

## GOD'S OWN COUNTRY – TRIP TO KERALA

Kerala, also known as "God's Own Country", is a state located on the southwestern coast of India. It is a popular tourist destination known for its natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and unique cuisine. Here is an elaborate introduction to Kerala:

**Geography and Scenery:** Kerala is known for its natural beauty, with a diverse landscape that includes mountains, beaches, backwaters, and forests. The Western Ghats mountain range runs through the state, providing stunning scenery and opportunities for trekking and wildlife viewing. Kerala is also known for its backwaters, a network of lagoons and canals that run parallel to the coast and offer a unique way to experience the state's natural beauty.

**Culture and History:** Kerala has a rich cultural heritage, with a history that dates back to ancient times. The state is known for its traditional art forms like Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, and Kalaripayattu, which have been passed down through generations. The state is also famous for its traditional architecture, including the elaborate wooden houses and temples. The state has a diverse population and a long history of trade with other cultures, which has contributed to its rich cultural heritage.

**Cuisine:** Kerala is known for its unique cuisine, which is characterized by the use of coconut, spices, and seafood. Some of the popular dishes include appam, puttu, dosa, idli, and seafood like fish curry and prawn fry. The state is also famous for its tea and coffee plantations, which produce some of the finest teas and coffees in the world.

**Tourism:** Kerala is a popular tourist destination, attracting visitors from all over the world. The state offers a range of activities for visitors, including backwater cruises, trekking in the mountains, and wildlife safaris. The state is also known for its Ayurvedic treatments, which offer a chance to relax and rejuvenate. Kerala is home to several popular tourist destinations, including Munnar, Alleppey, Kumarakom, Kovalam, and Thekkady.

**Climate:** Kerala has a tropical climate with temperatures ranging from 20°C to 35°C. The region experiences heavy rainfall during the monsoon season from June to September. The best time to visit Kerala is from October to March, when the weather is cool and dry. Overall, Kerala is a beautiful destination that offers visitors a chance to experience the natural beauty, culture, and cuisine of southern India. It is a must-visit destination for nature lovers, culture enthusiasts, and anyone who wants to experience the unique beauty and diversity of India.

### OVERVIEW

<b>Difficulty Level:</b>	<b>Easy</b>
<b>Best season:</b>	<b>October to March (April - May Hot, June to September Monsoon)</b>
<b>Region:</b>	<b>South India</b>
<b>Total distance:</b>	<b>Approx 4900 kms (4300 kms by air and 600 kms by road)</b>
<b>Temperature:</b>	<b>20 degrees to 35 degrees</b>
<b>Altitude:</b>	<b>2694 meters</b>

### SHORT ITINERARY 9N / 10D (BY AIR AND ROAD)

Day 1: Pick up from Delhi Airport. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 2: Flight from Delhi to Kochi. Overnight stay at hotel in Kochi.

Day 3: Kochi sightseeing. Overnight stay at Kochi.

Day 4: From Kochi to Munnar (140 Km 4 hrs drive). Overnight stay at hotel

Day 5: Local sightseeing in Munnar

Day 6: From Munnar to Thekkady (110 kms 3 hrs drive). Sightseeing and overnight stay at hotel.

Day 7: From Thekkady to Kumarakom (170 kms 5 hrs drive). Sightseeing and overnight stay at hotel.

Day 8: From Kumarakom to Alleppey (45 kms 1.5 hrs drive). Sightseeing and overnight stay at houseboat.

Day 9: From Alleppey to Kochi (55 kms 1.5 hrs drive).

Day 9: From Kochi to Delhi via Flight. Overnight stay at Hotel

Day 10: Drop to Delhi Airport for your onward journey.

### SHORT ITINERARY 11N / 12D (BY AIR AND ROAD)

Day 1: Pick up from Delhi Airport. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 2: Flight from Delhi to Kochi. Overnight stay at hotel in Kochi.

Day 3: Kochi sightseeing. Overnight stay at Kochi.

Day 4: From Kochi to Munnar (140 Km 4 hrs drive). Overnight stay at hotel

Day 5: Local sightseeing in Munnar

Day 6: From Munnar to Thekkady (110 kms 3 hrs drive). Sightseeing and overnight stay at hotel.

Day 7: From Thekkady to Kumarakom (170 kms 5 hrs drive). Sightseeing and overnight stay at hotel.

Day 8: From Kumarakom to Alleppey (45 kms 1.5 hrs drive). Sightseeing and overnight stay at houseboat.

Day 9: From Alleppey to Kovalam (160 kms 4.5 hrs drive). Sightseeing and overnight stay at Kovalam.

Day 10: From Kovalam to Kanyakumari (76 kms 2 hrs drive). Sightseeing and overnight stay at Kanyakumari.

Day 11: From Kanyakumari to Trivandrum (90 kms 2 hrs drive). From Trivandrum to Delhi via flight. Have some leisure time in delhi and overnight stay in delhi if required.

Day 12: Drop to Delhi Airport for your onward journey.

## DETAILED ITERINARY

**KOCHI**, also known as Cochin, is a city located in the southwestern state of Kerala in India. It is a major port city on the west coast of India and is known for its rich cultural heritage, historic landmarks, and beautiful natural scenery. Here is some elaborate information about Kochi:

**History:** Kochi has a rich and diverse history that dates back to ancient times. The city was a major port of the ancient Spice Route, and its strategic location on the coast made it a hub of trade and commerce. Kochi was ruled by several dynasties, including the Cheras, the Portuguese, the Dutch, and the British. Each of these rulers has left a mark on the city's culture, architecture, and heritage.

**Culture:** Kochi is a melting pot of cultures, with a diverse population of people from different religions and ethnicities. The city is known for its vibrant art and cultural scene, which is reflected in its festivals, food, music, and dance. The people of Kochi are warm and welcoming, and they take pride in their rich cultural heritage.

**Landmarks:** Kochi is home to several historic landmarks that are a testament to its rich history and culture. Some of the must-visit landmarks in the city include the Mattancherry Palace, the Paradesi Synagogue, the St. Francis Church, and the Chinese Fishing Nets. These landmarks are well-preserved and provide a glimpse into the city's past.

**Food:** Kochi is a food lover's paradise, with a variety of delicious cuisines to choose from. The city is known for its spicy seafood dishes, coconut-based curries, and crispy dosas. Some of the must-try dishes in Kochi include fish curry, prawn fry, appam with stew, and beef roast.

**Nature:** Kochi is surrounded by beautiful natural scenery, including backwaters, beaches, and lush greenery. The city is located on the coast, and the backwaters offer a serene and peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of the city. The beaches in Kochi are pristine and are perfect for swimming, sunbathing, and water sports.

Overall, Kochi is a fascinating city that offers something for everyone. Whether you are interested in history, culture, food, or nature, you are sure to find something to love in Kochi.



**MUNNAR** is a hill station located in the Western Ghats mountain range of Kerala state in India. It is situated at an altitude of 1,600 meters above sea level and is known for its scenic beauty, tea plantations, and cool climate. Here is a brief introduction to Munnar:

**History:** Munnar was discovered in the 19th century by the British as a summer retreat. The British established tea plantations in the region and Munnar became a major center of tea

production. After India gained independence, the tea plantations were taken over by the government, and Munnar continued to thrive as a tourist destination.

**Nature:** Munnar is blessed with natural beauty, with rolling hills, dense forests, and vast tea plantations. The region is home to several wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, including the Eravikulam National Park, which is home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr. Munnar is also known for its beautiful waterfalls, such as the Attukad Waterfall and the Lakkam Waterfall.

**Tea Plantations:** Munnar is known for its tea plantations, which cover vast areas of the region. The tea produced in Munnar is known for its high quality and unique flavor. The tea plantations offer visitors a chance to see how tea is grown, processed, and packaged. Many plantations also have tea shops where visitors can sample and purchase different varieties of tea.

**Activities:** Munnar offers a range of activities for visitors, including trekking, camping, and wildlife safaris. Visitors can go on nature walks through the tea plantations, trek to the top of hills to enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, or take a jeep safari through the national parks to spot wildlife.

**Climate:** Munnar has a cool and pleasant climate throughout the year, with temperatures ranging from 5°C to 25°C. The best time to visit Munnar is from September to May, when the weather is dry and cool.

Overall, Munnar is a beautiful hill station that offers visitors a chance to escape the heat and hustle of the cities and enjoy the natural beauty and serenity of the mountains.



**THEKKADY** is a town located in the southern Indian state of Kerala. It is a popular tourist destination known for its lush greenery, wildlife sanctuaries, and spice plantations. Here is a brief introduction to Thekkady:

**Nature:** Thekkady is blessed with natural beauty, with rolling hills, dense forests, and vast plantations of tea, coffee, and spices. The region is home to several wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, including the Periyar National Park, which is one of the largest wildlife reserves in India. The park is home to several endangered species, including tigers, elephants, and gaurs. Visitors can go on a wildlife safari or a trek through the forest to spot the wildlife.

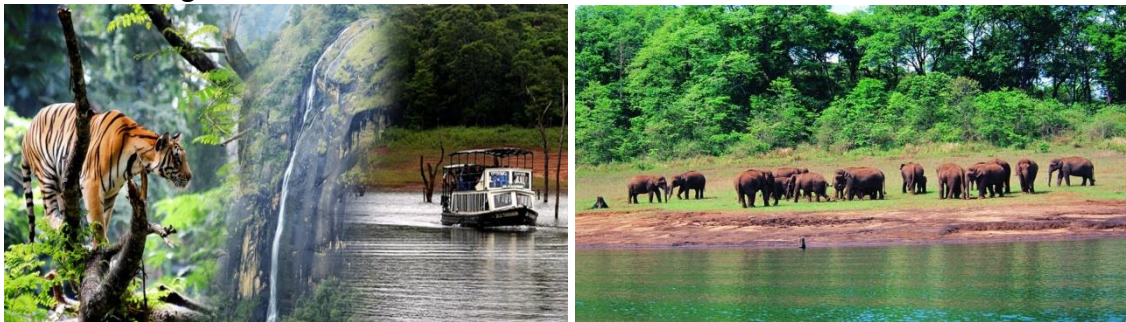
**Activities:** Thekkady offers a range of activities for visitors, including trekking, camping, boating, and spice plantation tours. Visitors can go on nature walks through the forest, trek to the top of hills to enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, or take a boat



ride on the Periyar Lake to spot wildlife. The spice plantation tours offer visitors a chance to see how spices like cardamom, pepper, and cinnamon are grown, harvested, and processed.

**Culture:** Thekkady is known for its rich cultural heritage, which is reflected in its festivals, food, music, and dance. The region is home to several tribal communities, who have a unique way of life and culture. Visitors can learn about their customs and traditions by visiting their villages and interacting with them.

**Climate:** Thekkady has a tropical climate with temperatures ranging from 15°C to 30°C. The region experiences heavy rainfall during the monsoon season from June to September. The best time to visit Thekkady is from October to February, when the weather is cool and dry. Overall, Thekkady is a beautiful destination that offers visitors a chance to experience the natural beauty, wildlife, and culture of Kerala. It is a must-visit destination for nature lovers, adventure seekers, and anyone who wants to experience the best of Kerala's natural and cultural heritage.



**KUMARAKOM** is a small village located in the Kottayam district of Kerala, India. It is situated on the banks of Vembanad Lake, which is the largest freshwater lake in the state. Kumarakom is known for its backwaters, bird sanctuary, and traditional houseboats. Here is a brief introduction to Kumarakom:

**Nature:** Kumarakom is blessed with natural beauty, with vast stretches of backwaters, lush greenery, and coconut groves. The Vembanad Lake, which surrounds the village, is a major attraction and is home to several species of fish, crabs, and prawns. The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, located on the banks of the lake, is home to several species of birds, including migratory birds like the Siberian crane.

**Houseboats:** Kumarakom is famous for its traditional houseboats, which are locally called "kettuvallams". These houseboats are made of bamboo and wood and are designed in the traditional style of Kerala. The houseboats offer a unique experience of cruising through the backwaters and offer facilities like bedrooms, bathrooms, and kitchens. Visitors can choose from a range of houseboats, from luxury to budget, depending on their preferences.

**Activities:** Kumarakom offers a range of activities for visitors, including boating, fishing, and birdwatching. Visitors can go on a boat ride through the backwaters, which offers a chance to see the village life along the banks of the canals. Fishing is also a popular activity, with several varieties of fish available in the backwaters. The birdwatching tours in the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary offer a chance to see several species of birds, including migratory birds.

**Culture:** Kumarakom is known for its rich cultural heritage, which is reflected in its festivals, food, music, and dance. The region is home to several traditional art forms like Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, and Kalaripayattu. Visitors can also experience the local cuisine, which includes traditional dishes like appam, dosa, and fish curry.

**Climate:** Kumarakom has a tropical climate with temperatures ranging from 25°C to 35°C. The region experiences heavy rainfall during the monsoon season from June to September. The best time to visit Kumarakom is from October to March, when the weather is cool and dry.

Overall, Kumarakom is a beautiful destination that offers visitors a chance to experience the natural beauty, culture, and heritage of Kerala. It is a must-visit destination for nature lovers, adventure seekers, and anyone who wants to experience the best of Kerala's backwaters and traditional houseboats.



**ALLEPPEY** also known as Alappuzha, is a small town located in the southern Indian state of Kerala. It is a popular tourist destination known for its backwaters, beaches, and traditional houseboats. Here is a brief introduction to Alleppey:

**Nature:** Alleppey is blessed with natural beauty, with vast stretches of backwaters, coconut groves, and paddy fields. The backwaters, which are a network of canals, lagoons, and lakes, are a major attraction and offer a chance to see the village life along the banks of the canals. The town is also home to several beaches, including the Marari Beach and the Alleppey Beach.

**Houseboats:** Alleppey is famous for its traditional houseboats, which are locally called "kettuvallams". These houseboats are made of bamboo and wood and are designed in the traditional style of Kerala. The houseboats offer a unique experience of cruising through the backwaters and offer facilities like bedrooms, bathrooms, and kitchens. Visitors can choose from a range of houseboats, from luxury to budget, depending on their preferences.

**Activities:** Alleppey offers a range of activities for visitors, including boating, fishing, and Ayurvedic treatments. Visitors can go on a boat ride through the backwaters, which offers a chance to see the village life along the banks of the canals. Fishing is also a popular activity, with several varieties of fish available in the backwaters. The town is also known for its Ayurvedic treatments, which offer a chance to relax and rejuvenate.

**Culture:** Alleppey is known for its rich cultural heritage, which is reflected in its festivals, food, music, and dance. The region is home to several traditional art forms like Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, and Kalaripayattu. Visitors can also experience the local cuisine, which includes traditional dishes like appam, dosa, and fish curry.

**Climate:** Alleppey has a tropical climate with temperatures ranging from 25°C to 35°C. The region experiences heavy rainfall during the monsoon season from June to September. The best time to visit Alleppey is from October to March, when the weather is cool and dry.

Overall, Alleppey is a beautiful destination that offers visitors a chance to experience the natural beauty, culture, and heritage of Kerala. It is a must-visit destination for nature lovers, adventure seekers, and anyone who wants to experience the best of Kerala's backwaters and traditional houseboats.



**KOVALAM** is a small coastal town located in the southern Indian state of Kerala. It is a popular tourist destination known for its beautiful beaches, stunning sunsets, and relaxed atmosphere. Here is a brief introduction to Kovalam:

**Beaches:** Kovalam is famous for its beaches, which are a major attraction for tourists. The town has three main beaches - the Lighthouse Beach, Hawa Beach, and Samudra Beach. The Lighthouse Beach is the most popular beach in Kovalam and is known for its stunning sunsets, lighthouse, and seafood restaurants. The Hawa Beach, also known as Eve's Beach, is known for its calm and clear waters, making it a popular spot for swimming and sunbathing. The Samudra Beach is a quieter beach, known for its scenic beauty and fishing boats.

**Activities:** Kovalam offers a range of activities for visitors, including swimming, surfing, and Ayurvedic treatments. Visitors can swim in the calm and clear waters of the beaches, or try surfing at the Lighthouse Beach. The town is also known for its Ayurvedic treatments, which offer a chance to relax and rejuvenate.

**Culture:** Kovalam is known for its rich cultural heritage, which is reflected in its festivals, food, music, and dance. The region is home to several traditional art forms like Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, and Kalaripayattu. Visitors can also experience the local cuisine, which includes traditional dishes like appam, dosa, and seafood.

**Climate:** Kovalam has a tropical climate with temperatures ranging from 25°C to 35°C. The region experiences heavy rainfall during the monsoon season from June to September. The best time to visit Kovalam is from October to March, when the weather is cool and dry.

Overall, Kovalam is a beautiful destination that offers visitors a chance to experience the natural beauty, culture, and heritage of Kerala. It is a must-visit destination for beach lovers, adventure seekers, and anyone who wants to relax and unwind in a stunning coastal town.





**KANYAKUMARI** also known as Cape Comorin, is a coastal town located in the southernmost tip of mainland India in the state of Tamil Nadu. It is the last city of India in the southern part. It is a popular tourist destination known for its stunning natural beauty, rich history, and cultural significance. Here is a brief introduction to Kanyakumari:

**Geography and Scenery:** Kanyakumari is located at the confluence of the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean, making it a unique geographical location. It is famous for its spectacular sunrises and sunsets, which can be seen from the southernmost tip of India. The town is also known for its rocky shoreline, picturesque beaches, and lush green hills.

**Culture and History:** Kanyakumari has a rich cultural heritage, with a history that dates back to the ancient Tamil kingdoms. The town is famous for its temples, including the Kumari Amman Temple, which is dedicated to the virgin goddess Kanyakumari, and the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, which is a tribute to the great Indian philosopher Swami Vivekananda. The town is also home to several churches and mosques, reflecting its diverse religious and cultural traditions.

**Activities:** Kanyakumari offers a range of activities for visitors, including sightseeing, beach activities, and religious tourism. Visitors can take a ferry to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, which is located on a small island in the sea and offers a panoramic view of the surrounding ocean. The town is also known for its beaches, including the Kanyakumari Beach and the Sanguthurai Beach, where visitors can relax and enjoy the scenery. Additionally, Kanyakumari is a popular destination for pilgrimage, with several religious sites located in and around the town.

**Climate:** Kanyakumari has a tropical climate with temperatures ranging from 20°C to 35°C. The region experiences heavy rainfall during the monsoon season from June to September. The best time to visit Kanyakumari is from October to March, when the weather is cool and dry.

Overall, Kanyakumari is a beautiful destination that offers visitors a chance to experience the natural beauty, culture, and history of Tamil Nadu. It is a must-visit destination for nature lovers, history buffs, and anyone who wants to experience the unique geography and cultural significance of the southernmost tip of India.



