

## Periyar & Houseboat

### Day 01:Periyar

Today, you will drive to Periyar Sanctuary. On arrival, check in at the hotel. Later guided spice farm visit. Evening watch a live martial art show -Kalaripayattu at a local theatre. Overnight at Hotel



### Day 02 – Periyar ( Thekkady ) 7.30 AM till 4.30 PM

Full day trekking in the Sanctuary. It will be a guided program by the forest Department and there are chances of closure of the Sanctuary between April & June due to the fear of wild fire /heavy rains . At 0730 AM we have to report at the bus boarding point .Once you reach the starting point ,you will finish the registration formalities and collect leech socks, packed light breakfast & a proper hot lunch etc. The program has around 12 kms of soft hike and 3 kms of bamboo rafting. This will be a nice program to watch possible wildlife in the sanctuary. Only physically fit travelers can do this full activity. Children below 13 years are not allowed to do the program. Packed breakfast and lunch are a part of the package. Evening return to the base to return to your hotel. Overnight at hotel.

This is one of Kerala's first Responsible Tourism Programs as a part of rehabilitating the tribal people who lived inside the Sanctuary and sometimes Poachers and hunters. With the help of an Eco Development Society (EDS),these people are now the guards of the forest for the best conservation and the best guides for tourists because they know the forest very well including the movement of wild animals. The revenue from these programs help the Government to give back to the Community to enable them to have decent living.



The Thekkady sanctuary is one of the best in the country for watching and photographing unique flora & fauna. A cruise through the waters of Periyar Lake around which the wildlife sanctuary is situated, offers lots of photo opportunities. This is the only sanctuary in India where you can have the unique experience of viewing wildlife at close quarters from the safety of a boat on the lake. The greatest attraction of Periyar remains the large herds of wild elephants that come down to the lake's edge. Tigers are sighted when the forest water holes dry up and these animals come and drink water from the river.

Evergreen and semi-evergreen forests constitute the major part of the Periyar Tiger Reserve. The rest of the area is a combination of moist deciduous forests and grasslands. Of the 27 tiger reserves in India, the Periyar Tiger Reserve is the oldest in the country and the largest in the State. The abundant wildlife here attracts a lot of visitors. Apart from being a recognised breeding ground for tigers, the reserve has also been identified as the best place for researching elephantine life. The tiger population in the area is estimated to be about 40. Though it is difficult to sight them, visitors often spot pugmarks and scats around the reserve. Thirty-five species of mammals have been identified here. They include rare and endangered species. A boat ride on the lake is a great way to spot the wild elephants, the Gaur, the Sambar and so on. While the Gaur is the largest of the bovines here, the Sambar, the largest deer in India, is the main prey of the tiger and the wild dog. Apart from these, there are wild pigs, Malabar Giant Squirrels, Small Travancore Flying Squirrels, jungle cats, sloth bears etc. The endangered species in the area include Nilgiri Langurs and the Lion-tailed Macaque, that is usually seen only in the evergreen interiors. Nilgiri Tahrs are also found in the reserve, especially in the higher rocky areas. Salim Ali's fruit bat, one of the rarest bats, is also reported to have been found in the area. The stripe-necked mongoose, usually found in the semi-evergreen and evergreen forests, the extremely rare Nilgiri Marten - the only species of marten found in southern India- and endemic mustelids are also seen here.



#### **Day 03: Periyar- Alleppey Houseboat (4.5 Hours Drive)**

After an early 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 : Cochin Departure (2.5 Hours Drive)**

Today, you will be transferred to Cochin for your onward travel.

#### **Tour Cost Deluxe:USD 500 Per Person on Double Sharing basis**

##### **Accommodations Suggested:**

Periyar:Green Forest [www.abadhotels.com](http://www.abadhotels.com)

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

#### **Tour Cost Premium:USD 940 Per Person on Double Sharing basis**

##### **Accommodations Suggested:**

Periyar:Spice Village [www.cghearth.com](http://www.cghearth.com)

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

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

- 03 Nights stay as above
- Daily breakfast at hotels
- All meals on Houseboat
- Aircon SUV for transfers and sightseeing
- Guided spice farm visit
- Full day walking safari in Periyar Sanctuary
- Martial Arts show at Periyar
- 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.**