

Travel With Me
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Essence of Kerala

Duration : **7 Days / 6 Nights**

Departure Dates : **3 October 2018**

Tour Type - Travel with Me Private Journey

*Price from \$1995 pp Twin share and
\$3295 SOLO 4 star*

or

*From \$2975 pp Twin share and \$4495
SOLO Luxury 5 star*

Price includes flight from Delhi to Cochin

Price based on a minimum of 10 passengers.

Day 1 : 3 October – Arrive Cochin

Arrive at Cochin Airport. TOTAL HOLIDAY OPTIONS Executive will wait at the arrival lounge with a placard with your name to greet you. Thereafter you will be assisted with a transfer and check in at the hotel.

Meals (D)



Day 2 : 4 October - Cochin

After breakfast proceed for **guided sightseeing tour** of the oasis state of Kerala and one of the India's most colourful cities. The Port of Cochin is known as the "Queen of the Arabian Sea" and is the industrial hub of the state where the ancient civilization mingles with the 20th century.

Cochin's rich history and heritage, showcasing the mixed Dutch, Portuguese, British and Jewish influences that make the city unique. This morning we visit the area around the **Fort Cochin**. During the tour, we will visit the **Old quarter of Fort Kochi**, exploring the quaint streets of this city. Visit the **Dutch Cemetery**, the oldest European cemetery in India, before heading to Fort Kochi's seaside promenade, and get a glimpse of daily life in Kochi. Head to the waterfront to see the **Chinese Fishing Nets**, undoubtedly Kochi's most recognizable sights and which have been there since the 14th century and are remarkably still in use today. We also get to see the **local fish markets** near the Chinese fishing nets area. We visit the **St. Francis Church**; the first church to be built in India by the Portuguese. Vasco-de-Gama, who discovered the sea route to India from Europe, was originally buried here (his remains were later taken to Portugal).

Later drive to the area around the synagogue is known as "**Jew town**" and is one of the Kochi's spice trade centres. Visit the **synagogue (Closed on Fridays & Saturday's)** the centre for the Jewish community — which can be traced back to the exodus from Palestine 2000 years ago. The magnificent structure was built in 1568. The Great Scrolls of the Old Testament, copper plates of inestimable historical worth containing the privileges granted to Jews by the Cochin Maharajas, and the exquisite Chinese hand-painted tiles are artefacts of great interest at the synagogue. We also stop at **Mattancherry Dutch Palace (Closed on Fridays & Saturday's)** which was built by the Portuguese and presented to the Maharaja of Cochin in 1568. At the centre of the building is a large coronation hall. Seventeenth-century mural paintings depicting scenes from the India epic Ramayana can be seen in the palace.

Evening enjoy a **Kathakali Dance Performance**. Kathakali is a ritualized dance form that is native to Kerala, with elaborate costumes and makeup. Male dancers portray both male and female roles that tell the stories taken mostly from the epics of the Mahabharata and Ramayana. **Meals (B/D)**

Day 3 : 5 October – Cochin to Alleppey (Houseboat)

After breakfast drive down to Alleppey. Here we board our houseboat, converted from a Kettuvallam or traditional rice barge, and sail through the beautiful backwaters of Kerala. The backwaters of Kerala are a world of serenity and wonderment. The coastal regions of Kerala have a network of waterways, inlets from the sea, and estuaries of over forty rivers, lakes and natural canals connecting coastal towns. This interlinked body of waterways is known as the backwaters of Kerala. Over 900 Km 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 in this region 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. **Meals (B/L/D)**



Day 4 : 6 October – Alleppey to Kumarakom

After breakfast, disembark from the houseboat and travel to Kumarakom; an unbelievably beautiful paradise of mangrove forests, emerald green paddy fields and coconut groves interspersed with enchanting waterways and canals adorned with white lilies. Laze in a canoe amidst sylvan surroundings where the only presence is yours and the egrets.

Later enjoy a nature walk at the famous Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary that gives you the pleasure to meet a variety of migratory birds that cluster in thousands some TOTAL HOLIDAY OPTIONS - Australia, Suite 402, Level 4, 66 Berry Street, North Sydney NSW 2060, Australia Ph: 1300 1 THO AU (1300 1 846 28), Fax: +61 2 80721320, Email: info@totalholidayoptions.com.au, Web: www.totalholidayoptions.com.au

of the Himalayas and some even from the snow-kissed hills of Siberia, a true multicultural avian metropolis. For the inquisitive bird watcher, it is always advisable to carry binoculars at all times. Dinner and overnight at Kumarakom.

Meals (B/D)



Day 5 : 7 October – Kumarakom to Kovalam

After breakfast travel to Kovalam through the green coastal belt and cashew plantations. On arrival check into the resort with rest of the day free for your own activities. Take an enticing walk along the beach to enjoy the scenery of the Arabian waves embracing virgin sands, with steep palm covered headland. A glittering silvery sand contour into an arc, edging on one side with cerulean waters and on the other side by a magnificent row of the green palm groves, provides a spectacular view of the seeming eternal sea and sunsets. The waterfront is lined with a number of shops with spreads of jewellery, handicrafts and clothes. Kovalam means a grove of coconuts trees and truly the coconut trees along the beaches give it a ravishing look. Stay three nights at Kovalam

Meals (B/D)

Day 6 : 8 October - Kovalam

After breakfast day is free at leisure to relax by the beach or just relax by the pool and enjoy the hotel facilities. Afternoon relax and rejuvenate yourself with the goodness of Ayurveda herbal oil massage.

Meals (B/D)

Day 7 : 9 October – Kovalam to Trivandrum

The morning after leisurely breakfast checkout from the hotel. The tour finishes with wonderful memories and direct transfer to Trivandrum Airport to board your onward flight (Does not include air prices)

Meals (B)

