



Kerala lies on the west coast of India and is characterized by its tropical climate and swaying coconut palms. We will start our journey at Fort Kochi - an apt introduction to the multi-cultural ambience of Kerala.

Trip Highlights

- Heritage walks in Fort Cochin.
- Experience rural India in an organic farm.
- Trek in a tiger reserve and spot wildlife.
- Village life by the backwaters

**At a Glance**

A twelve day tour covering some of Kerala's best homestays. The programme starts at the historic town of Fort Kochi covers the spice plantations of Thodupuzha, the tiger reserve of Periyar and ends at the backwaters of Alleppey. The package is made in such a way that each day is different and one gets the complete feel of the Keralan village life.



Detailed Itinerary

Days 1, 2: Historic Fort Kochi

Explore and discover a hamlet which the explorers made their home - Kochi. You are sure to feel welcomed in this city of winding lanes, Chinese fishing nets, colorful shops, great food, ferry boats and ships docked by the harbour.

Walk through the old part of town where several Portuguese style houses, cobbled lanes, St Francis Church, The Cochin Clubhouse, the Dutch palace (Mattancherry palace), the Synagogue, Jew town and many other vintage sights will charm you.

A live Kathakali performance would be a fitting finale to a perfect day.

Day 3, 4, 5: At a Spice Plantation Villa & Spa

We will move to a homestay tucked away in the deep interiors of Kerala, at the foothills of the Western Ghats. Professor Jose and his family live in the farm – an organic farm with goat, cows and buffaloes, pigs, chicken, turkeys, ducks and guineas fowls. From the patio of your room you can see the Sahyadri mountains (the local name for the Western Ghats), beyond the river and the forest.



Days 6, 7, 8: Wilderness at Periyar

With over 900 sq Kms of thick rain forests, Periyar is home to a wide variety of wildlife. Herds of Elephants, Tigers, Indian Bisons, Sloth bears are common sightings here.



Surrounded by spice plantations, Periyar makes ideal country for forest treks, wildlife safaris and visiting indigenous tribes. The night trek into the Periyar Tiger Reserve with the company of the forest guards will reveal much of the wildlife in the area.

Days 9, 10, 11: Backwaters at Alleppey

We will drive to an interior village located on the backwaters near Alleppey. Our destination today will be a beautiful Kerala style heritage villa along the banks of the river Manimala.

Cycling along these quiet friendly villages we visit the farmlands, watch the local brew 'toddy' being tapped or see the local artisan weaving coir ropes or coir mats. For those interested in a visit to the beach, we can take off for a walk along the local beach which is just a few minutes away. A delicious Kuttanadan dinner awaits you back at the home stay.

Day 12: 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& home stays
- The historic town of Fort Kochi
- The spice plantations of Thodupuzha
- The tiger reserve of Periyar
- Backwaters of Alleppey
- 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

