

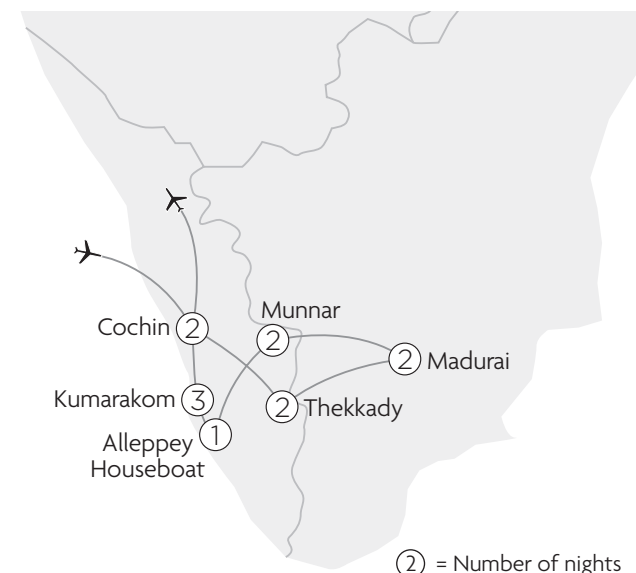


Splendours of Kerala

14 days from only £2,595 per person

Kerala is a blissfully tranquil region on India's tropical Malabar Coast, boasting an enthralling history, serene backwaters, and opulent green-leaf tea plantations. Blessed with beautiful Arabian Sea coastline and an interior landscape dominated by the hills of the Western Ghats, Kerala is a captivating destination with a relaxed pace of life, which will cast a spell over everyone who visits.

Our 14-day Splendours of Kerala tour begins in colonial-accented Cochin, where ancient Chinese fishing nets sit alongside European-influenced architecture. Munnar follows with its spectacular location in the verdant tea plantations of the Western Ghats, and a true highlight of the tour is an overnight stay on a traditional houseboat in Kerala's tranquil backwaters. With fascinating Meenakshi Temple, a visit to see the wild Asian elephants at Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, a cruise on Lake Vembanad and a relaxing Ayurveda massage all included, the Splendours of Kerala tour will provide you with a real appreciation of southern India.



Your holiday includes

Small group touring

- Maximum only 24 passengers

Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- Return economy class flights
- Fly with Qatar Airways via Doha from London Heathrow. Flights from Manchester may be possible
- All airport charges, security charges and any applicable fuel surcharges
- UK Air Passenger Duty

Carefully selected hotels

- First class and deluxe hotels in great locations
- All hotel portorage
- Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals worth £462 per person

- 12 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 12 dinners

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Cochin and Madurai
- Boat ride on Periyar Lake
- 'Going to Bed Ceremony' at Meenakshi Temple in Madurai
- Discover the tea-making process in Munnar
- Explore the Keralan backwaters on board a kettuvallam houseboat
- A relaxing sunset cruise on Lake Vembanad
- Rejuvenate with an Ayurveda body massage

On the ground

- Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
- All overseas transfers
- Modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

100% Confidence

- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise*
- Your holiday is covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 112-115.



Meenakshi Temple, Madurai

Splendours of Kerala

Days 1 to 8: UK - Cochin - Thekkady - Madurai - Munnar

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Qatar Airways from London Heathrow. Manchester flights may also be available. Please call for details. Please note, flight schedules and airline carriers are subject to change. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Cochin, 2 nights

All flights will travel via Doha. On arrival into Cochin, we transfer to the four-star Trident Cochin Hotel for our first two nights in India. This evening, enjoy a welcome drink with our Tour Manager and fellow travellers to learn more of our forthcoming travels. **Inflight meals and drinks and dinner included**

Day 3: Cochin

Cochin, the colourful port city of Kerala, has been drawing travellers to its shores for over 600 years. We journey first to Mattancherry Palace, also known as the 'Dutch Palace', to admire its exquisite murals. Continue to enchanting Fort Cochin, where Chinese fishing nets line the shore and whose narrow lanes filled with colonial architecture are a delight to explore. This evening, experience a 2,000 year old traditional Kathakali dance performance. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Thekkady, 2 nights

This morning, we begin our scenic journey to Thekkady, home to the renowned Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. Enjoy two nights at the wonderful Spice Village Hotel, a lovely rustic eco-resort within a spice garden, overlooking the cool highlands of Periyar in Thekkady. This evening, experience a performance of Kalaripayattu – the oldest and most ancient form of Indian martial arts. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 5: Thekkady

Following breakfast, we explore a spice plantation, where the mystery and history of the Indian tea and spice industry will be revealed. Later, enjoy a tranquil cruise on Periyar Lake (subject to water levels) through the scenic Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, where the surrounding forests are thriving with a range of colourful birdlife and wildlife, including elephants and sambars. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 6: Madurai, 2 nights

We leave Periyar behind and journey to Madurai, a lively and ancient city, in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Home for the next two nights is the Gateway Hotel Pasumalai. Sitting at the top of the Pasumalai Hill and surrounded by 62 acres of spectacular scenic gardens, the hotel enjoys beautiful panoramic views of the famous Meenakshi Temple and Madurai City. Following an afternoon at leisure, and after the sun sets, we experience the unforgettable 'Going to Bed Ceremony' at Madurai's famous Meenakshi Temple. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Day 7: Madurai

Tour Highlight

We begin our morning's sightseeing in the Old City of Madurai, with a further visit to Meenakshi Temple. Explore the ornate façade towering gateways and watch traditional ceremonies, devotions, and the animated markets within. We continue, with a visit to Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahall, a dazzling 17th-century palace erected in 1636 AD and take a rickshaw ride along the quaint, narrow streets of this fascinating city. This afternoon is reserved for leisure, whether it be furthering your adventures through Madurai or relaxing by the hotel pool. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 8: Munnar, 2 nights

Departing Madurai, we begin our spectacular drive high up into the Western Ghats mountain range. Part of India's Kerala state, our destination is the small town of Munnar, situated at 5,200ft above sea level and home to South India's largest tea-growing region. Our accommodation is the unique Tall Trees Hotel, situated under 600 tall trees on 66 acres of unspoilt shola forest. The remainder of our day is at leisure to enjoy the stunning and peaceful surroundings of our hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Houseboat, Alleppey

We planned a holiday of a lifetime and Distant Journeys did not disappoint. From start to finish you could not fault them.

Mr & Mrs Harding, Manchester



Tea plantation, Munnar



Lake Vembanad

Splendours of Kerala

Days 9 to 14: Munnar - Alleppey - Kumarakom - UK

Day 9: Munnar

This morning, we visit a tea plantation and tea factory to experience the tea-making process, including the intriguing process of segregating, drying and threshing. We later visit Tata Tea Museum, displaying machinery and photographic records of the integral part the tea industry has played in this captivating region. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 10: Alleppey, Overnight Tour Highlight

After breakfast, we return to the lowlands and journey towards the backwater canals of Kerala. We transfer to Alleppey Jetty for another of our tour's many incredible highlights. Here we board a traditional, thatch-roofed 'kettuvallam' houseboat for a lazy day cruise through a labyrinth of canals, coconut groves, rice fields and hidden temples. Enjoy the unique experience of a night aboard and indulging ourselves in the soothing sights of the slowly passing, and distinctly beautiful, Keralan backwaters. This once in a lifetime experience is something we will be reminiscing about for many years to come. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 11: Kumarakom, 3 nights

We wake to the stillness of Kerala's backwaters and continue to work our way through its canals until we reach Coconut Lagoon, our hotel for the next three nights. This afternoon, we have the opportunity to explore our new surroundings as we please. Prior to dinner, enjoy a relaxing cruise in a beautifully restored kettuvallam, sailing to the middle of Lake Vembanad, to watch the sun go down. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 12: Kumarakom

Ayurveda, which means the science of life, originated in India more than 5,000 years ago and is one of the world's oldest holistic medicines. Still a prominent practice in India to this day, today we will experience our own Ayurveda rejuvenation body massage at the hotel. The remainder of our day is free to spend as we please. Perhaps continue your adventure around Kumarakom, or take some time out to enjoy the calm surroundings of our hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 13: Kumarakom

A further day to relax and enjoy this delightful region of Southern India. Maybe partake in one of the hotels many activities or find a quiet spot to enjoy the peace and tranquillity. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 14: Depart Cochin / Arrive UK

Early morning, we travel to Cochin Airport for our Qatar Airways flights. We arrive into the United Kingdom later today. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Kerala Beach Stay

5 Days from £595 per person

Why not extend your Splendours of Kerala holiday with a relaxing four-night beach stay at an idyllic Keralan beach resort?



Known for its palm-lined beaches and stretches of golden sand on the shores of the Arabian Sea, a beach stay in Kerala is the perfect way to finish your Keralan adventure.

Spend four nights at the delightful Marari Beach Resort. Located in the seaside village of Mararikulam and with direct beach access, enjoy the simplicity, harmony and beauty of the region.

Your Keralan beach stay includes:

Four night's accommodation at the Marari Beach Resort on a half-board basis and all transfers.

Please see page 60 for more details.

2023 Departures

14 September 2023	SOLD OUT
16 November 2023	SOLD OUT

2024 Departures

25 January 2024	SOLD OUT
01 February 2024	£2,795 per person
15 February 2024	SOLD OUT
07 March 2024	£2,795 per person
01 April 2024	£2,595 per person

Private Touring Supplements

2 guests	£745 per person
3-4 guests	£545 per person
5-9 guests	£345 per person
10-14 guests	£145 per person
15+ guests	No extra charge

Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Single occupancy supplement

September - November 2023: £645.

January - March 2024: £895.

April 2024: £695.

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Qatar Airways upgrade to Business Class from £2,795 per person return.

Private touring

Guests choosing a private tour may select their own departure date. Please note, alternative airlines may be considered or further supplements may apply in certain periods when international flight prices are higher.

Visa information

You are required to obtain a Tourist Visa before travelling. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 108-111.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 112-115.

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3731

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

