

Cultural Highlights of North & South India – Golden Triangle with Kerala "God's Own Country" Best of India – Epic Indian Travel

India's most extraordinary cultural odyssey – combining the iconic Golden Triangle of Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur with the lush paradise of Kerala. From Mughal monuments and Rajput palaces to misty tea gardens, spice plantations, Kathakali performances, and serene backwater houseboat cruises – this 14-day journey spans the very best of North and South India.

Golden Triangle

Delhi, Agra & Jaipur: UNESCO heritage, Mughal monuments, Rajput palaces and the Pink City

Kerala – God's Own Country

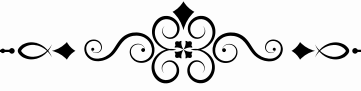
Cochin, Munnar, Thekkady & Alleppey: tea gardens, spice trails, cultural arts & backwater cruises

Immersive Experiences












Cooking classes, Kalamandalam arts, Periyar boat safari, Dolmen's Trek & houseboat overnight

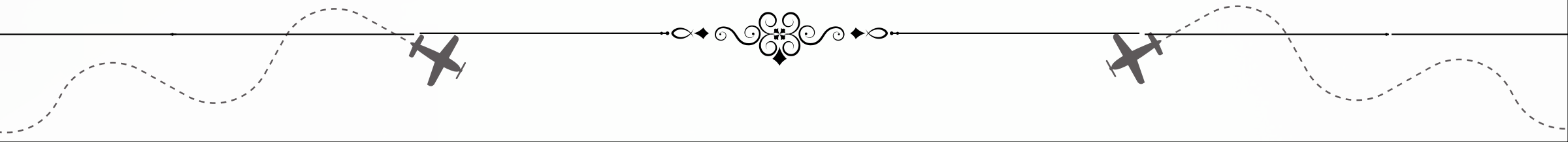
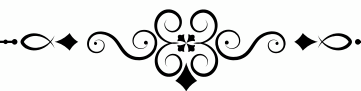
Tour Route: 13 Nights / 14 Days • Delhi [2N] – Agra [1N] – Jaipur [2N] – Cochin [3N] – Munnar [2N] – Thekkady [2N] – Alleppey [1N] – Cochin

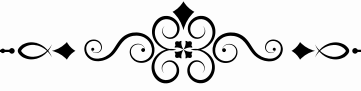


















Tour Highlights

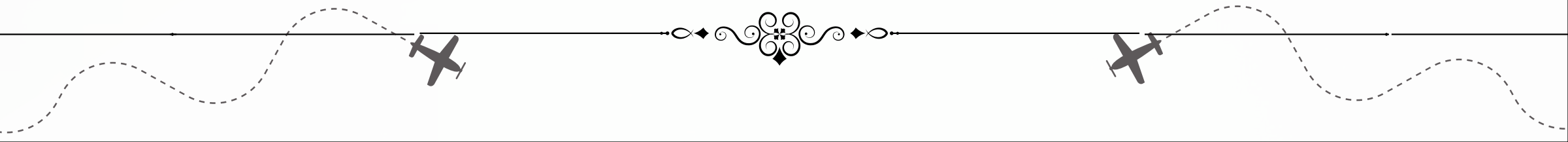
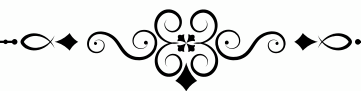
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|  | UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Delhi, Agra (Taj Mahal), Jaipur, Chandigarh & Amritsar |  | Rickshaw ride in the by-lanes of Old Delhi & the Walled City of Jaipur |  | Sunset and Sunrise views of the iconic Taj Mahal |
|  | Visit to Abhaneri Stepwell (Chand Baori) – one of the largest and most beautiful stepwells in the world |  | Visit a local home in Jaipur for a cooking demonstration and dinner |  | Famous Rock Garden of Chandigarh & boat ride on Sukhna Lake |
|  | Toy Train ride from Kalka to Shimla on the UNESCO Himalayan Railway |  | Visit the Dalai Lama Temple (Tsuglakhang), Dhauladhar Viewpoint & Talnoo Sunset Point |  | Moderate Trek to Bhagsu Waterfall in Dharamshala |
|  | Visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar – both at night and in daytime |  | Beating Retreat Ceremony at Wagah Border – India-Pakistan frontier | | |





Tour Highlights

-  UNESCO World Heritage Sites—Delhi, Agra (Taj Mahal), Jaipur & Cochin
-  Rickshaw ride through the by-lanes of Old Delhi
-  Visit to Abhaneri Stepwell (Chand Baori) — one of the most beautiful and largest stepwells in the world
-  Rickshaw ride through the Walled City of Jaipur
-  Visit a local home for a cooking demonstration and dinner in Jaipur
-  Cochin sightseeing — Temples, Churches & Chinese Fishing Nets
-  Heritage Walk & Rickshaw ride through Mattancherry and Fort Kochi area
-  Interactive cooking session with a local woman in the Pokkali area
-  Local Ferry Ride from Vypeen to Pokkali
-  Visit to Kalamandalam — Kerala's premier classical arts institution & Muzris heritage site
-  Stroll along the beach in Cochin and see the iconic Chinese Fishing Nets
-  Dolmen's Trek in Munnar — ancient Neolithic burial chambers
-  Spice Plantation visit & boat ride on Periyar Lake in Thekkady
-  Overnight Houseboat cruise through the backwaters of Alleppey





DAY 01

Arrive Delhi

Delhi, India's modern capital, is an ancient city tracing its origins in legend – dotted with hundreds of landmarks and offering more than a millennium of history in stone.

Arrival & Transfer

- Arrive at Delhi at Indira Gandhi International Airport – the busiest airport in India and seventh busiest in the world, handling almost 68 million passengers annually
- Your customs and immigration formalities will take approximately one hour
- You'll be greeted and met by our representative just after baggage collection, holding the company's paging board with your name on it
- You'll be assisted and transferred to your hotel in Delhi by private vehicle
- Check in at the hotel and freshen up after your journey
- Stay overnight at the hotel in Delhi
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Welcome to Delhi

- Delhi is India's vibrant capital – a city of extraordinary contrasts where ancient history and modern life collide
- The city traces its origins back over 5,000 years and has served as the capital of several empires – from the Tomars and Chauhans to the Mughals and the British
- Home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Qutab Minar, Humayun's Tomb, and the Red Fort
- A city where Mughal emperors built their empires, Rajput kings held court, and British colonials left their indelible mark on the urban landscape
- Delhi is the perfect gateway to begin your Golden Triangle with Kerala odyssey – spanning Mughal grandeur, Rajput heritage, and the lush tropical paradise of South India
- Evening at leisure – relax, rest, and prepare for the extraordinary adventures ahead



Delhi Sightseeing

Morning — New Delhi

- Enjoy your breakfast at the hotel
- After breakfast, meet your driver and city guide and begin sightseeing in New Delhi
- Lodhi Gardens 4 One of Delhi's favourite spots for morning walkers, joggers, and yoga enthusiasts, set amid the atmospheric tombs of the Sayyid and Lodi dynasties (15th-16th century); a peaceful green oasis in the heart of the city
- Humayun's Tomb 4 Built in 1570, this was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent and is considered the architectural predecessor of the Taj Mahal; a UNESCO World Heritage Site of immense cultural significance
- Qutab Minar 4 Built at the site of Lal Kot, the first city of Delhi; this 73-metre minaret is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that marks the arrival of Islamic rule in India; surrounded by the ruins of the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque
- Enjoy your lunch at a restaurant of your choice or discuss options with your city guide

Afternoon & Evening — Old Delhi

- Postlunch: explore the legacy of the British Raj 4 drive past the grand British Colonial Buildings including President's House (Rashtrapati Bhavan), Parliament House, India Gate, Raj Path (King's Way), Janpath (Queen's Way), government official bungalows, and Connaught Place
- Reach Old Delhi and explore the old city by walking or rickshaw ride through its labyrinthine lanes
- Jama Masjid 4 the largest mosque in India, built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan; can accommodate 25,000 worshippers at a time
- Gurudwara Sees Ganj Sahib 4 a historic Sikh temple marking the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur
- Chandni Chowk 4 one of the oldest and busiest markets in India; home to silversmiths, repair shops, clothiers, spicy street food vendors, and traditional sweetmeat shops
- Explore not just the bazaar but the entire cultural landscape of Old Delhi 4 full of smells, sights & sounds that will leave you overwhelmed
- Late evening optional: visit Akshardham Temple (one of the world's largest Hindu temples) or stroll through Dilli Haat (Handicraft Bazaar)
- Dinner at a restaurant of your choice or at the hotel; overnight in Delhi



DAY 03

Delhi to Agra – City of the Taj Mahal

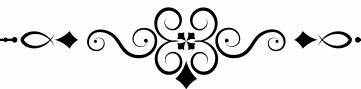
220 km • 3.5 Hours Drive

Morning – Drive to Agra

- Enjoy your breakfast at the hotel
- After breakfast, check out and drive to Agra (3.5 hours) in your private vehicle
- The drive takes you through the fertile plains of Uttar Pradesh – the heartland of the Mughal Empire
- Arrive in Agra – the city of the Taj Mahal – and check in at your hotel
- Enjoy lunch at your hotel or a restaurant of your choice; your driver will assist you

Afternoon & Evening – Agra Sightseeing

- Meet your city guide for the sightseeing tour of Agra
- Agra Fort – A UNESCO World Heritage Site built by three generations of Mughal Emperors: Akbar built the massive red sandstone walls and gates, his grandson Shah Jahan erected the ethereal marble buildings inside, and Aurangzeb built the outer ramparts; the fort served as the seat of Mughal power for generations
- Itimad-ud-Daulah (Baby Taj) – A Mughal mausoleum on the western bank of the Yamuna River; also known as the Jewel Box, it is considered a draft of the Taj Mahal and was the first Mughal structure to be built entirely of marble with pietra dura inlay work
- Mehtab Bagh (Moonlight Garden) – Enjoy a breathtaking sunset view of the Taj Mahal from the opposite bank of the Yamuna River; this Mughal garden offers one of the most iconic and romantic views of the Taj
- Dinner at a restaurant of your choice; overnight stay in Agra
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Agra to Jaipur via Fatehpur Sikri & Abhaneri Stepwell

250 km · 4.5 Hours Drive

Morning — Taj Mahal at Sunrise & Departure

- Early morning: meet your city guide and driver for a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal — widely considered the most beautiful building in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- The Taj Mahal was built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan between 1632 and 1653 as a mausoleum for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal; it took 22 years and 20,000 artisans to complete
- The sunrise light transforms the white marble into shades of pink and gold — an unforgettable and deeply moving experience
- *Note: Taj Mahal remains closed every Friday for visitors*
- Return to the hotel for breakfast
- After breakfast, check out and begin the drive to Jaipur

En Route — Fatehpur Sikri & Abhaneri Stepwell

- Stop en route to visit Fatehpur Sikri — the abandoned Mughal Capital City built by Emperor Akbar in 1571; this UNESCO World Heritage Site was the imperial capital for only 14 years before being mysteriously abandoned, possibly due to water scarcity; explore the Buland Darwaza (Gate of Magnificence), Jama Masjid, Panch Mahal, and Diwan-i-Khas (allow approximately 2 hours)
 - Resume the drive to Jaipur — the Pink City of India
 - Stop for lunch at a popular restaurant along the way
 - Visit the Abhaneri Stepwell (Chand Baori) — one of the most beautiful and largest stepwells in the world, built in the 9th century; descends 13 storeys and 30 metres into the earth with 3,500 narrow steps arranged in perfect geometric symmetry; a masterpiece of ancient Indian engineering
 - Arrive in Jaipur by early evening and check in at the hotel
 - Tonight, visit a local home to learn Indian cooking — participate in a hands-on cooking demonstration and enjoy a traditional home-cooked dinner with the family; a rare and authentic cultural experience
- Overnight stay in Jaipur





Jaipur Sightseeing – The Pink City

Morning – Monuments & Palaces

- Enjoy your breakfast at the hotel
 - After breakfast, meet your driver and city guide for a full day of sightseeing in Jaipur
 - Amer Fort – The traditional fortress of the Kacchawaha Rajput kings at Amber; a beautiful citadel rich in stories of valour perched on a hilltop overlooking Maota Lake; explore the ornate Sheesh Mahal (Mirror Palace), Diwan-i-Khas, Sukh Niwas, and the Ganesh Pol gateway
 - City Palace Museum – A royal residence and former administrative headquarters of the rulers of the Jaipur state; houses a remarkable collection of royal artefacts, textiles, weapons, and manuscripts across its many courtyards and galleries
 - Jantar Mantar (Observatory) – A collection of 19 astronomical instruments built by Rajput king Sawai Jai Singh, the founder of Jaipur state; contains the world's largest stone sundial (Samrat Yantra) and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site
 - Hawa Mahal (Wind Palace) – Built from red and pink sandstone, this iconic five-storey palace with 953 small latticed windows (jharokhas) was designed to allow royal ladies to observe street life and festivals unseen; one of Jaipur's most photographed landmarks
- Enjoy your lunch at a restaurant of your choice or discuss options with your city guide

Afternoon & Evening – Walled City

- Post lunch: continue sightseeing in the walled city of Jaipur
- You will be shown not only the monuments and palaces of this legendary wealthy city, but also the temples, crafts, and guilds patronised by the rulers over centuries
- Rickshaw ride through the walled city of Jaipur – an exhilarating way to experience the narrow lanes, colourful bazaars, and the living heritage of the Pink City
- Explore the spices, sweets, and colourful bazaars – Johari Bazaar (jewellery), Bapu Bazaar (textiles), Nehru Bazaar (mojri shoes), and Tripolia Bazaar (lac bangles and metalwork)
- After completing the sightseeing, return to your hotel by late evening to relax
- Your driver will take you out for dinner at a restaurant of your choice
- Return to your hotel for an overnight stay in Jaipur





DAY 06

Fly Jaipur to Cochin — Gateway to Kerala

Morning — Optional Activities & Departure

- Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel
- Optional morning activities before departure:
 - Hot air balloon ride over Jaipur — soar above Hawa Mahal, Amber Fort, and Samode Palace for a breathtaking 360-degree view of the Pink City at sunrise; one of the most magical experiences in Rajasthan
 - Or bathe the elephants at Dera Amer — an intimate and ethical elephant experience in a natural forest setting
- In time, check out from the hotel and transfer to Jaipur Airport
- Board your flight to Cochin (Fly Vistara UK 562 departing 14:10, arriving 16:10; connect Flight AI 681 departing 17:15, arriving 19:15)
- The flight marks a dramatic transition — from the arid golden landscapes of Rajasthan to the lush tropical greenery of Kerala

Evening—Arrive Cochin, God's Own Country

- Arrive at Cochin (Kochi) International Airport—the gateway to Kerala, India's most celebrated southern state
- Be greeted by our representative with a traditional flower bouquet and company paging board — a warm Kerala welcome
- Transfer by private vehicle to your hotel in Cochin
- Check in and relax; take in the warm, humid air and the scent of the Arabian Sea
- Cochin is one of India's most cosmopolitan cities — shaped by centuries of Arab, Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch, and British influence, all of which have left their mark on its architecture, cuisine, and culture
- Enjoy dinner at the hotel or a restaurant of your choice
- Overnight stay in Cochin — the Queen of the Arabian Sea





Cochin Sightseeing — Fort Kochi & Mattancherry

Morning — Heritage Walk, Fort Kochi

- Enjoy breakfast at the hotel
- Meet your guide for a Heritage Walk through the Fort Kochi area — one of the most atmospheric and historically layered neighbourhoods in India
- St Francis Church — India's oldest European Church, built in 1503 by Portuguese Franciscan Friars; Vasco da Gama, the first European to reach India by sea, was originally buried here before his remains were taken back to Portugal
- The iconic Chinese Fishing Nets (Cheena Vala) — enormous cantilevered fishing nets introduced by traders from the court of Kublai Khan; a symbol of Cochin and one of the most photographed sights in Kerala
- Nehru Children's Park area and the fascinating historic houses that ring the park — Koder House, Tower House, and the Old Harbor Hotel, each with their own remarkable colonial history
- Fort Immanuel — the bastion of the Portuguese, one of the oldest surviving fortifications in India
- The Dutch Cemetery — the oldest European cemetery in India, now managed by the Church of South India; a hauntingly beautiful reminder of Cochin's colonial past
- A walk past the seaside beach, Bishop's House Road with its beautiful old-style homes, The Union Club Building, and the magnificent Santa Cruz Basilica — a cathedral of extraordinary beauty
- Post lunch, return to the hotel for some rest

Evening — Mattancherry Exploration

- Evening: meet your guide for a walk through the Mattancherry area — explore the palace road on foot or by rickshaw ride
- Mattancherry Palace (Dutch Palace) — built by the Portuguese and later renovated by the Dutch; famous for its stunning Kerala murals depicting scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata
- Paradesi Synagogue — the oldest active synagogue in the Commonwealth, built in 1568 in the heart of Jew Town; surrounded by antique shops and spice merchants
- Witness the multi-cultural nature of Mattancherry — different styles of residences and various places of worship of different communities living in harmony
- In the late evening, temples are lit with lamps and the sound of temple bells and chanting creates a magical, deeply spiritual atmosphere
- Explore the spice warehouses and antique shops of Jew Town — the air thick with the scent of cardamom, pepper, and cinnamon
- Return to the hotel after dinner; overnight stay in Cochin



Day Excursion to Kalamandalam & Muzris from Cochin

Kerala Kalamandalam is the premiere public institution in India preserving the artistic heritage of Kerala through rigorous training and performance – imparting systematic training in Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Kutiyattam, Panchavadyam, Thullal, Mridangam, and Karnatic music. It has been functioning as a deemed university since 2007.

Morning – Drive to Cheruthuruthi & Muzris

- Enjoy an early breakfast at the hotel
- After breakfast, depart for a full-day excursion to Cheruthuruthi – a 2.5-hour drive from Cochin through the lush Kerala countryside
- En route, stop to visit the historic site of Muziris (Kodungallur) – one of the greatest ancient ports in the world, mentioned in Greek, Roman, Arab, and Chinese texts; it was the first port of call for spice traders from the Mediterranean and the entry point of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism into India
- Visit the Killimangalam mat weaving centre – interact with the skilled women artisans who weave intricate mats using traditional techniques passed down through generations; a deeply personal and authentic cultural encounter
- Also stop at the Pokkali area for an interactive cooking session with a local woman – learn to prepare traditional Kerala dishes using fresh local ingredients; enjoy a local ferry ride from Vypeen to Pokkali across the backwaters

Kalamandalam – Kerala's Classical Arts University

- Visit Kerala Kalamandalam for the day with the Master's Program – witness live training sessions in Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Kutiyattam, Panchavadyam, Thullal, and Mridangam
- Kathakali – Kerala's most celebrated classical dance-drama, known for its elaborate costumes, vivid face paint, and expressive storytelling drawn from Hindu epics
- Mohiniyattam – the graceful "dance of the enchantress", a classical solo dance form unique to Kerala, characterised by swaying movements and white-and-gold costumes
- Kerala Kalamandalam was founded in 1930 by the revolutionary poet and art aficionado Vallathol Narayana Menon; it has been functioning as a deemed university since 2007
- Explore the campus, interact with students and masters, and gain a profound understanding of Kerala's living artistic heritage
- Return to the hotel in Cochin by late afternoon and relax
- Evening: stroll through the nearby markets at your own pace; explore local handicrafts and Kerala cuisine
- Return to the hotel after dinner; overnight stay in Cochin



Cochin to Munnar – The Tea Garden Hills

3.5 Hours Drive

Munnar is a town located 1,500 metres above sea level in the Western Ghats Mountain range in Kerala. The tea gardens of Munnar provide a cool

respite and contrast to the humid coastal areas. Swathed in greenery, Munnar is also an ecological diversity hotspot. The best way to explore Munnar is on foot, with a guided trek through the hills and plantations – suitable for all age groups and fitness levels.

Morning – Departure from Cochin

- Wake up at leisure and enjoy breakfast at the hotel
- Check out from the hotel and begin the scenic 3.5-hour drive to Munnar – one of the most beautiful drives in South India
- The road winds through rubber plantations, spice gardens, and dense tropical forests before climbing steeply into the Western Ghats
- As you ascend, the temperature drops, the air becomes crisp and fragrant, and the landscape transforms dramatically from coastal lowlands to misty mountain terrain
- Pass through small hill towns and tea estate villages – a world apart from the bustling cities of the north

Afternoon & Evening – Arrive Munnar

- Arrive in Munnar by early evening – a small hill station perched 1,500 metres above sea level in the Western Ghats
- Check in at the hotel and relax amidst the breathtaking surroundings of rolling tea-covered hills
- Munnar is home to some of the world's highest tea plantations – the Kannan Devan Hills Plantations, established by the British in the 19th century, still produce some of India's finest teas
- The town is also a biodiversity hotspot – home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr (mountain goat), Neelakurinji flowers (which bloom only once every 12 years), and a rich variety of birds and butterflies
- Enjoy the cool mountain air and stunning panoramic views of the tea-covered hills at sunset
- Have dinner at the hotel – savour traditional Kerala cuisine in the cool mountain air
- Overnight stay at your hotel in Munnar





Munnar Sightseeing – Dolmen's Trek, Tea Plantations & Mattupetty Dam

Morning – Dolmen's Trek & Tea Plantations

- Early morning: embark on the Dolmen's Trek, a short and moderate trek to Marayoor to see ancient Neolithic burial chambers (dolmens) dating back to 3000-14000 BC
- Around 15 different types of dolmens can be witnessed in one place, a rare concentration found nowhere else in India; some historians believe the larger dolmens were built for people of higher status or as communal burial sites
- The area is also known for its natural sandalwood forests and pre-historic cave paintings, a fascinating window into prehistoric Kerala
- The dolmens of Munnar are different from those found in Europe; the place is also known for Blue Glassy Tiger Butterflies and swifts soaring the skies above the lemongrass-covered hills
- Return to the hotel and enjoy breakfast
- Visit the Tea Plantations, walk through the lush tea gardens and interact with tea pluckers to learn about the local culture and the art of tea harvesting; this walk is excellent for health, breathing pure mountain oxygen amid stunning scenery
- Visit the historic tea factory (built 1936), famous for its Orthodox Tea produced in the traditional way; the museum includes a living factory, tea sales outlet, and tea-tasting sections; visitors are briefed on the origins, history, and health benefits of tea and the traditional manufacturing process

Afternoon & Evening

- Post-lunch, visit Mattupetty Dam, a perennial gravity dam whose reservoir (Mattupetty Lake) never dries up even in summer; the lake is a popular haunt for elephants, sambar deer, bison, and numerous species of birds
- Enjoy a boat ride on Mattupetty Lake, glide across the serene waters surrounded by tea estates and forested hills
- The Indo-Swiss Livestock Project farm nearby is one of the most successful dairy development projects in India, an interesting stop to learn about Kerala's agricultural heritage
- Return to the hotel by evening and relax on the terrace with views of the misty hills
- Optional: indulge in activities organised by the hotel in the evening, nature walks, bonfires, or cultural performances
- Overnight stay at your hotel in Munnar





DAY 11

Munnar to Thekkady – Spice Country

100 km • 3.5 Hours Scenic Hilly Drive

Morning – Departure from Munnar

- Wake up at leisure and enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel with panoramic views of Munnar's rolling tea-covered hills
- Check out from the hotel
- Begin the scenic 3.5-hour drive to Thekkady – widely regarded as one of the most beautiful road trips in Kerala
- The drive winds through the Western Ghats, passing through dense shola forests, cardamom plantations, and spice estates; the air becomes increasingly fragrant as you descend towards Thekkady
- Pass through the Cardamom Hills – one of the world's most important cardamom-growing regions; the roadside is lined with pepper vines, coffee bushes, and clove trees
- Stop at viewpoints along the way to photograph the dramatic mountain scenery

Afternoon & Evening – Thekkady

- Arrive in Thekkady by late afternoon – the gateway to the Periyar Tiger Reserve, one of India's most important wildlife sanctuaries
- Check in at the hotel and relax; enjoy the cool, spice-scented air of the Cardamom Hills
- Thekkady is known as the spice belt of India – the surrounding hills produce cardamom, pepper, coffee, clove, cinnamon, nutmeg, and vanilla
- Evening: participate in cookery classes at the resort – master chefs share the secrets of traditional Kerala cooking; learn to prepare authentic Kerala dishes including fish curry, appam, and avial
- Discover the magical world of Indian spices – what they are, how to use them, combine them, and savour the special magic they bring to even the most commonplace foods
- The cooking class is followed by a delicious dinner of the dishes you have prepared – a truly immersive culinary experience
- Overnight stay at your hotel in Thekkady





DAY 12

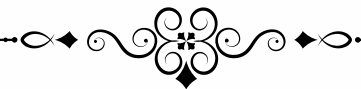
Thekkady Sightseeing – Spice Plantations & Periyar Lake

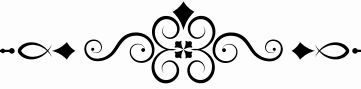
Morning – Spice Plantation & Kumily Market

- Enjoy your breakfast at the hotel
- After breakfast, visit a Spice Plantation – Thekkady is known as the spice belt of India and produces many of the world's finest spices including cardamom, black pepper, coffee, clove, cinnamon, nutmeg, and vanilla
- Walk through the plantation with a knowledgeable guide – see the raw spices growing on their plants, learn about the cultivation, harvesting, and processing methods, and understand why Kerala's spices have been coveted by traders for over 3,000 years
- Sample fresh spices and purchase high-quality spices directly from the source – far superior to anything available in supermarkets
- Visit the Kumily Spice Market – the biggest spice market in the country, exporting spices across the globe; the market is a sensory feast of colours, aromas, and flavours
- Enjoy lunch at the hotel or a restaurant of your choice
-

Afternoon – Periyar Lake Boat Ride

- Post lunch, enjoy a boat ride on Periyar Lake – one of the most scenic and wildlife-rich boat rides in India
- Periyar Lake was created in 1895 by the construction of the Mullaperiyar Dam; the lake sits at the heart of the Periyar Tiger Reserve, one of India's most important Project Tiger reserves
- Watch the cardamom plantation on the hillsides surrounding the lake
- Spot various wildlife during the boating tour – Elephants coming to the water's edge to drink and bathe, Sambar Deer, Wild Boar, Gaur (Indian Bison), Monkeys, Otters, and numerous species of birds including kingfishers, cormorants, and eagles
- The boat ride offers a unique perspective of the forest – silent, serene, and deeply immersive
- Return to the hotel by evening; enjoy dinner and relax
- Overnight stay at the hotel in Thekkady
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DAY 13

Thekkady to Alleppey — Backwaters of Kerala

140 km · 4 Hours Drive

Kerala's network of navigable backwaters stretches to cover a thousand kilometres. These serene waterways are fringed by palm groves and paddy fields and offer a striking spectacle of rustic life. The backwaters act as a vital waterway for the transport of goods and people, and are often the only link between isolated villages and crowded towns.

Morning — Drive to Alleppey

- Enjoy your breakfast at the hotel
- Check out from the hotel in time
- Begin the 4-hour drive to Alleppey (Alappuzha) — the Venice of the East
- The drive descends from the Cardamom Hills through rubber plantations and paddy fields, gradually transitioning from the highlands to the coastal lowlands of Kerala
- Pass through the lush green landscape of central Kerala — a patchwork of coconut groves, rice paddies, and winding waterways
- The Alleppey district is one of the most popular areas to cruise the backwaters — a vast network of lakes, canals, and rivers stretching over 1,500 km along the Kerala coast
- It is also one of the few places in the world where farming is done below sea level, using an ancient system of dykes and bunds to reclaim land from the water

Afternoon — Board the Houseboat

- Arrive in Alleppey and board your overnight houseboat (Kettuvallam) — a traditional rice barge converted into a floating hotel, complete with bedrooms, a kitchen, and a sun deck
- The houseboats are handcrafted using bamboo poles, coconut fibre ropes, and bamboo mats — a centuries-old tradition of Kerala boat-building
- Glide through the serene backwater canals lined with coconut palms, paddy fields, and water hyacinth
- Watch local life unfold along the waterways — fishermen casting their nets, women washing clothes on the banks, children playing, and village markets accessible only by boat
- Spot birds including kingfishers, herons, cormorants, and the rare purple moorhen in the backwater wetlands
- All meals are freshly prepared and served onboard by the houseboat crew — enjoy authentic Kerala cuisine including fish curry, prawn dishes, and coconut-based preparations
- As evening falls, the backwaters take on a golden glow — one of the most beautiful and peaceful sunsets in India
- Overnight stay onboard the houseboat on the backwaters of Alleppey





DAY 14

Alleppey to Cochin Airport – Farewell India

1.5 Hours Drive

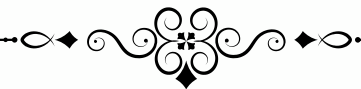
Morning – Final Breakfast & Disembark

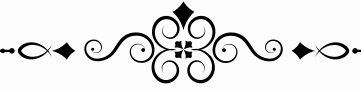
- Wake up to the gentle sounds of the backwaters – birdsong, lapping water, and the distant calls of fishermen
- Enjoy your final breakfast onboard the houseboat as you cruise through the morning backwaters – a magical and deeply peaceful experience
- Watch the morning mist rise from the water as local life begins to stir along the canal banks
- Savour the last views of the serene Kerala waterways – the swaying palms, the emerald paddy fields, and the timeless rhythm of backwater life – a memory to treasure forever
- Disembark the houseboat and transfer to Cochin International Airport (1.5-hour drive)
- Reflect on an extraordinary 14-day journey through the very best of North and South India

Departure & Farewell

- Arrive at Cochin International Airport for your onward flight
- Cochin International Airport (CIAL) – the world's first fully solar-powered international airport; a fitting farewell from Kerala, India's most progressive and environmentally conscious state
- Cochin has excellent flight connections to all major Indian cities as well as direct international connections to the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Europe, and beyond
- End of Epic Indian Travel services – we hope this journey through the cultural highlights of North and South India has been truly unforgettable
- From the Mughal grandeur of Delhi and Agra to the Rajput splendour of Jaipur, the colonial heritage of Cochin, the misty tea gardens of Munnar, the spice trails of Thekkady, and the serene backwaters of Alleppey – this has been a journey through the soul of India


Tour Route Completed: Delhi [2N] – Agra [1N] – Jaipur [2N] – Cochin [3N] – Munnar [2N] – Thekkady [2N] – Alleppey [1N] – Cochin Airport






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- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>01
Send Us an Email
Write to epicindiantravel@gmail.com with your details: number of participants and preferred travel dates.</p> | <p>02
Receive Your Itinerary
We'll put together a personalised itinerary tailored to your interests and travel style.</p> | <p>03
Customise to Your Needs
Review and let us know any changes – we'll refine it until it's perfect.</p> |
| <p>03
We Share the Costs
Once finalised, we'll send you a detailed cost breakdown.</p> | <p>05
Confirm and We Book
On your approval, we arrange all hotel bookings and ground arrangements.</p> | <p>04
Advance Deposit
After hotel confirmation, 50% advance deposit of land costs required, plus 100% of flight costs.</p> |
| <p>07
Balance Payment
Remaining 50% of land costs payable 65 days prior to your holiday.</p> | | |

