

Kerala Birdwatcher's Special: Thattekad, Kumarakom & Mangrove Trails

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Kerala



Duration
6 Nights 7 Days



Starting from
Rs. 29,300 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↗ **Thattekad Bird Sanctuary · 2N**

↗ **Kumarakom · 3N**

↗ **Munroe Island · 1N**

Overview

Discover Kerala with this immersive 6 nights / 7 days Kerala Family tour package crafted for birdwatchers and nature lovers. This Kerala tour package combines world-class avifauna at Thattekad Bird Sanctuary, serene backwaters and wetland birds at Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, and intimate mangrove exploration on Munroe Island. Ideal for families and small groups, the itinerary balances guided birding, gentle boat safaris, village walks, and optional cultural experiences.

Highlights:

- Thattekad Bird Sanctuary – prime spot for endemic and migratory birds
- Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary & Vembanad Lake – boat safaris and sunset photography
- Munroe Island Mangrove Trails – canoe/kayak through narrow channels
- Guided early-morning birdwatching sessions and expert naturalist support
- Comfortable stays: nature lodges, a Kerala-style homestay and an optional houseboat experience

This Kerala Family package is ideal for families seeking a relaxed, wildlife-focused holiday. Early mornings are best for birding – pack binoculars and a light rain jacket during monsoon months.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation for 6 nights as per itinerary (nature lodge, backwater resort, homestay)
- ✓ Daily breakfast and 3 dinners (as per itinerary) – meals may vary by stay
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private air-conditioned vehicle
- ✓ Guided birdwatching sessions with local naturalist (as listed)
- ✓ Boat cruises: Vembanad Lake sunset cruise, canoe/kayak mangrove trails
- ✓ Applicable park entrance fees for bird sanctuaries
- ✓ Local taxes and service charges
- ✓ Special note: Houseboat option charges are additional if chosen.

✗ Not Included

- ✗ Airfare to/from Kochi
- ✗ Lunches unless specified and personal meals beyond inclusions
- ✗ Entrance fees for optional activities, camera fees where applicable
- ✗ Travel insurance, gratuities, and personal expenses
- ✗ Items of a personal nature (alcoholic drinks, telephone calls, laundry)
- ✗ Important: Peak-season supplements (Dec-Jan) and festival weekend surcharges are not included.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Kochi and Transfer to Thattekad

Arrive at Cochin (Kochi) International Airport and meet your representative. Drive to Thattekad Bird Sanctuary (approx. 2–2.5 hours). Check in to your nature lodge and relax.

Late afternoon: short orientation walk around the lodge grounds to spot resident birds such as Malabar grey hornbill, Indian pitta and common kingfishers. Dinner at the lodge.

Tip: If you arrive early, request a quick evening boat ride on the Periyar tributary to look for waterbirds.

Day

2

Full-Day Birdwatching at Thattekad

Early-morning guided birdwatching session inside Thattekad Bird Sanctuary with an experienced naturalist. Look for speciality species like Sri Lanka frogmouth, Malabar trogon, and varied passerines.

Midday: return to lodge for breakfast and a short rest. Afternoon: visit nearby riparian zones and lesser-explored trails; evening talk on local ecology followed by dinner.

Important: Carry binoculars, sun protection and bottled water. Walking involves uneven forest paths.

Day

3

Drive to Kumarakom via Scenic Route

After an early breakfast, depart for Kumarakom (approx. 2.5–3 hours). En route enjoy scenic stops and light refreshments.

Afternoon: check-in at a backwater resort in Kumarakom. Late afternoon boat cruise on Vembanad Lake to observe waterbirds — egrets, herons, terns and, seasonally, migratory waders. Evening free to enjoy resort facilities.

Highlight: Sunset over Vembanad Lake offers excellent photography opportunities.

Day

4

Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary & Village Walk

Early morning guided tour of Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary (island sanctuary on Vembanad Lake). Spot painted stork, white-bellied sea eagle, and resident marsh birds.

Late morning: return to resort for breakfast. Midday: optional pottery demonstration or bicycle ride through paddy fields. Afternoon: traditional country boat (vallam) ride through narrow canals and reed beds.

Evening: enjoy a cultural performance (Kathakali/folk music) depending on availability.

Tip: Carry a lightweight raincoat during the monsoon (June–September) and waterproof gear for cameras.

Day

5

Backwater Activities and Optional Houseboat Experience

Morning at leisure – optional Ayurvedic massage or resort activities. Post-lunch, join a guided canoe/kayak excursion into quiet backwater channels to spot kingfishers, herons and small marsh birds.

Option: Board an overnight traditional Kerala houseboat (subject to preference) for a slow cruise along the Vembanad Lake – includes village stops and sunset views. If you prefer to stay on land, continue to explore local fisheries and coir-making units.

Note: Houseboat option may be booked in place of one resort night; please request in advance.

Day

6

Transfer to Munroe Island and Mangrove Trails

After breakfast, transfer to Munroe Island (approx. 1–1.5 hours). Check in to a homestay or small eco-lodge.

Afternoon: guided mangrove trail by canoe/kayak through narrow channels—observe mangrove-associated species, mudskippers and kingfishers; visit tiny island settlements and learn traditional salt- and coir-making.

Evening: enjoy a homestay dinner with local Keralite specialties.

Highlight: Munroe Island offers some of the best intimate mangrove exploration near Kumarakom.

Day

7

Morning Trails and Departure to Kochi

Early morning birding or village walk on Munroe Island to catch morning activity in the mangroves. After breakfast, check out and transfer to Cochin (Kochi) (approx. 1.5–2 hours) for onward journey or flight departure.

If time permits, a short guided tour of Fort Kochi (Chinese fishing nets, St. Francis Church) can be arranged before drop-off.

Note: Standard checkout times apply; we recommend scheduling flights after mid-afternoon for a relaxed departure.

? 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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