Kerala Homestay 8 days

Combining historic Kochi, the virgin hills of the Western Ghats amongst rubber, pepper and coconut plantations, Alleppey and the lush Keralan Backwaters. In eight sun-filled days feast upon the amazing natural wonders, wildlife, beauty and diversity of stunning Kerala - God's own country.

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Kochi / Ends in: Kochi
- Departs: Any day of the year
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:7, Lunch: 2, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: colonial bungalow plantation home and rice boat
- Tour Guide: Local guide on scheduled sightseeing

TOUR MAP:

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - click here
- To book this trip - click here
- To enquire about this trip - click here

QUICK WEB LINKS

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Day 1: Kochi

Arrive Kochi, included transfer to hotel. In the evening enjoy a Kathakali dance performance, the traditional dance-form of Kerala. Overnight - Kochi

Day 2: Kochi

Formerly a princely state, Kochi is also fondly referred to as "The Queen of the Arabian Sea". This morning enjoy a sightseeing tour of the town including the beautiful Parsi Synagogue built in 1568, the Dutch Palace built by the Portuguese in 1555 and St Francis' Church. This evening enjoy a sunset cruise to see Chinese fishing nets at the entrance of Cochin Harbour. Overnight - Kochi

Day 3:

Kochi - Thykattusserry. This morning drive to a small rural village called Thykattusserry being midway between Kochi and Alleppey. World's apart from the hustle and bustle of India's larger towns and cities, this charming village provides a fascinating insight into rural Indian life. The population comprises of people from different communities who live in harmony doing their daily chores like fishing and farming. At the homestay you'll be guaranteed a warm welcome, as you're showered with hospitality by the owners and made to feel like one of the family and in the kitchen you can learn about local cuisine. Overnight - Thykattusserry (in the Alleppey District)

Day 4:

Thykattusserry - Backwaters - Kottamangalam. This morning, board a simply furnished private rice-boat for a journey through the backwaters in and around Alleppey. Floating serenly along through palm fringed waters, watch fascinating scenes of everyday life, relax in the sunshine and absorb the picturesque scenery.

The rice-boat is a simply furnished craft and consists of a thatched covered lounge and dining area, sleeping accommodation and a bathroom with a WC and washbasin. In the evening the boat is lit by hurricane lamps. There is a small service area at the rear of the craft where the cook prepares simple but tasty meals. Overnight - Houseboat

Day 5:

Disembark from the rice-boat at Alleppey then drive to Kottamangalam and transfer to a plantation homestay (approximately 2 hour drive). Relax, unwind and learn about spices like vanilla, pepper, nutmeg, cloves and more. Overnight - Kottamangalam

Day 6:

Relax in the cool ambience of the homestay or join us for an optional tour to visit the Kodanad elephant rescue centre. Overnight - Kottamangalam

Day 7:

Spend your day at leisure or there is also an optional tour to Dr. Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, one of the best in Asia. More than 80% of birds found in Kerala can be seen here. Overnight - Kottamangalam

Day 8: Kochi

Kottayam - Kochi. Drive back to Kochi and onward transfer to the airport for your international flight.

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WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Kochi - the beautiful St Francis' Church, the white washed Dutch Palace, Fort Kochi and the iconic Chinese Fishing nets on the waterfront.
- Coastal Alleppey - gateway to the relaxing palm fringed backwaters
- Kottamangalam - spice plantation and elephant rescue centre
- Kerala's famous tropical backwaters.
- Thykattusserry - picturesque rural village

What's Included

- 6 nights homestay at a colonial plantation bungalow and 1 night - traditional rice-boat
- 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- Guided sightseeing in Kochi
- Return transfer from Kochi
- Touring and excursions as per itinerary in chauffeur driven vehicle
- Local English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $1,769

Prices shown are 'per person', based on a travelling party of at least 2 adults. The single supplement price needs to be added to the twin/double price if single rooms are required. If travelling solo, an additional '1-person' supplement will apply Prices are indicative and will vary depending on your chosen hotels, room availability as well as time of travel i.e. during India's peak travel season of 21 Dec - 10 Jan, additional supplements will apply. Equally, if you with to travel to India during the summer, rates will be cheaper than those quoted. Please bear this in mind if comparing prices as we always aim to deliver exceptional value. Please note that discounts will apply if there are more 4 our more people in your travelling party, since fixed costs like transportation and guiding are shared across the group.

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.