



A new travel series that helps expats plan and visit the must-see sights of India

DISCOVER INDIA

KERALA

A trip to Kerala is a leisurely journey through 'God's own Country' – Spice Gardens and Tea Plantations. Palm-fringed beaches bounded by shimmering golden sands. Lazy backwaters with secret retreats. Wildlife reserves and the unforgettable Kerala cuisine.

HERE is a sample itinerary that will help you plan your holiday.

Day 1: Arrive in Cochin by a morning flight from Chennai or Bangalore, and transfer to your hotel. Visit Fort Cochin including the fascinating cantilevered Chinese Fishing Nets, Jewish Synagogue, St. Francis Church and Mattancherry Palace. Take in an evening performance of the spectacular Kathakali dance performance, arriving early to watch the intricate make-up being applied.

Day 2: Delightful drive up through the Cardamom Hills to the former British hill station of Munnar. Stay for two nights at a plantation bungalow on a tea estate.

Day 3: A day to explore... perhaps the tea and cardamom plantations, or the Eravikulam National Park, an area of outstanding natural beauty, with

numerous unique species of flora and fauna including the endangered Nilgiri Tahr.

Day 4: Morning drive to Thekkady staying at a plantation resort. Late afternoon game-viewing boat trip at the Periyar National Park.

Day 5: A drive down to Kumarakom through lush countryside, lunching at a traditional Planter's house. Two nights at the backwaters.

Day 6: Take a morning boat trip to a backwater farm. Afternoon at leisure, followed by an unforgettable sunset boat ride.

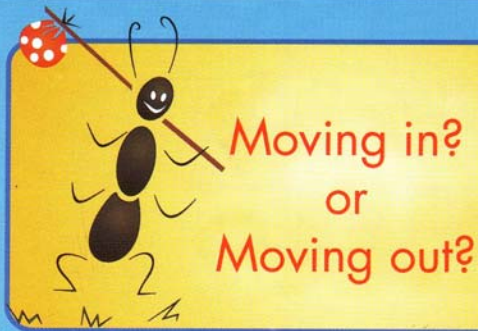
Day 7: Glide the ancient backwaters in a traditional rice-boat. Overnight on the houseboat.

Day 8-10: Drive to Mararikulam and unwind for three nights for at your beach resort or intimate beach homestay. Depart for Cochin and take your flight back to Chennai or Bangalore.

This is an advertiser's feature by Ashish Gupta, who runs his own travel company, Milesworth Holidays, an American Express Travel office in Chennai. He offers customised holiday travel planning in India with a specialisation in Southern India.

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