



## *College of Mind Body Spirit*

### *Majestic South Indian Tour – Kerala 6<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2009*

#### *Tour Itinerary*

**Places visited:** Kochi – Munnar (Western Ghats) - Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary – Alleppy (backwaters) - Varkala - Trivandrum

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#### **Day 1/2 – 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Nov - Arrive Kochi from Brisbane**

Arrive late night from Australia. Pickup from airport and transfer to hotel. Next morning after breakfast, check out and depart for hill station of Munnar (approx 5 hr drive) Stay 1 night in Kochi

#### **Day 2 – 7<sup>th</sup> Nov Munnar - The Western Ghats**

Set amid dramatic mountain scenery, craggy peaks, manicured tea estates and crisp cool mountain air make Munnar in Kerala's Western Ghats an ideal place to visit. Afternoon arrival and sightseeing of the local surrounding area. Stay 1 night in Munnar

#### **Day 3/4 – 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Nov – Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary**

After breakfast, check out of hotel and continue onto to Kumily and Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. Check into your hotel. Afternoon visit of local village of Kumily. Next day sightseeing tour of the wildlife sanctuary, including visiting the local spice plantations and tea estates. Stay 2 nights in Periyar

#### **Day 5 – 10<sup>th</sup> Nov - Alleppey – Backwaters Houseboat**

Next morning take scenic drive down the mountain enroute, the backwater canals of Alleppey. Board your luxury houseboat. Three meals a day are prepared with your own chefs. Cruise the backwaters and experience all village and rural life of Kerala. 1 night on houseboat.

#### **Day 6/7 - 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Nov - Varkala**

A half day scenic drive down the coast from Alleppy to the coastal village of Varkala. With its dramatic cliff top setting and perfect beaches, Varkala is an idyllic coastal village set on the Arabian Sea. There is plenty of fresh seafood, fabulous cafés offering European cuisine, bookshops and of course Ayurvedic massages! Take an evening walk through the local village. Visit a Hindi temple and maybe a Kathakali performance in the evening. Stay 2 nights Home stay in Varkala

#### **Day 8 – 13<sup>th</sup> Nov - Trivandrum**

After a leisurely morning in Varkala. Check out of hotel and transfer to Trivandrum (approx 3hrs) international airport for flight back to Brisbane. Or transfer to Beach & Lake Ayurvedic Resort)

**Total Tour Cost**  
**(Inclusive of all service taxes)**

**\$1'250 AUD per person**

**What the Tour Cost includes:**

7 x nights 3/4 star guesthouses/home stays, based on twin share basis with breakfast  
5 x main meals each (vegetarian only) in Munnar, Periyar & Varkala  
7 x days Private taxi with driver, A/C, insurance taxes and all transfers  
Note: Transport from Varkala to Trivandrum airport included on Day 8 only.  
Passengers transferring to Beach & Lake Resort must pay for own transport.  
Deluxe Private Houseboat with local staff and 3 meals per day  
Experienced Tour Leader  
Local guides and entrance to all sightseeing  
Local Indian Yoga teacher – yoga/meditation classes to group  
(number and location of classes TBA)

**What the tour does not include:**

International Flights – Book before 5<sup>th</sup> June  
- \$1295 return each Bris/Cochin/Triv/Bris –S'Pore Airlines  
Indian Tourist visas (\$93 each)  
Travel insurance  
Any portage at airports, hotels etc  
Local taxis, cycle & auto 3 wheeler rickshaw (outside provide tour vehicles)  
Tipping to drivers, locals, staff at hotels, restaurants etc  
Any shopping or items of personal nature  
Any drinks, mineral water, tea/coffee (filtered water provided at meals)  
Expenses caused by factors beyond our control such as flight delays, road blocks, vehicle malfunctions, political disturbances etc.

**Supported by Indian Tour Operator: Tiwari Tours & Travel, India**

[www.tiwaritravel.com](http://www.tiwaritravel.com)



## **Tour Details**

**Transport...** international and domestic air flights, Private commercial yellow number plated tourist vehicles, local taxis, and cycle & auto 3 wheeler rickshaws. Please note it is a pre-requisite that all passengers book their international and any domestic flights through Tiwari Tours & Travel to receive the discounted tour price.

**Accommodation...** All hotels are 3 star and based on twin and triple share basis, with attached bathrooms and a/c and breakfast. Hotels are generally 12noon checkout. In cases of late check you will need to pay additional night accommodation.

### **Physical Fitness and Cultural Shock...**

You will require basic fitness, enough for the tolerance of daily walking, hot weather and some long hours of travel. At times you will need to use the great outdoors for toilet stops, or Indian squat loos. You need to let go of your western ways and let things happen as they do in India! Occasionally you may experience power cuts, no hot water and flat tyres! Please advise us in advance if you have any health issues or are taking any form of medication. All is confidential.

**Money/Budget...** Allow approx. \$500 AUD miscellaneous expenses for 8 days. If you intend to shop till you drop bring more! Tiwari Travel can arrange your cash/travellers cheques to be changed at the hotel on your arrival. ATM's are also available in main cities for visa cash advances. Check with your bank for international transaction fees!

**Meals...** Continental breakfasts included (1 cup tea/coffee, omelette, toast with jam, corn flakes & milk. 5 main vegetarian meals. Mineral water, drinks, deserts/sweets, extra tea/coffee etc are not included.

**Keep in Mind.....**Tiwari Tour groups travel in a way that fully appreciates cultures and lifestyles very different to our own. While striving to provide the very best holiday possible, we don't shield you from the cultural differences, inefficiencies and frustrations that are a part of traveling in India. Indeed the emphasis is on getting out there amongst the chaos, vibrancy that is India and experiencing all the country has to offer, warts and all! Please be patient and remember to just "let things flow. Group is expected to follow the advice and lead of local guides and tour leader at all times.

**Tippling in India...**It is customary to tip on all services in India, including hotels, restaurants, transport, porters, room service etc. Travellers should contribute generously. We can advise anytime on correct amounts to be given. Tipping is not included in price of tour. We recommend forming a tip kitty at the beginning of the tour to cover the tipping for the group. (approx \$10 each per day, not including driver)

**Weather.....**November in South India will be hot and dry. Approx. 30deg thru day and 25 at night.

### **What to bring...**

Please travel as light as possible, everything you will need is available in India. The requirement is one backpack/suitcase per person, plus a day pack. Bring light comfortable clothing for walking and car travel. Hat/cap, thongs, light sandals, shawl, for early mornings, Mossy repellent, a torch for night and ear plugs. Remember India is conservative, no short shorts or short skirts. All leg wear must be below the knee and shoulders covered!

**A word of caution for Women Travellers.....**It's important to appreciate the conservative culture of India. Do not wander around on your own or late at night and dress respectfully, by covering breasts, legs and shoulders. Raising your voice and starting up conversations with men can be taken the wrong way. Do not take up invitations to visit shops or homes with local boys or people you don't know. Always check with the tour leader/guide on best approach of any situation. If there are any threats by locals simply state that you will contact the tourist police if they do not comply with your needs.

## **Booking Terms & Conditions**

### **Validity**

Prices on this itinerary are based on the costs and exchange rates current at date of quote. This is valid for only 1 month

### **Exchange Rate**

Conversion from Australian Dollars to Indian Rupees based \$1 – 33Rs. This is non changeable.

### **Responsibility**

You acknowledge that travel in India requires a degree of flexibility and understand that hotels, accommodation, etc are subject to change.

### **Payments**

25% deposit for booking confirmation required to Tiwari Travel Sydney office, via either direct bank deposit, cheques or through Paypal (visa & MasterCard – extra 2% charge) Final payment due 6 weeks before departure. Full price of any international and domestic airline tickets are to be paid at time of booking.

### **Cancellations**

Final Payment refunded with 1 months notice, (no deposit refunds)

### **Itinerary Amendments**

If required for whatever reason, Tiwari Travel has the right to change the itinerary or hotels at last minute notice.

### **Service Charge**

Tiwari Travel charges a minimum 10% service fee to group tour and private tour work.

### **Disclaimer**

Its is a pre-requisite of acceptance of travelling/booking with Tiwari Tours & Travel, that all passengers remove any form of responsibility from Tiwari Tours & Travel and its staff in the event of personal accident or injury. It is also a pre-requisite that all passengers have fully comprehensive travel insurance.

### **Guarantee**

Tiwari Travel guarantees, once the final payment is made, to provide you with the travel services indicated in the itinerary. Please read our website for further details on health & safety, travel insurance, visas etc.

***Thanks for booking with Tiwari Tours & Travel and wish you a  
safe, enjoyable and happy journey!  
Namaste!***