



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

ULTIMATE KERALA ADVENTURE

Day	Date	Location	Featured Hotels	Schedule
01		Depart UK		
02		Arrive Calicut To Wayanad	Aranyakam Deluxe Room	>Pick Up From Calicut Airport And Transfer To Vythiri Calicut-Vythiri: 62 Miles Approx 2 Hours
03		Wayanad	Aranyakam Deluxe Room	>Afternoon Rainforest Walk Through The Nilambur Forest
04		Cochin	Hotel Arches Deluxe Room	>Drop Off At Calicut Railway Station Vythiri-Calicut: 62 Miles Approx 2 Hours EXPRESS TRAIN FROM CALICUT TO COCHIN – A/C CHAIR CAR >Pick Up From Cochin Railway Station
05		Cochin	Hotel Arches Deluxe Room	>Sightseeing At Cochin, Chinese Fishing Nets, Mattancherry Palace, Old Quarter Etc >Kalari Martial Arts Demonstration At ENS Kalari
06		Munnar	Camp Noel Cottage Room	>Scenic Drive Through The Cardamom Hills Cochin-Munnar: 80 Miles Approx 4 Hours
07		Munnar	Camp Noel Cottage Room	>By Jeep To Top Station And High Forests Of The Western Ghats Munnar-Top Station: 20 Miles Approx 2 Hours
08		Thekkady	Pepper County Homestay	>Abraham Spice Garden, Spice Villages And Markets At Kumily >Elephant Back Ride At Kumily Munnar-Thekkady: 62 Miles Approx 4 Hours
09		Thekkady	Pepper County Homestay	>Bamboo Rafting At Periyar National Park
10		The Backwaters	Lakeland Luxury House Boat	>Descent From The Western Ghats To The Backwaters >Overnight Backwater Cruise Of The Southern Backwaters From Alleppey Thekkady-Alleppey: 102 Miles Approx 3.5 Hours
11		Beach	1	>Pick Up From Alleppey And Drop Off At Beach Hotel
12		Beach	2	
13		Beach	3	
14		Depart Trivandrum Arrive UK		>Transfer To Trivandrum Airport

Featured Hotels Dependent On Availability At Time Of Booking



Malabar Giant Squirrel

Day 01 – Depart UK

Day 02 – Wayanad**Water Lilly At A Lake In Vythiri****Vythiri**

The Western Ghats are one of the great biodiversity “Hot Spots” of the world. The **Wayanad** area of **Kerala** is an ideal location to explore the fascinating rainforests of **India**. It is possible to see wildlife such as **Bonnet Monkeys, Loris, Mongooses, Jungle Cats, Squirrels, Jackals** and **Hares** in the forest areas. Larger animals such as **Elephant, Indian Bison** and **Sloth Bear** from neighbouring wildlife sanctuaries of **Karnataka** and **Tamil Nadu** also stray into the forests of **Wayanad**.

**Hanuman Languar In Wayanad Forests****Rainforest At Vythiri**

Day 03 – Wayanad



Damselflies At Nilambur

Rainforest Walk Through Nilambur

Nilambur is famous for its rainforests, clear rivers, waterfalls and teak plantations. It is situated close to the **Western Ghats** on the banks of the **Chaliyar River**. **Nilambur** is also home to the oldest teak plantation in the world, called **Conolly's Plot**. It is claimed that the world's tallest or biggest teak tree is in the **Nilambur Teak Preserve**. **Nilambur** is also famous for its huge groves of bamboos.



Rainforest Fern And Kuruwa Dweep River

Day 04 – 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. 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.



Kathakali Performance



Day 05 – Cochin



Cochin Harbour

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**.

Kalari Martial Arts Performance

Kalaripayattu is one of the oldest existing martial art forms, dating back more than 2000 years with origins in **Kerala**. It incorporates strikes, kicks, grappling, choreographed martial art sequences, and weaponry, as well as healing techniques. **Kalaris** are the schools where training in this martial art form is imparted by **Gurukals** or masters.

At **Cochin** you can see an evening **Kalari** performance at **ENS Kalari**.



Kalari Martial Arts Performance

Day 06 - 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. **Munnar** 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 07 – Munnar



On The Road To Top Station

Top Station

Top Station, 37km from **Munnar** on the **Tamil Nadu** border is a wonderful place to catch some fantastic views of the **Western Ghats** and the valleys below. This place gives a real 'above the clouds' experience. The **Neelakurunji** plant, which flowers only once every twelve years is found here.



The Wonderful Camp Noel Near Top Station



Day 08 – 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.

Elephant Back Ride At Thekkady

You may if you wish, go on an **Elephant Back Ride** that is a very popular excursion at the spice growing village of **Kumily**.



Elephant Back Ride At Kumily



Day 09 – Thekkady



Bamboo Rafting, Periyar

Bamboo Rafting At Periyar Wildlife Reserve

Bamboo Rafting At Periyar Lake

A unique whole day rafting excursion using tribal bamboo rafts along the banks of the **Periyar Lake** and river. You will spend the whole day inside the sanctuary, with an escort of **Forest Rangers** for additional safety. Highly recommended as the best way to observe wildlife and nature at **Periyar**.



Boat Jetty At Periyar And Forest Ranger



Elephants At Periyar

Day 10 – 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 11 – Day 13 Kerala's Beaches



Varkala Beach

Varkala

The **Papanasam Beach** at **Varkala** has a white, silvery stretch of sand, above which rise steep and rocky cliffs. A favourite for independent travellers to **Kerala** wishing to avoid the crowded resorts 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.



Kovalam Beach At Dusk

Day 14 – Depart Kerala - Arrive UK