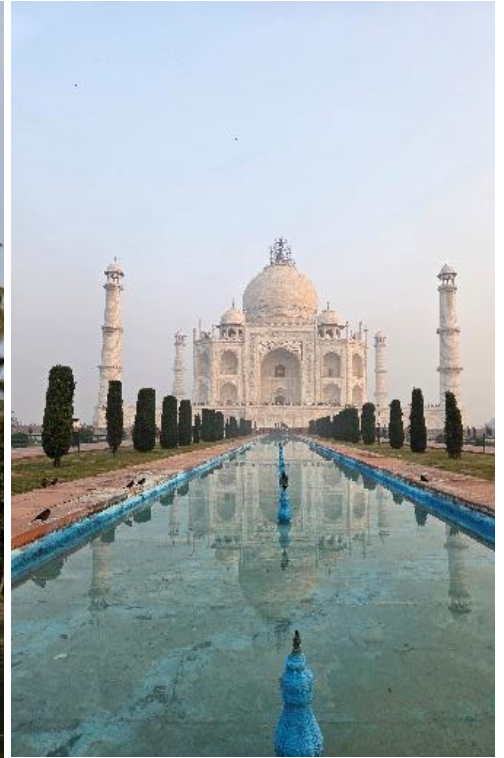


INDIA: COLOURS, TEA HILLS & WATERWAYS

15-Day / 14-Night **GUIDED** Active Holiday from the Taj Mahal in the North to Kerala in the South



India is a land of rich culture, colourful cities, varied landscapes, and warm hospitality. Discover ancient temples, grand forts, bustling markets, and quiet countryside, where history, tradition, and daily life come together to create a fascinating travel experience full of colour, flavour, and local charm.

This journey brings together India's famous landmarks with authentic experiences across the north and south of the country. Explore Delhi, Jaipur, Agra, and the Taj Mahal, then journey south to Kerala, where lush tea plantations, spice gardens, tropical villages, tranquil lagoons and palm-fringed beaches reveal a completely different side of India. Along the way, cycling takes you beyond the main sights and into rural landscapes and local communities, offering a more personal perspective on India's diverse culture and way of life. From the bustling streets of Delhi to the waterways of Kerala, each day offers a different landscape, local flavour, and opportunity to discover India, both on and off the bike.

Enjoy a journey of great variety, with moderate cycling, guided walks and houseboat cruises. Stay in comfortable hotels and spend three nights aboard a traditional Kerala houseboat.

Departures: 21 November 2026
13 & 27 February 2027

Cost From: \$7,740 per person twin share
Upgrade to E-Bike \$640

Includes: 14 nights' accommodation (3 nights aboard the boat, 11 nights in comfortable hotels); 14 x breakfast, 2 x lunch, 14 x dinner; Bike Hire with helmet; English speaking guides; Guided cycling & walking tours; City tours; Entrances to National Parks & attractions; Train journey Agra to Delhi, on Day 6; Domestic flight Delhi to Kochi, on Day 7 (25kg + 7kg luggage allowance); Transfers from and to the airport on arrival and departure; Local taxes.

Not Included: Flights to Delhi airport and from Kochi airport; Meals not mentioned; Drinks; Personal expenses; Gratuities; Camera fees payable at the monuments.

Tour Grading: Moderate - Mostly flat rides (14 to 45 km daily) on quiet country roads, gravel tracks, and village lanes, with gentle climbs (80 to 400 m). Expect mixed road surfaces, light local traffic, and minimal bike lanes. An early-morning ride through Old Delhi requires extra attention but is manageable with cautious cycling.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 03 5750 1441 for details or reservations

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Delhi – Arrival

Welcome to Delhi! Our local team will meet you at the airport and assist with your transfer to the hotel. After some time to settle in, meet your fellow travellers and begin your journey in India's vibrant capital city.

Day 2: Delhi – Jaipur

After breakfast, depart Delhi and transfer to Jaipur, the famous Pink City of Rajasthan. On arrival, stop at Jal Mahal, a palace set in the middle of Man Sagar Lake, and well worth a photo. Then visit a local textile workshop to learn about traditional block printing and Rajasthan's rich artisan traditions and craftsmanship. Afterwards, head to the hotel and settle in for the evening.

Day 3: Jaipur

Today, explore Jaipur's royal heritage, beginning with a visit to Hawa Mahal, or the Palace of Winds, known for its distinctive pink sandstone façade and delicate lattice windows, which once allowed royal women to observe the busy streets below. Then continue to the Amber Fort, set on a hill overlooking the surrounding landscape. Explore its grand courtyards, ornate gateways, and the Sheesh Mahal, or Hall of Mirrors, decorated with intricate mirror work. Our final visit is to the City Palace, a fascinating complex of gardens and historic buildings that remains closely connected to Jaipur's former royal family. Later in the afternoon, enjoy some free time to explore Jaipur's colourful local markets, discover traditional handicrafts, and experience the lively atmosphere of the Pink City.

Day 4: Jaipur – Bharatpur

cycling @ 10 km

After breakfast, travel towards Bharatpur, with a stop in the village of Abhaneri to visit Chand Baori, one of India's most impressive ancient stepwells. Built with hundreds of perfectly aligned steps descending into the earth, it is a striking example of traditional Indian architecture and engineering. After arriving in Bharatpur, head out in the afternoon for our first bike ride in the Keoladeo National Park. This UNESCO-listed nature reserve is known for its wetlands, woodland, and exceptional birdlife. Cycle along the park's paths, passing water channels, signature trees and scenic landscapes while keeping an eye out for the many animal species that call the sanctuary home.

Day 5: Bharatpur – Agra

Cycling @ 30 km

Today, ride through the rural landscapes around Bharatpur, following country roads past farmland, small villages, and traditional homes, getting a glimpse into the everyday activity and agricultural life of northern India. Later, visit Fatehpur Sikri, the historic Mughal city built in the 16th century by Emperor Akbar. Explore its impressive red sandstone buildings, courtyards, gateways, and the striking Jama Masjid - Friday Mosque - before continuing to Agra. In the late afternoon, head to Mehtab Bagh, the historic garden on the opposite bank of the Yamuna River, from where we enjoy a different perspective of the Taj Mahal, as the changing light of sunset falls across the monument and its gardens.

Day 6: Agra – Delhi

Today, start early with a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal, Agra's famous white-marble monument built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Explore the surrounding gardens and the intricate marble detailing and symmetrical design as the morning light changes across the monument.

After breakfast, we return to Delhi by train. In the afternoon, we explore Old Delhi, the historic heart of the capital, walking through its lively markets and narrow streets, with stops to see historic buildings, local shops, and traditional markets.



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Day 7: Delhi – Kochi

Today, we fly from Delhi to Kochi, Kerala's historic coastal city on the Arabian Sea. After arriving, spend the afternoon exploring Fort Kochi, a historic neighbourhood known for its rich mix of Indian and European influences. Visit the famous Chinese fishing nets, large fixed shore installations traditionally used by local fishermen, before continuing to the historic Synagogue, and learning about Kochi's long-standing Jewish heritage. We also visit St. Francis Church, one of India's oldest European-built churches, originally constructed by the Portuguese in the early 16th century.

Day 8: Kochi – Munnar

Cycling @ 20 - 25 km

Today, begin cycling in the countryside around Kochi, following canal roads and back lanes through Kerala's lush lowlands. Along the way, pass rubber plantations, pineapple fields, and small villages, giving a glimpse into the agriculture and everyday life of the region. After lunch, leave your bike behind and transfer by road towards Munnar, climbing into the Western Ghats, a mountain range known for its forests, rolling hills, waterfalls, and rich wildlife. As we gain altitude, the scenery gradually changes from tropical lowlands to cooler mountain landscapes, with vast tea plantations covering the slopes. By late afternoon, arrive in Munnar, a hill station surrounded by some of Kerala's most famous tea-growing areas, and home to our hotel for the next two nights.

Day 9: Munnar

Cycling @ 30 - 40 km

Today, cycle through the mountain scenery around Munnar, beginning along Lockhart Road before continuing through rolling tea-covered hills and the scenic Pallisaval Valley. The route includes a mix of gentle climbs and descents, with wide views across the Western Ghats and the surrounding highland landscape. After the ride, continue exploring the region with a visit to a tea plantation, to learn more about Kerala's tea-growing traditions and production. Visit a local spice museum for an introduction to the spices for which the region is well known, followed by visits to local temples that reflect Kerala's distinctive religious and cultural heritage.

Day 10: Munnar – Thekkady

Cycling @ 40 - 50 km

After an early breakfast, today's ride winds once again through Kerala's mountain scenery of rolling tea plantations and forested hills. The first stop of the day is Anayirangal Reservoir, created in the 1960s as part of a hydroelectric project. Surrounded by tea-covered hills and forest, the reservoir is an important part of the region's water and power network. After lunch, transfer to Thekkady, with a visit to a spice plantation near Kumily, offering another insight into Kerala's long-standing spice-growing traditions. In the evening, you have the opportunity to attend a traditional Kalaripayattu performance. Often described as one of the world's oldest martial arts, Kalaripayattu originated in Kerala and combines physical training, martial techniques, agility and disciplined movement.

Day 11: Thekkady – Alleppey

Cycling @ 20 km

Cycle through Kerala's countryside, past coconut palm groves, rice fields, villages and narrow waterways. After the ride, a three-hour transfer brings us to Alleppey in the heart of Kerala's famous backwaters. Known as the "Venice of the East", Alleppey is one of the region's main centres for exploring the waterways and traditional village life that have shaped this part of Kerala. Board a traditional houseboat, which will be the accommodation for the next three nights and begin cruising through a network of canals, lagoons and backwaters. Along the way, pass small villages and experience the rhythm of everyday life, surrounded by tropical landscapes and waterways.

Day 12: Ramankary – Kumarakom

Cycling @ 28 km

Today, we recommend rising early, as sunrise from the houseboat deck can be impressive. After breakfast, cycle through the heart of Kerala's backwaters, following small roads beside canals, rice fields and palm trees. Along the way, meet local people and visit one of the region's historic churches, known for its distinctive architecture and importance to Kerala's Christian heritage. After a tea stop, continue to Ambalapuzha Temple, an important Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Krishna and renowned for its traditional Kerala architecture and religious significance. After the ride, return to the houseboat for lunch on board, before cruising through the backwaters during the afternoon. As the houseboat stops for the night, there will be time to stretch your legs with a walk around the local area before dinner.



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Day 13: Kumarakom – Nazrath Church

Cycling @ 40 km

This morning, continue cycling through the Kerala backwaters countryside before heading further inland, with a few gentle climbs adding a change of pace to the ride. The route takes us through lush tropical surroundings and quieter landscapes as we gradually move away from the waterways. During the ride, stop for a scenic picnic before continuing to reach the houseboat. Once back on board, there is time for a coffee or tea while cruising towards the last anchorage. Once moored, there is the chance to take a walk around or simply enjoy the changing colours of the sunset from the water.

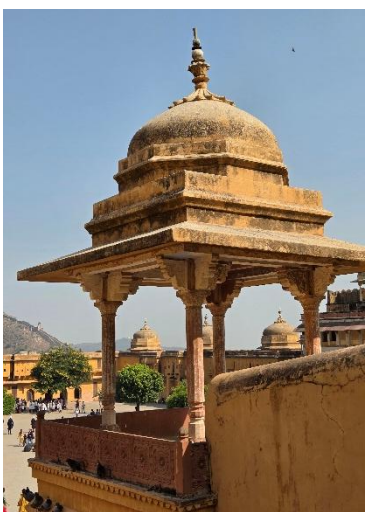
Day 14: Alleppey – Mararikulam

Cycling @ 25 km

After breakfast, it is time to disembark the houseboat and enjoy a final ride through Kerala's coastal villages and backwater areas. Along the way, stop at Alleppey Beach, a popular stretch of coastline with golden sands, Arabian Sea views and lively local vibe, before continuing towards Marari Beach, set along a traditional fishing village and known for its peaceful atmosphere. We spend the night in a resort in Mararikulam, the coastal area surrounding Marari Beach, with free time to enjoy the location. You may choose to relax on the beach or perhaps take an introduction to Ayurveda, Kerala's traditional system of wellness, with natural therapies and treatments designed to promote relaxation and overall well-being.

Day 15: Mararikulam – Kochi / Departure

To make the most of our final morning, we will rise early for a visit to a nearby fishing village by tuk-tuk. At sunrise, we can watch the fishermen return with their catch and see the morning fish market in action. Then head back to the resort for breakfast, before a leisurely morning. Around midday, transfer to Kochi Airport for your onward journey home.



Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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