

Tour Name: Sandalwood, Backwater & Spice Route

Tour Duration: 14 Nights/ 15 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/y43yxjcp>

Tour Overview

"Sandalwood, Backwater & Spice Route" offers an immersive journey through the heart of southern India, showcasing its rich heritage and natural beauty. Begin in Bangalore, exploring its lush gardens and historic landmarks before venturing to Mysore, where grand palaces and vibrant markets await. Experience the thrill of wildlife safaris in Kabini, followed by serene relaxation in Wayanad's scenic landscapes. Continue to Ooty for breathtaking views and tea plantations, then soak in the coastal charm of Cochin. Conclude with a tranquil houseboat cruise through Kerala's backwaters and unwind on the pristine beaches of Mararikulam. This tour blends cultural splendor with natural serenity, creating a memorable exploration of South India's diverse offerings.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Bangalore

- Arrive at Kempegowda International Airport in Bangalore and transfer to your hotel. Early check-in is subject to room availability; standard check-in time is 2 pm. Freshen up and relax at the hotel.

Day 2: Bangalore - Mysore (150kms)

- After a hearty breakfast at your hotel, begin your city exploration in Bangalore. Visit Lalbagh Botanical Gardens, a 240-acre park featuring a diverse collection of tropical plants, rare species, and a historic glasshouse modeled after London's Crystal Palace. The garden also houses a beautiful lake and a range of themed sections, including the bonsai garden and the orchid house.
- Next, explore the Bull Temple, renowned for its massive Nandi Bull statue carved from a single rock. This temple is a significant pilgrimage site and offers a serene atmosphere amid lush greenery.
- Proceed to Bangalore Fort, originally constructed by Kempegowda II in the 16th century. The fort showcases a blend of Hindu and Islamic architectural styles, and its remnants include a majestic entrance and ancient bastions.
- Visit Bangalore Palace, a Tudor-style mansion inspired by England's Windsor Castle. The palace is adorned with opulent interiors, including ornate woodwork, grand halls, and elegant furnishings, providing insight into the royal lifestyle of the Wadiyars.
- Drive to Mysore and check in at your hotel upon arrival. Overnight stay in Mysore.

Day 3: Mysore

- Begin with breakfast at your hotel before setting out for a day of exploration. Start with the Mysore Palace, a grand royal residence with Indo-Saracenic architecture. The palace features richly decorated interiors with ornate ceilings, crystal chandeliers, and an impressive collection of royal artifacts and paintings.
- Next, visit Devaraja Market, a bustling and colorful market known for its vibrant display of fruits, vegetables, spices, and traditional handicrafts. It offers a glimpse into the local culture and commerce.
- Proceed to the Chamundeshwari Temple, located atop Chamundi Hill. The temple provides panoramic views of Mysore city and features a grand entrance with a seven-tiered gopuram. Nearby, you'll find the colossal Nandi Bull statue, carved from a single rock, symbolizing strength and protection.
- Visit the Mysore City Palace, an elegant structure combining Indo-Saracenic and Dravidian architectural styles. The palace boasts stunning courtyards, royal memorabilia, and beautiful stained-glass windows.
- Explore St. Philomena's Church, one of the largest churches in India, known for its neo-gothic architecture and impressive stained-glass windows depicting biblical scenes.
- Enjoy the evening at leisure, exploring Mysore's vibrant streets and markets, known for their rich cultural heritage and traditional crafts. Overnight stay in Mysore.

Day 4: Mysore - Kabini/Nagarhole (90kms)

- After breakfast, check out from your hotel and drive to Kabini/Nagarhole. Upon arrival, check in at your wildlife resort, which offers a rustic and immersive experience in nature.
- In the afternoon, embark on a boat safari on the Kabini River. This scenic cruise offers opportunities to spot wildlife such as elephants, deer, and various bird species amidst serene riverbanks and lush vegetation. The safari provides a unique perspective of the sanctuary's ecosystem.
- Return to the resort for dinner and a peaceful night surrounded by the sounds of the forest. Overnight stay at the resort.

Day 5: Kabini/Nagarhole

- Start with an early breakfast at the resort before heading out for a jungle safari in Kabini Wildlife Sanctuary. Experience a thrilling safari guided by an expert naturalist, enhancing your chances of spotting elusive wildlife such as tigers, leopards, and a diverse range of bird species in their natural habitat.
- Return to the resort for a hearty breakfast and enjoy the rest of the morning at leisure. Relax by the pool or explore the resort's surroundings.
- In the late afternoon, embark on another wildlife safari to further explore the sanctuary's biodiversity and enjoy additional wildlife sightings. The safari offers a chance to observe different habitats and animal behavior.
- Return to the resort for dinner and an overnight stay. Overnight stay at the resort.

Day 6: Kabini/Nagarhole - Wayanad (80kms)

- After breakfast, check out from your resort and drive to Wayanad. Upon arrival, check in at your accommodation, known for its scenic landscapes, coffee plantations, and lush greenery.
- In the afternoon, visit the Edakkal Caves, renowned for their ancient petroglyphs and cave paintings dating back to the Neolithic era. The caves offer a glimpse into early human history and cultural expressions.
- Spend the rest of the day relaxing amidst the tranquil surroundings of Wayanad. Take leisurely walks through the lush green landscapes or unwind at your hotel. Overnight stay in Wayanad.

Day 7: Wayanad - Ooty (135kms)

- Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before checking out and driving to Ooty. Arrive in Ooty and check in at your hotel.
- Embark on a scenic train ride through the Nilgiri Hills. The toy train offers breathtaking views of rolling hills, tea estates, and dense forests, providing a picturesque journey through the region.
- In the evening, visit the Ooty Rose Garden, home to a vast collection of roses and other flowering plants. The garden provides a serene environment for a leisurely stroll.
- Explore Ooty at your leisure, visiting local attractions or enjoying a relaxing time at your hotel. Overnight stay in Ooty.

Day 8: Ooty

- After breakfast, embark on a full-day city tour of Ooty. Begin with a visit to the Botanical Gardens, which feature an impressive collection of exotic plant species, colorful flowerbeds, and beautifully landscaped lawns.
- Next, visit a local tea plantation to learn about the tea-making process. Enjoy a guided tour of the plantation and sample some fresh, aromatic Nilgiri tea.
- Take a serene boat ride on Ooty Lake, surrounded by picturesque landscapes and lush greenery. The lake offers a tranquil setting for relaxation and enjoyment.
- Visit Dodabetta Peak, the highest point in the Nilgiri Hills. From here, you can enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding hills, valleys, and distant plains. The peak is a popular spot for capturing stunning photographs.
- Return to your hotel for a relaxing evening and overnight stay in Ooty.

Day 9: Ooty - Cochin (300kms)

- After breakfast, check out from your hotel and drive to Cochin. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and spend the rest of the day exploring Cochin's vibrant culture and historic sites at your leisure.
- In the evening, enjoy a Kathakali dance performance. This traditional dance-drama of Kerala is known for its elaborate costumes, expressive gestures, and intricate storytelling. The performance offers a unique cultural experience.

- Overnight stay in Cochin.

Day 10: Cochin

- Begin with breakfast at your hotel before embarking on a guided city tour of Cochin. Start with the Chinese Fishing Nets, iconic to Cochin, showcasing traditional fishing techniques used along the coast. These large, cantilevered nets are a distinctive feature of the local fishing industry.
- Explore St. Francis Church, India's oldest European church. The church is known for its historic significance and serene atmosphere, and it houses the remains of Vasco da Gama, the famous Portuguese explorer.
- Proceed to the Dutch Palace (Mattancherry Palace), famous for its stunning murals depicting Hindu epics and its collection of royal artifacts. The palace provides insight into the region's colonial past and royal heritage.
- Discover the historic Jewish Synagogue in Jew Town, renowned for its antique chandeliers, Hebrew inscriptions, and beautiful blue-and-white tiles. The synagogue is a testament to Cochin's rich multicultural history.
- Visit the Paradesi Synagogue, the oldest active synagogue in the Commonwealth, which offers additional historical context and architectural beauty.
- Spend the evening relaxing or further exploring the city's vibrant markets, cafes, and historic areas. Overnight stay in Cochin.

Day 11: Cochin - Alleppey (60kms)

- After breakfast, check out from your hotel and drive to Alleppey. Board a traditional houseboat for a scenic cruise through the backwaters of Kerala. Glide past lush landscapes, tranquil waters, and charming villages as you sail through the interconnected network of canals and paddy fields.
- Enjoy the serene environment and picturesque views during the cruise. The houseboat provides a unique vantage point to observe the local lifestyle and natural beauty.
- Spend the night on the houseboat, drifting gently through the backwaters and savoring the peaceful surroundings.

Day 12: Alleppey - Mararikulam (20kms)

- After breakfast on the houseboat, disembark and drive to Mararikulam. Check in at your accommodation and spend a relaxing day at Mararikulam Beach, known for its pristine sands, clear waters, and tranquil ambiance.
- Unwind by the seaside, take leisurely walks along the shore, or simply enjoy the stunning beauty of the Arabian Sea. The beach offers a serene environment for relaxation and rejuvenation. Overnight stay in Mararikulam.

Day 13: Mararikulam

- Enjoy breakfast at your hotel. Spend the day with leisurely beach walks, immersing yourself in the calm surroundings, or simply relaxing and rejuvenating at your own pace.

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- Consider visiting the nearby Marari Beach Village to explore local fishing communities and traditional coastal life. Alternatively, engage in water sports or yoga sessions offered by some of the local resorts.
- Enjoy the tranquil environment and soothing sounds of the sea. Overnight stay in Mararikulam.

Day 14: Mararikulam

- Enjoy breakfast at your hotel. Continue to relax and unwind with leisurely beach walks or explore the tranquil surroundings. The day is free for you to enjoy the peaceful ambiance and beauty of Mararikulam at your own pace.
- Overnight stay in Mararikulam.

Day 15: Mararikulam - Cochin (75kms)

- After breakfast at your hotel in Mararikulam, check out and drive to Cochin's international airport. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight, concluding your memorable 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	4,714	2,601	2,341	2,453	2,261	2,206	2,104	2,028
4★ Deluxe	5,669	3,135	2,875	2,987	2,795	2,740	2,638	2,562
5★ Luxury	8,369	4,674	4,251	4,364	4,172	4,116	4,015	3,939

Valid for Travel: 16 April 2027 – 20 September 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	4,449	2,457	2,197	2,309	2,117	2,062	1,960	1,884
4★ Deluxe	5,139	2,870	2,610	2,722	2,530	2,474	2,373	2,297
5★ Luxury	7,313	4,162	3,739	3,851	3,659	3,603	3,502	3,426

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 1,008 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,428 | 5★ Luxury: USD 2,752

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 113 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 216 | 5★ Luxury: USD 457

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Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 14 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.
- 3-Time Gypsy safari in Kabini/ Nagarhole National Parks with naturalist.
- 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 14 nights' accommodation

3 Star Hotels

- Bengaluru x 1 night: Royal Orchid Central/ Ramada Bangalore
- Mysore x 2 nights: Sandesh the Prince/ Regenta Central Herald by Royal Orchid Hotels
- Kabini / Nagarhole x 2 nights: Machaan Wilderness Lodge Nagarhole/ Red Earth
- Wayanad/Vythiri x 1 night: Abad Brookside Lakkidi/ Tea Terrace Vythiri
- Ooty x 2 nights: Gem Park Ooty/ Monarch Hotel
- Kochi x 2 nights: The Tower House/ The Killians
- Alleppey x 1 night: Deluxe Houseboat (AC During Night Only)
- Mararikulam x 3 nights: EL Oceano Beach Villas/ La Plage Marari

4 Star Hotels

- Bengaluru x 1 night: Lemon Tree Premier/ Gokulam Grand Hotel & Spa
- Mysore x 2 nights: Fortune Park JP Palace/ Royal Orchid Brindavan Garden
- Kabini / Nagarhole x 2 nights: Waterwoods Lodges & Resorts/ The Serai Kabini
- Wayanad/Vythiri x 1 night: GReaT Trails Wayanad By GRT Hotels/ Vythiri Mist Resort

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- Ooty x 2 nights: Fortune Resort Sullivan Court/ Accord Highland Ooty
- Kochi x 2 nights: Casino Hotel/ Le Maritime
- Mararikulam x 3 nights: Abad Turtle Beach Resort/ Marari Sands Beach Resort

5 Star Hotels

- Bengaluru x 1 night: ITC Gardenia, a Luxury Collection/ Vivanta Bengaluru, Residency Road
- Mysore x 2 nights: Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel
- Kabini / Nagarhole x 2 nights: Evolve Back, Kabini
- Wayanad/Vythiri x 1 night: Vythiri Village Resort/ The Windflower Resorts And Spa
- Ooty x 2 nights: Savoy, Ooty - IHCL SeleQtions
- Kochi x 2 nights: Kochi Marriott Hotel/ Xandari Harbour
- Alleppey x 1 night: Premium Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- Mararikulam x 3 nights: Xandari Pearl/ Marari Beach Resort

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.

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- **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.