

## Kerala Experience - Beach & Backwaters

### Day 01: Cochin- Poothotta Backwaters (1 Hour Drive)

After an early breakfast, you will be driven to a serene backwater island village-Poothotta for an exclusive experience which is a part of our Community Based Responsible Tourism. On arrival at the other side of the island, the local host along with a guide will receive you to cross the river in a canoe. Further you will be taken through some breath taking narrow canals and village activities like coir making. You will be offered a home cooked meal by the local family

This is an exclusive experience offered to our travellers as a part of our community support initiative and the economic benefits go to the host family which eventually support the local circular economy and sustainable living.



Afternoon, drive back to Cochin for a guided sightseeing covering the historic monuments and cultural heritage. Highlights will be Dutch Palace Museum, Jewish Synagogue and Jew Town. Evening watch a live Kathakali show at a local theatre in Fort Cochin. Overnight at Hotel.



### **Day 02: Cochin-Kumarakom (1.5 Hour Drive)**

After a leisurely breakfast, check out and drive to Kumarakom, a Sustainable Tourism Village which bagged the UNWTO Ulysses Award for the Best Responsible Tourism Destination in the world. Later continue driving to Kumarakom.

On arrival, check into a backwater resort set on the Vembanad Lake. Afternoon at leisure. You may opt for a relaxing Ayurveda massage or a nature walk around the resort. Overnight at the resort.





### **Day 03: Kumarakom- Alleppey Houseboat (1 Hour Drive)**

Early morning visit Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary. Later after a leisurely breakfast, you will be driven to Alleppey to board your exclusive houseboat for a cruise through the Vembanad Lake followed by overnight stay on board. Your meals will be freshly cooked and served on board. Overnight stay on board Houseboat.

Houseboat in Kerala backwaters was one of the most community oriented project in tourism as this industry created a huge employment opportunity for the local people. The traditional culinary heritage is being conserved and sustained to offer the regional Alleppey/Kuttanadan cuisine on board the Houseboat. The interesting part is that all cooks on Houseboats are men. Houseboat also gives an opportunity to the local fishermen and other vendors to sell their products. Even when the local farmers had many climatic chaos like floods which resulted in heavy crop loss, at least the availability of employment to many on Houseboats was a great boon to the local community. Two consecutive floods followed by the Pandemic have made the living in this region a real livelihood issue. During your cruise, you may see the new houses coming up which are all built on raised pillars in fear of floods during Monsoon. As the crew are from the local community, with proper training, now they are taking a special interest on keeping the waters clean and garbage free.



### **Day 04: Alleppey-Marari Beach (1.5 Hours Drive)**

After breakfast on board, check out and drive to Marari Beach. On arrival, you will be picked up by our local women guides to go for a fishermen village tour in a tuk tuk driven by the local drivers. After visiting the fishing harbour, your guides will buy fresh fish for your lunch and will be brought to a local



family where you can experience the preparation of your lunch by a local women group. You will also watch a local coir mat weaving community which is a livelihood activity for the local women. Afternoon, you will be brought back to your resort to relax. Overnight at Marari Beach







### Day 05: Marari Beach

Full day at leisure. You may walk around the fishermen village or walk to the nearby Hindu temple in the evening to watch the social gathering for prayers. You may also opt for a rejuvenating Ayurveda Massage. Overnight at Marari Beach.

You will have options for in house experience programs like organic farm visit with a culinary trail with the chef at the resort, butterfly watching, night owl watching, local tuk tuk tours etc. Some programs are subject to the resort you are staying.



### **Day 06: Cochin Departure (2.5 Hours Drive)**

Today, you will be transferred to Cochin International Airport to connect your flight home

\*Some activities mentioned may be subject to the accommodation you have chosen. There may be slight changes in the experience activities, if accommodations are changed.

### **Tour Cost Deluxe:USD 800 Per Person on Double Sharing basis**

#### **Accommodations Suggested:**

Cochin:Fort House [www.hotelforthouse.com](http://www.hotelforthouse.com)

Kumarakom:Lakesong [www.eastend.in](http://www.eastend.in)

Houseboat:Evergreen [www.evergreen-kerala.com](http://www.evergreen-kerala.com)

Marari Beach:Turtle Beach [www.abadhotels.com](http://www.abadhotels.com)

### **Tour Cost Premium:USD 1175 Per Person on Double Sharing basis**

#### **Accommodations Suggested:**

Cochin:Fragrant Nature [www.fragrantnature.com](http://www.fragrantnature.com)

Kumarakom:Coconut Lagoon [www.cghearth.com](http://www.cghearth.com)

Houseboat:Xandari Riverscapes [www.xandari.com](http://www.xandari.com)

Marari Beach:Xandari Pearl [www.xandari.com](http://www.xandari.com)

#### **Tour Cost Inclusions:**

- 05 Nights stay as above
- Daily breakfast at hotels
- All meals on Houseboat
- Aircon SUV for transfers and sightseeing
- Guided sightseeing at Cochin
- Guided Village Backwater canoe cruise with lunch at Poothotta
- Kathakali show at Cochin
- Guided fishermen village tuk tuk tour with lunch at Marari Beach
- All entrance fees
- All taxes

**PS:The price given is based on 02 Pax travelling on Double/Twin sharing basis.We will be happy to customise the costing according to the number of person on request.**