

Kerala With Family



Days:	13
Price from:	1285 USD International flight not included
Comfort:	★★★★★
Difficult:	★★★☆☆
📍 Culture	

This relaxing thirteen days trip explores the laid-back southern state of Kerala, the southern state of India, is a perfect destination for nature, culture and relaxation. With its laid-back beach scene, swaying elephant rides and gentle houseboat cruises along tropical backwaters, it is an unforgettable experience.

Our tour begins with the sightseeing of Cochin also known as Queen of Arabian Sea. After exploring the jewels of city, we head inland to visit the hill station of Munnar - a cool and serene town full of tea and rubber plantations and surrounded by grasslands and verdant forests. Continuing towards Kodaikanal- situated in upper palani hills of the Western Ghats near Madurai in Tamil Nadu. One can opt for different activities such as trekking, yoga and meditation & Horse riding etc. After two night sojourn, we proceed to Periyar. Floral species and vegetation variety is also found in abundance here. Jungle walk in the forest will allow you to spot the wild animals. After overnight in Houseboat, we head towards the relaxing beaches of Mararikulam. Finally, we would drive back to Cochin where our trip concludes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fort Kochi and its colonial architecture
- Munnar, a picturesque hill station
- Spice markets to Thekkady redolent with black pepper, cardamom, cinnamon and cloves
- Elephants at the Periyar wildlife sanctuary
- A languid houseboat cruise through serene backwaters at Alleppey
- Enjoy the golden sand and the warm sun on Marari beach.

Day 1. Traditional welcome on arrival



Cochin (Kochi) 📍

- Arrival at the **Kochi** International airport. After a traditional welcome 'Swagat', we transfer to the hotel for check-in. This town has had historical sea trade connection with the Middle East, Mediterranean and Northern Europe. Architecture and structure of buildings reflects cosmopolitan past which is melange of old Portuguese, Dutch and British influences.

🏠 Accommodation

Fort Queen

Day 2. Full day sightseeing



- Today we visit **Fort Kochi**, founded by the Portuguese in 1503 and it is considered to be one of the earliest site chosen by European colonial power. An odour of spice emerges from warehouses and food stalls offering different delicacy is common sight in each nook and corner of the town. In the afternoon we enjoy a sightseeing tour of Mattancherry Palace, built by the Portuguese as a gift for the Raja of Kochi, the Jewish synagogue dating from 1568 and **St Francis church**. We also explore the town of Kochi, its bazaars and old harbour area. In the evening there is the chance for an **Optional visit** to see a display of Kathakali, a form of classical dance unique to Kerala.

Cochin (Kochi) 📍

☕ Breakfast

Fort Queen

🏠 Accommodation

Fort Queen

Day 3. Cochin - Munnar



Cochin (Kochi) 📍

🚗 130km - ⌚ 3h 40m

Munnar 📍

Cochin (Kochi) - Munnar

- In the morning we drive away from the coastal plains to Munnar, located in the **Western Ghats**, approximately 1,600 meters above sea level. Once the summer-resort of the British administration in South India, Munnar is a beautiful hill station which retains its colonial charm and is famous for its tea plantations. The town is situated at the confluence of three mountain streams **Mudrapauzha, Naliathani and Kundala**. With its rolling hills, sparkling waterfalls, tea plantations and picture-postcard hamlets, the area is perfect for some leisurely hiking. Upon arrival we check into our hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure enjoying the ambiance of the town or the beauty of its bazaars.

☕ Breakfast

Fort Queen

🏠 Accommodation

Clouds Valley

Day 4. Full day exploration - Munnar



Munnar 📍

☕ Breakfast

Clouds Valley

🏠 Accommodation

Clouds Valley

- After an early breakfast, we drive through the old town of **Munnar** and arrive in a tiny village of Nagarmudi, from where, accompanied by a local guide, we start our trek. The trail commences with a gradual ascent through the tea plantations and then climbs into **Seven Malai hills**. Before we reach the top, we enjoy walking through cardamom & coffee plantations. At the top we are rewarded with spectacular views of **Anamudi Peak, Changulam Lake, Chittapuram Dam**, Munnar town and some local villages. Later we descend down through the same route and are transferred to our hotel.

Day 5. Munnar - Kodaikanal



Munnar 📍

🚗 165km - ⌚ 5h

Kodaikanal 📍

Munnar - Kodaikanal

- After delicious breakfast, we head towards Kodaikanal where we have a night stay in an Eco lodge in "Elephant Valley", consisting of an eco-lodge surrounded by jungle, coffee plantations, waterfalls, traditional villages and wildlife, including elephants. On arrival, check-in at the lodge and rest of the day is free to relax.

☕ Breakfast

Clouds Valley

🏠 Accommodation

Elephant Valley

Day 6. A relaxing and multi-activity day at Elephant Valley



Kodaikanal

- A day of relaxation and discovery of Nature and surrounding Wildlife. The Eco-lodge offers many activities (These activities could be arranged on site with the hotel). For example - stroll in coffee plantations, hiking to waterfalls, horseback riding, yoga & meditation and cycling to few kilometers in order to explore the surrounding at your pace.

☕ Breakfast	Elephant Valley
🏠 Accommodation	Elephant Valley

Day 7. Kodaikanal - Periyar (Thekkady)



Kodaikanal

🚗 160km - ⌚ 4h 30m
Periyar (Thekkady)

Kodaikanal - Periyar (Thekkady)

- In the morning, we drive through beautiful lush countryside across the top of the hills to **Thekkady** close to **Periyar National Park**, one of India's most fascinating wildlife sanctuaries. After arriving in the small village of Thekkady, we check-in at the hotel. This is a major Spice growing area and after lunch, we take a short walk through a Spice garden where we can see a large variety of live Spice plants. There is plenty of time in the afternoon to explore the bazaar where we see numerous shops selling **Cardamoms, Vanilla, Peppercorns, Chilies, Turmeric and other spices**.

☕ Breakfast	Elephant Valley
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel Karar Garden

Day 8. Periyar National Park



Periyar (Thekkady)

- In the early morning, we take a **Jungle walk** in the park along with our forest guides to admire abundance of birdlife that includes kingfishers, storks and hornbills which are the most commonly spotted birds. Periyar National Park is one of the largest reserves in South India and is set around a large man-made lake. We return to the hotel for breakfast. In the afternoon, there is a possibility to do an **Optional Boat Ride** on Periyar Lake. This is an ideal opportunity to get close to the animals and a good opportunity to spot elephants, otters, wild pigs and buffaloes. On offer here is **Ayurvedic massage (Optional)**, which can be arranged in the nearby **Ayurvedic massage center**.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel Karar Garden
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel Karar Garden

Day 9. Night stay in Houseboat



Periyar (Thekkady)

🚗 150km - ⌚ 5h
Alappuzha (Alleppey)

Periyar (Thekkady) - Alappuzha (Alleppey)

- After breakfast we drive to Alleppey. Also known as Alappuzha, the town is a principal center for backwater cruises in **Kerala**. We board our houseboats and begin our cruise along the backwaters of Kerala; one of the highlights of the trip. These enchanting boats have been decorated and made into comfortable cruise vessels. We meander along the waterways flanked by lush tropical vegetation, catching glimpses of dazzling tropical birds and watching idyllic villages. Our overnight stay is on the boats in the middle of the famous **Vembanad Lake**.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel Karar Garden
🍴 Lunch	ATDC Houseboat
🍷 Dinner	ATDC Houseboat

Day 10. Alleppey – Backwaters (Gaaby World)



Alappuzha (Alleppey) 📍

- After a relaxing breakfast on the Houseboats, we disembark and drive along the scenic Malabar coast to Gaaby World, a community homestay based at West Chennamkary right in the heart of the picturesque Kuttanad district in the middle of backwaters. In the evening, we leave for a **village walk**. *Various Optional activities such as canoeing, a bicycle tour through the villages and cookery classes can be arranged here.*

☕ Breakfast

ATDC Houseboat

🍴 Lunch

Gabby World Homestay

🍷 Dinner

Gabby World Homestay

🏠 Accommodation

Gabby World Homestay

Day 11. Way to beach of Marari



Alappuzha (Alleppey) 📍

🚗 15km - ⌚ 40m

Mararikulam 📍

Alappuzha (Alleppey) - Mararikulam

- In the morning, we leave Backwaters behind and drive to **Mararikulam**. This beach in Kerala is eternal with Coconut palm trees and Golden sands. The beach is quite beautiful and the name 'Marari' arises from 'Mararikulam', which is a local village on the Arabian Sea Coast. On arrival, check-in at the hotel. Rest of the day is free to relax.

☕ Breakfast

Gabby World Homestay

🏠 Accommodation

Hotel Flamingo Marari

Day 12. Relaxing day near the beach



Mararikulam 📍

- Today, you will have a day at leisure. Overnight stay at the hotel.

☕ Breakfast

Hotel Flamingo Marari

🏠 Accommodation

Hotel Flamingo Marari

Day 13. Drop to Cochin airport



Mararikulam 📍

🚗 45km - ⌚ 1h 15m

Cochin (Kochi) 📍

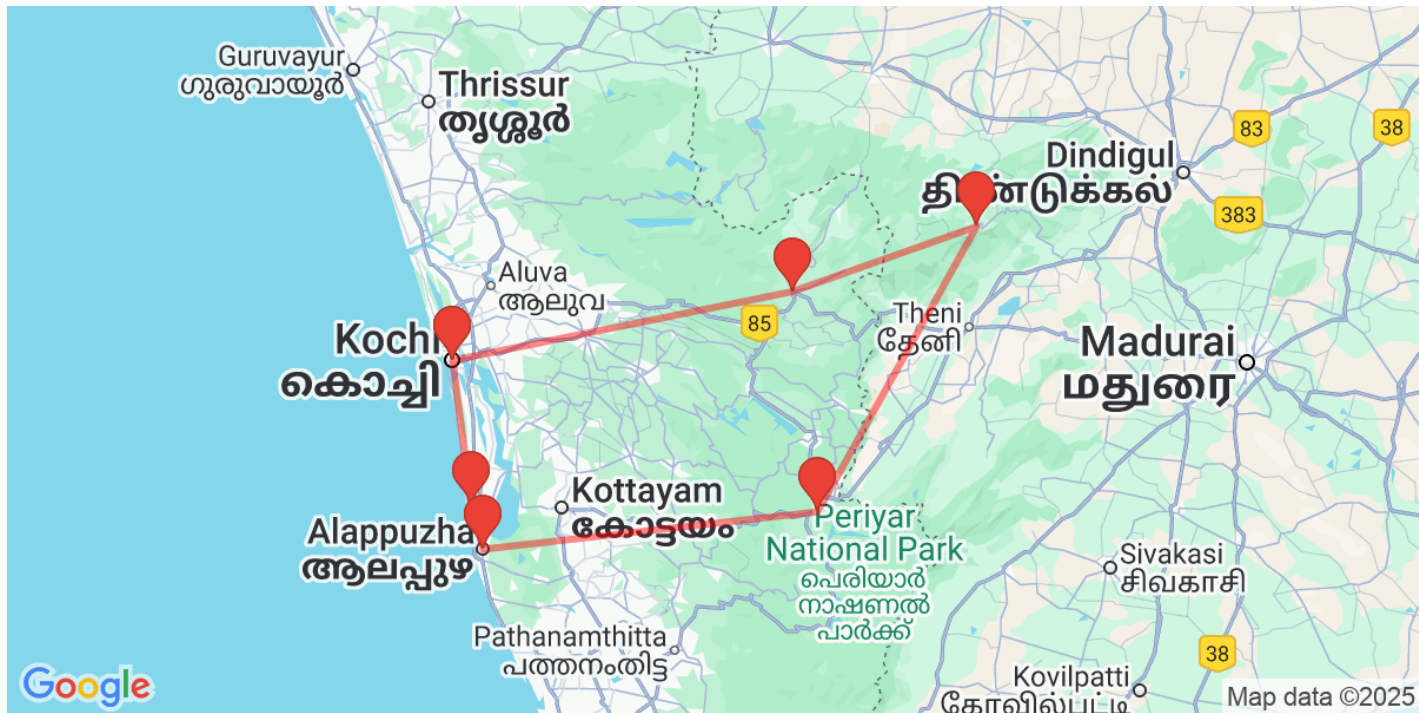
Mararikulam - Cochin (Kochi)

- Today, we would be transferred to the **Cochin airport** to board the return flight.

☕ Breakfast

Hotel Flamingo Marari

Itinerary map



Individual price per person

2-3	4-5	6-8	9-12
1575 USD	1455 USD	1365 USD	1285 USD

Included

- Accommodation for 10 nights in a double room in the hotels mentioned or equivalent on breakfast basis
- 01 night on Full board in Houseboat in Alleppey
- 01 night on Full board in Homestay in Alleppey
- Guided Trek in Munnar
- Forest walk with a Naturalist in Periyar National Park
- All ground transportation included in the program using private air-conditioned vehicle with English speaking driver
- Park and monuments entrance fees as described in the programme
- English speaking Local city guide as mentioned in the programme (till 05 Pax)
- English speaking tour leader throughout the trip (From 06 Pax onwards)
- Govt. Taxes

Not included

- International flight tickets
- Travel insurance
- These rates will not be valid for peak season from 20 December 2019 to 10 January 2020 , Christmas and New Year's extra supplement cost will be charged during this period
- Miscellaneous Expenses - drinks, souvenir, personal expenses etc.
- Lunch and Dinner throughout the trip except Full board in Alleppey
- Tips for driver and other local staff
- Charges for Camera in the monuments and Parks
- The cancellation and baggage insurance, assistance and repatriation
- Any optional activity
- Indian Visa
- All services not mentioned in "Inclusion"