



SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS



MESMERIZING KERALA

Tour Route: Kochi (2) – Munnar (1) – Periyar (2) – Kumarakom (1) – Kovalam (2)

Tour Duration: 8 nights / 9 days

On the map of India, Kerala resembles a banana leaf clinging between the Western Ghats and beaches of Arabian sea in the extreme south of the country. Kerala's beauty lies in the serenity of its natural wonders, making it a relaxing holiday destination. No wonder Kerala has been included in the top 50 tourist destinations for 'once in a life time visit' by National Geographic Channel! This tour encompasses the best of Kerala, giving you a flavour of the cultural exuberance of Kochi, green hills and tea estates of Munnar, wildlife and spice plantations of Periyar, serene backwaters of Kumarakom, and tranquil beaches and Ayurveda retreats of Kovalam.





Day 1: Kochi (D)

Arrival in Kochi, the commercial capital of Kerala. After clearing airport formalities, meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel for 2 nights stay.

Day 2: Day in Kochi (B / L / D)

Kochi, also known as the Queen of the Arabian Sea, has one of the finest natural harbours in the world and is an important spice trading centre. Today, enjoy a city tour of Kochi, visiting the Dutch Palace, Jewish Synagogue, Fort Cochin, St. Francis Church and Chinese fishing nets.

This evening, watch a spectacular performance of Kathakali, one of the oldest theatre forms in India, displaying a spectacular combination of drama, dance, music and ritual.

Day 3: Kochi to Munnar (B / L / D)

Enjoy a morning at leisure in Kochi.

This afternoon, drive to Munnar, the tea plantation hub of south India. The entire region of Munnar is covered by thick forests and tea estates. Upon arrival in Munnar, check in at your hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure.

Day 4: Munnar to Periyar (B / L / D)

This morning, visit a local tea plantation and the Tata Tea Museum to learn about the cultivation and processing of a variety of Indian teas.

This afternoon, drive to Periyar (Thekkady), the wildlife and spice plantation hub of Kerala.

Day 5: Day in Periyar (B / L / D)

Enjoy an early morning visit to the Periyar Wildlife sanctuary, one of the finest elephant reserves of south India. Take a boat cruise on Lake Periyar, spotting migratory birds and local wildlife around the lake.

This afternoon take a spice plantation tour. Various kinds of spices are cultivated in Thekkady region, such as pepper, cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, ginger, turmeric and curry leaves. You also get the opportunity to shop for fragrant spices at a local market.

Day 6: Periyar to Kumarakom (B / L / D)

This morning, drive to Kumarakom, a coastal town in the backwaters of Kerala. Today, enjoy a motor boat

cruise in Kerala backwaters. Kerala backwaters consist of a complex network of lagoons, lakes, & canals and are best experienced while slowly cruising down the labyrinth of canals, observing local village life on the banks of the backwaters.

Day 7: Kumarakom to Kovalam (B / L / D)

This morning, visit the Kumarakom bird sanctuary on the banks of Vembanad Lake. This sanctuary is spread over 100 acres and is home to thousands of resident and migratory birds, such as waterfowl, heron, bittern, kites, marsh harries, kingfishers, woodpeckers and wild ducks.

Later, drive to Kovalam, one of the most serene and beautiful beaches of south India. Enjoy an evening at leisure in Kovalam.

Day 8: Day in Kovalam (B / L / D)

Today, enjoy a day at leisure relaxing and unwinding by the tranquil beaches of Kovalam or pamper yourself with the various Ayurveda and Spa treatments offered by your resort.

Day 9: Kovalam / Trivandrum to Depart (B / L / D)

Enjoy a morning at leisure, relaxing by the beach at Kovalam. After breakfast, drive to Trivandrum. Take a brief city tour of Trivandrum and indulge in some last minute shopping before being transferred to the airport to board your flight back home.

PRICE INCLUSIONS

- Accommodation on twin sharing basis at 4*/ heritage hotels or best available hotel in the region.
- All meals included (i.e. breakfast, lunch and dinner)
- All monument entrance fees included.
- Meeting and assistance on arrival and departures.
- Local English Speaking Guide for sightseeing tours. English speaking escort to accompany the group for minimum group size of 8 passengers.
- Chauffeured air-conditioned vehicles for all transfers, excursions and sightseeing tours.
- All currently applicable taxes.
- Kathakali Cultural dance performance in Kochi.
- Boat cruise at Lake Periyar.
- Motor boat cruise in Kumarakom back waters.

PRICE EXCLUSIONS

- Expenses of personal nature like laundry, telephone, fax, internet, beverages, camera / video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure tax etc.
- Local payments in domestic currency, such as tips and gratuities.
- Indian Visa Fees; international airfare and departure tax.
- Any other services not mentioned in Price Inclusions above.

DEPARTURES

Mesmerizing Kerala

The special interest tour is quoted on minimum of 4 passengers or above (Land only).		
Traveling period	Twin share price	Singleroom supplement
01 Oct 2009 - 15 Apr 2010	A\$ 1,540	A\$ 720
16 Apr 2010 - 15 Sep 2010	A\$ 1,340	A\$ 500
01 Nov 2010 - 30 Apr 2011	A\$ 1,690	A\$ 790

Closure days of main monuments:

Dutch Palace, Kochi - Friday; Jewish Synagogue, Kochi - Saturday

* The first arrival day to Kochi should avoid Thursday and Friday due to some closure days.