

Tour Of India
With A Driver Guide In Your Own Exclusive Air-Conditioned Vehicle.

BANGALORE TO KOVALAM

Day	Date	Location	First Class Hotels	Standard Hotels	Schedule
01		Depart UK			
02		Bangalore	Purple Lotus Luxury Suite	Shilton Suites Studio Room	>Pick Up From Bangalore Airport >Sightseeing And Tour Of Bangalore
03		Mysore	The Windflower Resort And Spa Executive Room	Pai Vista Mysore	>Tippu Sultan's Fort, Tomb And Summer Palace At Srirangapatnam >Visit The Extravagant Mysore Palace And The Maharajah's Private Museum Bangalore-Mysore: 83 Miles Approx 2.5 Hours
04		Mysore	The Windflower Resort And Spa Executive Room	Pai Vista Mysore	>Mysore's Markets And Bazaars >Evening Visit To Chamundi Hill Including The Huge Stone Nandi Bull
05		Nagarhole	Cicada Resort Kabini	Kabini River Lodge	>Pm Jeep Safari At Nagarhole National Park Mysore-Nagarhole: 100 Miles Approx 3.5 Hours
06		Nagarhole	Cicada Resort Kabini	Kabini River Lodge	>Am Boat Safari On Kabini Lake At Nagarhole National Park
07		Ooty And Coonor	Taj Gateway Coonor Deluxe Room	Fortune Sullivan Court Deluxe Room	>Scenic Drive To Ooty Through Dramatic Winding Roads And Dense Forests Of The Nilgiri Hills Nagarhole-Ooty: 87 Miles Approx 4 Hours
08		Ooty And Coonor	Taj Gateway Coonor Deluxe Room	Fortune Sullivan Court Deluxe Room	>Relax At Ooty, Visit Fern Hills, The Mysore Maharaja's Summer Residence
09		Coimbatore	The Residency	CAG Pride Deluxe Room	>OOTY-METTUPALAYAM BY THE NILGIRI BLUE MOUNTAIN RAILWAY – TRAIN 661 Depart Ooty: 15:00 Arrive Mettupalayam: 18:35
10		Cochin	The Old Harbour Hotel Superior Room	Hotel Arches	>Evening Kathakali Dance Performance Coimbatore-Cochin: 120 Miles Approx 4.5 Hours
11		Cochin	The Old Harbour Hotel Superior Room	Hotel Arches	>Sightseeing At Cochin, Chinese Fishing Nets, Mattancherry Palace, Old Quarter Etc
12		The Backwaters	Lakeland Super Luxury House Boat	Lakeland Luxury House Boat	>Overnight Cruise On The Southern Backwater From Alleppey Cochin-Alleppey: 40 Miles Approx 1.5 Hours
13		Kovalam	Travancore Heritage Cottage	Hotel Samudra Deluxe Room	>Pick Up From Alleppey And Drop Off At Kovalam Alleppey-Kovalam: 110 Miles Approx 4 Hours
14		Kovalam	Travancore Heritage Cottage	Hotel Samudra Deluxe Room	
15		Depart Trivandrum Arrive UK			>Drop Off At Trivandrum Airport

Featured Hotels Dependent On Availability At Time Of Booking
Distances And Journey Times Are Approximate And Are Point To Point Only

Day 01 – Depart UK

Day 02 – Bangalore



Tipu Sultan's Palace At Bangalore

Bangalore

The capital of the southern state of **Karnataka**, **Bangalore** today is **Asia's** fastest growing cosmopolitan city. It is home to some of the most high tech industries in **India**. It is blessed with a salubrious climate, gardens and parks. With up-market shopping malls and the best restaurants and pubs in this part of the globe, **Bangalore** is the ideal gateway to **India**.



Bustling Streets Of Bangalore



Karnataka Embroidered Fabric



Day 04 – Mysore



Temple On Chanmudi Hill

Mysore

Mysore is situated at the base of **Chanmudi Hill**. A lovely road runs to the summit with a panoramic view at 800ft above the city. At dusk, the view of the city is especially beautiful, and on **Sunday** evenings and during the **Dasara** festival, the illuminated **Mysore Palace** glitters like gold. Half way up is a huge sculpture of the **Nandi Bull**.

Lalitha Mahal is the second largest palace in **Mysore**, built by **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV** in the year 1921 for the exclusive stay of the **Viceroy Of India**. The palace is pure white in colour and is built in the style of Italian palazzo with twin Ionic columns and domes.

Mysore also has an interesting collection of night and day markets selling spices and famous **Mysore** silk sarees.



Spice Market At Mysore



Day 05 – Nagarhole National Park



Indian Tiger At Nagarhole

Nagarhole National Park

This enchanting 247 square-mile park was an exclusive hunting reserve of the former rulers of **Mysore** and has recently been renamed '**Rajiv Gandhi National Park**'. Gentle slopes and shallow valleys adorn this lovely southern jungle of **India**. Huge herds of **Asian Elephants** flock here together and the park boasts a healthy Tiger-predator ratio. **Tiger**, **Bison** and **Elephant** are much denser here than in other jungles. Other mammals include **Jackal**, **Leopard**, **Gaur**, **Muntjac**, **Sambar** and **Spotted Deer** with males displaying large antlers.

Among reptiles, the **Marsh Crocodile**, **Monitor Lizard**, **Rock Python**, **King Cobra** and several other species can be found. Aquatic and terrestrial **Tortoises**, **Tree Frogs** and a myriad insects, including some very colourful **Butterflies**.



Muntjac Deer At Nagarhole



Day 06 – Nagarhole National Park



Indian Elephant In The Nagarhole Jungles

Nagarhole National Park

The forests of **South India** contain about 20% of the world's entire stock of **Asian Elephants**. During summer there is the fine spectacle of the annual elephant migration to the **Kabini Lake** at **Nagarhole**. This is probably the best place in **India** to witness overwhelming numbers of wild elephants all in one place during this time.

Wildlife safari's are uniquely possible at **Nagarhole** by jeep and by boat on the lovely **Kabini Lake**.



Delightful Jungle Hare At Nagarhole



Day 07 – Ooty



Scenic Beauty Of Ooty

The Road To Ooty

The ascent from the plains of **Karnataka** to **Ooty** is achieved through a dramatic series of 36 hairpin bends and winding roads from the dense forests of the **Nilgiri Sanctuaries**. The **Mysore** trunk road actually passes through the **Mudumalai National Park**, where wild elephants are frequently seen by the roadside.

Ooty

At a height of 7347ft stands **Udhagamandalam (Ooty)** the **Queen of Hill Stations**, founded by the **British** in the 19th century to escape the oppressive heat and serve as summer headquarters for the **Government Of Madras**. If you are chasing the atmosphere of the **Raj**, it still just about lingers in places like the **Ootacamund Club** the best preserved of all the former **British** clubs in **India**, where snooker was invented by **Neville Chamberlain**. The well-kept **Botanical Gardens**, **Ooty Lake** and **The Savoy Hotel** are also worth visiting.



Colours Of The Nilgiri Hills



Day 08 – Ooty And Coonoor



Tea Gardens At Coonoor

Coonoor

Coonoor is the second hill station of the **Nilgiris**, surrounded by tea plantations, at an altitude of 6000 ft above sea level. Its climate is milder than **Ooty** and retains in many ways a more authentic feel compared to the urban sprawl of **Ooty**. The weather remains pleasantly cool throughout the year and colonial charm oozes out of properties like the beautiful **Taj Garden Retreat** and **Sim's Park**.



View Over The Nilgiri Hills At Coonoor



Day 09 – Coimbatore



The Nilgiri Blue Mountain Railway

Full Length Journey On The Nilgiri Mountain Railway - Ooty To Mettupalayam

One of the most famous train journeys in the world starts from the railway head at **Mettupalayam** and **Ooty** is reached in 4 hours on **The Nilgiri Mountain Railway** (46 km). A ratchet and pinion track travels through many hair-raising curves and fearful tunnels beside deep ravines full of verdant vegetation, gurgling streams and tea gardens. The scenery, as it unfolds during the trip, is breathtaking, awe-inspiring and fantastic.

Coimbatore

Coimbatore, also known as **Kovai**, is a major industrial city in **India** and the second largest city in the state of **Tamil Nadu**. It is known as **Manchester of South India** because of its textile factories, engineering firms, automobile parts manufacturers, and its highly industrious population that has produced many successful entrepreneurs.



Coimbatore

Day 10 – Cochin



Chinese Fishing Nets At Cochin Harbour

Cochin

Cochin is a wonderfully cosmopolitan **Indian** city with a multi-cultural history. It also has one of the country's largest ports. The famous and photogenic **Chinese Fishing Nets** are built along the northern shores of **Fort Cochin**.

The **Jewish Synagogue** and its **Old Quarter** are also worth a visit, for their quaint shops, selling everything from wooden carvings to bedspreads, from ornate mirrors to exotic spices. Nearby is the **Mattancherry Palace**, which was home to the **Verma Kings** and today is a fine museum.

Cochin also features the oldest church in **India**: the **Church of St Francis**, built in 1503 by the **Portuguese** (it briefly housed the remains of **Vasco de Gama**, who died here), and is now used by the **Anglican Church of South India**.

Kathakali Dance Performance

An evening **Kathakali Dance Performance** will allow you to sample one of the oldest theatre forms in the world in which dancers take various roles traditionally based on themes from **Hindu** mythology.



Kathakali Performance



Day 11 – Cochin



Frescoes At The Mattancherry Palace

Private Guided Tour Of Old Fort Cochin

Fort Cochin begins around the **Old Parade Ground** where there are some lovely boutique hotels converted from old mansions of spice merchants. The **Malabar House** is the best, with a fashionable restaurant serving some of the best food in **Cochin**. Narrow streets radiate from here in all directions full of crumbling and interesting historic buildings.



Cochin Harbour



Spice Merchant At Cochin



Day 12 – Rice Boat



View Of Deluxe Bedroom And Backwaters Riceboat Journey

By Private Rice Boat Through Kerala's Backwaters

Rice Boats

A boat journey through **Kerala's Kuttanad Country**, a 75km stretch of shimmering waterways and dense tropical greenery wedged between the hills and the sea is one of the most **Memorable Experiences Any Traveller Could Have In India**.

Kettuvallams of olden times were rice and spice barges that used to transport harvests from **Kuttanad** to **Cochin** for sale. Many of these traditional craft have been converted into long houseboats with all the creature comforts of a good hotel including furnished bedrooms, modern bathrooms, cozy living rooms and even balconies for angling.

Each boat has a fully equipped kitchen and an experienced cook to prepare authentic **Kerala** cuisine with sea food specialties and fresh vegetables.

The Backwaters

The **Backwaters** are one of the unique attractions of **Kerala**, a chain of canals extending about 1500 kms incorporating a network of 44 rivers, lagoons and lakes.

The canals and lagoons are lined by swaying palm trees and **Chinese Fishing Nets**, cooled by a gentle breeze, and studded with water hyacinths. All kinds of craft ply these waters ferrying cargoes of spice, rice, nuts, *coir* (coconut fibre), *copra* (dried coconut) and people.



Rice Boat Interior



Rice Boat On Shores Of Vembanad Lake

Day 13 – Day 14 Kovalam



Kovalam Beach At Dusk

Kovalam Beach

A group of three crescent shaped bays and coves known to have some of the best beaches in **India**. **Kovalam** is divided by its many bays and the landscape has formed sandy crescents with headlands to each end, the most popular being the **Lighthouse Beach**. Behind the beaches are shady coconut groves and a maze of alleyways linking local shops, guesthouses and restaurants beneath the coconut palms.

The beaches of **Kovalam** have particularly shallow water during the **Winter Season** from **October – April**. It is possible to go in to the sea for up to 100 meters at waist height in certain places.



Beaches To The South Of Kovalam



Depart Kerala

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