



SRI LANKA - WITIA AGM & EDUCATIONAL 2014

Women in Tourism International Alliance

POST TOUR TO KERALA (INDIA)

Presented by Ceylon Express International

21 – 24 September 2014 (3 Nights)

21 SEP (SUN) COLOMBO–TRIVANDRUM –SRI LANKAN UL#116 – 7:45AM- 8:45AM

24 SEP (WED) COCHIN TO NEXT DESTINATION—



Kerala, a fertile strip of land between the Arabian Sea to the west and the Western Ghats range to the east, is one of India's richest states. It is also one of its great tourism surprises - a tropical, peaceful way station well off the general radar, contrasting greatly with India's steamy cities, Himalayan spires and iconic Rajasthani desert. The backwaters of Kerala are listed as one of the "1000 Places to See before You Die", and National Geographic called Kerala one of the 50 destinations of a lifetime.

The state is lush with palm-fringed backwaters, rice paddies, and rubber, coconut and cashew plantations. It is at the same time isolated and connected. A literal backwater, Kerala developed its own style of dance, drama and temple arts, distinct from the rest of India. Yet due to winds and currents, it was also a busy stopping point for all the flotsam and jetsam that plied the sea lanes between Europe, Africa and East Asia. St. Thomas the Apostle is believed to have established the earliest Christian colony in Kerala in A.D. 52. Ancient Phoenician, Chinese, Arab

and Jewish traders used it as a base to pursue the treasures of the day: incense, myrrh, ivory, pepper and spices. It was a stop on the last incarnation of the Silk Road, the maritime route – visible in the melding of Chinese and Venetian elements in Cochin’s architecture and artifacts. During the 15th-17th centuries, Europe came to call as the Portuguese, French, Dutch and finally the British vied for control.

Kerala does not suffer from the extreme poverty of many northern areas of India such as Calcutta, Mumbai and Delhi. It has the highest literacy rate in India – about 94%, and also the lowest birthrate. Balmy ocean breezes temper the climate, beckoning visitors to its pristine beaches and the amazing interconnected lakes, canals and rivers that form its backwaters.

September 2014

21 SUNDAY COLOMBO / TRIVANDRUM / ALLEPPEY (B/L/D)



Depart Colombo at 07:45 aboard Sri Lankan Air flight # UL 116, with arrival at Trivandrum at 08:45. Trivandrum is the capital of the state of Kerala, located on the west coast of India near the extreme south of the mainland. Meeting assistance upon arrival and drive to Alleppey (160 kms/100 miles – about a 4-hour ride), a small picturesque town that is a favored embarkation point for houseboat (kettuvallam) cruises.

Kettuvallam: Adapted and modernized from the traditional kettuvallam (rice boat) of Kerala, the kettuvallam is an experience in itself - large and comfortable and frequently very eco as it is largely made of local sustainable materials. These houseboats feature large bedrooms with attached bathroom, a full fledged kitchen with a spacious dining area, and a sundeck where you can laze on wicker chairs as you watch the world go by. The kettuvallam comes complete with a full-time chef to cook your catch of the day or other Kerala specialty, and two attendants are always on call.

Your house boat carries you slowly through the countryside via a series of lakes and channels, offering a close look at rustic life. Skiff-fishermen launching their cockleshell boats, laughing children who run alongside you on the banks, timeless village scenes and tropical flora and fauna will keep you fascinated for hours, such that you will have hardly realized that you haven't touched your book. Lunch and dinner on the houseboat.

22 MONDAY ALLEPPEY/COCHIN (B/D)

Rise early to enjoy a panoramic view of sunrise and breakfast aboard the kettuvallam. Drive to Cochin (60 kms /37 miles). On arrival, check in to your hotel.

This afternoon, tour Cochin (Kochi), Kerala's largest city and one of India's most important ports and naval bases. It is a city with a fascinating history of trade, immigration and colonization by diverse nations, many of whom have left their traces in Kochi's faded architecture. Phoenician, Israelite, Greek, Roman, Arab, Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch and British seafarers followed the sea route to Kochi, leaving behind Moslem, Jewish and Christian communities that still exist. Experience reminders of the past in the Chinese fishing nets swaying in the breeze over the backwaters, the preserved Jewish Synagogue, the Dutch-built Boghatty Palace and Portuguese architecture.

23 TUESDAY COCHIN (B/D)

Morning: Cochin has a magnificent waterfront speckled with islands and river inlets. The best way to see it is from the water. Enjoy a harbour cruise for 3 + hours.

This evening, experience a traditional Kerala entertainment, a Kathakali dance performance. As



an individual style of dance-drama, Kathakali evolved as the "people's theatre" from the traditional dances of the past. Historically, the performances in Malabar were staged by troupes of actors that were formed by and enjoyed the patronage of the local rajahs and other noblemen (especially the Namboodiris, or the Brahmins of Malabar). These shows are in many ways similar to the Masque performances which were in vogue in England in the 16th and 17th centuries, where masked performers acted and danced, developing into

a form of drama with music. Since then Kathakali has been updated many times in the areas of make-up and costume, dance forms and acting techniques.

24 WEDNESDAY COCHIN (B) – Room till 12 noon

Full day at leisure to explore on your own. Later transfer to the airport for your flight home or next destination.

END OF KERALA, INDIA TOUR

QUOTATION PER ITINERARY – 2 CATEGORIES OF HOTELS
21-24 SEPTEMBER 2014 – 3 nights
MINIMUM OF 2 PERSONS
PER PERSON, SHARING TWIN/DOUBLE - CATEGORY A - CROWNE PLAZA – USD 420.00
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT – USD 220
PER PERSON, SHARING TWIN/DOUBLE - CATEGORY B - TAJ MALABAR – USD 570.00
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT – USD 260

ECONOMY CLASS AIRFARE – COLOMBO – TRIVANDRUM – USD 155 PER PERSON (EXTRA COST)

RATES ARE QUOTED FOR CHECK PAYMENTS – 3% BANK FEE FOR CREDIT CARDS.

HOTELS IN QUOTATION

SEPT	NIGHTS	CITY	CATEGORY A – 5 star	CATEGORY B - 5 star
21-22	1	ALLEPPEY	HOUSE BOAT (Air con)	HOUSE BOAT (Air con)
22-24	2	COCHIN	CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL standard room	TAJ MALABAR HOTEL superior sea view room

COST INCLUDES:

1. 3 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATIONS, SHARING DBL / TWIN WITH DAILY BREAKFAST
2. ALL TRANSFERS/ TOURS BY AIR-CONDITIONED VEHICLE
3. LOCAL ENGLISH- SPEAKING GUIDE
4. LUNCH, DINNER AND BREAKFAST ON HOUSEBOAT
5. 2 DINNERS IN COCHIN ON 22 / 23 SEPTEMBER
6. KATHAKALI DANCE SHOW
7. HARBOUR CRUISE
8. ALL ENTRANCE FEES AS PER THE PROGRAM
9. 3.1% GOVT. SERVICE TAX

EXCLUDED COSTS:

International Airfare and taxes are not included (QUOTED SEPARATELY)

Charges for services of a personal nature, such as personal tipping, telephone, laundry, room service, airport taxes, trip/baggage insurance, visa/passport fees, camera/video fees, extra meals and beverages and any items not specifically mentioned.

Visa - A visa is required for travel to India. Please check in your country of residence for details. Visit: <http://www.visa.blindia-usa.com> for American passport holders or <http://mha1.nic.in/foreignDiv/TourVisa.html> for other nationalities.

Insurance - We highly recommend trip protection insurance and we can assist you in obtaining this valuable coverage, at competitive rates.

Booking conditions - We request a deposit of \$100.00 per person in order to proceed with all reservations. The balance is due 60 days prior to departure, and final documents are sent 30 days prior to departure.

Terms of booking - We request a signed copy of our terms and conditions which details our cancellation policies and terms of booking. We also need a clear copy of your passport. (Please enlarge to 120%).

Rates -All rates are quoted for CHECK PAYMENTS, and are based on current tariffs and rates of exchange and are subject to change. Government taxes are based on current rates and are subject to change. Rates quoted are valid for travel from **01 -30 September 2014**.

Airfares: All airfares quoted are subject to change, unless ticketed. All discount fares are subject to penalties for changes and cancellations after ticketing. No mileage credit on Discount Economy fare in quotation.

NOTE: We reserve the right to change or alter the itinerary and costs when circumstances beyond our control deem it necessary.

CEYLON EXPRESS INTERNATIONAL, tours@ceylonexpress.com

1/24/14

