

Live A Larger Life

Best of Kerala, Beaches and Backwaters Small Group Tour



Trivandrum-Varkala-Thekkady-Munnar-Kochi-Alleppey (houseboat) - Kochi

14 Days from \$3550* pp | Departs 27 Feb 25

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Kerala Backwaters houseboat stay
- Backwaters Resort for a few nights to finish off – how about a traditional Ayurveda Experience
- India's south famous Kathakali Dance Performance
- India's south warmth, colour, diversity and beauty, handcrafted for you
- My handpicked chosen beaches with vibe you won't find elsewhere
- Mountain Tea Estates & Spice Plantations
- Perriyar National Wildlife park & boat ride
- Personally escorted
- Transfers from Newcastle to Sydney airport.

INCLUSIONS

- All sightseeing inclusions as per itinerary including boat rides guided walking tours, local cooking class, Kathakali Dance show, Fishing village tour and so much more....as all my group tours.
- Deluxe air-con vehicle with experienced driver and English-speaking local guide
- Handpicked accommodation –personally chosen
- Daily buffet breakfast and other included specialty meals.
- Tea estates, Spice Plantations and entrance fees to national parks & walks
- Specialty meals giving you the local flavours of Kerala

**Conditions apply. Secure your spot with a non-refundable deposit of \$600. Pay a 2nd instalment of \$2000 within 30 days. Balance due 01 Dec 24. Price is based on per person double / twin share. Single supplement price \$3650 to have your own room. Prices are correct at time of publication. The package is based on minimum of 14 people. If the minimum is not reached the price will be recalculated based on the number of participants. Cancellation fees will apply. Check for full terms and conditions. <https://www.travelmanagers.com.au/terms-and-conditions>



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Your itinerary

Best of Kerala, Backwaters & Beaches

14 Days / 13 nights land tour

Trivandrum - Varkala - Thekkady - Munnar - Kochi - Alleppey
(houseboat) – Alleppey Waters Resort - Kochi

Day 1: Arrival Trivandrum - Varkala. Meeting assistance on arrival at Trivandrum airport and transfer to Varkala (40 Kms/1.5 hours). Overnight at hotel

Day 2: Varkala Beach. This is the beach for the beachlovers !!! Lovely walks along the coastal cliffs and a vibrant little town of cafes, stalls This beach has the “Kuta meets Katmandu” vibe and the property we will stay at has views over the ocean. Overnight at hotel

Day 3: Varkala Beach. A day of leisure. Varkala has several places of tourist interest like a beautiful beach, a two-thousand-year-old shrine - the Janardhana Swamy Temple, the Sivagiri Mutt, founded by the great Hindu reformer and Philosopher Sree Narayana Guru.

Day 4: Varkala – Thekkady After breakfast transfer to Thekkady and check-in at your hotel

Afternoon, proceed with boat ride (Subject to available) at Periyar Wild Life Sanctuary. Periyar tiger Reserve, Thekkady, is an example of nature’s bounty, with great scenic charm, rich bio-diversity and providing veritable visitor satisfaction. Sprawled over an area of 777 Sq. km. Periyar is one of the 27 tiger reserves in India. Zealously guarded and efficiently managed reserve is a repository of rare, endemic and endangered flora and fauna and forms the major watershed of two important rivers of Kerala, the Periyar and Pamba.

Evening witness “Kalariyapayattu” performance (traditional martial art) at a local theatre. Overnight at Hotel

Day 5: Thekkady After breakfast enjoy “Nature/Jungle walk” (2-3 Hours)

Different nature trails traversing diverse habitats form the trekking routes, generally 4 to 5 km. in length. This is an interpretive program offering excellent opportunity to watch birds, butterflies and other wildlife. The trails often pass through evergreen and moist deciduous forests interspersed with marshy grasslands. A maximum of 5 persons can go for trekking at a time along each nature trail, accompanied by a trained tribal guide. The Nature walk is the right program to feel nature, hear her whispers and smell her flowers.

Afternoon get ready for some local shopping, we will arrange a Jeep for the same; drive (45 Minutes) to **Cumbam a live vegetable Market** in Kerala Tamil Nadu Border, the drive to the market really interesting, you can see the local Farm and Plantation of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. On the way you can see some commercial plantations of Cardamom, Pepper, Coffee etc. and you can see the processing of Cardamom. It is an opportunity to see why the Kerala cuisine is so different from most of the other Indian cuisines. While moving towards Tamil Nadu you can also see the Farm of Grapes, Pomegranate, Banana, Cocoa, Papaya and other wide varieties of Vegetables; buy some fresh vegetable directly from the Local farmers and drive back to Thekkady. On arrival at Thekkady explore the Spice Plantation local Naturalist will explain about each Spice and it’s processing later proceed to the **local family house** where they will demonstrate the Travancore style preparation with your vegetable and have a delicious dinner with the local family members.

Overnight at hotel



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Best of Kerala, Backwaters and Beaches
Trivandrum - Varkala - Thekkady - Madurai -
Munnar - Kochi - Alleppey (houseboat) –
Alleppey Waters Resort - Kochi

Day 6: Thekkady – Munnar (By surface: 100 Kms/3-4 Hours) After leisurely breakfast drive to Munnar. On arrival check-in at Hotel Later in the afternoon proceed with guided city tour of Munnar visiting Tea Museum followed by a tea tasting session and later walk in the town. Overnight at hotel

Day 7: Munnar – After breakfast proceed for Lockhart Tea Factory visit

Lockhart Tea Factory is the hometown of various artifacts created in the terms of ancient cultural, historical, and artistic works. Lockhart Tea Museum is one such place which nurtures their customers by providing historical voyage about the first plantations of Munnar which was started during 1879. The Factory here was constructed in 1936 that means before Independence Day. This living Factory gives a handful of knowledge about orthodox tea processing and the operations that go into the making of black tea, green tea, and white tea in traditional ways still. Lockhart Tea factory is fully a wooden building constructed by following the old traditional methods. The tour includes a briefing about the history and health benefits of tea. The factory also has a tea tasting section, a tea sale outlet.

Later visit Mattupetty Dam and Echo Point

Mattupetty Dam: This dam has a vast reservoir that extends several kilometers into the hills. This dam is made up of concrete and it is the major source of hydroelectric power to the nearby regions. Mattupetty Dam is one among the largest dam in the entire country. The rolling hills, scenic grasslands, large plantation areas and the charming lake flowing across are the highlights of Mattupetty dam. Guests can also witness small streams of water running in crisscross fashion across the terrains. Mattupetty is famous for an Indo Swiss Farm Project or Livestock project.

Echo Point: It is one of the favorite tourist spot known for its natural echo phenomenon. Famous activities in this picturesque destination among the explicit views of the lush green hills are trekking and nature walks. With an overall view, one can see clean mountain air, mist clad hills makes this place worth visiting.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 8: Munnar – Kochi (By surface: 150 Kms / 04 Hours) After breakfast drive to Kochi and check-in at Hotel

Evening free at leisure Evening: Witness India's most spectacular Kathakali Dance show drama based on stories from Ramayana and Mahabharata. The dancers are elaborately made up with paint and masks, accompanied with drummers and musicians. Overnight at hotel

DAY 9: Kochi After breakfast proceed for sightseeing of Kochi visiting the Dutch Palace, the Jewish Synagogue - (which remains closed on Fridays) St. Francis Church and the Santa Cruz Basilica. While driving along the coastline, at the Harbour's mouth, one can also view the unique and still-in-use "Chinese Fishing Nets" which were introduced by the Chinese traders in the 14th Century. The tour ends in the Fort Kochi area where you can walk through the historical Dutch and Portuguese buildings. Some parts of this nearly 500-year-old Fort are still well preserved.



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DAY 10: Kochi After breakfast, proceed for an excursion to Kumbalangi Fishing Village... It is identified as the first Model fisheries and tourism village in India. Kumbalangi has a vast stretch of backwaters connected by interlocking waterways to the whole of Kerala. It is an ideal getaway location for tourists from all over the world. What makes it more interesting to visit Kumbalangi is that it is a virgin landscape unspoiled by excessive presence of tourists. Here you will find the calm, quiet and tranquil landscape with warm inhabitants who depend on nature for their survival. A day in Kumbalangi can be a festival to remember... a treat for the eye and the mind. Kumbalangi is rich with exotic local cuisines, boat building and masonry, manually operated coir looms, fish farms etc. We will take a cruise in country boats to Kallanchery, an Island in Kumbalangi which is about 700mtrs length and 150 mtrs in breadth. There are around 500 people living there. Most of the people are engaged in fishing and clam meat processing for their livelihood, the Island is surrounded by Chinese fishing nets. The villagers are engaged in agriculture, fishing, crab & fish farming, coir making etc. Main crops cultivated here are coconut and betel nuts, nutmegs, vanilla, anthurium farm, and trees like teakwood, spices like pepper, pathimugham etc. In the aquaculture farm they cultivate shrimps, crabs, milk fishes, pearl spots and mullets etc.

Return back to Kochi for overnight stay

DAY 11: Kochi - Alleppey (Houseboat) (By surface: 55 Km/1.5 Hours) After breakfast drive to **Alleppey** & check-in to DELUXE A/C HOUSEBOAT

Your houseboat carries you slowly down palm-hung waterways, past backwater settlements of thatched and tiled cottages, bright with cartons and hibiscus. You set your own pace: stopping where you like, resting when you like, and indulging yourself with the freshest of foods bought from the farmers and fishermen on the banks of the backwaters.

Lunch, dinner & Overnight on Houseboat

DAY 12: Alleppey (Resort)

After breakfast dis-embark your houseboat and check-in at hotel in Alleppey at the backwater. Overnight at hotel

DAY 13: Alleppey Day free at leisure to explore and enjoy the beautiful backwaters. Overnight at Hotel

DAY 14: Alleppey – Kochi – Departure After breakfast check-out and transfer to airport to board onward flight

Ask me for extensions and an option to **experience Holi Fest in Rajasthan** – Jaipur, Agra & Delhi- a **bucket list experience**

- Flop and drop on one of my fav beaches in Goa
- Feel the vibe of the awesome Golden Temple- Amritsar
- Or find your soul in a wellness retreat



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#LIVE_A_LARGER_LIFE – together in Kerala

ADDITIONAL INFO

- INCLUSIONS:

- **My Handpicked Accommodation** staying in properties that reflect the local charm
- **Culinary Delights** Breakfast daily & specialty dinners as per itinerary
- **Comprehensive Sightseeing** – a tour which is packed with incredible experiences, landscapes and hidden gems.
- **Expert local guidance**
- **Comfortable travel** -Air-conditioned private bus
- airport
- **Transfers from Newcastle to Sydney**

- EXCLUSIONS

- International airfares
- Transfer from Sydney airport to your home. Can be arranged to match with your return flight.
- Travel insurance is mandatory-I can assist
- Tips for baggage at hotel, airport driver & guide we will have a guideline in place (tipping kitty)

WHERE YOU WILL STAY

- **Varkala:** B'Canti Beach Resort
- **Periyar:** Cardamom county by Xandari
- **Munnar:** Fragrant Nature
- **Kochi:** Fort Kochi Hotel
- **Alleppey:** Houseboat 1 night
- **Alleppey:** Uday Backwater Resort

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