

# The Taste of South India 8 Days 7 Nights



The options that Kerala offers to its visitors are as varied as they are irresistible. So we welcome you to this unique land of spellbinding experiences. Enjoy a meandering cruise down the backwaters, or a lazy day by the sea or an adventurous trek through this beautiful area. It is also the home of Ayurveda - an ancient healing therapy that has been sweeping the West.

# DAY ONE: Kochi

On arrival at Kochi Airport, you will be transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day will be at leisure. Kochi is known as the Queen of the Arabian Sea. It is a seaport city that is a blend of cultures that has evolved over time with the influence of explorers and traders.

# DAY TWO: Kochi

After breakfast, you will enjoy a sightseeing tour of Kochi, visiting the Dutch Palace, Jewish Synagogue and St. Francis Church. In the evening you will be taken to a Kathakali dance center where you will be entertained by the most elaborate dance forms in southern India. After the dance show, you will be treated to a cooking demonstration followed by a home cooked dinner. Return to your hotel for your overnight stay.

# DAY THREE: Kochi - Munnar

Following breakfast, you will be driven from Kochi to Munnar, where you will be assisted with check in at your hotel. The quiet and restful resort of Munnar lies nestled in the green and serene Kannan Devan Hills. You will spend the evening at the Tea Estates and meet local people engaged in the tea industry, before returning to your hotel for the night.

# DAY FOUR: Munnar - Thekkady

This morning you will be driven to Thekkady, where you will be assisted with the hotel check in. In the afternoon, you will proceed to Periyar National Park and view wildlife by boat, before returning to your hotel for your overnight stay.

# DAY FIVE: Thekkady - Kumarakom

After breakfast, you will visit the spice plantation in Thekkady, before being driven to Kumarakom. After check in at your hotel, you will enjoy a sunset cruise on Vembanad Lake, encountering many rare species of birds as they return to their nests at dusk.

# **DAY SIX: Kumarakom**

Today will be free to spend at your leisure. Relax in a hammock on the shore of the lake or take a stroll through Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary. Alternatively, you may opt to take a boat ride to Philipkutty's Farm for lunch and spend the night at the hotel.

# DAY SEVEN: Kumarakom -Alleppey

After a relaxed breakfast, you will embark on an unforgettable houseboat cruise that will take you along the coconut-palmed canals from Kumarakom to Alleppey. The houseboats of Kerala offer panoramic views of one of the most picturesque areas in India, truly defining why Kerala is known as "God's Own Country". An on board chef will prepare local cuisines for you, and you will spend the night on board your houseboat.

# DAY EIGHT: Alleppey - Kochi

After breakfast, your houseboat cruise will conclude at Alleppey, and you will be driven to Kochi airport for your onward flight.