

itinerary	Kerala Tour
Tour code: CT- 7	Delhi - Cochin - Periyar – Kumarakom – Cochin - Delhi 5 nights - 6 days Pre Congress Tour Dates – 01st & 02nd Sep. 2013 Post Congress Tour Dates – 13th & 14th Sep. 2013

	Day 1 : Fly to Cochin
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- Board the flight to Cochin
- Arrive Cochin and transfer to the hotel
- Upon arrival check in at your hotel
- Day is free for independent activities.
- Evening enjoy Kathakali Dance show
- Overnight at hotel

This morning, check out from the hotel and proceed to board the flight to Cochin.

Upon arrival check in at your hotel.

Cochin is also known as 'Queen of the Arabian Sea' due to its natural harbour being one of the finest. Cochin is a city made of islands connected to Ernakulam on the mainland by bridges and ferries. The interesting city of Cochin perfectly reflect the eclecticism of Kerala.. This quaint town has seen historic visits from sea faring traders in the past from Portugal, China etc bringing to it different cultures that make up its fabric.



In evening proceed to a local theatre where you will learn about Kerala's fascinating art form, **Kathakali**. The Kathakali performers begin to train for their art at a young age, and their study continues for a lifetime. Here you will enjoy a dance performance.

After this performance return back to the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

	Day 2 : In Cochin
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- Breakfast at the hotel
- City tour of Cochin
- Overnight at the hotel

Visit the ancient Mattancherry (Dutch) Palace built by the Portuguese in 1557. This palace was presented to the ruler of Cochin as a gesture of goodwill. The Palace's alternative name "Dutch Palace" resulted from substantial renovations by the Dutch after 1663.. The most important feature of the palace is the astonishing murals that adorn some of the palace rooms, depicting scenes from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Puranic legends connected with Shiva, Vishnu, Krishna, Kumara and Durga.



Another stop is made at the St. Francis Church, the oldest European built church in India. Constructed in 1503 by the Portuguese Franciscan Friars who accompanied the expedition led by Pedro Alvarez Cabral. He famed Vasco de Gama, the first European to reach India by sailing around Africa, died in Cochin in 1524 and was buried here for 14 years before his remains were transferred to Lisbon. His tombstone can be seen inside the church.

Also pay a visit to the amazing Chinese fishing nets operating on principles of physics advanced for their times. Cochin's Chinese fishing nets found here are the only ones of its kind in India. It is believed that

traders from the court of the Chinese ruler Kublai Khan introduced these nets here.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 3 : Cochin to Periyar

- Breakfast at hotel
- Drive to Periyar – Approximately 4 hours
- Upon arrival check in at your hotel
- Afternoon game drive in the National Park
- Overnight at the hotel

After breakfast at the hotel, check out & drive to Periyar (approx.4 hrs drive).

Located on the Tamil Nadu & Kerala border this region is known as the Spice Village of India for its vast spice and tea gardens. The road winds through mountains, descending through a carpet of tea bushes, estates of tall rubber trees and gardens of coffee, cardamom and pepper. The aroma of the spices fills the air.



Upon arrival in Thekkady (Periyar) you will check in to the Resort. The Resort is located on the fringes of the Periyar Game Preserve. This unique wildlife sanctuary is about 300 square miles and centred around an artificial lake fed by the Periyar River.

Evening proceed to visit the park for game viewing by motor launches. Convoluted waterways afford sightings of elephants, bison, deer and occasionally a tiger. All manner of flora and fauna flourish in this tropical habitat, making it one of the premiere reserves of Southern India.

Overnight at the hotel

Day 4 : Periyar to Kumarakom

- Breakfast at hotel
- Morning tour of Spice Plantation
- Drive to Kumarakom – 4 hours
- Overnight at hotel

After breakfast enjoy a visit to Spice Plantation.

Sprawling tea estates cover much of the landscape, but cardamom, rubber, vanilla and coffee plantations are also aplenty. Perhaps that explains the never-ending cups of green cardamom-flavoured tea proffered at any time of the day. Walk amidst the palatte displaying variant shades of green, neatly arranged into terraced farms, the symmetry broken only by the sudden appearance of a gurgling stream. A lazy mist curls through the hills tuning life into a dreamy rhythm, as you find yourself renouncing to this sensual overflow. It is believed that the spice trade dates back three thousand years in Kerala. As for the many spices that find their home here, Pepper still remains the king. Nevertheless, the slanting slopes also caress a variety of cinnamon, clove, nutmeg, ginger, turmeric and curry leaves.



Later check out from the hotel and drive to Kumarakom. Upon arrival check in at your hotel.



Kumarakom is a cluster of little islands on the Vembanad Lake, and this small water world is part of the Kuttanad region. The bird sanctuary here, which is spread across 14 acres, is a favorite haunt of migratory birds and an ornithologist's paradise. Egrets, darters, herons, teal, waterfowl, cuckoo, wild duck and migratory birds like the Siberian stork that live there in flocks are a fascination for visitors. The best way to watch the birds of the Kumarakom sanctuary is a boat trip round the islands.

An enchanting backwater destination, Kumarakom offers visitors many other leisure options. Boating and fishing facilities are available at Kumarakom. Holiday packages on the houseboats, traditional Kettuvalloms, are an out-of-this-world experience at Kumarakom. An unbelievably beautiful paradise of mangrove forests, emerald green paddy fields and coconut groves interspersed with enchanting waterways and canals adorned with white lilies - this is Kumarakom.

Rest of the day free for Independent activities **or** enjoy various Ayurveda facilities at Resort at extra cost.

Day 5 : In Kumarakom

- Breakfast at hotel
- Day at leisure
- Overnight at hotel

Morning after breakfast rest of the day at leisure or Enjoy the magic of Ayurveda.

Day 6 : Kumarakom – Cochin (Drive) & then fly to Delhi

- Breakfast at hotel
- Check out time is 12 noon
- Drive to Cochin to board the flight to Delhi – Approximately 2 hours' drive
- Fly to Delhi
- Upon arrival in Delhi, transfer to hotel or meeting venue or airport for flight back home.

TOUR ENDS

Tour Cost

No of guest	Budget Hotel – Cost Per Person	Deluxe Hotel – Cost Per Person
02 paying pax.	Rs.28400 /-	Rs.33200 /-

THE ABOVE COST INCLUDES:

- Accommodation on twin sharing basis
- Daily buffet breakfast
- All transfers, sightseeing's and excursion using an air- conditioned vehicle.
- Services of a professional local English speaking guide at the places of visit / during sightseeing.
- All currently applicable entrance fee as well as hotels luxury taxes.

THE ABOVE COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Any Expenses of personal nature like table drinks, laundry, telephone calls, mineral water, soft drinks etc.
- Any airfare or airport taxes (approximate Rs.23500/- per person for Delhi – Cochin - Delhi)
- Any other meals or services not mentioned in the above program.