

KERALA DELIGHTS

12 days / 11 nights

Kerala, known as God's own country, is a perfect place for a relaxing break, either as an add-on to perhaps a tour of Rajasthan or other parts of India, or as a holiday on its own. Enjoy some Ayurveda for which Kerala is famous: energise your body, stimulate your mind and calm your soul.

Sun-kissed beaches; Kettuvallam houseboats on peaceful backwaters (canals) fringed by palm grove and paddy fields and offering a striking spectacle of the rustic life; exotic hill stations, suspended in time amidst sprawling tea plantations; picture-book towns with winding lanes and an intriguing mix of cultures; wildlife reserves; trekking and cruising facilities; they all combine to make this a most enjoyable itinerary.

The heart of the land is composed of intensely green paddy fields and a unique network of rivers and lagoons. Upland Kerala, seldom visited, is comprised of hills, thickly wooded with teak and rubber. It is here that Kerala's most precious spices are grown in carefully nurtured plantations — cardamom, pepper, cinnamon, ginger, vanilla and nutmeg.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Cochin (Kochi)

Welcome at Kochi Airport and transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Cochin

A half-day tour today will include The Dutch Palace, Jewish Synagogue and Chinese Fishing Nets. B

Day 3 Cochin-Munnar (110 kms – 3 ½ hrs)

Drive to Munnar, a charming hill station, and the summer resort of the British in South India; visit the Cardamom Research Centre on the way. Have a free afternoon to relax and explore. B

Day 4 Munnar-Periyar (160 kms – 4 ½ hours)

Visit a spice plantation on the way to Periyar, then take a two-hour late afternoon boat cruise on Periyar Lake to see the wildlife in the sanctuary. B

Day 5 Periyar

A free day to relax and enjoy your thatched cottage set in the heart of the Cardamom hills. B

Day 6 Periyar-Kumarakom (185 kms – 4 hrs)

A short drive to Kumarakom in the heart of the fascinating backwaters. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure. B

Day 7 Kumarakom

Enjoy some Ayurveda for which Kerala is famous: energise your body, stimulate your mind and calm your soul. B

Day 8 Kumarakom-Kettuvallam Rice Boat

Enjoy a peaceful day and night on board a Kettuvallam houseboat exploring the peaceful backwaters (canals). BLD

Day 9 Alleppey-Mararikulam (45 kms – 1 hr drive)

Disembark your rice barge and travel north along the coast to Mararikulam, a delightful fishing village, where you can enjoy the rest of your holiday at Marari Beach Resort, stretched out on the beautiful beach. B

Day 10 **Mararikulam**

A day to relax on the beach. B

Day 11 **Mararikulam**

Another day to relax on the beach. B

Day 12 **Mararikulam-Cochin**

A free day; you will be transferred to the airport this evening where your tour ends. B