

Kerala for Families

12 Days



Kathakali Dancer

Prepared for
Steppe Travel Families

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	UK/Dubai/Cochin
Day 2	Cochin
Day 3	Cochin/Thattekad
Day 4	Thattekad
Day 5	Thattekad
Day 6	Thattekad/Munnar
Day 7	Munnar
Days 8	Munnar/Backwaters
Day 9	Backwaters/Marari
Day 10	Marari
Day 11	Marari
Day 12	Marari/Cochin/Dubai/UK

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1

UK/Cochin

Depart the UK on a flight to Cochin, a flight time of approximately 12 hours, flying overnight.

Day 2

Cochin

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



After lunch you will be met by your guide for a half day sightseeing tour of Cochin. Evening dance show and harbour cruise.

Situated on the shores of Willingdon Island and surrounded by the waters of Vembanad Lake, the Taj Malabar enjoys glorious views of water and terracotta tiled roofs of the low lying buildings of Fort Cochin to the west and Vypeen Island to the north. Renovated this year, rooms in the Dutch influenced 'old wing' are particularly comfortable. The hotel has a lovely pool and a new Ayurvedic Centre. Highly recommended.

Overnight at Taj Malabar in superior sea view tower wing rooms on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 3

Cochin/Thattekad



This morning after breakfast, you will be met by your driver and driven to Thattekad where you spend the next few nights at the Hornbill Camp.



This is a basic jungle style camp based on the edge of the periyar river. It offers guests the chance to get up close and personal with nature and enjoy an outdoor activities experience. Tents/cottages are comfortable but basic. It should be viewed as a camping experience.

Overnight at Hornbill Camp in a tented cottage on a full board basis.

Day 4 - 5

Thattekad

Whilst here you can choose from a plethora of activities, ranging from cycling, visiting the elephant camp, kayaking, hiking and visits to the local villages.

Overnight at Hornbill Camp in a tented cottage on a full board basis.

Day 6

Thattekad/Munnar

Today enjoy a scenic drive to Munnar a fascinating old hill-station on the lush slopes of the Western Ghats and once the summer

resort of the British Government in South India - set at the confluence of three mountain streams, over 5,000 ft above sea level with lakes, forests and tea estates.



Stay two nights at The Windermere Estate a small guest-house of great charm offering cottages and guest rooms within the grounds of a coffee and cardamom plantation. There is no alcohol license at the hotel, however, you can take your own, so long as you drink it in your room.

Overnight at Windermere Estate in a cottage room on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 7

Munnar

Whilst here you will visit the local tea estates and museum with your guide.

Overnight at Windermere Estate in a cottage room on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 8

Munnar/Backwaters



Today you are transferred back towards the Malabar Coast to an area just south of Cochin called the backwaters. Spend the remainder of the day and night cruising the backwaters on your own private house boat.

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 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 a houseboat on a full board basis.

Day 9

Backwaters/Marari

You disembark from your house boat today and are driven to Marari Beach Resort where you spend the next few days relaxing.

Set in twenty-five acres of palm groves, behind a wide strip of golden sandy beach, The Marari Beach is the ideal retreat. Hammocks slung between palm trees, a vast turquoise pool and



miles of beach on which to walk and/or watch the local fishermen launch their canoes are just some of this resort's features. Accommodation is in cool white thatched cottages in twin or double rooms with wicker furnished verandas and private outside bathrooms complete with banana palms and/or papaya trees.

Overnight at Marari Beach in a garden villa on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 10

Marari

Full day to spend at leisure.

Overnight at Marari Beach in a garden villa on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 11

Marari

Full day to spend at leisure.

Overnight at Marari Beach in a garden villa on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 12

Marari/Cochin/Dubai/London

Transfer to Cochin Airport today and depart on your flight back to the UK.

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 £1,570 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 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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