

Tour Name: India's Rich Culture, Heritage, Tea Estate & Backwater Tour

Tour Duration: 18 Nights/ 19 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/4nb7672n>

Tour Overview

Embark on a captivating journey through India's cultural heartlands and the serene backwaters of Kerala with our India's Rich Culture, Heritage, Tea Estate & Backwater Tour. Begin in Delhi, where ancient monuments like the Red Fort and Jama Masjid narrate tales of Mughal grandeur. Marvel at the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra before exploring the medieval town of Orchha and the exquisite temples of Khajuraho. In Varanasi, experience spiritual enlightenment along the banks of the Ganges. Fly to Mumbai for a taste of cosmopolitan India, then uncover the ancient rock-cut caves of Aurangabad. Finally, unwind amidst Kerala's lush landscapes and tranquil backwaters, completing a journey rich in cultural diversity and natural beauty.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Delhi

- Arrive in Delhi and transfer to your hotel. Rest and prepare for the journey ahead.

Day 2: Delhi

- Breakfast at hotel
- Explore the majestic Red Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its stunning Mughal architecture.
- Visit Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India, offering panoramic views of Old Delhi.
- Discover Raj Ghat, a memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, where he was cremated.
- Explore Humayun's Tomb, a masterpiece of Mughal architecture surrounded by lush gardens.
- Ascend the Qutub Minar, the tallest brick minaret in the world, dating back to the 12th century.
- Visit the Lotus Temple, renowned for its distinctive lotus-shaped architecture and tranquil atmosphere.

Day 3: Delhi - Agra (204kms)

- Breakfast at hotel
- Drive to Agra, a city steeped in Mughal heritage.

- Marvel at the iconic Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage site and symbol of eternal love.
- Explore the majestic Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site that served as the main residence of the emperors of the Mughal Dynasty.
- Visit Itmad-ud-Daulah's Tomb, often referred to as the "Baby Taj," known for its intricate marble inlay work.

Day 4: Agra - Orchha (220kms)

- Breakfast at hotel
- Travel to Orchha, a hidden gem known for its medieval architecture and serene ambiance.
- Explore Orchha Fort Complex, featuring palaces, temples, and cenotaphs overlooking the Betwa River.
- Visit Chaturbhuj Temple, known for its towering architecture and exquisite carvings.
- Discover Lakshmi Narayan Temple, dedicated to the goddess Lakshmi and adorned with vibrant frescoes.

Day 5: Orchha - Khajuraho (178km)

- Breakfast at hotel
- Journey to Khajuraho, famous for its stunning temples adorned with intricate sculptures.
- Explore the Western Group of Temples, including the iconic Kandariya Mahadev Temple, known for its erotic sculptures.
- Visit the Eastern Group of Temples, featuring intricately carved Jain temples and other ancient structures.

Day 6: Khajuraho - Varanasi (flight)

- Breakfast at hotel
- Fly to Varanasi, the spiritual heart of India.
- Attend the mesmerizing Ganga Aarti ceremony on the banks of the sacred River Ganges, a soul-stirring ritual of light and sound.

Day 7: Varanasi

- Early morning boat ride on River Ganges
- Witness the sunrise over the Ganges and observe devotees performing morning rituals.
- Visit Sarnath, where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon, and explore the Dhamekh Stupa and Mulagandha Kuti Vihar.
- Explore Banaras Hindu University (BHU), one of the largest residential universities in Asia.
- Visit the Bharat Mata Temple, showcasing a marble relief map of India.

- Discover Tulsi Manas Mandir, dedicated to Lord Rama and adorned with verses from Ramcharitmanas.
- Optionally visit Ramnagar Fort, known for its museum displaying vintage cars, royal artifacts, and a unique astrological clock.

Day 8: Varanasi - Mumbai (flight)

- Breakfast at hotel
- Fly to Mumbai, the bustling financial capital of India.
- Visit the Gateway of India, an iconic monument overlooking the Arabian Sea.
- Explore Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (formerly Prince of Wales Museum), showcasing ancient artifacts and art collections.
- Drive along Marine Drive, a picturesque promenade offering stunning views of the sea and city skyline.
- Optionally take a Bollywood tour to explore the vibrant film industry of India.

Day 9: Mumbai

- Breakfast at hotel
- Visit Elephanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its rock-cut temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Explore Hanging Gardens (Pherozeshah Mehta Gardens), offering panoramic views of the city skyline.
- Relax at Juhu Beach, a popular spot for locals and tourists alike.
- Optionally take a Bollywood tour to visit film studios and understand the filmmaking process.

Day 10: Mumbai - Aurangabad (flight)

- Breakfast at hotel
- Fly to Aurangabad, known for its medieval monuments and rich history.
- Later, embark on an excursion to Ellora Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring rock-cut temples and monasteries.
- Visit Daulatabad Fort, a formidable hill fortress known for its strategic architecture and historical significance.
- Explore Aurangabad Caves, ancient rock-cut Buddhist shrines dating back to the 6th and 7th centuries.

Day 11: Aurangabad

- Breakfast at hotel
- Excursion to Ajanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its exquisite Buddhist cave paintings and sculptures.
- Explore Bibi ka Maqbara, often called the "Mini Taj" for its resemblance to the Taj Mahal.
- Visit Panchakki (Water Mill), an ancient water mill powered by a series of hydraulic pipes.

Day 12: Aurangabad - Cochin (flight)

- Breakfast at hotel
- Fly to Cochin, a vibrant city known for its cultural diversity and historical landmarks.
- Attend a traditional Kathakali dance show in the evening, featuring elaborate costumes, expressive gestures, and rhythmic music.

Day 13: Cochin - Munnar (140kms)

- Breakfast at hotel
- Drive to Munnar, a picturesque hill station nestled in the Western Ghats.
- Visit tea gardens and learn about the tea-making process.
- Explore Mattupetty Dam, offering scenic views of the surrounding hills and reservoir.

Day 14: Munnar

- Breakfast at hotel
- Discover Eravikulam National Park, home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr and lush greenery.
- Visit Top Station, offering panoramic views of the Western Ghats and neighboring state of Tamil Nadu.
- Explore the Tea Museum to learn about Munnar's legacy as a center for tea cultivation.
- Optionally visit Kundala Lake, known for its serene surroundings and boating facilities.

Day 15: Munnar - Thekkady (110kms)

- Breakfast at hotel
- Drive to Thekkady, home to the Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Enjoy a boat ride on Periyar Lake, where you can spot wildlife and enjoy the scenic beauty of the reserve.
- Visit spice plantations to learn about spices like cardamom, pepper, cinnamon, and cloves.

Day 16: Thekkady

- Breakfast at hotel
- Explore Periyar National Park on a guided trek or nature walk.
- Visit Elephant Junction for a close encounter with elephants and enjoy activities like elephant rides and baths.
- Optionally indulge in an Ayurvedic massage to rejuvenate and relax.

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Day 17: Thekkady - Alleppey (140kms)

- Breakfast at hotel
- Drive to Alleppey, known as the Venice of the East, famous for its backwaters and houseboat cruises.
- Enjoy a serene houseboat cruise on the backwaters, passing through lush green landscapes and villages.

Day 18: Alleppey - Cochin (60kms) / Delhi (flight)

- Breakfast on houseboat
- Proceed to Cochin for onward journey or transfer to Cochin airport for flight to Delhi.

Day 19: Delhi - Departure (flight)

- Breakfast at hotel
- Transfer to Delhi airport for departure.

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	5,600	3,103	2,699	2,833	2,566	2,512	2,368	2,259
4★ Deluxe	6,586	3,554	3,150	3,283	3,017	2,963	2,818	2,710
5★ Luxury	8,460	4,729	4,129	4,263	3,996	3,942	3,798	3,689

Valid for Travel: 01 October 2026 – 15 April 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	5,289	2,876	2,472	2,605	2,339	2,285	2,140	2,032
4★ Deluxe	5,911	3,209	2,805	2,939	2,672	2,618	2,474	2,365
5★ Luxury	7,450	4,190	3,590	3,724	3,457	3,403	3,259	3,150

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 894 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,430 | 5★ Luxury: USD 2,324

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 89 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 175 | 5★ Luxury: USD 324

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Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 18 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:

- Khajuraho - Varanasi - Mumbai - Aurangabad - Cochin - Delhi flight fare approx INR 30500 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 18 nights' accommodation

3 Star Hotels

- Delhi x 2 nights: Dee Marks Hotel & Resorts/ Emerald Hotel
- Agra x 1 night: Radisson Hotel/ Holiday Inn
- Orchha x 1 night: Orchha Resort/ Amar Mahal
- Khajuraho x 1 night: Ramada/SYNA Heritage Hotel
- Varanasi x 2 nights: Meraden Grand/ Hotel Tridev
- 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 2 nights: Abad Green Forest/ Hotel Treetop
- Alleppey x 1 night: Deluxe Houseboat (AC During Night Only)
- Delhi x 1 night: Dee Marks Hotel & Resorts/ Emerald Hotel

4 Star Hotels

- Delhi x 2 nights: The Hans/ The Royal Plaza
- Agra x 1 night: Radisson Hotel/ Holiday Inn
- Orchha x 1 night: Orchha Resort/ Amar Mahal
- Khajuraho x 1 night: Radisson Hotel/ Hotel Chandela

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- Varanasi x 2 nights: Rivatas by Ideal/ The Amayaa
- 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 2 nights: Amritara Shalimar Spice Garden/ The Elephant Court
- Alleppey x 1 night: Premium Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- Delhi x 1 night: The Hans/ The Royal Plaza

5 Star Hotels

- Delhi x 2 nights: Le Meridien/ The Grand New Delhi
- Agra x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott/ Trident Hotel
- Orchha x 1 night: Orchha Palace and Convention Centre
- Khajuraho x 1 night: The Lalit Temple View
- Varanasi x 2 nights: Ramada JHV/ Radisson Hotel
- 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 2 nights: Spice Village/ Hills & Hues
- Alleppey x 1 night: Luxury Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- Delhi x 1 night: Le Meridien/ The Grand New Delhi

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.
- 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.

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.