

Calicut and Wayand

Duration: 4N/5D days

Group : 15-20 pax (travel agents)

Stay : Included (Vistara Resort (<http://www.vistararesort.com/>);
Edakkal Hermitage (<http://edakkal.com/>) in Wayanad. Calicut tbc.

Transport : Included from Calicut airport to Calicut airport

Day 1 Arrive in Calicut and transfer to Wayanad. Check into resort. At leisure Wayanad is a district in north-east Kerala, cocooned in the Western Ghats. The Nilgiris Biosphere (a world Heritage site) lies to the east, while Coorg, the land of coffee, lies to the north. The South and West are ringed with the cliffs that make up the edge of the Deccan plateau before it plunges into the coastal plains. The climate is moderate to cool (10C – 30C), given the average altitude of 800+ meters.



Day 2 **Tea plantation and factory visit, spice plantation walk, ela sadya and bamboo rafting**

Drive to West Wayanad (~1.5hrs) to a little village nestled amongst tea plantations at the base of the Sugandhagiri range. We will start the day with a visit to a tea factory, where you will be given an introduction to how tea is grown and processed into the world’s favourite drink. You can try your hand at tea plucking and indulge in some tea tasting.



After that, we will drive to a nearby spice plantation where you will be taken on a guided walk to see a variety of spices such as pepper, vanilla, nutmeg, ginger, lemongrass, cardamom etc.

A sumptuous lunch awaits – a real Kerala vegetarian treat served on banana leaves.

After some rest, we will walk to a nearby river and go for a bamboo raft ride. Bamboo rafting is a gentle relaxing experience that gives you a different perspective into life on the river – don’t mistake it for the rough and tumble of white water rafting. You can try your hand at poling, if you wish – after all, life jackets are mandatory so you are quite safe.



We will drive back to your resort in the evening

Day 3 **Neolithic caves and Archery**

Wayanad has been home to indigenous tribes for millennia and the rocky terrain around your resort was particularly favoured. After breakfast, we will drive (~40mins) to “Tuvarimala”, home to a rock shelter that dates back over 4000 years. The petroglyphs within are yet to be deciphered fully, but there are suggested links to the Indus Valley civilization. A remarkable fact if true, given that this Bronze Age civilization was predominantly based in Northern India/Punjab over 3000 km away!



We will return to the resort for lunch.

Later in the afternoon, we will have an archery session. Wayanad’s archers from the Kuruma tribe were famous and instrumental in many a war and Govindan is a proud bearer of this legacy. He is also an expert archer and the demonstration cum training session by him is fascinating. This is part of the Responsible Tourism initiatives in Wayanad.



Day 4 **Arts and Crafts Village**

We will check out after breakfast and settle in for a long drive (~3hrs) down to the plains. Our objective is Sargaalaya (<http://www.sargaalaya.in>), an arts and crafts village established by Kerala Tourism. The village won the national award for the Best Rural Tourism project and has been nominated for the South Asian Travel Awards – so well worth a visit.

Our destination for the night, Calicut is about 1.5 hrs away and we will head there in the evening.

Day 5 Check out after breakfast and head to airport for flight to Delhi

Notes

- On outdoor activities, guests are expected to be dressed appropriately (Cotton or wicking T-shirt, light jacket, cap, cotton/wicking slacks are recommended). Please avoid loud colours. Shoes compulsory. Please also respect local sensibilities and dress modestly.
- Expect leeches on treks and hikes. Leech socks and leech repellent oil will be provided, but these are only deterrents
- Expect it to be fairly hot from late Feb to mid-May and sunscreen is advised during this time
- Expect to get wet while rafting