

BIKE & BOAT

## Pilot Tour India · India

### Route

from Kochi / to Delhi

### Duration

13 Days / 12 Nights

### Distance

approx. 140 km

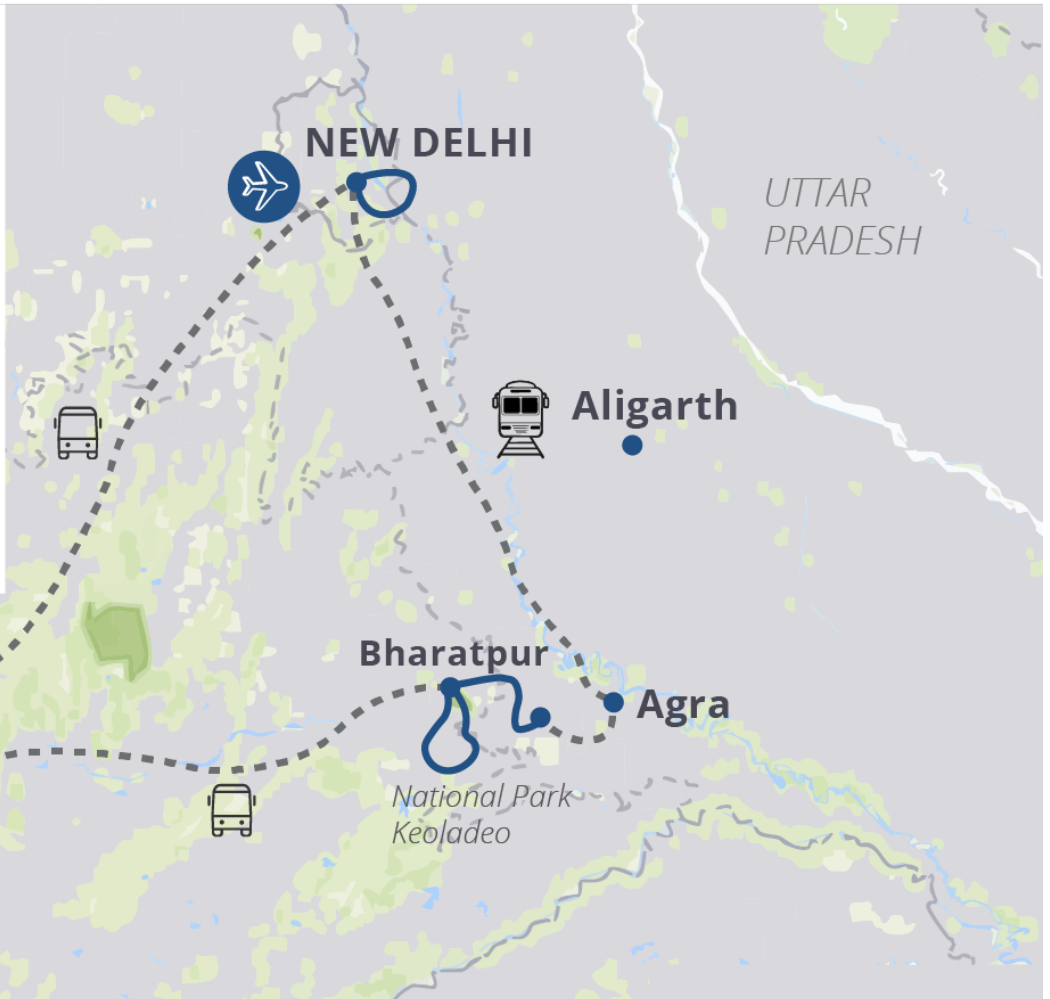
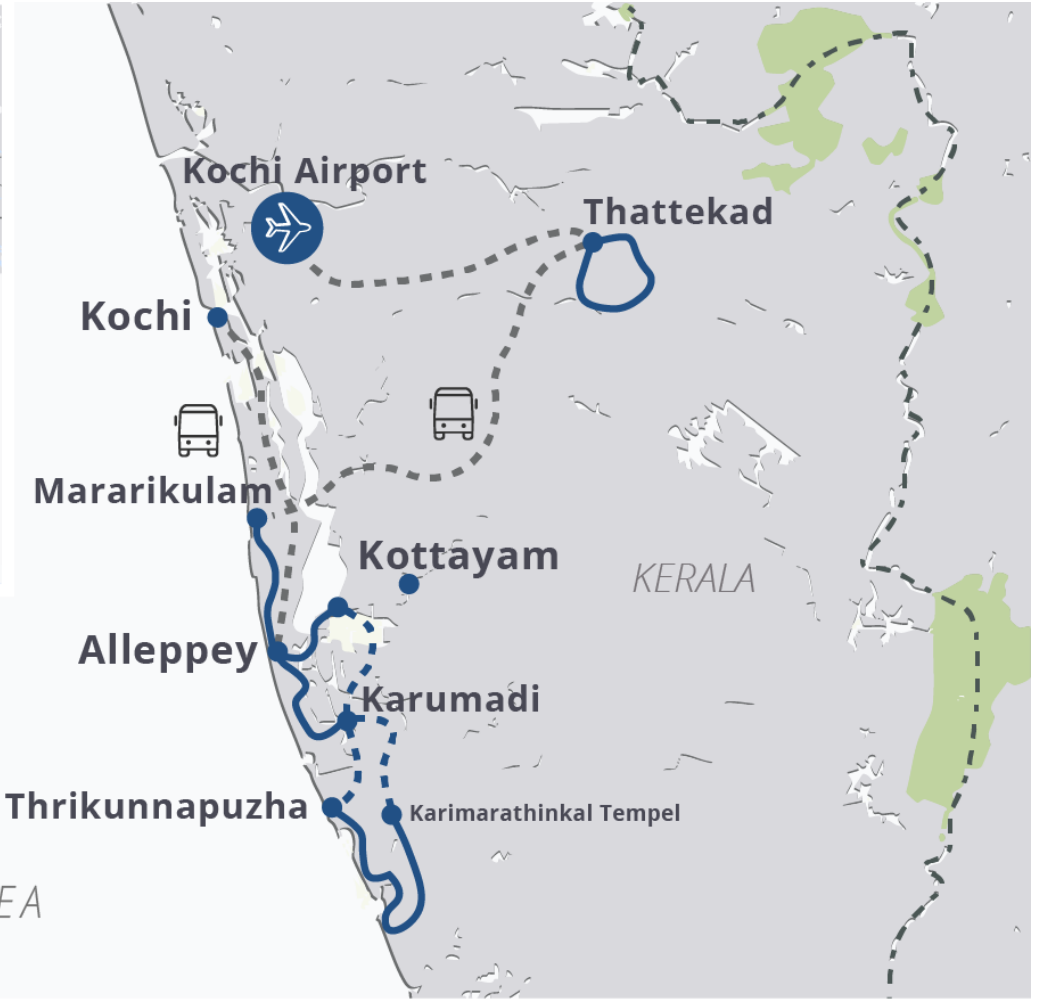
Level 3 **regular** / 5 **end**



### Discovery tour between southern tropics and northern heritage

India enchants with a unique symphony of colors, breathtaking landscapes, and countless cultural highlights. Our new journey through India takes you right into the heart of this fascinating melting pot of cultures – all while enjoying the highest level of comfort. Carefully selected boutique hotels, authentic encounters with local people and traditions, and an unforgettable river cruise aboard a luxurious houseboat are all part of this exceptional itinerary.

This journey combines two very different regions: Kerala in the lush, tropical south – known for its palm-lined backwaters, tea plantations, and tranquil charm – and the famous Golden Triangle in the north, where Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur await with some of India's most iconic cultural treasures, including the world-renowned Taj Mahal. A truly extraordinary trip for anyone who wants to experience India in an authentic, active, and multifaceted way.



# Itinerary

## Day 1 Arrival - Kochi

Namaste and Welcome to Kerala, India - God's Own Country! We are delighted to have you join us on this incredible journey. Upon your arrival at the airport, our dedicated representative will warmly greet you and assist with your transfer to the hotel. They will also ensure a smooth check-in process, so you can settle in comfortably. Relax and unwind as you enjoy a delightful dinner, followed by a restful overnight stay at the hotel. We look forward to an unforgettable experience together!

## Day 2 Kochi - Alleppey (aprx. 9 mi./14 km)

After breakfast, check out and explore Fort Kochi by Tuk Tuk, visiting highlights like the Chinese fishing nets, Jewish Synagogue, and Vasco da Gama's tomb at St. Francis Church. Then, transfer by car or bus to Alleppey (about 2 hours). After a tea break, enjoy a 14 km warm-up cycle through scenic rice fields to the houseboat dock. Board your traditional houseboat, meet the crew, and savor a delicious late lunch on board. Cruise through the peaceful backwaters of Kuttanad – Karthikapally – Thrikkunnappuzha, arriving at your anchoring spot by evening. Relax with a sunset walk or explore nearby shores before dinner. Spend a restful night on the houseboat, immersed in the serene beauty of Kerala's backwaters.

## Day 3 Thrikkunnappuzha - Karumadi Cycling (aprx. 25 - 30 km)

Wake up early to enjoy a stunning sunrise from your houseboat. After breakfast on board, set off on a cycling adventure from Thrikkunnappuzha along a scenic coastal route. Ride past Valiazheekal Beach, feeling the sea breeze and ocean views. Continue through the peaceful Kayamkulam Kayal, lined with charming villages that showcase local life. Stop for photos at a historic church and visit the culturally significant Karimarathinkal Devi Temple. Arrive at Kumarakodi anchor point, where you can explore, take a leisurely walk, and capture beautiful photos. End the day with a delicious dinner and a restful overnight stay on the houseboat, surrounded by the tranquil backwaters of Kerala.

## Day 4 Karumadi - Pallathurthy (aprx. 25 km)

After breakfast, disembark the houseboat and begin a cycling journey starting at the Lord Krishna Temple in Ambalapuzha. Interact with locals and temple devotees to experience their vibrant culture. Cycle along narrow canals through Kuttanad and the Pumba River, witnessing fish markets and daily life by the waterways. Pause for a tea break at a local shop to soak in the relaxed atmosphere. Continue to St. Mary's Basilica, a serene white church, then enjoy a picnic lunch amid lush rice fields for an authentic Kerala experience. In the afternoon, return to the houseboat for tea or coffee before cruising to the Boat Jetty. Take a leisurely walk or relax while watching the stunning sunset over the backwaters. End with dinner and an overnight stay on the houseboat.

## Day 5 Alleppey - Mararikulam (aprx. 15 km)

After breakfast, check out from the houseboat, thank the crew, and drive to Alleppey city. Explore local markets and pick up souvenirs to remember your journey. Then, embark on the final cycling stretch to Mararikulam, riding through scenic coastal roads and charming villages. Upon arrival, settle into the resort and enjoy the relaxing atmosphere. The rest of the day is free to unwind—book a 1-hour Ayurveda massage for rejuvenation, take a peaceful stroll along Marari Beach, or simply relax by the coast. End the day with a stunning sunset by the shore, the perfect finale to your cycling

tour through South India.

### **Day 6 Mararikulam - Yoga, Wellness & Culinary Delights**

India has been renowned for Yoga since ancient times, and there's no better way to start your day than with a refreshing morning yoga session, surrounded by serenity. This practice nurtures the mind, body, and soul, bringing a deep sense of inner peace and balance. After breakfast, enjoy a leisurely day at the beach—unwind, bask in the sun, or take a peaceful stroll along the shore, soaking in the tranquil coastal ambiance. In the evening, take part in a hands-on cooking workshop, where an expert chef will guide you in preparing traditional local dishes. Conclude your day with a delightful dinner, savoring the authentic flavors of your own creations—an unforgettable culinary experience!

### **Day 7 Mararikulam - Drive to Thattekad**

Start your day with a delightful breakfast at the resort, soaking in the serene coastal ambiance of Mararikulam. After a relaxing morning, check out and set off for Thattekad, a breathtaking destination renowned for its lush greenery and vibrant birdlife. Upon arrival, settle into your camp hotel along the tranquil riverbanks. Stroll through a small plantation, where you'll discover traditional farming methods and their role in daily life. For those seeking adventure, an optional cycling tour takes you through charming villages and scenic landscapes, leading to a nearby resort. This immersive ride offers a glimpse into rural life, showcasing the rich local culture and natural beauty. Unwind and enjoy a peaceful overnight stay at the camp hotel, surrounded by nature's tranquility.

### **Day 8 Departure - Delhi Flight**

Start your day early (around 5 AM) with a transfer to the airport, enjoying a packed breakfast on the way. Board your flight to North India, where your journey continues with an exploration of the region's highlights, beginning in Delhi, the vibrant capital of India. Upon arrival, embark on an orientation tour of New Delhi, pausing to capture stunning photos of iconic landmarks like India Gate and the majestic Government Buildings. Later, check in at your hotel and relax in comfort. In the evening, enjoy a delicious Indian dinner at a local restaurant.

### **Day 9 Morning Bike Tour in Delhi & Transfer to Jaipur**

Start your day with a guided bike tour through Old Delhi's historic streets. Cycle past vibrant markets, ancient temples, and Mughal architecture, including Chandni Chowk and Jama Masjid. After soaking in the morning energy, enjoy a traditional Indian breakfast. Then, take a scenic drive to Jaipur, Rajasthan's Pink City, passing rural villages and the Aravalli Hills. Upon arrival, visit a magnificent palace to experience royal grandeur and rich history. In the evening, enjoy a leisurely rickshaw ride through Jaipur's lively streets, colorful bazaars, and stunning architecture. End the day with an overnight stay, embracing the city's regal charm.

### **Day 10 Jaipur Safari & Sightseeing**

Start your day with an optional early morning Leopard Safari at Jhalana Leopard Reserve, spotting leopards, hyenas, jackals, and birds amid the Aravalli Hills sunrise. For a relaxed morning, enjoy leisure time at the hotel. After breakfast, explore Jaipur's architectural gems, beginning with Amber Fort, a UNESCO site with grand palaces and stunning views. Visit Jantar Mantar, the 18th-century astronomical observatory, and the iconic Hawa Mahal, known for its intricate façade and royal windows. In the afternoon, take an optional guided walk through Jaipur's vibrant bazaars to shop for textiles, jewelry, and souvenirs. End the day with an authentic Rajasthani dinner and cultural dance performance before returning to your hotel for an overnight stay in Jaipur.

### **Day 11 Cycling Adventure & Bird Sanctuary Exploration (aprx. 30 Km)**

After breakfast, travel to Bharatpur, home to the renowned Keoladeo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its diverse birdlife. En route, stop at the charming village of Paharsar for a scenic 30 km cycling adventure through rural North India. Ride along narrow country roads, passing lush farmlands, mud-brick homes, and vibrant village markets, experiencing authentic village life. Depending on your hotel location, the ride may extend to your accommodation. In Bharatpur, explore the stunning Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary, home to hundreds of migratory and resident birds, including painted storks, pelicans, kingfishers, and the rare Siberian crane. Stroll or cycle the peaceful trails surrounded by lakes and dense vegetation, ideal for birdwatching and photography. End the day with a relaxing overnight stay in Bharatpur.

### **Day 12** Cycling to Agra & Sunset View of the Taj Mahal (ca. 30 - 45 Km)

Start your day with breakfast before cycling through scenic rural landscapes and charming villages from Bharatpur to Fatehpur Sikri, covering about 30 km (optional 43 km for a longer ride). Enjoy refreshing stops, explore historical sites, and have lunch at a local eatery. Then, board the support vehicle for the final journey to Agra. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and relax. As sunset approaches, savor high tea at a scenic spot with breathtaking views of the Taj Mahal. Enjoy fine teas and snacks while watching the golden light reflect on the iconic monument—an unforgettable experience. Return to your hotel afterward for a restful overnight stay in Agra.

### **Day 13** Taj Mahal, Farewell Dinner in Delhi & Departure

Start your day early with a magical sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal, as its white marble glows golden in the morning light. Wander the gardens, admire the intricate Mughal architecture, and soak in the serene ambiance of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to your hotel for breakfast, then travel by train back to Delhi, enjoying scenic views of rural India along the way. Once in Delhi, enjoy free time to shop for souvenirs, relax at your hotel, or visit local attractions. In the evening, gather for a special farewell dinner at a renowned restaurant, celebrating the journey and friendships made. A shared wash-and-change facility will be available at the hotel before departure. Wash & Change Facility: A shared wash-and-change room will be available at the hotel for freshening up before departure. After an unforgettable journey through India, You will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight, carrying with you cherished memories and incredible experiences. Safe travels!

# Dates, Prices & Services

## Included services

- 13-day/12-night trip with 3 overnight stays on comfortable ships in air-conditioned twin cabins and 9 overnight stays in hotels (3-5 star rating)
- Fullboard on the boat and halfboard in the hotels
- Additional lunch at Marari, Lunch at Sikri, High Tea in Agra
- Domestic flight from Kochi to Delhi
- Train journey between Agra and Delhi
- Guided bicycle tours and walks according to program
- City tours and entrance charges to National Parks, Taj Mahal etc.
- English speaking guides
- Rental bikes (Cannon Dale Trail 6 or similar)
- Airport transfers on the official arrival and departure day
- Fees such as tourist taxes and port charges

## Not included in the basic tour price

- Inbound flight to Kochi and outbound flight from Delhi
- Camera fees payable at the monuments
- Beverages on board and in hotels
- Meals not described in itinerary
- Tips

## Prices for Additional Optional Services 2025

Insurance against theft and damage of the rental bike  
(not insured: grossly negligent damages) 14 euro/trip

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Extra night in Delhi at the end of the tour price on request

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# Arrival

## Travel Preparations

Please note: This trip [starts in Kochi](#) and [ends in New Delhi](#).

Travel to India requires some advance preparation, especially regarding entry requirements.

To avoid last-minute stress, we recommend booking your trip at least [two months in advance](#).

## Arrival by Air

We recommend booking flights through a travel agent. Please note that you must book the outward flight to Kochi ([Cochin International Airport / COK](#)) and the return flight from Delhi ([Indira Gandhi International Airport / DEL](#)).

The earlier a flight is booked the better the chances are of finding a reasonably priced ticket. Please let your travel agent inform you of the best possibilities for your specific situation.

## Visa Requirements

All citizens from USA, Canada and UK require valid visa or e-visa, which can be obtained from the Indian embassy or also online. You can apply for an e-visa in English via the following link: [Electronic Visa system - India](#)

A passport that is valid for [at least six months](#) beyond the date of entry and contains [at least two free pages](#) for endorsements is required for entry. It is recommended that you carry proof of your return or onward journey (e.g. flight ticket) and a booking confirmation for your accommodation, as these documents may be checked on entry.