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Classic South Kerala Tour: 13 Nights and 14 Days

Experience the best of Kerala with this 13 night Classic Tour which gives you the opportunity to explore the vibrant port town of Cochin, visit an elephant orphanage, stay in the lush tea Hills of Munnar and in a wildlife resort, enjoy a houseboat cruise, stay in a relaxing backwater resort by the lake ending with a stay in a beach resort.

Detailed Itinerary:

Day ONE

- Day 01: Arrival Cochin

You are welcomed by a Kerala Travel Centre representative at the airport and transported to your hotel. A port town since early centuries, Cochin, also known as the spice coast of India, attracted traders and invaders from the world over. Needless to say, Cochin offers you some fascinating snippets of history and culture. Relax and unwind at the hotel. In the evening go for a relaxing sunset cruise.

Overnight at the hotel with a vehicle at your disposal.

Day TWO

- Day 02: Cochin

Go for an optional sightseeing tour to explore the many fascinating highlights of Cochin which include: the Jewish Synagogue, in what is locally called the Jew Town, St. Francis Church, which is the oldest European Church in India, the Santa Cruz Basilica, it was built in 1557 by the Portuguese, the Dutch Palace, the Spice market and the 15th century Chinese fishing nets. In the evening, enjoy the famous dance drama of Kerala, the Kathakali. This dance is characterised by some great storytelling.

Overnight at the hotel with a vehicle at your disposal.

Day THREE

- Day 03: Cochin - Kothamangalam (60 km / 1.5 hrs)

Drive to Kothamangalam and spend the afternoon at leisure in a century-old estate bungalow set in over 100 acres of multi-crop plantation. Apart from exploring the estate, you will visit the local bird sanctuary and can participate in cooking demonstrations involving authentic Kerala cuisine. Overnight at the Estate Bungalow with full board and a vehicle at your disposal.

Day FOUR

- Day 04: Kothamangalam

In the morning, drive to the Kodanad elephant orphanage where you will have the opportunity to get close to the elephants. Elephant rides will also be possible. The rest of the day is a leisure day.

Overnight at the Estate Bungalow with full board and a vehicle at your disposal.

Day FIVE

- Day 05: Kothamangalam - Munnar (90 km / 3 hrs)

Drive to Munnar, a hill station which was once the summer resort of the British administration in South India. Munnar still retains its colonial charm and is famous for its sprawling tea plantations. Check into your hotel, and unwind with a day of rest. In the evening, visit the tea museum. Overnight at the resort with a vehicle at your disposal.

Day SIX

- Day 06: Munnar

Day of leisure. You can take a short trip to the Eravikulam National Park or simply walk through the tea estates and enjoy the tranquillity it provides.

Overnight at the resort with a vehicle at your disposal.

Day SEVEN

- Day 07: Munnar - Periyar (110 km / 4 hrs)

Drive to Periyar - an area known for its undulating hills, spice plantations, and elephant sightings. One of the 27 tiger reserves in India, the Periyar valley in Thekkady is the oldest. Check into your hotel, and go on a spice plantation tour where you will be enticed by the aroma of spices. Overnight at the resort with a vehicle at your disposal.

Day EIGHT

- Day 08: Periyar

Today, you will have the option of going for an escorted jungle trek and completing activities like bamboo rafting or taking a boat ride around the lake. Overnight at the resort.

Day NINE

- Day 09: Periyar - Kumarakom (130 km / 4 hrs)

Drive to Kumarakom, the enchanting backwater region of Kerala and check into your resort. The labyrinthine network of rivers, canals, streams and lagoons which form the famed backwaters offer stunning views and is an ideal place to relax. Have a day of leisure. Overnight at the resort with a vehicle at your disposal.

Day TEN

- Day 10: Kumarakom

Have a relaxing day at the resort or spend the day on the water with activities like canoeing, water scooter rides and boat rides. Enjoy a rejuvenating Ayurveda full-body massage. Overnight at the resort with a vehicle at your disposal.

Day ELEVEN

- Day 11: Kumarakom - Houseboat

Embark on your private houseboat from the resort, and cruise to the backwaters, a splendid area full of canals, lakes and coves. Your houseboats, or Kettuvalloms, are luxurious boats with well-appointed bedrooms and ensuite bathrooms. You can sunbathe on the deck or observe the palm-fringed landscape from your cabins. Apart from the mesmerizing surroundings, it's the life along the river banks that makes this a fascinating experience.

Overnight on board with full board.

Day TWELVE

- Day 12: Houseboat - Marari (20 km / 0.5 hr)

Disembark in the morning and drive to the picturesque fishermen's village of Mararikulam where you will check into your resort. Tucked away inside quiet and lush coconut groves, the resort is set on the pristine white sand beaches of the Marari, offering you unparalleled quiet in an astoundingly beautiful setting. Enjoy a day of leisure at the beach resort.

Overnight at the resort with a vehicle at your disposal.

Day THIRTEEN

- Day 13: Marari

Bicycles can be organised for you to go biking along the coastal back roads of Marari through the beautiful fishermen's villages' right up to the Arthumkal Church by the sea. The rest of the day can be spent relaxing on the beach.

Overnight at the resort with a vehicle at your disposal.

Day FOURTEEN

- Day 14: Marari - Cochin - Departure (75 km / 2 hrs)

Departure transfer to Cochin for the return flight with a vehicle for your transfer.