



Experience Southern India's tropical paradise with our Kerela tour

Kerela Tour

9 Days / 8 Nights

Tour Highlights Cochin → Periyar → Kumarakom → Alleppey → Kovalam



Day 1: Arrive Cochin

Meeting and assistance on arrival and transfer to hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Day 2: Cochin

(B)

Morning sightseeing of Cochin, a city till today influenced by medieval Portugal, Holland and England. You visit St. Francis Church, built in 1503 by Portuguese Franciscan friars where Vasco da Gama was buried for 14 years before his remains were transferred to Lisbon. His tombstone still stands. Nearby is the Mattancherry Palace or "Dutch Palace". The central hall on the 1st floor was the coronation hall of the rajas of Cochin. Other rooms depict scenes from the Ramayana and Puranic legends connected with Hindu gods. Amazing are the Chinese fishing nets. These cantilevered fishing nets line the entrance to the harbour mouth. They were introduced by traders from the courts of Kublai Khan. You also see the Jew City with the Jewish Synagogue, constructed in 1568, with hand-painted, willow-pattern floor tiles brought from Canton in the mid-18th century by a Rabbi, who had trading interest in that city. Overnight in Cochin.

Day 3: Cochin - Periyar (by surface, approx. 4-5 hours)

(B)

After breakfast drive to Periyar National Park. This unique wildlife sanctuary is about 780 sq. km centered around an artificial lake fed by the Periyar River. In the morning enjoy a short Trek in the forest with a naturalist. Different nature trails traversing diverse habitats form the trekking routes, generally 4 to 5 km. in length. This is an interpretive programme offering excellent opportunity to watch birds, butterflies and other wildlife. The trails often pass through evergreen and moist deciduous forests interspersed with

marshy grasslands. The trek lasts for about 3 hours per trek. The Nature walk is the right programme to feel nature, hear her whispers and smell her flowers. Overnight in hotel.

Day 4: Periyar - Kumarakom (by surface, approx. 4.5 hours) (B)

After the breakfast leave for Kumarakom by surface. On arrival check-in at hotel. The village of Kumarakom is a cluster of little islands on the Vembanad Lake, and this small water world is part of the Kuttanad region. The bird sanctuary here, which is spread across 14 acres is a favorite haunt of migratory birds and an ornithologist's paradise. Egrets, darters, herons, teal, waterfowl, cuckoo, wild duck and migratory birds like the Siberian stork that live There in flocks are a fascination for visitors. The best way to watch the birds of the Kumarakom sanctuary is a boat trip round the islands. In the evening enjoy the sunset boat cruise on the Vembanad lake provided by the hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Day 5: Kumarakom (B)

Day at leisure. Overnight at hotel.

Day 6: Kumarakom - Alleppey (approx. 1 hour) (B,L,D)

Morning check-out from the hotel and board a houseboat. Cruise towards Alleppey, the backwaters cruise takes off through a network of canals with a back drop of villages and coconut trees on the shores. Overnight on board the houseboat.

Day 7: Alleppey - Kovalam (approx. 4.5 hours) (B)

Morning depart for Kovalam by surface and on arrival check-in at the Hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Day 8: Kovalam (B)

Day at leisure. Overnight at hotel.

Day 9: Kovalam - Trivandrum (by surface, approx. 30 mins) -Leave Trivandrum (B)

In time transfer to airport to board flight for onward destination.

RATES AND CONDITIONS

ACCOMMODATION:

City	4* Hotels	Number of nights
Cochin	Holiday Inn	02
Periyar	Greenwood Resort	01
Kumarakom	Zuri	02
Alleppey	Luxury Houseboat	01

Kovalam	Turtle on the beach (not on the beach, just overlooking it)	02
----------------	---	----

PRICING per person for shared twin/double.ie 2 people per room

Rates are valid from 01 October 2017 to 30 November 2017 & 01 February 2018 to 15 March 2018

4* Package from:	R 24 705.00 per person sharing Inclusive of airfares ex Johannesburg
-------------------------	---

Our Services include:

- Return airfares ex Johannesburg with airport taxes
- Accommodation in a shared twin or shared double room in selected hotels
- Meals as mentioned (B= Breakfast)
- English speaking guide
- Tours and transfers as mentioned by private air conditioned vehicle unless stated otherwise

Our Services do not include:

- Visas
- Entrance fees to monuments, approx R 350.00
- Other meals than mentioned
- Personal expenses (drinks, laundry, telephone, tips etc)
- Travel insurance
- Laundry
- Tipping
- Other services not clearly indicated in the package inclusions above

All you need to know about our tours:

- The above itinerary is a guideline of what we can offer you in India. These tours are tailor made to suit you and can be chopped and changed to your liking.
- We personally ensure that the hotels we chose are up to South African Standards. We do not sell local trains or budget/3* hotels in India
- Our India tours are all on a private basis so you will not be part of a group
- All our transfers and tours are conducted in private aircon vehicles with a driver and a guide on tours
- Free time at leisure means you get to catch a tuk tuk or a taxi and explore the city at your own pace
- The best time to visit India weather wise would be from October to March. Travel during the rainy season is only recommended to North India(ie.The golden Triangle) as they do not see as much rain as South India.

Standard Terms & Conditions:

- Prices quoted are per person sharing in a Double/Twin room which means min 2 people have to share a room to avail the rate quoted
- Rates are a guideline only and is subject to change with no prior notice based on availability and currency fluctuations