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21D KERALA CULTURAL TOURS

Day 01 : Calicut

Arrive Calicut airport after a traditional 'Swagat' (Welcome) our representative would assist you at the airport. **Calicut** on the northern most part of Kerala. This youngest district of Kerala has several niceties to offer backpackers and pilgrims. The enduring charm of its beach, the architectural marvel of the Temples, Mosques and Churches and the unique and tell tale folk art genuine attractions for tourists around the world. Check in at a beautiful luxury resort. **Overnight Hotel - Calicut**

Day 02 : Calicut

(B)

This beautiful district of Kerala even called as Land of Gods, really its gifted with many forts rivers, hills, beautiful beaches, forests, and mineral resources. Rest and relax at the resort. **Overnight Hotel - Calicut**

Day 03 : Calicut – Thalassery

(B)

Today we drive to **Thalassery** a beautiful fishing town in the north of Calicut. Check in to the majestic Ayesha Manzil. Rest and relax at the resort. **Overnight Hotel - Thalassery**

Day 04 : Thalassery Full day tour

(B)

Today we take full day tour of Thalassery, The Place is famous for Kerala's only Muslim royal family '**Arakkal**', they ruled this parts of coast even the Lekshdeep Islands. The quest for spices and lured several European powers this place. The fortification at Thalassery and **Fort St. Angelo** attest to their arrival. Solemn Churches surrounded by mildewed grave stones also silently speak of the European presents. In the evening witness a colorful Theyyam dance, one of the most popular ritualistic dances of north Kerala. **Overnight Hotel - Thalassery**

Day 05 : Thalassery – Bekal

(B)

Today we drive to **Bekal**, The place is famous for Bekal Fort, is the largest and best preserved one. The beautiful Bakel beach with the historically and archaeologically significant bekal fort in the back ground is now being developed into an international tourist destination. Bekal fort provides a unique Aqua Park provides water sport facilities for water cycling and Pedal boats. Check in to a beautiful resort. **Overnight Hotel - Bekal**

Day 06 : Bekal

(B)

Today we take guided tour of Bekal visit some ancient temples and important **forts** and **Churches** which is highlighting the old glory of this place. Some important of this kind are **Chandragiri Fort**, **Cheruvathur Kotta Palli**, means a mosque with in a fort. Kanwatheertha Beach, like a large swimming pool like formation of the sea on the vast beach is the main attraction. **Overnight Hotel - Bekal**

Day 07 : Bekal – Kalaripayattu – Bekal

(B)

Today go for visit Kavil Bhavan Yoga and Meditation Centre here Yoga is combined along with other procedures to cure a wide range of ailments from Asthma, allergy, blood pressure and obesity to aches and pains and common colds. Some important places are Madhur Temple, famous for its rich architectural and copper plate roofing, rises majestically against beautiful landscape of the Madhuvahini River. Manjeswaram another destination a number of temples and fifteen Mosques makes this cashew growing town a prominent pilgrim centre. **Overnight Hotel - Bekal**

Day 08 : Bekal – Kannur

(B)

Today we drive to **Kannor** district is bounded by a wealth of natural beauty. Kannur enjoys the credit of having been the cradle of many a colorful art and folk music of Kerala. The ships of King Soloman are believed to anchored here at one time. Check in to a beautiful resort. Some important places there to see Parasinikadavu Temple, Kannur Fort and

Muzhipilagadi Beach, Kerala's only drive in beach. Evening visits some temples to see the colorful cultural shows.
Overnight Hotel – Kannur

Day 09 : Kannury – Cochin (B)
Today morning after breakfast transfer to the railway station and a short journey to **Cochin** by train(5 hrs). Arrival at Cochin receive by our representative & transfer to hotel. **Overnight Hotel - Cochin**

Day 10 : Cochin (B)
Today we visit **St. Francis Church**, which is the oldest European Church in India. Visit the Jewish Synagogue, built in the year 1568 and magnificently decorated by Chinese tiles & Belgian chandeliers. Giant scrolls of the Old Testament can be found here. Also visit the **spice market**, where the air is filled with the pungent smell of spices & history that brought the world to its doorstep. **Chinese fishing nets, (Cheenavala)** are distinctly unique to Cochin. It is believed that traders from the court of the Chinese ruler Kublai Khan introduced these nets here. Evening Kathakali dance show.
Overnight Hotel – Cochin

Day 11 : Cochin - Kothamangam Home Stay (B)
Today we drive to **Kothamangalam** and spend the afternoon at leisure in a century old estate bungalow set in over 100 acres of multi crop plantation. Apart from exploring the estate you could also visit the local bird sanctuary. Participate in cookery demonstrations involving authentic Kerala cuisine. **Overnight Kothamangam Home stay**

Day 12 : Kothamangam Home Stay (B)
Today we drive to the **Kodanad elephant orphanage**. You will get the opportunity to be up and close with the elephants and can participate in their bathing and feeding. Elephant rides will also be possible. Rest of the day at leisure.**Overnight at Mundackal Estate Bungalow**

Day 13 : Kothamangam – Kumarakom (B)
Today we drive to **Kumarakom**. It is a cluster of little islands, on the **Vembanad Lake in Kerala**. Kuttanad, the 'Wonder Land' believed to have been lying below the sea level, sprang out into the marshes when the sea receded later. **Kumarakom**, the land of lakes, canals and paddy fields, gives you sheer ecstasy. Holiday on the houseboats, traditional Kettuvallam, are an out-of-this-world experience. Furthermore Vembanad Lake is home to several types of marine life exclusively the Karimeen (Pearl Spotted Fish), Chemeen (Prawns) & Konju (Tiger Prawns). **Overnight Hotel - Kumarakom**

Day 14 : Kumarakom – Houseboat (BLD)
Today at 12 noon check in to a traditional Kerala style Houseboat and Cruise through the back waters is the fabulous way to explore the fascinating beauty of the backwaters. **Overnight Houseboat**

Day 15 : Quilon (Kollam) (B)
Today we disembark & proceed to **Quilon** is the centre of country's cashew trading and processing industry, one of the oldest ports of Malabar coast. 30% of the of this historic place is covered by Ashatamudi Lake. Over night at a beautiful resort in the side of this beautiful lake, **Overnight Hotel - Quilon**

Day 16 : Quilon (Kollam) – Kettukaazcha (B)
Today after breakfast go for visit **Amrithakala Gurukulam** which is an institution for Indian traditional arts, crafts and languages. Where you can see some classical art forms, village crafts, pottery making, wood caring etc.
Overnight Hotel - Kettukaazcha

Day 17 : Kettukaazcha - Kovalam Beach (B)
Today we drive to **Kovalam**, an internationally renowned beach with three adjacent crescent beaches. It has been a favorite haunt of tourists, especially Europeans, since the 1930s. A massive rocky promontory on the beach has created a beautiful bay of calm waters ideal for sea bathing. The leisure options at this beach are plenty and diverse-sunbathing, swimming, herbal body toning massages, special cultural programs, Catamaran cruising, etc. The tropical sun acts so fast that one can see the faint blush of coppery tan on the skin in a matter of minutes. Life on the beach begins late in the day and carries on well into the night. **Overnight Hotel – Kovalam**

Day 18 : Kovalam (B)
Day at Leisure **Overnight Hotel - Kovalam**

Day 19 : Excursion to Kanayakumari (100 kms one way)**(B)**

Today we take excursion to Kanyakumari Temple: The temple overlooks the shoreline. It is dedicated to Parvati as Devi Kanya, the Virgin Goddess who did penance to obtain the hand of Lord Shiva. The deity, Devi Kanyakumari is 'the protector of India's shores' has an exceptionally brilliant diamond on her nose ring which is supposed to shine out to sea. Also visit **Vivekananda Memorial**, about 500 meters away from mainland. This memorial stands on one of two rocks separated by about 70 meters. It was built in the year 1970, memorial is dedicated to Swami Vivekananda, the greatest social reformer. He was supposed to have meditated on the rock where the memorial stands today. A meditation hall is also attached with the memorial. It houses a statue of Vivekananda. The divine foot print 'Pada Parai' of Devi is also seen here. Ferry service is available to reach the memorial. **Overnight Hotel – Kovalam**

Day 20 : Excursion to Trivandrum**(B)**

Today we take an **excursion to Trivandrum**, an ancient city with traditions dating back to 1000 BC. It was a trading post for spices like the rest of ancient Kerala. However the ancient political & cultural history of the city was almost entirely independent from that of the rest of Kerala. The early rulers of the city were the Ays. With their fall in the 10th century, the city was taken over by the rulers of Venad. Thiru-v-anantha-puram is a three syllable name meaning the abode of the sacred Snake God 'Anantha'. Lord Vishnu of the ancient Indian mythology rests on this huge serpent. Here we visit the **Padmanabha Swami Temple**, dedicated to Lord Vishnu and held sacred by the Hindus since ages. The temple has a large complex with a huge Gopuram. It has a tank besides it for ritual bathing. Next we visit the Museum, situated north of the city. It displays an eclectic assortment of historical & contemporary ornaments, temple carts, ivory carvings & life-size figures of Kathakali dancers in full costume. It has a famous collection of 8th-18th century south Indian bronze artifacts. Also visit **Sri Chittira Art Gallery**, an excellent collection of Indian art with examples from early to modern schools. Paintings by Raja Ravi Varma and works from Mughal & Rajput miniature paintings & Tanjore paintings embellished with semi-precious stones are displayed here. **Overnight Hotel – Kovalam**

Day 21 : Departure – Cochin Airport**(B)**

Today we will transfer you to Cochin airport to board flight for onward Journey.