



Classic Kerala Tour

9 Night Private Tour

Experience the laid-back side of India on our private 9 night Classic Kerala tour, where you will be taken through the enchanting backwaters, tea plantations and cultural marvels that the unique destination of Kerala is known for.

Explore the cultural hub of Kochi, tour scenic tea plantations in Munnar and spend the night in one of Kerala's iconic houseboats. Our Classic Kerala tour offers a truly unique experience to see a different side to India.

Highlights

- Fascinating city tour of Kochi
- See the Chinese Fishing Nets – the unofficial emblems of Kerala's backwaters
- Experience a mesmerising Kathakali dance performance
- Tour the scenic tea plantations of Munnar
- Nature Walk in Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary
- Visit a Spice Plantation
- Spend a night in one of Kerala's famous bamboo houseboats
- Enjoy a local village experience with tuk tuk ride and boat tour through the backwaters

Please be aware that some sites and places of worship have designated closing days. If any closures affect your itinerary, necessary adjustments will be made to ensure you have the best experience possible.

What's included:

- Getting there: Return flights to Cochin
- Meet and greet at the airport on arrival and departure
- Transport: Return airport transfers and throughout the tour in air-conditioned Sedan car
- Accommodation: 9 nights total duration (including 1 night on outbound flight) - 7 nights hotel accommodation, 1 night in a traditional houseboat
- Meals included: 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 1 dinner
- English speaking guide in Kochi, Munnar & Periyar, boat staff for Alleppey and driver with guests throughout

Not included:

- Any meals (other than the one mentioned in the itinerary), drinks, tips, expenses of personal nature.
- Early/late check-in/out service at hotels (surcharge if requested)
- Travel insurance and visa

Full Itinerary

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Board your overnight flight from the UK to Cochin Airport COK.

Day 2: Arrival in Kochi

Arrive at Cochin Airport.

Meet and greet provided at the airport followed by private transfers to the hotel for check in, and enjoy a welcome drink (non-alcoholic) at the hotel on arrival.

ACCOMMODATION: 5* Holiday Inn, Kochi or similar.



Day 3: Exploring Kochi

After breakfast, set off on a fascinating sightseeing tour of Kochi. Explore the Dutch Palace and the Jewish Synagogue, followed by visits to the historic St. Francis Church and the grand Santa Cruz Basilica. As you drive along the coastline, you'll have the chance to see the famous Chinese Fishing Nets—an ingenious technique introduced by Chinese traders in the 14th century and still in use today. The tour concludes in the atmospheric Fort Kochi area, where you can wander past beautifully preserved Dutch and Portuguese buildings, some dating back nearly 500 years.

This evening, experience the mesmerising Kathakali dance performance, one of India's most captivating art forms. This dramatic storytelling dance, based on tales from the Ramayana and Mahabharata, features elaborately costumed performers, intricate facial makeup, and expressive movements, all brought to life with the rhythmic beats of drummers and traditional musicians.

ACCOMMODATION: 5* Holiday Inn, Kochi or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



Day 4: Journey to Munnar

After breakfast, depart from Cochin and enjoy a scenic drive to Munnar, a picturesque hill station known for its lush tea plantations. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and take some time to relax.

Discover the fascinating history of tea cultivation in Kerala with a visit to the Tea Museum, established by Tata Tea at the Nallathanni Estate. This unique museum showcases the evolution of Munnar's tea industry through a collection of photographs, artefacts, and vintage machinery, each representing a key milestone in the region's rich tea heritage. A tribute to the pioneers who transformed Munnar into a thriving plantation hub, the museum offers a delightful experience for tea enthusiasts and history lovers alike.

ACCOMMODATION: 4* The Tall Trees, Munnar or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



Day 5: Discovering Periyar

After breakfast, set off on a scenic drive from Munnar to Periyar, a region known for its stunning landscapes and abundant wildlife. On arrival, check in at your hotel and take some time to unwind before heading out to explore.

In the afternoon, immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary with a guided nature walk led by an expert naturalist. As you wander through the dense forest trails, you'll gain insight into the region's diverse flora and fauna. If you're lucky, you may spot herds of wild elephants and bison gathering at Periyar Lake, along with a variety of local and migratory birds that thrive in this rich ecosystem.

ACCOMMODATION: 5* The Elephant Court, Periyar or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast

Day 6: Houseboat Experience in Alleppey

After breakfast, drive from Periyar to Alleppey (approximately 4.5 hour drive). On route, visit a Spice Plantation where you can enjoy a tour of the spice gardens and pick up some amazing fresh spices to take home with you.

Once in Alleppey, board one of Kerala's iconic houseboats. A unique opportunity to spend the night in one of Kerala's famous houseboats, these iconic house boats, made from bamboo, were used to carry rice from the adjoining paddy fields.

Enjoy lunch onboard and spend the rest of the afternoon cruising through narrow canals and soaking up the charming village life of Kerala.

In the evening, enjoy tea and cookies on board and then dinner. Spend the night on the anchored houseboat by a local village.

ACCOMMODATION: Evergreen AC House Boat (1 bed room).

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Day 7: Kumarakom

This morning, you will disembark the houseboat in Kumarakom after breakfast, and check in at a backwater resort.

Enjoy the picturesque Vembanad Lake and experience what National Geographic Magazine has described as "one of the must-see places in a lifetime".

ACCOMMODATION: 4* Lakesong Resort, Kumarakom or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



Day 8: Local Village Experience in Kumarakom

After breakfast, set off on an authentic village experience, beginning with a charming tuk-tuk ride followed by a peaceful journey on a hand-rowed boat through the smallest of the backwaters. With your local guide, you'll get a fascinating glimpse into community life, observing traditional skills such as coconut leaf weaving, rope making, and toddy tapping. You'll also have the chance to watch local fishermen expertly casting their nets—a wonderful opportunity to experience the daily rhythms of village life up close.

ACCOMMODATION: 4* Lakesong Resort, Kumarakom or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast

Day 9: Return to Kochi

Depart from Kumarakom and drive back to Kochi. Upon arrival, check-in at the hotel, and enjoy the rest of the day exploring the city at your own pace.

ACCOMMODATION: 5* Holiday Inn, Kochi or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



Day 10: Home

Private transfers to Cochi airport and flight home.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast

FAQs

DO I NEED A VISA?

British passport holders require a visa to enter India, and your passport must have an expiry date of at least 6 months after the date you arrive with at least 2 blank pages.

Please check the FCDO website for more information on visas.

WHAT CURRENCY DO I TAKE WITH ME?

Indian Rupee. You can take USD with you which you can get exchanged at the airport or at most hotels for Indian Rupees.

WHO IS THIS TOUR SUITABLE FOR?

This tour is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. Please note the minimum child age is 4 years old.

DO I NEED ANY VACCINATIONS?

Please note that there are no mandatory vaccinations required to enter India. However, we recommend consulting your GP or a travel health clinic before you travel to ensure your routine vaccinations are up to date and to receive any personalised health advice.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT KERALA?

The ideal time to visit Kerala is from October to March, when the weather is pleasantly cool and perfect for exploring, unwinding on the beaches, or cruising through the serene backwaters on a houseboat.

IS ALCOHOL AVAILABLE IN KERALA?

Alcohol licenses are very expensive in Kerala. Alcohol is not available on the houseboat but can be bought in a supermarket beforehand and taken on board if clients so desire.

WHAT DO I NEED TO PACK?

Pack lightweight, breathable clothing to stay comfortable in Kerala's warm climate. Comfortable walking shoes are essential for sightseeing, and swimwear is recommended for beach visits.

When visiting temples and religious sites, please dress modestly by covering your shoulders and knees, as well as be prepared to remove your shoes before entering.

We recommend bringing biodegradable sunscreen and a hat for sun protection. For nature walks, leech socks will be provided for your convenience.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE ON TIPS?

While tipping isn't mandatory, it's a thoughtful way to show appreciation, especially considering the modest wages many workers receive. A small gesture can go a long way, so setting aside a little extra for porters, guides, and drivers is always appreciated. Leaving some spare change at restaurants is also a kind way to recognise good service.