

Kerala Extraordinaire



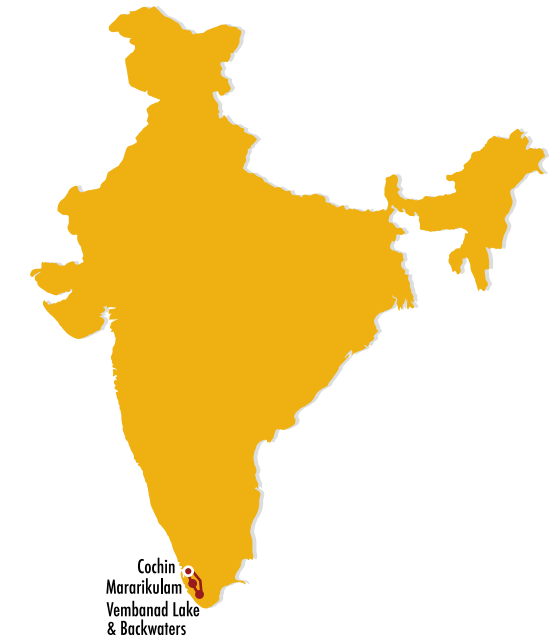
In harmony with a **rich and colourful** history, contemporary Kerala remains true to its cultural heritage. To experience its charms up-close this tour stays in **ancestral homes**, boutique hotels, a historic club and a refined beach resort. For those who love to get off-the-beaten-track it is an opportunity not to be missed. Discover some of the many **hidden aspects** of Kerala's cultural, historic and natural wonders.



Main image: Marari Beach Resort



Hindu priest at Kali ceremony



Day 1 Arrive Cochin

Arrive Cochin. Your hotel, Malabar House, is a haven of tranquility. It is a boutique hotel converted from an 18th-century Dutch colonial residence. Evening Kathakali dance drama, enacting epics from the Hindu Ramayana and Mahabharata. Overnight at Malabar House.

Day 2 Cochin to Olavipe

City tour includes the Dutch Palace, 16th century Jewish synagogue, and dramatic Chinese fishing nets. Drive to Thekkanat Parayil at Olavipe. This 19th century home nestles in a verdant and unspoilt corner of rural Kerala on a working multi-crop organic plantation. Remainder of the day free to explore. Overnight at the Thekkanat Parayil (Home Stay). (B, L, D)

Day 3 Olavipe

Free day to explore. Browse through the family archives, a treasure-trove of old family documents, letters and photographs, wander the plantation, boat on the lake. Overnight at the Thekkanat Parayil. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Olavipe to Vembanad

Lake drive to Sanctuary Bay, a secluded setting on the palm-fringed shores of Vembanad Lake. The Privacy is the ultimate stylish 'backwater' retreat, tastefully and comfortably decorated with works of art, colourful fabrics and period furniture. Overnight at The Privacy. (B, L, D)

Day 5 The Privacy

Day at leisure. Explore village life by bike, or take a boat trip on the lake and lagoons. Overnight at The Privacy. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Privacy - Backwaters

Join your houseboat and cruise slowly through the palm-fringed backwaters. Overnight on the Houseboat. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Backwaters - Kalaketty Estate

Drive to Kalaketty rubber plantation, dating from the 1930's. The house is set amidst huge, old mahogany, teak, mangostene, nutmeg and clove trees and overlooks lush green paddy fields. Overnight at the Kalaketty Estate (Home Stay). (B, L, D)

Day 8 Kalaketty Estate

A relaxing day exploring the estate by jeep. For bird watchers there are kingfisher, myna, woodpecker, Indian koel, magpie and racket-tailed drongo. Overnight at the Kalaketty Estate (Home Stay). (B, L, D)

Day 9 Kalaketty to Mararikulam

Drive to Mararikulam near Cochin. Afternoon at leisure to enjoy eco-friendly luxury at the ultimate coastal hideaway. Overnight at Marari Beach Resort. (B)

Day 10 Mararikulam

Day at leisure. Overnight at Marari Beach Resort. (B)

Day 11 Marari to Cochin

Morning at leisure. Drive to Cochin. Overnight at Malabar House. (B)

Day 12 Cochin and Departure

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

