of Kumarakom. Overnight at the backwater resort.

Day 06 Kumarakom

Today, enjoy your visit to Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary- An ornithologist's paradise, the sanctuary is spread across 14 acres. Also, you may want to indulge yourself with some Ayurveda treatments in your hotel (On direct-payment basis). Ayurveda is the ancient healing system of India and has been practiced continuously for over 5,000 years. The various treatments are individually prescribed and involve the use of medicated herbal oils, herbs, powders and poultices & natural ingredients. Overnight stay in Kumarakom.

Day 07: Drive from Kumarakom - Alleppey (30 kms / approx. 1 hour)

After breakfast, drive to Alleppey and board your houseboat on arrival. Alleppey, "Venice of the East" has a large network of backwater canals that meander through the town, surrounding villages and Vembanad Lake. Cruise through the beautiful and scenic backwaters of Kerala, while you stay in houseboat. Overnight stay on houseboat.

Day 08 Drive from Alleppey - Kovalam (170 kms / approx. 4 hours)

After breakfast, drive towards south of Kerala, Kovalam- located close to the state capital Trivandrum, it is internationally famed for its palm-fringed beaches and rejuvenating centers. This coastal town initially came to notice with the construction of Halcyon Castle by the last Maharani of Travancore - Sethu Lakshmi Bayi. With the arrival of hippies in 1970s, the place gained recognition as a tourist destination and is today renowned for its 17 km-long coastline, which is formed by three beautiful beaches - Lighthouse, Hawah and Samudra. Upon arrival, check-in at hotel and spend rest of the day at leisure. Overnight in Kovalam.

Day 09 Sightseeing in Kovalam and Trivandrum

After breakfast, explore highlights of Kovalam- covering lighthouse, Vellayani Lake and Valiyathura Pier. Afternoon, enjoy a half-day sightseeing trip of Trivandrum. Visit the Napier Museum, built in the 19th century. This Indo - Saracenic structure boasts of a "natural" air-conditioning system, and houses a rare collection of archaeological and historic artifacts... bronze idols, ancient ornaments, a temple chariot and ivory carvings. Located near the Museum, the Shree Chitra Kala Art Gallery displays select paintings of Raja Ravi Varma, Svetlova and Nicholas Roerich, and exquisite works from the Rajput, Mughal and Tanjore schools of Art. Visit the Kuthiramalika Palace, built by the King of Travancore. The palace museum displays paintings and various priceless collections of the royal family. Overnight stay in Kovalam.

Day 10 Excursion to Kanyakumari (One way - 80 kms / approx. 2 hours)

Today, enjoy a full day excursion to Kanyakumari. Kanyakumari is the southernmost point of peninsular India and the meeting point of three oceans-the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. The multicolored sand is a unique feature of the beach here. Visit the Kumari Amman or the Kanyakumari Temple, located on the shore. It is dedicated to a manifestation of Parvati. Swami Vivekananda is said to have sat in deep meditation here. Visit the famous Vivekananda Rock Memorial built in 1970. Also visit the Gandhi Memorial, built on the spot where the urn containing the Mahatma's ashes was kept for public viewing before immersion. Return to Kovalam for overnight stay.

Day 11 Departure from Trivandrum

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Trivandrum airport for return flight back home.