



## Essence of Kerala

### Itinerary

#### Day 1: Arrival in Cochin

Upon arrival at Cochin airport, you'll be warmly greeted and assisted before being transferred to your hotel for check-in. Cochin, also known as Kochi, is a fascinating city steeped in history and renowned as a major port and the hub of the spice trade on the Malabar Coast. It holds a rich blend of cultures, with influences from its early European settlers, particularly the Portuguese and British. Relax and unwind at your hotel, soaking in the ambiance of this historic city. Overnight stay in Cochin.



#### Day 2: Cochin Sightseeing

After breakfast, embark on a captivating sightseeing tour of Fort Kochi. Begin your exploration at St. Francis Church, the oldest European church in India, followed by a stroll along the waterfront to admire the iconic Chinese fishing nets and explore the bustling market stalls. Delve into the city's colonial past with a visit to the Dutch Cemetery, managed by the Church of South India. Next, discover the fascinating history at Mattancherry Palace, also known as the Dutch Palace, showcasing exquisite exhibits and remarkable murals depicting scenes from Indian mythology. Explore the nearby merchant houses and the beautiful synagogue adorned with Cantonese ceramic tiles. Take leisurely walks through the vibrant streets filled with traders selling spices, antiques, and local produce. In the evening, immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of Kerala with a mesmerizing Kathakali Dance Show. Overnight stay in Cochin.



#### Day 3: Cochin to Munnar

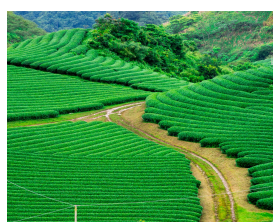
After breakfast, depart for Munnar, one of South India's most popular hill stations, nestled amidst lush greenery and tea plantations. Munnar's picturesque landscapes, winding lanes, and cool climate make it a perfect retreat. En route, witness the convergence of three mountain

streams – Mudrapuzha, Nallathanni, and Kundala. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and unwind amidst the tranquil surroundings. Overnight stay in Munnar.



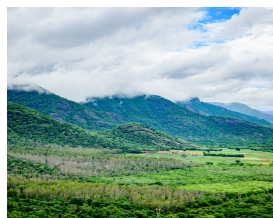
#### Day 4: Explore Munnar

Start your day with a delicious breakfast before embarking on a full-day tour of Munnar. Visit the world's highest tea estates, sprawling like a green carpet across the hills. Explore the biodiversity at Eravikulam National Park, home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr. Marvel at the stunning vistas and soak in the serene ambiance of this natural paradise. Spend the day exploring other attractions in Munnar and immersing yourself in the beauty of the surroundings. Overnight stay in Munnar.



#### Day 5: Munnar to Thekkady

After breakfast, journey towards Thekkady, also known as Periyar, renowned for its wildlife sanctuary set around a picturesque lake. Explore the Periyar Wildlife Reserve, one of India's finest sanctuaries, known for its diverse flora and fauna. Enjoy a boat cruise on Periyar Lake, offering opportunities to spot wildlife such as elephants, tigers, and a variety of bird species. Optional activities include visiting a spice plantation to learn about the region's rich spice cultivation. Overnight stay in Periyar.



#### Day 6: Periyar to Kumarakom

After breakfast, depart for Kumarakom, a tranquil backwater destination nestled on the shores of Lake Vembanad. Explore the scenic beauty of Kumarakom, characterized by lush greenery, coconut groves, and meandering waterways. Engage in activities such as boating, fishing, and sightseeing amidst the serene backwaters. Relax and unwind amidst the natural splendor of this enchanting village. Overnight stay in Kumarakom.



#### Day 7: Day Cruise in Alleppey

Embark on a morning journey to Alleppey, known as the Venice of the East, for a day cruise on the enchanting backwaters of Vembanad Lake. Board a traditional houseboat, locally known as Kettuvallam, and cruise along the picturesque waterways, observing the daily life of the villagers. Enjoy a delicious lunch onboard as you soak in the scenic beauty of the backwaters. Disembark from the houseboat in the evening and return to your hotel in Kumarakom. Overnight stay in Kumarakom.



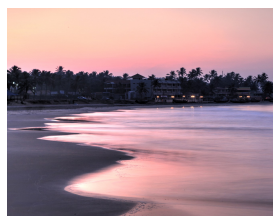
#### Day 8:Kumarakom to Kovalam

After breakfast, proceed to Kovalam, India's most spectacular beach resort nestled along the Arabian Sea coast. En route, explore Trivandrum, the capital city of Kerala, and visit attractions such as the Napier Museum, Srichitra Art Gallery, and the iconic Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple (subject to temple timings and dress code). Continue your journey to Kovalam and unwind amidst the sun, sand, and surf of this pristine beach paradise. Overnight stay in Kovalam.



#### Day 9: Leisure Day

Spend the day at leisure, enjoying the sun-kissed beaches of Kovalam. Indulge in water sports, take leisurely walks along the shore, or simply relax and rejuvenate amidst the tranquil surroundings. Overnight stay in Kovalam.



#### Day 10:Departure from Trivandrum

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and proceed to Trivandrum airport for your onward journey, carrying cherished memories of your enchanting Kerala tour.

