

Kochi Travel Guide

Kochi: The Queen of the Arabian Sea

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Things to do in Kochi

Landmarks & Monuments

Kochi's iconic landmarks reflect centuries of colonial heritage and maritime trade history. From the famous Chinese fishing nets to historic forts and palaces, these structures tell the story of this legendary port city.



Chinese Fishing Nets Must See

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

Iconic cantilevered fishing nets that have graced Kochi's waterfront since the 16th century. These mesmerizing structures are best photographed during sunset, creating a magical silhouette against the Arabian Sea. Visitors can watch fishermen demonstrate traditional fishing techniques and purchase fresh catch directly from the boats.



Dutch Palace Must See

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

Built by the Portuguese in 1555 and later renovated by the Dutch, this stunning palace features traditional Kerala architecture with intricate murals depicting Hindu mythology. The ground floor houses a museum with artifacts from Kochi's colonial period and royal family belongings. Visitors can marvel at the ornate wooden interiors and ancient artwork.



Santa Cruz Basilica Top Pick

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

An impressive Gothic-style cathedral with soaring arches and stained glass windows. Built in 1505 by Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama, this basilica showcases Indo-European architectural blend. The peaceful interior with its sacred atmosphere makes it a spiritual and architectural highlight, attracting both devotees and architecture enthusiasts.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit Chinese nets early morning (6-8 AM) for fewer crowds and better photography
- Combine Dutch Palace with Mattancherry Spice Market for a full morning experience
- Best time: October to February for pleasant weather and clearer skies



Religious Sites

Kochi is a microcosm of India's religious diversity with significant temples, churches, mosques, and a historic synagogue representing centuries of coexistence and cultural syncretism.



Paradesi Synagogue Must See
1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

The oldest existing synagogue in the Commonwealth, built in 1568 in Mattancherry. This exquisite structure features hand-painted blue and white Chinese porcelain tiles, Belgian glass chandeliers, and a stunning Torah ark. The adjacent Jewish Cemetery with centuries-old tombstones tells stories of the ancient Cochin Jewish community. Still an active place of worship with a small but vibrant congregation.

Ernakulathappan Temple Top Pick
1 hour No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

An ancient temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, believed to be over 1000 years old and predating Fort Kochi's establishment. The temple features traditional Kerala architecture with intricate carvings and rituals performed during festivals that showcase centuries-old worship practices. The annual Cochin Carnival festival begins at this temple, attracting thousands of devotees and visitors.



St. Francis Church Top Pick
45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

The oldest European church in India, established in 1503, where explorer Vasco da Gama was originally buried. This whitewashed Portuguese chapel with simple yet elegant interiors represents the beginning of European presence in India. The church's history spans centuries of colonial rule, preserving artifacts and architectural elements from its rich past.

Tips for Religious Sites

- The Synagogue is closed on Saturdays and Jewish holidays
- Dress modestly when visiting religious sites
- Best time to experience temple rituals: early morning (5-7 AM)
- Ask permission before photography inside places of worship



Museums & Galleries

Discover Kochi's rich artistic heritage through museums showcasing everything from ancient artifacts and traditional art forms to contemporary installations and historical documents.

Hill Palace Museum Must See

3 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

Spread across 14 acres, this former royal residence houses Kerala's largest museum with an impressive collection of artifacts, weapons, royal regalia, traditional sculptures, and paintings. The sprawling gardens add to the serene atmosphere. Exhibits showcase the history of Kerala's royal families and the region's cultural evolution, making it essential for understanding Kochi's heritage.

Kochi Biennale Top Pick Book Ahead

2-4 hours Book Ahead



Map



Wiki

An international contemporary art festival held biennially (odd years) across multiple Fort Kochi venues featuring works by artists from around the world. The festival transforms the city into an open-air gallery with installations, paintings, sculptures, and multimedia art exploring global themes. Even outside festival season, permanent installations and galleries showcase contemporary works.



Jewish History Museum Top Pick

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

Located near Paradesi Synagogue, this small museum preserves the history of Cochin Jews through photographs, documents, and artifacts spanning centuries. Exhibits detail the community's arrival, settlement, cultural contributions, and eventual migration. Personal stories and family documents provide intimate insights into a unique diaspora community that enriched Kochi's multicultural fabric.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Hill Palace is closed on Mondays; plan accordingly
- Kochi Biennale tickets: check dates as it happens every odd-numbered year
- Many galleries in Fort Kochi are open for free; explore street art and contemporary installations
- Museum hours vary; visit early morning for fewer crowds



Ancient & Historical Sites

Kochi's historical significance as a major trading port dating back to ancient times is evident in its archaeological sites and heritage structures scattered throughout the city and surrounding regions.

Mattancherry Palace Complex

Must See

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

Beyond the Dutch Palace, the entire Mattancherry area is a historical palimpsest with the palace at its center. The surrounding spice warehouses, merchant houses, and Jewish synagogue complex form an interconnected heritage zone. Walking tours reveal layers of Portuguese, Dutch, and British colonial influence alongside traditional Kerala architecture and merchant activities that continue to operate in centuries-old buildings.

Fort Kochi Heritage Precinct

Must See

4-6 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

The entire Fort Kochi area is a living heritage museum with narrow lanes, colonial buildings, spice warehouses converted to boutiques and galleries, and waterfront promenades. Historical buildings like the old residences, warehouses, and trading posts tell stories of merchants, traders, and colonial administrators who shaped Kochi's cosmopolitan character.

Jew Town

Top Pick

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

The historic quarter of Mattancherry where Cochin Jews settled and established their community. This area retains its medieval character with narrow lanes, spice warehouses, antique shops, and traditional architecture. The convergence of Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Christian communities in this compact area exemplifies Kochi's legendary communal harmony and cultural diversity.

Tips for Ancient & Historical Sites

- Join guided heritage walks to understand the historical significance and stories behind buildings
- Early morning walks reveal the working life of traditional merchant communities
- Spice markets are most active 6-10 AM and 3-6 PM
- Photography restrictions exist in some warehouse areas; respect local businesses



Squares & Streets

Kochi's most atmospheric public spaces blend colonial charm with vibrant local life, offering perfect vantage points for photography, people-watching, and cultural immersion.

Waterfront Promenade Must See

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

The scenic walk along Kochi's Arabian Sea waterfront stretches for kilometers, lined with Chinese fishing nets, sunset viewpoints, seafood restaurants, and colonial-era buildings. The promenade is alive with fishermen, vendors, and visitors during dawn and dusk. Street-side cafes and spice warehouses create an intoxicating blend of maritime commerce and romance.



Spice Markets Must See

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

The aromatic heart of Kochi where merchants trade centuries-old spices—cardamom, pepper, cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg. The wholesale markets buzz with activity as traders, exporters, and tourists navigate narrow alleys filled with sacks of fragrant goods. Visitors can sample spices, learn about quality grades, and purchase premium varieties at reasonable prices.

Parade Ground Street Top Pick

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

A charming colonial-era street transformed into a vibrant entertainment and dining hub. Lined with eclectic boutiques, art galleries, cafes, and restaurants, Parade Ground Street exemplifies Kochi's modern evolution while preserving its heritage charm. The street becomes magical in the evening when colorful lights illuminate historic facades and street performers entertain crowds.

Tips for Squares & Streets

- Visit spice markets in early morning for best selection and merchant interactions
- Waterfront sunset (6-7:30 PM) offers magical photography opportunities
- Wear comfortable shoes for extended street exploration
- Street food at the waterfront is a must-try experience



Neighborhoods & Districts

Kochi's distinct neighborhoods each offer unique experiences reflecting different historical periods and cultural communities, from cosmopolitan Fort Kochi to serene backwater villages.



Fort Kochi Must See
Full day No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

The historic heart of Kochi with its architectural ensemble of colonial buildings, heritage structures, and the iconic Chinese fishing nets. The neighborhood breathes history with every corner revealing layers of Portuguese, Dutch, and British influence. Contemporary art galleries, boutique hotels, and fusion restaurants coexist with spice warehouses and traditional trading activities, creating a unique blend of past and present.



Mattancherry Must See
3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

Known as Jew Town, Mattancherry is Kochi's most vibrant and diverse neighborhood. Home to the spice trade heartland, Jewish synagogue, antique shops, and merchant warehouses, this area pulses with activity. The neighborhood's narrow lanes, colorful buildings, and multicultural character make it one of India's most authentic travel experiences.

Ernakulathappan & Thrippunithura Top Pick
2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

Residential neighborhoods offering glimpses of local life beyond tourist circuits. These areas feature temple fairs, traditional markets, and authentic Kerala cuisine establishments. Thrippunithura hill provides panoramic views and is home to the Hill Palace Museum, offering a retreat from the bustling waterfront areas.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Fort Kochi is best explored on foot; rent a bicycle for extended coverage
- Mattancherry comes alive during spice season (October-February)
- Early morning walks reveal neighborhood life before tourist crowds arrive
- Learn basic Malayalam phrases; locals appreciate the effort



Parks & Gardens

Kochi's green spaces offer peaceful retreats with botanical diversity, scenic views, and recreational opportunities amidst the city's vibrant urban landscape.

Mattancherry Palace Gardens Top Pick

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

Serene gardens surrounding the historic Dutch Palace offering peaceful walks amidst flowering plants and traditional landscaping. The manicured grounds provide respite from the busy spice markets, with shaded pathways and heritage trees creating a tranquil atmosphere for contemplation and photography.

Bolgatty Palace Grounds Top Pick

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

Sprawling riverside grounds of this historic palace converted to a heritage hotel feature manicured lawns, coconut groves, and waterfront promenades overlooking the backwaters. The peaceful setting offers excellent opportunities for sunset views, leisure walks, and experiencing Kochi's natural beauty away from urban congestion.



Shanghumugham Beach Top Pick

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

Kochi's urban beach with golden sands, coconut palms, and the iconic Mermaid statue symbolizing the city's maritime heritage. The beach serves as a popular gathering place during sunset, offering refreshing sea breezes, seafood shacks, and panoramic views of the backwaters. The vibrant atmosphere attracts both locals and tourists seeking seaside relaxation.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Early morning walks offer cooler temperatures and fewer crowds
- Bring water and sun protection; Kochi sun is intense
- Shanghumugham Beach is best visited during sunset
- Hill Palace gardens are ideal for picnics and family outings



Tours & Activities

Immerse yourself in Kochi's vibrant culture through guided experiences, traditional performances, culinary adventures, and water-based activities that showcase Kerala's unique heritage.



Kathakali Performance Must See Book Ahead
2-3 hours Book Ahead

Experience Kerala's classical dance-drama with elaborate costumes, intricate hand gestures, and dramatic makeup. Kathakali stories drawn from Hindu mythology unfold with mesmerizing movements and live percussion. Many venues offer pre-show explanations and makeup demonstrations, allowing visitors to appreciate this art form's complexity and historical significance spanning centuries.

Backwater Houseboat Cruise Must See Book Ahead
4-24 hours Book Ahead

Navigate the serene backwaters aboard a traditional rice barge converted to a luxury houseboat. Drift past palm-fringed shores, observe local fishing activities, and experience rural Kerala life. Overnight cruises include Ayurvedic treatments, Kerala cuisine, and front-row seats to stunning sunsets over misty waters—an unforgettable immersion in natural beauty.

Kerala Cooking Class Top Pick Book Ahead
3-4 hours Book Ahead

Master the secrets of Kerala cuisine in intimate cooking classes taught by local chefs in heritage homes. Learn to prepare authentic dishes using traditional spices, techniques, and locally-sourced ingredients. Classes combine culinary instruction with cultural insights, often concluding with tasting your creations alongside regional specialties and beverages.

Fort Kochi Heritage Walk Top Pick Book Ahead
2-3 hours Book Ahead

Guided walking tours through Fort Kochi's narrow lanes unveiling the city's architectural heritage, historical stories, and contemporary art scene. Knowledgeable guides share insights about Portuguese, Dutch, and British colonial influences, Jewish and Arab merchant communities, and Kochi's transformation into a modern cultural destination.

Spice Plantation Tour Top Pick Book Ahead
4-6 hours Book Ahead

Journey to nearby spice plantations to witness the cultivation and processing of Kerala's famous spices. Guides explain growing conditions, harvesting techniques, and quality grading of cardamom, pepper, cloves, and cinnamon. Visitors can sample fresh spices, purchase premium varieties, and understand the economics of Kerala's spice trade heritage.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book Kathakali performances in advance; evening shows are most popular
- Houseboat cruises: morning departures offer better light for photography
- Cooking classes are ideal for rainy afternoons (monsoon season)
- Heritage walks are best done in early morning or late afternoon for comfort



- Combine multiple activities for a comprehensive Kochi experience



Day Trips & Excursions

Explore the remarkable destinations surrounding Kochi, from picturesque towns to tropical plantations and serene backwater villages that showcase Kerala's diverse landscapes.

Munnar Tea Plantations

Must See

Full day or overnight No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

Located 2 hours from Kochi, Munnar sits at 1,600 meters elevation amidst rolling tea gardens and mist-shrouded mountains. The picturesque hill station offers refreshing climate, scenic trekking trails through plantations, and visits to tea factories where processing techniques are demonstrated. Stunning landscapes, cool weather, and tribal culture provide stark contrast to coastal Kochi.



Alleppey (Alappuzha) Backwaters

Must See

Full day or overnight No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

The backwater capital of Kerala, 60 km from Kochi, Alleppey features serene lagoons, canals, and islands surrounded by coconut palms and lush vegetation. The town is famous for houseboats, Chinese fishing nets, and swimming beaches. Visitors can experience authentic village life, enjoy boat races during monsoon season, and relax in pristine natural surroundings.

Athirapally Waterfall

Top Pick

6-8 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

A spectacular 80-meter waterfall located 1.5 hours from Kochi, surrounded by virgin rainforest and jungle trails. The thundering cascade during monsoon season (June-September) is particularly dramatic. Visitors can trek through forested paths, experience the misty spray, and encounter diverse flora and fauna. The site is a favorite for nature lovers and photographers.



Vembanad Lake

Top Pick

Full day No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

India's largest tropical lake, 90 km from Kochi, featuring bird sanctuaries, resorts, and water sports facilities. The lake's shallow waters and bird diversity make it paradise for ornithologists, especially during migratory seasons. Sunset boat rides provide peaceful experiences while observing wading birds, kingfishers, and cormorants amid serene backwater vistas.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Munnar: best visited October-April for pleasant weather
- Alleppey: experience boat races during Nehru Trophy (August) and Cochin Carnival
- Athirapally: visit during monsoon for full waterfall experience; avoid dry season
- Vembanad Lake: December-February peak season for migratory birds
- All destinations have accommodation options from budget to luxury



Practical Information

Best Time to Visit Kochi

October to February is the ideal period, offering pleasant weather with temperatures around 25-30°C, low humidity, and minimal rainfall. This season is perfect for outdoor exploration, backwater cruises, and heritage walks. The skies are clearer for photography, and all attractions operate at full capacity.

March to May: Summer brings high heat and humidity with temperatures exceeding 35°C. However, fewer crowds and competitive prices make it attractive to budget travelers. Afternoon activities become challenging due to intense heat.

June to September: Monsoon season transforms Kochi into a lush green paradise with dramatic rainfall and mist. The weather is cool and refreshing, perfect for Ayurvedic treatments. However, some water activities may be restricted during heavy rains. Water sports enthusiasts enjoy monsoon conditions.

Festivals: Cochin Carnival (December), Biennale (odd years), and Ernakulathappan temple festivals offer vibrant cultural experiences during specific periods.

Getting Around Kochi

Local Transport:

- **Auto-rickshaws:** Most economical for short distances; insist on meters or negotiate fares beforehand. Standard rates: ₹8-15 per km
- **Taxis:** Available through hotels or Uber/Ola apps; more reliable and comfortable than autos
- **Buses:** Extensive public network operated by KSRTC; very affordable but crowded during peak hours
- **Bicycles/Scooters:** Rentals available for exploring Fort Kochi and nearby areas; ₹300-500/day
- **Ferries:** Water taxis connecting different parts of Kochi; scenic and enjoyable alternative

Airport Transfer: Cochin International Airport is 30 km north. Pre-arranged taxis cost ₹1,000-1,200; public buses available for ₹50-100

Intercity Travel: Trains connect Kochi to major Indian cities; buses serve Kerala destinations. Railway station is centrally located near Fort Kochi

➔ Airport Transfer

Cochin International Airport (COK) to city center:

- **KSRTC Airport Bus:** Direct service to Ernakulam city center in about 45 minutes, roughly ₹100
- **Prepaid Taxi:** Government-regulated counter inside arrivals to city hotels in 40-50 minutes, around ₹800-900
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked AC car with driver to city or Fort Kochi in 45-60 minutes, roughly ₹1200-1500
- **Airport Shuttle to Aluva Metro:** Shuttle van to Aluva Kochi Metro station in 20 minutes for about ₹50, then metro onward to the city for around ₹40

What to Buy & Shopping Guide

Must-Buy Items:

- **Spices:** Cardamom, black pepper, cinnamon, cloves sourced directly from Mattancherry markets. Quality is premium, prices significantly lower than retail
- **Handicrafts:** Kathakali masks, traditional Kerala mirrors, wooden carvings, and sculptures from local artisans
- **Coconut Products:** Virgin coconut oil, handmade soaps, and skincare products reflecting Kerala's coconut heritage
- **Textiles:** Kasavu (Kerala cotton with gold weave), mundu (traditional wrap), and batik fabrics from boutiques
- **Ayurvedic Products:** Traditional oils, powders, and wellness items from established Ayurvedic stores

Shopping Locations:

- **Spice Markets (Mattancherry):** Best rates; negotiate for bulk purchases



- **Fort Kochi Boutiques:** Upscale galleries and shops; higher prices, guaranteed quality
- **Jew Town Antiques:** Vintage goods, collectibles, and curios from multiple vendors
- **Modern Malls:** Lulu Mall and Infopark offer international brands at standard retail prices

Bargaining Tips: Haggling is expected in markets and spice dealers; start at 40-50% of asking price. Fixed prices apply in boutiques and established stores

Festivals & Events

December:

- **Cochin Carnival:** Week-long festival celebrating Kochi's cosmopolitan spirit with parades, cultural programs, fireworks, and street performances. Grand finale at Ernakulathappan Temple

Odd Years (January/February):

- **Kochi Biennale:** International contemporary art festival with installations, exhibitions, and performances across Fort Kochi venues

August:

- **Nehru Trophy Boat Race:** Spectacular water festival at Vembanad Lake featuring traditional snake boat races with synchronized oarsmen

Throughout Year:

- **Temple Festivals:** Ernakulathappan Temple (annual), Thrippunithura Pooram, and various church and mosque celebrations
- **Seasonal Events:** Art walks, night markets, and cultural programs hosted by various venues

Holidays: Republic Day (26 Jan), Independence Day (15 Aug), Gandhi Jayanti (2 Oct), Christmas (25 Dec), local temple holidays

Sample Itineraries

Day 1: Heritage Immersion

1. Early morning (6-7 AM): Watch sunrise at Chinese Fishing Nets, interact with fishermen
2. 8-10 AM: Breakfast at waterfront café; explore Fort Kochi heritage precinct on foot
3. 10 AM-1 PM: Visit Santa Cruz Basilica or St. Francis Church
4. 1-2 PM: Lunch at authentic Kerala restaurant
5. 2-4 PM: Dutch Palace & Mattancherry Palace gardens
6. 4-5 PM: Spice market exploration in Mattancherry
7. 5:30-7 PM: Sunset dinner cruise on backwaters

Day 2: Culture & Art

1. 9 AM-12 PM: Hill Palace Museum with garden walk
2. 12-1 PM: Lunch near museum
3. 1-3 PM: Kochi Biennale or contemporary art galleries in Fort Kochi
4. 3-5 PM: Jewish synagogue, cemetery, and history museum
5. 5-6 PM: Pause at café or jewel town shopping
6. 6:30-9 PM: Kathakali performance with dinner

Day 3: Nature & Adventure

1. Early morning: Spice plantation tour with guide
2. 11 AM: Return to Kochi; lunch at plantation restaurant
3. 1-3 PM: Houseboat cruise through backwaters
4. 3-4 PM: Beach time at Shanghumugham
5. 4-6 PM: Rest at hotel



6. 6-8 PM: Ayurvedic treatment or spa
7. 8-10 PM: Dinner with Kerala cuisine tasting menu

Day 4: Extended Exploration

1. Day trip to Alleppey or Munnar
2. Early morning departure (6-7 AM) to maximize daylight
3. Full day exploring destination with local guide
4. Evening return to Kochi (6-7 PM) with sunset views
5. Final evening stroll through Fort Kochi before departure

Day 5: Leisure & Departure

1. Morning: Last-minute shopping in Fort Kochi boutiques
2. Late morning: Lunch at favorite restaurant
3. Afternoon: Rest at hotel or beach
4. Evening: Transfer to airport; final glimpse of Arabian Sea

Best Photography Locations

Chinese Fishing Nets (Golden Hours): Sunrise (6-7 AM) and sunset (5:30-7 PM) create silhouettes and golden light. Photograph from water level for dramatic perspectives. Visit 3-4 times for varied compositions.

Fort Kochi Heritage District: Early morning (6-8 AM) light on colonial facades is magical. Narrow lanes with locals engaged in daily activities create authentic storytelling shots. Capture colorful storefronts and street vendors against architectural backdrops.

Mattancherry Spice Market: Golden hour light streaming through warehouse windows creates atmospheric shots. Early morning (6-9 AM) shows merchants weighing spices, creating layered compositions with warm tones and human interest.

Backwater Cruises: Houseboat perspective during sunset captures reflections, palm silhouettes, and orange-painted skies. Early morning mist over still waters creates ethereal scenes; photograph local fishermen with their nets.

Shanghumugham Beach: Sunset brings vibrant orange and pink hues reflected in wet sand. Capture locals bathing, street vendors, and the iconic mermaid statue. Evening light transforms ordinary scenes into compelling images.

Hill Palace & Gardens: Golden hour backlighting on garden paths creates leading lines and depth. Photograph traditional architecture against lush green foliage; capture fountain sprays with wildlife interactions.

Hindu Temples During Festivals: Elaborate decorations, colorful celebrations, and spiritual atmosphere create vibrant cultural documentation. Photography during evening prayers (Aarti) captures devoted worshippers in candlelit settings.

Pro Tips: Shoot during golden hours (6-9 AM, 4-7 PM); use leading lines in architecture and waterways; capture people respectfully with consent; visit locations multiple times for varied perspectives; use water reflections for compositional depth

Electricity & Power Information

Voltage Standard: India uses 230V AC, 50 Hz electrical supply

Plug Types: Type D (British 3 round-pin) is most common, though Type C and Type M plugs are also found. Many newer establishments use Type C (European) or combinations

Adapter Requirements: Most international travelers need universal adapters. UK travelers can use existing plugs directly; US/Canada travelers should bring Type C or universal adapters

Power Supply Reliability: Kochi generally has stable power supply; occasional brief outages occur during monsoon season or maintenance. Hotels maintain backup generators; essential devices can be charged at all times

Charging Facilities: All hotels, restaurants, cafes, and tourist establishments have charging outlets. Public spaces increasingly offer USB charging stations. Powerbanks (10,000-20,000 mAh) are affordable and useful for outdoor activities



Adapter Availability: Electronics shops throughout Kochi sell adapters; malls like Lulu have international brands. Hotel reception desks often lend adapters to guests. Prices range ₹200-500

Recommendations: Carry universal adapter from home; purchase additional adapter in Kochi if staying long; use voltage stabilizers for sensitive electronics; keep powerbank charged for travel days

Must-Try Dishes & Dining Guide

Traditional Kerala Cuisine:

- **Appam & Stew:** Fermented rice pancakes with creamy coconut vegetable or chicken stew; breakfast specialty
- **Puttu & Kadala Curry:** Steamed cylindrical rice cakes with spiced chickpea curry; authentic morning meal
- **Fish Curry:** Fresh-caught fish in coconut-based curry with authentic spice blend; iconic Kerala dish
- **Prawn Moilee:** Prawns in creamy coconut sauce with minimal spice; coastal delicacy
- **Avial:** Mixed vegetables in coconut and yogurt; healthy vegetarian option
- **Coconut Rice:** Fragrant rice with grated coconut and mustard seeds; perfect with curries
- **Banana Chips & Tapioca Chips:** Crispy fried snacks; popular street food and souvenirs

Seafood Specialties: Fresh catch at waterfront shacks includes grilled fish, crab masala, squid curry, and fish biryani. Market-to-table dining ensures quality and affordability

Where to Eat:

- **Heritage Hotels:** Tea Court, Fort House Hotel offer period ambiance with authentic cuisine and sunset views
- **Boutique Restaurants:** Quayside, Dal Roti in Fort Kochi serve fusion and traditional Kerala dishes in artistic settings
- **Waterfront Shacks:** Chinese fishing net areas have authentic seafood restaurants with direct water views
- **Local Eateries:** Kathala (vegetarian), Saravana Bhavan (South Indian) offer budget-friendly authentic meals

Dining Tips: Lunch (12-2 PM) and dinner (7-10 PM) are peak times; make reservations for popular restaurants; tip 10% in upscale venues; street food is safe at busy stalls; Kerala food pairs well with locally-brewed beer (Kingfisher) or coconut water

Tourist Passes

Kochi Tourist Card

Multi-day pass offering **unlimited access to major attractions** including Hill Palace Museum, Dutch Palace, Paradesi Synagogue, and select heritage sites. **Includes complimentary transportation** on public ferries and select bus routes. **Discounts at partner restaurants and shops**. Available for 1, 2, or 3 days at ₹500/600/800. Best value for tourists planning comprehensive city exploration.



www.keralatourism.org

Kerala Backwater Tour Pass

Full-day houseboat cruise package featuring lunch, beverages, and guided experience through backwater villages. Includes stops at bird sanctuaries, coir-making units, and spice plantations. **All-inclusive pricing** eliminates hidden costs. Operates daily with morning (8 AM) and afternoon (2 PM) departures. Price: ₹1,500-2,500 depending on boat category. Book through hotels or tourism offices.



www.keralatourism.org



Fort Kochi Heritage Card

Specialized pass for heritage district explorers providing **guided walking tour, museum entries, and restaurant discounts**. Covers 8-10 major heritage sites with **skip-the-line privileges**. Audio guide available in multiple languages. Price: ₹400/day or ₹1,000 for 3-day pass. Particularly valuable for architecture enthusiasts and photography-focused travelers.



www.keralatourism.org

