



The Spice Route of Kerala Tour

Day 01 Arrive Cochin By: Flight

On your arrival in Cochin, after baggage collection, a ACR representative will meet as you EXIT the ARRIVALS TERMINAL building after which you would be transferred to your Hotel.

Kochi or more familiarly Cochin's history is a bright tapestry - many coloured threads woven through centuries together present the fabric of the present. Its involvement with the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British are evident in the architecture of city buildings, the old durbar hall is the spice in the dish! Modern day Kochi may be a busy port and shipping centre but it has many attractions for ordinary tourists. It is spread across islands and promontories in a stunning location between the Arabian Sea and the Backwaters.

Kerala owes its transnational fame to this nearly 300 years old classical dance form, which combines facets of ballet, opera, masque and the pantomime.

Overnight – Hotel Meal – None

Day 02 Cochin

Today, you will take a city tour of Cochin.

Sites to visit include:

Dutch Palace (Closed on Fridays and Jewish Holidays), also known as Mattancherry Palace built by the Portuguese and presented to the Raja of Cochin in 16th Century AD. It acquired the present name in the 17th century when the Dutch carried out extensions and repairs in the palace. At no time did the Portuguese or Dutch stay here, its interiors are decorated with murals from the Ramayana and there are some lively displays of royal costumes and palanquins.

Jewish Synagogue (Closed on Fridays & Saturdays and Jewish Holidays), Built in late 16th century, the Great Scrolls of the old Testament, the copper plates in which the grants of privilege made by the Cochin rulers were recorded and the exquisite Chinese hand-painted tiles are of interest

Chinese Fishing Nets line the sea-front and exhibit a mechanical method of catching fish by local fishermen in Fort Kochi. Said to have been brought from China by traders of Kubalai Khan's Court, they are used at high tide.

St. Francis Church was originally built by the Portuguese in 15th century and is believed to be the oldest church built by the Europeans in India. It is here the remains of the inveterate traveller, Vasco da Gamma were initially buried and 14 years later, his mortal remains were taken to Portugal.

In the evenings enjoy an hour of the famous Kathakali Dance performance – Kathakali is the classical dance-drama of Kerala, South India, which dates from the 17th century and is rooted in Hindu mythology. Kathakali has a unique combination of literature, music, painting, acting and dance. In the following pages we have placed photographs and videos of Kathakali performances and songs by famous Kathakali singers.

Overnight – Hotel Meal – Breakfast

Day 03 Cochin - Munnar By: Surface

After breakfast at hotel, you will drive towards Munnar (135 Kms/ 3 Hrs).

Munnar – breathtakingly beautiful - a haven of peace and tranquility. Set at an altitude of 6000 ft in Idukki district, Munnar was the favored summer resort of the erstwhile British rulers in the colonial days. Unending expanse of tea plantations – pristine valleys and mountains- exotic species of flora and fauna in its wild sanctuaries and forests - aroma of spice scented cool air.

Overnight – Hotel Meal – Breakfast

Day 04 Munnar

After breakfast, visit Tea Plantations. The tea plantations in Kerala are a beautiful sight as the green tea bushes cover the gentle hill slopes and form a green mantle over the surface of the hills. The serene tea plantations of Kerala are a pleasant eco-tourism option among Kerala tours with Kerala Backwater.

Later visit Eravikulam National Park; situated in Munnar, the main attractions of this park are the Nilgiri Thar and the Neelakuruniji flowers that bloom just once in 12 years. The highest peak in South India, Anamudi [2695m] is located in the southern region of the park. The Park is 97 sq. km. in extent, consisting mostly of high altitude grasslands that are interspersed with sholas. The main body of the National Park comprising of a high rolling plateau with a base elevation of about 2000 meters from sea level. Three major types of plant communities are found in the Park- grasslands, shrub land and forests. The high plateau and the hills rising above it are primarily covered by grasslands. Shrub lands are seen along the bases of the cliffs. Shola forests are located in the valleys and folds. Turner's valley, which splits the Park roughly in half from northwest to southeast, is the deepest. Visitors require entrance permission to visit this park. The only motorable road inside the Park passes through the southern extremity inside the tourism zone (Rajamalai) to the Rajamalai tea estate.

Return back to your hotel.

Overnight – Hotel Meal – Breakfast

Day 05 Munnar- Periyar By: Surface

After breakfast at hotel, you will drive towards Periyar (165 Kms/ 4 Hrs).

Periyar, set in the heart of the Cardamom Hills of Kerala is famous for its Wildlife Sanctuary. As the road winds through mountains, you will descend through a carpet of tea bushes, estates of tall rubber trees and gardens of coffee, cardamom and pepper. Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the premier reserves of Southern India and home of the wild elephant, the bison, antelopes, langurs and sambar that can be observed from the launches that cruise the lake.

Overnight – Hotel Meal – Breakfast

Day 06 Periyar By: Surface

After breakfast, you will be proceeding to Periyar National Park to view the wildlife by boat. 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 park has a picturesque lake at the heart of the sanctuary. Herds of elephant and sambar, gaur and wild pigs and wander down to the lakeside and can be observed from the launches that cruise the lake. Periyar also harbours the leopard, wild dog, barking deer and mouse deer.

Return to the hotel after your boat ride.

Rest of the day is free for leisure.

Late afternoon we will arrange your visit to Spice plantation.

Overnight – Hotel Meal – Breakfast

Day 07 Priyar - Kumarakom By: Surface Kumarakom - Housboat

After breakfast, you will be driven to Kumarakom (130 Kms / 04 Hrs) and, board at the Houseboat for an overnight cruise through the famous backwaters of Kerala. Embark the traditional rice-boat of Kerala "The Kettuvallam" as known locally. Houseboats of Kerala are a unique way to experience the beauty of kaleidoscopic Kerala. Transportation of men and material using houseboats of Kerala is nothing new. The houseboats glide on the backwaters of Kerala, with panoramic view passing by. Enjoy the freshly prepared Keralai food on board the houseboat.

Overnight – Hotel Meal – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Day 08 Housboat - Kumarakom By: Surface Kumarakom – Kovalam

After breakfast at the Houseboat, you will disembark at jetty point in Kumarakom

Later drive to Kovalam (160 Kms/4 hrs).

Kovalam: "Kovalam" means a grove of coconut trees and true to its name the village offers an endless sight of coconut trees. The crescent-shaped beach has three parts. The southern most beaches, and the most popular, is light house beach. It offers an amazing sight of Vizhinjam mosque. The northern Samudra is a laidback one and time seems stands still here. The middle, hawah, in the early day, is a beehive of activities with fishermen setting out for sea. With a high rock promontory and a calm bay of blue waters, this beach paradise creates a unique aquarelle on moonlit nights.

Overnight – Hotel Meal – Breakfast

Day 09 Kovalam

Breakfast at the Hotel

Rest of the day at free for relaxation (No Transport services)

Overnight – Hotel Meal – Breakfast

Day 10 Kovalam – Trivendrum By: Surface Departure Trivendrum By: Flight

In time you will be transferred to Chennai Airport for your flight to next destination

Meal – Breakfast

*** End of tour ***

