

Kerala Bike

Bike through one of India's most spectacular states



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Kerala Bike Challenge

Cycle through the natural beauty of India

To visit India is a visit to a living, breathing museum where the past exists comfortably beside the present. This superb bike challenge takes place in Kerala, one of the smallest states in India. The state stretches for about 360 miles along the Malabar Coast on the western side of the Indian peninsula.

Kerala has evolved a unique culture, and is a land of great natural beauty. From the majestic heights of the Western Ghats, the country undulates westward presenting a vista of silent valleys clothed in the richest green. We pass an outstanding variety of scenery over 340km, from the tropical forests of Western Ghats, fine wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

Our biking route weaves its way through the Western Ghats, with slopes covered in wildflowers, we pass tea plantations, coconut farms, pine and bamboo forest which create a stunning patchwork of colours. At night we will camp under the stars and our ride finishes with a well earned rest on the beach.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart London

Depart London for a flight to India.

Day 2: Arrive India

We arrive at Kochi International airport with a garland welcome, assistance and transfer to hotel. After an early lunch, enjoy sightseeing of Kochi - an obscure fishing village that became the first European township in India, Kochi has an eventful and colourful history. Its reputation as a sea facing commercial town was such that Nicolas Conti, an Italian traveller of the Middle Ages remarked: 'If China is where you make your money, then Kochi surely is the place to spend it.' The town was shaped by the Portuguese, the Dutch and later the British. The result of these cultural influences is seen in the many examples of Indo European architecture that still exist here. Just before dinner we will have a full briefing about the bike challenge and spend time fitting our bikes.

Day 3: Kochi to Parambikulam

This morning we will transfer approx. 7hrs by road to Parambikulam via Sholayar and Valparai Tea Estates. The roads wind us through the stunning views of the Western Ghats and we will stop off en-route for lunch. Overnight Forest Lodge.

Day 4: Parambikulam to Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary to Marayoor 94km

After breakfast our cycling challenge begins around 10km drive away at the Annamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, where Elephants and the Nilgiri Tahr (ibex) are often spotted. The first 30kms take us through the villages of Tamil Nadu passing paddy fields and coconut farms. We then enter Chinnar Sanctuary, famous for over 225 species of bird stopping off for lunch and then continuing our afternoon ride to our overnight camp spot.



Day 5: Marayoor to Munnar 40km

Today our ride continues through Kanthalloor village before reaching Anaimudo Shola National Park, the biggest Shola forest in India. It's a tough uphill rough trail to the some tea plantations and Kundula Dam. After lunch we ride into the Yellapatty valley. Our camp tonight is approx. 1hrs walk into the tea plantation with the most spectacular views of Tamil Nadi, the second highest peak in South India.

Day 6: Munnar to Kailasapara 99km

A long day today. The ride is on rough jeep tracks winding through tea, coffee and pepper plantations and then passing small villages with a stunning view point at Munnar-Lockheart Gap. The final section of the day is on tarmac to Kailasapara Camp.

Day 7: Kailasapara to Periyar 99km

After breakfast our ride continues through quiet village roads where we can see paddy fields and spice plantations. Today will be very undulating until we reach Periyar, our camp for tonight.

Detailed itinerary

Day 8: Periyar to Kuttikanam to Elapara to Wagamon to Teekoy 64km

Today we take an early morning tranquil boat ride in Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, notable for an elephant and tiger sanctuary. We then continue our ride to the beautiful camp at Teekoy, passing lush green undulating tea estates. Overnight camp.

Day 9: Teekoy to Kumarakom to Muhamma 66km

Our final days riding! We ride through rubber and tea plantations to our finishing point at Muhamma. From here its a short transfer to Kovalam, a beautiful beach village and our hotel. Tonight we celebrate our achievements with a well deserved dinner.

Day 10 : Depart India

A free day to enjoy this sleepy fisherman's village! The beach is quiet and a perfect place to relax and unwind after the cycling challenge. We will have an early dinner before the transfer to the airport for our flight in the early hours of tomorrow morning (local time).

Day 11: Arrive London

Early morning arrival.

Challenge grade

Moderate

Best time of year

October to February

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This itinerary is complex and subject to change

