

Tour Name: Cochin to Madurai the Backwater, Tea Estate & Temple Tour

Tour Duration: 7 Nights/ 8 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/2amhuruw>

Tour Overview

Discover the enchanting landscapes and rich cultural heritage of South India with "Cochin to Madurai the Backwater, Tea Estate & Temple Tour." Begin your adventure in Cochin, exploring its vibrant cityscape and historic landmarks before setting sail on a serene houseboat cruise through the lush backwaters of Alleppey. Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Thekkady's wildlife sanctuary and spice plantations, then ascend to the picturesque hill station of Munnar, renowned for its tea estates and breathtaking views. Conclude your journey with a visit to Madurai, where the grandeur of the Meenakshi Amman Temple and the historic Thirumalai Nayakkar Palace await. This tour offers a seamless blend of scenic beauty and cultural exploration, showcasing the best of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Cochin

- Upon arrival at Cochin airport, you will be greeted by our representative and transferred to your hotel.
- After check-in and breakfast at the hotel, begin your city tour of Cochin.
- Visit the Chinese Fishing Nets at Fort Kochi, showcasing an ancient, ingenious fishing method unique to Cochin's coastline.
- Explore St. Francis Church, the oldest European church in India, with historical significance as Vasco da Gama's first burial site.
- Tour the Mattancherry Palace (Dutch Palace), renowned for its beautiful murals depicting scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- Discover the Jewish Synagogue in Jew Town, a 16th-century landmark with intricately designed hand-painted tiles and antique furnishings.
- Stroll through the vibrant spice markets of Jew Town, offering an array of exotic spices and traditional crafts.

- In the evening, witness a Kathakali dance presentation, an elaborate and colorful traditional art form of Kerala featuring intricate costumes and expressive storytelling.

Day 2: Cochin - Alleppey (Backwaters Tour) (53 kms)

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before transferring to Alleppey.
- Board a private houseboat at the Alleppey boat jetty and begin a tranquil cruise through the lush backwaters.
- Sail along serene waterways, observing traditional village life and stunning natural scenery.
- Enjoy a traditional Kerala-style lunch on the houseboat, featuring freshly prepared local cuisine.
- Relax on the houseboat, taking in the peaceful surroundings and the rich flora and fauna of the backwaters.
- Spend the night on the houseboat, drifting gently along the canals under the stars.

Day 3: Alleppey - Thekkady (132 kms)

- After breakfast on the houseboat, disembark and drive to Thekkady.
- Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and unwind.
- In the evening, visit the Mudra Cultural Centre to watch a Kalaripayattu performance, a traditional martial art of Kerala known for its dynamic and disciplined movements.
- Explore the local night markets of Thekkady, where you can sample regional street food and shop for local handicrafts.

Day 4: Thekkady - Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary - Spice Plantation Tour

- Start your day with breakfast at the hotel.
- Embark on a boat safari in Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, where you can spot wildlife such as elephants, bison, deer, and a variety of bird species in their natural habitat.
- After the safari, visit a local spice plantation to learn about the cultivation of spices like cardamom, pepper, cinnamon, and cloves.
- Tour the spice gardens and discover the processing methods of various spices.
- Explore the local market to purchase fresh spices, herbal products, and other regional specialties.

Day 5: Thekkady - Munnar (90 kms)

- Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before driving to Munnar.
- En route, stop at Ramakkalmedu, a scenic viewpoint offering panoramic vistas of the rolling hills and verdant valleys of the Western Ghats.
- Upon arrival in Munnar, visit the Tea Museum to delve into the history and processes of tea production.
- Engage in a tea tasting session to savor the distinct flavors of Munnar's renowned tea estates.
- Explore the local tea gardens, where you can observe the tea-picking process and enjoy the lush greenery.

Day 6: Munnar - Mattupetty - Pothamedu - Devikulam

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before exploring Munnar.
- Visit Mattupetty, known for its cattle village and specialized dairy farm, where you can learn about the Swiss Livestock Project and see various breeds of cattle.
- Explore Pothamedu, famous for its breathtaking views of tea, coffee, and cardamom plantations, and enjoy the panoramic scenery.
- Proceed to Devikulam, renowned for its picturesque landscapes and serene Sita Devi Lake.
- Enjoy trout fishing or engage in adventure sports at Sita Devi Lake.
- Visit the nearby Rajamalai (Eravikulam) National Park to spot the endangered Nilgiri Tahr and experience the park's diverse flora and fauna.

Day 7: Munnar - Madurai (160 kms)

- After breakfast at your hotel, drive to Madurai.
- Check in at your hotel and then begin your sightseeing tour of the city.
- Visit the Meenakshi Amman Temple, a magnificent temple dedicated to Goddess Meenakshi, known for its towering gopurams, detailed sculptures, and vibrant ceremonies.
- Explore the Thirumalai Nayakkar Palace, an Indo-Saracenic architectural marvel with grand courtyards and intricately carved pillars.
- Stroll through the bustling streets of Madurai, visiting local markets and sampling regional delicacies.

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- Discover the Gandhi Museum, which chronicles the life and times of Mahatma Gandhi with a collection of photographs and artifacts.

Day 8: Madurai - Departure

- Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before checking out.
- Depending on your flight schedule, you may have some free time for last-minute shopping or additional sightseeing in Madurai.
- Our representative will transfer you to Madurai airport for your onward journey, concluding your memorable South India tour.

Package Price (USD Per Person Sharing Double/Twin Room)

Valid for Travel: 01 October 2026 - 15 April 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	2,178	1,213	1,061	1,138	1,027	983	926	884
4★ Deluxe	2,650	1,409	1,256	1,334	1,223	1,179	1,122	1,079
5★ Luxury	3,457	1,900	1,662	1,740	1,629	1,585	1,528	1,485

Valid for Travel: 16 April 2027 to 20 September 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	2,087	1,130	977	1,055	944	900	843	800
4★ Deluxe	2,428	1,289	1,136	1,214	1,103	1,059	1,002	959
5★ Luxury	2,900	1,621	1,384	1,461	1,350	1,306	1,249	1,207

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 337 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 614 | 5★ Luxury: USD 1,015

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 48 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 88 | 5★ Luxury: USD 159

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Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 7 Nights' accommodation in selected price category hotels.
- Daily breakfast at hotels.
- All meals during the houseboat stay in Alleppey.
- Private AC car/van for airport transfers, sightseeing, and excursions as per the program.
- English speaking tour guide on sightseeing days (local guide in each city), as per program.
- Monument entrances and activities charges mentioned in the itinerary.
- Bottled drinking water in car.
- Government taxes.

Price Does Not Include:

- Any flight tickets.
- Camera charges at monuments if any.
- Meals other than mentioned in the inclusions.
- Expenses of personal nature like liquor, laundry, tips, telephone, fax, internet etc.
- Gratuities and optional activities.
- Anything not mentioned in inclusions.

Hotels used or similar for 7 nights' accommodation

3 Star Hotels

- Cochin x 1 night: The Tower House/ The Killians
- Alleppey x 1 night: Deluxe Houseboat (AC During Night Only)
- Thekkady x 2 nights: Abad Green Forest/ Hotel Treetop
- Munnar x 2 nights: Abad Copper Castle/ Elysium Garden Hill Resort
- Madurai x 1 night: JC Residency/ Hotel Royal Court

4 Star Hotels

- Cochin x 1 night: Casino Hotel/ Le Maritime
- Alleppey x 1 night: Premium Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- Thekkady x 2 nights: Amritara Shalimar Spice Garden/ The Elephant Court
- Munnar x 2 nights: Elixir Hills Resort/ Tea County Munnar
- Madurai x 1 night: Fortune Pandiyan Hotel/ Regency Madurai by GRT Hotels

5 Star Hotels

- Cochin x 1 night: Kochi Marriott Hotel/ Xandari Harbour
- Alleppey x 1 night: Luxury Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- Thekkady x 2 nights: Spice Village/ Hills & Hues
- Munnar x 2 nights: Chandys Windy Woods/ Blanket Hotel & Spa
- Madurai x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott/ The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai

Payment Policy:

- Deposit of 25% of the package cost at the time of booking.
- Deposit of 50% of the package cost, 30 days prior to arrival date
- Deposit of 100% of the package cost, 10 days prior to arrival date

Cancellation policy:

- Note: Written cancellation will be accepted on all working days, except Sundays. Any cancellation sent on Sundays will be considered on the next working day (Monday).
- X-mas and New Year Period (20 Dec to 05 Jan): The payment is non-refundable during this period.
- After Trip Commencement: If you cancel the trip after it has commenced, the refund will be limited to the amount we are able to recover from hoteliers/contractors. We are not responsible for refunds on unused hotel accommodations, chartered transportation, or missed meals.
- 61 days or more before the tour: No cancellation charges.
- Between 60 to 30 days before the tour: Cancellation charges equal to 20% of the full tour booking value.

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- Between 30 to 15 days before the tour: Cancellation charges equal to 50% of the full tour booking value.
- Within 5 days before the tour or no show: Cancellation charges equal to 90% of the full tour booking value.

Our Liabilities & Limitations:

- Price Changes: After the finalization of the tour/service cost, if there are any hikes in entrance fees, taxes, fuel costs, or guide charges by the Government of India, these will be charged as extra.
- Role as Agent: Agora Voyages acts only as an agent for hotels, airlines, transporters, railways, and contractors providing services. All receipts, contracts, and tickets issued by us are subject to terms and conditions of the service providers.
- Itinerary Changes: All itineraries are sample itineraries intended to provide a general idea. We reserve the right to change the schedule based on factors such as weather, road conditions, or the physical ability of participants to ensure safety, comfort, and well-being.
- Rate Modifications: Our rates are based on negotiated rates with hotels and airlines. If the rates are modified by these service providers, we reserve the right to adjust the quoted rates accordingly. Hotel bookings are based on usual check-in and check-out times, unless otherwise indicated.
- Liability Disclaimer: We are not responsible for delays, alterations, or expenses incurred due to natural hazards, flight cancellations, accidents, weather, sickness, political closures, or any unforeseen incidents.
- Damage, Loss, or Injury: We are not responsible for any loss, injury, or damage to persons, property, or otherwise, caused by acts of God, fire, accidents, machinery breakdowns, political disturbances, theft, epidemics, or other factors beyond our control.
- Insurance: We do not offer insurance for accidents, sickness, theft, or other unforeseen circumstances. We recommend travelers arrange for insurance in their home country. All personal property and baggage are at the client's risk at all times.
- Unforeseen Circumstances: We are not responsible for costs arising from landslides, roadblocks, bad weather, or similar unforeseen circumstances.

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Tipping

- Tipping is not included in our price. It is optional but often expected in the travel industry. There is no limit on the amount you can tip, though the average guideline is around \$10-15 per day for guides, drivers, and other crew members.

Trip Comments

- After your trip, we would love to hear your experience. Any photos, suggestions, or feedback will be greatly appreciated. While we strive to make every trip perfect, we acknowledge that there is always room for improvement. Your comments, whether positive or constructive, are invaluable to us.