



Houseboat, backwater cruise © Eastbound

SOUTHERN INDIA

With its palm-fringed beaches, rice paddies and spice-laden air, the green south of India is a fascinating contrast to the north. Cruise by houseboat upon the tranquil lagoons of Kerala passing villages surrounded by lush fields and soaring coconut trees, or relax at one of the world-class Ayurveda retreats. Discover the ancient Hindu temples of Tamil Nadu, and enjoy a performance of the Kathakali, a classical Kerala dance drama.

BACKWATER CRUISE

7 days/6 nights
Hotels/Houseboat
Departs daily ex Kochi

Price per person twin*	Cat AA	Cat A	Cat B	Cat C
01 Oct-19 Dec 2010	\$2091	\$1859	\$1419	\$1360
20 Dec 2010-10 Jan 2011 [^]	\$2450	\$2396	\$1567	\$1371
11 Jan-30 Apr 2011	\$2091	\$1859	\$1419	\$1360
01 May-30 Sep 2011	\$1453	\$1404	\$1236	\$1108

Optional upgrade to superior transport per person: \$50

*Minimum two people. Single travellers prices on request.
[^]Surcharge for Xmas/New Year will vary from hotel to hotel and will not be known until hotel is booked. Details on request.

Note: Houseboat accommodation is basic but comfortable.

Price per person includes: Transfers, city tours and excursions in standard air-conditioned private vehicle with English speaking driver, local guide (Kochi only), entrance fees, accommodation inclusive of taxes, meals as per the itinerary, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel.

Price excludes: Camera fees.

- AA** Brunton Boatyard, Spice Village, Premium Houseboat (A/C), Zuri Kumarakom
- A** Taj Malabar, Spice Village, Premium Houseboat (A/C), Kumarakom Lake Resort
- B** Trident Kochi, Shalimar Spice Garden, Houseboat (A/C), Coconut Lagoon
- C** Casino, Cardamom County, Houseboat (A/C), Abad Whispering Palms

The tranquil southern Indian state of Kerala is characterised by spice plantations, meandering rivers, verdant hills and beautiful beaches. This gently paced tour takes in the most enchanting areas including the charming port city of Kochi and the backwaters - a maze of canals which can be explored by boat providing a glimpse into rural village life.

Day 1 Kochi

Arrive Kochi and transfer to your hotel. Afternoon at leisure. Enjoy an evening performance of the Kathakali, a classical dance drama of Kerala dating back centuries.

Day 2 Kochi

Morning city tour highlights include the Dutch Palace (closed Fri), Jewish Synagogue (closed Fri & Sat), Santa Cruz Basilica and the Chinese Fishing Nets. Afternoon at leisure. B

Day 3 Periyar

Morning departure by road for Periyar National Park and Tiger Reserve (4 hrs). Afternoon boat ride on Lake Periyar. B

Day 4 Houseboat

After breakfast drive to Alleppey (4 hrs) and board your houseboat to begin your backwater cruise. Overnight on board. BLD

Day 5 Kumarakom

In the morning disembark from your houseboat in Kumarakom and check in to your hotel. Afternoon visit to the Bird Sanctuary, an ornithologist's paradise. B

Day 6 Kumarakom

Day at leisure to enjoy the unbelievably beautiful paradise of mangrove forests, emerald green paddy fields and coconut groves interspersed with enchanting waterways and canals. B

Day 7 Tour ends Kochi

Transfer to Kochi Airport (2 hrs). Tour ends. B

TRADITIONAL HOMESTAY

A traditional homestay is a wonderful way to experience Southern India. These family owned properties may not have TV or internet but they offer charming and comfortable accommodation and personal service. Enjoy truly ethnic food and perhaps even help your hosts with the cooking in the family kitchen. A Homestay is easily combined with a backwater cruise or our Wonders of the South tour. Contact us for details.



Chinese Fishing Nets, Kochi



Beautiful waterways of Kerala



Meenakshi Temple © Eastbound



Bharatnatyam Dancer © GITO

WONDERS OF THE SOUTH

13 days/12 nights
Hotels/Houseboat

Departs daily ex Kochi/Chennai

Price per person twin*	Cat AA	Cat A	Cat B	Cat C
01 Oct-19 Dec 2010	\$4174	\$3879	\$3128	\$2545
20 Dec 2010-10 Jan 2011^	\$4768	\$4467	\$3267	\$2777
11 Jan-15 Apr 2011	\$4174	\$3879	\$3128	\$2545
16 Apr-30 Sep 2011	\$3160	\$3080	\$2804	\$2335

Optional upgrade to superior transport per person: \$214

*Minimum two people. Single travellers prices on request.

^Surcharge for Xmas/New Year will vary from hotel to hotel and will not be known until hotel is booked. Details on request.

Price per person includes: Transfers, city tours and excursions in standard air-conditioned private vehicle with driver and English speaking local guides (driver only in Kumarakom and Periyar), entrance fees, accommodation inclusive of taxes, meals as per the itinerary, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel.

Price excludes: Camera fees.

Note: Houseboats are basic but accommodation is comfortable.

AA Brunton Boatyard, Premium Houseboat (A/C), Zuri Kumarakom, Spice Village, Gateway Hotel, Sangam Thanjavur, Fisherman's Cove, Taj Coromandel

A Taj Malabar, Premium Houseboat (A/C), Kumarakom Lake Resort, Spice Village, The Heritage, Sangam Thanjavur, Fisherman's Cove, Taj Coromandel

B Trident Kochi, Houseboat (A/C), Coconut Lagoon, Shalimar Spice Garden, GRT Regency Madurai, Sangam Thanjavur, GRT Temple Bay, Trident Chennai

C Casino, Houseboat (A/C), Abad Whispering Palms, Cardamom County, Hotel Sangam Madurai, Parisutham, Ideal Beach Resort, GRT Grand

Indulge your senses on a journey through southern India, a land of exotic flora and fauna, stunning beaches, spice scents, and the sound of temple bells. Starting in historical Kochi, the tour offers you the chance to discover flamboyant temple architecture and a rich cultural heritage. Highlights include the temples of Tamil Nadu, colonial architecture in Chennai and the backwaters of Kerala.

Day 1 Kochi

Arrive in Kochi and transfer to hotel. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 2 Kochi

Explore the sites of Kochi including the Dutch Palace (closed Fri) and Santa Cruz Basilica. In the evening, enjoy a Kathakali dance performance. B

Day 3 Houseboat

Drive to Alleppey, board your houseboat and cruise the canals. BLD

Day 4 Kumarakom

Disembark from your houseboat in Kumarakom and check-in to your hotel. Afternoon visit to the Bird Sanctuary. Remainder of day is at leisure. B

Days 5/6 Periyar

Transfer by road to Periyar National Park & Tiger Reserve (4 hrs). Afternoon at leisure. On day 6 enjoy morning game viewing by boat on Periyar Lake, a paradise for wild elephants, and an afternoon visit to a spice plantation. B

Day 7 Madurai

After breakfast drive to Madurai (4 hrs). Afternoon tour of Meenakshi Temple, the tallest Gopuram (temple gateway) in the world. In the evening, witness an "Aarti" ceremony. B

Days 8/9 Thanjavur

Drive to the historical city of Thanjavur (4 hrs), home of the Brihadeeswara Temple housing a gigantic, 5 metre long black granite sculpture of Nandi, the bull of Lord Shiva. The following day, visit nearby Kumbakonam, known as the "temple city" of South India. Later, visit the Darasuram temple, a World Heritage monument. B

Day 10 Mamallapuram

Depart Thanjavur for Mamallapuram (6 hrs) via Gangaikondacholapuram Temple and Pondicherry, the "French Riviera of the East". Visit the famous Aurobindo Ashram - a place of peaceful and harmonious living. Lunch at a local restaurant. BL

Day 11 Mamallapuram

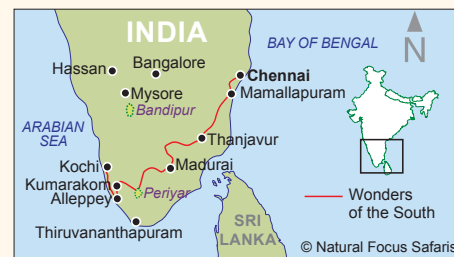
We visit the amazing temple city of Kanchipuram, one of India's seven sacred cities, and the 7th century Shore Temple of Mamallapuram. B

Day 12 Chennai

Drive to Chennai (2 hrs) via Dakshinachitra to see the arts and crafts of southern India. Afternoon sightseeing of Chennai. Highlights include Kapaleeswara Temple and art gallery. B

Day 13 Tour ends Chennai

Transfer to the airport. Tour ends. B



Kerala Backwaters



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Spotted Deer, Periyar