

Hills of Kerala

03 Nights/04 Days
Munnar -2, Cochin -1

Day 1

COCHIN - MUNNAR (135 Kms/04 Hrs)



Arrive Cochin, transfer to Munnar, en-route visit **Kodanad Elephant Orphanage**. Located 85 kms/ approx 1 hrs 30 min away from Kochi, Kodanad is set on the southern banks of the Lake Periyar and amid the beautiful high ranges. It is an interesting place where about in total 11 elephants are taken care off.

Arrive Munnar by afternoon and check in at your hotel.

Munnar is surrounded by about 30 tea estates, amongst the highest in the world and a forest that is still rich in wildlife. The luxuriant forest is hung with pepper vines and the hills around Munnar are covered with the rare Neelakurunji plant which flowers only once in every 12 years.

Later enjoy an orientation tour of the city. Drive past the local fruit and vegetable market where people throng daily for fruits, vegetables and other household goods. Visit the **tea museum** where you can witness the process of making Tea. Culminate the tour with a visit to a beautiful local church. Overnight stay.

Day 2

MUNNAR (Local Sightseeing 50 Kms)



After breakfast, witness a fun activity of elephants the mahouts take the elephants to nearby river body to give them a bath. The mahouts scrubbed their bodies with outer part of the Coconut. As Elephants are fond of water, they enjoy this exercise really well.

Note: This activity is done in morning only (0730 - 0930 hrs) as afterwards the Elephants are taken on their normal routine work.

Later visit **Eravikulam National Park** is 15 kms from Munnar and has an area of 97 km². The park is located along the Western Ghats and has the largest viable population of the Nilgiri Tahr. The park also has other animals such as Nilgiri marten, ruddy mongoose, small clawed otter, dusky striped squirrel, Sambar Deer, Golden Jackal, Wild Dog, Indian Porcupine, Funambulus etc. There are many species of birds too such as Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, White Bellied Short wing, Black-and-orange Flycatcher etc.

Day 3

MUNNAR –COCHIN (135 Kms/04 Hours+Local SS 25 Kms)



After breakfast, checkout and drive back to Cochin, Check-in at Hotel. After Lunch, explore **Cochin** - We visit '**The Jewish Synagogue**' at the heart of what is locally called the Jew Town, '**The St. Francis Church**', the oldest European Church in India, '**The Santa Cruz Basilica**' originally built in 1557 by the Portuguese, '**The Dutch Palace, Spice market**' at the narrow streets and the '**Chinese fishing nets**' are huge cantilevered fishing nets believed to have brought to Kochi by Chinese traders. **(Please note: Jewish synagogue & Dutch palace are closed on Friday & Saturday).**

Evening visit the famous dance drama of Kerala, the "**Kathakali**" This dance can be characterized by grotesque gesticulations, amazing costumes and very extensive make-up. The stories are mostly taken from the epics Mahabharatha and Ramayana. Back to hotel. Overnight stay.

Day 4

COCHIN (DEPARTURE) 20 Kms/45 Mins)



After Breakfast, checkout and drop at Airport or Rly. Station to take a flight or train to your onward destination.