



Trip Highlights

- Historic city of Fort Kochi
- The lowland Forests at the Thattekkad bird sanctuary
- Visit Spice Plantations
- Stay in home stays, camps and heritage villas



At a Glance

Bike ride through Spice plantations, backwaters and beach roads. Stay at home stays, on a rice boat and at eco lodges.

Distance Chart – Cycling

Day 1	Arrive	-
Day 2		60 Kms
Day 3		30 Kms
Day 4		40 Kms
Day 5		30 Kms
Day 6		50 Kms
Day 7		25 Kms
Day 8	Depart	

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Kochi

On arrival at the Kochi International Airport, you will be received and transferred to a hotel at Fort Kochi. Set on a cluster of islands and narrow peninsulas, Kochi is a city of cultural diversity. After checking and fitting out our bikes, we can spend the rest of the day exploring Fort Cochin, visiting the synagogue and the Dutch palace, buying a few nick-knacks at the Jew street and spending the evening at the Chinese fishing nets at the harbour mouth. We end the evening with a cultural extravaganza of classical dances of Kerala.

Overnight accommodation at a hotel (B)

Day 2, 3: Thattekkad

From Kochi we commence our ride and head for Thattekkad. The route passes through spices, rubber, and coconut plantations. By noon, we will reach the Thattekkad, located on the banks of the river Periyar. With over 275 species in such a small area, most of them endemics, Thattekkad offers a rare view into the world of birding in Kerala. This place is an ideal and quiet retreat into nature.

Overnight accommodation at a Eco Lodge (B, L, D)

Day 4, 5: Thodupuzha

From Thattekkad we will cycle along the banks of the Periyar River and head to Thodupuzha - a picturesque little town. Our ride takes us through winding roads running through scores of spice farms and rubber plantations. Our destination today is Dewalokam – an exceptionally beautiful farm on the banks of Kannadipuzha in the lower ranges of the Western Ghats. Here we can take a walk around the spice garden with nutmeg, cinnamon and pepper vines. We will also go walking through the herbal gardens, rubber plantations, the forests across the river rounding it off with a visit to the local village.

Overnight accommodation at a home stay (B, L, D)

Day 6: Alleppey - Rice boat

We start the day's cycling from Thodupuzha and cycle through the countryside and 'bunds' of the vast waterways of the backwaters. From here we will cycle through the village roads along the paddy fields till we reach Alleppey where we will finish our ride and embark

on to the luxurious Rice boat for a unique experience of cruising down the backwaters.

Overnight accommodation onboard (B, L, D)

Day 7: Alleppey - Heritage Villa

We wake up to a spectacular sunrise on the backwaters. Watch the villagers begin their day as we cruise for the shore. The rice boat will take us through these tranquil backwaters. As soon as we disembark, we will once again make our way through the narrow country roads to a backwater heritage villa located along the shores of the backwaters near the ancient city of Alleppey – a perfect place to enjoy a Kerala Ayurvedic massage as we relax in the evening.

Overnight accommodation at a Heritage Villa (B, L, D)

Day 8: End of Tour. Depart for Kochi.

Inclusions

- Cycles
- Guide
- Accompanying vehicle
- Refreshments & mineral water while cycling
- Accommodation and most meals

Along the Spice Trails

8 Days

Cycling Holiday

Bikes: Trek/ Cannondale/ Merida

Bike Hire: Free. You may bring your own bikes, but in this case let us know in advance.

Bike Specifications

Bike type: Trek/ Cannondale/ Merida

Number of gears: 21-24

Brakes: V-Brakes

Suspension: Front

Pedals: Standard

frame range: 13.5" - 19.5"

Bike bag provided: No

Water bottle holder provided: Yes

Water bottle provided: No

Adjustable handlebars: No

Female saddles provided: No

Gel saddles provided: No

Option to fit own saddle: Yes

Option to fit own pedal: Yes

Bar ends: No

Things to carry on a Cycling Trip

- Casual Shirts / T-shirts
- Shorts
- Sunglass
- Sunscreen lotion (SPF minimum 35)
- Gloves
- Camera (optional)
- Warm clothes
- Waterproof jacket (during Monsoons)

General Info

Visas

Visitors to India must obtain a Visa before departure.

For details and an application form please contact the local Indian Embassy or High Commission.

Airport taxes

There are no airport taxes if you depart from Kochi International Airport. However, in some airports departure taxes are applicable - please check with your ticketing agent for more details.

Currency Exchange

You can exchange your money at most major towns. ATMs are found in most towns. Credit cards are accepted only at major cities en-route during this tour.

Telephone and Internet Access

You would have access to telephone and internet at most of the hotels. In case there are no internet access at the hotel, you would be able access it in the nearest town.

Climate

The weather in South India is tropical - warm, humid and often wet. During the main monsoon, (July to October) there is heavy rain.

Safety

You would be accompanied by a guide throughout the trip. The guides are experienced, trained in First Aid and fully qualified for the purpose of the tour. They would handle all concerns with regards to your safety and well being.

Insurance

We recommended that you take your insurance that covers illnesses and accidents abroad.