

THRISSUR FESTIVAL



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**COCHIN + GURUVAYUR + THRISSUR + MUNNAR + PERIYAR +
KUMARAKOM + COCHIN**

27TH APRIL 2012: COCHIN ARRIVAL

Fly to Cochin. On arrival in Cochin, you will be Greeted and Escorted by Indo Asia Tour Executive to your Hotel.

On arrival at hotel check in. (Room will be available from 1200 Noon)

Cochin or Kochi, as it is called now, is till date influenced by medieval Portugal, Holland and England. The city displays a blend of different people and architecture and it is one place where you can see a Jewish synagogue, Portuguese churches, Dutch architecture, Mosques, Hindu temples and Chinese fishing nets all in one day.

Overnight at the Hotel

28TH APRIL 2012: COCHIN

After breakfast visit **St. Francis Church** built in 1503 by Portuguese Franciscan friars where Vasco da Gama was buried for 14 years before his remains were transferred to Lisbon. Nearby is the Mattancherry **Palace** or "**Dutch Palace**". The central hall on the 1st floor was the coronation hall of the rajas of Kochi.



KATHAKALI DANCER - COCHIN

Evening enthrall yourself with a special presentation of the colorfully costumed **Kathakali Dance Drama**. This mask dance form is originally from Kerala and 1500 years old. This classical dance has 24 mudras expressing the nine emotions of serenity, wonder, kindness, love, valour, fear, contempt, loathing and anger. Usually performed by males

Overnight in the hotel

29TH APRIL 2012 COCHIN - GURUVAYUR

After breakfast drive to Guruvayur.

On arrival at Guruvayur, transfer to the Hotel and check in.

After some rest visit the **Guruvayur Temple (From Outside as Non Hindus are not allowed inside the temple)** which is unique, as it is not built in the typical South Indian style of temple architecture. For example, its architecture is not massive or grand but simple in keeping with the style of Kerala houses. Its four gateways lead to the main gopuram (where the idol is installed), protected by a sloping terracotta roof made of Mangalore tiles.



GURUVAYUR TEMPLE

Later visit the **Elephant Sanctuary**, which is only one of its kinds in the World. It has 51 elephants now. These jumbos are the offerings of the devotees to the Lord. A large number of pilgrims and tourists visit this fascinating spot every day. All these elephants were offered by devotees of Lord Guruvayurappa.

Overnight in the Hotel

30TH APRIL 2012: GURUVAYUR - THRISSUR

After breakfast visit **Kalamandalam** Dance School, which is undoubtedly the best institution in India imparting training and conducting performance of Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Panchavadyam and Thullal. Beside the regular courses, Kalamandalam also offers crash courses in different art disciplines. Here the guests will enjoy the Dance Performance perform by the students.

IMP: Kalamandalam remains closed on Saturday and Sunday. Timings: 1000 hrs to 1600 hrs.



Later drive to Thrissur.

Thrissur literally means "town with the name of Lord Shiva ("Tiru - Shiva - Perur") and befittingly the town's most prominent feature is the Vadakkumnathan temple with Shiva as the presiding deity. The city (two hours away from Cochin) had a chequered history and was developed first by the Zamorins of Calicut then Tippu Sultan of Mysore followed by the Dutch and the British.

On arrival transfer to the Hotel.

Overnight in the Hotel

01st MAY 2012: THRISSUR

After breakfast small sightseeing of the **Archeological Museum and the Art Museum. (Museum remains closed on Monday).** The Museum holds many attractive woodcarvings and metal sculptures in addition to an interesting array of Kerala lamps. Today enjoy the Festival activities. Thrissur is famous the world over for its mesmerizing colorful Pooram Festival. This two-century-old festival is a festival of temple elephants decked out in their finest livery and percussion instruments - a 36-hour marathon event. One of the oldest temples in the state of

Kerala is the Vadakkumnathan temple with decorative murals and works of art. It is where the Pooram festival, the biggest festival of the region, is celebrated (April/May).



There are several legends and myths behind the festival of Pooram, which literally means a meeting. It was believed that every year the gods and goddesses of the area met together for a day of celebration on Pooram. In the evening of Pooram two lines of 15 elephants from opposing temples face each other. Each elephant apart from being decked up has an umbrella holding priest, a peacock fan carrier and a yak-tail flywhisk wielder. Between the two lines of elephants stand percussionists and a traditional wind orchestra playing the panchvadyam. As they reach a crescendo a new display of brilliant ceremonial umbrellas blossoms over the elephants. This competition of the swift and rhythmic changing of the parasols goes on till the sunsets and the elephants return home. A magnificent fireworks display then lights up the night sky. Devotees and visitors come to Thrissur in thousands for the Pooram. It is a spectacular event and one that lives on in one's memory forever.

Overnight in the Hotel

02nd MAY 2012: THRISSUR - MUNNAR

Today in the morning also enjoy the festival activities as attended the previous day, since the activities go on till afternoon.

Later drive to Munnar.

On arrival transfer to the hotel



TEA FACTORY - MUNNAR

Munnar, the Kashmir of South India is a part of Kerala. A misty, lush green hill station up in the Annamalai range of Kerala, Munnar is a tea plantation centre. Tea gardens, some of the highest in the world stretch up the sides of the hills and are interspersed with pockets of forest rich in wildlife. Later visit the Tea gardens.

Overnight in the hotel

03rd MAY 2012: MUNNAR - PERIYAR

After breakfast drive to **Periyar**. **Periyar National Park** is a unique wildlife sanctuary and is about 780 sq. km centered around an artificial lake fed by the Periyar River.



On arrival check in at the hotel

Evening free to explore the market.

Overnight in the hotel

04th MAY 2012: PERIYAR

After breakfast visit the Elephant Camp and Spice Plantation at the Periyar.

Overnight in the hotel

05TH MAY 2012: PERIYAR - BACKWATER

After breakfast drive to the jetty to board Houseboat (**Kettuvallom**) on the World famous **Backwaters** of Kerala.



BACKWATERS

"Kettu" literally means to tie up and "Vallom" means "boats". The boats played a major role in the economic development of ancient Kerala, moving cargo and men from the very nook and corner of otherwise unreachable area, cutting across the length and breadth of the land.

Enjoy your overnight stay in Kettuvallom

06TH MAY 2012: BACKWATER - KUMARAKOM

After breakfast board down the Jetty and drive to Kumarakom.

Kumarakom is undoubtedly the most invigorating, fascinating paradise in Kerala, God's own country. The slender coconut palms standing here, there and everywhere, its never ending paddy fields, meandering lagoons and backwaters, mangroves nesting birds of a hundred

**BACKWATERS**

varieties can peacefully calm and invigorate your mind with renewed inspiration for your vocation and life. That is the pristine beauty of Kumarakom.

The fresh water of the lake runs into the mainland making a labyrinth of lagoons, brooks, canals and waterways. The backwater houses a variety of species of both fauna and flora. They are rich with marine life namely the exclusive 'Kumarakom Karimeen' (pearl spotted fish), Konju (tiger prawns), Njandu (crabs), Chemeen (prawns) and many more. Overnight at the hotel.

07TH MAY 2012: KUMARAKOM - COCHIN

After leisurely breakfast drive to Cochin. On arrival transfer to the Hotel. Overnight in the Hotel

08TH MAY 2012: COCHIN DEPARTURE

On time transfer to the International Airport to board the flight for onwards journey

== End of the Services ==

Hotel List:

Place	Hotel	Room Type	Dates
Cochin	Holiday Inn http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/cochin/coker/hoteldetail	Standard	27 - 29 April 2012
Guruvayoor	Sopanam Heritage Hotel www.sopanamguruvayoor.com	Deluxe	29 - 30 April 2012
Thrissur	The River Retreat www.riverretreat.in	Retreat Chambers	30 April - 02 May 2012
Munnar	Eastend Munnar http://www.eastend.in/eastendmunnar.html	Standard	02 - 03 May 2012
Periyar	Muthoot Cardamom County www.cardamomcounty.com	Periyar Cottage	03 - 05 May 2012
Backwaters	Ac House Boat	01 Bedroom house boat	05 - 06 May 2012
Kumarakom	Back Water Ripples www.backwaterripples.com	Garden View Rooms	06 - 07 May 2012
Cochin	Holiday Inn http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/cochin/coker/hoteldetail	Standard	07 - 08 May 2012

Prices:

Slab	Prices
Prices on twin sharing basis	EUR 854.00 PER PERSON
Single Room Supplement	EUR 519.00 PER SINGLE ROOM
Supplement for Entrances in the monument	EUR 34.00 PER PERSON

Cost includes:

- Double room on twin sharing basis on bed & breakfast basis, except full board on House boat
- All transfers and sight seeing by air-conditioned Vehicle.
- Services of English Speaking local guides in each city for sightseeing as per the itinerary.
- Kathakali dance show in Cochin.
- Service Tax.

Cost does not include:

- Any airport taxes.
- Any airfares.
- Any new tax imposed by the Government.
- Any entrances
- Any meals other than specified
- Any expenditure of personal nature such as tips, drinks, telephone charges, laundry etc.

IMP:

- In case of waitlisted booking we have to hold the alternate, for which we will advise the supplement OR reduction accordingly.
- The above rates are based on presently prevailing taxes and entrances to the monuments. If there is any change, prices will also change accordingly.
- Check in and check out time is 1200 Hrs noontime.
- *In case of fluctuations in the Rate of Exchange, the above-mentioned prices will change.*

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