KERALA

# Kerala – A Journey Through Emerald Hills, Serene Backwaters & Sun-Kissed Shores

7 Nights / 8 Days · Kochi, Munnar, Thekkady, Alleppey, Kovalam




**Travelbee Tours**

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**Discover the enchanting beauty of Kerala, a land where mist-covered mountains meet lush tea gardens, cascading waterfalls flow through verdant forests, tranquil backwaters weave through charming villages, and golden beaches welcome the gentle Arabian Sea.**

This memorable journey takes you through the cultural heritage of Kochi, the breathtaking landscapes of Munnar, the wilderness of Thekkady, the peaceful backwaters of Alleppey, and the coastal splendour of Kovalam.

## Day-by-day itinerary

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### Day 1: Kochi – Where History Whispers Through the Coastal Breeze

Upon arrival at Kochi, meet your driver and proceed to the hotel. After completing the check-in formalities, take some time to relax before beginning your exploration of this historic coastal city, celebrated for its multicultural heritage, colonial architecture, and vibrant maritime traditions.

Begin with a visit to Jew Town, a charming historic neighbourhood in Mattancherry known for its antique shops, spice markets, traditional buildings, and distinctive cultural character. Its narrow lanes reflect the legacy of merchants and communities who contributed to Kochi's rich trading history.

Continue to the Paradesi Synagogue, located in the heart of Jew Town. Built in 1568, it is one of the oldest active synagogues in the Commonwealth. Its beautiful interiors, hand-painted Chinese tiles, Belgian glass chandeliers, and historical significance make it an important landmark of Kochi's Jewish heritage. Visitors should note that opening hours may vary, particularly on Fridays, Saturdays, and Jewish holidays.

Proceed to St. Francis Church, one of India's oldest European-built churches. Originally constructed by the Portuguese in the early 16th century, the church is closely associated with the early European presence in India. Its simple architecture and historical importance offer a glimpse into Kochi's colonial past.

Next, visit the iconic Chinese Fishing Nets, a distinctive feature of the Fort Kochi waterfront. These enormous cantilevered fishing nets are believed to have been introduced by Chinese traders. Their silhouettes against the sea create one of the city's most recognisable coastal scenes, particularly during sunset.

Conclude the day's sightseeing at Fort Kochi Beach, where the sea breeze, swaying palms, and historic waterfront create a peaceful atmosphere. Enjoy a leisurely walk along the shore and admire the changing colours of the evening sky.

Return to the hotel for an overnight stay in Kochi.

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### Day 2: Athirapally to Munnar – From Roaring Waters to Misty Mountains

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and begin your scenic drive towards Munnar, with a memorable stop at the spectacular Athirapally Waterfall.

Often referred to as the Niagara of India, Athirapally Waterfall is one of Kerala's most celebrated natural attractions. The Chalakudy River plunges dramatically from a height of approximately 80 feet, creating a magnificent curtain of water surrounded by lush tropical forests. The thunderous sound of the cascade, mist rising from the rocks, and greenery stretching across the landscape make this an unforgettable stop for nature lovers and photography enthusiasts.

Spend some time admiring the waterfall and enjoying the surrounding natural scenery, subject to local access conditions and weather.

Continue your journey towards Munnar, a picturesque hill station nestled in the Western Ghats. As the road gradually climbs into the mountains, the landscape transforms into rolling hills, winding roads, dense vegetation, and vast stretches of tea plantations.

Upon arrival in Munnar, proceed to your hotel and complete the check-in formalities. Spend the remainder of the evening at leisure, enjoying the cool mountain air and the peaceful atmosphere of this charming hill destination.

Overnight stay in Munnar.

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**Day 3: Munnar – A Symphony of Tea Gardens, Clouds and Mountain Trails**

After breakfast, set out to explore the natural beauty and scenic attractions of Munnar, a destination renowned for its expansive tea estates, misty mountain peaks, and rich biodiversity.

Begin with Eravikulam National Park, a protected natural area famous for its rolling grasslands, mountainous terrain, and the endangered Nilgiri tahr. The park offers spectacular views of the Western Ghats and is home to a variety of flora and fauna. During the flowering season of the Neelakurinji plant, the surrounding hills can transform into a remarkable sea of blue-purple blossoms. Entry is subject to park regulations, operating schedules, and availability; certain areas may be closed during the Nilgiri tahr calving season.

Continue to a Tea Factory, where you can learn about the journey of tea leaves from plantation to finished product. Discover the traditional and modern stages of tea processing, including withering, rolling, drying, and grading. The visit provides an interesting insight into the plantation industry that has shaped Munnar's landscape and economy.

Proceed to Echo Point, a popular scenic stop surrounded by forested hills and a tranquil lake. The area is known for its natural echo phenomenon, where a shout may reverberate across the surrounding hills. The picturesque setting also offers opportunities to enjoy the fresh mountain air and capture memorable photographs.

Next, visit Mattupetty Dam, a popular destination surrounded by rolling hills, green slopes, and peaceful waters. The reservoir is known for its scenic beauty and is a favourite stop for visitors exploring Munnar's countryside. Depending on local conditions and availability, boating may also be offered.

Continue towards Top Station, one of the region's celebrated viewpoints, situated along the Munnar–Kodaikanal route. From here, visitors can enjoy sweeping views of the surrounding mountain ranges and deep valleys. On clear days, the elevated vantage point reveals a magnificent panorama of the Western Ghats, while drifting clouds often lend the landscape an ethereal charm.

After completing the sightseeing, return to your hotel and spend the evening at leisure.

Overnight stay in Munnar.

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**Day 4: Thekkady – Into the Wild Heart of Kerala**

After breakfast, check out from your hotel and proceed towards Thekkady, a beautiful destination surrounded by dense forests, spice plantations, and the natural richness of the Western Ghats.

Upon arrival, begin your exploration of Periyar National Park, one of Kerala's best-known wildlife destinations. The Periyar landscape is famous for its forested hills, diverse ecosystems, and rich wildlife. The reserve is home to elephants, deer, numerous bird species, and other fascinating animals. Depending on the season and the activity selected, visitors may explore designated areas through authorised nature programmes or enjoy a boat ride on Periyar Lake, subject to availability. Wildlife sightings are natural occurrences and cannot be guaranteed.

Continue to a Spice Plantation, where you can discover the aromatic world of Kerala's famous spices. Walk through plantations cultivating cardamom, pepper, cinnamon, cloves, and other tropical crops. Learn about their cultivation, harvesting, and uses in traditional cuisine and everyday life. The fragrant surroundings offer an authentic glimpse into the agricultural heritage of this region.

Next, visit an Elephant Camp, where you may learn about elephants and their care, depending on the facilities and activities offered by the operator. Choose only authorised facilities that prioritise animal welfare and responsible tourism. Any interaction or activity will depend on the operator's current policies and availability.

As evening approaches, experience the vibrant performing arts of Kerala.

Witness a Kathakali Performance, the state's renowned classical dance-drama tradition. The performance combines elaborate costumes, expressive facial movements, intricate hand gestures, and dramatic storytelling inspired by Indian epics and mythology. The artists' distinctive makeup and powerful expressions make this a fascinating cultural experience.

You may also attend a Kalaripayattu Performance, showcasing one of India's oldest martial art traditions. Characterised by agility, disciplined movements, traditional weapon techniques, and impressive physical coordination, this performance offers an exciting introduction to Kerala's martial heritage.

After the evening's activities, return to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Thekkady.

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**Day 5: Alleppey – Drifting Through Kerala's Enchanting Backwaters**

After breakfast, check out from your hotel and drive towards Alleppey, officially known as Alappuzha, a destination celebrated for its serene backwaters, winding canals, coconut palms, and traditional village life.

Upon arrival, experience the distinctive charm of Kerala's backwater landscape, where waterways connect peaceful settlements, lush paddy fields, and stretches of tropical vegetation.

Option 1: Traditional Houseboat Experience

Board a traditional Kerala houseboat and begin a leisurely journey through the tranquil backwaters. Originally inspired by the region's traditional kettuvallam boats, modern houseboats combine traditional design elements with comfortable accommodation and onboard facilities.

Glide past coconut-lined waterways, village homes, green paddy fields, and narrow canals where everyday life unfolds along the water's edge. Observe local fishermen, small boats, and picturesque settlements while enjoying the relaxed rhythm of the backwaters.

Depending on the selected package, meals may be served onboard, allowing you to savour Kerala's regional cuisine while admiring the surrounding scenery.

Enjoy the unique experience of spending the evening and night aboard the houseboat, surrounded by the peaceful sounds of nature.

Option 2: Shikara Ride with Resort Stay

Alternatively, enjoy a scenic Shikara Ride through Alleppey's beautiful waterways. These smaller motorised boats are ideal for exploring narrow canals and observing village life from close quarters.

Pass through tranquil stretches of water bordered by coconut palms, traditional homes, and lush greenery. The slower pace allows you to appreciate the beauty of the backwaters and capture memorable photographs.

After the ride, proceed to your resort and complete the check-in formalities. Spend the remainder of the day relaxing in the peaceful surroundings.

Overnight stay in a traditional houseboat or resort, according to the selected package.

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**Day 6: Kovalam – A Journey from Coastal Backwaters to Cultural Treasures**

After breakfast, check out from your accommodation and begin your journey towards Kovalam, a popular seaside destination known for its crescent-shaped beaches, swaying coconut palms, and beautiful views of the Arabian Sea.

En route, visit the remarkable Jatayu Earth's Center, a unique tourism destination situated amid the rocky hills of Chadayamangalam. The attraction is famous for its enormous sculpture of Jatayu, the mythical bird from the Indian epic Ramayana, who is believed to have fought Ravana while attempting to rescue Sita.

The site combines mythology, art, natural scenery, and adventure tourism. Visitors can admire the monumental sculpture, enjoy views of the surrounding landscape, and explore the available attractions. Cable car access and other activities are subject to operating schedules, weather conditions, and ticket availability.

Continue towards Thiruvananthapuram and visit the Napier Museum, an architectural landmark established in the 19th century. The museum is known for its distinctive Indo-Saracenic architectural style, featuring traditional Kerala influences alongside Gothic and other architectural elements.

Inside, visitors can discover collections of historical artefacts, bronze sculptures, ornaments, traditional objects, and artworks that reflect the cultural heritage of Kerala and neighbouring regions. Its striking architecture and varied exhibits make it an interesting stop for those wishing to explore the artistic and historical traditions of the state.

After sightseeing, continue towards Kovalam and proceed to your hotel for check-in.

Spend the evening at leisure, enjoying the refreshing sea breeze or relaxing at the hotel.

Overnight stay in Kovalam.

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## Day 7: Kovalam – Sacred Shrines, Ocean Breezes and Golden Shores

After breakfast, set out to explore the spiritual landmarks and coastal attractions around Thiruvananthapuram and Kovalam.

Begin with Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, one of India's most revered Hindu temples, dedicated to Lord Vishnu in his reclining form. The temple is renowned for its magnificent Dravidian-style architecture, towering entrance gopuram, intricate stonework, and deep religious significance. It is an important spiritual landmark of Kerala and attracts devotees from across the country.

Please note that the temple follows a strict dress code and specific entry regulations. Visitors should verify current darshan timings, dress requirements, and entry conditions before their visit. Non-Hindus may not be permitted inside the temple.

Continue to Azhimala Shiva Temple, a scenic coastal temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple is particularly known for its impressive Shiva sculpture overlooking the Arabian Sea, creating a striking combination of spiritual devotion and natural beauty. The surrounding coastline and rocky landscape provide a memorable setting for visitors.

Next, visit Kovalam Beach, one of Kerala's best-known beach destinations. Its curved coastline, swaying palm trees, and refreshing sea breeze make it an ideal place to unwind. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the shore, admire the coastal scenery, or simply relax while watching the waves roll gently towards the beach.

Conclude the day's sightseeing at Lighthouse Beach, the most recognised beach in Kovalam. Named after the prominent Vizhinjam Lighthouse overlooking the coastline, this beach is known for its golden sands, picturesque views, and lively seaside atmosphere.

Depending on operating hours and weather conditions, you may visit the lighthouse viewpoint for panoramic views of the Arabian Sea and the surrounding coastline. The beach also offers opportunities to enjoy local cafés and restaurants or simply relax by the water.

After completing the sightseeing, return to your hotel and enjoy your final evening in Kerala.

Overnight stay in Kovalam.

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**Day 8: Departure – Carrying Home the Memories of God's Own Country**

After breakfast, check out from your hotel and proceed to Trivandrum International Airport or Thiruvananthapuram Railway Station for your onward journey.

As your holiday comes to an end, take home cherished memories of Kerala's mist-covered hills, aromatic tea plantations, enchanting backwaters, vibrant cultural traditions, sacred temples, and sun-kissed beaches.

From the historic charm of Kochi to the tranquil beauty of Alleppey and the coastal splendour of Kovalam, this journey offers a wonderful introduction to the diverse landscapes and cultural richness of God's Own Country.

Your Kerala holiday concludes with beautiful memories and experiences to treasure for years to come.

## What's included

| Included | Not included |
|---|---|
| ✓ Accommodation as per selected package | ✗ Airfare / Train Tickets |
| ✓ Meals as per selected package | ✗ Personal Expenses like Tips, Porterage, Room Service, Laundry Bills, Mini Bar Charges, etc. |
| ✓ Private AC Vehicle According to Group Size | ✗ Early Check-in / Late Check-out |
| ✓ Driver Allowance, Toll Tax, Parking Charges, etc. | ✗ Entry Tickets to Any Monuments, Museums, Parks, etc. |
| ✓ All Current Tax | ✗ Travel Insurance |
| | ✗ Anything not Mentioned in the "Inclusions" |

## Hotel options

| City | 3-star hotel options |
|---|---|
| Kochi | The Trios Hotel / Similar |
| Munnar | Trio Rivea Resort / Similar |
| Thekkady | The Seasons Thekkady / Similar |
| Alleppey | Haven Beach Villa / Deluxe Houseboat / Similar |
| Kovalam | Kovalam Beach Hotel / Similar |

| City | 4-star hotel options |
|---|---|
| Kochi | The Old Courthouse by ABAD / Similar |
| Munnar | Blackberry Hills Nature Resort & Spa / Similar |
| Thekkady | Forest Canopy / Similar |
| Alleppey | Lake Canopy / Premium Houseboat / Similar |
| Kovalam | Aadishakthi Resort / Similar |

## What we arrange

### Transport

- Private AC Vehicle,
- For 1-3 Pax: Sedan
- For 4-5 Pax: Ertiga
- For 6-7 Pax: Crysta
- For 8+ Pax: Tempo Traveler / Urbania

## Price on request

Final price depends on your travel dates, number of travellers and the choices you make. Get an instant, itemised quote online:

**https://www.travelbee.in/packages/kerala-a-journey-through-emerald-hills-serene-backwaters-and-sun-kissed-shores**

## Cancellation policy

30+ days - 5% of the total booking amount will be charged
29-15 days - 50% of the total booking amount will be charged
14-0 days - 100% of the total booking amount will be charged

Questions about this trip? WhatsApp us on +91 74054 90317 or email info@travelbee.in — we're happy to tailor this itinerary to you.