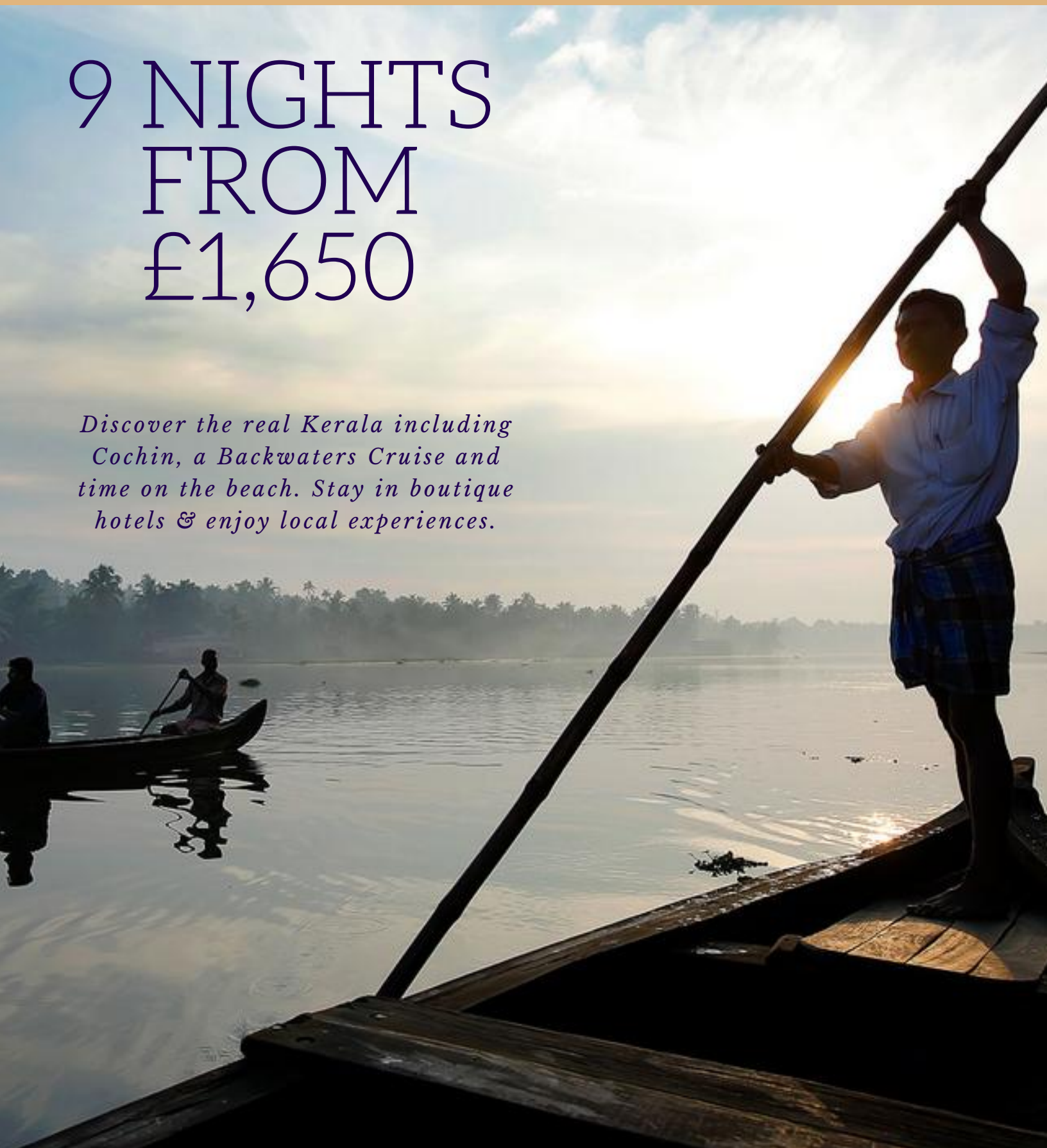


# UNIQUE KERALA

9 NIGHTS  
FROM  
£1,650

*Discover the real Kerala including  
Cochin, a Backwaters Cruise and  
time on the beach. Stay in boutique  
hotels & enjoy local experiences.*



This 9 night Kerala holiday offers a genuine insight into the culture of Kerala and the diversity of one of India's most beautiful states.

Staying in boutique hotels with a local flavour, this Kerala holiday offers a different twist to the standard Kerala tour.

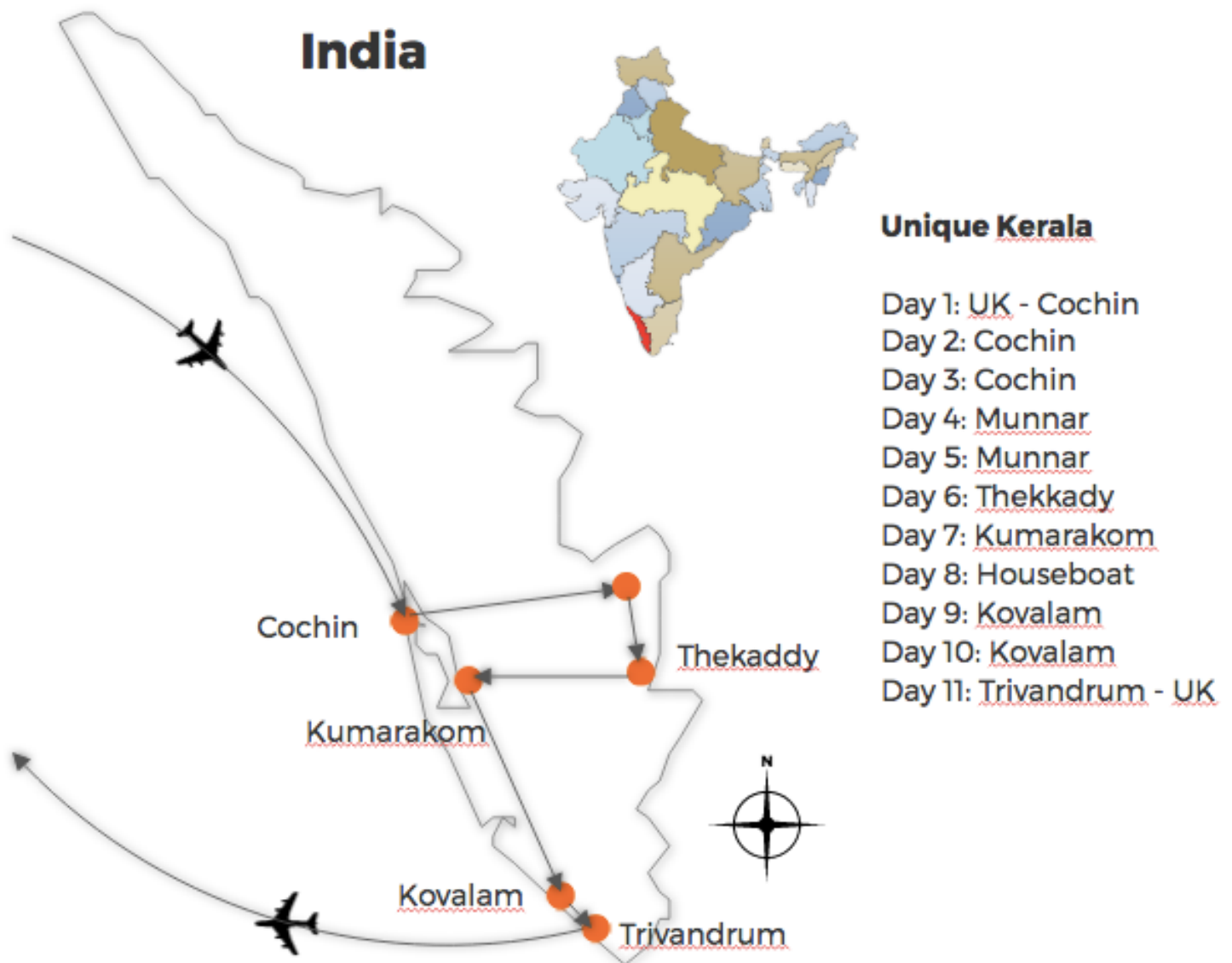
Begin in Cochin and see the best of this charming destination, with a Kerallan

cooking demo at Nimmy's Residence.

From Cochin head to the hill station of Munnar and stay in a Plantation residence and experience life in the Kerallan hills.

Visit Lake Periyar in search of local wildlife on a boat cruise and stay at Philipkutty's Farmhouse in the backwaters.

An overnight backwaters cruise is included and the trip finishes with 2 nights at a charming boutique hotel in Kovalam.



# UNIQUE KERALA

## Day 1: UK - Cochin

Overnight flight from the UK to Cochin.

## Day 2: Cochin

On arrival at Cochin you will be met and transferred to your boutique hotel with the afternoon at leisure.

In the evening enjoy a sunset motorboat cruise past Cochin's famous Chinese fishing nets.

Overnight: Cochin

Meals: Breakfast included

## Day 3: Cochin

Cochin is one of the most interesting cities in India and has one of the finest natural harbours in the world.

After breakfast, enjoy a half-day sightseeing tour of Cochin covering the Dutch Palace, Jewish Synagogue, Jew Town, St. Francis Church and the Chinese fishing nets.





*Cochin's famous fishing  
nets at sunset.*

Cochin was an important spice trading centre on the west coast of India from the 14th century onward, and maintained a trade network with Arab merchants from the pre-Islamic era...

# UNIQUE KERALA



## Day 3 cont: Cochin

In the afternoon enjoy a cooking demonstration at Nimmy's Residence and in the evening enjoy a spectacular Kathakali dance performance to round off your day of Kerallan culture.

Overnight: Cochin

Meals: Breakfast included

## Day 4: Munnar

After breakfast, drive to Munnar, the most beautiful hill station in the Western Ghats at about 7,600 feet above sea level.

On arrival check into the Windermere Estate. The presence of a planter's family next door ensures excellent hospitality devoid of a 'hotel' atmosphere.

Cardamom is grown in the same protected valley of the Western Ghats of Kerala, where Windermere is located.

The rest of the day is free for relaxation.

Overnight: Munnar

Meals: Breakfast included



# UNIQUE KERALA

## Day 5: Munnar

The Eravikulam National Park in Munnar is known for the presence of Nilgiri Tahr, an endangered species of Ibex.

Once the summer resort of the British, Munnar is most famous for its tea and nearly 55,000 acres of land are covered with tea plantations.

This morning visit Eravikulam National Park, Mattupetty Dam, the scattered villages and a tea factory.

A visit to old Munnar and the local market make for an interesting excursion.

Overnight: Munnar

Meals: Breakfast included



# UNIQUE KERALA

## Day 6: Thekkady

After breakfast, drive to Periyar, through a chain of hills and spice scented plantations.

Periyar is one of the most well known wildlife sanctuaries in India and is famous for its elephants.

This is the only sanctuary in India where you can view wildlife at close quarters, from the safety of a boat on Periyar Lake.

On arrival check in to your chosen hotel.

In the evening enjoy a 2-hour boat cruise on the lake to search for wild animals ashore, before making a short visit to a spice plantation.

We highly recommend a stay at the boutique Hills & Hues in Thekkady.

Overnight: Thekkady

Meals: Breakfast included



# UNIQUE KERALA

## Day 7: Kumarakom

After breakfast drive to Kumarakom and check into Philipkutty's Farm House.

Set within the confines of a small, beautiful organic farm island are three traditional, spacious and private villas.

There are plenty of options to enjoy the lush beautiful surroundings including the tranquil backwaters.

The rest of the day is free to relax or to enjoy a short walk around the Farm House.

Philipkutty's Farm is a generous local family's effort to showcase the emerald backwaters and rustic India in its simplest and purest form.

Overnight: Kumarakom  
Meals: Breakfast included





*Enjoy the best of Kerala on a  
Backwaters Cruise.*

During the cruise, it's possible to stop for a short walk  
through the nearby villages and enjoy local life.  
Meals are served on board.

# UNIQUE KERALA

## Day 8: Backwaters

Enjoy the morning at leisure before departing on a backwater's cruise at midday from Kumarakom to Alleppey.

With the Arabian Sea on the west and a vast network of lakes, lagoons and freshwater rivers criss-crossing it, Alleppey is a district of immense natural beauty.

Referred to as the 'Venice of the East', Kerala's backwater country is also home to diverse animal and bird-life.

Overnight: On Board

Meals: All Meals included



# UNIQUE KERALA

## Day 9: Kovalam

Arrive in Alleppey around 9:30 am and after a relaxing breakfast on board proceed to Kovalam.

En-route, visit the attractions in Trivandrum, a city built over seven hills.

Visit the Padmanabhaswamy Swamy Temple, the Puthen Maliga Museum (Horse Palace), Napier Museum, and the Sree Chitra Art Gallery.

Overnight: Kovalam

Meals: Breakfast included



## Days 10: Kovalam

Enjoy time at leisure in your boutique hotel by the beach in Kovalam.

There are other beach options for this part of the trip and the beach stay can be extended, so just ask us if you prefer to stay in a different beach destination or extend your stay.

Overnight: Kovalam

Meals: Breakfast included



# UNIQUE KERALA

## Day 11: Kerala - UK

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

## Day 12: UK

Arrive back in the UK (or on day 11 depending on flight schedule).



A Journey Into Kerala

# Discover God's Own Country

The state of Kerala in the South west of India on the tropical Malabar coast is one of the most picturesque regions of India offering great Indian Ocean beaches, a sophisticated culture, back-water canals and lakes and traditional plantations growing exotic spices.

Kerala offers a variety of attractions, including serene beaches, tranquil stretches of emerald backwaters, lush hill stations and exotic wildlife.

Waterfalls, sprawling tea plantations and paddy fields, Ayurvedic spa treatments, cultural monuments and an exotic cuisine all add to the delights of a Kerala holiday.

Kerala's history is closely linked with its commerce, which until recently revolved

around the spice trade. Celebrated as the Spice Coast of India, Kerala played host to traders from across the world including Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch, French and the British, almost all of whom have left an imprint on this land in some form or the other.

This Unique Kerala itinerary encompasses relaxing days by the beach, time in historic and atmospheric Fort Cochin, a backwater cruise through Kerala's scenic backwaters and some cultural activities such as the famous Kathakali dance.

This Kerala journey is entirely tailor made, with your own private driver and guide. Things can be adjusted as you wish to suit your budget and interests so just let us know your preferences.

December to February is generally considered the best time of year to visit Kerala, with lower temperatures and generally settled weather. February to May sees high temperatures and humidity. June to September is the main 'monsoon' season with higher rainfall, with the lighter North West monsoon continuing until December.

A visa is required for all UK passport holders travelling to India. These can be obtained easily via an online application. We can assist by providing details.

A holiday to Kerala can easily be combined with a stop in Dubai or an onward trip to Sri Lanka or the Maldives.



Kerala is divided into three geographical regions: Highlands, which slope down from the Western Ghats onto the Midlands of undulating hills and valleys into an unbroken coastline with many picturesque backwaters, interconnected with canals and rivers. The Western Ghats are nowhere more than 120 km from the sea.

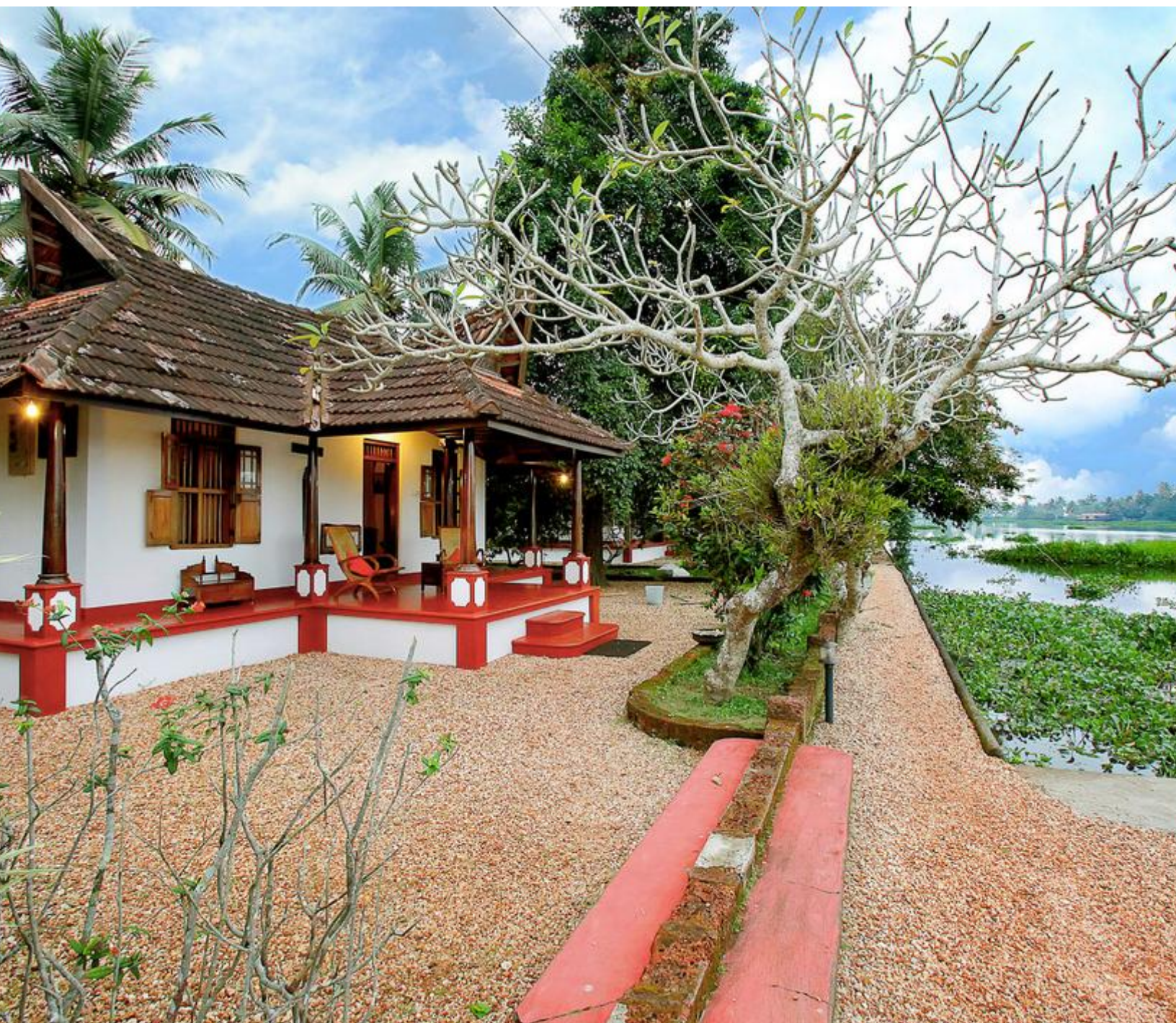
Kerala is one of India's most progressive states in terms of social welfare and quality of life.

Kerala boasts of one of India's highest literacy rates, highest life expectancy and lowest child mortality rates. The literacy rate for women is one of the highest in all of Asia.



Staying at Philipkutty's Farm is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the real Kerala experience in a fascinating location, with a caring family to look after you. It is a really special place, as it provides something different, especially for those who prefer small, friendly places, and it is the perfect hideaway for those looking for an authentic escape.

Privacy is assured, as the waterfront villas are entirely separate from the family residence. All this is set on a beautiful farm island, which was reclaimed from the backwaters of Lake Vembanad in the early 1950's. The working farm, which practices sustainable/organic methods of farming, is two metres below the lake level.



Wake up to the sight of ethereal mist descending gently into the verdant valley or to the chirping of birds floating through the morning sky. Breathe in the fragrance of wild flowers and ripe tropical fruits as you begin your day. Hills and Hues is a boutique hotel about 4 km from Thekkady, nestled on the edge of a mountain, on a pristine stretch of forest.

A stay here is the perfect way to wind down, experience the best of nature and enjoy the charming hilltop accommodation. Enjoy a daily nature walk at 3 pm if you feel active or head off on a self-guided walk using the guided leaflet available at reception. One night is included but this can easily be extended if you prefer.



Xandari Pearl may just be the beach hideaway you have been dreaming about. White sands, waves, coconut trees, breeze - a sanctuary of private villas and delicious fresh local cuisine.

Simplicity is the theme at Xandari Pearl on Mararikulam Beach, rated one of the top five “Hammock Beaches” in the world by National Geographic.

Here at this ‘secret’ locale, simplicity is the perfect setting.

Homes have been set back from the beach in Marari for many generations. It was never crowded and Xandari's 18 acres feature just 20 villas offering rejuvenation, privacy, simplicity and comfort.



# EXTEND YOUR TRIP



THE CULTURAL TRIANGLE

## ADD ON SRI LANKA

---

4 nights from  
£465 pp

Add on a short extension to Sri Lanka and discover the ancient Sri Lankan capitals of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Sigiriya.

It's just a short flight from Kerala down to Sri Lanka. Spend 4 nights in Sigiriya and climb the famous rock fortress, tour the ancient capitals and visit the rock carved temple of Dambulla.

Further extensions in Sri Lanka are available if you want to head to the Hill Country or to Kandy, the cultural capital of Sri Lanka.

Accommodation options are in keeping with the style and concept of the Unique Kerala journey.

# EXTEND YOUR TRIP



INDIAN OCEAN EXTENSION

## ADD ON THE MALDIVES

---

3 nights from  
£445 pp

With its coral fringed lagoons and palm fringed white sand beaches, like so many specks of turquoise, green and white in the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean, The Maldives offers the blue print for a romantic beach holiday.

A Maldives extension to this Kerala trip can offer the ultimate in barefoot luxury, a romantic boutique hideaway or a luxury over-water villa, with the turquoise lagoon as your own private pool.

The Maldives makes a simple and very attractive add-on to this Kerala holiday - just ask us how.

# DATES & PRICES

## Travel Dates Guide Price

Oct - Mar:	from £1,865 pp
Apr - Jun:	from £1,785 pp
Jul - Sep:	from £1,650 pp

Call us Today

0333 7000 747

9 - 6 Mon - Sat



Please contact us for confirmed prices as prices are all subject to change, dates and availability. Remember that all of our India Holidays can be tailored to suit your interests and dates.

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