

# Captivating Kerala

7 days | Starts/Ends: Kochi



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.

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Kerala Backwaters – cruise along the famous backwaters on a deluxe rice boat, past lush forests and local villages
- Kumarakom – enjoy two days relaxing at leisure and visit the biodiverse Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary
- Kochi – tour the winding streets of the Fort Kochi neighbourhood and enjoy a Kathakali dance show
- Munnar – stroll through a tea plantation on a guided walk and explore the beautiful surroundings independently

### 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 touring of Kochi, Fort Kochi and Munnar tea plantation
- Traditional Kathakali Dance Show in Kochi, (entrance fee excl)
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 7
- Services of English-speaking Indian specialist guides at some sites
- Escorted by an English-speaking Indian tour guide (for groups of 6 or more)
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private A/C vehicles

### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$25-35pp, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$15-25pp, paid in local currency
- 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

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Kochi

Saturday. Welcome to India! You'll be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. This evening we'll watch a traditional Kathakali dance performance. Admire the colourful costumes and make-up of the performers as we enjoy the show. **Overnight - Kochi**

### Days 2-3 : Kochi sightseeing & Munnar



Kochi - Munnar. On the morning of day 2 we enjoy a guided tour of the Fort Kochi neighbourhood. See elegant Chinese fishing nets and explore the winding streets of the old town. We visit the European-influenced St Francis Church, see the Parsi Synagogue and a Dutch palace. After the tour we continue to Munnar - a town and hill station nestled in beautiful scenery and surrounded by tea plantations.

On day 3 we take a guided walk through one of these tea plantations and visit a local market, before the rest of the day is free to explore. Perhaps pay a visit to the stunning Eravikulam National Park (closed Jan - Mar). The park is home to endangered species including tigers, sambar deer and the Nilgiri ibex - found only in this part of the world.

**Overnight - Munnar (B:2, D:2)**

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## Day 4 : Kerala backwaters



Munnar - Alleppey - Kerala Backwaters. Today we take a scenic 4-5 hour drive to Alleppey and board our private rice boat for a cruise along the Kerala Backwaters, a chain of lakes and lagoons running parallel to the Arabian Sea coast. Palm trees and local villages line the shores and we watch the sunset onboard as we sail. Enjoy a delicious dinner, cooked with local fresh produce by the onboard chef.  
**Overnight - Deluxe rice boat (B, L, D)**

## Days 5-6 : Kumarakom



Kerala Backwaters - Kumarakom. On the morning of day 5 we disembark the rice boat at Kumarakom, built on a cluster of islands in Lake Vembanad - one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes. Enjoy two days at leisure in this vibrant region and watch as local fishermen go to work in their small vallams (fishing boats). The nearby Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is also worth a visit - it's home to many species and is an important stopover for migratory birds, including the critically endangered Siberian Crane.

**Overnight - Kumarakom (B:2)**

## Day 7 : Kochi

Kumarakom - Kochi. Friday. This morning we return to Kochi, where our tour ends with a departure transfer to the airport.

Please note: Flights from Kochi should depart after 2pm.(B)

### HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

**Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.**

### Casino Hotel

Casino Hotel is a modern hotel located on Willingdon island, set in tropical gardens it is a beautiful blend of art deco and colonial Indian architectural styles. With a large pool and and spacious comfortable rooms this hotel offers a fantastic experience when in Kochi. Casino Hotel boasts 2 restaurants, a 24-hour health club as well as free wifi in public areas.



### Clouds Valley Leisure Hotel

Set in the valley of the Kennan Devan Hills, the Clouds Valley Leisure Hotel is a contemporary accommodation. Guest rooms are bright and spacious with beautiful views of the surrounding mountains. Rooms are also all en suite, have modern amenities and comfortable beds. The hotel benefits from an onsite restaurant that serves up a tasty selection of both Indian and South Indian food as well as Chinese and European dishes.



### Deluxe Houseboat

There are few things as serene and tranquil as floating along the Keralan backwaters in the comfort of a luxurious houseboat. 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 views of the lush green palms and rice paddies. 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

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? It is the perfect way to unwind after a long day of exploring in the fierce Indian heat.



### PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to

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the per person price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same gender on your tour, this can be arranged provided there is another single traveller booked on the tour date of your choosing. If a roommate cannot be found the single room supplement will apply.

## PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
07 Sep	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
21 Sep	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
19 Oct	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
16 Nov	USD 1,195	USD 2,015

## PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
18 Jan	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
15 Feb	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
29 Feb	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
21 Mar	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
04 Apr	USD 1,145	USD 1,965
18 Apr	USD 1,145	USD 1,965
09 May	USD 1,145	USD 1,965
03 Oct	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
17 Oct	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
31 Oct	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
14 Nov	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
28 Nov	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
12 Dec	USD 1,195	USD 2,015
26 Dec	USD 1,195	USD 2,015

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