



If you are looking for a genuine experience of life in Kerala, this is the tour for you. Highlights include dance, temple festivals, over night on a rice boat on the backwaters, small elegant villas and beautiful countryside.

#### Trip Highlights

- Traditional dances and temple festivals.
- Luxury cruise on the backwaters on a rice boat
- Stay at an organic farm in traditional Keralan style.
- Experience village life by the backwaters



#### At a Glance

A six day tour that gives you an opportunity to experience the heritage, hospitality, culture and the life of the local people living on the banks of the river – village men engaged in activities like fishing, toddy tapping and cultivation. The programme starts at the historic town of Fort Kochi, a day on the houseboat, the backwaters of Alleppey and the spice plantations of Thodupuzha.



### Eco & Culture Tour

#### Detailed Itinerary

##### Day 1: Fort Kochi

We will check into a Heritage Hotel right in the midst of Fort Kochi and discover this historic city of ancient churches, synagogues and palaces. In the evening we will attend a traditional dance performance – Kathakali

##### Day 2: Rice boat

We travel to Alleppey to embark on one of Kerala's speciality accommodation - the rice boat. This will be an ever memorable cruise through the lagoons, lakes and rivers that make up the beautiful backwaters of Kerala.



##### Day 3, 4: By the backwaters

We would be spending the next couple of days at a riverside heritage home near Alleppey, by the beautiful waterways and backwaters of the Kuttanad region. This heritage home is situated in an island resplendent with exotic flora, breathtaking flowers, myriad birds and butterflies to make a memorable holiday, affordable and unforgettable. A truly wonderful way to spend your time on the banks of the backwaters of Kerala!

You can roam around the local village, go canoeing with your friendly boatman or watch the toddy tapper at work. There is also the opportunity to visit the ancient local temples or the old church along the backwaters. If you are in the mood to learn a little of Kerala cooking, you have come to the right place.



##### Day 5: At a Spice Villa.

We will move to a home stay tucked away in the interiors of Kerala, by the foothills of the Western Ghats. Professor Jose and his family live in the farm – an organic farm with goats, cows and buffaloes, pigs and chicken, turkeys, ducks and guineas fowls. From the patio of your room you can see the Sahyadri Mountains (the local name of the Western Ghats).



This is indeed a retreat into quiet village solitude. A walk through the countryside, through rubber plantations or to the nearby river is salve to the tired senses. An ideal place to get a ringside view of growing spices or learn a little about the organic farming.

##### Day 6: Depart

End of tour

#### General Info

##### VISA

Visitors to India must obtain a Visa before departure. All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the nearest Indian Embassy/ High Commission/ Consular Office for the same.

##### AIRPORT TAX

Airport or departure taxes are not applicable if you depart from Kochi.

##### CURRENCY EXCHANGE

You can exchange your money at most major towns. ATMs are found in most Kerala towns. Credit cards are not accepted during this tour.

##### INSURANCE

It's advisable to take personal travel insurance policy to cover against sickness, accident, loss of baggage, unexpected alterations to travel arrangements and travel disruption, cancellations, etc.

##### COMMUNICATION

**Internet Access:** If you need to be in touch with your friends & relatives while travelling we recommend email. Email cafes are generally available throughout the region.

**Telephone:** It is possible to make international calls in most phone booths in Kerala towns. Most hotels have facility for international calls.

##### CLIMATE

The South Indian subcontinent is tropical - warm, humid and often wet. During the main monsoon, (July to September) there is heavy rain. Best time to visit Kerala is from October-March.

##### FOOD

Food is a very important part of these journeys and we have ensured that the Kerala Cuisine is a part of this adventure besides both North Indian & South Indian food - vegetarian and non vegetarian. All meals and bottled mineral water are provided on all days. Any special food requirements could be met if sufficient notice is given.

##### RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We hope to be trend setters in the area of responsible tourism; we are genuinely committed to issues of conservation and fully respect the dignity of the communities that we have the privilege to interact with.

#### Inclusions

- Accommodation in heritage villas, house boat & home stays
- The historic town of Fort Kochi
- The spice plantations of Thodupuzha
- Most Meals
- All Transfers by A/c Vehicle

#### Exclusions

- Insurance –please take your own insurance
- Tips
- Beverages
- Laundry
- Telephone bills
- Expenses of a personal nature

#### What to Bring

##### Clothing:

- Cottons
- Warm Clothes (Fleece, Gloves, Caps)
- Casual Shirts/T-shirts

##### Others:

- Binocs & Camera (optional)
- Torch
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses cap
- Sun screen of SPF at least 35
- Canteen Day pack

