



## Backwaters And Beach

Lush tropical surroundings and the delicate scent of spices, your delightful journey through a maze of romantic canals and waterways will bring a unique feeling of intimacy and richness. Combine this with the beautiful coastal area of Kovalam. Golden sands and palm trees simply sit back and enjoy.



### DAY 1 • DEPART FROM UK

Depart from the UK on your overnight flight to Cochin.

### DAY 2 • ARRIVE COCHIN

Arrive at Cochin, and transfer to the Grande Residencia Hotel in Fort Cochin, where you will stay for 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis.

### DAY 3 • COCHIN TOUR • KATHAKALI DANCE

Today you have the morning at leisure, before taking a tour of the old town, visiting the Jewish Synagogue, the Mattancherry (or Dutch) Palace and St. Francis' Church. Later take a walk through the quiet shopping streets and see the Chinese Fishing nets on the beach. In the evening you will see the traditional Kathakali Dance, including the dancers applying their makeup prior to the performance.

### DAY 4 • TO KUMARAKOM

Drive to the lush backwaters of Kerala to Kumarakom where you will stay for 2 nights at Coconut Lagoon on a bed and breakfast basis. This is Kerala's heartland of lagoons, palm fringed lakes and paddy fields, inter-linked with hundreds of winding canals. The rest of the day is at leisure.

### DAY 5 • KUMARAKOM BIRD SANCTUARY

Day at leisure for independent activities. Explore the village of Kumarakom, a cluster of little island's on the Vembanad Lake or visit the Kumarakom Bird sanctuary, which is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, noted for many species of migratory birds.

### DAY 6 • HOUSEBOAT ON BACKWATERS

After breakfast, embark on your Ketavallum, or houseboat. These craft are based on the design of traditional rice barges, but today are recreated as comfortable air-conditioned vessels that cruise the Backwaters at a leisurely pace. Watch the world drift by on your private cruise as the crew serve you with superb food, and watch the sun go down at your overnight mooring before spending the night on the boat.

### DAY 7 • PHILPKUTTY'S FARM

After seeing the sunrise and having breakfast on the boat, you will disembark your rice barge at Philipkutty Farm for a two night homestay on a bed and breakfast basis. Here you will experience traditional Keralan hospitality, welcomed by the Philipkutty family who have owned this farm since 1950. The rest of the day is at leisure to relax or explore the various plantations at the farm.

### DAY 8 • AT LEISURE

Today is at leisure to relax or spend time with the family learning about traditional cooking,

farming spices and the history of the surrounding villages.

### DAY 9 • TO KOVALAM

This morning take the coast road to Kovalam, a beautiful coastal area with white sands fringed by rows of tall palm trees, sheltered bays and fishing villages. Stay for the next 5 nights at Travancore Heritage on a bed and breakfast basis.

### DAY 10 to 11 • AT LEISURE

The next two days are free for you to relax by the beach.

### DAY 12 • KANYAKUMARI

Today take an excursion to Kanya Kumari, where the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea meet. You will visit the Kumari Amman Temple, dedicated to the goddess Parvati.

### DAY 13 • CITY TOUR TRIVANDRUM

In the morning take a half day tour of Trivundrum. The afternoon is free for you to relax.

### DAY 14 • DEPART TO UK

Transfer to airport for return flight to UK.

### DATES

This tour is run on an individual basis, and can start any day, though we recommend between 1st October and 30th June.

### COST

Please see our Price Guide at the front of the brochure.

### PRICE INCLUDES:

Accommodation and food as described; programme of events as described; all entry fees to monuments; services of English speaking guide for sightseeing; air-conditioned car for sightseeing and transfers; portage at airports; all local taxes.

### PRICE EXCLUDES:

Flights; visas; camera fees; personal items such as drinks; laundry; phone calls; insurance; tips.

### DEPOSITS

A Standard Deposit is required for this tour as detailed in our Booking Conditions.

### **i** OTHER INFORMATION

The flights listed in the itinerary are easily available from online agents. We will be happy to advise you about booking.

This tour can link with our other itineraries to create a bespoke itinerary for you.

It is possible to join the tour from any country of origin, so long as you arrive in Mumbai during day two of the itinerary.