



# Spice of Kerala

## 12 day Tour to Trivandrum, Kollam, Backwater Cruise, Thekkady, Munnar & Cochin

This amazing eleven-day holiday allows you to travel back in time through 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 fragrant of tea plantations and hill forests of Munnar are sure to captivate you as you discover the Spices of Kerala.



### Day 1 Australia ✈ Trivandrum

Fly from Australia to Trivandrum. Upon arrival you are met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight stay in Trivandrum.

### Day 2 Trivandrum ✈ Kollam (2.5 hrs)

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. 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. Arrive Kollam and check in at hotel. Overnight at Kollam.

### Day 3 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, lakes, mountains, plains, streams, rivers, backwaters, forests, 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. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the backwater recreation club. Overnight at Kollam.

### Day 4 Alleppey 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 5 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 spread over 777 sq. km, it 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 your hotel, and after some relaxation proceed for a boat cruise along the Lake. Evergreen moist deciduous forests and savannah grass lands characterises Periyar. Overnight at Periyar.

### Day 6 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 at Periyar.

### Day 7 Thekkady ✈ Munnar (4hrs)

Meal: B/D

After breakfast travel to Munnar, the



Chinese fishing net presents a wonderful sight, Mattancherry Dutch Palace and St. Francis Church. This evening we witness the cultural dance show called 'Kathakali'. This dance is characterized by artistic gesticulations, amazing costumes and very extensive make-up. Overnight at Cochin.

**Day 11 Cochin ✈ Australia Meal: B**  
After a leisurely breakfast check out and transfer to the airport for your overnight flight bound for Australia.

**Day 12 Australia**  
Arrive in Australia this morning.

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. The name Munnar reflects this very fact, since in Tamil moon aar literally implies three rivers. 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 your hotel, and the rest of the day is free for your own activities. Overnight at Munnar.

**Day 8 Munnar Meal: B/D**  
After a leisurely breakfast proceed on a sightseeing tour of the town. Witness tea gardens spread like green carpet over hundreds of Acers, lush green hills, 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 at Munnar.

**Day 9 Munnar 🚗 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 your hotel and the rest of the evening is free for last minute shopping. Overnight at Cochin.

**Day 10 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



## Spice of Kerala Tour Dates & Prices

| Tour code | Start<br>Trivandrum<br>Thursday | End<br>Cochin<br>Sunday | Full package with international air<br>departing from Sydney / Melbourne /<br>Brisbane / Adelaide / Perth |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
|           |                                 |                         | Singapore Airlines  |
| IK180222  | 22-Feb-18                       | 04-Mar-18               | \$3,580   |
| IK180315  | 15-Mar-18                       | 25-Mar-18               | \$3,580   |
| IK180405  | 05-Apr-18                       | 15-Apr-18               | \$3,480   |
| IK180503  | 03-May-18                       | 13-May-18               | \$3,480   |
| IK180524  | 24-May-18                       | 03-Jun-18               | \$3,480   |
| IK180705  | 05-Jul-18                       | 15-Jul-18               | \$3,480   |
| IK180913  | 13-Sep-18                       | 23-Sep-18               | \$3,480   |
| IK181025  | 25-Oct-18                       | 04-Nov-18               | \$3,580   |
| IK181122  | 22-Nov-18                       | 02-Dec-18               | \$3,580   |
| IK190103  | 03-Jan-19                       | 13-Jan-19               | \$3,980   |
| IK190131  | 31-Jan-19                       | 10-Feb-19               | \$3,680   |
| IK190221  | 21-Feb-19                       | 03-Mar-19               | \$3,680   |

Land Only: \$2680    Single Supplement: \$980

\* 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\* Trivandrum Uday Suite; 4\* Kollam Hotel Fragment Nature; Alleppey deluxe house boat; 4\* Thekkady Hotel Greenwood; 4\* Munnar Tall Trees Hotel; 4\* Cochin Trident Hotel or similar.

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