

Journey through Karnataka and Kerala
Bangalore-Mysore-Nagarhole-Sulthan Bathery-Tellicherry-Cochin-Backwaters

DAY 1 ARRIVE BANGALORE- MYSORE

Arrive Bangalore. You will be met on arrival and will be driven to Mysore (approx 4 hours drive).

Rest of the day is at leisure to relax.

Meals included: None

Overnight:

DAY 2 MYSORE -NAGARHOLE



This morning you will be taken for a brief tour of Mysore, popularly known as the Sandalwood City followed by sightseeing of Srirangapatnam (located just outside the city).

Later you will continue to Nagarhole National Park (approx 2 hour drive) where you will arrive late in the afternoon and would be at leisure.

Meals included: All meals

Overnight:

DAY 3 NAGARHOLE

Today enjoy the day doing Wildlife safaris on Jeeps and boats, Nature Trail on bamboo rafts, cycling along quaint village roads.

A guide/naturalist will accompany you on the trip to help you interpret the exotic flora and fauna of the region. Joy rides in the forest on elephant-back are also offered during



morning safaris. Bird watching in Kabini is an excellent pastime with over 300 species of birds being recorded here. The backwaters of the Kabini act as a huge water body attracting a wide variety of water birds. Some of the birds that can be found in this region are the Osprey, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Malabar Pied Hornbill, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Malabar Trogon, White-bellied Woodpecker, White-rumped Shama and the Plum-headed Parakeet.

During your stay you may also have the opportunity to visit a Tribal family of the area

Meals included: All meals

Overnight:

DAY 4 NAGARHOLE – SULTHAN BATHERY

After morning game drive inside the park you will be taken to Sulthan Bathery (approx 3 hour 30 minutes drive) where you will arrive in the afternoon. Upon arrival you will check into your resort, Tranquil Plantation, where rest of the day will be at leisure.

Meals included: All meals

Overnight:

DAY 4 SULTHAN BATHERY

Full-day is at leisure to explore the plantation.

Tranquil is a renovated planter's bungalow in a working 400 acre coffee plantation, earlier known as Kuppumudy Estate. It is located deep within the plantation, has fantastic views of the green hills around and the hosts, Victor and Ranjini Dey, are knowledgeable and kind. Since the estate is huge with varying nature of topography, many walks may be undertaken within the plantation.

Meals included: All meals

Overnight:



DAY 6 SULTHAN BATHERY - TELlichERRY

Today you will be transferred to Tellicherry (approx 3 hours drive). On arrival, you will be taken to Ayisha Manzil, a small heritage homestay. In the late afternoon, you will be taken to a local temple to see the Theyyam.

Theyyam or “Theyyaattam” is a pattern of hero worship performed in Kolathunaad, a territory comprising the present Cannanore District and Badagara Taluk of Kerala State. It is a ritual and a folk-dance form supported by a vast literature of folk songs. Theyyam is a corruption for Deyvam ‘God’. 'Aattam' means dance. Thus 'Theyyaattam' means the God’s Dance. One of the salient features of Theyyaattam is its colourful costume, which is made out of splices of bamboos and covered by red cloth. Sometimes, the waist dress is woven out of coconut leaves, as it requires them to leap into the fire.

Meals included: All meals

Overnight:

DAY 7 TELlichERRY

At Ayisha Manzil you will be the guests of Mrs Faiza Moosa who is a well known culinary expert of North Kerala Muslim cuisine and will teach you the secrets of making good, authentic curries – most of the forenoon you will spend learning and cooking the local cuisine, known as Moplah Cuisine.



The Malayalam speaking North Kerala Muslims, known as Moplahs, trace their ancestry to the Arabs who had come to trade with Kerala and later married with local people to create a sub cultural identity of their own. This interaction of two diverse cultures naturally resulted in a food culture, which is specific to only this region of North Kerala and is known as the Moplah cuisine. By and large Moplahs are non-vegetarians – fish is a much-relished item on the menu and is prepared in a variety of ways. Stuffed fish and chicken are special varieties served on festive occasions. Not that vegetables are taboo – far from it, they form a staple item at all meals. The drumstick including even the leaves, tapioca and yam are all prized vegetables on the menu. Pumpkin is used in the place of the present day potato in meat curries. The Moplahs also have their very own versions of biryanis....

The afternoon may be spent in exploring the neighbouring countryside – visit the local fish market, drive a short distance to the nearest beach, explore the coastal forts or simply relax at your mansion.

Meals included: All meals

Overnight:

DAY 8 TELlichERRY- CALICUT - COCHIN

This morning you will be driven to Calicut airport (approx 2 hours drive) for flight to Cochin. *(Option of day train/drive also available)*

On arrival in Cochin you will be met on arrival and will be transferred to your hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight:

DAY 9 COCHIN

Today you will be taken for a tour of Cochin.



Formerly a princely state which beckoned travellers from distant shores, Cochin is also called "The Queen of the Arabian Sea". The sightseeing of Cochin will include Mattancherry Dutch Palace, the famous Jew Street and the beautiful Synagogue built in 1568 and St. Francis Church. You will also be taken to see the Chinese fishing nets along the shore. This evening you will be taken to witness the spectacular Kathakali Dance Drama. The most popular and sacred dance-drama of Kerala, Kathakali, evolved across the last 400 years. This classical dance requires lengthy and rigorous training to attain complete control of the body and sensitivity to emotion so as to be able to render all its nuances through facial expressions and hand gestures. Themes centre round the two great Indian epics - the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. We suggest arriving early in order to witness the artists putting on their make-up.

Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight:

DAY 10 COCHIN - BACKWATERS

This morning you will be driven to Alleppey backwaters (approx 1 hour 30 minutes) to board your Houseboat for a cruise on the Rice barge around the back waters of Kerala.



Formed by 40 odd rivers that flow down to the Arabian Sea from the Cardamom Hills, this network of canals, lakes and estuaries comprises one of India's most enchanting areas - a rural, riverine expanse of verdant coconut groves and rice paddies. The scene is idyllic and the mood romantic as you meander through the tranquil network of water canals, dotted with busy hamlets, lush green paddy fields.

Meals included: All meals

Overnight:

DAY 11 BACKWATERS – COCHIN – ONWARDS

This morning you will enjoy a cruise back to Alleppey, where you will disembark your houseboat. Afterwards you will be driven to Cochin where you can do some last minute shopping for crafts of the region. In the early evening, you will be taken to the airport for your onward flight back home.

*****End of the arrangements*****