

## Kerala - 6 Nights & 7 Days

**Day 1 Cochin:** Arrive Cochin airport, you will be met and assisted by a Tamarind representative and would be transferred to your hotel. Kochi (colonial name Cochin) is a vibrant city, also referred to as the Gateway to Kerala. The twin cities of Fort Cochin and Mattancherry have preserved an extraordinary wealth of really old colonial architecture spanning the Portuguese, Dutch and the British eras. Overnight in Cochin.

**Day 2 Cochin – Munnar:** Today, enjoy a half-day tour of Cochin. Visit Fort Cochin... walks to the church of St Francis, the oldest European-built church in the country. Also explore the 282-year-old Dutch Cemetery in Fort Kochi. Continue your tour with a visit to Mattancherry, where you will visit the historic synagogue in the Jewish Quarter, built over 400 years ago. The Synagogue itself is elaborately decorated. You will also visit the Mattancherry or Dutch Palace, constructed in 1555. The palace has a fine collection of mural paintings depicting scenes from the Hindu epics. Thereafter, drive past the amazing Chinese Fishing Nets, strung out along the tip of the peninsula. Also drive past Willingdon Island, a man-made island that belongs to the Port Trust and the Indian Navy. Further to the sightseeing drive to Munnar (185 kms / 4 hrs) – hills situated at an altitude of 5000 to 8000 Ft above sea level and are situated at the confluence of three mountain streams - Mudrapuzha, Nallathani & Kundala. This beautiful hill station was once the summer resort of the erstwhile British Govt in South India. Sprawling Tea plantations, picture book towns, winding lanes and holiday facilities make this a popular resort town. Arrive & check in to your hotel. Overnight in Munnar.

**Day 3 Munnar:** Today, enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of Munnar. It is famous for its lush green surroundings, lakes, reservoirs, forests, and tea estates. Walks and hiking around this small town offer an exhilarating experience. Munnar has a legacy of its own when it comes to the origins and evolution of tea plantations. In the morning, visit the Tea Museum in the Nallathanni Estate of Tata Tea, which showcases some of the exquisite and interesting aspects of the genesis and growth of tea plantations in Munnar. This Tea Museum houses curios, photographs and machinery. Also visit Mattupetty, located about 13 km from Munnar. Situated at a height of 1700 m above sea level, Mattupetty is known for its dam and the beautiful lake, which offers pleasurable boat rides, enabling one to enjoy the surrounding hills and landscape. Mattupetty with its lush green tea plantations, rolling grasslands and the Shola forests is also ideal for trekking and is home to a variety of birds. Later visit the Kundala tea plantations and the Kundala Lake. A place of exquisite beauty, the mountain slopes here are thick with undulating, evergreen tea plantations. The shimmering blue lake is the most photographed part of Kundala. Take a stroll in the tea estate, and enjoy the refreshing mountain breeze. Here you can view the entire process of making tea, right from plucking of tealeaves to their processing. Overnight in Munnar.

**Day 4 Munnar – Thekkady:** This morning after breakfast, drive to Thekkady (124 kms / 3.5hrs) Thekkady– 777 sq.km of lush green tropical forests is the natural habitat of elephant, bison, spotted deer, sambar, bear and many colorful birds etc. Arrive & check in to your hotel. After a quick wash n change enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of Thekkady. Set high in the ranges of the Western Ghats in Kerala, is the Periyar National Park and Tiger Reserve. Periyar wildlife sanctuary has a picturesque lake at the heart of the sanctuary. Herds of playful wild elephants have made Periyar Lake their favorite haunt for frolicking in the water. They can be witnessed bathing and

swimming here. Enjoy a boat ride on the lake on direct payment basis to view the wildlife at close quarters (**as per the new law introduced by the Government, the tickets have to be purchased by the clients, our driver would be there to assist the clients**) Other inhabitants of Periyar include the leopard, wild dog, barking deer, mouse deer, Nilgirilangur, bonnet macaque, sambhar, porcupines, squirrels, gaur (Indian bison), wild boar and sloth bear. Later, take a spice plantation tour. The aroma and pleasant ambiance of the spice and tea plantations of Periyar are fascinating. Spices found in Thekkady include pepper, clove, cardamom, nutmeg, ginger, turmeric, vanilla and curry leaves. You can also enjoy an elephant ride in Periyar **on Direct Payment basis**. Overnight in Thekkady.

**Day 5 Thekkady – Kumarakom:** This morning after breakfast, drive to Kumarakom (127kms/ 3.5kms) Kumarakom is a cluster of little islands on Vembanad Lake, which is home to the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary. An ornithologist's paradise, the sanctuary is spread across 14 acres, and is the favourite haunt of local birds like Waterfowl, Cuckoo, Owls, Egrets, Herons, Water Ducks, Parrots, Teal, Larks, Flycatchers and Wood Beetle. The Island of Pathiramanal ( meaning Sands of night), with its lush acres of wooded land, attracts a variety of migratory birds that flock in thousands, some from the Himalayas, some even from as far as Siberia... including the Siberian Crane. One can enjoy a cruise on the backwaters of Kumarakom in a houseboat. Kumarakom is Kerala's Venice of the East... a heartland of lagoons and mangrove fields, inter-linked with hundreds of narrow winding canals. Soak in the panoramic sight of the serene, palm fringed canals winding through the vast expanse of paddy fields, and the neat tiny hamlets lined up along either side of the canals. The boat will stop in villages for you to experience a glimpse of village life in rural Kerala. The villagers will be happy to invite you to sip a freshly picked raw coconut from their own fields. The houseboat itself is a traditional cargo boat called Kettuvallom, modified into a houseboat with modern luxurious amenities, and facilities like bedrooms, kitchen, bathrooms, and sun deck. Overnight in Kumarakom.

**Day 6 Kumarakom:** Today, indulge yourself with some Ayurvedic treatments in your hotel. Ayurveda is the ancient healing system of India and has been practiced continuously for over 5,000 years. The various treatments are individually prescribed, and involve the use of medicated herbal oils, herbs, powders and poultices, and natural ingredients... and qualified therapists trained in traditional Ayurvedic schools. The therapies can cure a variety of ailments ranging from colds, blood pressure, and obesity to insomnia, arthritis and rheumatism. However, to avail of the benefits of Ayurveda, one does not need to be ill...it is a wonderful way of life, which promotes health, de-stressing and general well-being. Enjoy treatments in the unhurried pace on direct payment with the hotel. Overnight in Kumarakom.

**Day 7 Kumarakom – Cochin – Overseas:** This day, you will be transferred to Cochin airport (110 kms/2.5hrs) for your flight to onward destination.

### **Hotels**

<b>Destination</b>	<b>4 Star</b>
<b>Cochin</b>	<b>Trident</b>
<b>Munnar</b>	<b>Tea County</b>
<b>Thekkady</b>	<b>Elephant Court</b>
<b>Kumarakom</b>	<b>Zuri</b>

### **Cost per Person in US Dollars**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2 PAX</b>	<b>Child with Bed</b>	<b>Child Without Extra Bed</b>
<b>4 Star</b>	<b>266 BHD</b>	<b>95 BHD</b>	<b>52 BHD</b>

#### **Inclusions**

- Accommodation in well appointed rooms with buffet breakfast.
- Transportation as per itinerary in air-conditioned vehicle with a personal chauffer for the entire tour.
- Guide services only in Cochin.
- Entrances for the monuments.
- All Government taxes.