

Kedarnath Alternative: Kerala Spiritual & Temple Trail (Regional Pilgrimage)

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination
Kerala

Duration
6 Nights 7 Days

Starting from
Rs. 14,200 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↗ **Kochi · 2N**

↗ **Guruvayur / Thrissur · 1N**

↗ **Malayattoor / Angamaly · 1N**

↗ **Kumarakom · 1N**

↗ **Pathanamthitta / Sabarimala region · 1N**

Overview

A thoughtfully curated 6 nights / 7 days Kerala Pilgrimage tour package designed for pilgrims and spiritual travellers seeking an immersive temple trail across Kerala. This Kerala tour package blends ancient temple darshans, backwater serenity and cultural heritage: Fort Kochi, Chottanikkara Bhagavathy Temple, Guruvayur Temple, Vadakkunnathan Temple (Thrissur), Malayattoor Church, Kumarakom Backwaters, and the Sabarimala / Pathanamthitta pilgrimage region.

Highlights:

- Temple darshans at Chottanikkara, Guruvayur and Vadakkunnathan
- Malayattoor Hill Shrine – hilltop pilgrimage with panoramic views
- Houseboat cruise and quiet mornings in Kumarakom Backwaters
- Cultural walk in Fort Kochi and historic church visits
- Personalized darshan & local priest assistance (where available)

✓ What's Included

- ✓ 6 nights accommodation in selected hotels / resorts (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Daily breakfast (6) and 2 traditional Kerala meals included (houseboat dinner/breakfast)
- ✓ Private airconditioned vehicle and transfers throughout the itinerary
- ✓ One night houseboat cruise in Kumarakom (standard package)
- ✓ Services of an experienced local pilgrimage guide
- ✓ Assistance for temple darshan bookings where possible
- ✓ All applicable taxes, parking, tolls and driver allowances
- ✓ Pick-up and drop at Cochin Airport/Ernakulam station
- ✓ 24/7 local emergency support

✗ Not Included

- ✗ Airfare / train fare to/from Kerala
- ✗ Temple offerings, sevas, special puja fees and priest donations
- ✗ Personal expenses, tips, laundry and phone calls
- ✗ Entry fees for monuments (unless specified), camera fees
- ✗ Any permits or special darshan passes (e.g., Sabarimala special queue) not arranged in advance
- ✗ Meals not specified in inclusions and all alcoholic beverages
- ✗ Peak season surcharges and festival-specific charges (if applicable)
- ✗ Important Notes & Tips:
- ✗ Dress modestly for all temple visits: shoulders and knees should be covered.
- ✗ Sabarimala-specific rule: women aged 10–50 years are restricted; please check official guidelines before planning a Sabarimala darshan.
- ✗ Carry photo ID, proper footwear for hill shrines, and any required medical supplies.
- ✗ This Kerala Pilgrimage package can be customized for darshan priorities, houseboat preferences, or to include additional temples

like Kodungallur or Malayalam Christian shrines on request.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Kochi — Welcome to Kerala

Arrive at Cochin International Airport / Ernakulam railway station. Transfer to your hotel in Fort Kochi/Ernakulam. Spend the afternoon exploring the colonial and spiritual landmarks of the city. Visit St. Francis Church, Santa Cruz Basilica and the charming lanes of Fort Kochi. Evening brief orientation with your pilgrimage guide. Tip: Keep modest clothing ready for temple visits; footwear must be left outside sacred precincts.

Day

2

Chottanikkara & Kochi Temples — Local Darshans

After breakfast, drive to Chottanikkara Bhagavathy Temple (short transfer from Ernakulam) for darshan at one of Kerala's most revered Devi shrines. Return to Kochi for a guided visit to Jewish Synagogue and Mattancherry Palace to understand Kerala's syncretic traditions. Evening at leisure at Fort Kochi beach or attend a classical performance (optional). Note: Temple timings vary; darshan slots may be sequenced by the temple authorities.

Day

3

Guruvayur — Krishna Temple Experience

Drive to Guruvayur (approx. 1.5–2 hrs). Visit the Guruvayur Sri Krishna Temple, one of South India's most important Krishna shrines. Experience the ritual atmosphere, watch traditional temple arts such as the elephant procession (if coinciding) and explore nearby Punnathur Kotta (elephant sanctuary). Evening stay in Guruvayur / Thrissur. Important: Follow temple darshan protocols and queue systems; offerings and sevas are extra.

Day

4

Thrissur — Vadakkunnathan & Cultural Heritage

Short drive to Thrissur. Visit the ancient Vadakkunnathan Temple, a classic example of Kerala temple architecture. Explore the cultural heart of Kerala — Vadakkunnathan, Thrissur Pooram heritage spots and local markets. Afternoon transfer towards Malayattoor / Angamaly region with check-in. Tip: Carry a small torch and water for hill shrine climbs.

Day

5

Malayattoor Pilgrimage — Hill Shrine & Peaceful Climb

Early morning drive to Malayattoor (Angamaly region). Climb or drive up to the Malayattoor Church (St. Thomas Shrine) — an important Christian pilgrimage with scenic hilltop views. Spend time in prayer and reflection amid the verdant hills. Afternoon transfer to Kumarakom for a peaceful backwater experience; evening relax at the lakeside. Note: Malayattoor involves short uphill walking; wear comfortable shoes.

Day

6

Kumarakom Backwaters — Houseboat Cruise & Temple Visits

Board a traditional Kerala houseboat (private or shared as per package) and glide through the serene Vembanad Lake channels. Visit nearby temples or village shrines along the banks and observe local rituals and life on the water. Overnight on the houseboat / resort in Kumarakom. Special: Sunrise boat ride and morning birdwatching (Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary).

Day

7

Pathanamthitta / Sabarimala Region — Ayyappa Pilgrimage & Departure

Drive to Pathanamthitta / Pampa gateway for the revered Sabarimala pilgrimage region. Visit nearby temples and panchayat shrines; if you hold necessary permits and are within the age/gender guidelines for Sabarimala darshan, proceed with arrangements (subject to temple regulations). Late afternoon transfer back to Cochin International Airport / Ernakulam for your onward journey. Important: Sabarimala has strict entry rules—women between 10–50 years are not permitted; pilgrims must follow traditional vratham (austerity) practices. Check seasonal/annual closures before travel.

🔗 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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