

DISCOVERING THE WONDERS OF SOUTH INDIA

Ancient Ruins, Coffee Hills, Wildlife, and Backwaters



Mumbai • Hampi • Chikmagalur • Kabini • Mysore • Kochi • Kumarakom
(13 Nights / 14 Days)

Discover the remarkable diversity of India on this immersive journey through vibrant cities, ancient kingdoms, lush hill landscapes, and tranquil backwaters. From the energy of India's largest metropolis to the serene beauty of Kerala's waterways, this carefully crafted itinerary reveals the many contrasts that make South India so captivating.

Your journey begins in Mumbai, India's dynamic financial capital, where colonial-era landmarks, bustling markets, and seaside promenades reflect the city's cosmopolitan spirit and enduring charm.

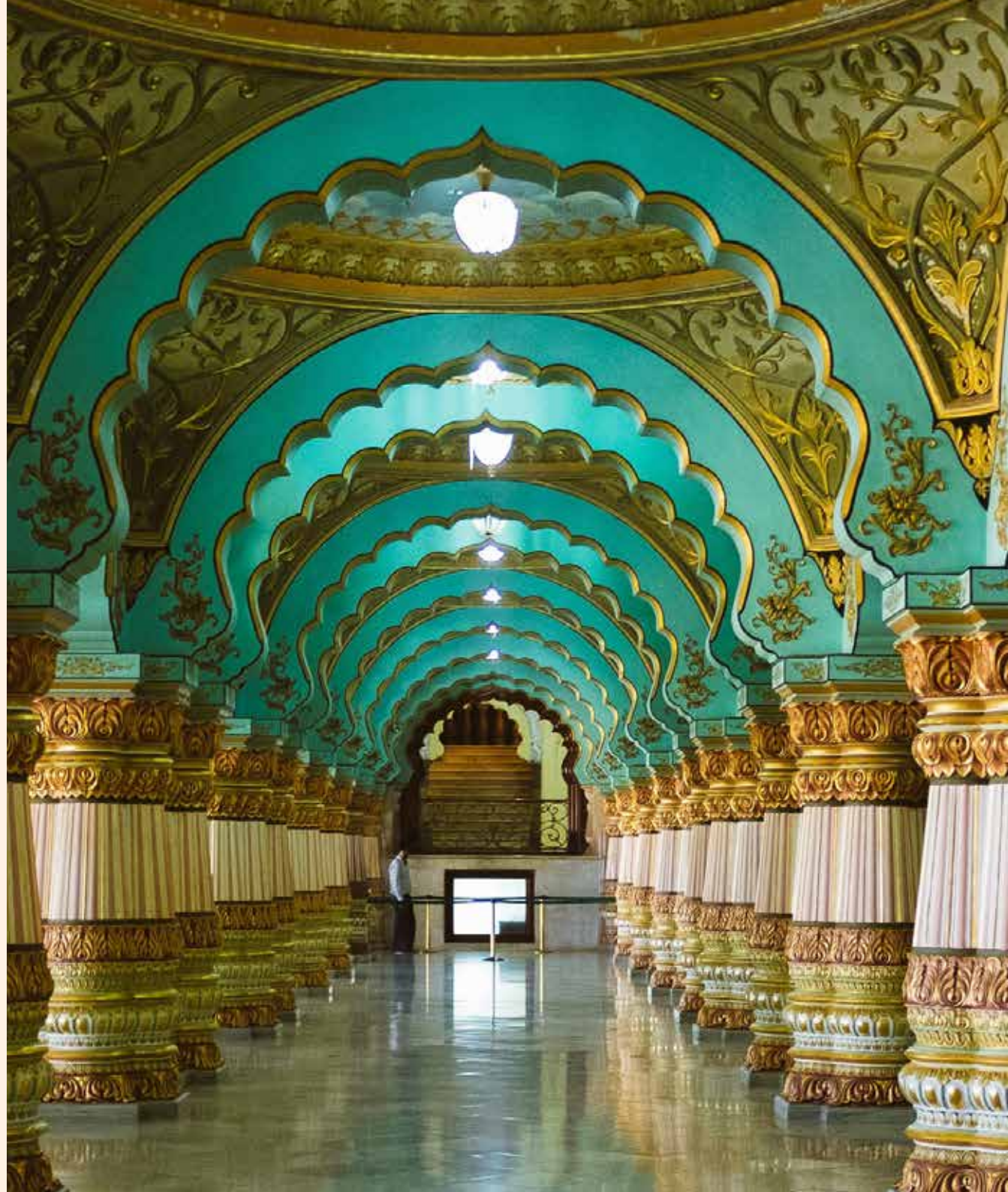
Continue to Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where the dramatic ruins of the Vijayanagara Empire stretch across a surreal landscape of giant boulders and ancient temples. Once one of the greatest kingdoms in India, its magnificent stone carvings and royal structures still echo the grandeur of its glorious past.

From here, travel into the cool, misty hills of Chikmagalur, nestled in the Western Ghats and known as the birthplace of Indian coffee. Rolling plantations, forested valleys, and peaceful landscapes offer a refreshing retreat.

Your journey then leads to Kabini, one of South India's premier wildlife destinations, where safaris along the Kabini River offer chances to spot elephants, deer, leopards, and the elusive Bengal tiger.

Continue to the royal city of Mysore, famed for its magnificent palace and elegant heritage.

The journey concludes in Kerala, beginning in historic Kochi and ending amid the serene backwaters of Kumarakom, where palm-lined canals and tranquil lagoons provide a peaceful finale.





SIGNATURE MOMENTS

- Discover Mumbai's colonial landmarks, lively streets, and seaside promenade
- Explore the dramatic ruins and temples of Hampi
- Enjoy a storytelling evening on the history of the Vijayanagara Empire
- Retreat to the cool hills of Chikmagalur surrounded by lush coffee plantations
- Admire the intricate carvings of the Hoysala temples
- Take in sweeping views from Mullayanagiri Peak, the highest point in Karnataka
- Experience coffee cultivation with a guided plantation tour and tasting
- Enjoy a scenic boat safari along the Kabini River
- Set out on jeep safaris in Nagarhole National Park in search of wildlife
- Join a guided nature walk and traditional coracle ride on the Kabini River
- Visit the magnificent Mysore Palace, a symbol of the city's royal heritage
- Explore the historic streets and Chinese fishing nets of Fort Kochi
- Visit the Paradesi Synagogue and browse the spice markets of Jew Town
- Relax in the tranquil backwaters of Kumarakom
- Cruise through Kerala's backwaters aboard a traditional houseboat
- Experience village life with a farm visit, cooking session, and country boat ride

JOURNEY

Day 01	Arrive in Mumbai, INDIA
Day 02	Mumbai
Day 03	Fly Mumbai – Hubli Hubli – Hampi
Day 04	Hampi
Day 05	Hampi
Day 06	Hampi – Chikmagalur
Day 07	Chikmagalur
Day 08	Chikmagalur – Kabini
Day 09	Kabini
Day 10	Kabini – Mysore
Day 11	Mysore – Bangalore Fly Bangalore – Kochi
Day 12	Kochi
Day 13	Kochi – Kumarakom
Day 13	Kumarakom
Day 13	Kumarakom
Day 14	Kumarakom – Kochi Kochi – Departure

ACCOMMODATION

Mumbai	- Hotel (2 Nights)
Hampi	- Hotel (3 Nights)
Chikmagalur	- Hotel (2 Nights)
Kabini	- Hotel (2 Nights)
Mysore	- Hotel (1 Night)
Kochi	- Hotel (2 Nights)
Kumarkoam	- Hotel (2 Nights)

MEALS

- As per the itinerary





DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 01

Arrive in Mumbai, INDIA

Welcome to Mumbai, a vibrant city with a rich history that traces back to seven islands. Originally named after the goddess Mumba Devi by the Kolis, Mumbai's story continued when the islands were acquired by the British as part of a dowry, eventually leading to their development by the East India Company. Today, Mumbai is a bustling metropolis known for its colonial architecture, vibrant markets, delectable street food, and diverse communities. As a key hub for commerce, trade, and Bollywood, Mumbai offers a unique blend of tradition and modernity, inviting visitors to experience its dynamic energy and cultural richness.

Upon arrival, our representative will meet and greet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure, allowing you time to settle in and enjoy your new home-away-from-home experience.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: None

Day 02

Mumbai

After breakfast, enjoy a full-day exploration of Mumbai, a city where colonial heritage, vibrant street life, and modern culture blend seamlessly. Begin with a visit to the iconic **Gateway of India**, a majestic basalt arch overlooking the Arabian Sea. Built in 1924 during the British colonial era, this historic monument stands as one of the city's most recognizable landmarks and a symbol of Mumbai's rich past.

Continue for a photo stop at the magnificent **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus** (formerly **Victoria Terminus**), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an outstanding example of Victorian Gothic architecture infused with traditional Indian elements. This historic railway station remains one of the busiest in India and reflects the city's colonial legacy.

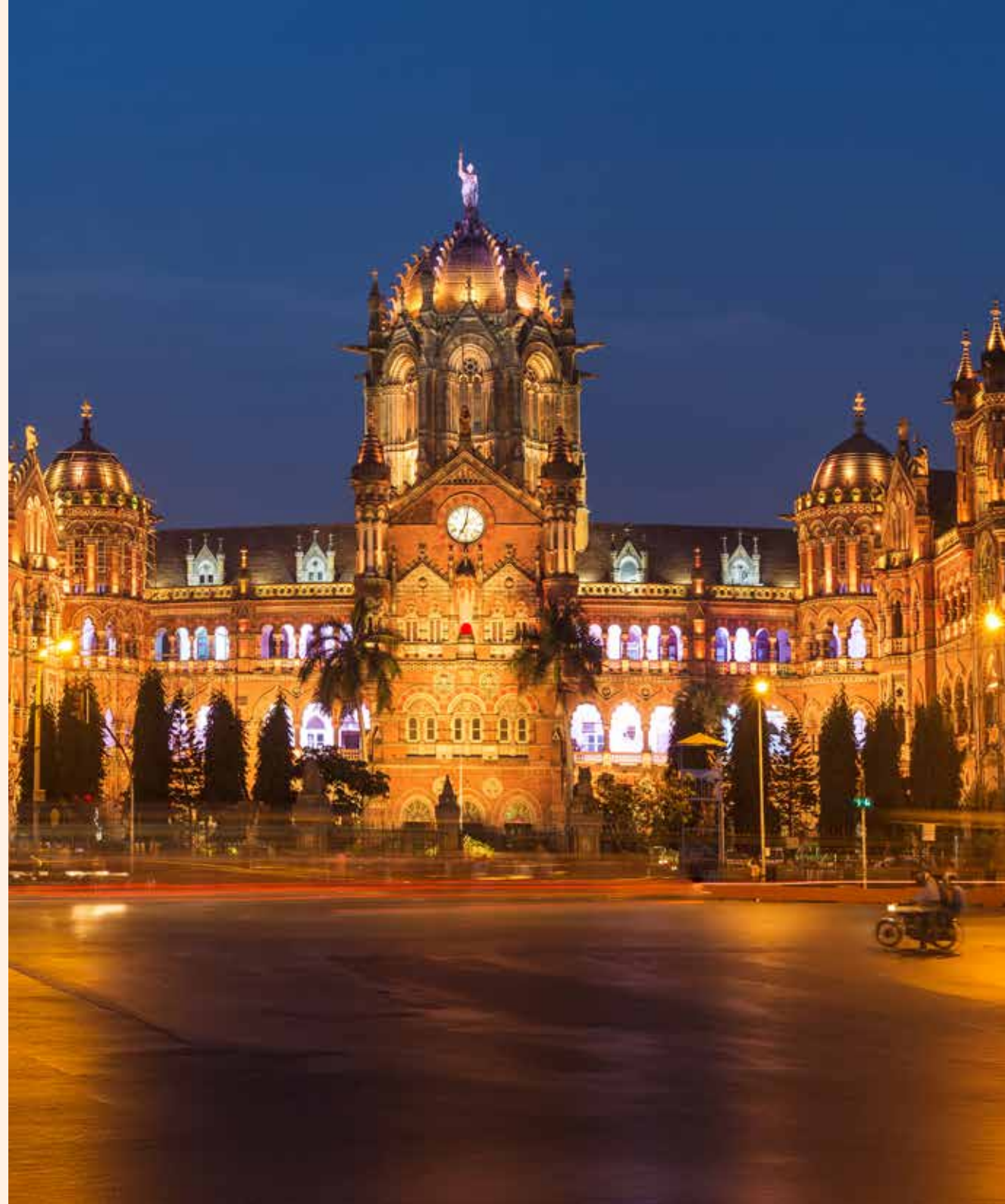
As you travel through the bustling streets, you may notice the famous **dabbawalas**, men dressed in white uniforms who efficiently deliver thousands of home-cooked meals in traditional metal tiffin boxes across the city each day, a system that has been operating successfully since the 19th century.

Next, visit **Mani Bhavan**, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi and now a museum dedicated to his life and work during India's independence movement. Continue to **Dhobi Ghat**, the world's largest open-air laundry, where rows of washing pens create a fascinating and uniquely Mumbai scene.

Later, enjoy a scenic drive along **Marine Drive**, often called the "Queen's Necklace," offering beautiful views of the Arabian Sea and the city's skyline.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast





Day 03

Fly Mumbai – Hubli

Hubli – Hampi

(3.5 hrs drive)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your **flight to Hubli**. Upon arrival, **drive to Hampi**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the former capital of the powerful Vijayanagara Empire, is set within a dramatic landscape of massive granite boulders, verdant banana plantations, and the Tungabhadra River. The region is renowned for its extraordinary collection of ancient temples, royal enclosures, and evocative ruins that reflect centuries of architectural and cultural brilliance.

Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and take time to relax after the journey. The afternoon is at leisure, allowing you to enjoy the tranquil surroundings of the resort or simply unwind at your own pace.

In the evening, enjoy a **Story Corner experience**. Set in an intimate and atmospheric setting within the resort, this thoughtfully curated session is led by historians. Through the evocative and time-honoured art of storytelling, they vividly narrate the rise, glory, and eventual decline of the Vijayanagara Empire, weaving together historical facts, legends, folklore, and lesser-known anecdotes.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 04

Hampi

Begin the day early with a **Nature Trail**, led by experienced naturalist. This guided walk takes you through the scrub jungle, surrounding agricultural fields, and quiet village roads just beyond the resort campus, offering a gentle introduction to the local ecology, rural life, and natural landscape of the Hampi region.

Return to the resort for breakfast. After breakfast, proceed for a guided **walking exploration of Vithalapura**, one of Hampi's most remarkable suburbs. This area is renowned for its ancient bazaar streets and temple complexes that once formed the cultural and commercial heart of the Vijayanagara Empire.

The walk covers significant monuments including **Gejja Mantapa**, **Kudure Gombe Mantapa**, **the historic Vithalapura Bazaar**, **the sacred Kalyani (temple tank)**, and **the iconic Vijaya Vitthala Temple**. The temple complex is home to the celebrated **Stone Chariot** and the extraordinary musical pillared **Mantapa**, showcasing the architectural brilliance and artistic sophistication of the empire at its peak.

The remainder of the day is at leisure, allowing time to relax at the resort or absorb the tranquil surroundings at your own pace.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast





Day 05

Hampi

The morning and early afternoon are kept at leisure, allowing time to relax at the resort or enjoy its peaceful natural surroundings after the previous day's explorations.

In the evening, proceed for the immersive **Raya Trail**, a guided **heritage walk** that transports you nearly 500 years back into the life and times of the Rayas, the kings of the Vijayanagara Empire. This carefully curated experience offers insight into the rulers' lifestyle, cultural traditions, and the social and political structure of one of South India's greatest empires, set against the dramatic ruins of the royal city.

Accompanied by expert guides, explore significant landmarks including Devaraya's Palace, the Royal Mint, Audience Hall, and the intriguing Secret Chamber, believed to have played a strategic role in court proceedings. Continue to the elegantly engineered Stepped Tank, followed by the imposing Mahanavami Dibba (Great Platform), from where kings once presided over grand ceremonies and festive processions.

The trail also includes visits to the sacred **Hazara Rama Temple**, the graceful Queen's Bath and palace complex, and the monumental Elephant Stables, whose grand domed chambers reflect the architectural sophistication and royal splendour of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 06

Hampi – Chikmagalur

(5 hrs drive)

Morning, **drive to Chikmagalur**, a peaceful town nestled in the foothills of the Western Ghats. Known for its sprawling coffee plantations and breathtaking landscapes, Chikmagalur offers the perfect setting to unwind and enjoy nature's beauty.

Upon arrival, you'll **check in** to your coffee estate accommodation, where the crisp mountain air and tranquil surroundings will immediately put you at ease. Spend the afternoon relaxing amidst the lush coffee plantations. You may also take a leisurely walk through the estate to discover the coffee cultivation process and learn about the different local coffee varieties, from cultivation to harvest.

This peaceful town offers a unique opportunity to rejuvenate and enjoy the natural serenity. As the day winds down, you can enjoy a quiet evening on the estate, taking in the scenic vistas and lush greenery that surround you.

Relax and enjoy your time here, getting ready for the exciting experiences we have planned for the upcoming days.

Overnight: *Hotel*

Meals: *Breakfast*





Day 07

Chikmagalur

Today, explore some of the finest historical and natural landmarks near Chikmagalur. Begin with a visit to the **Belur and Halebidu Hoysala temples**, masterpieces of Indian temple architecture. These UNESCO World Heritage Sites are known for their intricate carvings, detailed sculptures, and stunning craftsmanship that tell stories from Hindu mythology. The Chennakesava Temple at Belur and the Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebidu are true testaments to the artistic brilliance of the Hoysala dynasty.

Next, head to **Mullayanagiri Peak**, the highest point in Karnataka, offering panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Whether you choose to hike up or simply enjoy the breathtaking vistas from the top, it's an experience you won't forget. The serene atmosphere here is perfect for relaxation and taking in the beauty of the Western Ghats.

In the afternoon, enjoy a **coffee plantation tour** where you'll gain insight into the cultivation process of Chikmagalur's famous coffee beans. Learn how the beans are grown, harvested, and processed, and of course, enjoy tasting some freshly brewed coffee right from the source.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 08

Chikmagalur – Kabini

(5 hrs drive)

After breakfast, **depart by road for Kabini**, travelling through the scenic countryside of Karnataka as the coffee plantations of Chikmagalur gradually give way to forested landscapes and quiet rural villages. The journey brings you closer to the wilderness region surrounding Nagarhole National Park, one of India's premier wildlife reserves and an important part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Located along the tranquil Kabini River, this region is celebrated for its pristine forests, rich biodiversity, and peaceful natural setting. Once a favored hunting ground of the Maharajas of Mysore, Kabini today stands as a protected sanctuary supporting wildlife such as elephants, deer, gaur, and occasionally predators like leopards and the elusive Bengal tiger.

Upon arrival, check in and take time to relax while enjoying the tranquil surroundings of the river and forest.

Later in the afternoon, enjoy a **boat safari** on the Kabini River, offering a unique opportunity to observe wildlife and birdlife along the riverbanks that form the boundary between Nagarhole and Bandipur National Parks.

In the evening, experience "**Jungle Tales**," where resident naturalists share fascinating stories and insights about the wildlife and forests of Kabini.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast





Day 09

Kabini

Early in the morning, set out for an exciting **jeep safari into Nagarhole National Park**, accompanied by experienced naturalists. As you travel through forest trails and open clearings, the cool hours of the morning offer excellent opportunities to observe wildlife in their natural habitat. Keep watch for herds of Asian elephants, spotted deer, sambar, wild boar, and the impressive Indian gaur. Kabini is also known for sightings of leopards and, with a bit of luck, the elusive Bengal tiger. The riverbanks and forest edges are equally rich in birdlife, making the safari a rewarding experience for nature enthusiasts.

Return to the lodge for breakfast and enjoy some time at leisure, allowing you to relax and take in the peaceful surroundings of the forest and river.

Later in the afternoon, join a guided **nature walk** along the Kabini River, where experienced naturalists introduce you to the fascinating flora and fauna of the region. During the walk, you may discover a variety of bird species, native plants, and smaller creatures that play an important role in the forest ecosystem.

You may also enjoy a **traditional coracle ride**, a round basket-shaped boat unique to South Indian rivers, offering a gentle and memorable way to experience the calm waters of Kabini.

Overnight: *Hotel*

Meals: *Breakfast*

Day 10

Kabini – Mysore

(2 hrs drive)

After breakfast, **depart by road for Mysore**, a city renowned for its royal heritage, elegant architecture, and vibrant cultural traditions. Once the capital of the powerful Kingdom of Mysore, the city retains an old-world charm reflected in its broad boulevards, historic buildings, and lively markets.

Upon arrival, visit the magnificent **Mysore Palace**, one of India's most impressive royal residences and a masterpiece of Indo-Saracenic architecture. Formerly the residence of the Wodeyar Maharajas, the palace stands as a symbol of Mysore's regal past and remains one of the most visited landmarks in India. Inside, explore the palace's beautifully decorated halls adorned with stained glass ceilings, intricate carvings, colorful tiles, and exquisite artwork. The grand Durbar Hall and elegant courtyards once hosted royal ceremonies and celebrations, offering a fascinating glimpse into the opulent lifestyle of Mysore's royal family.

After the visit, **continue to your hotel and check in**. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax or explore the city at your own pace.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast





Day 11

Mysore – Bangalore

(3 hrs drive)

Fly Bangalore – Kochi

Today **drive to Bangalore airport** and **fly to Kochi**, the vibrant city that has captured the hearts of visitors for centuries. Formerly known as Cochin and also referred to as Ernakulam, Kochi is not only the commercial capital of Kerala but also a place with deep cultural significance. The name Ernakulam is derived from the Tamil word “Erayanarkulam,” which translates to “Lord Shiva’s abode.” This historical city is a melting pot of diverse cultures, where ancient traditions blend harmoniously with modern developments. Prepare to be enchanted by the rich heritage, bustling markets, and picturesque waterfront of Kochi as you explore its captivating charm. **Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel** and make yourself comfortable at the hotel and take some time to relax.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 12

Kochi

This morning, dive into the rich religious and **cultural heritage of Kochi**, beginning in **Fort Cochin**, where pastel-colored buildings and charming tiled roofs line the narrow, atmospheric streets. Your walk brings you to the **St. Francis Church**, the oldest European-built church in India, offering a peaceful insight into the city's colonial past. Just nearby stands the **Santa Cruz Basilica**, a majestic structure celebrated for its awe-inspiring architecture and spiritual ambiance.

Along the waterfront, witness the iconic **Chinese fishing nets**, gracefully suspended over the water—a fascinating reminder of Kochi's maritime legacy.

Take a **walking tour of Mattancherry**, a vibrant neighborhood rich in Muslim culture and culinary delights.

Then, discover the **Jewish Synagogue** (Paradesi Synagogue), built in 1568, admired for its ornate interiors and hand-painted Chinese tiles.

Enjoy some free time walking through the lovely streets of **Jew Town**, a historic area known for its antique shops, spice markets, and old-world charm. You can shop for special souvenirs like vintage items, hand-painted tiles, and Kerala's famous spices such as cardamom, pepper, and turmeric. Visit the local spice shops to see and buy tea, jute, chilies, cashew, ginger, and more—ending your day with a true taste of Kochi.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast





Day 13

Kochi – Kumarakom

(2 hrs drive)

The **morning is at leisure** to relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of your hotel or make use of the resort facilities at your own pace.

Late this morning, enjoy a scenic **drive to Kumarakom**, a cluster of idyllic islands set along the shores of the vast Vembanad Lake, recognised by National Geographic as one of the world's top ten must-visit destinations. The journey unfolds through lush countryside dotted with quaint villages, swaying coconut palms, and vibrant paddy fields, as the landscape gradually softens into a tranquil network of waterways that gently introduces you to Kerala's unhurried rhythm.

Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and take time to unwind, soaking in the peaceful atmosphere and lush tropical surroundings.

The remainder of the **day is at leisure**. You may choose to rejuvenate with traditional **Kerala Ayurvedic therapies**, where age-old wellness practices restore balance to body and mind.

Alternatively, set out on a **guided cycling experience** through quiet country roads and village pathways. Witness coconut husks being processed into coir ropes and mats, observe daily life unfolding at an unhurried pace, and gain insight into the simplicity and warmth of Kerala's village communities.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 13

Kumarakom

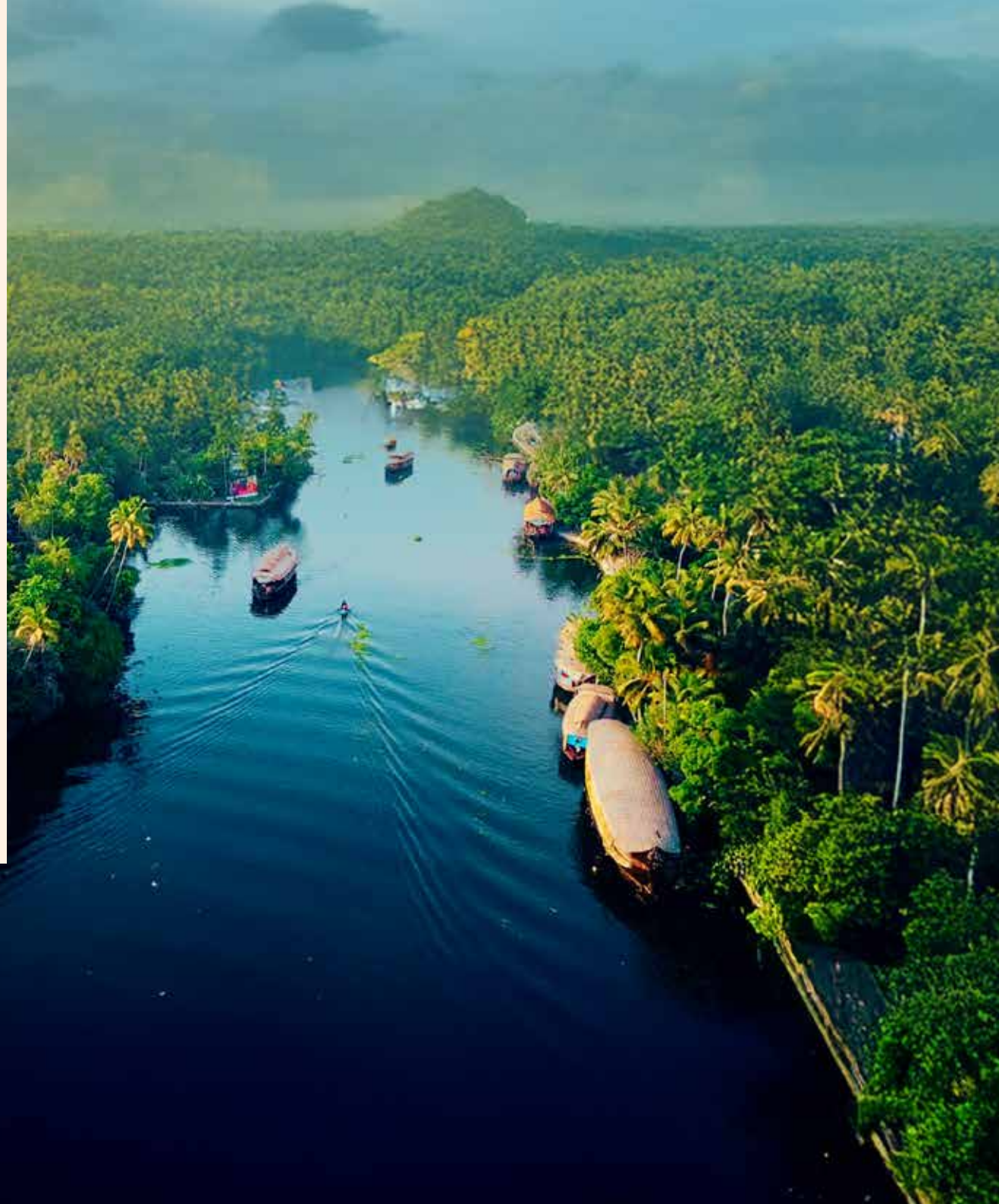
The **morning is leisure** to relax or take full advantage of the excellent facilities at your hotel.

For those seeking relaxation and rejuvenation, the Ayurveda center at Coconut Lagoon provides a range of Ayurvedic treatments and therapies. Trained therapists offer personalized consultations and recommend treatments based on individual needs, ensuring a holistic healing experience. (at additional cost)

In the afternoon, set out on a scenic boat cruise through the famous Kerala Backwaters on a traditional **houseboat**, known as 'kettuvallams,' which are beautifully crafted with eco-friendly materials. Witness the captivating rituals of village life as farmers till their fields with the help of buffalo, women wash laundry by the water's edge, and children playfully splash in the tranquil surroundings. Marvel at the palm-fringed lakes adorned with Chinese fishing nets and traverse the shady canals where coir, copra, and cashews are loaded onto traditional dugouts. Indulge in a delicious **Keralan lunch** prepared and served on board.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch





Day 13

Kumarakom

Begin your day in Kumarakom with an **optional morning yoga and meditation session**, setting a peaceful and refreshing tone.

Later in the morning, take a short **drive to a local farmstead** on the banks of Vembanad Lake, a peaceful retreat surrounded by coconut palms and spice groves. **Walk through the farm** and see how coconut, nutmeg, banana, cocoa, and pepper are grown using **traditional organic methods**. Join an engaging **Kerala cooking session** followed by lunch, where you'll discover the secrets of local spices and age-old family recipes. Enjoy the delicious meal you've helped prepare, while experiencing the warmth and hospitality of your hosts.

In the afternoon, take a **country boat ride** through the beautiful backwaters. Pass by small villages and see how locals live a simple and peaceful life. Watch traditional crafts like **coir yarn making** and **copra processing**, which are still important in Kerala today.

Later, treat yourself to an Ayurvedic spa treatment (available at an extra cost). Choose from relaxing massages and therapies designed to refresh your body and mind, making this day in Kerala truly special.

Overnight: Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 14

Kumarakom – Kochi

(2 hrs drive)

Kochi – Departure

Today **drive to Kochi airport** to connect your international flight back home with a suitcase full of memories of this stunning land.

Meals: Breakfast

