

BEST OF KERALA with Kanyakumari 8 Nights & 9 Days

DAY 01 ARRIVE IN KOCHI

On arrival at Kochi Airport, our uniformed chauffeur will meet you and take you to the hotel in Fort Kochi. The drive time is about 80 minutes (depending on traffic). Sightseeing of Fort Kochi includes a trip to the following places.

Fort Kochi Even a casual stroll through Fort Kochi is enough to make you feel transported to another world and time. The architectural style of the buildings and the town layout easily make it distinct from other cities and towns of Kerala. Since Fort Kochi was under the possession of the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British at different points of time, the region still bears the influence of European architecture.

Jewish Synagogue Built in 1568 the oldest synagogue in the Commonwealth stands adorned by hundreds of exquisite hand-painted Chinese tiles in blue and white.

St. Francis Church Originally built out of wood in 1503 and thus earning fame as the oldest European church in India. Vasco de Gama was buried there.

Dutch Palace As you climb its stone steps, you enter a different world of Palanquins and heraldry, jewels and rich murals.

Chinese Fishing Nets A very popular tourist attraction. They are fixed land installations, which are used for a very unique and unusual method of fishing.

Kathakali Dance In the evening watch a performance of Kathakali dance at Fort Kochi



Return to the hotel in Kochi for overnight stay.

DAY 02**KOCHI – MUNNAR**

After breakfast, travel to Munnar famous for the beautiful tea gardens. Munnar means three rivers and the town is located at the confluence of three mountain streams - Muthirapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala. Sprawling tea plantations, verdant green valleys, winding lanes filled with the heady fragrance of fresh tea, all 1800m above the sea level. Munnar is covered with tea estates and looks like a green carpet on earth.



Reach Munnar by afternoon. Check into your hotel. Overnight in Munnar

DAY 03**MUNNAR SIGHTSEEING**

After breakfast, proceed for sightseeing of Munnar that includes a visit to the KDHP (Kanan Devan Hills Plantations) Tea Museum. A short documentary film gives an insight to the history of Tea cultivation in Munnar. The museum has a miniature tea factory attached to it where visitors are expertly familiarized with the nuances of tea cultivation and processing as well as tea tasting. You can also buy good quality tea at the sales counter. Visit the Echo Point and Mattupetty dam. Feel free to stop by at the tea gardens along the road and take in the greenery and fresh air. Return to the resort for overnight stay.



DAY 04 MUNNAR – THEKKADY

After breakfast travel from Munnar to Thekkady. Spice plantation tour, boat ride in Lake Periyar and Elephant rides are some of the activities that can be done in the day in Thekkady



In the evening watch the performance of '**Kalari Payattu**', one of the oldest martial arts of the world that originated in Kerala. The word *Kalari* means a battlefield OR combat arena. A number of South Asian fighting styles remain closely connected to yoga, dance and performing arts. Some of the choreographed sparring in Kalari Payattu can be applied to dance. Overnight at the hotel in Thekkady

DAY 05 THEKKADY – KUMARAKOM

After breakfast, drive to Kumarakom, a small village on Vembanad Lake laced with several canals and paddy fields. A labyrinth of backwaters with shimmering water, the brilliant green of mangrove forests, coconut palms lining the embankments, blue skies, flocks of migratory birds skimming the water – that is Kumarakom, a veritable dreamland!



Check into your exclusive houseboat for a pleasant backwater cruise, an experience of a lifetime. Enjoy the mystic sights and sounds of Vembanad Lake aboard your floating villa.

The Houseboat has tastefully furnished bedrooms, a large sitting area, fully equipped kitchen and dining hall where you are served the choicest traditional Kerala cuisine. Emergency and safety provisions, bathrooms with luxury fittings and 24-hour hot/cold water, mobile connectivity, trained and hospitable staff are other features. Ideally catering to the discerning stay and needs of the tourists, the luxury cruises are a beautiful home away from home. Overnight on board the houseboat



DAY 06 KUMARAKOM – JATAYU EARTH CENTER – KOVALAM

After breakfast, check out of your Houseboat to travel to Jatayu Earth’s Center, the world’s biggest bird sculpture. Approximate drive time is 3 hours. The park located near the town of Chadayamangalam (Jatayumangalam), which was named after Jatayu. Jatayu was a demi-god in Ramayana who had the form of a vulture.

LEGEND: According to Ramayana, Ravana was attempting to abduct Sita to Lanka when Jatayu tried to rescue her. Jatayu fought valiantly with Ravana, but as Jatayu was very old Ravana soon defeated him, clipping his wings, and Jatayu fell onto the rocks in Chadayamangalam. Rama and Lakshmana while on the search for Sita, chanced upon the stricken and dying Jatayu, who informed them of the battle with Ravana and told them that Ravana had headed south.

To reach the top, where Jatayu's sculpture is present, visitors can either take the 826 steps walkway up the hill, or take a cable car. An additional paid ticket is required for cable car route. There is a security screening process on the way to the top. Cameras and bags are allowed. Food is not allowed. No plastic bottles are allowed



After the visit of Jatayu Earth Center, proceed to Kovalam beach. Check into your hotel. Go for a speed boat ride in Kovalam, enjoy the experience of being in the Arabian Sea.



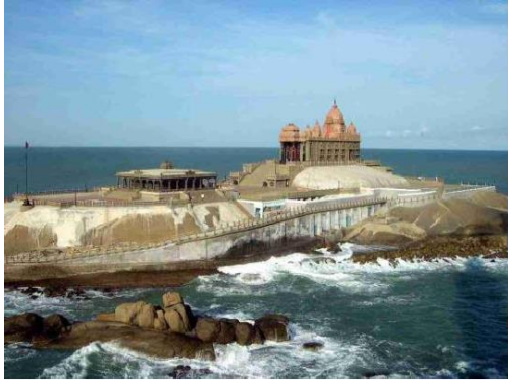
DAY 07 KOVALAM – KANYAKUMARI – KOVALAM

After an early breakfast, travel to the southernmost tip of the mainland of India - Kanyakumari. En route visit the Padmanabhapuram Palace built by the erstwhile kings of Travancore.



Afterwards visit **Suchindram Temple**. Dedicated to the Trinity of Gods, the presiding deity in the temple, Sri Sthanumalayan represents Sthanu means Lord Shiva, Mal symbolizes Lord Vishnu and Aya symbolizes Lord Brahma. The massive idol of Lord Hanuman at a height of 22 feet is another attraction of this beautiful temple

Sightseeing of Kanyakumari includes visit to **Vivekananda Memorial** (by ferry), **Mahatma Gandhi Memorial** and **Devi Kanyakumari Temple**.



Vivekananda Memorial



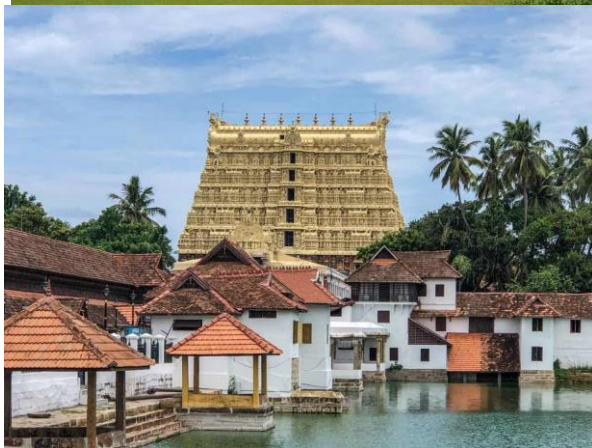
Thiruvalluvar Statue

A short ferry ride takes you to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, a sacred monument and the most popular tourist attraction in Kanyakumari. There is a Dhyana Mandapam (Meditation Hall) for one to sit in a serene atmosphere and meditate. Watch the Thiruvalluvar statue from the Vivekananda Memorial.

Return to the hotel in Kovalam for overnight stay.

DAY 08 KOVALAM – TRIVANDRUM – KOVALAM

Spend your morning on the beach resort. After breakfast proceed for a tour of Trivandrum, the capital city of Kerala. Visit the Kuthiramalika Palace and the world famous Shri Padmanabha Swamy Temple nearby (Temple has specific timings for Morning & Evening Darshan). Devotees have to follow the dress code for men and women.



Other attractions of the city are the Trivandrum Zoo, Museum and Sri Chitra Art Gallery. You can do some shopping at Lulu Mall (one of the biggest malls in India). Visit Aazhimala Temple (with the tallest Shiva Statue in Kerala) before returning to the hotel in Kovalam

DAY 09 KOVALAM – TRIVANDRUM AIRPORT

After breakfast, transfer to Trivandrum Airport to board the return flight

Note: The itinerary is flexible and it can be adjusted as per the time available

Flights: The given tour program starts from Kochi and ends in Trivandrum. Flights to be chosen accordingly to fly into Kochi Airport and return from Trivandrum Airport



Ulloor Akkulam Road, Medical College P.O., Trivandrum – 695011, Kerala, India
Tel: 0471 2445831. Mobile: (+91) 97448 23106, 95399 54625.
Email: arunayanatravels@gmail.com