

Tour Of India  
With A Driver Guide In Your Own Exclusive Air-Conditioned Vehicle.

**BANGALORE TO KOVALAM**

Day	Date	Location	First Class Hotels	Standard Hotels	Schedule
01		Depart UK			
02		Bangalore	Purple Lotus Luxury Suite	Shilton Suites Studio Room	>Pick Up From Bangalore Airport >Sightseeing And Tour Of Bangalore
03		Mysore	The Windflower Resort And Spa Executive Room	Pai Vista Mysore	>Tippu Sultan's Fort, Tomb And Summer Palace At Srirangapatnam >Visit The Extravagant Mysore Palace And The Maharajah's Private Museum Bangalore–Mysore: 83 Miles Approx 2.5 Hours
04		Mysore	The Windflower Resort And Spa Executive Room	Pai Vista Mysore	>Mysore's Markets And Bazaars >Evening Visit To Chamundi Hill Including The Huge Stone Nandi Bull
05		Nagarhole	Cicada Resort Kabini	Kabini River Lodge	>Pm Jeep Safari At Nagarhole National Park Mysore–Nagarhole: 100 Miles Approx 3.5 Hours
06		Nagarhole	Cicada Resort Kabini	Kabini River Lodge	>Am Boat Safari On Kabini Lake At Nagarhole National Park
07		Ooty And Coonoor	Taj Gateway Coonoor Deluxe Room	Fortune Sullivan Court Deluxe Room	>Scenic Drive To Ooty Through Dramatic Winding Roads And Dense Forests Of The Nilgiri Hills Nagarhole–Ooty: 87 Miles Approx 4 Hours
08		Ooty And Coonoor	Taj Gateway Coonoor Deluxe Room	Fortune Sullivan Court Deluxe Room	>Relax At Ooty, Visit Fern Hills, The Mysore Maharaja's Summer Residence
09		Coimbatore	The Residency	CAG Pride Deluxe Room	>OOTY-METTUPALAYAM BY THE NILGIRI BLUE MOUNTAIN RAILWAY – TRAIN 661 Depart Ooty: 15:00 Arrive Mettupalayam: 18:35
10		Cochin	The Old Harbour Hotel Superior Room	Hotel Arches	>Evening Kathakali Dance Performance Coimbatore–Cochin: 120 Miles Approx 4.5 Hours
11		Cochin	The Old Harbour Hotel Superior Room	Hotel Arches	>Sightseeing At Cochin, Chinese Fishing Nets, Mattancherry Palace, Old Quarter Etc
12		The Backwaters	Lakeland Super Luxury House Boat	Lakeland Luxury House Boat	>Overnight Cruise On The Southern Backwater From Alleppey Cochin-Alleppey: 40 Miles Approx 1.5 Hours
13		Kovalam	Travancore Heritage Heritage Cottage	Hotel Samudra Deluxe Room	>Pick Up From Alleppey And Drop Off At Kovalam Alleppey-Kovalam: 110 Miles Approx 4 Hours
14		Kovalam	Travancore Heritage Heritage Cottage	Hotel Samudra Deluxe Room	
15		Depart Trivandrum Arrive UK			>Drop Off At Trivandrum Airport

Featured Hotels Dependent On Availability At Time Of Booking  
Distances And Journey Times Are Approximate And Are Point To Point Only

## Day 02 – Bangalore



Tipu Sultan's Palace At Bangalore

### Bangalore

The capital of the southern state of **Karnataka**, **Bangalore** today is **Asia's** fastest growing cosmopolitan city. It is home to some of the most high tech industries in **India**. It is blessed with a salubrious climate, gardens and parks. With up-market shopping malls and the best restaurants and pubs in this part of the globe, **Bangalore** is the ideal gateway to **India**.



Bustling Streets Of Bangalore



Karnataka Embroidered Fabric





## Day 04 – Mysore



Temple On Chanmudi Hill

### Mysore

**Mysore** is situated at the base of **Chanmudi Hill**. A lovely road runs to the summit with a panoramic view at 800ft above the city. At dusk, the view of the city is especially beautiful, and on **Sunday** evenings and during the **Dasara** festival, the illuminated **Mysore Palace** glitters like gold. Half way up is a huge sculpture of the **Nandi Bull**.

**Lalitha Mahal** is the second largest palace in **Mysore**, built by **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV** in the year 1921 for the exclusive stay of the **Viceroy Of India**. The palace is pure white in colour and is built in the style of Italian palazzo with twin Ionic columns and domes.

**Mysore** also has an interesting collection of night and day markets selling spices and famous **Mysore** silk sarees.



Spice Market At Mysore



## Day 05 – Nagarhole National Park



Indian Tiger At Nagarhole

### Nagarhole National Park

This enchanting 247 square-mile park was an exclusive hunting reserve of the former rulers of **Mysore** and has recently been renamed '**Rajiv Gandhi National Park**'. Gentle slopes and shallow valleys adorn this lovely southern jungle of **India**. Huge herds of **Asian Elephants** flock here together and the park boasts a healthy Tiger-predator ratio. **Tiger**, **Bison** and **Elephant** are much denser here than in other jungles. Other mammals include **Jackal**, **Leopard**, **Gaur**, **Muntjac**, **Sambar** and **Spotted Deer** with males displaying large antlers.

Among reptiles, the **Marsh Crocodile**, **Monitor Lizard**, **Rock Python**, **King Cobra** and several other species can be found. Aquatic and terrestrial **Tortoises**, **Tree Frogs** and a myriad insects, including some very colourful **Butterflies**.



Muntjac Deer At Nagarhole



## Day 06 – Nagarhole National Park



Indian Elephant In The Nagarhole Jungles

### Nagarhole National Park

The forests of **South India** contain about 20% of the world's entire stock of **Asian Elephants**. During summer there is the fine spectacle of the annual elephant migration to the **Kabini Lake** at **Nagarhole**. This is probably the best place in **India** to witness overwhelming numbers of wild elephants all in one place during this time.

Wildlife safari's are uniquely possible at **Nagarhole** by jeep and by boat on the lovely **Kabini Lake**.



Delightful Jungle Hare At Nagarhole



## Day 07 – Ooty



Scenic Beauty Of Ooty

### The Road To Ooty

The ascent from the plains of **Karnataka** to **Ooty** is achieved through a dramatic series of 36 hairpin bends and winding roads from the dense forests of the **Nilgiri Sanctuaries**. The **Mysore** trunk road actually passes through the **Mudumalai National Park**, where wild elephants are frequently seen by the roadside.

### Ooty

At a height of 7347ft stands **Udhagamandalam (Ooty)** the **Queen of Hill Stations**, founded by the **British** in the 19th century to escape the oppressive heat and serve as summer headquarters for the **Government Of Madras**. If you are chasing the atmosphere of the **Raj**, it still just about lingers in places like the **Ootacamund Club** the best preserved of all the former **British** clubs in **India**, where snooker was invented by **Neville Chamberlain**. The well-kept **Botanical Gardens**, **Ooty Lake** and **The Savoy Hotel** are also worth visiting.



Colours Of The Nilgiri Hills



## Day 08 – Ooty And Coonoor



Tea Gardens At Coonoor

### Coonoor

**Coonoor** is the second hill station of the **Nilgiris**, surrounded by tea plantations, at an altitude of 6000 ft above sea level. Its climate is milder than **Ooty** and retains in many ways a more authentic feel compared to the urban sprawl of **Ooty**. The weather remains pleasantly cool throughout the year and colonial charm oozes out of properties like the beautiful **Taj Garden Retreat** and **Sim's Park**.



View Over The Nilgiri Hills At Coonoor



## Day 09 – Coimbatore



The Nilgiri Blue Mountain Railway

### Full Length Journey On The Nilgiri Mountain Railway - Ooty To Mettupalayam

One of the most famous train journeys in the world starts from the railway head at **Mettupalayam** and **Ooty** is reached in 4 hours on **The Nilgiri Mountain Railway** (46 km). A ratchet and pinion track travels through many hair-raising curves and fearful tunnels beside deep ravines full of verdant vegetation, gurgling streams and tea gardens. The scenery, as it unfolds during the trip, is breathtaking, awe-inspiring and fantastic.

### Coimbatore

**Coimbatore**, also known as **Kovai**, is a major industrial city in **India** and the second largest city in the state of **Tamil Nadu**. It is known as **Manchester of South India** because of its textile factories, engineering firms, automobile parts manufacturers, and its highly industrious population that has produced many successful entrepreneurs.



Coimbatore

## Day 10 – Cochin



Chinese Fishing Nets At Cochin Harbour

### Cochin

**Cochin** is a wonderfully cosmopolitan **Indian** city with a multi-cultural history. It also has one of the country's largest ports. The famous and photogenic **Chinese Fishing Nets** are built along the northern shores of **Fort Cochin**.

The **Jewish Synagogue** and its **Old Quarter** are also worth a visit, for their quaint shops, selling everything from wooden carvings to bedspreads, from ornate mirrors to exotic spices. Nearby is the **Mattancherry Palace**, which was home to the **Verma Kings** and today is a fine museum.

**Cochin** also features the oldest church in **India**: the **Church of St Francis**, built in 1503 by the **Portuguese** (it briefly housed the remains of **Vasco de Gama**, who died here), and is now used by the **Anglican Church of South India**.

### Kathakali Dance Performance

An evening **Kathakali Dance Performance** will allow you to sample one of the oldest theatre forms in the world in which dancers take various roles traditionally based on themes from **Hindu** mythology.



Kathakali Performance





## Day 11 – Cochin



Frescoes At The Mattancherry Palace

### Private Guided Tour Of Old Fort Cochin

**Fort Cochin** begins around the **Old Parade Ground** where there are some lovely boutique hotels converted from old mansions of spice merchants. The **Malabar House** is the best, with a fashionable restaurant serving some of the best food in **Cochin**. Narrow streets radiate from here in all directions full of crumbling and interesting historic buildings.



Cochin Harbour



Spice Merchant At Cochin



## Day 12 – Rice Boat



View Of Deluxe Bedroom And Backwaters Riceboat Journey

### By Private Rice Boat Through Kerala's Backwaters

#### Rice Boats

A boat journey through **Kerala's Kuttanad Country**, a 75km stretch of shimmering waterways and dense tropical greenery wedged between the hills and the sea is one of the most **Memorable Experiences Any Traveller Could Have In India**.

**Kettuvallams** of olden times were rice and spice barges that used to transport harvests from **Kuttanad** to **Cochin** for sale. Many of these traditional craft have been converted into long houseboats with all the creature comforts of a good hotel including furnished bedrooms, modern bathrooms, cozy living rooms and even balconies for angling.

Each boat has a fully equipped kitchen and an experienced cook to prepare authentic **Kerala** cuisine with sea food specialties and fresh vegetables.

#### The Backwaters

The **Backwaters** are one of the unique attractions of **Kerala**, a chain of canals extending about 1500 kms incorporating a network of 44 rivers, lagoons and lakes.

The canals and lagoons are lined by swaying palm trees and **Chinese Fishing Nets**, cooled by a gentle breeze, and studded with water hyacinths. All kinds of craft ply these waters ferrying cargoes of spice, rice, nuts, *coir* (coconut fibre), *copra* (dried coconut) and people.



Rice Boat Interior



Rice Boat On Shores Of Vembanad Lake

### Day 13 – Day 14 Kovalam



Kovalam Beach At Dusk

#### Kovalam Beach

A group of three crescent shaped bays and coves known to have some of the best beaches in **India**. **Kovalam** is divided by its many bays and the landscape has formed sandy crescents with headlands to each end, the most popular being the **Lighthouse Beach**. Behind the beaches are shady coconut groves and a maze of alleyways linking local shops, guesthouses and restaurants beneath the coconut palms.

The beaches of **Kovalam** have particularly shallow water during the **Winter Season** from **October – April**. It is possible to go in to the sea for up to 100 meters at waist height in certain places.



Beaches To The South Of Kovalam



### Depart Kerala

The Kerala Experience - Holidays In South India - (ATOL 9128)