



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

KERALA ON A BUDGET

Day	Date	Location	Budget Hotel	Schedule
01		Depart UK		
02		Arrive Cochin	Anchor House Deluxe Room	>Pick Up From Cochin Airport >Evening Cruise Through Cochin Harbour Cochin Airport-Cochin: 24 Miles Approx 1 Hour
03		Cochin	Anchor House Deluxe Room	>Sightseeing At Cochin, Including Chinese Fishing Nets, Mattancherry Palace And The Old Quarter
04		Munnar	Deshadan Mountain Resort	>Scenic Drive Through The Cardamom Hills Cochin-Munnar: 80 Miles Approx 4 Hours
05		Thekkady	Chrissies	>Abraham Spice Garden, Spice Villages And Markets At Kumily Munnar-Thekkady: 62 Miles Approx 4 Hours
06		Thekkady	Chrissies	>Boat Trip To Observe Wildlife On Periyar Lake
07		Alleppey	Coir Village A/C Cottage	>Afternoon Backwater Boat Ride On The Southern Backwaters Thekkady-Alleppey: 102 Miles Approx 4 Hours
08		Beach	1	>Drop Off At Varkala Or Kovalam
09		Beach	2	
10		Beach	3	
11		Beach	4	
12		Depart Trivandrum Arrive UK		>Transfer To Trivandrum Airport

Featured Hotels Dependent On Availability At Time Of Booking



Domesticated Elephant On Kerala's Roads

Day 01 – Depart UK

Day 02 – Cochin



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. One of the great attractions of **Cochin** is the wonderful **Syrian Christian** cuisine that has evolved from a fusion of **Arabic** and **Keralan** cooking styles. Local restaurants also serve some of the best seafood to be found in **India**.

The bazaars of **Mattancherry** and the **Old Quarter** are well worth a visit for their quaint shops selling everything from wooden carvings to bedspreads, from ornate mirrors to exotic spices. The **Pardesi Synagogue** (1568) was the focus of the famous **Jewish** community of **Cochin**, although only a handful of families remain today. Nearby is the **Mattancherry Palace**, which was home to the **Verma Kings** and today is a fine museum with some of the finest frescoes in **India** on display.



Streets Of Old Fort Cochin



Day 03 – Cochin



Frescoes At The Mattancherry Palace

Fort Cochin

The famous and photogenic **Chinese Fishing Nets** are built along the northern shores of **Fort Cochin**. Around the **Old Parade Ground** there are some lovely boutique hotels converted from old mansions of spice merchants. Narrow streets radiate from here in all directions full of crumbling and interesting historic buildings.

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**.



Cochin Harbour



Spice Merchant At Cochin

Day 04 – Munnar



On the Road To Munnar

Munnar

The **Munnar Hills** are situated at an altitude of 5000 to 8000 ft above sea level. This beautiful hill station was once a summer resort of the **British Government** in **South India**. Sprawling tea plantations, picture book towns and long winding lanes make this a popular hill resort.

The high ranges of **Munnar** are ideal for trekking. **Top Station** is a wonderful place to catch some fantastic views of the valleys below. **Munnar** also has the highest peak south of the **Himalayas**, called **Anamudi**, which towers 8841 feet over the **Western Ghats**.

Eravikulam National Park is the last refuge of the **Nilgiri Tahr**. Half the world population of this rare mountain goat is found here, which is fast becoming extinct.



Tea Estates At Munnar



Day 05 – Thekkady



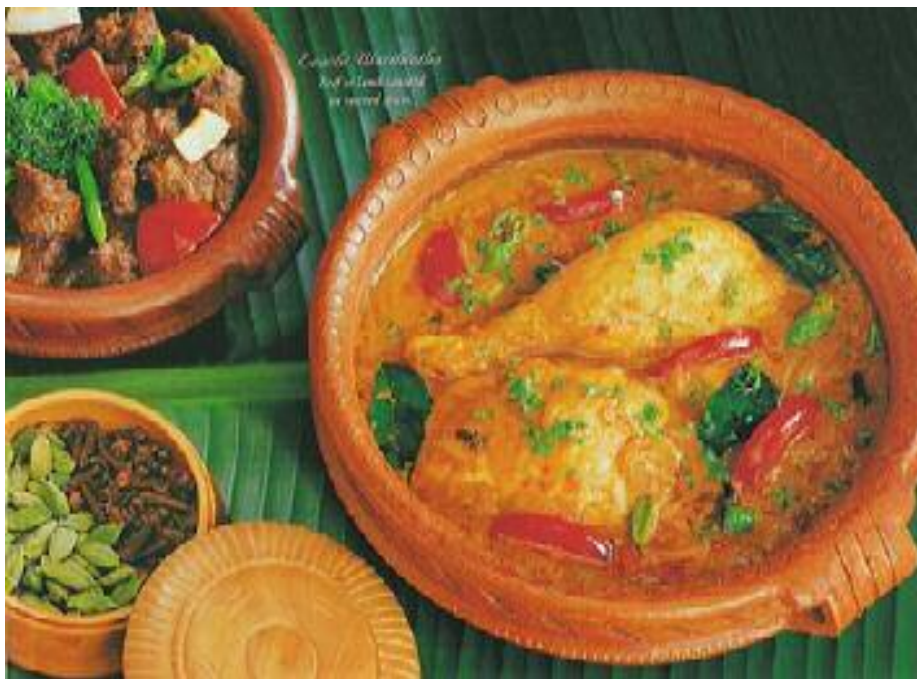
Kerala Spices

Trips To Spice Villages

Thekkady is the centre of the spice growing area of **Kerala**, and the aroma of spices are everywhere. Numerous **Spice Plantation Villages** have guided tours to identify various spice plants and even cookery demos using spices. At **Kumily Market** there is a huge cardamom auction and shops selling different types of spices.



Chilli, Black Pepper And Cinnamon



Delicious Kerala Cuisine

Day 06 – Thekkady



Wild Elephant At Periyar Lake Wildlife Reserve

The Periyar Lake National Park

Set high in the ranges of the **Western Ghats** is the **Periyar National Park and Tiger Reserve**. Within its 777 square km of deciduous and evergreen forest roam some 750 **Elephants** that can be observed on a 2-hour **Safari Boat Trip** around the **Periyar Lake** that lies at the heart of the sanctuary.

Apart from **Elephants**, other animals to be seen at **Periyar** include **Gaur (Indian Bison)**, **Wild Pigs**, **Sambar (Elk)**, **Barking Deer**, **Mouse Deer**, **Dhole (Indian Wild Dog)** and very rarely, a **Tiger**.

There are now, an estimated 40 **Tigers** and a similar number of **Leopards** in the reserve. Four species of primates are found at **Periyar** - the rare **Lion-tailed Macaque**, the **Nilgiri Langur**, **Common Langur** and **Bonnet Macaque**. **Periyar** also happens to be the habitat of the elusive **Nilgiri Tahr**, which is rarely to be seen.



Wild Elephants Grazing By Periyar Lake



Reflections At Periyar Lake Wildlife Sanctuary

Day 07 – Alleppey



Backwaters To The South Of Alleppey

Alleppey

Referred to as the **Venice Of The East** by travellers, the large network of canals provide **Alleppey** with its lifeline. **Alleppey** was one of the busiest centers of trade in the past with one of the best known ports along the **Malabar Coast**. Even today it retains its charm as the centre for coir carpet industries and prawn farming.

Boat Ride Along The Backwaters Of Alleppey

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. The backwaters to the south of **Alleppey** are generally considered to be the most beautiful in the whole of **Kerala**.



Boat Cruise On The Backwaters

Day 08 – Day 11 Beach Stay In Kerala



Varkala Beach

Varkala Beach

The **Papanasam Beach** at **Varkala** has a white, silvery stretch of sand, above which rise steep and rocky cliffs. This is a favourite for independent travellers to **Kerala** wishing to avoid the more crowded resort of **Kovalam**. **Varkala** is also an important **Hindu** centre of pilgrimage. Great for chilling out to the extraordinary sunsets that are seen in the locality.

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.



Varkala Beach At Sunset

Day 12 – Depart Kerala - Arrive UK