

Events & Sports

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS



FORT KOCHI
QUEEN OF THE ARABIAN SEA



ALAPPUZHA
VENICE OF THE EAST



HOUSEBOAT CRUISE
SERENE BACKWATERS

Journey to Alappuzha for the Nehru Trophy Boat Race



Kerala, the God's Own Country is a perfect place for any experience seeker! Nature, places, traditions, food, folklores, events have some uniqueness to mesmerise the visitors.

Enjoy the thrilling Snake Boat Races amidst the serene backwaters of Alappuzha

On every second Saturday of the month of August, the world gathers at Punnamada Lake to witness the enthralling race of boats shaped like snakes in the Punnamada Lake near Alappuzha. The race is named after Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who during his visit to Alleppey experienced the thrill of travelling by these snake boats. Honouring the spirit of these boatmen he initiated this competition by donating a Silver Trophy, a replica of a snake boat placed on a wooden abacus. The trophy reads

"To the winners of the boat race which is a unique feature of community life in Travancore-Cochin."

Initially, the trophy was called the Prime Minister's trophy. However, it was renamed as Nehru Trophy in 1969.

These wooden snake boats making is unique to Kerala since the 13th century. It is believed that King Devanarayana of Chembaksarry commissioned the making of these boats to be used for war purpose. These boats making has their own significance in the history and culture of Kerala. Vallam Kalli, the traditional boat festivals have been a part of the culture of Kerala for ages. Along with Nehru Trophy, various vallam kalli- the boat races are organised in the nearby villages of Alleppey.

Various folk songs and rituals have been associated with these boat races. The Church, as well as the Temple, have a special role to play. Experience this event which will captivate you with its rhythm, colours and the glory.

Day 1 – Fort Kochi & Meet the locals

Pick up from Kochi Airport at 10 AM. Freshen up and visit Fort Kochi. During our small trail at the fort we shall visit the St. Francis Xavier Church where once upon a time Vasco Da Gama- the explorer was buried until his body was shifted to Lisbon, Portugal. We will also visit the Paradesi Synagogue, Santa Cruz Basilica and other smaller structures on the fort while we walk through the old vintage lanes. Chinese Fishing Nets at the fort are not to be missed too.

Post lunch we will proceed to Alappuzha village to meet the villagers who participate in these boat races, for a unique opportunity to understand and experience the life in Kerala. Night halt at a 3-star hotel in Alappuzha.

Meals for the day: Lunch and Dinner

Serene backwaters and the heritage of Fort Kochi



Glimpses of the serene backwaters around Alappuzha, the Venice of the East. A look at the unique culture, history & heritage of Fort Kochi with its Jewish settlement, Synagogue and a one-of-its kind Pepper Exchange.

Tip: Ensure you're prepared for walking around in both Fort Kochi as well as the village we will visit

Day 2 – The thrill of the races

Freshen up, have breakfast and go for a small beach walk at Alappuzha. Proceed towards boat race point. Be seated on the island reserved for VIP tickets by around 1pm. Lunch parcels will be served. Experience one of the finest traditional sports competition - Nehru Trophy Snake Boat Race.

After the event which usually ends up late in the evening go back to the Hotel. Freshen up. Retire for the day. Night halt at a 3-star hotel in Alappuzha

Meals for the day: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tip: Come prepared to enjoy an adrenaline filled race day and support the all the teams!

Day 3 – Relax on the houseboat

Our last day on the tour. After an early morning breakfast check into a houseboat for a day cruise. Enjoy the scenic beauty of backwaters of Kerala from your cruise. Relish the traditionally cooked dishes like Karimeen cooked personally for you on the houseboat for lunch.

Post lunch the houseboat will drop us back in Alappuzha and we will leave back towards Kochi and the drop point. If we have time on hand we may even go shopping.

Meals for the day: Breakfast and Lunch

Tip: Relax on the houseboat and take in the natural beauty and serenity of the backwaters of Kerala and enjoy the mouthwatering food prepared for you.

Logistics



Duration: 3 Days, 2 Nights

Departure from: Kochi

Exact Departure location:
Cochin International Airport,
Kochi

Departure time: 1000 hrs

Drop location: Cochin
International Airport, Kochi

Estimated Drop time:
Around 1800 hrs.



Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions

- Transport from and to the departure point
- Stay at a three-star hotel or resort on twin-sharing basis
- Meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) on every day. Breakfast and dinner would typically be at the hotel of stay and lunch at a restaurant/hotel chosen by the tour management.
- Entry fees for the monuments/attractions listed in the itinerary (for Indian nationals only; foreign nationals will need to pay separately at some monuments)
- A guide with good knowledge of the attractions and comfortable with English, Hindi and the local language of the destination

Exclusions

- Photography and videography charges (need to be paid separately)
- Additional refreshments like small eats, drinks
- Any other aspect not mentioned in inclusions

Payment & Cancellation Policy

- Full payment to be made upfront
- A full refund will be made if the tour is cancelled by the organisers.
- A 50% refund will be made if the customer cancels the tour up to 20 days before the departure date.

Things to Note

- The tour will involve enough walking outdoors in the day. Please ensure you carry your caps and sunglasses. Keep a bottle of water ready for you always to beat the heat.
- Given the walking, we will be doing, ensure you get a good pair of walking shoes that you're comfortable with, for the tour.
- If you need things like medication, keep it handy and ensure you bring it along with yourselves. Do not depend on being able to buy such locally.
- If you have any allergies, be sure to check explicitly on the food that will be served to you.
- Please ensure you have enough cash for miscellaneous expenses you may incur. Do not depend on ATMs etc. locally to provide for this.
- The tour will start early morning on the day¹. So, if you're not from the city where the tour begins from, it is best if you plan your arrival one day prior at least.