

# Captivating Kerala

## 7 days | Starts/Ends: Kochi



Uncover the delights of tropical Kerala in India's deep south. Visit historic Fort Kochi, the picturesque hill station of Munnar with its verdant tea plantations and spend a night aboard a houseboat, gliding along the tranquil, palm fringed backwaters.

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Kerala Backwaters – Cruise along the famous backwaters on a deluxe rice boat, past lush forests and local villages
- Kumarakom – Enjoy two days relaxing at leisure and visit the biodiverse Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary
- Kochi – Tour the winding streets of the Fort Kochi neighbourhood and watch a Kathakali dance show
- Munnar – Stroll through a tea plantation on a guided walk and explore the beautiful surroundings independently

#### What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 2 dinners
- 5 nights 3-4 star and heritage hotels and 1 night deluxe houseboat

- Guided sightseeing – Kochi, Fort Kochi and Munnar tea plantation
- Traditional Kathakali Dance Show in Kochi (entrance fee excluded)
- Houseboat cruise along the Keralan backwaters
- Escorted by an English-speaking Indian tour guide (for groups of 6 or more)
- Services of English-speaking Indian specialist guides at some sites
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 7
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private A/C vehicles

#### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$25-35pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$15-25pp, paid in local currency
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$4-7 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 : Kochi

Saturday. Welcome to India! You'll be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel for a Welcome meeting at 14:00 – where you'll meet your

guide and fellow group members. This evening be mesmerised by a traditional Kathakali dance performance. Be prepared for vibrant costumes, make-up, facemasks, lively dancing and a show of a lifetime.

#### Overnight – Kochi

#### Days 2-3 : Kochi sightseeing & Munnar



Kochi – Munnar. On the morning of day 2 we enjoy a guided tour of the Fort Kochi neighbourhood. Examine intricate Chinese fishing nets and wander the winding streets of the old town. We immerse ourselves in local culture with a visit to the European-influenced St Francis Church, the Parsi Synagogue and a Dutch palace. After the tour we continue to Munnar – a town and hill station nestled in beautiful scenery and surrounded by tea plantations.

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www.onthegotours.com – info@onthegotours.com  
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394  
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038  
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337  
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

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On day 3 we take a guided walk through one of these tea plantations and visit a local market, before the rest of the day is free to explore. Perhaps pay a visit to the stunning Eravikulam National Park (closed Jan – Mar). The park is home to endangered species including tigers, sambar deer and the Nilgiri Ibex – found only in this part of the world.

**Overnight – Munnar (B:2, D:2)**

## Day 4 : Kerala backwaters



Munnar – Alleppey – Kerala Backwaters. We begin today with 4–5 hour drive to Alleppey packed with scenic views, before boarding our private rice boat for a cruise along the Kerala Backwaters, a chain of lakes and lagoons running parallel to the Arabian Sea coast. Witness a sensational sunset over the local villages and palm trees kissing the shore as we set sail. Relax as the onboard chef cooks you a delicious dinner from outrageously fresh local produce. Tuck in! **Overnight – Deluxe rice boat (B, L, D)**

## Days 5–6 : Kumarakom



Kerala Backwaters – Kumarakom. On the morning of day 5 we disembark the rice boat at Kumarakom, built on a cluster of islands in Lake Vembanad – one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes.

Enjoy two days at leisure in this vibrant region and watch as local fishermen go to work in their small vallams (fishing boats). The nearby Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is also worth a visit – it's home to many species and is an important stopover for migratory birds, including the critically endangered Siberian Crane.

**Overnight – Kumarakom (B:2)**

## Day 7 : Kochi

Kumarakom – Kochi. Friday. This morning we return to Kochi, where our tour ends with a departure transfer to the airport.

Please note: Flights from Kochi should depart after 2pm. We are also able to book post tour accommodation upon request, please contact us for further details.(B)

## ACCOMMODATION

Highlighted below are some of the accommodation/ hotels which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these stays to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel or start point and further arrival information.**

### Casino Hotel

Casino Hotel is a modern hotel located on Willingdon island, set in tropical gardens it is a beautiful blend of art deco and colonial Indian architectural styles. With a large pool and and spacious comfortable rooms this hotel offers a fantastic experience when in Kochi. Casino Hotel boasts 2 restaurants, a 24-hour health club as well as free wifi in public areas.



### Clouds Valley Leisure Hotel

Set in the valley of the Kennan Devan Hills, the Clouds Valley Leisure Hotel is a contemporary accommodation. Guest rooms are bright and spacious with beautiful views of the surrounding mountains. Rooms are also all en suite, have modern amenities and comfortable beds. The hotel benefits from an onsite restaurant that serves up a tasty selection of both Indian and South Indian food as well as Chinese and European dishes.



### Deluxe Houseboat

There are few things as serene and tranquil as floating along the Keralan backwaters in the comfort of a luxurious houseboat. Deluxe houseboats are elegantly furnished, with up to four bedrooms, equipped with modern en suites, an open lounge, dining area and a deck to relax and admire the beautiful views of the lush green palms and rice paddies. Air conditioning operates in the bedrooms between 9pm to 6am only. The cruises are full board, with tasty meals freshly prepared by the onboard chef.



### Eastend Lakesong

Nestled among the serene backwaters of Kumarakom, Eastend Lakesong comprises of 8 acres of facility packed leisure land. Guests sleep in villas and cottages, which are all well furnished with colourful interiors and comfortable beds. The onsite restaurants offer an excellent selection of local and international cuisine. Why not treat

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yourself to a relaxing massage at the Ayurveda on site Spa? It is the perfect way to unwind after a long day of exploring in the fierce Indian heat.



## PRICES / DATES 2023

Date	Twin Share	Single
28 Oct	AUD 1,245	AUD 2,045
02 Dec	AUD 1,245	AUD 2,045
16 Dec	AUD 1,295	AUD 2,095

## PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates marked with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departures are guaranteed with a minimum of 4 persons. 'Twin Share' prices are per person when there are 2 people sharing a room. 'Single Room' prices are applicable to those who don't have anyone to share a room with or anyone wanting the privacy of a single room. If you are a solo traveller and happy to share a room this can be arranged, subject to there being another solo traveller of the same gender for you to share with. Please book a single room and contact us if your preference is to room share.

## PRICES / DATES 2022

Date	Twin Share	Single
19 Nov	AUD 1,245	AUD 2,045
17 Dec	AUD 1,295	AUD 2,095

## PRICES / DATES 2023

Date	Twin Share	Single
21 Jan	AUD 1,245	AUD 2,045
11 Mar	AUD 1,245	AUD 2,045
15 Apr	AUD 1,245	AUD 2,045
13 May	AUD 1,195	AUD 1,995
16 Sep	AUD 1,245	AUD 2,045
30 Sep	AUD 1,245	AUD 2,045
14 Oct	AUD 1,245	AUD 2,045

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