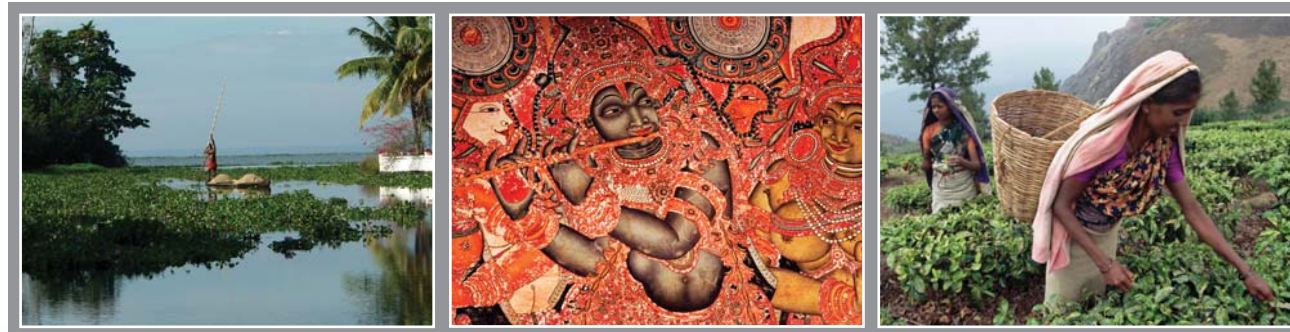


Kerala Odyssey

Kerala's unique geographical features, along with the **welcoming hospitality** of its friendly people, have made it one of India's **most popular** destinations. Cultural refinement, exotic wildlife, emerald backwaters, sprawling plantations and tropical beaches all offer a **fascinating and memorable** experience.



Main image: Chinese fishing nets - Cochin



Keralan villa



Day 1 Arrive Cochin

Arrive Cochin and transfer to your hotel. Tour of old Fort Cochin includes the Dutch Palace, Jewish Synagogue and St Francis Church. Overnight at Brunton Boat Yard.

Day 2 Cochin

Boat cruise visiting the Bolghatty Palace and the Chinese fishing nets. Afternoon free. Evening Kathakali dance performance. Overnight at Brunton Boat Yard. (B)

Day 3 Cochin to Periyar

Drive to Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, situated on the shores of Periyar Lake. Afternoon game viewing by boat. Periyar, home to 62 mammals and 320 species of bird, is known for elephant sightings. Overnight at Spice Village. (B)

Day 4 Periyar

Options today include game viewing, walking to Mangala Devi temple in Thekkady Forest or visiting a tea plantation. Overnight at Spice Village (B)

Day 5 Periyar to Backwaters

Drive through tea, rubber and spice plantations to the backwaters. Board your houseboat and cruise slowly through the beautiful palm-fringed channels. Overnight on the Houseboat. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Kumarakom or Mararikulam

Disembark. Choice of relaxing locations is either Coconut Lagoon on the shores of Vembanad Lake or Marari Beach Resort on the coast near Cochin. Both offer comfortable cottages, swimming pool and Ayurvedic massage in stunning locations. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight at Coconut Lagoon or Marari Beach Resort. (B)

Day 7 Kumarakom or Mararikulam

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

Day 8 Kumarakom or Mararikulam

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

Day 9 Kumarakom or Mararikulam to Olavipe

Drive to Olavipe where your hosts at Thekkanat Parayil will welcome you. This 19th century home nestles in a very green and unspoilt corner of rural Kerala on a working multi-crop organic farm. The rest of the day is free to explore the house and surroundings. Overnight at Thekkanat Parayil (Home Stay). (B, L, D)

Day 10 Olavipe to Cochin

In the morning you can enjoy a village walk or boat ride. Afternoon drive to Cochin. Overnight at Brunton Boat Yard. (B)

Day 11 Cochin and Departure

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.



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