



Spice of Kerala

13 day tour to Kovalam, Kollam, Backwater Cruise, Thekkady, Munnar & Cochin

This amazing thirteen-day holiday makes you travel back in time in the spice-trading port of Cochin, with impressive cultural influences, lulled by the serene beauty of Kerala's backwaters and thrilled by the game-spotting in the jungles of Periyar, the fragrance of tea plantations and hill forests of Munnar are sure to captivate you as you discover the Spice of Kerala.



Day 1 Australia ✈ Kovalam

Fly from Australia to Trivandrum. Upon arrival you are met and transferred to your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure or for your own activity. Stay overnight in Kovalam for 2 nights.

Day 2 Kovalam

Meal: B/D

Day at leisure to pursue independent activities. Kovalam is a beautiful place lying in obscurity for a long period of time along the picturesque coast of Kerala. Then in 1930, this little village broke the shackles of its lethargic slumber, the beauty of the fabulous silver sands and palm-fringed shores emerged from the darkness. The beaches of Kovalam offers activities like sun bathing, swimming, and water sports or you can opt for an Ayurvedic rejuvenation, yoga and meditation or herbal oil body toning massages. Overnight in Kovalam.

Day 3 Kovalam 🚢 Kollam (2.5hrs)

Meal: B/D

After breakfast travel to Kollam, the centre of the country's cashew trading and processing industry. The Malayalam Era is based on the founding of Kollam in the 9th century and being one of the oldest ports of the Malabar Coast, it was an important centre of trade during the ancient times, frequented by Phoenicians, Persians, Romans, Arabs and Chinese, with also famous travellers like Marco Polo and Ibn Battuta, who acclaimed the historical importance of Kollam as a commercial town. The industrial centre is well known for its titanium, mineral sands and china clay and is also the birth place of the legendary art form of 'Ramanattam Kathakali'. The historical importance of the place also stems from the fact that the township was designed and built by Syrians, an instance of foreign influence on Kerala. On arrival check into the hotel with rest of the day free to explore and enjoy this beautiful small town. Overnight in Kollam.

Day 4 Kollam

Meal: B/D

After breakfast explore the small village, interact with locals and experience their day to day life. Kollam is blessed with all unique features; sea, lake, mountains, plains, streams, rivers, backwaters, forest, vast green fields and tropical crop of every variety. The sight of white egrets dipping into the clear waters of the Ashtamudi Lake on a moonlit night is simply stunning. At the many temples, mosques, churches of this town, one can meet people eager to share their stories and monuments. Rest of the day is free to enjoy the backwater recreation club. Overnight in Kollam.

Day 5 Private Backwater Cruise

Meal: B/L/D

After breakfast, drive down to Alleppey to board your houseboat, the backwaters in Kerala are a world of serenity and wonderment. Over 900km of the Kerala backwaters are navigable and have been used for centuries by the local people for transportation. This large aquatic area is a vast network of lagoons, lakes, rivers and canals, and the people who live here have created their own distinct lifestyles. Witness the peaceful way of life on these amazing waterways with lunch, dinner and overnight stay on board. This will be a real highlight of your holiday.

Day 6 Thekkady

Meal: B/D

After breakfast disembark from the houseboat and travel to Thekkady well known for Periyar, South India's most popular wildlife sanctuary. The sanctuary spreading over 777 sqkm has a rich wildlife and is home to bison, wild elephant, boar, langoor, the great Indian tiger and many more wildlife species. It has an artificial lake formed by the Mullaperiyar Dam, built across the Periyar River. On arrival check in at the hotel, and after some relaxation proceed for a boat cruise on the Lake. Evergreen moist deciduous forests and savannah grass lands characterises Periyar. Overnight in Periyar.



Day 7 Thekkady Meal: B/D
 After a leisurely breakfast proceed to visit a spice plantation growing cardamom, pepper and coffee, and tea estate. Walk amidst the palette displaying variant shades of green, neatly arranged into terrace farms, the symmetry broken only by the sudden appearance of a gurgling stream. It is believed that the spice trade dates back three thousand years in Kerala and many spices find their home here. The slanting slopes caress a variety of cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, ginger, turmeric and curry leaves. On the way back, stop by the local market to purchase some fresh fragrant spices. Overnight in Periyar.

Day 8 Thekkady to Munnar (4hrs) Meal: B/D
 After breakfast travel to Munnar, the scenic beauty and marvellous waterfalls, high mountains with the low flying clouds passing by will win your heart and admiration. The town stands at a confluence

of three mountain streams – Mudrapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala. At an altitude of 6000 feet, Munnar has been the favoured summer resort since the time of the erstwhile British rulers in the colonial days. On arrival check in at hotel, rest of the day is free for your own activities. Overnight in Munnar.

Day 9 Munnar Meal: B/D
 After a leisurely breakfast proceed on a sightseeing tour of the town. Witness tea gardens spread like a green carpet over hundreds of acres, lush green hills, sparse population and far from pollution; Munnar is encircled by wooded hills of the Annamalai Ranges, with the towering bulk of Anamudi, which is peninsular India's highest peak at about 2695m. Sprawling tea plantations, picture perfect town, winding roads, exotic flora and fauna in its forests and grasslands, make Munnar an appealing hill station. Overnight in Munnar.

Day 10 Munnar to Cochin (4.5hrs) Meal: B/D
 After breakfast travel to Cochin, a vibrant and culturally rich, most flourishing and popular city of Kerala. Its strategic importance over the centuries is underlined by the nickname Queen of the Arabian Sea. The history of this city began when a major flood in AD 1341 threw open the estuary at Cochin, till then a land locked region, turning it into one of the finest natural harbours in the world. Cochin became the first European town-ship in India when the Portuguese settled here in the 15th century. On arrival check into the hotel; rest of the evening is free for last moment shopping. Overnight in Cochin.

Day 11 Cochin Meal: B/D
 After breakfast proceed on a sightseeing tour of the city where the Arabs, British, Chinese, Dutch, and Portuguese left indelible marks on the history and development of Cochin. Visit Cochin Harbour terminus where the Chinese fishing net presents a wonderful sight, Mattancherry Dutch Palace, The Jewish Synagogue and St. Francis church. Evening witness the cultural dance show called

'Kathakali'. This dance is characterized by artistic gesticulations, amazing costumes and very extensive make-up. Overnight in Cochin.

Day 12 Cochin to Australia Meal: B
 After a leisurely breakfast check out and transfer to the airport for your overnight flight bound for Australia.

Day 13 Australia
 Arrive in Australia in the morning.



Spice of Kerala Tour Dates & Prices

Tour code	Start Kovalam Saturday	End Cochin Wednesday	Full package with international air departing from Sydney / Melbourne / Brisbane / Adelaide / Perth
			Singapore Airlines
IK170318	18-Mar-17	29-Mar-17	\$3,590
IK170415	15-Apr-17	26-Apr-17	\$3,450
IK170520	20-May-17	31-May-17	\$3,450
IK170729	29-Jul-17	09-Aug-17	\$3,450
IK170916	16-Sep-17	27-Sep-17	\$3,450
IK171021	21-Oct-17	01-Nov-17	\$3,680
IK171118	18-Nov-17	29-Nov-17	\$3,680
IK180127	27-Jan-18	07-Feb-18	\$3,680
IK180224	24-Feb-18	07-Mar-18	\$3,680
IK180317	17-Mar-18	28-Mar-18	\$3,680

Land Only: \$2580 Single Supplement: \$1080

* This tour is a guaranteed departure based on a minimum of 2 people. Full package prices above include airport taxes and fuel surcharges.

* Please refer to Page 7 for **Tour Inclusions** and **Extending Your Holiday** details.

* Land only price: Tour starts from **Arrival transfer in Trivandrum** to **Departure transfer in Cochin**; excluding any international air tickets.

* Camera / video fees may apply in some sightseeing places (at your own expenses).

* India visa extra see page 8 for details.

Package prices of Singapore Airlines are for departures from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth. Any cost including hotel or meals incurred due to the connecting flight in Singapore will be at your own expenses.

Stopover in Singapore permitted if flying with Singapore Airlines; extra airport taxes apply. Land arrangement in Singapore can be arranged at additional cost.

Hotels used for this tour: 4* Kovalam Hotel Uday Samudra; 4* Kollam Hotel Fragment Nature; Alleppey deluxe house boat; 4* Thekkady Hotel Greenwoods; 4* Munnar Tall Trees Hotel; 4* Cochin Trident Hotel or similar.

Pre / Post Stay: \$198 (Kovalam) / \$168 (Cochin) per room per night with breakfast