

LUXURY CRUISING ON THE OBEROI VRINDA

6 days/5 nights

Imagine a luxurious cruise through the picturesque and lush backwaters of Kerala; picture a relaxing sunset viewed from a rooftop deck amidst gentle lapping of water and a balmy breeze; visualise elegant cabins with serene views of rice boats, village life and tropical greens. Welcome onboard luxury cruiser, The Oberoi Motor Vessel Vrinda, the only way to experience 'God's own country' in complete grandeur and style. As the cruise meanders through canals and lakes, unwind and rejuvenate in the peace and tranquillity of this photographer's haven. Experience a way of life unique to this region with this vessel's expert sightseeing guides and absorb the rich tradition of Kerala while classical dancers in beautiful costumes provide enchanting performances on board. Prepare your palette for a range of exotic international and south Indian delicacies while the chef creates a completely personalised menu. This, coupled with an exceptionally caring crew, makes this intimate boat an unforgettable experience.

ITINERARY

Day 1 **Cochin**

On arrival in Cochin you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Stay overnight in Cochin.

Day 2 **Cochin**

A half-day tour of Cochin today will include the Dutch Palace, Jewish Synagogue and Chinese Fishing Nets. The rest of the day is free to relax and explore on your own.

Day 3 **Cochin – M/V Vrinda**

Transfer late morning to board M/V Vrinda. Set sail at 1 pm and cruise on Vembanad Lake and the Alleppey Canal. In the evening enjoy a performance of the highly ritualised 'Kathakali' dance which tells stories from the ancient Hindu epics — Ramayana and Mahabarata.

Day 4 **Rice boat excursion**

Cruise through scenic backwaters where you can observe life along these 'water highways' while passing through one of the few areas in the world where farming is done below sea level. Transfer to a traditional rice boat to navigate through the narrower sections of the backwaters and visit a half-statue of Lord Buddha and a traditional Kerala tharavad (family residence).

Day 5 **Rice boat excursion**

Transfer to a rice boat late morning. Visit St Mary's Church, established by St Thomas in 1721, and Sree Bhagavathy Kshjetram, a 100-year-old Hindu Temple to Mother Goddess. Explore a snake boat yard which displays one of the traditional long snake boats used in races. Reboard Vrinda where later you can enjoy a 'Mohiniattam' recital on board; this classical dance form, distinctive to Kerala, is also called the 'Dance of the Enchantress'. Dancers attired in beautiful traditional costumes perform with slow, graceful movements and highly emotive expressions.

Day 6 **Departure**

Disembark at 10 am at the Vembanad Lake jetty where you will be transported by air-conditioned vehicle to Cochin