

KERALA TOUR (04 Nights / 05 Days)

DAY 01:

ARRIVE COCHIN

By: Flight

Arrival in Kochi, you will be met and assisted by our representative at the airport and transferred to your hotel.

Kochi: Kochi is the major port city on the west coast of India by the Arabian Sea. The city of Kochi is Kerala's second largest city. Heralded as the Queen of Arabian Sea, Kochi was an important spice trading centre on the Arabian Sea coast from the 14th century. Occupied by the Portuguese Empire in 1503, Kochi was the first of the European colonies in India. It remained the main seat of Portuguese India until 1530, when Goa was chosen instead. The city was later occupied by the Dutch and the British, with the Kingdom of Cochin becoming a princely state.



On arrival check-in at hotel.

Afternoon: Sightseeing of Fort Kochi area visiting **Dutch Palace or Mattancherry palace (remains closed on Fridays)** is one of the oldest examples of the Portuguese architecture with oriental influence and is unique from the historical and architectural point of view, **Jewish synagogue (remains closed on Fridays and Saturdays)** is the oldest active synagogue in the Commonwealth of Nations. It was built in 1568 by the Malabar Yehudan people or Cochin Jewish community in the Kingdom of Cochin & **Chinese fishing nets**



Evening: Witness **Kathakali Dance** performance. Kathakali is a highly stylized classical Indian dance-drama noted for the attractive make-up of characters, elaborate costumes, detailed gestures and well-defined body movements presented in tune with the anchor playback music and complementary percussion. It originated in the country's present day state of Kerala during the 17th century and has developed over the years with improved looks, refined gestures and added themes besides more ornate singing and precise drumming.

Overnight at stay at Hotel in Cochin.

After breakfast: leave for Periyar by Surface (157 Kms /04.30 Hrs approximately).

Thekkady is one of India's most fascinating natural wildlife sanctuaries, where you can watch wildlife at close range. The vegetation, the flora and fauna and the birds of Thekkady are uniquely rich, vast and varied that it does not bear semblance to any other wildlife sanctuaries in the world.



The spice plantation in Thekkady is one of the major spice plantations in Kerala. The spice plantations in Kerala are captivating farms to wander in, since different spices are cultivated in different sections of each plantation.

On arrival proceed to hotel for check-in.

Afternoon explore the spices grown this area during your **spice plantation tour**.

Spices have always been an important part of life in Kerala. Here the masters of Ayurveda, the science of life, discovered the use of spices for medicinal purposes. Spices also play an important role in the Kerala cuisine, non-Ayurvedic medicine and cosmetics. Periyar is, due to its location in the lower mountains around 1000 metres above sea level, blessed with numerous types of spices. Consequently, the spice plantation tour is in one of the most important activities outside the reserve that a visitor can engage in. It is an opportunity to see why the Kerala cuisine is so different from most of the other Indian cuisines. The tour gives you a chance to enjoy cardamom, pepper, clove, cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla and many other varieties of spices and medicinal plants.

Evening attend **Kalaripayattu show**. Kalaripayattu is an Indian martial art from the southern state of Kerala. One of the oldest fighting systems in existence, it was originally practiced in northern and central parts of Kerala and the Tulunadu region of Karnataka. Kalaripayattu includes strikes, kicks, grappling, preset forms, weaponry and healing methods. Regional variants are classified according to geographical position in Kerala; these are the Northern style from Malabar region in north Kerala, the Central style from inner Kerala and the southern style from Travancore region of south Kerala.



Overnight at stay at Hotel in Periyar.

Morning: enjoy a shared boat safari in lake Periyar in the National Park, known for herds of wild elephant, bison, deer and spectacular bird life in Periyar National Park - set in the heart of the Cardamom Hills of Kerala the Periyar National Park and Tiger Reserve, offers a rare opportunity to enjoy South India's wild life and beauty. The park has a picturesque lake at the heart of the sanctuary. Herds of elephant and sambar, gaur and wild pigs and wander down to the lakeside and can be observed from the launches that cruise the lake. Periyar also harbours the leopard, wild dog, barking deer and mouse deer. On the rocky outcrops along the lake, monitor lizards can be seen basking in the sun.



After buffet breakfast proceed to Periyar to Kumarakom (**180 Kms. / 04 Hours**).

The village of **Kumarakom** is a cluster of little islands on the Vembanadu Lake in Kerala. It is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna and is noted for its bird sanctuary where many species of migratory birds visit. The Vembanadu Lake, the largest backwater in Kerala, is also habitat for many marine and freshwater fish species and it teems with Karimeen, Shrimp and Prawns. It is a major tourist attraction. The gorgeous green of the fringed palms ripple in the blue waters and blend into wavelets. The people on the banks of Vembanadu Lake are generally peace-loving and follow a neat and healthy lifestyle. Their dressing is immaculate, usually spotless whites. The food mainly consists of rice and fish. Fish is a very important item in their menu for lunch and dinner.



Enjoy the rest of the day in the beautiful backwaters of Kerala. Kerala is famous for its Ayurvedic Message and Yoga Centre.

Overnight at stay at Hotel in Kumarakom.

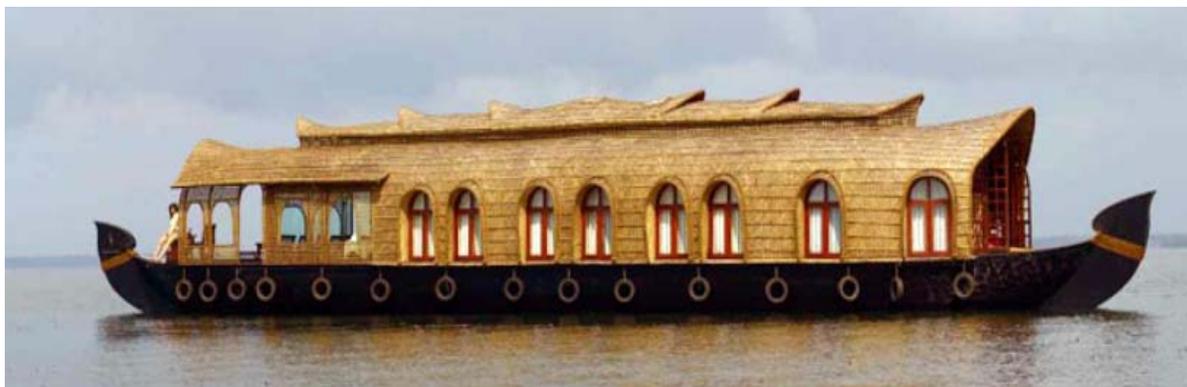
DAY 04:

KUMARAOM - ALLEPPEY

By: Surface

Buffet breakfast at the hotel.

Afternoon embark on the houseboat.



Kettuvallams, the stitched boats provide the best way to experience the colorful backwaters of Kerala. The wood commonly used to make Kettuvallams is 'Anhili', which is found in abundance in central Travancore area. Large planks are tied together using handmade coir ropes and beaten coconut fibres. This gives the Kettuvallams enough strength to withstand heavy waves in the sea. Kettuvallams are built entirely without the use of nails. It requires great skill and adroitness to construct these giant boats by tying huge planks of jack wood together. The boats are applied with fish oil and cashew nut oil and left to cure for days. With careful maintenance, they last for generations.

Note: Houseboats sail in the backwaters during the day time and hanger from evening till morning since local fishermen place nets in water during the night.

Overnight on board the House Boat



DAY 05:

ALLEPPEY - COCHIN

By: Surface

Breakfast at the houseboat.

After breakfast disembark from the houseboat and drive to Cochin airport **(63 Kms / 02 Hours)** to connect flight for onward destination.

* * **End of Tours** * *



INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

Cost Includes:

- Accommodation of 04 nights on share basis at hotels mentioned above or similar.
- Daily buffet breakfast and house boat on Full Board (All meals).
- Transportation by vehicles as per the itinerary.
 - 02-03 Pax: Toyota Innova
 - 04-05 Pax: Air-conditioned Tempo Traveler
- Services of English speaking local guides during sightseeing tours
- Entrance fees to the places of visit as per the itinerary.
- Kalaripayattu show in Periyar.
- Kathakali dance show in Kochi.
- Packaged drinking water in the vehicle throughout
- All applicable taxes

Cost Does Not Include

- International Airfare
- Visa fees for India
- **Mandatory Christmas/New Year Eve Dinner**
- Any gratuities
- Any Insurance
- Any meals or options not mentioned in the itinerary
- **Given rates are not valid for Christmas/New Year Period from 20 Dec' – 05 Jan'**
- Above given rates are not valid for Expense of personal nature like tipping, laundry, and telephone/fax calls, alcoholic beverages, camera/video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure tax etc.

SPECIAL NOTES

- Hotel Check-In 1400, Check-out time 1200 NOON.
- Rates are net, non-commissionable and include all taxes applicable at the time of quotation. Extreme currency fluctuations may cause the total tour price to increase at any time prior to final prices are subject to change with any increase in the cost.
- **Supplement will be applicable from 20 Dec. till 05 Jan'**
- **Above cost proposal is exclusive of Mandatory Christmas/New Year Eve Dinner supplement.**
- TCI reserves the right to modify itineraries and/or substitute hotels of a reasonably similar quality, when available, should circumstances beyond our control deem it necessary.
- The transportation arrangements includes visitation within city limits only.
- Deposits imposed by TCI's suppliers (e.g. hotels, motor coach companies etc.) will be charged when they occur. Full payment of deposits is due as per deposit invoice. Non-compliance with the deposit requirements can result in change or loss of services. All deposits are non-transferable.
- In no event shall the liability of TCI Travels any of their respective subsidiaries or affiliates exceed the amount actually paid to such parties by the claimant and in no event shall any of such parties have liability to any claimant for special or consequential damages. Services and conditions will be subject to the law regulating the activities of travel agents in the country where the services are rendered.