

Kerala Pilgrimage Circuit: Sabarimala Alternative Temples & Spiritual Trails

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination
Kerala

Duration
6 Nights 7 Days

Starting from
Rs. 16,700 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↗ Erumely / Pathanamthitta · 1N

↗ Parumala / Chengannur · 1N

↗ Aranmula · 1N

↗ Alleppey · 1N

↗ Thiruvananthapuram · 2N

Overview

Kerala Pilgrimage Circuit: Sabarimala Alternative Temples & Spiritual Trails – A thoughtfully designed 6 nights / 7 days Kerala Pilgrimage package that connects the most revered temples, churches and spiritual sites across Central Travancore. Ideal for pilgrims and spiritual travelers seeking alternatives to the crowded Sabarimala trek, this Kerala tour package blends devotional visits, traditional rituals, culturally immersive experiences and gentle backwater moments.

Highlights:

- Erumely (Vavar Shrine & Muslim-Hindu harmony sites)
- Parumala Church (St. Gregorios Pilgrimage Centre)
- Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple
- Chengannur Mahadeva Temple
- Ambalappuzha Sree Krishna Temple & Alleppey Backwaters
- Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple & Attukal Bhagavathy Temple, Thiruvananthapuram

This itinerary works as a 6 and 7 Kerala Pilgrimage tour package (6 nights/7 days) suitable for individual travelers, groups, and those seeking a spiritual Kerala tour package focused on alternative Sabarimala routes.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation for 6 nights as per itinerary (standard / premium options available)
- ✓ Daily breakfast and 4 dinners (adjustable per package selection)
- ✓ All ground transfers by private AC vehicle with driver
- ✓ Local priest/guide assistance for temple visits and darshan arrangements where required
- ✓ Backwater boat cruise (short) or houseboat option (subject to availability)
- ✓ All parking, tolls and driver allowances
- ✓ 24/7 local support and helpline
- ✓ This Kerala Pilgrimage tour package price is indicative and can be customized for groups, solo pilgrims or special religious arrangements.

✗ Not Included

- ✗ Airfare / Train tickets to/from Kerala (available on request)
- ✗ Temple entry fees, special puja charges, offerings and dakshina (payable locally)
- ✗ Personal expenses, tips, laundry, beverages and items of personal nature
- ✗ Any health-related requirements (e.g., porters, stretchers) for difficult temple approaches
- ✗ Peak-season surcharges, festival-specific charges and permits
- ✗ Travel insurance is recommended but not included.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival at Cochin – Transfer to Erumely

Arrive at Cochin International Airport / Ernakulam Railway Station. Meet your representative and begin the drive to Erumely (approx. 3–4 hours). En route, enjoy Kerala's lush landscapes. Check-in and if time permits, visit the Vavar Masjid and local shrines that showcase the historic Hindu-Muslim devotional harmony linked to the Sabarimala pilgrimage.

Overnight in Erumely. Tip: Carry light, conservative clothing for temple visits.

Day

2

Devotional Sites in Erumely – Drive to Parumala

Morning pooja and a guided visit to the key devotional spots around Erumely – rituals associated with Ayyappa pilgrims, local temples and community shrines. After breakfast, drive to Parumala / Chengannur region (approx. 1.5–2 hours). On arrival, visit Parumala Church (St. Gregorios Pilgrimage Centre) – an important Christian pilgrimage center in Kerala famed for its serene riverbank setting and spiritual atmosphere.

This day emphasizes interfaith pilgrimage experiences tied to Travancore's spiritual heritage.

Day

3

Chengannur & Aranmula Temple Visits

After breakfast, explore Chengannur Mahadeva Temple – a revered Shiva shrine and important stop for devotees. Proceed to Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple, a classic example of Kerala temple architecture and famed for its annual boat race link and devotional rituals dedicated to Lord Krishna. Enjoy darshan and observe traditional rituals; time permitting visit the historic wooden Aranmula Kannadi (metal mirrors) craft shops.

Highlights: Traditional temple architecture, ritual viewing, local handicrafts.

Day

4

Ambalappuzha Sree Krishna Temple & Alleppey Backwaters

Drive to Ambalappuzha to visit the famous Ambalappuzha Sree Krishna Temple, known for its simple but sacred ambience and the famed 'palpayasam' prasad. Later head to Alleppey (Alappuzha) and check into a hotel or opt for a traditional houseboat (subject to availability) to experience the tranquil backwaters – a peaceful way to reflect on the spiritual journey.

Optional: Overnight houseboat (advance request). Carry modest attire for temple entrances.

Day

5

Travel to Thiruvananthapuram – Major Temples

After an early breakfast and optional short backwater cruise, travel south to Thiruvananthapuram (approx. 4–5 hours). On arrival, visit the iconic Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple (note dress code & darshan procedures) and Attukal Bhagavathy Temple – both central to Kerala’s devotional life. Evening at leisure to attend local aarti or temple ceremonies if available.

Important: Padmanabhaswamy Temple has strict dress codes; plan attire accordingly.

Day

6

Kovalam & Local Spiritual Spots – Cultural Immersion

Morning visit to coastal Kovalam for a gentle beach-side puja or meditation session (optional). Return to Thiruvananthapuram to explore smaller shrines and the local markets for devotional items and traditional offerings. Late afternoon attend a spiritual talk or cultural performance (subject to scheduling) and enjoy a farewell group puja.

This day balances relaxation and reflection—ideal before departure.

Day

7

Departure – Transfer to Kochi or Trivandrum Airport

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Cochin International Airport or Thiruvananthapuram International Airport for your onward journey. If time allows, make a short stop at any pending temple for final darshan. Package end with blessings and memories of a soulful Kerala pilgrimage.

Note: Departure city is flexible at booking – confirm arrival and departure airports when reserving the package.

🔍 Frequently Asked Questions

🔍 What are the top tourist destinations in Kerala?

Kerala offers stunning tourist destinations like Munnar’s tea plantations, Alleppey’s backwaters, Kochi’s vibrant culture, and Wayanad’s lush hills. Don’t miss the stunning beaches of Varkala and Kovalam, as well as the tranquil landscapes of Thekkady and Kumarakom. Each offers unique experiences for every traveler.

❓ **What is the best time to visit Kerala?**

The best time to visit Kerala is from October to March. During these months, the weather is pleasantly cool and dry, making it ideal for exploring the lush backwaters, hill stations, and vibrant culture. Remember to experience the festivals and local events that take place during this peak tourist season!

❓ **How can I travel around Kerala?**

Traveling around Kerala is easy thanks to its extensive transport options. You can use private taxis, auto-rickshaws, and public buses. For scenic routes, consider hiring a houseboat, especially in the backwaters of Alleppey. Trains and domestic flights connect major cities, making exploration seamless.

❓ **What are the famous cuisines to try in Kerala?**

Kerala is renowned for its delicious cuisine, featuring dishes like Sambar, Appam, and Puttu. Don't miss the spicy Kerala fish curry and the delectable dosa. For a unique experience, try traditional Sadya, a vegetarian feast served on a banana leaf, highlighting the region's rich flavors and diverse culinary traditions.

❓ **What activities can I enjoy in Kerala's backwaters?**

In Kerala's backwaters, you can enjoy serene houseboat cruises, kayaking through lush mangroves, and bird watching. Experience local cuisine on board, visit traditional villages, and partake in unique cultural performances. Don't miss the opportunity for peaceful sunsets and picturesque landscapes!

❓ **Is Kerala suitable for family vacations?**

Yes, Kerala is ideal for family vacations! With its serene backwaters, lush hill stations, wildlife sanctuaries, and beautiful beaches, it offers a variety of activities for all ages. Families can enjoy houseboat rides, explore spice plantations, and visit cultural sites, making it a memorable destination.

❓ **What are the important festivals celebrated in Kerala?**

Kerala is home to vibrant festivals like Onam, celebrated with colorful festivities and the traditional feast; Vishu, marking the New Year with family gatherings; and Thrissur Pooram, showcasing grand temple processions and spectacular fireworks. These events reflect the rich culture and heritage, making Kerala a unique tourist destination.



Traveller Reviews



Aditi Rao

★★★★★ 5/5

Everlasting Impressions of Kerala

From the stunning scenery to rich traditions, this tour made lasting impressions. I can't help but reminisce about the experiences. Highly recommend!



Kunal Kaur

★★★★★ 5/5

A Well-Rounded Experience

This Kerala tour provided a perfect blend of relaxation and activities. We got to unwind in the backwaters and explore beautiful hill stations. A great balance!



Vani Dubey

★★★★★ 5/5

Heavenly Kerala Escape

Kerala felt like heaven on earth! The combination of nature, culture, and warm hospitality made it a trip to remember. I left a piece of my heart there!



Kiran Menon

★★★★☆ 4/5

An Immersive Eco-Tour

The eco-tour experience was unique and educational. We learned about sustainable practices while enjoying the nature-rich surroundings. Very well organized!



Rajesh Iyer

★★★★★ 5/5

Charming Village Tours

Exploring local villages was a highlight. Interacting with locals and understanding their lifestyle was eye-opening. Very enriching experience!

Why Choose TourGrids?

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