



KERALA PLUS
15 PARADISAICAL DAYS IN GOD'S OWN COUNTRY

From Cochin Airport to Cochin Airport



ITINERARY

1. Cherai (1 hour drive from Cochin Airport)
2. Cherai
3. Munnar (5 hours)
4. Athur (5 hours)
5. Athur (day trip to Madurai)
6. Athur
7. Thekkady (5 hours)
8. Thekkady
9. Backwaters Home Stay (5 hours)
10. Backwaters Home Stay
11. Varkala (3 hours)
12. Varkala
13. Kollam Backwaters (2 hours' drive and overnight Backwaters)
14. Cochin (4 hours via Ambalapuzha)
15. Departure from Cochin Airport (1 ½ hours' drive)

Timings are by approximation and include stops on the way.

It is also possible to do this tour with Trivandrum (aka Thiruvananthapuram) Airport as starting and/or finishing point.





ACCOMMODATION

All rooms are air-conditioned, except where noted.

Cherai

Superior: Cherai Beach Resort (<http://www.cheraibeachresorts.com/>)

Fisherman Villa A/C

Munnar

Superior: Kaivalyam (<http://www.kaivalyamretreat.com/>) - no A/C needed as you are up in the cool hills of the Western Ghats

Athur – full board

Superior: Lakeside (<http://www.lakeside.co.in/>) - A/C Cottage with lake view; with swimming pool

Thekkady

Superior: El Paradiso Annexe – Standard Room – no A/C needed as you are up in the cool hills of the Western Ghats.

Alleppey – full board

Home Stay: Nelpura Heritage Home (<http://www.nelpura.com/>) – Heritage Middle Room

Varkala

Superior: Deshadan Cliff & Beach Resort (<http://www.deshadan.com/>) – Pool Side Room; with swimming pool

Backwaters Kollam – full board

Superior: air-conditioned room on traditional kettuvalam- boat (1 pm to 9 am) Includes a 2 to 3 hours canal boat ride through the maze of narrow canals!

Cochin

Superior: Abad Pepper Route (<http://www.abadhotels.com/pepperroute/>)

*It's possible to upgrade the accommodation to Deluxe options.
We can also arrange Standard options.*



EXCURSIONS

Munnar

- *Day 4.* 4 hour trekking through stunning tea plantations and up to a viewpoint

Madurai (Athur)

- *Day 5.* Drive to Madurai, the beating heart of Dravidian culture, where you will start with a 3 hour tour by bicycle rickshaw to "the other side" of a city like Madurai. It takes you to local markets and small "factories" where they make towels, books and more. Friendly rickshaw driver Theivananthiram doubles as guide.
After enjoying a traditional Thali lunch on banana leaf, you will visit the Shree Meenakshi Temple, Micha's favourite temple in India.

Thekkady

- *Day 7.* Spice garden visit where everything you always wanted to know about spices - and more! - is explained
- *Day 8.* Elephant package: riding, feeding and washing in a cardamom plantation set in the jungle away from town
- *Day 8.* Cooking course at a family house: always great fun!

Cochin

- *Day 14.* Sight-seeing of Cochin takes you to the laundry place, St Francis Church, Pardesi Synagogue and Jewtown, Mattancherry (aka Dutch) Palace, the place where ginger is dried, and more.

On all above mentioned excursions you will be accompanied by an experienced English speaking guide.

Also Included

(No Guides)

- *Day 1.* Welcome dinner
- *Day 2.* Ayurveda massage
- *Day 3.* A visit to the Tata Tea Factory set in a tea plantation in Munnar
- *Day 7.* Kalaripayattu Show: demonstration of this millennia old martial arts cum dance with a religious element
- *Day 13.* Country boat ride through the Backwaters (2 to 3 hours)
- *Day 14.* Visit to the 7th century Krishna Temple of Ambalapuzha
- *Day 14.* Kathakali dance show at Greenix in Cochin
(<http://www.greenix.in/>)



More Options

(Arrange On The Spot)

- *Athur* (arrange with Dorinda & Pete of Lakeside): walk around the lake; swim in the lake; walk up to waterfalls in the hills behind the resort or to a small cave temple; village tour by car to see rural crafts(wo)men at work; swimming pool; and more....
- *Thekkady* (arrange with guide and representative Prasad): Ayurveda massage; bullock cart ride (for bird watching); forest ("jungle") walk in the Periyar Tiger Reserve; full day Jungle Tour takes in a jeep ride, walk, boat ride, breakfast and lunch in a less touristy part of the Periyar Tiger Reserve (*book this one through Micha in advance!!*); and more!
- *Varkala* (arrange via Micha's friend and associate Nithya): walk to Kappil along the coast via small coves, cliffs and beaches (stunning!!); visit Sivagiri Ashram of the late Narayana Guru and witness the sunset ritual; full day visit to waterfalls and jungle; short Backwater trip to Golden Island; sometimes fishing and dolphin trips are possible also....





PRICE

Per Person Based On A Party Of Two

940 Euro / 1050 USD / 610 GBP / 1100 AUD

Validity: 1 April 2014 to 1 October 2014

This includes:

- Meeting and assistance by a representative on arrival and at departures
- Accommodation on double room basis at listed hotels or hotels of similar or higher quality in the unlikely case a hotel goes out of business
- Daily (Buffet) Breakfast
- All meals at Lakeside (Athur)
- Traditional thali lunch on banana leaf in Madurai
- All meals at Home Stay in Backwaters
- All meals on the Backwaters boat
- All excursions described above with local English speaking guides, except where mentioned
- Entrance fees of all sights visited during the excursions
- All transport by air-conditioned car and English speaking driver
- Petrol/Gas cost, Toll Tax, Parking, and Vehicle Insurance
- *Detailed city-info; day-to-day program; India-info*
- All applicable taxes

This does not include:

- All other meals
- Camera fees
- Travel Insurance
- Tips
- Expense of personal nature such as mineral water, laundry, telephone etc.
- Additional expense which may arise due to landslide, strikes etc. i.e. any situation beyond control of Indian Rose Tours
- International flight tickets

