



# BACKWATER DREAMS

## **Day 1: Arrive Cochin**

Welcome to Kerala, the “God’s Own Country.” Upon arrival at Cochin Airport, you’ll be met and transferred to your hotel. In the evening, immerse yourself in the vibrant rhythms of Kerala with a Kathakali dance performance. The elaborate costumes, painted faces, and powerful movements of this centuries-old art form bring myths and legends to life..

## **Day 2: Cochin – Periyar City Life to Jungle Wilds**

Today explore the fascinating history of Cochin. Wander through Jew Town, visit the Dutch Palace, and admire the colonial charm of Fort Cochin with its winding lanes and European-style houses. Stop at St. Francis Church, before driving into the lush green hills of Periyar. Known as one of India’s best elephant reserves, this sanctuary is also home to monkeys, wild boar, and a wealth of birdlife.

## **Day 3: Periyar Wildlife Reserve – Nature’s Kingdom**

Wake up to the call of the wild. After breakfast, embark on a boat cruise on Periyar Lake, where elephants, bison, deer, and exotic birds come down to drink at the water’s edge. With a little luck, you may even glimpse a leopard or tiger. This extraordinary reserve is also alive with orchids, butterflies, and towering trees. Later, witness a Kalaripayattu performance – Kerala’s ancient martial art – showcasing agility, strength, and tradition in a breathtaking display.

#### **Day 4: Periyar – Kumarakom From Forests to Backwaters**

Begin with a peaceful nature walk through Periyar's forests, alive with birdsong and fluttering butterflies. Then journey down to Kumarakom, a tranquil village set on the shimmering Vembanad Lake. Here, winding canals, swaying palms, and traditional houseboats create a dreamlike scene. Visit the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, where migratory birds and local species make their home in this lush wetland paradise.

#### **Day 5: Kumarakom – Bird Sanctuary & Backwaters**

Spend the morning exploring more of the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, a haven for bird lovers. Watch for herons, egrets, teal, parrots, and even Siberian storks. For the best experience, glide along the backwaters by boat, drifting past Pathiramanal Island, a little gem in the lake that feels worlds away.

#### **Day 6: Kumarakom – Alappuzha Houseboat Magic**

Today your journey leads you deeper into the backwaters. Drive to Alleppey (Alappuzha) and board your private houseboat (Kettuvallam) for an overnight cruise. Drift through a maze of canals, rivers, and lagoons, where life along the water is simple yet enchanting – children waving from the banks, fishermen casting their nets, and traders gliding past in small canoes. Relax on deck as the palm-fringed scenery unfolds and savor traditional Kerala cuisine prepared on board. This is backwater life at its most magical.

#### **Day 7: Alappuzha – Kovalam Sun, Sand & Sea**

After breakfast, journey south to Kovalam, Kerala's world-renowned beach resort. With its golden sands, swaying palms, and tranquil bay, Kovalam is the perfect place to unwind. Swim, sunbathe, indulge in an Ayurvedic massage, or take a sunset stroll along the shore – the choices are as relaxing as the setting itself.

#### **Day 8: Kovalam – A Day at Leisure**

A full day to enjoy at your own pace. Bask in the sun, explore local markets, or simply let time drift by to the rhythm of the waves. For those seeking more adventure, cultural shows and catamaran cruises are always close at hand.

#### **Day 9: Kovalam – Trivandrum Departure**

After breakfast, transfer to Trivandrum International Airport for your onward flight. As you leave Kerala's tranquil backwaters and golden beaches behind, you carry with you the warmth, beauty, and serenity of this unforgettable journey.