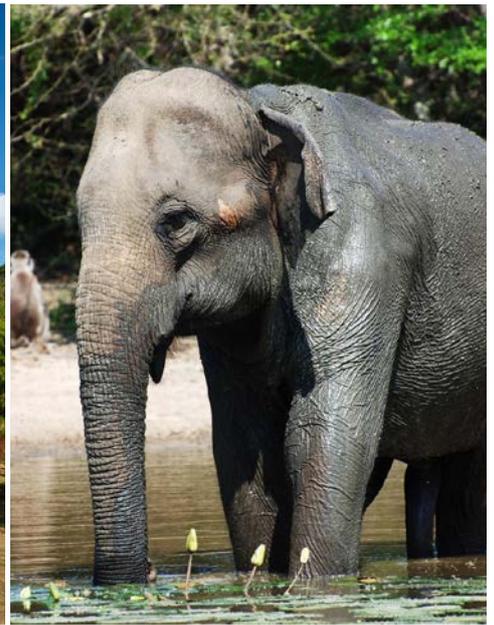


JEWELS OF SRI LANKA



TRIP OVERVIEW

Your 9 day, 7 night tour allows you to experience the beauty of Sri Lanka, exploring the delights of Dambulla, Sigiriya Rock and the colonial cities of Kandy and Galle. Visit ancient temples of past civilisations, wonder at the beautiful botanical gardens in Peradeniya, meet the elephants at the Pinnawala Orphanage and take a safari through Yala National Park.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Sri Lanka. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Colombo

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Colombo International Airport.

DAY 2: Colombo to Dambulla D

On arrival you will be met by your local guide and transferred to Dambulla, which will take approximately 4 hours. The rest of your evening at leisure.

DAY 3: Dambulla B/L/D

Depart in the morning to explore the stunning Sigiriya Rock Fortress, a World Heritage Site dating back to the 5th century AD. Also known as the 'Lion Rock', it is a citadel of unusual beauty rising 200 metres from the jungle. Following lunch continue on to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa which was once a royal capital of the Sinhalese kingdom and is over 1000 years old. It was chosen as the capital as it was advantageously positioned to safeguard against possible attacks from the southeast, as well as supposedly having fewer mosquitoes! Here you can admire the ruins of the Royal Palace and wander round the Gal Vihare, famous for its splendid carved Buddha statues.

Please note: photography is prohibited in parts of the Sigiriya Rock Fortress. Prohibited areas will be clearly sign-posted.

DAY 4: Dambulla to Kandy B/L/D

After breakfast visit the Dambulla Rock Temple, where the impressive caves contain over 2000sq metres of painted walls and ceilings which were once gilded by the ancient King to mark his place of worship. You will then travel to Kandy en route visiting a spice garden followed by lunch and check in at your hotel. Continue to the famous Temple of Tooth Relic in the afternoon – Sri Lanka's most important Buddhist relic and one of the holiest shrines in the Buddhist world.

DAY 5: Kandy B/L/D

Today you will travel to the beautiful botanical gardens in Peradeniya, boasting more than 4,000 species of trees, plants, orchids and creepers. Next a highlight of this tour is a trip to the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, established in 1975 to care for abandoned and wounded elephants. Witness these magnificent creatures in close quarters and see elephants being fed, bathed and trained by the wildlife authorities. This evening enjoy a city tour of Kandy, including the bazaar and arts and crafts centre and a gem museum. Kandy was the last capital of the ancient kings and after defending themselves for over three centuries from the Dutch and Portuguese it finally fell to the hands of the British in 1815.

DAY 6: Kandy to Yala B/L/D

Leave Kandy for Nuwara Eliya en route visiting a tea plantation/factory. On arrival in Nuwara Eliya participate in a short walking tour of the town. Your journey continues through Sri Lanka's striking scenery with lunch on the way to your hotel near Yala.

DAY 7: Yala B/L/D

The morning is at leisure before your exciting jeep safari around the magnificent Yala National Game Park, the largest national park in Sri Lanka with a unique ocean front setting. The park is home to elephants, wild boars, buffaloes, bears, deer and crocodiles as well as a number of migratory and indigenous birds. You may even spot a leopard!

DAY 8: Yala to Mount Lavinia B/L/D

Following breakfast, you will arrive in Galle, once the chief port of Ceylon and the centre of the Dutch regime in the 17th century. A city tour lets you discover the majestic Galle Fort and the surrounding historic buildings which reflect the Dutch heritage which once reined the country. Travel north for your final night at the world famous Mount Lavinia Hotel. This 200 year old hotel was once the Governor's Residence when Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) was under British rule.

DAY 9: Colombo to the UK or Extension B

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

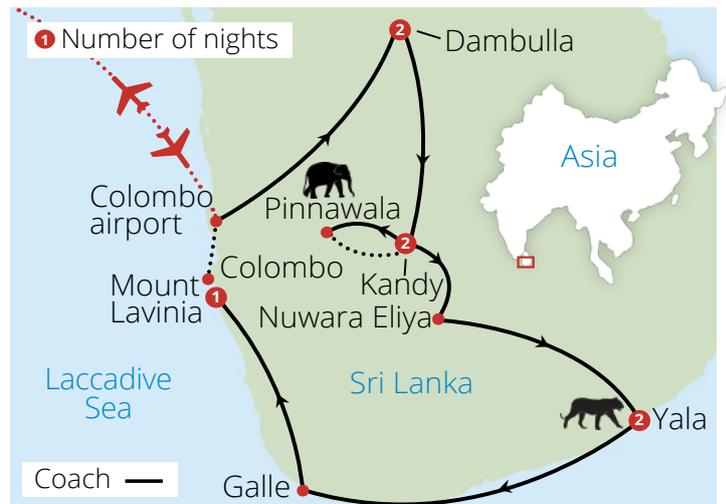
Hotel information

Dambulla (2 nights): 4★ Amaya Lake
Address: Kap Ela, Kandalama Dambulla
Contact number: 0094 114 767 888

Kandy (2 nights): 4★ Amaya Hills
Address: Heerassagala Road, Kandy
Contact number: 0094 81 223 3521

Yala (2 nights): 4★ The Chaarya Resort & Spa
Address: Tissamaharama Rd, Kataragama 91400, Sri Lanka
Contact number: 0094 47 2 237143

Mount Lavina (1 night): 4★ Mount Lavina Hotel
Address: Hotel Road Dehiwala, Mount Lavina
Contact number: 0094 12 143 575 522



Accommodation

All accommodation is 4★ and features an en suite bathroom, heating/air-conditioning, satellite TV and tea/coffee facilities. Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotels detailed are not available alternatives will be used of a similar standard.

Final confirmation of your hotels will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch will be taken in local Sri Lankan restaurants with dinner at your hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours. Drinks are not included. **Please note: Please take cash for drinks in the hotels as cards are not always accepted.**

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Colombo you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Aitken Spence**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Aitken Spence representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries. If you need to contact Aitken Spence during your stay the details are:

Aitken Spence Travel (Colombo)
04th Floor
Aitken Spence Towers 02
315, Vauxhall Street
Colombo 02
Sri Lanka
Contact number: 0094 112 499623

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Aitken Spence Travel

Contact	Telephone number
Rizmika	0094 772 916461
Anil	0094 777 270500

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is required for entry into Sri Lanka. We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa for you on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays". The cost of the visa is from £48. The visas take around 10 working days to issue and are only valid for 3 months from the date of issue. We therefore recommend that you apply for your visa 8 weeks before travel, however please be aware that your passport will be required for the application so make sure that you will not need it during this time. Alternatively you can visit The High Commission of Sri Lanka at 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London, W2 2LU.

Please note: If you have chosen to add the 'Kerala Beach Stay' or 'Highlights of Kerala' extension to the end of your tour, you will need to obtain an Indian visa prior to your UK departure. The Travel Visa Company offers a service which takes can take up to 15 working days at busy times. The cost is approximately £114. Alternatively you can apply for your own visa. You can apply in person or by post to the Indian Embassy in London: 142-148 Goswell Road, London, EC1V 7DU. There are also regional centres elsewhere in the UK. Full details on the process can be found on the Indian Embassy website www.in.vfsglobal.co.uk.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves full days of sightseeing, often on foot, & includes some climbing of stairs and getting on and off coaches. Please note there are approximately 1300 steps to Sigiriya Rock Fortress. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 30. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 (Minimum Number) people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip. You will also be joined by a local guide in each of the cities which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Tipping

Tipping is customary in Sri Lanka. Tips will be collected by your guide at the end of your tour for your convenience. We would recommend approximately £3-5 per person per day for the driver and assistant and £4 per person per day to the guide. If you do not tip in the local currency, it is asked that you do not give coins as they are difficult to exchange.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Sri Lanka is the Rupee, LKR. The Rupee is a closed currency and officially you are not allowed to take any cash out of Sri Lanka. US Dollars and GBP are also widely accepted in Sri Lanka should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £100 - £200 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day to day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

Please note: Yala Game Park is closed for 30 days from September to October. During this period the safari will be to Udawalawe Game Park which is located approximately 50 miles inland from Yala Safari Park with appropriate accommodation.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Warm clothing and thermals in winter
- Long trousers and a top with sleeves (required when entering any religious sites)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- An electric plug converter - the electricity in Sri Lanka is 230 volts and is a 3 round pin plug or a UK plug
- Loo paper for public WCs
- Binoculars

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to Colombo International Airport with Sri Lankan Airlines (UL), departing from London Heathrow Terminal 3.

IMPORTANT: Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

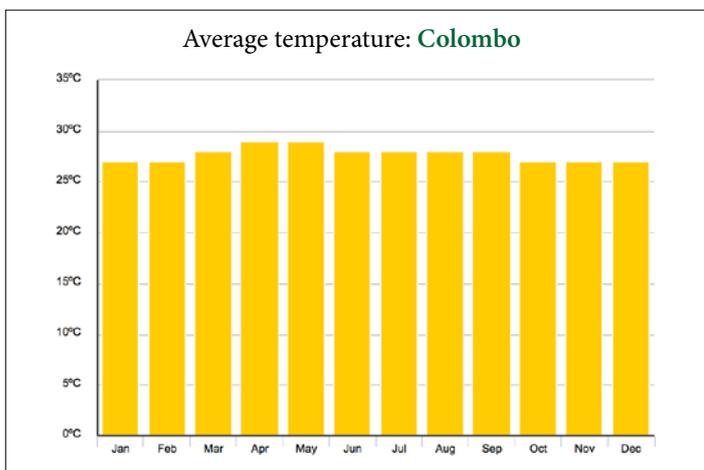
Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 30KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage of 5kg not exceeding 56cm x 36cm x 23cm in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure. If you have booked an optional add on please contact us for more information.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras - Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



SRI LANKA BEACH STAY

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Your extended stay in Sri Lanka, to the wonderful beach resort of Kalutara on the west coast of the country allows you to Indulge in a calming massage or relax by the beach.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your Sri Lanka beach stay extension.

Sri Lanka Beach Stay (4 nights)

Located off the southern tip of India, Sri Lanka's warm charm and vibrant culture will seduce any traveller. The island boasts endless golden beaches, timeless ruins, colourful cuisine and a stunning array of native wildlife.

Hotel Information

On the west coast of Sri Lanka, Kalutara is the ideal place to relax and indulge yourself with a stay at your chosen hotel at the **3★ plus Coral Sands Hotel**, the **4★ The Palms** or the **5★ Royal Palms Beach Hotel**. Your transfers and accommodation are included and your stay will be on a Half Board or All-Inclusive basis. This will have been confirmed at time of booking.

Hotel Information:

3★ plus Coral Sands Hotel - 326, Galle Road, Hikkaduwa 20000, Sri Lanka.
Contact number: 0094 912 277 436

4★ The Palms - 6th Lane, Beruwala 12070, Sri Lanka.
Contact number: 0094 114 334 834

5★ Royal Palms Beach Hotel - De Abrew Road, Waskaduwa, Kalutara.
Contact number: 0094 34 222 8113

If you have booked another hotel, other than those featured above, this will be shown on your invoice.

The hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs and laundry and any meals and snacks where these are not included.

Tour Guides

Your beach stay is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour. Your main tour will end on day 16 if taking this extension.



The Palms



Royal Palms Beach Hotel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0843 224 0723**

HIGHLIGHTS OF KERALA

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Your 5 night, 6 day tour highlights some of the wonders of Kerala. This tour gives an exciting insight into the fascinating culture of this beautiful Indian state.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require during your chosen add-on to Kerala.

Highlights of Kerala Tour (5 nights)

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 9: Colombo to Kochi (Cochin) B

Depart Sri Lanka in the morning for your flight to Kochi, in India's beautiful southern state of Kerala, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

DAY 10: Kochi to Alleppey B

Transfer to Alleppey to board an authentic houseboat, journeying through the scenic backwaters.

DAY 11: Alleppey to Thekkady B

Disembarking your houseboat after breakfast, your tour continues with a drive through the spectacular countryside arriving at the Thekkady Hill Station, home to a stunning wildlife sanctuary.

DAY 12: Thekkady to Kochi (Cochin) B

After an early morning boat ride on Periyar Lake, proceed to Kochi for a city tour.

DAY 13: Kochi (Cochin) to Colombo B

Stay in Wattala, just a short drive from Colombo's city centre for the final night of your extension.

DAY 14: Colombo to the UK B

Depart after breakfast for your return flight to the UK.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Kerala is the Rupee or Rs. US Dollars and GBP are also widely accepted, should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

Tour guides

This add-on to Kerala is fully escorted.

Visas

A visa is required for entry into India. British Citizen Passport Holders will need to obtain an e-Tourist Visa (eTV) for travel to India. We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa on your behalf. Please call

them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays". The cost of the visa is approximately £96 per person. The Travel Visa Company can only apply for this 120 days before your proposed travel date and takes around 10 working days to issue. It is only valid for a 60 day single entry stay from the date of arrival. When calling the Travel Visa Company they will advise you of any changes to the fees or the procedure, they will also advise you of all information they will require in order to apply for the visa.

Hotel Information

Kochi (2 nights): 5★ Hotel Casino - Willingdon Island, Kochi - 682003
0091 484 2864500

Alleppey (1 night): Traditional houseboat

Thekkady (1 night): 4★ Aranya Nivas - Kumily Thekkady Road, Kerala,
Contact number: 0091 486 922 2023

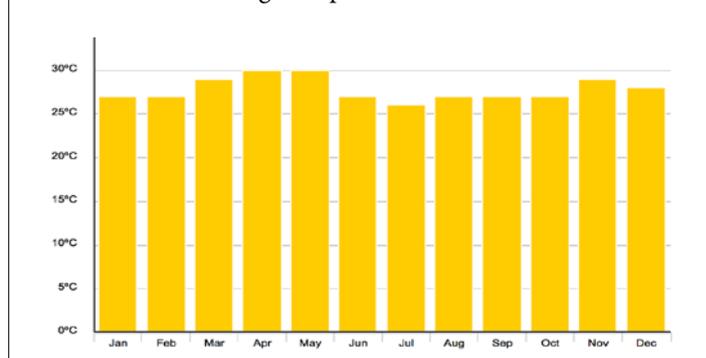
Colombo (1 night): 4★ Pegasus Reef Hotel - Hendala, 11300 Wattala, Sri Lanka
Contact number: 0094 112 930205

Alcoholic drinks

Please note that Kerala has strict laws regarding the governance of the sale of alcohol in public places including hotels and restaurants. The sale and consumption of alcohol is therefore often restricted in hotels, varying from one establishment to another. You may however bring your own alcohol with you for private consumption in your room.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Average temperature: **Cochin**



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0843 224 0723**

MALDIVES BEACH STAY

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Indulge yourself with your fabulous 4 or 7 night extension to the Maldives. Arriving at Male airport you will be transferred to your hotel by speed boat for four nights of pure bliss. Enjoy spectacular views of the bluest seas, whilst you unwind on this island of paradise.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to your Maldives beach stay.

Maldives Beach Stay (4 or 7 nights)

With luxuriously warm seas and powder white beaches, the Maldives are a picture-perfect holiday destination. The island's unspoiled beaches are possibly the best in the world. Shores are fringed by swaying palm trees and sparkling waters with tropical fish, dolphins and five species of sea turtles.

All you need to know

This fabulous extension begins with a speed boat transfer to the 4★ Adaaran Club Rannalhi. Then simply unwind and enjoy the stunning beaches. Your transfers, accommodation and All-Inclusive meals are included.

You will not need to obtain a visa for the Maldives prior to your beach stay extension. You will be granted a free 30 days tourist visa on arrival. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Hotel Information:

4★ Adaaran Club Rannalhi - Rannalhi, South Malé Atoll.
Contact number: 0096 0064 2688

If you have booked another hotel, other than those featured above, this will be shown on your invoice.

Personal Expenses

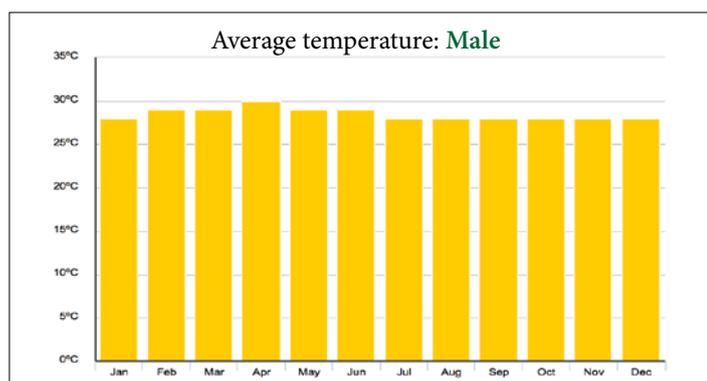
The currency in the Maldives is the Maldivian Rufiya. The Maldivian Rufiya is a closed currency and officially you are not allowed to take any cash out of the Maldives. US Dollars are also widely accepted in these destinations, should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you. You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and items not included in your All-Inclusive package.

Tour Guides

Your beach stay is not escorted by a tour guide and your time will be free to explore the area at your own pace. Representative service will be on telephone contact only due to geographical reasons. If you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:
Emergency number: Nuwan Dissanayaka (Ace Travels Maldives): 00960 7782396
Airport contacts (local agent):
Airport hotline number – 009607920058
Sujeewa – 009607920053
Maadhin - 009609809990

PLEASE NOTE: Alcohol is not allowed on entry to The Maldives. If you have bought liquor, beer or related items containing alcohol from a duty free shop while on route to the Maldives, these products must be bonded in the airport's customs department upon arrival. These goods will be returned before departure.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



Adaaran Club Rannalhi

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on 0843 224 0723

KERALA BEACH STAY

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Your extension to Kerala offers the opportunity to explore the country further and simply unwind on the beautiful beaches.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your beach stay extension in Kerala.

Kerala Beach Stay (4 nights)

Kerala is one of the most fascinating and distinctive states in India, with networks of tropical waterways, hidden villages and an inviting, palm-fringed coastline. Kerala's enchanting culture, warm climate and dramatic landscapes combine to create a relaxing and captivating destination.

Hotel Information

Your stay will take place at the 5★ Uday Samudra Leisure Hotel & Spa on Full Board.

The Uday Samudra Leisure Hotel & Spa is located in the popular resort of Kovalam. Overlooking the sea and only a short walk to Kovalam's popular beaches, this hotel provides excellent guest facilities. Samudra Beach itself offers a selection of restaurants and varied shopping. The busy resort centre of Kovalam is close at hand. Your transfers are included.

Hotel Information:

5★ Uday Samudra Leisure Beach Hotel & Spa - GV Raja Road, Samudra Beach, Kovalam, Contact number: 0091 471 248 1654

If you have booked another hotel, other than the one featured above, this will be shown on your invoice.

The hotel listed is provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs and laundry and any meals and snacks where these are not included.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Kerala is the Rupee or Rs. US Dollars and GBP are also widely accepted, should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Kerala is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

Alcoholic drinks

Please note that Kerala has strict laws regarding the governance of the sale of alcohol in public places including hotels and restaurants. The sale and consumption of alcohol is therefore often restricted in hotels, varying from one establishment to another. You may however bring your own alcohol with you for private consumption in your room.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Visas

A visa is required for entry into India. British Citizen Passport Holders will need to obtain an e-Tourist Visa (eTV) for travel to India. We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays". The cost of the visa is approximately £96 per person. The Travel Visa Company can only apply for this 120 days before your proposed travel date and takes around 10 working days to issue. It is only valid for a 60 day single entry stay from the date of arrival. When calling the Travel Visa Company they will advise you of any changes to the fees or the procedure, they will also advise you of all information they will require in order to apply for the visa.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.

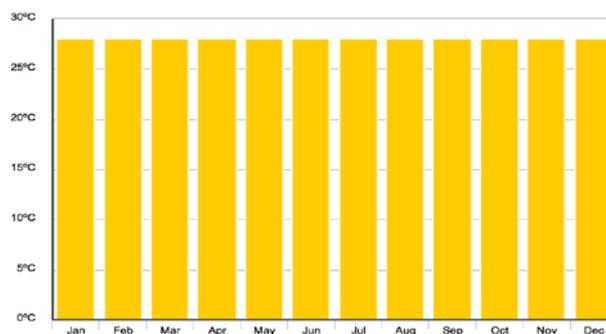
Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details while you are in Kerala; Jayasree Travel and Tours

Contact	Telephone number
Ms Jayasree Vikraman	0091 974 700 5888
Ms Samitha	0091 974 471 3380
Mr Jagdish Nair	0091 956 208 9699
Mr Anil Kumar	0091 984 706 6802
Mrs Prashansa Alkesh	0091 997 148 8995

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Average temperature: Kovalam



For any further enquiries or for more information call us on 0843 224 0723