

Journey Idea to Kerala and Beyond

17 Days



Local women

Prepared for
Steppes Travel Clients

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly UK/Dubai
Day 2	Fly Dubai /Cochin/Kumarakum
Day 3	Kumarakom/Alleppey
Day 4	Alleppey/Pallivathukal
Day 5	Pallivathukal
Day 6	Pallivathukal/Cochin
Day 7	Cochin
Day 8	Cochin
Day 9	Cochin/Sulthans Batttery
Day 10	Sulthans Battery
Day 11	Sulthans Battery/Nagarhole
Day 12	Nagarhole
Day 13	Nagarhole/Mysore
Day 14	Mysore
Day 15	Mysore
Day 16	Mysore /Bangalore/Cochin
Day 17	Fly Cochin/Dubai/UK

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1

UK/Dubai

Depart the UK on a flight to Dubai, a flight time of approximately 7 hours, flying overnight (day flights are also available).

Day 2

Dubai/Cochin/Kumarakom



Depart Dubai on your flight to Cochin.

You will be met upon arrival by the Steppes Travel representative at the airport and transferred to your hotel in Kumarakom. All transfers are private (unless stated otherwise) and included in your trip, however it will not detail every transfer on this itinerary.

Where the choice of accommodation is limited, we have made a suggestion.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Kumarakom on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 3

Kumarakom/Alleppey



Today you will be met and taken to board your rice barge, a journey of approximately 45 minutes.

These extraordinary boats have, for hundreds of years, plied the backwaters weighed down with their cargoes of rice, fruit, coir and other crops. They have been the main source of transport between the villages of this area that are not accessed by road. One of the latest and most exciting developments in Kerala tourism is that one is now able to stay on these beautifully crafted vessels and cruise the backwaters at your own pace. From your vantage point on board, you will see loin-clothed fishermen delicately balancing on their narrow canoes, women weaving or gossiping on the shore and you will be constantly accompanied by the happy sounds of children either playing in the canals or at the water's edge. Undisturbed by the sound of traffic, the birdlife is exceptional and you are offered a chance to experience a way of life that has changed little over the passing years. The boats themselves comprise one or two bedrooms with attached bathrooms and a larger, open-sided sitting area from where you may watch the world go by. They are fully staffed with a captain and a cook who will serve you up delicious meals of fish or whatever your particular preference is.

Overnight on your Rice barge on a full board basis

Day 4

Alleppey/Kumarakom

This morning you will be met and transferred to Phillip Kuttys Farm, where you experience life in the backwaters from this stunning riverside retreat.

Overnight at Philip Kuttys Farm in a villa on a full board basis.

Day 5



Kumarakom

Phillip Kuttys provides their guests with a unique insight into life in the backwaters. Explore the surrounding farm and villages and learn about the way of life in this unique area of Kerala.

Overnight at Philip Kuttys Farm in a villa room on a full board basis.

Day 6

Kumarakom /Cochin

Today you will be met and driven to Cochin, a journey of approximately 1.5 hours drive. Rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Cochin on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 7



Cochin

After breakfast proceed for a half-day city sightseeing tour. Cochin, the commercial capital of Kerala, glories in the title of 'Queen of the Arabian Sea'. A city of peninsulas and islands with a mainland centre, Cochin has a magnificent natural harbour, almost in the middle of the city, created by the underwater Malabar mud banks that ensure calm waters.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Cochin on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 8

Cochin

Full day at leisure to explore Cochin in your own time.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Cochin on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 9



Cochin/Calicut/Sulthans Battery

Today you will be met and driven to Cochin Airport for your onward flight to Calicut.

On arrival you will be met and driven to Sulthans Battery, a journey of approximately 2 hours.

Tranquil is a secluded plantation hideaway, situated on the Kuppamudi Coffee Estate at Kolagapara, in the heart of the Western Ghats and at an altitude of 3000ft. Close to Sultan's Battery, where Tipu Sultan built a remote fort in the 18th century, the area remains very unexploited and comprises rolling hills, tropical jungle and coffee, cardamom and tea plantations. The 70 year old, secluded plantation bungalow, has been beautifully restored by the owners and the resident director who runs the estate and is also your host.



Day 10

Each of the 8 comfortable rooms in the equally old annexe has been individually decorated, each with their own character, and with modern bathrooms. The atmosphere of the original plantation house remains; in the airy verandahs, planters' furniture, much use of wood and open courtyards. A stay here will allow you to retreat into nature, miles away from the hassle of the city. Whilst here explore the coffee estate or visit the caves.

Overnight at Tranquil in a standard room on a full board basis.

Sulthans Battery

Explore this area with the owners Tranquil. The region offers superb hikes in the coffee plantation with stunning views of the Western Ghats.

Overnight at Tranquil in a standard room on a full board basis.

Day 11

Sulthans Battery/Nagarhole



Drive to Nagarhole today and stay 2 nights at Orange County.

A picturesque new resort overlooking the Kabini River and within a stones throw from Nagarhole National Park. Spacious and luxurious villas all have their own private plunge pools or Jacuzzis and the restaurant serves an excellent combination of buffet and ala carte dishes. A combination of sublime surroundings, good service and excellent location make this the place to stay when exploring Nagarhole

Overnight at Orange County in a villa with private Jacuzzi on a full board basis.

Day 12

Nagarhole

You will be taken on a morning boat safari today and in the afternoon, you will be taken on a game drive with an English speaking Naturalist.

Overnight at Orange County in a villa with private Jacuzzi on a full board basis.

Day 13

Nagarhole/Mysore

Today you will be driven approximately 3 hours to Mysore.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Mysore on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 14

Mysore

After breakfast, proceed for full day city sightseeing tour. Except for the brief 38-year rule of the Muslim warlord Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan in the 18th century, Mysore was ruled by the Wadiyar dynasty from 1399 until independence. Visit Mysore

Palace, Chamundeshwari Temple, Nandi (the bull of lord Shiva, 16 feet high carved out of granite stone) and Brindavan Garden.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Mysore on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 15

Mysore

Today you will be taken to Sringapatnam, one of the stunning temple complex's surrounding Mysore.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Mysore on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 16



Mysore/Bangalore/Cochin

Today you will be driven to Bangalore, a journey of approximately 3 hours, where you will catch a morning flight to Cochin.

On arrival you will be met and driven to your chosen hotel for an overnight stay before your international flight the following day.*

*Alternatively, you may prefer to depart from Bangalore to London Heathrow with Emirates. If so, you stay the night at your chosen hotel Bangalore.

Day 17

Cochin/Dubai/UK

You will be collected today and driven to Cochin Airport for your return flight to the UK via Dubai.

TRIP PRICE

In each location there is a variety of different category of hotels, lodges and guest houses, therefore the price below is a guide only.

Price from £2,295 per person, based on two sharing

The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, written confirmation and Steppes Travels terms and conditions.

The price includes return flight from UK, internal flights, local transport, airport-hotel transfers and tours, accommodation (twin/double) and board. Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis, unless staying in a remote lodge when normally this will be on a full board basis.

The price excludes extra local excursions and guided tours, travel insurance, visas, single supplements (if applicable) and items of a personal nature, such as laundry, drinks, etc.

Please note that the above is only a suggested journey, allowing in-depth visits to the highlights of the country and the chance to explore the wide range of possibilities this fascinating country has to offer. We have a separate list of escorted tours and specialise in tailoring individual itineraries to your particular interests and requirements. This journey idea serves more as a general guide on what there is to see and do, as well as a guide on price.

Why Travel with Steppes?

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

Financial Protection

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

Specialist Knowledge

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both unique and special.

A Tailor-made Journey

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are welcome to call them at any time.

24 hour Emergency Service

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Recognition

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

Please contact the Steppes East team on 01285 651010 or visit our website www.steppestravel.co.uk for further information.

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