

# Southern Treasures

A beautifully balanced over-view of **South India**, where Mysore's opulent City Palace reflects the rich legacy of erstwhile Maharajas, and Nagarhole National Park reveals **abundant wildlife** before the hill stations at Ooty and Wayanad recall days of the **British Raj**. In northern Kerala we visit historic **Fort Cochin**, then lazily glide on the tranquil backwaters by houseboat. Finally a few days of relaxation on the shores of **Lake Vambanad** or the coast at Mararikulam complete a memorable journey.



## Day 1 Arrive Bangalore

Arrive Bangalore, noted for wide avenues, classic bungalows and Gothic churches. City tour visits the Botanical Gardens, Tipu Sultans Fort and the Bull Temple. Overnight at the Taj West End.

## Day 2 Bangalore to Mysore

Drive to Mysore. Sightseeing includes the magnificent City Palace with its carved silver doors and superb stained glass. Overnight at the Windflower Spa Resort. (B)

## Day 3 Mysore

Excursion to Srirangapatnam and Tipu Sultan's summer palace and the beautiful Hoysala Temples at Somnathpur. Overnight at the Windflower Spa Resort. (B)

## Day 4 Mysore to Nagarhole

On to Nagarhole National Park, one of the South India's finest wildlife sanctuaries. Game viewing by Jeep. Overnight at Cicada Kabini. (B, L, D)

## Day 5 Nagarhole

Morning and afternoon game viewing in search of the varied wildlife. On the banks of the Kabini River, birdlife in particular can be observed from Cicada Kabini. Overnight at Cicada Kabini. (B, L, D)

## Day 6 Nagarhole to Kurumbadi

Drive to Kurumbadi, a romantic resort set in an aromatic spice plantation growing nutmeg, cloves and pepper. Overnight at Kurumba Village Resort. (B, L, D)

## Day 7 Excursion to Ooty

Full day visit to the British Raj hill station at Ooty. Set among tea plantations and shola forests, it is a fine place to relax, walk, or boat on the lake. Overnight at Kurumba Village Resort. (B, L, D)

## Day 8 Kurumbadi to Wayanad

Take the "toy train" to Coonoor and drive to Wayanad. Its wildlife, plantations and resorts are a paradise for walkers and nature enthusiasts. Overnight at The Tranquil Resort. (B, L, D)

## Day 9 Wayanad

Visit to Muthunga National Park, home to elephant, leopard, Indian bison, bear and wild boar. Rare species of flora, including medicinal plants and herbs, flourish here. Overnight at The Tranquil Resort. (B, L, D)

## Day 10 Wayanad to Thalassery

Drive to Thalassery on the Arabian Sea, where the East India Company started, and the first game of cricket was played in India! Overnight at Ayesha Manzil. (B, L, D)

## Day 11 Thalassery

Explore the town's markets, witness traditional rituals at a Hindu temple and laze away the afternoon on the palm-fringed beach. Ayesha Manzil is a 19th century colonial mansion overlooking the sea. Overnight at Ayesha Manzil. (B,L,D)

## Day 12 Thalassery to Kozhikode

Drive to Calicut, and a renowned Ayurvedic Centre set in a sprawling coconut grove on the backwaters among swaying graceful palms. Overnight at Kadavu Resort & Ayurveda Centre. (B.)

## Day 13 Kozhikode

Activities include Ayurvedic treatments, boating on the river, fishing, a visit to Beypore Fort or the bird sanctuary at Kadalundi. Overnight at Kadavu Resort & Ayurveda Centre. (B)

## Day 14 Kozhikode to Cochin

Drive through the Eastern Ghats to Cochin, the "Venice of the East". Evening Kathakali dance drama enacting stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata epics. Overnight at the Taj Malabar. (B)

## Day 15 Cochin

Visit the 16th century Jewish synagogue and the Dutch Palace. Afternoon boat cruise to the Bolghatty Palace and the famous Chinese fishing nets. Overnight at the Taj Malabar. (B)

## Day 16 Cochin to the Backwaters

Drive to Alleppey. Board your houseboat to cruise the palm-fringed channels of the backwaters and cross Vembanad Lake. Overnight on houseboat. (B,L,D)



## Day 17 Backwaters

Disembark and drive through coffee and rubber plantations to Kumarakom, where comfortable cottages, swimming pool and Ayurvedic massages await, or across Vembanad Lake to Mararikulam and the superb Marari Beach Resort. Overnight at Coconut Lagoon or Marari Beach. (B)

## Day 18 Kumarakom or Mararikulam

Day at leisure to enjoy the hotel's many facilities, including Ayurveda & spa facilities. Overnight at Coconut Lagoon or Marari Beach. (B)

## Day 19 Kumarakom or Mararikulam

Day at leisure. Overnight at Coconut Lagoon or Marari Beach. (B)

## Day 20 Kumarakom or Mararikulam to Mumbai

Drive to Cochin and fly to Mumbai. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight at the Taj Mahal Palace & Towers (B)

## Day 21 Mumbai and Departure

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.



Keralan Backwaters

