



### Trip Highlights

- Discover the virgin beauty of Kerala, only accessible by foot
- Walks based at the most popular destinations in Kerala
- Birdwatching at Thattekkad,
- Challenging trek at Munnar
- Rainforest Discovery at Periyar



### At a Glance

A ten day walking holiday through the hills of Munnar, the forests at Thattekkad and Periyar and the wonderful backroads of Alleppey. The highlight of this tour are the walks through spectacular places unreachable by wheels.

### Distance Chart – Trekking

Day 1		5 KM
Day 2		5 KM
Day 3		7 KM
Day 4		7 KM
Day 5		11 KM
Day 6		5 KM
Day 7		10 KM
Day 8		8 KM
Day 9	Houseboat Cruise	-
Day 10	Cochin Sightseeing	-
Day 11	Transfer	-

### Skill Set



## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1, 2: Lowland Forests at Thattekkad

Arrival at Kochi. Meet & assist at the airport and transfer to Hornbill Camp near the lowland forests at Thattekkad. We will walk the trails in the forest, walk through the villages that dot the area and also go on kayaking trips on the river Periyar.

### Day 3, 4, 5 : Hiking in Munnar

We will leave the plains and head for the hills. Munnar is Kerala's premier hill station, built around the tea industry. The altitude above 1600 m above MSL means an agreeable climate throughout the year. The tea estates here have meant that a 'tea culture' spawned by the British still is in place, with most of the land under the control of the tea companies. The Sholas or high altitude montane evergreen forests are typical to the Western Ghats and considered biologically extremely fragile. Our treks will pass through countless Sholas & rolling grasslands, climbing to over 2600m during the course of our walk.

### Day 6, 7, 8: Rain Forest treks at Periyar

We will drive to Periyar to the rainforests. Situated within the confines of the Western Ghats in the southern Indian state of Kerala, Periyar National Park and Tiger Reserve is one of the most captivating wildlife parks in the world. The picturesque lake in the heart of the sanctuary was originally 26 sq km but now spans an area of 55 sq km. This perennial source of

water, which initially led to the submersion of large tracts of forestland, slowly attracted wild animals. It eventually resulted in the adjoining forests being granted protection. Post-1975 Periyar finds itself in the enviable position of being a protected tiger reserve. The terrain ranges from hilly to flat grassland areas at the edges of the lakes. The vegetation is of moist deciduous type. We will stay at a Resort and go on day treks & jeep safaris from there into the forest in the company of the local trackers.

### Day 9: The Backwaters

We will drive towards Kumarakom and embark the houseboat. No trip to Kerala will be complete without a cruise through the backwaters. We will disembark during the cruise and walk along the 'bunds' which protect this entire area which is below sea level, from being inundated. The small hamlets, farms and village roads are a treat to take leisurely walks.

### Day 10: Kochi

We will travel to Kochi to take in the history & culture of Fort Kochi – St Francis Church, the Basilica, the Dutch Museum and the heritage walk at Fort Kochi.

### Day 11: Depart Kochi Tour ends.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### 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.

### SAFETY

Our guides have been adequately trained & qualified in first aid and always carry a comprehensive first-aid kit. In case of any medical emergency we have facilities to transfer you to the nearest hospital immediately, followed by evacuation to the tertiary-care hospital at Kochi (if required).

## INCLUSIONS

- Trekking, camping, guide
- Accommodation in dome & Luxury cottage tents, resorts & heritage hotels
- Refreshments
- Mineral water & refreshments while trekking
- All meals except at Kochi

## EXCLUSIONS

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

## WHAT TO PACK

- Warm sets of clothes (Fleece, Jacket, hat and gloves) are required for trips going through Munnar and other high altitude areas
- Hiking shorts
- Hiking pants/track pants
- Waterproof jacket
- Casual Shirts/T-shirts

## OTHERS

- Binocs & Camera (optional)
- Water proof bags for docs & Electronics
- Personal First Aid Kit
- Torch
- Insect repellent
- Sunglasses, cap
- Sun screen of SPF at least 35
- Canteen
- Day pack