



## Kerala itineraries

## COCHIN – ITINERARY 01

### Cochin (02 Nts) – Kumarakom (02 Nts)

#### Day 01

#### ARRIVE COCHIN

Arrive into Cochin airport and transfer to your hotel .  
Rest of the day free to enjoy the services and facilities at your hotel.

(Optional): PM drive to Fort Kochi for the traditional dance show.



Kathakali is one of the oldest theatre forms in the world. This dance form originated in the south Indian state of Kerala and since Cochin is a developing important city, both culturally and commercially, Kathakali is quite popular among locals and tourists here. Infact, there many important Kathakali dance centers in Kochi, which not only render training in this art form, but also organize regular dance recitals. The Kathakali dance is presented in a group, the themes of which are based on Hindu Mythologies - particularly on epics - Ramayana and Mahabharata.

An interesting feature of Kathakali is that the make-up of the dancers is very elaborate. The dancers have to undergo a rigorous training as Kathakali involves a highly developed language of gesture through which they have to convey the story. Kathakali is well embedded in the art and culture of Kochi. To increase its popularity even more, a brief write up in English and Malayalam is distributed to the audience who come at the Kathakali dance centers of Kochi to watch performances.

#### Overnight at Cochin.

#### Day 02 .

#### COCHIN

After breakfast proceed for a city tour of Cochin.

**St. Francis Church** is the oldest church in India. Built in early 16th century by the Portuguese, the unassuming church was later taken over by the Dutch and the British subsequently. Vasco da Gama was buried here in 1524 until his body was sent to Portugal 14 years later.



**Mattancherry Palace** popularly known as Dutch Palace was actually built by Portuguese in mid 16th century and given to the Cochin rulers as a token to acquire trading rights. The palace was later renovated by the Dutch in 1663. The two-storeyed palace is built around a central courtyard with the shrine of Goddess Bhagwati, typical of Kerala architecture. Barren with stark white walls and sloping roofs, the facade of the palace is in sharp contrast to the interiors where more colour and design is visible.

**Paradesi Synagogue** remains the oldest Jewish monument in India. Located in a secluded corner in the heart of Jew Town in Kochi, Paradesi Synagogue was built by the Jewish settlers in 1568. Partially destroyed by the Portuguese, the synagogue was rebuilt by the Dutch in 1664. A beautiful clock tower was added in the mid 18th century and the floors paved with fine hand-painted willow-pattern tiles. Inside, there is an ornate Belgian chandelier, silver and gold Torah scrolls and several hanging oil lamps. The by-lanes which wind around the synagogue are dotted with pretty Dutch and Portuguese bungalows, most of them converted into antique shops.



After the sightseeing tour drive back to your hotel. Rest of the day free for own activities.

### **Overnight in Cochin.**

### **Day 03.**

### **COCHIN – KUMARAKOM.**



This morning after breakfast check out of your hotel and drive to Kumarakom (80 kms / 02 Hrs). Arrive and check in at the resort.

Rest of the day free to enjoy the services and facilities at the resort.

Overnight in Kumarakom.

### **Day 04.**

### **KUMARAKOM.**

This day relax by the pool or indulge in some exotic ayurveda massages at the Spa.

Overnight in Kumarakom.

### **Day 05 .**

### **KUMARAKOM-COCHIN**

After breakfast drive to Cochin airport to board your flight back to Mumbai.

**\*\*\* Tour Ends \*\*\***

## **COCHIN – ITINERARY 02**

### **Kumarakom (02 Nts) – Houseboat (01 Nt) - Kovalam (02 Nts)**

#### **Day 01**                       **ARRIVE COCHIN - KUMARAKOM**

This day arrive into Cochin airport and drive to Kumarakom (approx 2 hrs).  
Reach there and transfer to your hotel.  
Check in and relax.

**Overnight in Kumarakom.**

#### **Day 02**                       **KUMARAKOM**



This day at leisure to enjoy ayurveda.

(Optional) – You may enjoy a sun set cruise in the backwaters  
Alternatively you can visit the **Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary**.

Located on the banks of the Vembanad Lake, the bird sanctuary is spread across 14 acres. The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, an ornithologist's paradise is a favorite haunt of migratory birds like the Siberian stork, egret, darter, heron and teal.

**Overnight in Kumarakom.**

#### **Day 03**                       **KUMARAKOM- ALLEPPY**



After breakfast board your private houseboat to cruise along the backwaters.

The culture and lifestyle of the backwaters is as unique as the ecology. Habitation is everywhere, but in such harmony that it seems inseparable from nature. Wood and slapdash plaster huts are scattered on both sides, with an ever-present complement of pigs, chickens and buffaloes.

Rice fields stretch like improbably large lawns, laid out amidst clusters thick with coconut, cashew, guava and mango. Fishing boats with home-made patchwork sails ply the canals. A little hut turns out to be a coir factory, with women spinning and knotting busily. A man stands still as a yogi, neck-deep in the canal, waiting to catch a prize fish with his bare hands.

Enjoy local cuisine on board cooked by your private chef.

**Overnight in the houseboat**

## Day 04

### ALLEPPY - KOVALAM



After breakfast disembark at Alleppy boat jetty and drive ahead to Kovalam.

On arrival transfer to your hotel .  
Rest of the evening at leisure to enjoy the hotel and its facilities.

#### Overnight in Kovalam

## Day 05

### KOVALAM-KANYAKUMARI-KOVALAM

After breakfast proceed for a full day excursion to Kanyakumari.



Visit the famous **Vivekananda Rock Memorial** - The great Indian Philosopher Swami Vivekananda's memorial is built in a small island like rock 200 meters from the shore. A very great building and other halls are constructed in this rock. Actually it is a turn rock where this memorial stands. There is a meditation hall where people who wants to meditate in a calm and composed atmosphere can perform their meditation inside it. Boat facilities are available for the tourists to visit this

beautiful memorial spot.

Time permitting also visit:-



#### PADAMANABAPURAM PALACE

This was the capital of Travancore till 1798 A.D. This was the ancient seat of the Travancore rulers. This palace is located 37 km away from Kanyakumari. The palace inside this fort covers 6 acres of land area. The antiquities, the armory of the royal families, the Ramaswamy temple near the palace, 45 panels of carvings from the Ramayana can be found inside.

Return back to your hotel late evening.

#### Overnight in Kovalam

## Day 06

### KOVALAM - TRIVADRUM

After breakfast day at leisure till it is time to drive to Trivandrum airport to board your flight back home.

**\*\*\* Tour Ends \*\*\***

## COCHIN – ITINERARY 03

Cochin (01 Nt) – Munnar (02 Nts) – Kumarakom (02 Nts) - Houseboat (01 Nt)

### Day 01 ARRIVE COCHIN

Arrive into Cochin airport by your chosen flight and transfer to your hotel in a chauffeur driven car. Arrive and check in.

PM drive to Fort Kochi for the traditional dance show.

Kathakali is one of the oldest theatre forms in the world. This dance form originated in the south Indian state of Kerala and since Cochin is a developing important city, both culturally and commercially, Kathakali is quite popular among locals and tourists here. Infact, there many important Kathakali dance centers in Kochi, which not only render training in this art form, but also organize regular dance recitals. The Kathakali dance is presented in a group, the themes of which are based on Hindu Mythologies - particularly on epics - Ramayana and Mahabharata.



After the recital drive back to your hotel.

### Overnight at Cochin



### Day 02 COCHIN – MUNNAR

After breakfast check out of the hotel and drive to Munnar. Reach this picturesque town after a 4.5 hour scenic drive. On arrival check in at the resort.

Rest of the evening at leisure to relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Munnar - breathtakingly beautiful - a haven of peace and tranquility - the idyllic tourist destination in God's own country. Set at an altitude of 6000 ft in Idukki district, Munnar was the favored summer resort of the erstwhile British rulers in the colonial days.

### Overnight at Munnar.

### Day 03

### MUNNAR



AM proceed for a sightseeing tour. Visit the Tea and coffee plantations that abound the rolling hills of Munnar.

**Pothamedu** (6 km from Munnar) Pothamedu offers an excellent view of the tea, coffee and cardamom plantations in Munnar. The rolling hills, the lush mountain and the breathtaking scenery here is ideal for trekking and long mountain walks.

#### **Eravikulam National Park (15 km from Munnar).**

The 97 sq. km. park is situated in the Devikulam Taluk and is home to the Nilgiri Tahr. Originally established to protect the Nilgiri tahr (Nilgiri Ibex), the Eravikulam National Park was declared as a sanctuary in 1975. The park is breathtakingly beautiful and is easily comparable to the best mountain ranges found anywhere in the world.

After the sightseeing drive back to your resort for lunch. Post lunch relax till you head out again.

PM enjoying boating at Mattupetty (13 km from Munnar) the Situated at a height of 1700 Mts , Mattupetty is famous for its highly specialised dairy farm, the Indo-swiss live stock project. Over 100 varieties of high yielding cattle are reared here. Visitors are allowed into three of the eleven cattle sheds at the farm.

**Visit Time :** 0900 - 1100 hrs and 1400 - 1530 hrs.  
Rest of the evening at leisure.

#### **Overnight at Munnar.**



### Day 04

### MUNNAR - KUMARAKOM

After lunch drive to Kumarakom and check in at your backwater Resort.

Rest of the evening at leisure to relax or indulge in some rejuvenating ayurvedic massages.

#### **Overnight at Kumarakom**

**Day 05****KUMARAKOM**

This day at leisure.

(Optional) – You may enjoy a sun set cruise in the backwaters. Your hotel offers the same complimentary to all in house guests. OR you can visit the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary.

Located on the banks of the Vembanad Lake, the bird sanctuary is spread across 14 acres. The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, an ornithologist's paradise is a favorite haunt of migratory birds like the Siberian stork, egret, darter, heron and teal

**Overnight at Kumarakom****Day 06****KUMARAKOM - BACKWATERS**

After breakfast pack your bags and get ready to board your private houseboat to cruise along the backwaters. Your boat will report at the hotel by noon and be ready for you to board thereafter.

Once on board commence your backwater experience. Enjoy lunch freshly prepared by your own private chef.

The culture and lifestyle of the backwaters is as unique as the ecology. Habitation is everywhere, but in such harmony that it seems inseparable from nature. Wood and slapdash plaster huts are scattered on both sides, with an ever-present complement of pigs, chickens and buffaloes.

Rice fields stretch like improbably large lawns, laid out amidst clusters thick with coconut, cashew, guava and mango. Fishing boats with home-made patchwork sails ply the canals. A little hut turns out to be a coir factory, with women spinning and knotting busily. A man stands still as a yogi, neck-deep in the canal, waiting to catch a prize fish with his bare hands.

Later lounge at the sun deck sipping hot coffee or simply relax with a book. The boat will anchor by sundown in preparation for the evening dinner again freshly cooked by your expert chef. Retire for the night rocked by the gentle waves.

**Overnight in your houseboat.****Day 07****ALLEPPY – COCHIN AIRPORT**

After breakfast dock back to the jetty by 10 AM and drive onwards to Cochin airport to board your flight for onward journey.

**\*\*\* Tour Ends \*\*\***