

Gavi to Thekkady Wildlife Expedition: Birding, Boating & Night Camp

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Kerala



Duration
6 Nights 7 Days



Starting from
Rs. 30,100 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↶ Kochi · 1N

↶ Gavi · 3N

↶ Thekkady · 2N

Overview

A curated 6 nights & 7 days Kerala Adventure tour package that blends immersive birding in the misty Western Ghats, serene boat cruises on Periyar Lake, village experiences and an authentic night camp. Ideal for nature lovers and adventure seekers, this Kerala tour package emphasizes wildlife sightings, guided forest walks, and small-group exploratory activities.

Highlights:

- Gavi Wildlife & Bird Sanctuary: morning birding, guided walks, and lake boating
- Periyar (Thekkady) National Park: boat safari, wildlife spotting (elephants, sambar), and bamboo rafting
- Night Camp Experience: overnight jungle camp with bonfire and indigenous meals
- Spice Plantation & Village Interaction: local culture, spice trails and cooking demo

This 6 and 7 Kerala Adventure tour package is designed for moderate fitness levels; early starts are common for best wildlife viewing.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ Accommodation for 6 nights on twin/double sharing as per itinerary
- ✓ Daily breakfasts and select meals as mentioned: (6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 4 dinners)
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing in an air-conditioned vehicle (as per group size)
- ✓ Guiding fees: certified naturalist/ornithologist for Gavi and licensed guide for Periyar
- ✓ Entry fees, wildlife sanctuary permits and boat cruise charges (as per package)
- ✓ One supervised night camp with basic camping kit and meals
- ✓ Village visit and spice plantation tour
- ✓ All applicable taxes
- ✓ Note: Exact meal count and inclusions may vary by property grade.

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Airfare / train fare to Kochi and return
- ✗ GST on personal bills, telephone calls, laundry, and personal expenses
- ✗ Camera/video permits at some parks (where applicable)
- ✗ Tips, portorage and gratuities to drivers/guides
- ✗ Adventure add-ons like ziplining, private jeep safaris (available on request)
- ✗ Travel insurance (highly recommended)
- ✗ Important: Park timings & permit availability may change during peak season; pre-booking recommended.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Kochi — Welcome to Kerala

Arrive at Cochin International Airport (Kochi) or Ernakulam station. Meet-and-greet by your representative and transfer to a comfortable hotel in Kochi. Depending on arrival time, enjoy a short intro walk in Fort Kochi (St. Francis Church, Chinese Fishing Nets) or simply rest.

Important: Arrivals after 18:00 may shorten city exploration. Evening briefing about the expedition and early departure the next morning.

Day

2

Drive to Gavi — Enter the Western Ghats

After an early breakfast, drive to Gavi (approx. 4–5 hours). Check in at a forest lodge or eco-resort. Afternoon orientation and a short guided nature walk through the reserve to spot resident birds and primates. Evening at leisure with a campfire and ranger talk about local flora & fauna.

Tip: Carry binoculars and a light rain jacket — weather can change quickly at altitude.

Day

3

Birdwatching & Jeep Safari in Gavi

Full day dedicated to birding and exploration. Early-morning guided birdwatching to catch dawn activity — look for Malabar Grey Hornbill, Pearl-bellied Treepie, and endemic warblers. Mid-morning return for breakfast followed by a jeep safari to higher ridges and hidden viewpoints. Afternoon optional boat ride on Gavi Lake and a visit to the nearby tribal settlements for cultural insights.

Note: Guided bird walks are best at dawn; photographers should be ready with long lenses.

Day

4

Trek, Lake Boating & Gavi Exploration

Begin with a morning trek through shola forest and grasslands to spot endemic species and panoramic hill views. After lunch, enjoy a relaxed boat cruise and nature interpretation session by the lodge. Late afternoon at leisure — stargazing possible on clear nights.

Fitness: Moderate trek (2–4 hours) with uneven paths. Comfortable walking shoes recommended.

Day

5

Transfer to Thekkady — Evening Periyar Boat Safari

After breakfast, check out and drive to Thekkady (Periyar) (approx. 3 hours). Check in at a resort on the fringes of Periyar National Park. In the late afternoon/early evening, take the famous Periyar Lake boat cruise — excellent for spotting elephants, bison, sambar deer, and a variety of waterfowl.

Important: Park boat timings vary seasonally; schedule subject to park permits.

Day

6

Bamboo Rafting, Spice Plantation & Night Camp

Start with an early bamboo rafting (or guided forest walk) for close-up sightings of wildlife and birds along narrow streams. Return for a visit to a local spice plantation — learn about pepper, cardamom, cinnamon with a live demo and optional cooking experience.

In the evening, transfer to a supervised night camp near the forest edge: enjoy a traditional meal, bonfire, ranger stories, and a night-safari style walk (subject to permissions). This overnight camp is a highlight for wildlife enthusiasts.

Safety Note: Night camp conducted with trained guides and necessary permits. Children and guests with mobility issues should check suitability.

Day

7

Morning Walk, Cultural Show & Departure

Early-morning guided walk or short wildlife patrol followed by breakfast. Return to the resort, freshen up and check out. Optional cultural activity in the afternoon: Kalaripayattu or Kathakali performance in Thekkady (time permitting). Transfer back to Cochin Airport/Ernakulam for onward journey.

Departure Note: Plan flights after 6 PM from Kochi to avoid rush; transfers can be customized.

🔍 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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