Captivating Kerala 7 days

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.

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Kochi / Ends in: Kochi
- Departs: Saturdays October - April
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:6, Lunch: 1, Dinner: 3
- Hotel Rating: 7 nights 3 - 4 star and heritage hotels
  1 night deluxe air conditioned houseboat
- Tour Guide: Yes (for groups of 6 or more)

ONLINE RESOURCES:

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

TOUR MAP:

QUICK WEB LINKS

India Prices ::: Why Us for India? ::: Best Places to Visit ::: Best Time to Visit ::: India Reviews ::: Hotels in India ::: India - Useful Info ::: FAQs on India ::: India Visas ::: India Gallery

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Day 1: Kochi

Saturday. Welcome to India. You'll be met at Kochi airport and transferred to your hotel. Long famed in the history books, Kochi (formerly known as Cochin) offered refuge to Jews more than 2,500 years ago. The Portuguese founded the first European colony in Kochi in the 16th century, then the Dutch quickly followed and eventually, the British. The cosmopolitan mix of cultures makes the city truly fascinating. This evening we watch a Kathakali performance. Kathakali is the fascinating traditional dance form of Kerala. Overnight - Kochi

Days 2 - 3: Munnar

Kochi - Munnar. On the morning of day 2 we enjoy a guided tour of historic Fort Kochi. We see the elegant Chinese fishing nets and explore the winding streets of the old town, visiting St Francis' Church, Parsi Synagogue (exterior only) and a Dutch palace. After our sightseeing in Kochi we drive east to Munnar - a picturesque hill station nestled on the verdant slopes of tea plantations.

On day 3 we'll take a stroll through one of the many tea plantations with our guide, who will give us a brief explanation about the different varieties of tea and how they are processed. Then we'll visit a local market before heading back to our hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to spend at your own leisure. Overnight - Munnar

Day 4:

Munnar - Alleppey - Keralan backwaters. Early this morning we set off on a scenic 4 - 5 hour drive to Alleppey. Upon arrival we board a simply furnished private rice-boat for a journey through the lush backwaters. Our rice-boat takes us sedately along the enchanting palm-fringed backwaters, covering a distance of some 20 kms, during which time the boat glides past local villages and fascinating scenes of everyday rural life. Watch a beautiful sunset over the backwaters and enjoy tasty meals (starting with lunch) prepared by the on board chef using fresh local produce. Overnight - Deluxe rice boat

Days 5 - 6: Kumarakom

Keralan Backwaters - Kumarakom. After breakfast on day 5 we disembark the houseboat at Kumarakom. Perched sleepily amongst a tangle of lush tropical waterways known as the Keralan backwaters, Kumarakom is technically a cluster of islands on Lake Vembanad - one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes. This is an ideal place to relax for the next two days and enjoy the beautiful scenery. There is also a wonderful bird sanctuary spread across 14 acres, which is a favoured haunt of migratory birds and certainly worthy of a visit. Overnight - Kumarakom

Day 7: Kochi

Kumarakom - Kochi. Today marks the end of our memorable journey. After breakfast we travel back to Kochi and included transfer to the airport. Please note: flights from Kochi should depart after 2pm.

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

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- Kochi - Fort Kochi, Dutch Palace, St Francis' Church and Chinese fishing nets
- Munnar Hill Station and tea plantations
- Spice plantation
- Kumarakom - A picturesque cluster of islands
- Lake Vembanad - one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes
- Cruising the palm-fringed backwaters on a houseboat
- Kathakali dance performance

What's Included

- 6 breakfasts
- 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- 5 nights 3 - 4 star and heritage hotels, 1 night deluxe houseboat
- Houseboat cruise along the Keralan backwaters
- Guided tour of Fort Kochi
- Traditional Kathakali dance show
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 7
- Services of local English speaking specialist guides
- English speaking Indian tour leader for groups of 6 or more
- All relevant transfers and transportation

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow $3 - 7 USD per day per traveller. Tipping your tour guide is an entirely personal gesture.
- Entrance Fees: $15-20 USD
- Tipping Kitty: $20-25 USD

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $1,549

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, (if another solo traveller of the same sex is already booked upon the tour), thus avoiding the single person supplement. All our scheduled tour departures are guaranteed subject to a minimum of 2 travellers. This tour is also available on a private basis - for details please see the Supplementary Prices at the bottom of this page.

2014

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
11 OCT - 17 OCT	USD $1,549	USD $979
08 NOV - 14 NOV	USD $1,549	USD $979
22 NOV - 28 NOV	USD $1,549	USD $979

2015

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
17 JAN - 23 JAN	USD $1,549	USD $979
14 FEB - 20 FEB	USD $1,549	USD $979
09 MAR - 15 MAR	USD $1,549	USD $979
28 MAR - 03 APR	USD $1,549	USD $979
11 APR - 17 APR	USD $1,549	USD $979
10 OCT - 16 OCT	USD $1,549	USD $979
21 NOV - 27 NOV	USD $1,549	USD $979
05 DEC - 11 DEC	USD $1,549	USD $979

2016

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
16 JAN - 22 JAN	USD $1,549	USD $979
13 FEB - 19 FEB	USD $1,549	USD $979
27 FEB - 04 MAR	USD $1,549	USD $979
26 MAR - 01 APR	USD $1,549	USD $979
09 APR - 15 APR	USD $1,549	USD $979

Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
Private Tour Supplement - Captivating Kerala	USD $400	USD $0
Kerala - Premium Houseboat Supplement	USD $69	USD $69

HOTELS:

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

Hotel Casino - Kochi

Hotel Casino is a modern hotel located on Willingdon island, set in tropical gardens.

Eastend Edassery - Munnar

The Eastend Edassery is a quaint resort set in landscaped gardens. The rooms are good sized and modern.

Deluxe Houseboat - Alleppey

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 backwater views. 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 - Kumarakom

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 yourself to a relaxing massage at the Ayurveda on site Spa? The perfect way to unwind.

POSTCARDS:

Here's what some of our past travellers have written in to us and said about their experiences on this trip.

Sarah, we are back home and had a wonderful time. I'd like to give you some feedback, if that's okay with you. Arrival at cochin airport was seamless, with your representative eagerly looking for us with his sign. he put us right into a cab and we got to the hotel easily. Travancore Court Hotel is in a good part of town, has a nice lobby, gift shop, and restaurant. The staff was lovely, however, upgrading to another hotel is Cochin would be my suggestion. The bus that took us around (and the drivers) were top-notch.The Kathakali performance was fun, especially since we got to watch them put on their makeup. Munnar was great and the Eastend Hotel was perfectly fine. Probably one of the best to be found in Munnar. Nice garden, rooms comfortable and cheerful, good restaurant. Tea plantations were interesting, but we were not able to go to the tea museum because it was closed so our guide (Alex) had to hunt around for other things for us to do. He came up with a visit to the Dam and to the Elephant Camp and took us to see a spice garden, and the local market, all of which were interesting. Next day, on the way to Karakom, he pointed out lots of things of interest all the way. The houseboat overnight was great fun. The boat was comfortable and the food was good. The bathroom was a bit yucky, but it is, after all, a houseboat. We were comfortable and the scenery was fabulous. We slept well. Lakesong was fabulous. Very beautiful. we arranged yoga classes and a cooking class with the chef and sous chef while we were there. also took advantage of the ayurvedic spa services. Rooms, landscape, food, etc. was all wonderful. The best part of the whole trip, and the thing that really made it a great success was our guide, Alex. It would not have been the same without him. He was very knowledgeable, kept things moving along, was very protective of us, and made sure EVERYTHING was taken care of for us. I can't compliment him enough. You should make sure you give him a raise and hire him for all your Kerala tours next season! I thank you enormously for all your help with putting this trip together.

Mrs Barbara Stultz, Apr 2013