

Kerala Trek

India, 5 days trekking through the Western Ghats



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Kerala Trek Challenge

**Trek through the majestic heights of the Western Ghats,
one of the smallest states in India**

This stunning trek takes place in the majestic heights of the Western Ghats in Kerala, one of the smallest states in India. The Western Ghats are a magnificent range of hills, rising up from India's Malabar Coast, offering fine trekking reaching up to 2675m, through the magnificent grasslands, meadows with wild flowers, mixed forest of Rhododendrons, eucalyptus, pine, shoal, cotton, splendid tea gardens and beautiful villages. The trek offers superb views and the possible of seeing wildlife including wild elephants, Nilgiri Ibex and some of the finest bird watching anywhere in Southern India.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart London

Depart London for a flight to India.

Day 2: Arrive India

We arrive at Kochi International airport by our guides and be transferred to our hotel in Kochi. After lunch we will have our full trek briefing, followed by some sightseeing including a one hour boat cruise through the back water, walking tour of Fort Kochi, with a splendid sunset with vies of fishermen and their Chinese fishing nets. Dinner will be in a local restaurant, before returning to the hotel.

Day 3: Kochi to Munnar

After an early breakfast we drive to Munnar, the drive initially passes through the city, small towns and villages and then through the foothills of dense forest and winding roads. Munnar is situated in the heart of the Cardamom Hills, at 1700m, surrounded by endless green, rolling hills and 30 of India's highest tea estates. We will have time this evening to visit the local market and temple, then an early dinner and overnight in the hotel.

Day 4: Rodho Valley

5-6hrs trekking

After an early breakfast we drive approx. 1 and a half hours through the tea gardens and mixed forest to silent valley. After a great cup of black tea we set off on our trek through the tea gardens. We then continue through mixed forest on a gradual ascent until lunch. After lunch we will trek on a narrow path to our camp for the night, which offers fine views of the surrounding hills and is surrounded by Rhododendron bushes and trees. Overnight in tents

Day 5: Rodho Valley to Meesapuli Peak to

Yellapatty Valley

8-9hrs trekking

Today is the longest and most challenging day on the trek. We begin early and there is a high change of sighting Elephants and Nilgiri Ibex today. We have a steep ascent to the 2nd highest peak in South India- Messapuli (2675m). The views are splendid from here with Kerala on one side and the distant hills of Tamil Nadu on the other. This afternoon we will make a long descent through grassland, mixed forest and tea gardens to camp. Overnight tents.



Detailed itinerary

Day 6: Yellapatty Valley to Korangani 6-7hrs trekking

We start after breakfast with a short ascent before our final steep descent into the tea plantation. We trek along a horse track used by British officers during the time of Raj. After lunch we will continue our descent through tea gardens and mixed forest to the village of Korangani, where we will camp for the night. Our camp is set in a terraced cotton plantation.

Day 7: Korangani to Kolukkumalai 7-8hrs trekking

Today we will be trekking again through tea gardens and thick forest, with a great opportunity for some bird spotting. In the afternoon we will ascend to the village and onto our final camp spot offering magnificent views of the days trek and the surrounding mountains. Overnight in tents.

Day 8: Korangani to Suryanelly to Madurai 3-4hrs trekking

After breakfast we trek down through the highest tea growing estate in the world. After a lovely cup of tea, we follow a small dirt track through the tea gardens, see a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and a small school to a small road head.

Day 8: cont.

We will then have a 5hr transfer back to Madurai. Tonight we will celebrate all our great achievements with a gala dinner in the hotel.

Day 9: India to UK

Transfer to the airport for overnight flight back to UK

Day 10: Arrive back in UK

Challenge grade

Moderate

Best time of year

October to February

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This itinerary is complex and subject to change.

