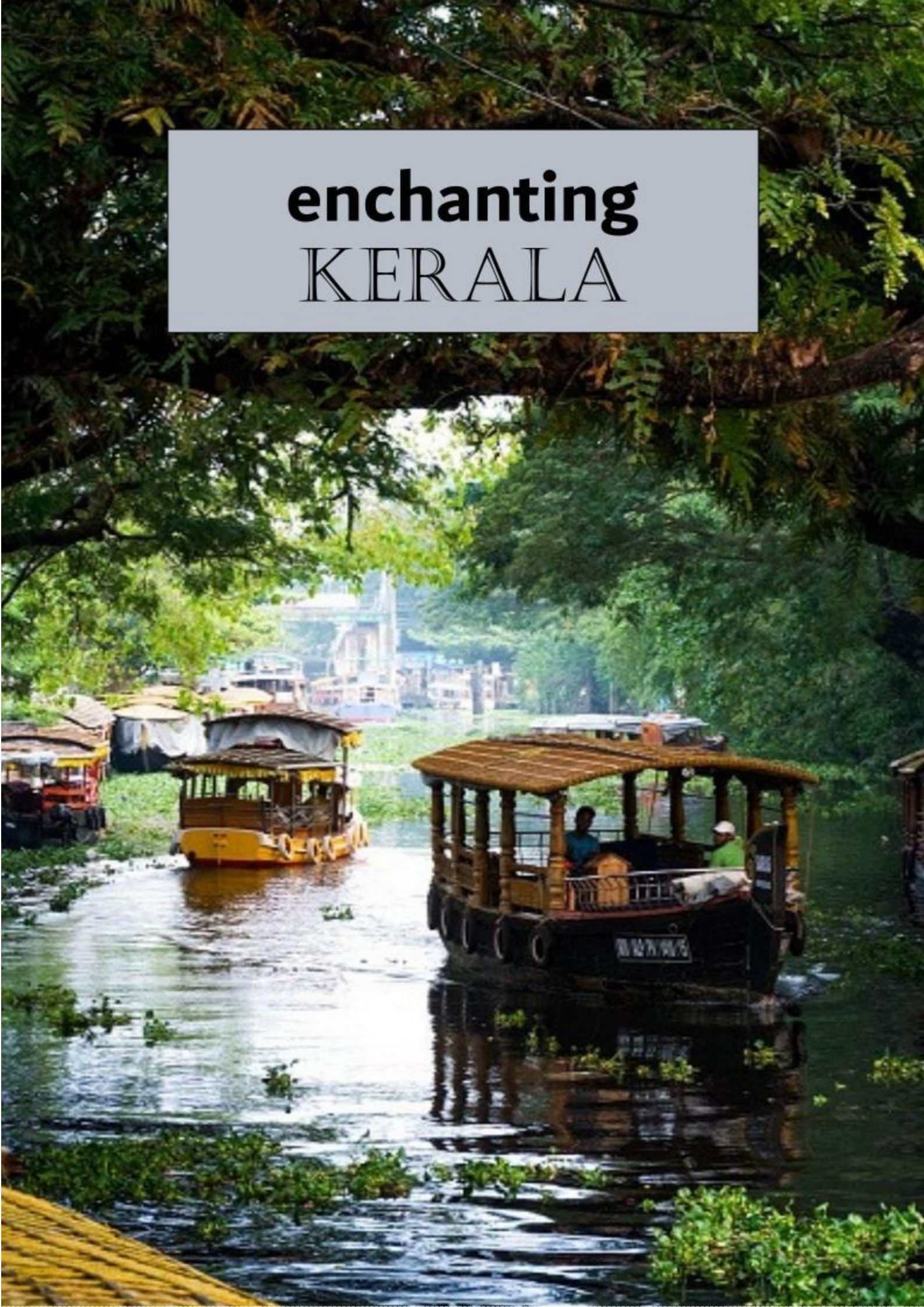


# enchanting KERALA



Embark on a captivating journey through India’s tropical south, where every turn reveals striking contrasts in landscape, architecture, culture, and—most beautifully—its people.

Flanked by the Arabian Sea to the west and the majestic Western Ghats to the east, and interlaced by 44 serene rivers, Kerala is blessed with a natural charm that has made it one of Asia’s most sought-after destinations. Pristine beaches, tranquil stretches of jade-green backwaters, mist-clad hill stations, and vibrant wildlife sanctuaries are just a glimpse of the wonders that await. Remarkably, many of these diverse attractions lie only a short drive from one another—an experience few places in the world can offer.

Kerala’s landscape is traditionally divided into three distinct regions:

The Highlands, cascading down from the Western Ghats, home to dense forests, tea and coffee plantations, and cool, fragrant mountain air.

The Midlands, a patchwork of rolling hills and fertile valleys and the Lowlands, a spectacular 580-km stretch of coastline dotted with backwaters, canals, and rivers.

Blanketed in lush greenery throughout the year, the state offers a soothing and immersive experience—an escape into nature, culture, and timeless traditions.

We take you on a memorable journey through history, culture, and timeless local traditions, offering a truly immersive cultural experience.

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# Highlights

## **Kochi:**

*Colonial heritage walk-through Fort Kochi, Chinese fishing nets, St. Francis Church, Paradesi Synagogue, and a sunset harbour cruise.*

## **Muziris Heritage Trail:**

*Paliyam Palace, Chennamangalam Synagogue, handloom centre, Kudumbashree women's community experience, and a traditional Sadhya lunch.*

## **Munnar:**

*Scenic highland drive, tea plantations, soft Trekking, Mattupetty Dam, Echo Point and Kalaripayattu martial art show*

## **Thekkady / Periyar:**

*Wildlife boat safari on Periyar Lake, spice plantations, and kathakali show.*

## **Kumarakom & Backwaters:**

*Serene lakeside stay and a leisurely Alleppey houseboat cruise with Kerala lunch.*

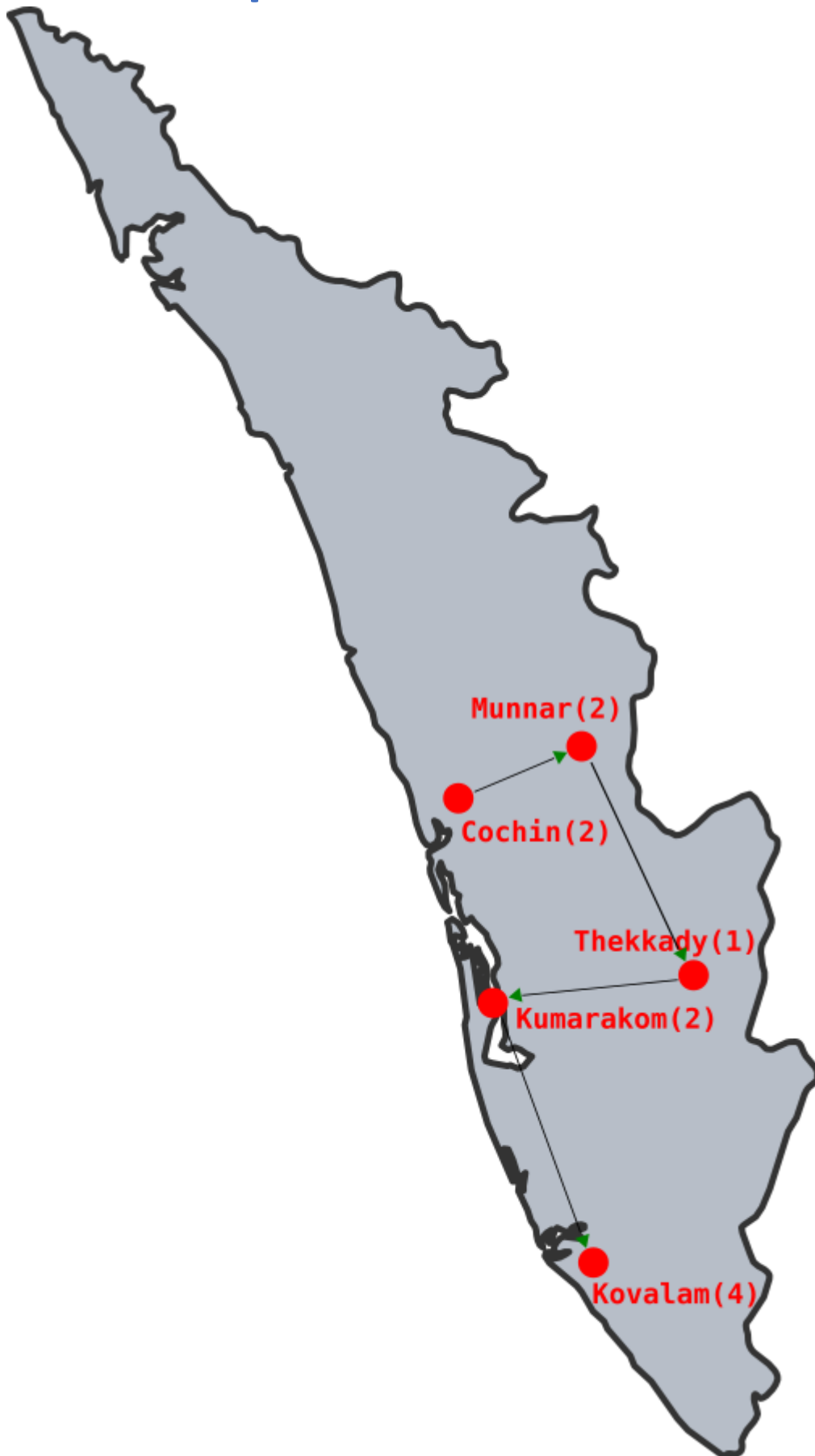
## **Kovalam:**

*Golden beaches, Ayurvedic wellness options, Lighthouse Beach, and visit to the iconic Jatayu Earth Center.*

## **Kanyakumari:**

*Padmanabhapuram Palace, Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Thiruvalluvar Statue, Kumari Amman Temple & sunset at Land's End.*

# Route Map



# ITINERARY

DAY 01 04 MARCH 2026 WEDNESDAY

## UK to Kochi

Depart on your overnight flight to Kochi.

DAY 02 05 MARCH 2026 THURSDAY

## Kochi

On arrival at Kochi International airport, you will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel.

Afternoon city tour of Fort Kochi, where colonial-era architecture and winding streets reflect the city's Portuguese, Dutch, and British influences. Witness the famous Chinese Fishing Nets, an enduring symbol of Kochi's maritime heritage, still operated using age-old techniques along the waterfront. Visit St. Francis Church, one of the oldest European churches in India, renowned as the original resting place of Vasco da Gama. Continue to Jew Town, a bustling quarter filled with antique shops, spice markets, and the historic Paradesi Synagogue (closed on Fridays and Saturdays) offering a glimpse into Kochi's multicultural past

Evening: Enjoy a leisurely cruise through the waters of Cochin Harbour and take in a stunning sunset over the city known as the Queen of the Arabian Sea. This 1.5-hour motorboat experience will take you past several scenic islands, through the bustling main harbour, and conclude near the iconic Chinese fishing nets.

Transfer Times: Drive for an hour from airport to Cochin.

DAY 03 06 MARCH 2026 FRIDAY

## Kochi

KOCHI – PORT MUZIRIS tour  
Step Into a Glorious Past

Discover the multicultural heritage of the Malabar Coast on a guided Muziris Tour, an immersive introduction to the many faiths, traditions, and global influences that once shaped this ancient port city. Enriched by centuries of international trade, Muziris evolved into a vibrant melting pot where diverse cultures converged.

Begin your journey with the visit the historic synagogue of the Malabar Jewish community, one of the region's most significant cultural landmarks. Continue to Chennamangalam, where you will visit the Handloom Weaving Centre, an important source of income for local women artisans. Here, you can observe the intricate weaving process and browse beautifully crafted hand-woven textiles in the showroom. see Paliyam Kovilakam, a beautifully preserved palace that blends elegant Dutch and traditional Kerala architectural styles and also see the life style Museum nearby.

Your tour then leads to a Kudumbasree community experience in Chendamangalam village. Kudumbasree, a women's self-help collective established in 1998, empowers local women through sustainable livelihoods such as organic farming, weaving, and traditional handicrafts. Enjoy a folkloric performance by the women before savouring a festive Sadhya, a colourful vegetarian banquet served on banana leaves.

The tour culminates with a visit to Punnathur Kotta, an elephant sanctuary less than 2 hrs drive away, where you will observe these magnificent creatures in their habitat made for them. Watch as they bathe and feed and interact with the Mahouts gaining insight into Kerala's deep cultural connection with the elephants. Drive Back to Cochin

DAY 04

07 MARCH 2026

SATURDAY

## Kochi to Munnar

After breakfast, depart Cochin by private vehicle for a scenic 4/5-hour drive into the highlands of Munnar. The journey itself is a highlight, as the road winds past lush forests, spice plantations, and rolling hills carpeted with tea gardens. En-route, pause at one of the waterfalls, where cascading streams tumble dramatically down the mountainside—perfect for photographs and a refreshing break.

Continue your ascent into the misty Western Ghats, where the air grows cooler and the views more spectacular with every turn. Arrive in Munnar, a former British hill station and one of South India's most picturesque regions, known for its emerald tea estates, mountain vistas, and tranquil pace of life. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure, enjoying the serene surroundings.

In the evening proceed to see Kalarippayattu one of the ferocious martial artforms of Kerala.

Transfer Times: Four to five hours from Cochin to Munnar with stops en-route.

DAY 05

08 MARCH 2026

SUNDAY

## Munnar

After Breakfast set out on a **Half-day trekking** passing through the rolling hills and sculpted Tea gardens of Munnar . Gradual trek and hike through the tea plantations. View from top of the hill is spectacular. Savor the Picnic hamper. Arrive back and visit the Tea factory, and witness the fascinating process of how fresh leaves are transformed into the perfect brew. On the way back enjoy tea **tasting session** at a downtown café.

Later the day visit Mattupetty Dam, a picturesque reservoir set amidst tea-covered hills and forests. A short drive takes you to Echo Point, famous for its natural acoustic effects—call out across the lake and hear your voice bounce back from the hills. OR

visit Srishti -an initiative by Tata, focusing on building the talents and skills for the differently abled children. The specialty of Srishti Trust lies in its unique blend of social work and sustainable enterprise. By creating vocational training and employment opportunities, the trust helps integrate differently-abled individuals into society, while promoting eco-friendly and sustainable products made by them. Its products, like naturally dyed textiles and handmade paper, are well-regarded for their quality and eco-friendliness and are exported to UK and Japan.

DAY 06

09 MARCH 2026

MONDAY

## Munnar to Thekkady

After breakfast, leave the misty tea-clad hills of Munnar and set off through winding roads, spice-scented villages, and dense forests toward Thekkady, the gateway to Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. The journey itself is scenic, offering glimpses of rural life, cardamom plantations, and verdant valleys along the way. Enroute stop at a spice plantation where you will walk through aromatic fields of cardamom, pepper, cinnamon, and cloves while learning how these prized spices are cultivated

On arrival, check in to your hotel and later proceed to Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, one of India's most celebrated tiger reserves. Here, enjoy a boat safari on Periyar Lake, gliding across tranquil waters framed by thick forest. With luck, you may spot herds of wild elephants cooling themselves on the banks, along with sambar deer, bison, otters, and a wide variety of birdlife. The serene setting and abundant wildlife make this an unforgettable experience.

In the evening witness KATHAKALI - A unique dance form of kerala, at a local theatre near your hotel

Transfer Times: Drive four hours from Munnar to Thekkady plus an hour at the spice plantations

**DAY 07****10 MARCH 2026****TUESDAY**

## Thekkady to Kumarakom

After breakfast, travel to Thekkady on a scenic drive through lush countryside, rubber plantations, and sleepy villages on your way to the tranquil backwaters of Kumarakom. Arrive by midday and check-in at the resort.

Time free to enjoy the resort, local walks and visits or an ayurvedic massage (Payable locally). Later enjoy a sunset cruise on the backwaters by Shikara Boats

Transfer Times: Drive four hours from Thekkady to Kumarakom with stops enroute

**DAY 08****11 MARCH 2026****WEDNESDAY**

## Kumarakom

After breakfast, by mid-day drive down to Alleppey to step aboard your houseboat, a modern adaptation of Kerala's famed Kettuvallam (rice barge), designed with all the comforts of a floating cottage. As you set sail, relax on the deck and watch life unfold along the palm-fringed canals—fishermen casting nets, women washing clothes by the water's edge, and children waving from the banks. The serene rhythm of village life, combined with the gentle sway of the boat, creates a uniquely peaceful atmosphere.

Onboard, enjoy a freshly prepared Kerala-style lunch, cooked by your private chef using local ingredients and traditional recipes. As the cruise continues, you will drift past emerald paddy fields, coconut groves, and clusters of homes, offering an authentic glimpse into rural Kerala. The afternoon is for quiet relaxation—sip tea on deck, capture stunning photos of the waterways, or simply unwind as the sun dips toward the horizon. Drive back to Kumarakom for overnight stay

Transfer Times: Drive an hour (one way) to Alleppy and back

**DAY 09****12 MARCH 2026****THURSDAY**

## Kumarakom to Kovalam

After breakfast, drive down south to the golden shores of Kovalam, Kerala's most famous beach destination. The journey takes you through a changing landscape of villages, rice paddies, and coastal scenery before reaching the Arabian Sea.

Enroute, visit the Jatayu Earth Center - an iconic destination in Kerala where mythology, nature, and adventure come together. Set atop the scenic hills of Chadayamangalam, it features the world's largest bird sculpture, a magnificent tribute to Jatayu from the Ramayana. A scenic cable-car ride takes the visitor to the hill top. Visitors can enjoy panoramic views and explore the digital museum inside the sculpture. There are other thrilling activities such as rock climbing and ziplining available. A perfect blend of legend and landscape, Jatayu Earth Center offers an unforgettable and immersive experience for travellers of all ages.

Proceed to in Kovalam, check in at your beach resort, perfectly located to enjoy sweeping ocean views and easy access to the coastline.

Transfer Times: Drive six hours from Kumarakom to Kovalam plus the Jatayu earth center visit.

**DAY 10****13 MARCH 2026****FRIDAY**

## Kovalam – Kanyakumari excursion

After an early breakfast, set off on a full-day excursion to Kanyakumari, the southernmost point of the Indian mainland, where the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, and Indian Ocean meet. The drive winds through traditional villages, coconut plantations, and scenic stretches of coastline.

En route, stop at the Padmanabhapuram Palace, once the seat of the Travancore rulers. This magnificent wooden palace complex, set against the backdrop of the Western Ghats, is renowned for its exquisite rosewood carvings, intricate murals, and traditional Kerala architecture. Walking through its halls gives a fascinating glimpse into royal life and heritage.

On arrival in Kanyakumari, begin your sightseeing with a ferry ride across to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, a serene monument built in honor of Swami Vivekananda, who meditated here before beginning his spiritual mission. Just beside it stands the colossal Thiruvalluvar Statue, a 133-foot stone monument dedicated to the legendary Tamil poet-philosopher, symbolising wisdom and virtue.

Next, visit the Kumari Amman Temple, an ancient and sacred shrine dedicated to the Virgin Goddess Kanyakumari, deeply rooted in local legend and spiritual significance.

As evening approaches, gather at the seashore to witness the famous sunset at Kanyakumari, where the three seas converge in a breathtaking play of colours. This unforgettable spectacle marks the perfect finale to your day. After sunset, drive back to Kovalam, returning in the evening to relax at your beach resort.

Transfer Times: Drive two hours (one way) from Kovalam to Kanyakumari plus the stops enroute.

**DAY 11-12****14-15 MARCH 2026****SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

## Kovalam

Days free for sun, sand and surf

If you would like to explore, visit Lighthouse Beach, dominated by its striking red-and-white striped lighthouse offering panoramic views of the coastline. Nearby, Hawa Beach provides a lively contrast, with local vendors, fishermen, and a relaxed vibe perfect for a sunset walk. Kovalam is also known for Ayurvedic wellness, so you may wish to indulge in an optional massage or spa treatment to rejuvenate after your travels.

**DAY 13****16 MARCH 2026****MONDAY**

## Trivandrum - departure

Check-out from the hotel by noon and proceed for a city tour of Trivandrum (Thiruvanthapuram)

Begin with a visit to the magnificent Padmanabhaswamy Temple, the richest in the world and one of the most revered temples in India, dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Its towering gopuram (gateway) and intricate Dravidian-style architecture are awe-inspiring. (Note: Entry is restricted to Hindus, but all visitors can admire the temple's impressive exterior.)

Continue to the Napier Museum, a 19th-century Indo-Saracenic masterpiece housing a rare collection of bronze idols, ancient ornaments, ivory carvings, and traditional Kerala artwork. Nearby, the Sri Chitra Art Gallery (optional) features an excellent collection of Raja Ravi Varma's paintings alongside works from Mughal, Tanjore, and Asian schools of art.

Later, take a leisurely stroll along Shangumugham Beach, a wide stretch of sand popular with locals, especially at sunset. The relaxed atmosphere, gentle sea breeze, and nearby sculptures make it a refreshing stop.

Travel onwards to the Airport. Arrive in time to complete airport formalities for your flight departing.

Transfer Times: Drive thirty minutes to airport.

# Accommodation details

Your hotels have been thoughtfully chosen for their convenience, comfort, location, and local character. Most properties are of a three- to four-star standard by local ratings; however, as India does not have an international hotel classification system, facilities and standards may differ from those in the UK. All accommodations include private bathrooms and air-conditioning where necessary.

For parties of three, triple rooms are available, but these are generally twin rooms with an additional fold-away bed for the third guest.

## **Kerala Houseboat Stay**

A day trip on a traditional Kerala houseboat is included in your itinerary. As these vessels are handcrafted, there is no standard design and layouts may vary. The group may be accommodated across several boats, each generally offering 1–6 bedrooms. Some have a single deck with bedrooms and a dining area, while others may also feature an upper deck.

Cabins are simple but include en-suite bathrooms and air-conditioning. Facilities are more limited than in a hotel. Meals are prepared on board by the local crew in traditional Keralan style. Staff may have limited English, but assistance will be available.

## **Hotels**

The hotels listed in this itinerary are indicative only and may vary depending on your departure date. Final hotel details will be confirmed 21 days before travel.

## Kochi/Cochin

## The Fragrant Nature



Fragrant Nature Cochin invites you to experience the charm and cultural richness of this historic port city. Ideally located near Fort Kochi, Jew Town, and Kerala's tranquil backwaters, the hotel offers easy access to its most celebrated attractions. Enjoy contemporary comforts across three categories of stylish accommodation, along with two versatile event venues and four delightful dining options, including a scenic rooftop restaurant. Additional facilities include a swimming pool, gym, and spa, ensuring a relaxing and memorable stay. A curated selection of activities and local experiences allows you to explore Cochin's heritage at your own pace.

## Munnar

## The Fragrant Nature



Discover the charm of Fragrant Nature Munnar, a 5-star retreat nestled in Kerala's misty hill country. Surrounded by lush greenery and sweeping mountain vistas, the resort offers elegant accommodations ranging from cosy fireplace rooms to private-terrace suites ideal for romantic escapes. Enjoy refined dining at Black Truffle and The Glass House, relax with Ayurvedic therapies at Prana Wellness Spa, or immerse yourself in local culture at the Tryst Woods Amphitheatre. With tea-garden walks, treks, birdwatching, and wildlife experiences close by, Fragrant Nature Munnar blends nature, serenity, and luxury for an unforgettable hill-station getaway.

## Thekkady

## Greenwoods



Greenwoods is a luxury nature resort in Thekkady, set amid lush forests and rolling hill slopes. Wake to birdsong, wander through spice plantations, and embrace the tranquillity of untouched nature.

With elegant stays, a serene pool, and ample opportunities for adventure, Greenwoods offers the perfect blend of comfort, wilderness, and rejuvenation in Kerala's famed wildlife haven.

## Kumarakom



## Lakesong



Lakesong is a serene retreat set along the tranquil backwaters of Kumarakom—a true haven for nature lovers. Spread across lush, water-filled landscapes, the resort showcases traditional Kerala and Malabar-style architecture, featuring gabled cottages, eco-friendly villas, and finely appointed rooms with modern comforts.

With 48 elegant rooms and 20 charming villas overlooking the lagoon, Lakesong invites you to unwind amid timeless beauty and soothing waters.

## Kovalam



## Udayasamudra



Uday Samudra Leisure Hotel & Spa offers the perfect escape on Kovalam's sun-kissed coastline, with easy access to its famed beaches, shops, and restaurants. Enjoy well-appointed rooms with pool or garden views, along with superb facilities including three swimming pools, a spa, health club, beauty parlour, and four dining options. A complete beachfront getaway with everything you need for a relaxing, memorable stay.

# What you need for your tour

## Payment

A non-refundable deposit per person, applicable to both adults and children, is payable at the time of booking if the booking is made more than 12 weeks prior to the departure date. The balance of the holiday cost must be received no later than 12 weeks before departure. For bookings made within 12 weeks of the departure date, the full holiday cost is payable at the time of booking.

Failure to make payment by the specified due date may result in the cancellation of your booking, and any deposits paid will be retained.

## Passport And Visa Information

A visa is required for entry into India. Holders of a full British Citizen passport must obtain a tourist visa. An e-Visa can be applied for online no more than 30 days prior to travel and must remain valid for the entire duration of your stay. Alternatively, applications can be made in person at the Indian Visa Application Centre, 142–148 Goswell Road, London, EC1B 7DU.

Your passport must be valid for at least six months from the date of entry into India. Visa requirements are subject to change, and it is the sole responsibility of the traveller to obtain the correct visa. Exploratours' cannot accept responsibility for visa arrangements. We recommend checking with the relevant Embassy or Tourist Board prior to departure for the most up-to-date requirements regarding visas and passport validity

## Flight

Travel Documentation and Airport Information:

Final travel documents will be issued approximately 21 days prior to departure. Checked baggage is included with your flight; weight allowances will be confirmed in your final documentation.

Additional baggage may be purchased at check-in and will incur extra charges. Passengers are advised to check in at least three hours prior to departure.

Important: Entry into Indian airports requires a printed e-ticket or boarding pass along with your passport. Digital copies on mobile devices are not accepted. Please ensure you print your tickets before travelling. It is also advisable to carry a copy of your invoice containing your flight details for reference.

## Insurance

It is strongly recommended that you and all members of your party obtain suitable travel insurance as soon as your holiday is booked. Possession of adequate travel insurance is a condition of booking. Your insurance should cover all activities you may undertake during your holiday.

You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number, and their 24-hour emergency contact as soon as possible.

Exploratours cannot accept liability for any costs incurred due to your failure to obtain appropriate travel insurance from the date of booking.

## Health

It is the responsibility of each traveller to check and comply with any health and vaccination requirements relevant to their booked arrangements. Exploratours provides only general guidance on this matter. Health and hygiene standards, as well as disease risks, vary by country.

Travellers should seek professional medical advice regarding their individual needs well in advance of departure. Reliable sources of information include:

- [Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office](#)
- [TravelHealthPro](#)
- [UK Health Security Agency](#)
- Your General Practitioner or a specialist travel clinic

## Accessibility

Participation on any of our tours requires unaided mobility, including the ability to walk around sightseeing areas, climb stairs, and get on and off coaches, trains, and boats. The Kerala Explorer tour is rated Intermediate in pace.

A reasonable level of fitness is required, as you may be on your feet for up to four hours per day, with regular breaks. Walking will involve sightseeing, boarding and disembarking vehicles, and climbing steps, which may be uneven or irregular. Accommodation will be in a variety of hotels throughout the tour.

Our guides will provide assistance wherever possible; however, they cannot be expected to support travellers who are unable to complete the itinerary independently. The tour may include early morning trains, flights, or sightseeing activities depending on the schedule.

### **Currency Exchange**

The official currency of India is the Indian Rupee (INR or Rs). The Rupee is a closed currency, and it is not permitted to take Indian currency out of the country. Similarly, visitors are not allowed to bring Indian Rupees into India.

US Dollars and British Pounds are widely accepted and can be carried as an alternative currency. Travellers may bring cash, travellers' cheques (in GBP or other foreign currencies), and/or a bank card to exchange or withdraw Rupees upon arrival. ATMs are available throughout the tour for cash withdrawals in local currency.

It is important to budget carefully and ensure you have the appropriate form of currency before travelling

### **Credit Card Info**

Credit cards are widely accepted in India.

As standard practice, hotels may request your credit card details at check-in to cover any incidental charges incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card, a cash deposit may be required. MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted, and many hotels also accept American Express.

### **Personal Expenses and Tipping**

You should budget for personal expenses such as souvenirs, laundry, and additional drinks or snacks. An amount of approximately £100–£200 per person is generally sufficient for the duration of the tour, depending on individual spending habits.

### **Tipping**

Tipping for guides and drivers is customary but remains at your discretion. We recommend budgeting approximately £4–£5 per person per day for each guide and £2–£3 per person per day for each driver. Tips may be given in pounds sterling rather than local currency, and coins should be avoided as they are difficult to exchange.

Additionally, your guide may request a small daily contribution of £1–£2 per person to a communal “kitty” used for porters, waiters, and other service staff throughout the tour.

### **Group Size**

Group tours operate with a minimum of 10 travellers and a maximum of 35. In the unlikely event that fewer than 10 people book for your chosen departure date, we will make every effort to operate the tour with a smaller group to minimise disruption to your holiday.

If it is not possible to operate the tour on the scheduled date, you may be offered an alternative departure. Should this alternative not be suitable, a full refund will be provided.

### **Tour Guide**

An English-speaking guide or Chauffeur guide depending on the tour/group will be provided during each excursion to provide first-hand information throughout your trip. Local guides at monuments may also be provided where required, subject to the rules of each site.

### **Private Tours**

For private tour bookings, you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide, or a Driver and Local Guides. They will be available for all scheduled sightseeing. Private tours can depart on any day of the week, depending on flight and train schedules as well as the opening days of attractions. The itinerary will follow the brochure unless otherwise advised, with all included meals, sightseeing, and local excursions remaining as described.

### **Transport And Transfers**

### **Safari Vehicles**

Safaris will be conducted in a “canter,” a large open-roofed truck seating up to 8 passengers. Safari drivers will take you to areas of the park where wildlife sightings are more likely; however, as with all wildlife experiences, sightings cannot be guaranteed. Please note that many paths within the park may be uneven, bumpy, and dusty.

## **Meals And Drinks**

Breakfast is served daily at the hotel and typically includes a combination of Indian and Western-style options. On some travel days, such as train journeys, a packed breakfast may be provided. Lunch and dinner, where included, will be taken at hotels or local wayside restaurants, offering a variety of cuisines to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

For special dietary requirements or allergy information, please contact Customer Experience prior to travel. Vegan, vegetarian, and non-spicy meal options are available, but all requests must be submitted to our suppliers in advance.

Tap water is not recommended for drinking. Even in developed countries, water may contain elements unfamiliar to travellers that can cause stomach upsets. In less developed regions, water may not be filtered to the same standard.

## **Alcoholic Drinks**

Some hotels in India do not serve alcohol, while others allow alcohol to be consumed on the premises but require it to be brought in from outside. Your guide will advise you in advance of the policy at each hotel. Where possible, arrangements can be made for group members to purchase alcohol from a local shop prior to arrival at the hotel.

## **Public And Religious Holidays**

Dry days are designated days when the sale of alcohol is prohibited. In India, most states observe dry days on major national holidays such as Republic Day (January), Independence Day (August), and Gandhi Jayanti (October), as well as during elections. In Kerala, liquor shops are closed on the 1st of each month and on public holidays.

## **Dress Code**

When visiting churches and temples, guests are requested to dress modestly. Long trousers or skirts should be worn to cover the knees, and long-sleeved tops should be worn to cover the shoulders. Female travellers are advised to bring a scarf to cover their heads.

# What to pack

- **Clothing and Footwear:** Comfortable walking shoes, long-sleeved shirts, long trousers, swimwear, warm clothing and thermals for winter, and a hat for sun protection in summer.
- **Health and Hygiene:** Sunscreen, toilet paper for public WCs, antibacterial hand gel, and a personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach remedies, antiseptic creams, aspirin, and other essentials.
- **Electronics and Accessories:** Camera and charger, binoculars, and any personal devices such as hairdryers, travel irons, video cameras, battery chargers, or electric shavers. A multi-adaptor is recommended for use with electrical items.
- **Electrical Information:** The voltage in India is 220 volts, and plugs and sockets may have either grounded 3-pin or ungrounded 2-pin connections.
- **Mobile Sim:** If you wish to procure a mobile sim card for use whilst in India, please do so at the airport since the activation process can take a few days if you purchase outside the airport

# Emergency contact

Your driver or tour manager will be your primary point of contact throughout the trip. If you use WhatsApp, we will add you to a dedicated group created specifically to address any requirements during your journey. This group will also include our local office managers in India, as well as colleagues from our UK office who are overseeing your trip. Should any issue arise that cannot be resolved by your accompanying driver or tour manager, a member of our wider team will step in and ensure your concern is addressed promptly and with priority.

## ATOL Protection

ATOL is the UK's financial protection scheme which protects you and provides support so that you are not at a financial loss or without assistance abroad if your ATOL holder (that's us) ceases trading.

As we are an ATOL member (Air Travel Organisers Licence No 4036). All our package holidays are ATOL protected for your peace of mind and, as such, our experts will always ask you about booking your hotel and flight together so we can offer you as much protection as possible.

Please note, if you book your flight and accommodation separately your trip won't be ATOL protected, For more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate, refer to the [CAA website](#).

## Tips/gratuities

Tipping is entirely at your discretion; however, the following guideline may be helpful:

Driver: INR 50 per person, per day

Driver's Assistant: INR 40 per person, per day

Tour Manager / Guide: INR 75 per person, per day

For services provided to the group:

Hotel Concierge: INR 1,000 for the entire group (to be settled at departure)

Restaurant Staff: INR 500 for the entire group

# Tour Manager & Licensed Tourist Guide



Jibin is our government-licensed Pan-India Tourist Guide, bringing over 23 years of rich experience in the travel and tourism industry. Based in Kochi, he specialises in cultural, heritage, and backwater tours across South India. Warm, knowledgeable, and deeply passionate about his work, Jibin is known for his professionalism, clear communication, and engaging storytelling. He works closely with leading DMCs and has guided travellers from all over the world through India's most iconic destinations.

With a Post Graduate Diploma in Travel & Tourism Management (IITTM/KITTS) and a Bachelor's degree in Economics, Jibin blends strong academic training with decades of hands-on expertise. Guests appreciate his reliability, punctuality, and proactive approach—qualities that ensure every journey is seamless, insightful, and memorable.

Fluent in English and Malayalam, and conversant in Spanish, German, French, Tamil, and Hindi, he easily connects with guests from diverse cultures. His love for history, heritage, and local traditions shines through in the authentic experiences he curates.

Jibin will accompany your group throughout your stay in Kerala, serving as your first point of contact and managing all day-to-day arrangements. He will provide daily briefings, share valuable insights, and be on hand to assist with anything you may need, ensuring your time in Kerala is truly exceptional.



# India tourist visa

British passport holders require a visitor visa to enter India. This can be conveniently applied for online up to one week before departure. If applying independently, please use the official portal:

<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/Registration>

Please exercise caution when searching online, as many third-party websites offer visa services at significantly higher fees. Avoid sharing personal information or documents on unofficial platforms.

If you prefer, we can process the visa on your behalf for a nominal service fee of £20 per application. Each traveller must submit an individual application. Kindly let us know if you would like us to assist.

