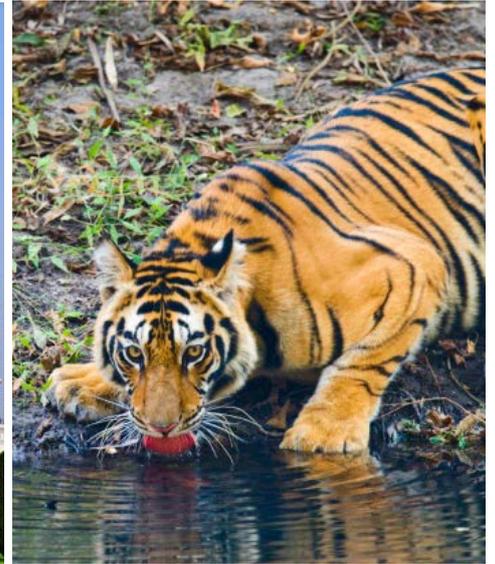
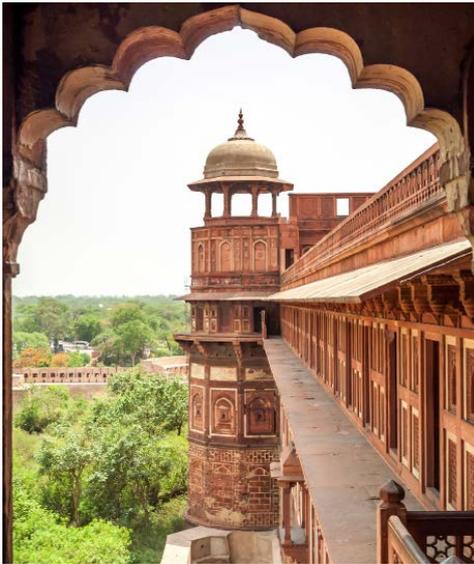


## ESSENCE OF NORTH INDIA



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Travelling from Delhi to Agra, then Jaipur, this 10 day, 8 night tour of the Golden Triangle and the exotic Ranthambore National Park takes you through India's most famous sights. Ride a rickshaw around Old Delhi, marvel at the Taj Mahal and discover the Pink City. You'll also spend 2 nights in Ranthambore where you can spot the Royal Bengal Tigers.

## ITINERARY &amp; DETAILS

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

**Your included meal guide:**

**B** = Breakfast, **L** = Lunch, **D** = Dinner

**DAY 1: UK to Delhi**

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

**DAY 2: Delhi L/D**

On arrival in Delhi, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel. After settling in, a short tour of the beautifully planned city of New Delhi will follow. Offering you a taste of its imperial glory, you'll drive past the India Gate, President's House, Parliament Building and visit the Birla Temple, made purely out of 2,000 tons of Rajasthani white marble.

**DAY 3: Delhi B/L/D**

A full day tour of Delhi commences after breakfast, beginning with the historic Old Delhi in the morning. Lying side by side, Old Delhi dates back to the Mughal period, whilst New Delhi was built just over a hundred years ago. Travelling through the narrow and crowded streets on a rickshaw will transport you back in time, passing vibrant food markets of Old Delhi where bread makers bake delicious scented naan from the tandoor ovens and chai wallahs brew their sweet tea. A visit to the regal Red Fort gives you a sense of the lavish life once led by the former rulers before stopping for lunch in a local restaurant. Your tour will continue on to New Delhi to see the Mahatma Gandhi memorial and the 12th century Qutab Minar. Built on the foundations of Jain and Hindu temples, the complex was built in 1193 after the defeat of Delhi's last Hindu kingdom and displays fine examples of Indo-Islamic architecture as well as the tallest stone tower in India.

**DAY 4: Delhi to Agra B/L/D**

After breakfast you will be driven to Agra arriving at your hotel in time for lunch. Despite being a small city, Agra was once the capital of the mighty Mughal dynasty whose strength manifested itself in the huge forts and buildings built to maintain its power. During the afternoon, you will visit the vast red sandstone Agra Fort. The colossal walled city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, built by the Mughals in 1573 and boasts gigantic pavilions, grand palaces and spectacular courtyards.

**DAY 5: Agra to Ranthambore B/L/D**

This magical day starts after breakfast with a tour of one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal. Words do not do this remarkable palace justice; it really must be seen to appreciate its stupendous beauty. Taking 17 years and 20,000 men to build, the heartbroken Mughal Emperor Shahjahan dedicated this stunning white marble monument of love to his deceased wife to enshrine

her mortal remains. Following this, you will begin your journey to Ranthambore National Park where you will spend the night.

**DAY 6: Ranthambore B/L/D**

Spread over 1,344 square kilometers, Ranthambore National Park is one of the biggest and most renowned national parks in Northern India. Once a famous hunting ground for the gallant rulers of Jaipur, today it is home to a variety of species including tigers, leopards, striped hyenas, jackals, jungle cats and many more. Depart your hotel for an early morning jungle safari where you may even be able to spot the elusive tiger. You will return to your hotel for breakfast and lunch with some leisure time where you can take advantage of the hotel's outdoor swimming pool. A second safari trip will follow in the afternoon to visit further areas of the park.

**DAY 7: Ranthambore to Jaipur B/L/D**

Today you will journey to the Pink City of Jaipur, which got its name from the distinctive earthy red coloured buildings, painted to emulate the red sandstone architecture of the ancient Mughal cities. Lunch and dinner will be served at your hotel with the rest of the day as free time to relax or explore the largest city in Rajasthan.

**DAY 8: Jaipur B/L/D**

Begin your first day in Jaipur with a visit to the spectacular Amber Fort, the ancient capital of the royal family until 1728, located just 11km from Jaipur. Spanning over four huge courtyards, you will travel to the centre of the fort by either elephant or jeep, passing snake charmers, harems of the Maharajah and the Palace of Mirrors along the way which all make for a truly unforgettable morning. An afternoon city tour of Jaipur takes in the major sights including the home of the royal family of Jaipur – The City Palace and the Jantar Mantar, an astronomical observatory. Lastly, marvel at the hundreds of tiny windows on the façade of the Hawa Mahal, known to many as the Palace of Winds, where it is said that the women of the royal family could once watch the streets below without being seen. Later, enjoy a cultural dance show with your evening meal.

**DAY 9: Jaipur to Delhi B/L/D**

The morning is left free so that after breakfast you can visit some of the local bazaars and stalls for some last minute shopping. Try the M1 Road and Chaemeliwala market for jewellery, handicrafts, textile and more, or wander the streets and sample the delicious and unique Rajasthani street food that Jaipur has to offer. You will then commence your return journey to Delhi, stopping for lunch on the way. A final farewell dinner in Delhi will bring your tour to a close.

**DAY 10: Delhi to the UK or Extension B**

After breakfast you will have some free time before transferring to Delhi International airport for your return flight to the UK in the afternoon, or continue on to your chosen extension.

## ACCOMMODATION DETAILS &amp; MAP

## Hotel information

**Delhi** (3 nights): 5★ The Park Hotel  
Address: 15 Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110 001, India  
Contact number: 0091 (0)11 2374 3000

**Agra** (1 night): 5★ Ramada Plaza Agra  
Address: 672 Basai, Fatehabad Road, Agra, Uttar Pradesh 282001, India,  
Contact number: 0091 562 712 3500

**Ranthambhore** (2 nights): 4★ Ranthambhore Regency  
Address: Ranthambhore Rd, Subhash Nagar, Saptar, Sawai Madhopur,  
Rajasthan 322001, India  
Contact number: 0091 7462 221 176

**Jaipur** (2 nights): 4★ Lemon Tree Premier  
Address: Sindhi Colony, Bani Park, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302016, India  
Contact number: 0091 141 405 1100



## Accommodation

All accommodation is 4★ or 5★ and features an en suite bathroom, heating, air-conditioning, satellite TV, safety deposit box and tea and coffee making 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. The hotels listed are a guide only and if the hotels detailed are not available alternatives will be used of a similar standard.

**Please note: 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.**

## Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch and dinner will be taken in local Indian restaurants. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

## ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Delhi you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Jayasree, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/India Travel Service representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact Jayasree during your stay the details are:

## Jayasree Travels and Tours

F 341-Ground Floor  
Lado Sarai  
New Delhi 110030  
Contact number: 0091 471 2505067

## Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Jayasree Travel and Tours

Contact	Telephone number
Ms Jayasree Vikraman:	00919747005888
Mrs Samitha Azhar:	00919744713380
Mr Biju Unnikrishnan.A.G:	0091 9526188860
Mr Harish Kumar:	0091 952 618 8859
Mrs Prashansa Alkesh:	0091 997 148 8995/0091 9958988772

## WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

## 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 £114 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. Alternatively you can visit The Indian Visa Application Centre in London: 142-148 Goswell Road, London, EC1B 7DU.

## 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](http://www.fco.gov.uk), [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/), [www.hpa.org.uk](http://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, and includes some climbing of stairs and getting on and off coaches. 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 40. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 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 not compulsory and is at your discretion. Should you wish to tip, this will be collected by your guide at the end of your tour for your convenience. It is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency, please do not give coins as these are difficult to exchange.

### Travel Plug Adaptor

The voltage in India is 220 Volts with plugs and sockets having either grounded 3 pin connections or ungrounded 2 pin connections. Should you plan to use your own hairdryer, travel iron, video camera, battery charger, electric shaver etc, it is advisable to bring a multi-adaptor.

### Currency Exchange

The currency in India is the Rupee or Rs. The Rupee is a closed currency and officially you are not allowed to take any cash out of India. US Dollars and GBP are also widely accepted in India should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you. There are restrictions on taking Indian rupees into India. Visitors, including tourists, are not permitted to take any amount of Indian currency into the country. You can take cash or travellers' cheques (in pounds sterling or another foreign currency) and/or a bank card with you and exchange or withdraw rupees once in India.

## WHAT TO PACK

- Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Warm clothing and thermals in winter
- Camera and charger
- An electric plug converter

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your flight is to **Delhi International Airport** with **Jet Airways (9W)**, departing from **London Heathrow Terminal 4**.

**DEPARTURES FROM SEPTEMBER 2019:** Your initial flight is to **Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport** with **Emirates (EK)**, departing from **London Heathrow Terminal 3**.

**Flight information for those taking a Kerala Extension:** For departures from May 2019, your initial flight is to **Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport** with **Emirates (EK)**, 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. Please note if you are taking the Kerala Beach Stay extension, the e-ticket for your flight from Delhi to Trivandrum will be given to you in resort.**

### Baggage Allowance - Jet Airways

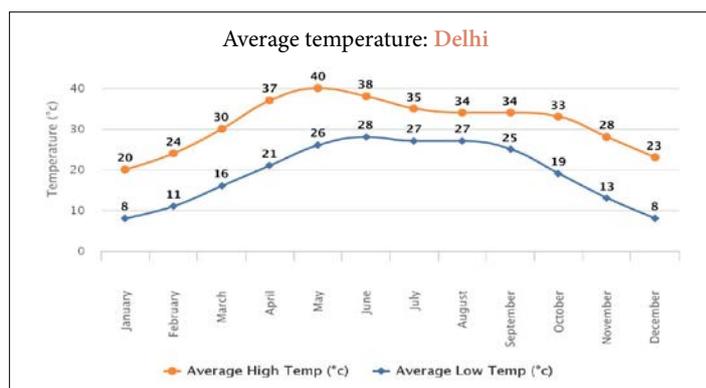
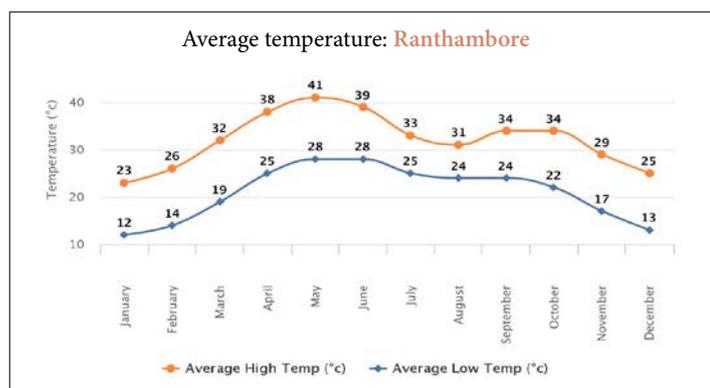
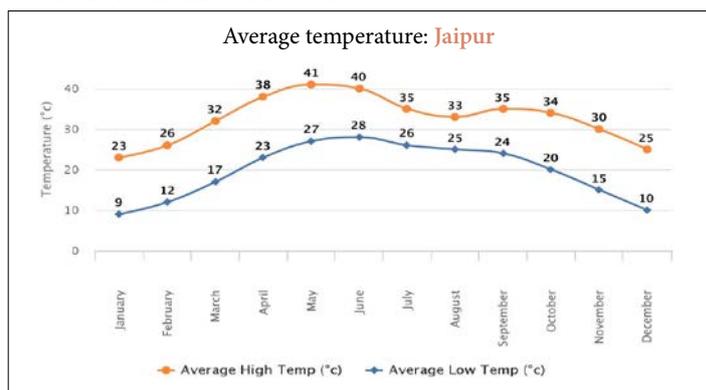
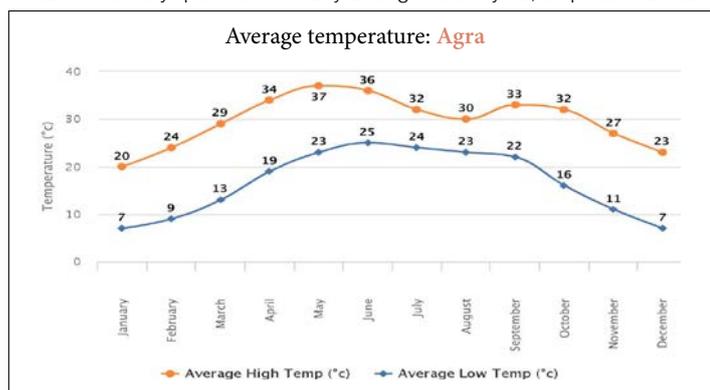
Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 23kg of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding 55cm x 35cm x 25cm in size or 7kg in weight.

### Baggage Allowance - Emirates

Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 30kg of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding 55cm x 38cm x 20cm in size or 10kg in weight.

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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



### 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.

### 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, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

### 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.

- Loo paper for public WCs

- Binoculars

- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc

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.

### Airport Extras

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

# HIGHLIGHTS OF KERALA EXTENSION

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



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Your 4 night Highlights of Kerala tour offers the perfect opportunity to explore one of the most beautiful and distinctive states in India.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Kerala.

### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### DAY 10: Delhi to Kochi (Cochin) B

Depart Delhi 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 11: Kochi to Alleppey B

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

### Day 12: 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 13: Thekkady to Kochi (Cochin) to the UK B

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

### Day 14: Kochi to the UK B

Depart after breakfast for your return flight to the UK.

### Currency

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.

### Hotel Information

Kochi (1 night): 5★ Hotel Casino - Willingdon Island, Kochi - 682003  
0091 484 2864500

Kumarakom (1 night): Houseboat.

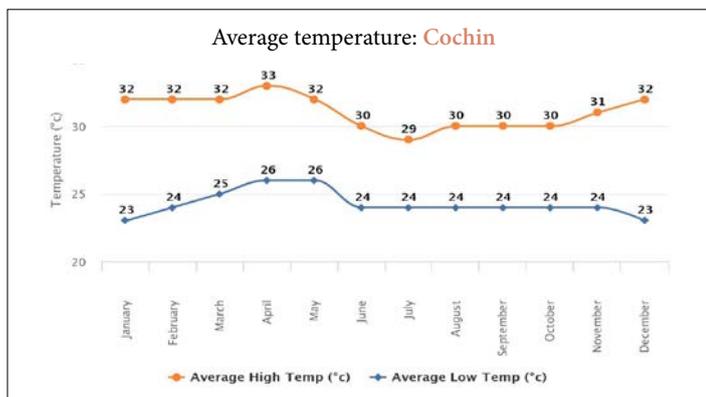
Thekkady (1 night): 4★ Aranya Nivas - Kumily Thekkady Road, Thekkady, 0091 486 922 2023

Kochi (1 night): 5★ Hotel Casino - Willingdon Island, Kochi - 682003  
0091 484 2864500

### 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



4★ Aranya Nivas

## 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 EXTENSION

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



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Extend your trip to India with a 4 night stay on Kerala's beautiful coast. Famous for its extensive backwaters and stunning beaches, tropical Kerala is the perfect destination to relax, unwind and slip into the local rhythm of life.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Kerala.

### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### DAY 10: Delhi to Kovalam B/D

Depart Delhi in the morning for your flight to Trivandrum (via Mumbai) where you will be met and transferred to your chosen resort in Kovalam.

### DAY 11-13: Kovalam

Enjoy three full days at your leisure, the perfect opportunity to unwind on the beach, bathe in the pool and reflect on your tour memories.

### DAY 14: Kovalam to the UK

Depart after breakfast for your flight to the UK via Delhi.

### Hotel Information

5★ Uday Samudra Beach Hotel on Half Board  
- GV Raja Road, Sumdra Beach, Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram, 695 527. Phone number: +91 471 2481654

5★ Vivanta by Taj Kovalam on Bed & Breakfast  
- 1/404, Kumarakom, Kottayam, 686563. Phone number: +91 481 2525711

Your chosen hotel and board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please talk to our reservations department should you need any further information.

### Tour Guides

Your Beach Stay extension is not escorted. You will be transferred to your hotel after the Essence of North India tour and will receive transfers to the airport at the end of your stay.

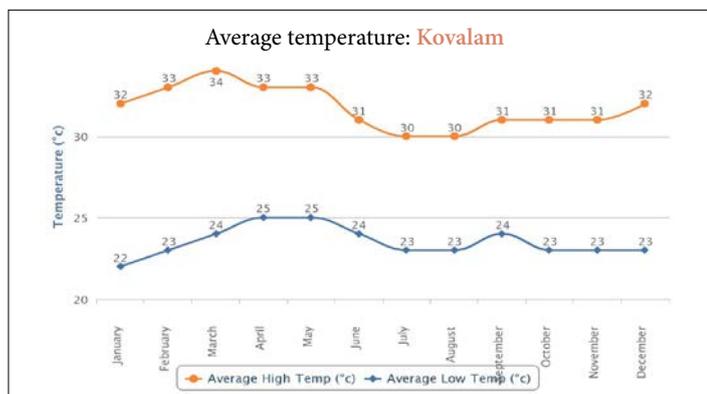
### Personal expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry, drinks, snacks and any meals.

### 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



Vivanta by Taj

## 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