# KERALA HILL STATION, BACKWATER & BEACH

COCHIN - MUNNAR - THEKKADY - KUMARAKOM - ALLEPPEY - TRIVANDRUM - KOVALAM - KANYAKUMARI

09 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS



Old monuments, exotic flora & fauna, lush vegetation, the delicate scent of spices & temples bells all characterize Kerala. Starting from Kochi – the 'Queen of Arabian Sea', visit the old trade routes complemented by a mesmerizing traditional Kathakali dance performance. Short cycle rides & day walks in the Western Ghats in the tea-growing region of Munnar is a magical experience. Explore one of the most picturesque sanctuaries in the world – Periyar National Park. You will also cruise along the beautiful backwaters of Kerala. Further from here you travel towards Kovalam - a world-famous beach resort.

#### Day 1: Cochin

We meet you on arrival at Cochin airport and drive you to your hotel. Check-in & rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at hotel.

#### Day 2: Cochin

Breakfast at hotel, followed by city tour of Cochin. Visit Mattanchery Palace, Jewish Synagogue. Later, drive to Fort Kochi beach area to visit St. Francis Church. Your final visit will be to witness huge Chinese Fishing Nets that line the entrance to the harbour mouth. Overnight at hotel.

#### Day 3: Cochin – Munnar (140 kms / 3 hrs approx)

Breakfast at hotel, then drive to Munnar. On arrival, check-in at the hotel. Rest of the day free for local sightseeing. Overnight at hotel.

#### Day 4: Munnar

Breakfast at hotel, followed by sightseeing of Munnar. Visit Devikulam, an enchanting hill-station & Eravikulam National Park. Overnight at hotel.

## Day 5: Munnar - Thekkady (110 kms / 3 hrs approx)

Breakfast at hotel, proceed to Thekkady which offers diverse attractions like Wildlife Sanctuary, Hill Station & Spice Plantation. Reach & check-in at the hotel. In the afternoon, explore Periyar National Park by boat cruise. Overnight at hotel.

#### Day 6: Thekkady - Kumarakom (132 kms / 3 hrs approx)

Breakfast at hotel, then drive to Kumarakom & check-in at the hotel. Later visit Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary. Rest of the day free to indulge in a relaxing / therapeutic Ayurvedic massage. Overnight at hotel.

## Day 7: Kumarakom – Alleppey (52 kms + overnight cruise)

Breakfast at hotel, then drive to Alleppey. Also called the Venice of East, Alleppey is interlocked with a large number of canals & bridges. Board a houseboat & enjoy a cruise through the enchanting backwaters. In the evening, catch a glimpse of village life. Moor up for overnight in Vemabanadu Lake. Overnight at house-boat.

## Day 8: Alleppey - Trivandrum - Kovalam (160 kms / 4 hrs approx)

Morning after breakfast, disembark from house-boat & drive to Kovalam. Enroute visit Padmanabha Swamy Temple at Trivandrum. On arrival, check-in at the hotel & relax on Kovalam's world-famous beach. Overnight at hotel.

### Day 9: Kovalam - Kanyakumari - Kovalam (80 kms / 2 hrs approx one-way)

Breakfast at hotel, followed by full day excursion to Kanyakumari. Visit Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Gandhi Memorial & Vattakottai Fort. Evening back to Kovalam. Overnight at hotel.

### Day 10: Kovalam – Trivandrum (15 kms / Half hr approx)

Breakfast at hotel, transfer to Trivandrum Airport to board flight for your onward destination.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Kathakali Classical Dance: Enjoy Kathakali dance show. 'Katha' means story & 'Kali' means dance. As the name suggests Kathakali is a beautiful amalgamation of dance & drama.

Ayurveda: the oldest surviving complete medical system in the world. Derived from its ancient Sanskrit roots - 'ayus' (life) & 'ved' (knowledge) – & offering a rich, comprehensive outlook to a healthy life, its origins go back nearly 5000 years.

Various Ayurvedic massages available. Please contact for details & prices.

Martial Arts of Kerala – Kalaripayattu: One of the oldest fighting systems in existence, it is now practiced in Kerala, in contiguous parts of Tamil Nadu & among the Malayali community of Malaysia. Kalaripayattu includes strikes, kicks, grappling, preset forms, weaponry & healing methods.





### **PRICE INCLUDES:**

- · Airport "Meet and Greet" and private Hotel transfers
- 9 nights accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- Houseboat accommodation in Alleppey with all meals
- Private air-conditioned vehicle for 10 days with English speaking chauffeur
- Local English speaking guide on sightseeing days.
- Monument entrance fees
- Permit charges to visit National Park in Munnar & Thekkady.
- Boat cruise in Pariyar Lake in Thekkady
- Applicable taxes & VAT

### **OTHER DETAILS:**

- Hotel upgrades available.
- Can be booked in reverse order & can be combined with 7 Nights / 8 Days South India Temple Tour.

