

8Nights/9 Days

# Kerala Vacations; Culture, Nature & More

## Overview Kerala Vacations; Culture, Nature & More

Kerala, a jewel at the southern tip of India, is a land where nature and culture converge in perfect harmony. Flanked by the Arabian Sea to the west and the majestic Western Ghats rising to heights of 500–2700 meters in the east, this picturesque state is a treasure trove of natural wonders. The landscape of Kerala is as diverse as it is enchanting, divided into three distinct regions: the coastal lowlands, the fertile midlands, and the lush highlands. The coastal lowlands are a maze of serene backwaters and the deltas of 44 rivers, offering a tranquil escape into nature's lap. Here, life moves gently with the rhythm of the waterways, painting a picture of serenity and tradition. Venture into the midlands, and you'll find an agricultural haven bursting with life. This region is rich with plantations of cashew, coconut, areca nut, and rice, alongside vibrant fields of banana, ginger, pepper, sugarcane, and vegetables, creating a mosaic of colors and scents. In the highlands, the air grows cooler, and the landscapes transform into verdant hills adorned with tea, coffee, rubber, and spice plantations. The region is also a haven for wildlife, where the forests come alive with exotic flora and fauna, making it a paradise for nature lovers and adventurers alike. Kerala's breathtaking beauty and cultural richness make it a destination that lingers in your heart long after your journey ends.

## Day 1 ARRIVES AT COCHIN

Arrive in the vibrant city of Cochin, where history whispers from every corner. After checking into your hotel and freshening up, set out to explore the old-world charm of Fort Cochin and Mattancherry. Begin your adventure with a visit to the iconic Chinese fishing nets, a symbol of Cochin's rich maritime history. Watch these unique contraptions in action, a fascinating sight that connects the present to centuries-old traditions. Next, step into St. Francis Church, the final resting place of Vasco da Gama, where the simple yet historic architecture reflects the legacy of the Portuguese era. Continue to the Mattancherry Palace, also known as the Dutch Palace, where vivid mural paintings bring to life the timeless tales of the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Each painting offers a glimpse into the artistry and devotion of a bygone era. Wrap up your day with a leisurely stroll through the vibrant Jewish Street, lined with antique shops and boutiques. Visit the Jewish Synagogue, an architectural gem built in 1568 and adorned with exquisite Chinese tiles and sparkling Belgian chandeliers. The synagogue stands as a testament to Cochin's multicultural heritage and enduring charm. As the evening draws to a close, return to your hotel for a restful overnight stay, ready to embrace the adventures ahead in this enchanting land.

## Day 2 COCHIN to MUNNAR; 140KM, 4Hrs Drive

After a delightful breakfast, embark on a scenic 4-hour drive to Munnar, Kerala's captivating hill station nestled amidst the Western Ghats. As you journey upwards, the air grows cooler and the landscapes shift, revealing lush green tea plantations and mist-covered mountains. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and refresh, preparing for a day of exploration in this stunning mountain retreat. Your first stop is Rajamalai, part of the Eravikulam National Park, perched at an impressive 2695 meters above sea level. This high-altitude haven is home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr, a rare mountain goat that thrives in these rugged hills. As you wander through the park, surrounded by rolling hills and vibrant flora, you'll feel a sense of serenity unlike anywhere else. The park is open from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM, giving you ample time to soak in the natural beauty. Return to your hotel in the evening, where the cool mountain breeze and peaceful surroundings invite you to relax. Let the memories of the day's breathtaking sights linger as you settle in for an overnight stay, ready for more of Munnar's mountain magic.

## Day 3 AT MUNNAR

After a hearty breakfast, get ready for a full day of exploration in the enchanting hill station of Munnar. Your first stop is the Mattupetty Dam, set at an altitude of 1700 meters. Surrounded by lush hills and sprawling tea plantations, the dam offers a peaceful escape, where the calm waters reflect the beauty of the towering mountains. It's the perfect spot for photographs, relaxation, and to appreciate the majestic landscape that defines Munnar. Next, head to Eco-Point, a must-visit destination for nature lovers. The views here are nothing short of spectacular – panoramic vistas of verdant valleys and misty hills await you, offering the perfect backdrop for a moment of serenity. As you continue, visit Kundala Lake, a tranquil and picturesque location where you can enjoy a boat ride on the still waters, surrounded by towering hills and vibrant greenery. It's the kind of place where time slows down, allowing you to fully embrace the peace and beauty of Munnar. After a day filled with nature's wonders, head back to your hotel, where the cool mountain air and calm surroundings provide the perfect setting for relaxation. Enjoy a peaceful overnight stay in this charming hill station, with the day's memories still fresh in your mind.

## Day 4 MUNNAR to THEKKADY; 110KM, 3.30 Hrs Drive

After a refreshing breakfast, check out from your hotel and begin your scenic journey to Thekkady, where the lush landscapes give way to the tranquil backwaters of Kerala. Upon arrival, head to the houseboat jetty in Alleppey to begin your unforgettable journey through the picturesque backwaters. By noon, step aboard your private houseboat, your home for the evening. As the boat gently sets sail, you'll glide through narrow canals lined with palm trees and quiet villages, where life unfolds at its own peaceful pace. The traditional wooden houseboat, or kettuvallam, offers a unique perspective on Kerala's countryside, immersing you in its natural beauty and cultural charm. Lunch and dinner will be served on board, featuring delicious Kerala delicacies prepared fresh for you. As you cruise through the backwaters, take in the stunning views of the lush green landscape, passing by peaceful villages, small fishermen's huts, and vibrant paddy fields. The sights and sounds of traditional country life are a feast for the senses, making every moment aboard the houseboat unforgettable. As the sun sets over the tranquil waters, relax on the deck and let the serenity of the backwaters wash over you. With the gentle sway of the boat and the soft lapping of the water, your houseboat stay promises to be a unique and peaceful experience. Spend the night on board, letting the magic of the backwaters carry you into a restful sleep.

## Day 5 THEKKADY to ALLEPPEY; 180KM, 4.5Hrs Drive

After a hearty breakfast, check out from your hotel in Thekkady and set off on a scenic 4.5-hour drive towards Alleppey, the gateway to Kerala's enchanting backwaters. As you make your way to the houseboat jetty, you'll witness the landscapes shift from lush hills to tranquil waterways, setting the tone for a peaceful and immersive experience. By noon, you'll arrive at the jetty and board your houseboat for an unforgettable overnight cruise. Step aboard your traditional kettuvallam – a houseboat crafted from wood and palm leaves – and prepare for a journey like no other. The backwaters of Kerala, with their meandering canals and serene waters, offer a unique glimpse into the traditional way of life. As you glide through the narrow canals, watch as life unfolds along the water's edge – small villages, fishermen casting their nets, children waving from the shores, and farmers working in lush paddy fields. The surrounding beauty is simply mesmerizing, with lush greenery and tranquil waters at every turn. Enjoy authentic Kerala cuisine prepared on board, and indulge in fresh local flavors as you sail through this picturesque landscape. As the sun sets, relax on the deck and savor the moment, letting the sounds of nature and the gentle swaying of the boat lull you into a sense of peace. Spend the night aboard the houseboat, where the serene backwaters of Alleppey will make for an unforgettable stay.

## Day 6 ALLEPPEY to KOVALAM; 190KM, 4.30Hrs Drive

After a delightful breakfast aboard your houseboat, it's time to say goodbye to the serene backwaters of Alleppey and embark on a scenic 4.5-hour drive to Kovalam, Kerala's iconic beach destination. As you journey along the coastal roads, the landscapes transition from tranquil waters to the golden sands and turquoise waves of the Arabian Sea. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and take a moment to refresh, soaking in the laid-back coastal atmosphere of Kovalam. In the evening, the beach beckons. Step outside and enjoy the pristine beauty of the shoreline, where the rhythmic waves and gentle sea breeze invite you to relax and unwind. You can indulge in various beach activities like swimming, sunbathing, or even trying your hand at water sports. If you prefer a more leisurely pace, simply take a stroll along the beach, watch the fishermen at work, or enjoy a beautiful sunset over the horizon. As the day fades into night, retreat to your hotel for a peaceful overnight stay, filled with the soothing sounds of the sea and the promise of more beachside relaxation ahead.

## Day 7 AT TRIVANDRUM

After a delicious breakfast, head out for a day filled with the rich history and vibrant art of Trivandrum. Your first stop is the magnificent Kuthiramalika Palace Museum, a stunning example of Kerala's royal architecture. Admire the intricate wooden carvings and the serene beauty of this heritage site, where history comes alive in every corner. Next, dive into the cultural treasures at the Napier Museum, home to a fascinating collection of ancient artifacts, sculptures, and bronze statues. As you wander through the museum, you'll discover Kerala's rich artistic and cultural heritage. Nearby, the Raja Ravi Varma Art Gallery showcases the masterpieces of the renowned painter, Raja Ravi Varma. Marvel at the vibrant depictions of Indian mythology and royal portraits, each painting telling its own captivating story. Continue your journey with a visit to the Trivandrum Zoo, one of India's oldest, nestled in beautifully landscaped gardens. Explore the lush green paths and catch glimpses of exotic wildlife, creating the perfect balance of nature and history. In the evening, return to your hotel in Kovalam, where the rest of the day is yours to relax and unwind. Whether you choose to lounge by the beach, enjoy a delicious meal, or simply take in the peaceful coastal ambiance, your overnight stay in Kovalam will be the perfect end to a day of cultural exploration.

## Day 8 KOVALAM to KANYAKUMARI: 90KM, 03.00Hrs Drive

After a refreshing breakfast, check out from your hotel and embark on a scenic 3-hour drive to Kanyakumari, where the three mighty oceans – the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean – converge in a breathtaking display of nature's power. Your first stop is the sacred Devi Kanyakumari Temple, dedicated to the goddess Kanyakumari, a revered pilgrimage site that has drawn devotees for centuries. Marvel at the temple's beautiful architecture and soak in the tranquil energy of this sacred place. Next, take a boat ride to the iconic Vivekananda Rock, a peaceful spot where the great Indian philosopher Swami Vivekananda meditated. Here, on the rugged rock overlooking the vast ocean, you'll experience a sense of calm and spirituality that's truly unique. Visit the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial, a place of historical significance where the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi were once kept before being scattered in the sea. The memorial's serene atmosphere offers a moment of reflection on the legacy of India's Father of the Nation. As evening approaches, head to the shore for what is undoubtedly one of Kanyakumari's most captivating experiences – the sunset. Watch in awe as the sun dips below the horizon, painting the sky in shades of orange and pink, casting a magical glow over the waters where three seas meet. Return to your hotel in the evening for an overnight stay in this serene coastal town, with the memories of Kanyakumari's spiritual beauty and vibrant sunsets etched in your heart.

## Day 9 DROP AT TRIVANDRUM

After a delightful breakfast, check out from your hotel and set off for your final journey to Trivandrum, carrying with you unforgettable memories of Kerala's enchanting landscapes and rich culture. As you drive through the scenic roads one last time, reflect on the serene beaches, lush hill stations, tranquil backwaters, and historical wonders you've experienced over the past days. Upon arrival in Trivandrum, you'll be dropped off at the airport or railway station for your departure. Though your journey through Kerala has come to an end, the beauty, warmth, and spirit of this magical destination will stay with you long after you've left. Safe travels, and until next time!

### TOUR COST INCLUDES

- All transportation & Sightseeing through AC Vehicle as per the itinerary.
- Daily breakfast at hotels
- All meals in the houseboat.
- Driver's Bata, Toll and parking for the vehicle
- All Accommodation per the details given above.

### TOUR COST EXCLUDES

- Rate does not include Air / Rail fare
- Any other which does not include in the cost include list
- Lunch & dinner
- Guide charges, Entrance charges for the monuments and at destinations.

### CANCELLATION/NO SHOW POLICY

- As per the Booking Conditions of the Tour, the cancellation charges will be applicable for any cancellation request of the tour, either by the customer or any member of the group. The Company will deduct a minimum cancellation charge of 25% (twenty five percentage), if the cancellation request is received by the Company on or before the tenth day prior to the tour commencement date. For any subsequent cancellation made by the customer, i.e., on or after the ninth day till the third day prior to the Tour commencement date, refund would be made after deducting 50% (fifty percent) of tour cost. Where the cancellation request is made on or after the second day prior to the Tour commencement date, the Company shall make no refund to the customer. In any other case, including 'No Show', the Company shall make no refund to the customer.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Rooms are subject to availability and rates are subject to change
- Supplement / hike charges will be extra on per head basis
- Unimoni Travel & Holidays reserves the right to change/modify or terminate the offer any time at its own discretion and without any prior notice
- Hotel Check in / Check out times – 1400 Hrs. /1100 Hrs.
- A/c in the houseboat will be working from 09.00 PM to 07.00 AM.
- Houseboat will be anchored from 06.30 PM to 07.30 AM
- Houseboat check in 12.00 Hrs and check out 09.00 Hrs
- Accommodation in Ac rooms in all places except in Munnar & Thekkady, where rooms are Non a/c
- Vehicle up to 1300 Km limit, if exceeds additional amount will be applicable on per head basis
- Refund on cancellation strictly depends upon concerned hotel's and Vehicle cancellation policy.
- If there is any step increase in Fuel prices, there will be an prorate increase in the rates
- All guests have to carry valid id at the time of check in to the hotel (Mandatory)
- Guests must check all their belongings before check-out. Further claims will not be entertained
- Sightseeing places one time visit only & Midnight driving will not be provided.
- Sightseeing will be provided as per the itinerary only. It will not be provided as per the client's interest.
- Baggage space is limited to the type of transportation booked
- Standard type rooms will be offered in all category hotels
- For Vehicle, Ac will be operated only while running the vehicle and not during halt.
- Damage caused to our property due to carelessness of guests, their children or wards must be compensated by guest
- Any itinerary missed due to unforeseen conditions like weather ,blocked roads, strikes, delay in Flight or Train timings the guests have to bear any additional expenses incurred due to the same directly
- Kindly maintain cleanliness in the vehicle and carry spare clothes and towels for visits to the beaches and for water sports activities.
- Please note that Kilometer is charged from Garage to Garage
- Tips to the driver is at the discretion of Hirer.
- Consumption of alcohol in the vehicle is prohibited. Your co-operation is solicited.
- Offering alcoholic drink or beverage to the Driver is Strictly Prohibited
- For travel related sickness ,please inform the driver Immediately
- Jewish Synagogue – (Open 10:00-12:00 hrs; 1500-1700hrs). Closed on Saturdays
- Dutch Palace – (Open 10:00-17:00 hrs) Closed on Friday
- Zoo, Museum, Art gallery, etc. closed on Monday