

HONEYMOON PASSIONS [8 DAYS]

• REQUEST FOR RATE

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Day 1 COCHIN (Kochi)

Arrive at Kochi airport/ Ernakulam railway station. Meet and assist on arrival and proceed for sightseeing of Kochi. Visit Jewish section where the first emigration of Jews to Kerala is said to have taken place in the 6th Century BC. The Jewish Synagogue in Mattancherry was built in 1568 and rebuilt in 1664 with Chinese willow–patterned tiles and gold crowns and has ancient scrolls. Visit the Dutch palace built by the Portuguese in 1510 and later taken over by Dutch. See St. Francis Church, the first European Church in India, where Vasco Da Gama was buried until his remains were taken back to Portugal and the Chinese Fishing nets named after the Country of their origin. Overnight stay at Cochin

Day 2 MUNNAR

Proceed to Munnar (145Kms / 4 hrs 30 mins). Munnar hills situated at an altitude of 5000 to 8000 Ft above sea level and at the confluence of three mountain streams - Mudrapuzha, Nallathani&Kundala. This beautiful hill station was once the summer resort of the erstwhile British Government in South India. Sprawling Tea plantations, picture book towns, winding lanes and holiday facilities make this a popular resort town. Arrive & check in to your hotel. Day at own for leisure... Overnight at Munnar.

Day 3 MUNNAR

After breakfast proceed for sightseeing of Munnar. Visit **Mattupetty Lake** and dam which is surrounded by tall hills and forest. Visit Eravikulam National Park.**Echo Point** - This scenic place gets its name from the natural echo phenomenon here. Echo point is on the way to Top Station from Munnar. **Devikulam** - This idyllic hill station with its velvet lawns, exotic flora and fauna and the cool mountain air is a rare experience. Munnar is known for its extensive **tea estates**. Return back to your hotel. Overnightat Munnar.

Day 4 THEKKADY (PERIYAR)

Today drive to Thekkady .Periyar is a large scenic park and comprises the watershed of a reservoir developed around this artificial lake. It is famous for its large elephant population which can easily be seen by boat from the lake. On arrival check in to the hotel.

Later boat cruise on Lake Periyar which is surrounded by forest meadows and hills. As you enjoy your boat cruise, you may sight wildlife like elephants, woodland birds,

darters and cormorants. The depth of the lake offers splendid opportunities for angles such as ospreys, kingfishers and kites. Otters, expert fishermen, are a common sight, fishing in the shallows or bounding along the shore with their wet fur. Also one can visit the Spice Plantation and Local Market. Overnightat Periyar. (Boat ride tickets to be purchased by the clients on direct payment basis. As per the new regulations passed by Govt. of Kerala, tickets CANNOT be purchased by anyone on behalf of the clients hence clients will have to buy the same directly. Our driver would guide them to the ticket counter.)

Day 5 ALLEPPEY

Today proceed to Alleppey and embark the Houseboat .Kettuvalloms – The traditional rice boats of Kerala – a romantic way to explore the unique web of lakes, lagoons, canals and rivers. These traditional houseboats of Kerala are one of the most enduring images of the backwaters – its natural, cocoon-like profile complimenting the surrounding countryside. These Kettuvalloms / houseboats

concerted into an accommodation of one /two bedrooms, a kitchen and a sitting / dining area. Each cabin has a double bed and WC and washbasin. The crew has their own separate facilities. As the boat slowly cruises through the backwaters, absorb this unusual representation of Kerala Life.

You will be awed at the vast expanse of the paddy fields that surround these beautiful backwaters. The boat will stop in villages for you to experience a glimpse of the village life in rural Kerala. Overnight on houseboat. (Checkin time of houseboat – 12 noon)

Kindly read the attached SAFETY& ,SECURITY + TERMS & CONDITIONS while overnight stay in houseboat.

Day 6 Alleppey - Kovalam

Today drive to Kovalam – India's most spectacular beach resort, just 16 kms from Trivandrum. The clear water in Kovalam is ideal for swimming, surfing and water-skiing. Facilities like Ayurvedic massage, yoga, water sports etc are available here (at your own expenses). Arrive & check in to your hotel. Rest of the time at own for leisure. Overnight at Kovalam.

Day 7 Kovalam

Today after breakfast proceed for half day tour of Trivandrum city which includes the ancient temple of Sri Padmanabhaswamy (entry restricted for foreigners) is one of the major attractions in the city of Thiruvananthapuram. Move around the city and you get to see various picturesque spots besides the glimpses of the city's past. Some of the attractions that are not to be missed are the Napier Museum, Sri Chitra Art Gallery, Zoo, Observatory Hill, Science and Technology Museum, and Chacha Nehru Children's Museum. Return back to the hotel. Overnight at Kovalam.

Day 8 Kovalam - Onwards

Today transfer to Trivandrum airport / railway station to board a flight / train to your onward destination.

INCLUSIONS

Accommodation in well app ointed room (1 Double)

Daily buffet breakfast at the coffee shop/restaurant.

Accommodation on houseboat on full board basis. (All Meals)

Transfers and tours using Air - Conditioned Vehicle with driver

Sightseeing (Munnar, Thekkady, Kumarakom, Alleppey, Fort Kochi, Mattancherry, Ernakulam)

Vehicle & Driver at disposal for 5 days, parking & driver night allowance.

EXCLUSIONS

International airport departure tax.

International / domestic airfares / train fare / travel insurance /medical.

Items of personal nature viz. telephone calls, drinks, laundry bills, etc.

Compulsory room & meal supplements for festive occasions (if any)

Anything which is not mentioned under "INCLUDES" header.

NOTES

Check in / Checkout - as per hotel's policy.

Dutch Palace is closed on Friday & Saturday.

Munnar, Periyar and Alleppey being destinations with natural beauty, guide is not required. However, the drivers are well versed with these places & act as a guide.

Check in time on the houseboat is 11:30am&checkout is 8:30am (21 hours of stay)

Air Condition in the houseboat room will remain "ON" from 9pm to 6 am

Houseboat will remain stationery from 5.30pm till next morning.

Due to space constraint an extra mattress would be provided on the houseboat and not an extra bed.

Tickets for boat cruise at Thekkady have to be purchased by the clients on direct payment basis. As per the new regulations passed by Government of Kerala, tickets CANNOT be purchased by anyone on behalf of the clients hence clients will have to buy the same directly. Our driver would guide them to the ticket counter.

Hotel confirmation will be purely subject to availability.

Rates are subject to change depending upon the category of rooms / hotels confirmed at the time of initiating the reservation.

FACT FILE

- 1. The weather conditions in Kerala are tropical.
- 2. Travel light. Most of your requirements are available at the local markets.
- 3. A variety of cuisines are available in Kerala. Do pamper your gastronomic juices by indulging in the scrumptious Kerala delicacies but take care not to eat from the unhygienic roadside stalls. It is advisable to drink only the packaged drinking water or mineral water.
- 4. It helps to remember that most temples do not allow foreign tourists and non-Hindus to enter. Even Hindu men are allowed into the sanctum of many only if they go bare-chested and don a dhoti and not trousers. Women are expected to wear a SAREE and surprisingly while a trouser or even the ethnic Indian SalwarKameez clad women may be restricted, a skirt donned lady will be allowed to pass.
- 5. Do remember to remove your footwear as you enter the temples or a MALAYALEE household.
- 6. Photography is restricted in many temples & museum. Do obtain permissions or special tickets for using the camera where necessary.
- 7. It is advisable to carry a list of emergency numbers such as printouts of the list provided in Maps Of India, Kerala Telephone Directory. However if such a listing is not available on hand, the police are contactable by dialing 100 and the fire & rescue team and ambulance services respond to 101.
- 8. Most high class hotels and resorts provide a 24 hour doctor on call service and house pharmacies. However tourists are advised to carry a kit of emergency and essential medications.
- 9. Kerala's allure is wide spread and the number of tourists visiting this natural paradise is ever increasing. Hence it is advisable to book your tickets and make reservations well in advance.
- 10. Do go in for Ayurvedic treatment only at authorized resorts and holistic treatment centers.
- 11. The banks of Kerala, like the rest of India operate between 10 am and 2 pm, Monday to Friday except on public holidays.
- 12. To get the best deals from curio shopping by bargaining. Take a local guide along as he is capable of getting you coveted souvenirs at throwaway prices.
- 13. The best season to visit this sylvan state is from November to March. Not only is the climate pleasant and windy, this is also the festival season and brings out the best performing and ritual arts performances. However most Ayurvedic resorts hold their rejuvenating programs from March to September.
- 14. Do remember to save the bills, vouchers tickets and vouchers amassed on your Kerala tour. These may be made into a scrapbook or a travelogue to remind you of the heady days spent in God's own Country.

The above are general consideration to be taken into account on your tour to Kerala. However it is important to develop a humane relation with the inhabitants of the region because those will be the best treasured reward of your trip to this tourist friendly state. Do put forth your suggestions for improvement without criticism in the suggestion books available at most tourist attractions and above all do show appreciation where it is due. A kind word or a pat on the back of a helpful guide goes a long way to make your trip rosy.



