

**#88,3rd main, K.E.B Layout, B.T.M.1st stage**

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| **PROPOSED ITINERARY FOR COCHIN, MUNNAR AND ALLEPPEY.** | | |
| **DAYS** | **PROGRAM** | **STATUS** |
| **DAY-1** | **Departure from Bangalore railway station to Aluva.** | **O/N Journey** |
| **DAY-2** | **Early morning arrival @ Aluva.**  **Departure to Munnar (4 hours’ drive)**  **Reach Munnar & check-in rooms.**  **After breakfast, sightseeing of Munnar;**  **visit: Mattu patty dam & lake, Eravikulam national park & Echo point.** | **Halt @ Munnar** |
| **DAY-3** | **After breakfast, proceed to Alleppey**  **(5 hours’ drive)**  **Sightseeing of Alleppey; visit:**  **Beach, Bird sanctuary & boat cruise.**  **Departure to Cochin (2 hours)** | **Halt @ Cochin** |
| **DAY-4** | **After breakfast, sightseeing of Cochin; visit:**  **Shipyard, St. Francis Church, Wellington Island boat cruise & Chinese fishing net.**  **Drive to railway station & depart to Bangalore.** | **O/N Journey** |
| **DAY-5** | **Morning arrival @**  **Bangalore railway station.** | **Tour Concludes** |
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**ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, YOUR WAY…**

**MUNNAR:**

* **Mattupetty dam and lake:**  Located near to the famous Anamudi Peak, the **Mattupetty hill** **town** lies at a height of **1,700 meters.** The Mattupetty Dam is a **storage concrete gravity dam**, constructed under the **Pallivasal Hydro Electric Project in the late 1940**, for the purpose of **water conservation and power generation**. Just a few miles away from the dam, one can spot **'Mattupetty Lake**,' which is covered in a mist of clouds.  Mattupetty is also famous for an **Indo Swiss Farm Project or Livestock project,** which was launched in the year **1963** as a part of the **bilateral agreement** between Indian and Swiss government.
* **Echo point:** Echo Point is located at a height of **600 ft.** The **peculiar positioning of the valley** makes it the perfect place for an echo. Stand at the eco point, **shout at your highest pitch** and **hear your voice coming back to you.** The natural echo phenomenon here gives the place its name. This is also a prime viewing spot for the **Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthianus),** flowers which bloom **once every twelve years.**
* **Eravikulam national park:** It is home and sanctuary of the **Nilgiri Tahr.** The park also boasts of hosting **South India's highest peak, Anamudi (2695 m),** in its southern area. This park is spread over an area of **97 square kilometers**. The **Rajamalai region** of the park is open to the public and from here; the exotic Nilgiri Tahr can be viewed. One can view **rare terrestrial and epiphytic orchids and beautiful wild balsams along with the Nilgiri Langur, leopards and the Indian Bison** as well. The early months of the year are the only time when the park is closed as this when the **Tahrs are calving.**

**ALLEPPEY:**

* **Alleppey back water cruise:** The **canal networks linked** to the **Vembanad Lake** offer an inspiring and interesting experience.  At the villages on the banks the **techniques and procedures of coir making** can be seen. Vast stretches of **paddy fields, coconut lagoons and pied King Fishers** hurtling down to catch the fish are observed. **Tapioca and fish delicacies** and **coconut toddy, the natural beverage extracted from coconut trees**, are the highlights of backwater cruise.
* **Bird sanctuary:** Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is **among the most popular bird watching spots in the country.** Spread out over **14 hectares**, one comes across **numerous rare avian species** in these parts. Located on the banks of the **Vembanad Lake** in Kottayam, one gets to see a variety of **migratory birds that flock in thousands,** ranging from places like **the Himalayas to Siberia.** Birds such as **Indian Darter, Little Cormorant, different species of egrets and herons, White Ibis and several species of kingfishers** are found. People also get to see the **waterfowl, cuckoo, owl, water duck, Siberian Cranes, parrots, teal, larks, flycatchers and wood beetles.**
* **Alleppey beach:** Also referred to as the **Venice of the East**, Allapuzha (Alleppey) is famous for its **boat races, backwater holidays, beaches, marine products and coir industry.** **The pier**, which extends into the sea here, is **over 137 years old**.  There is also an **old lighthouse** nearby. Another delightful experience while in Alappuzha is a **houseboat cruise.** The houseboats you find in the backwaters of Alappuzha are in fact **a reworked version of the Kettuvallams**of olden times. **Kettuvallam** is a Malayalam word, **‘Kettu’, refers to dwelling structures and ‘Vallom’ means boat.** In the olden days, **kettuvallam or boat with thatched roof** that covers over wooden hulls was **used to carry tons of rice and spices**.

**COCHIN:**

* **Shipyard:** Cochin Shipyard was **incorporated in 1972** as a Government of India company, with the **first phase of facilities** coming online **in 1982**. The yard has facilities to build vessels up to **1.1 million tons and repair vessels up to 1.25 million tons**, the **largest such facilities in India.** The **first ship** to roll out of the Cochin Shipyard was the **MV Rani Padmini in 1981**. The yard has delivered **two of India's largest double-hull Aframax tankers each of 95,000 DWT (Dead Weight Tonnage).** Recently it unveiled the **first range of indigenous aircraft carriers** for the Indian Navy the **Vikrant-class aircraft carriers.**
* **St. Francis church:** The St. Francis Church, well-known for its beautiful structural design has an **important place in history**. It is here that the famous explorer, **Vasco-da-Gama, was originally buried.** **His remains** would be taken back **14 years** later but to this day, **the exact spot is clearly marked**. The credit for its construction goes to the **Portuguese Franciscan Friars in 1503.** Originally made with **mud and wood,** it went under a lot of work with the **Portuguese, Dutch and the British.** The interiors have two **stepped pinnacles** crowning the top of the chancel roof. **History has left its imprint here, which is evident to this day.**
* **Wellington Island:** This **man-made Island**, named after a **former Viceroy,** is **among the biggest of its kind in India**. It is a major commercial center. It is also home to the **Kochi Naval Base of the Indian Navy, the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology and the Port of Kochi.** It handles **millions of tons** of freight every year. The island is connected to the mainland by the **Venduruthy Bridge.**
* **Wellington boat cruise:** A unique opportunity to experience the **beauty of Kerala Backwaters, flora and fauna**, Village life through **Shikara boat (Covered boat) and Country Boat (Open Canoe).**
* **Chinese fishing nets:** Legend has it that the famous **Chinese explorer, Zheng He,** introduced the Chinese Fishing Nets to the fishermen in Kochi over **500 years ago**. Even though he'd leave, these would become **staple sights** in these parts. The **Chinese fishing nets, or** **Cheenvala** for the locals, have attracted visitors in the Fort Kochi area **for centuries**. **Dawn and dusk** is when one can see the Cheenvala in action. Over **four fishermen** operate one of these nets which are constructed of **bamboo and teak poles**. Certain teak poles have **lights on them** that are supposed to **attract fish.** Watching these majestic nets being **suspended in mid- air**, row upon row, is a truly **spellbinding experience.**