

Tour Name: Historic Caves & Backwater of Kerala

Tour Duration: 10 Nights/ 11 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/mpbas4n4>

Tour Overview

Embark on a captivating journey with our "Historic Caves & Backwater of Kerala" tour. Begin in Mumbai, where you'll delve into the city's vibrant culture, from the iconic Gateway of India to the serene Elephanta Caves. Discover the ancient rock-cut temples at Ellora and Ajanta, marveling at their intricate sculptures and centuries-old frescoes. Transition to Kerala, where tranquil backwaters await in Alleppey, offering a serene houseboat cruise amidst lush landscapes. Explore Munnar's tea plantations and wildlife in Thekkady's Periyar National Park. This tour promises a blend of heritage, natural beauty, and cultural immersion, ensuring an unforgettable journey through Western India's diverse landscapes.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Mumbai

- Arrive at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, where you'll be warmly greeted by our representative.
- Transfer to your hotel in South Mumbai or the suburbs, depending on your preference and the nature of your stay.
- Check-in at the hotel and unwind in the comfort of your room. Freshen up and relax after your journey.
- Depending on your arrival time, you may have the opportunity to explore nearby attractions or simply acclimatize to the vibrant atmosphere of Mumbai.
- Take a leisurely stroll along Marine Drive, also known as the Queen's Necklace, to enjoy scenic views of the Arabian Sea and the city skyline illuminated in the evening.
- Overnight stay at your hotel, preparing for an exciting exploration of Mumbai's cultural and historical landmarks tomorrow.

Day 2: Mumbai

- Start your day with a delightful breakfast at your hotel.

- Begin at the Gateway of India, an iconic monument overlooking the Arabian Sea, built in 1924. Enjoy views of the harbor and Elephanta Island while learning about its historical significance.
- Take a short ferry ride to Elephanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site, renowned for its ancient rock-cut temples dedicated to Lord Shiva. Explore the intricate sculptures and cave architecture.
- Visit Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (formerly Prince of Wales Museum), housing an impressive collection of ancient artifacts, sculptures, and decorative arts spanning centuries.
- Marvel at exhibits ranging from Indus Valley Civilization artifacts to Mughal paintings.
- Explore the bustling Crawford Market (Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Market), known for its vibrant atmosphere and diverse array of goods including fresh produce, spices, and souvenirs.
- Dive into Mumbai's cultural tapestry with a visit to Dhobi Ghat, the world's largest outdoor laundry, where traditional washermen (Dhobis) hand wash thousands of clothes daily. Gain insights into this unique aspect of Mumbai's daily life.

Day 3: Mumbai - Aurangabad (flight)

- Enjoy a delicious breakfast before catching a flight to Aurangabad.
- Visit Ellora Caves, another UNESCO site showcasing rock-cut temples and monasteries spanning Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist faiths, including the colossal Kailasa Temple carved out of a single rock.
- Witness the architectural marvels and spiritual significance of these ancient structures.
- Explore Daulatabad Fort, a formidable fortress known for its defense mechanisms and panoramic views of Aurangabad.
- Discover Aurangabad Caves, ancient rock-cut Buddhist caves dating back to the 6th and 7th centuries AD, adorned with intricate sculptures and carvings depicting Buddhist legends.
- Return to Aurangabad for overnight stay, reflecting on the day's exploration of ancient Indian heritage.

Day 4: Aurangabad

- Start the day with breakfast at your hotel.

- Embark on an exploration of Ajanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its exquisite Buddhist cave temples and magnificent paintings depicting the life of Buddha.
- Marvel at the ancient frescoes and detailed sculptures that have survived centuries.
- Return to Aurangabad and visit Bibi Ka Maqbara, often called the "Taj of the Deccan", a striking mausoleum built by Emperor Aurangzeb in memory of his wife, inspired by the Taj Mahal's architecture.
- Admire the intricate carvings and serene gardens surrounding the monument.
- Overnight stay in Aurangabad, savoring the blend of history and architectural splendor.

Day 5: Aurangabad - Cochin (flight)

- After breakfast, board a flight to Cochin (Kochi), a port city known for its rich history and vibrant culture.
- Check-in at your hotel and relax after your flight.
- Optionally, explore Fort Kochi to delve into its colonial history, including St. Francis Church, the oldest European church in India, and the iconic Chinese Fishing Nets.
- Overnight stay in Cochin, preparing for the journey ahead into Kerala's scenic landscapes.

Day 6: Cochin - Munnar (140kms)

- Enjoy a hearty breakfast at your hotel.
- Begin with a visit to the Mattancherry Palace (Dutch Palace), renowned for its Kerala murals depicting Hindu temple art and exhibits related to the Kochi royal family.
- Admire the intricate craftsmanship and historical artifacts housed within.
- Explore the Jewish Synagogue, the oldest active synagogue in the Commonwealth, adorned with stunning Chinese tiles and Belgian chandeliers.
- Learn about the Jewish community's history and contributions to Kochi's cultural fabric.
- Visit Fort Kochi to explore its colonial history, including the St. Francis Church, the oldest European church in India, and the iconic Chinese Fishing Nets.

- Discover the blend of cultures and architectural landmarks that define Kochi's heritage.

Day 7: Munnar

- Start your day with breakfast amidst the tranquil beauty of Munnar.
- Visit the Mattupetty Dam, offering breathtaking views and boating opportunities amidst hills and forests.
- Enjoy a serene boat ride on the reservoir surrounded by tea plantations and lush greenery.
- Visit the Tea Museum to learn about the region's tea processing history and enjoy a tasting session amidst lush tea gardens.
- Gain insights into the cultivation and production of India's favorite beverage.
- Explore the Eravikulam National Park, home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr (mountain goat) and offering panoramic views from Anamudi Peak, the highest in South India.
- Spot wildlife amidst rolling hills and blooming Neelakurinji flowers.
- Explore the Rose Garden and enjoy a leisurely stroll among thousands of colorful blooms, showcasing Munnar's floral diversity.

Day 8: Munnar - Thekkady (110kms)

- After breakfast, drive to Thekkady, known for Periyar National Park and its wildlife sanctuary.
- Embark on a boat safari on Periyar Lake, offering chances to spot elephants, deer, and exotic birds along the shores.
- Experience the thrill of wildlife encounters amidst dense forests and serene waters.
- Visit a Spice Plantation to witness the cultivation and processing of aromatic spices like cardamom, pepper, and cloves.
- Engage in interactive sessions and learn about Kerala's renowned spice trade.
- Overnight stay in Thekkady, surrounded by lush greenery and wildlife sounds.

Day 9: Thekkady - Kumarakom (140kms)

- Journey to Kumarakom, a serene backwater destination dotted with lush greenery and tranquil waterways.

- Enjoy a leisurely houseboat cruise through the scenic Vembanad Lake, passing by picturesque villages and paddy fields.
- Relax amidst Kerala's natural beauty and observe local life along the backwaters.
- Visit Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, home to a diverse range of migratory birds and native species.
- Spot rare avian species amidst wetlands and mangrove forests.
- Overnight stay in Kumarakom, embracing the tranquility of Kerala's backwaters.

Day 10: Kumarakom - Alleppey

- After breakfast, transfer to Alleppey, famous for its backwaters and houseboat cruises.
- Spend the night aboard a traditional houseboat, experiencing Kerala's serene backwaters, local life, and scenic landscapes.
- Enjoy freshly prepared Kerala cuisine and unwind amidst peaceful surroundings.
- Optional: Explore Alleppey's local markets and interact with artisans selling handicrafts, coir products, and traditional spices.

Day 11: Alleppey - Cochin (60kms)

- Return to Cochin after breakfast.
- Depart from Cochin as per your onward travel plans, cherishing the memories of Mumbai's heritage, ancient caves, Kerala's natural beauty, and serene backwaters.

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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	3,211	1,773	1,584	1,606	1,455	1,424	1,342	1,281
4★ Deluxe	3,826	2,042	1,853	1,875	1,724	1,693	1,611	1,550
5★ Luxury	4,994	2,824	2,457	2,479	2,328	2,297	2,215	2,154

Valid for Travel: 16 April 2027 to 20 September 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	3,089	1,671	1,482	1,504	1,353	1,321	1,240	1,178
4★ Deluxe	3,453	1,857	1,668	1,690	1,539	1,507	1,426	1,364
5★ Luxury	4,382	2,518	2,151	2,173	2,022	1,991	1,909	1,848

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 515 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 861 | 5★ Luxury: USD 1,426

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 57 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 109 | 5★ Luxury: USD 203

Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 10 Nights' accommodation in selected price category hotels.
- Daily breakfast at hotels.
- 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:

- Mumbai - Aurangabad - Cochin flight fare approx INR 11, 500 per person in economy class.
- 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 10 nights' accommodation

3 Star Hotels

- Mumbai x 2 nights: Hotel Godwin, Colaba/ Hotel Suba Palace
- Aurangabad x 2 nights: The Fern Residency/ Amarpreet Hotel
- Cochin x 1 night: The Tower House/ The Killians
- Munnar x 2 nights: Abad Copper Castle/ Elysium Garden Hill Resort
- Thekkady x 1 night: Abad Green Forest/ Hotel Treetop
- Kumarakom x 1 night: Eastend Lake Song/ Abad Whispering Palm
- Alleppey x 1 night: Deluxe Houseboat (AC During Night Only)

4 Star Hotels

- Mumbai x 2 nights: Fariyas Hotel/ The Gordon House
- Aurangabad x 2 nights: Lemon Tree Hotel
- Cochin x 1 night: Casino Hotel/ Le Maritime
- Munnar x 2 nights: Elixir Hills Resort/ Tea County Munnar
- Thekkady x 1 night: Amritara Shalimar Spice Garden/ The Elephant Court

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- Kumarakom x 1 night: Gokulam Grand Resort & Spa/ Rhythm Kumarakom
- Alleppey x 1 night: Premium Houseboat (Full Time AC)

5 Star Hotels

- Mumbai x 2 nights: Trident Hotel/ President, Mumbai - IHCL SeleQtions
- Aurangabad x 2 nights: WelcomHotel Rama International/ Vivanta Aurangabad
- Cochin x 1 night: Kochi Marriott Hotel/ Xandari Harbour
- Munnar x 2 nights: Chandys Windy Woods/ Blanket Hotel & Spa
- Thekkady x 1 night: Spice Village/ Hills & Hues
- Kumarakom x 1 night: Coconut Lagoon/ The Zuri
- Alleppey x 1 night: Luxury Houseboat (Full Time AC)

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.