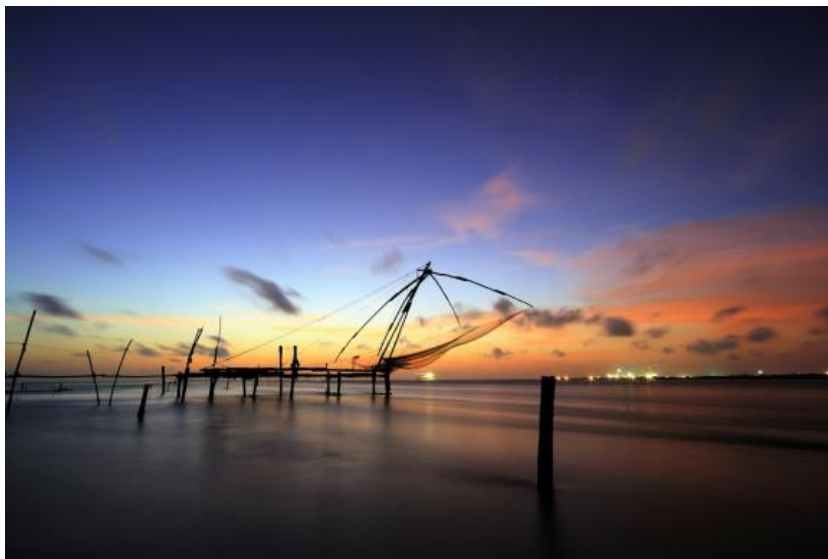


7 days Experiences of Kerala

ITINERARY

Day 1

Arrive at Cochin international airport and transfer to the Hotel- rest of the day on leisure to overcome the Jetlag. Day at leisure and rest within the hotel.



Kochi, as it is called now, offers you the best of history and culture anywhere in the state. A port town since early centuries Cochin attracted traders and invaders from the world over. One can see snippets of the different eras and influences in the many attractions in Cochin. The place is broadly divided into two areas- **Ernakulam** which is a bustling cosmopolitan metropolis and **Fort Cochin** which is the cultural hub where the hotel is located. Step out of the hotel and you are within walking distance of other attractions like the Chinese fishing nets, said to have

been left behind by Chinese traders in the 15th century.

Proceed for a sightseeing city tour of Cochin to explore the many fascinating highlights of Cochin which include - The Jewish Synagogue (**closed on Saturdays**) in what is locally called the Jew Town, St. Francis Church which is the oldest European Church in India, the **Santa Cruz Basilica** built in 1557 by the Portuguese, the Dutch Palace, the Spice market and the 15th century Chinese fishing nets believed to have been brought by Chinese traders. In the evening go for a Kathakali drama performance in the city.

Back to the hotel dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 2

Transfer to Thekkady [180 Kilometers 5 hours]

The name **Thekkady**, for those who have already visited this place, brings to mind images of elephants, unending chains of hills and spice scented plantations. Moreover, the flora and fauna of the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary is absolutely thrilling. The wild life sanctuary here is the natural habitat of a wide variety of animal species. The **Periyar** Lake is a paradise for the nature lovers. It gives you an opportunity to observe the wild

animals roaming in the jungle. The lake is also a birdwatcher's delight. The greatest attraction of Periyar Lake, however, is the herds of wild elephants that come down to play in the lake. On arrival check in at the hotel.



You can go for a spice plantation tour today where you will be enticed by not only the aroma of spices like cinnamon, cardamom, pepper and nutmeg but will also get to know how they are grown, harvested and processed before they reach the supermarkets. Further to the plantation tour, you would proceed for an elephant ride through the spice plantations.

Day 3

3 hours nature walk in the morning | Half day program.

Today morning get ready for a Nature walk, an interpretive programme offering excellent opportunity to watch birds, butterflies and other wildlife. The trails often pass through evergreen and a moist deciduous forest interspersed with marshy grasslands. The programme is offered between 7.00 am. and 10.30 am. and between 2.00 pm. and 3.00 pm. and lasts for about 3 hours. A maximum of 5 persons can go for trekking at a time along each nature trail, accompanied by a trained tribal guide. The Nature walk is the right programme to feel nature, hear her whispers and smell her flowers.

In the afternoon go for a Boat ride in Lake Periyar.

Day 4

Transfer to Kumararkom- the land of lakes and Lagoons [160 Kilometers 4.5 hours]

Kumararkom the enchanting backwater region of Kerala and check into your hotel. The labyrinthine network of rivers, canals, streams and lagoons which form the famed backwaters offer stunning views and is an ideal place to relax.

Day 5

Board a Kerala houseboat for a day cruise and overnight stay.



By Noon 12 hours board a houseboat for a cruise with lunch served on board. It is an incredibly different experience to cruise in the backwaters in houseboats, absorbing the beauty of Kerala's villages. Houseboats, also known as **kettuvallam** or rice boats, are today one of the major tourist attractions in Kerala, but these boats were used to carry rice bags in their earlier days. These houseboats are uniquely designed using local materials like bamboo poles, coconut fiber ropes, bamboo mats, carpets etc. and are a fabulous way to enjoy exploring the fascinating beauties of backwaters. The air conditioning would be operational in the

boat only during the sleeping hours.

Day 6

Transfer to Kovalam Beach [170 Kilometers 4 hours]

Kovalam has been a favorite haunt of tourists, especially Europeans, since the 1930s. A massive rocky promontory on the beach has created a beautiful bay of calm waters ideal for sea bathing. The leisure options at this beach are plenty and diverse - sunbathing, swimming, herbal body toning massages, special cultural programmes, Catamaran cruising etc. The tropical sun acts so fast that one can see the faint blush of coppery tan on the skin in a matter of minutes. Life on the beach begins late in the day and carries on well into the night.

Overnight at the resort.

Day 7

Departure transfer to Trivandrum international airport to board flight to onward destination.

Tour Ends

Date	Destination	Hotel	Room type	Meal plan
Day 1	Cochin	Holiday Inn	Superior room	Breakfast
Day 2	Thekkady	Cardamom county	Periyar cottage	Breakfast
Day 3	Thekkady	Cardamom county	Periyar cottage	Breakfast
Day 4	Kumararkom	Lake song	Punnamada	Breakfast
Day 5	houseboat	Evergreen houseboat	Deluxe room	Breakfast
Day 6	Kovalam	Travancore heritage	Beach Groove	Breakfast
Day 7	Departure transfer to Trivandrum airport			

Inclusions

- ✓ Accommodation in above mentioned hotels and the houseboat for an overnight stay with respective meal plan.
- ✓ Complete transportation in AC Medium car on disposal as per the itinerary.
- ✓ Services of an English speaking local guide in Cochin and Trivandrum.
- ✓ Kathakali dance performance tickets in Cochin.
- ✓ 3 hours Nature walk, Elephant ride, Spice plantation tour and boating in lake Periyar in thekkady.
- ✓ Evening sunset cruise at Kumararkom – depends on the weather conditions.
- ✓ Houseboat overnight stay with all meals served on board.
- ✓ Sightseeing in Trivandrum during stay at Kovalam.

Exclusions

- ✗ Any element which is not mentioned in the inclusions is considered to be exclusion.
- ✗ Airfares.
- ✗ Expenses of personal nature like shopping, tips, laundry and phone calls.

IMPORTANT: Kindly note that names of hotels mentioned above only indicate that our rates have been based on usage of these hotels and it is not to be construed that accommodation is confirmed at these hotels until and unless we convey such confirmation to you. In the event of any of the above mentioned hotels not becoming available we shall book alternate accommodation at a similar or next best available hotel and shall pass on the difference of rates (supplement / reduction whatever applicable) to you.

The houseboat is an experience more than an accommodation – the boat is not an alternate for an accommodation. The rooms are comparatively smaller and the facilities would be comparatively less. The menu would be local backwater based cuisine with fish and chicken as non-vegetarian. There would be 3 crews – a navigator, a cook and a helper. The check in time is 12:00 and the boat will cruise until 5 pm of which there would be a one house lunch break. There is a govt. regulation that the houseboats are not supposed to cruise in the backwaters from evening 6 to morning 7. The cruise resumes next day at 7:30 and the checkout would be at 9 AM after breakfast.

*Thank
you*

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