

HIGHLIGHTS OF SOUTH INDIA



Enjoy the beauty of tea gardens and the houseboat cruise along the Kerala backwaters. Munnar not only is a beautiful hill station but a tea growing town of Kerala as well. Numerous tea fields form an irresistible green canvas as you drive up to the town. Taste both Kerala backwaters as well as the tea gardens with relaxed sightseeing.

Outline Itinerary (9 Days)

Day 1 : Arrive Cochin

On arrival at Cochin airport, our representative will meet you to pick you up and transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day is at your leisure. Stay overnight at the hotel in Cochin.

Day 2 : Cochin Sightseeing(B,D)

After Breakfast Proceed to Cochin Sightseeing.

Mattancherry Palace& Jewish Synagogue: The Mattancherry Palace is a Portuguese palace popularly known as the Dutch Palace, in Mattancherry, Kochi, in the Indian state of Kerala which features Kerala murals depicting portraits and exhibits of the Rajas of Kochi. The Palace was built and gifted by the Portuguese as a present to the king of Cochin around 1555. The Dutch carried out some extensions and renovations in the palace in 1663, and thereafter it was popularly called Dutch Palace. It is also called Paradesi synagogue is a word used in several Indian languages, and the literal meaning of the term is "foreigners", applied to the synagogue because it was built by Sephardic or Spanish-speaking Jews, some of them from families exiled in Aleppo, Safed and other West Asian localities. It is also referred to as the Cochin Jewish Synagogue or the Mattancherry Synagogue.

Above monument Timings: Dutch Palace/Mattancherry: Timings 10:00 am to 5 pm, Closed on Fridays and National holidays / Jewish Synagogue: 10 am to 5 pm, Break Time - 12 pm to 3 pm, Closed on Friday & Saturday & Jewish Holidays.

Chinese Fishing Net:

In India, Chinese fishing nets (Cheena vala) are fishing nets that are fixed land installations for fishing. While commonly known as "Chinese fishing nets" in India, the more formal name for such nets is "shore operated lift nets". Huge mechanical contrivances hold out horizontal nets of 20 m or more across. Each structure is at least 10 m high and comprises a cantilever with an outstretched net suspended over the sea and large stones suspended from ropes as counterweights at the other end.

Santa Cruz Cathedral Basilica, Kochi:

The Santa Cruz Cathedral Basilica at Fort Kochi is one of the eight Basilicas in Kerala. Counted as one of the heritage edifices of Kerala, this church is one of the finest and most impressive churches in India and visited by tourists the whole year round. It is a place of devotion as well as a center of historic significance, endowed with architectural and artistic grandeur and colors of the gothic style.

St. Francis Church, Kochi: St. Francis CSI Church, in Fort Kochi (a.k.a. Fort Cochin), originally built in 1503, is the oldest European church in India. and has great historical significance as a mute witness to the European colonial struggle in the subcontinent. The Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama died in Kochi in 1524 when he was on his third visit to India. His body was originally buried in this church, but after fourteen years his remains were removed to Lisbon.

Evening visit Culture Center Kochi followed By Cruise Dinner(subject to availability)

Kathakali Dance show Centre in AC Theater: (Timings: 17:30 pm – 19:30 pm)

Elements of the art of Kathakali are found in the ancient ritual plays of Hindu temples and various dance forms that are believed to have been gradually developed in Kerala from as early as the 2nd Century until the end of the 16th Century. Many of its characteristics are very much older than its literature, as they are a continuation of older traditions, but these did not crystallize until the 17th Century when the Rajah of

Kottarakkara, a small principality in central Travancore, wrote plays based on the Hindu epic "Ramayana" in sanskritized Malayam, which could be understood by ordinary people.

Later drive back to Hotel stay overnight at Hotel in Cochin.

Day 3 : Cochin /Dewalokam(Drive: 75 Km / 2 HRS) (B.L.D)

After breakfast check out from Cochin hotel and proceed to Dewalokam. A stay at Dewalokam is a truly unique way to relax and unwind in our peaceful and unspoiled heaven. Enjoy our homegrown produce freshly cooked as you sample gourmet traditional Keralan food and join the professional chefs in our state-of-the-art kitchen in informal learn-to-cook sessions. Ours is a working farm, run on organic and eco principles, where you will not only be welcomed by the warmest of Keralan families but will also be able to help the local community and the planet. Our water is heated with solar power, vegetables grown with home-made compost, chickens, and goats fed on vegetable waste and methane from our cows' manure is recovered to provide gas for cooking. Upon arrival in Dewalokam check-in to the A/C Room,

- Later cooking Demo at 6:00 pm, and a Spice Walk. Overnight stay at Dewalokam A/C Room.

Day 4 : Dewalokam / Munnar (Drive: 95 Km / 2.5 HRS) (B)

Today morning Yoga Class during 07:30 am to 08:30 am,

Later After breakfast check out from Dewalokam, Cochin and later you proceed to Munnar.

On arrival check in Hotel. Munnar is situated at the confluence of three mountain streams - Mudrapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundale, Munnar is 1600 Meter above sea level.

This majestic hill station was once the summer resort of the British government in South India. Local sightseeing of Munnar includes a visit to Mattupetty Dam, Kundale Lake, and Echo point. Evening free. Stay overnight at Hotel in Munnar.

Day 5 : Munnar Jeep Safari Tour (10 am- 3pm) (B)

After breakfast Jeep safari guide will be meeting you in hotel lobby and later your day explore for the tea-plantations by the exciting Jeep ride in Munnar.

Enjoy Jeep Safari to explore tea plantation and visit tea factory & museum.

Start sightseeing tour of Munnar by Jeep safari drive through the Hills tea plantations, scenic beauty valleys, Lock heart gap, spice plantations etc. After around 25 kms of jeep ride through the normal road we will reach the jeep able, jumpy, bumpy, rugged road to the

World's highest organic tea growing estate. From there drive or walk little further to one of the oldest orthodox tea factory in this region.

After visiting the Factory we will have fresh tea picked, processed and made on the spot. Soon after we will start walking to a small ground to have lunch near the cliff at local south Indian restaurant with wonderful view around, then will proceed to Munnar in the jeep itself. Ride will be through the tea plantations jeepable rugged road and we can have a close look to the spectacular country side and the rural Tamil people, working in the tea plantations.

Later drive back to Hotel stay overnight at Hotel in Munnar.

Day 6 : Munnar/Thekkady - (95 km / 03Hrs.) – Enjoy Boat Ride (B)

Early morning drive to Periyar from Munnar. Upon arrival in Periyar, you will check-in at the hotel.

Visit Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary and enjoy the boat ride at the Periyar lake and see elephants and the other wild animals. The Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary is situated on the banks of the Periyar Lake - an artificial lake, at Thekkady. Here the high ranges of the Western Ghats are clothed in dense evergreen, moist deciduous forests and savannah grasslands. Below this thick green canopy roam herds of elephants, sambars, tigers, gaurs, lion-tailed macaques, and Nilgiri langurs.

In addition to elephant rides, cruises on the lake and treks to the ruined Mangaladevi temple - a beautiful old stone temple situated in the heart of the Thekkady forest;

After the Boat Ride activity return to the hotel. Overnight stay in the hotel in Thekkady.

Day 7 : Thekkady / Alleppey (140 Km. 4 HRS Drive) (B.L.D)

After early breakfast check out from Thekkady hotel and proceed to Alleppey on arrival check in Houseboat till afternoon. Following a lunch board the Houseboat for a unique experience through the narrow canals and channels of the backwaters of Kerala. The materials that go into the making of houseboat are all local and Eco-friendly; bamboo poles, coconut fiber ropes, bamboo mats carpets etc. The main wood used is "Anjali ".

The Houseboat provides all comforts - Beds, a kitchen, western toilets, and an upper deck. Traditional lanterns are used as lights. Spend the day cruising on the boat. through remote tribal villages along the tranquil backwaters of Kerala is a superb experience. Sensational in its own silent way, the cruise takes you along Snake boat docks, friendly cheering villagers, coir (Jute) making communities, toddy (local spirit) shops, fishing nets pitched for the day's catch, bounded paddy fields and manual canoes of different sizes crisscrossing each other. The experience enables you to reach beautiful untouched areas.

ALL MEALS INCLUDED IN HOUSEBOAT Stay overnight at in Houseboat in Alleppey.

Day 8 : Alleppey //Cochin (Drive: 83 Km 2.15 Hrs.) – (B)

After breakfast proceed to Cochin By Car (Approx 83 Km) !!! On Arrival

check In to hotel in Cochin!!! Evening Free visit local markets !!!

Stay overnight in Cochin

Day 9 : Cochin (B)

After breakfast proceed to Cochin By Car (Approx 83 Km). On Arrival check In to hotel in Cochin. Evening Free visit local markets.

Stay overnight in Cochin.

Include / Exclude

- Arrival-Departure Transfers by Car/Coach
- Transportation from Day 01 till Last Day Cochin Airport
- English Speaking Guide in Kochi sightseeing
- All Entrance Tickets one Time as per tour plan places
- Munnar Jeep Safari with guide lunch and entrance tea-factory
- One time Common Boat Ride in Periyar
- One Ayurvedic Massage During Trip
- Kathakali dance Evening Show in Kochi
- Accommodation 4* bed and Breakfast in all places except Alleppey
- Accommodation with 3 meals at Dewalokom homestay
- Premium Class Houseboat In Alleppey With All Meals and 24 Hrs Ac
- All Applicable Taxes
- Accommodation using below only:- Cochin (Hotel Trident Cochin or similar category) Dewalokam (Dewalokam Home Stay) Munnar (Hotel The Panoramic gateway Munnar Woods or similar category) Thekkady (Hotel Mountain Courtyard or similar Category) Alleppey (Premium Houseboat 24 Hrs Aircon With All Meals)
- Meals Not Specified
- Tips, Porters, Phone Calls, Camera / Video Shoot entry charges.
- Personal Expenses



Himalayan Social Journey

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