



India

KERALA BACKWATERS SHORT CRUISE

The Northern Backwaters: Kochi to Alappuzha 4 nights

4 NIGHTS NORTH

Choose from three or four-night journeys through Kerala's backwaters. For centuries, this network of lakes, canals, and waterways formed the arteries of the Malabar Coast, carrying spices, coir, and traders between inland villages and the bustling port of Kochi, where Arab, Chinese, Portuguese, Dutch, and British influences helped shape the region's identity. Winding through coconut groves, rice paddies, and traditional villages, these waterways continue to reveal the rich cultural heritage of southern India. Along the way, discover the colonial streets of Fort Kochi, witness the artistry of Kathakali and Mohiniattam performances, cruise through peaceful backwaters, and visit ancient temples, churches, and villages that have flourished along these waterways for generations. Whether you're seeking a shorter introduction to Kerala or looking to combine your cruise with a wider journey across India, these itineraries offer an immersive look into one of the country's most captivating regions.



[VIEW ONLINE](#)

CONTENTS

Route Map	p.03
Itinerary Northern Route	p.04
Pandaw Stateroom	p.07
Ships RV Kochi Pandaw.....	p.08
Ships RV Kerala Pandaw.....	p.09
Pre Tours	p.10
Post Tours	p.11

ROUTE MAP



ITINERARY NORTHERN ROUTE



DAY 1 **ARRIVE KOCHI**

We cordially invite our guests to board the RV Kochi Pandaw at the Panangad Jetty, a historic region once famous for its role in the spice trade between the coast and the hinterland. Following embarkation and lunch on board, we proceed on an afternoon excursion to the Kerala Folklore Museum. This unique architectural venture is constructed using salvage from historic traditional houses across Kerala, preserving the region's rich heritage. We then explore Fort Kochi, a water-bound region reflecting the colonial influences of the Portuguese, Dutch, and British. Highlights include St. Francis Church (Vasco da Gama Church)—the oldest European church in India—and a walk through Jew Town to view the historic Paradesi Synagogue and the iconic Chinese Fishing Nets, introduced by traders from the court of Kublai Khan in the 14th century. We return to the ship for a Welcome Cocktail and dinner.

DAY 2 **VAIKOM - KUMARAKOM**

We cast off early toward the Vaikom Terminal. Our morning excursion takes us to the Vaikom Mahadeva Temple, a site of immense archaeological and historical importance known as the "Kashi of the South." Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this temple is a classic example of traditional Kerala architecture and is believed in legend to have been built by Parasurama, the sixth avatar of Vishnu. We then sail toward Kumarakom, a cluster of scenic islands located on the backdrop of Vembanad Lake. In the late afternoon, we invite you to witness a performance of Kathakali, a classical Indian dance-drama noted for its elaborate make-up, costumes, and detailed gestures that narrate stories from Indian epics.

DAY 3 **NATTAKAM**

We sail this morning to Nattakam, a serene village known for its lush greenery. We board a traditional country boat (Shikara) for a relaxed sail to the Munroe Lighthouse. Built in 1885, this historic structure guides ships with its striking beacon and offers panoramic views of the Kerala backwaters. In the afternoon, we explore Kumarakom, a renowned bird sanctuary and village on Vembanad Lake. Famous for its mangrove forests and paddy fields, this excursion offers an intimate look at village life in the backwaters.

ITINERARY NORTHERN ROUTE



DAY 4 **KAINAKARY - KAVALAM**

We cast off toward Kainakary, a picturesque village within the Kuttanad region, often called the "Rice Bowl of Kerala." Our morning visit is to the ancestral home of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, a 19th-century saint and social reformer who played a pivotal role in the education and social upliftment of the state. Following lunch, we embark on a village walk through Kavalam. The tour includes a visit to St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church, an architectural testament to the ancient Christian traditions that have flourished in Kerala since the 1st century AD. The day concludes with a performance of Mohiniattam, the "Dance of the Enchantress," a classical dance form characterised by graceful, swaying movements traditionally performed by women.

DAY 5 **ALAPPUZHA - THOTTAPALLY - KOCHI**

We sail toward Alleppey (Alappuzha), colloquially known as the "Venice of the East" due to its vast network of canals. Our morning excursion visits the Revi Karunakaran Memorial Museum. Established by Betty Karan in honour of her husband, a leading coir industrialist, this private museum houses a magnificent collection of Swarovski crystals, ivory, Tanjore paintings, and porcelain. In the afternoon, we take a scenic drive to Thottapally Beach. Here, guests will witness a thrilling demonstration of Kalaripayattu, considered the oldest surviving martial art in the world. We then visit a local fishing community temple to observe evening rituals and take a walk through the unique pine forest that borders the beach.

Disembark 1200 and transfer 1.5 hour to Kochi (Cochin) or 2.5 hours to the Cochin International Airport. Transfers not included but can be arranged by Pandaw on request.

WHATS INCLUDED

Cruise Price Includes: 1st class train ticket, transfers to/from the hotel/station at beginning and end of trip, entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes plus our India complimentary drinks package.

Cruise Price Excludes: Flights, port dues (if levied), laundry, all visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes and tips to tour guides, local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers. Weather Condition Warning River cruising on the Lower and Upper Ganges can be severely affected by fog during the months of December and January. This may impact the sailing schedules and the planned excursions. While every effort will be made to make up time and include all activities this is not always possible. Similarly temperatures can drop significantly overnight and in the early mornings, though during the day warmer temperatures can be expected. Winter temperatures can be below average with many destinations in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh experiencing long spells of cold.

TRANSFERS & JOINING

DAY 1 **EMBARKATION**

Transfer from the airport or hotels in the city to the ship. Flight arrivals should be before 11am. Pickup time from hotels near the airport is 9:30am. Pickup time for hotels near Fort Kochi is 10:00am.

DAY 5 **DISEMBARKATION**

Disembark at 12:00 with optional transfer of 1.5 hours to Kochi (Cochin) or 2.5 hours to the Cochin International Airport.

PANDAW STATEROOMS

The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships, combining splendid colonial-era character with exquisite contemporary comfort.

Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are a spacious 168 square feet (15.6 sqm), with the exception of the RV Kindat Pandaw which is 150 square feet (14 sqm). As the space is much loved by all our passengers, we have ensured that with each ship we build, the stateroom remains essentially the same. Be advised: our cabins do not have mini-bars, satellite TV's, internet access or telephones. Passengers tend to choose Pandaw in order to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.



• Fruit and flowers on arrival • Kimonos and slippers • Spa-branded amenities • Unlimited mineral water	<table><tr><td>Bedroom</td><td>12' x 10'</td></tr><tr><td>Bathroom</td><td>6' x 4'</td></tr><tr><td>Showroom</td><td>2' 8" x 3' 4"</td></tr><tr><td>Single Bed</td><td>6' 7" x 3' 3"</td></tr></table>	Bedroom	12' x 10'	Bathroom	6' x 4'	Showroom	2' 8" x 3' 4"	Single Bed	6' 7" x 3' 3"
Bedroom	12' x 10'								
Bathroom	6' x 4'								
Showroom	2' 8" x 3' 4"								
Single Bed	6' 7" x 3' 3"								



DOUBLE CONFIGURATION



TWIN CONFIGURATION

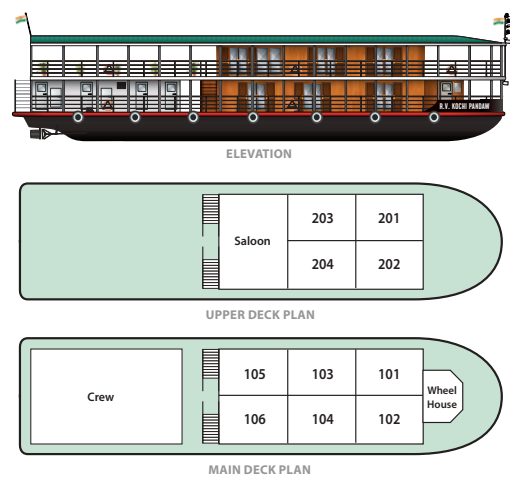


PANDAW SHIPS

RV Kochi Pandaw

Pandaw are excited to announce a new build vessel for the Kerala backwaters in South India. Launching in October 2025, the ten cabin Kochi Pandaw has been specially designed for this routing whilst maintaining the much loved classic Pandaw cabin and wrap round promenade decks. This will be Pandaw's fourth ship in India and reflects the increasing demand for river cruises in India. It is anticipated that many Pandaw regulars will combine this cruise with a cruise on the Ganges or Brahmaputra, where Pandaw is well established as the premier operator. The Kerala backwaters offer an incredible diversity of culture in addition to breathtaking scenery, beaches and its own cuisine.

[view images of RV Kochi PANDAW](#)



- **Build:** 2025
- **Length:** 30m
- **Beam:** 8.5m
- **Draft:** 0.8cm
- **Berths:** 20 pax

ACCOMMODATION

- 4 upper deck staterooms and 6 main deck staterooms
- 170 square feet, finished in teak and brass
- Panoramic French window, leading to personal deck space
- New bathrooms with natural stone shower and branded quality fittings
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water
- Electric mini safe
- Central AC with individual control
- Imported quality linens with duvet and two kind of pillows
- Premium mattresses
- Convertible bed configuration
- Welcome flower arrangement and welcome gift
- Mirror
- Multi-configuration plugs
- Generous closet space and under-bed storage
- Hair dryer
- Nightly turndown service
- 24h laundry service
- Complimentary evening canapés
- Yoga mats in all cabins
- Complimentary evening canapés

WINING & DINING

- Bistro style dining room with outside seating and air-conditioning inside
- Local master chef heading an experienced international culinary team
- Semi-buffet breakfast, Semi-buffet lunch, and seated theme dinners
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Complimentary local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes
- Extensive wine list with premium wines
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes, and ship tour
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Welcome cocktail
- Farewell reception
- Theme dinners
- Spacious, air-conditioned saloon bar with nightly entertainment
- Sundek bar
- Pool table on sundeck
- 24hrs hospitality bar
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls

ON EXCURSIONS

- Admissions
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Bottled drinking water
- We give away aluminium water bottles
- Cold towel service after excursions
- Refreshing drink following excursions
- Full-size motor coach on all excursions
- Deluxe sampans with cold towel service, fresh fruit, and tea/coffee
- Comfortable "Pandaw Explorer" excursion boat
- 1st aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions

SAFETY & SECURITY

- All onboard crew is trained and certified as per international marine standards (VIREs)
- Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas
- Firefighting system in all ship areas
- Expert marine superintendant
- 24 hrs watch on duty

ONBOARD STAFF

- Captain
- First Officer
- River Pilot
- Chief Engineer
- 1st Engineer
- Electrician
- Bosun & nautical crew
- Ship manager
- Housekeeping
- Dining
- Bar keeper
- Chefs
- Local tour guides

PUBLIC SPACES

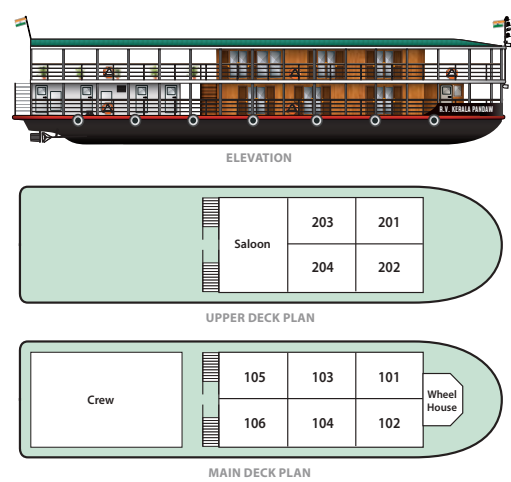
- Guest relation desk
- Library with contemporary and classic literature

PANDAW SHIPS

RV Kerala Pandaw

Launching in December 2026, the ten cabin Kerala Pandaw has been specially designed for the backwaters of Kerala, whilst maintaining the much-loved classic Pandaw cabin and wrap round promenade decks. This will be Pandaw's fifth ship in India and reflects the increasing demand for river cruises in India.

[view images of RV Kerala PANDAW](#)



- Build: 2026
- Length: 30m
- Beam: 8.5m
- Draft: 0.8cm
- Berths: 20 pax

ACCOMMODATION

- 4 upper deck staterooms and 6 main deck staterooms
- 170 square feet, finished in teak and brass
- Panoramic French window, leading to personal deck space
- New bathrooms with natural stone shower and branded quality fittings
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water
- Electric mini safe
- Central AC with individual control
- Imported quality linens with duvet and two kind of pillows
- Premium mattresses
- Convertible bed configuration
- Welcome flower arrangement and welcome gift
- Mirror
- Multi-configuration plugs
- Generous closet space and under-bed storage
- Hair dryer
- Nightly turndown service
- 24h laundry service
- Complimentary evening canapés
- Yoga mats in all cabins
- Complimentary evening canapés

WINING & DINING

- Bistro style dining room with outside seating and air-conditioning inside
- Local master chef heading an experienced international culinary team
- Semi-buffet breakfast, Semi-buffet lunch, and seated theme dinners
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Complimentary local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes
- Extensive wine list with premium wines
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes, and ship tour
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Welcome cocktail
- Farewell reception
- Theme dinners
- Spacious, air-conditioned saloon bar with nightly entertainment
- Sundek bar
- Pool table on sundeck
- 24hrs hospitality bar
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls

ON EXCURSIONS

- Admissions
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Bottled drinking water
- We give away aluminium water bottles
- Cold towel service after excursions
- Refreshing drink following excursions
- Full-size motor coach on all excursions
- Deluxe sampans with cold towel service, fresh fruit, and tea/coffee
- Comfortable "Pandaw Explorer" excursion boat
- 1st aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions

SAFETY & SECURITY

- All onboard crew is trained and certified as per international marine standards (VIREs)
- Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas
- Firefighting system in all ship areas
- Expert marine superintendant
- 24 hrs watch on duty

ONBOARD STAFF

- Captain
- First Officer
- River Pilot
- Chief Engineer
- 1st Engineer
- Electrician
- Bosun & nautical crew
- Ship manager
- Housekeeping
- Dining
- Bar keeper
- Chefs
- Local tour guides

PUBLIC SPACES

- Guest relation desk
- Library with contemporary and classic literature

PRE EXTENSIONS

Pre Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

MARARIKULAM FISHING VILLAGE BEACH BREAK PRE TOUR

[Learn More](#)



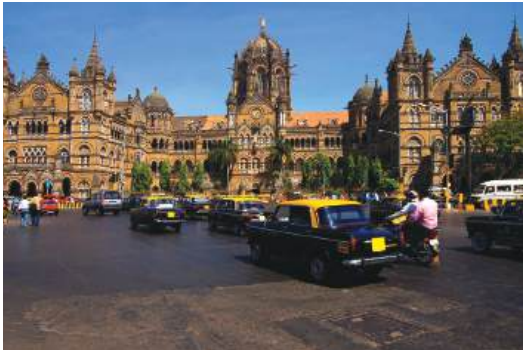
KOCHI 1 NIGHT PRE TOUR

[Learn More](#)



MUMBAI 2 NIGHT PRE TOUR

[Learn More](#)



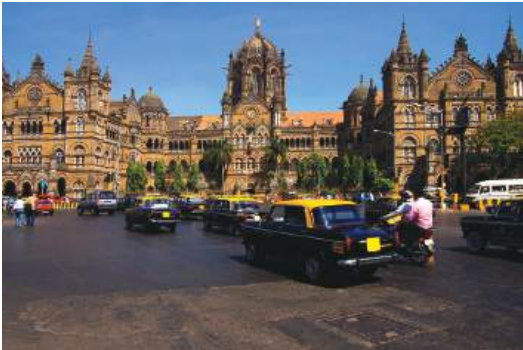
CONT'D

POST EXTENSIONS

Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

MUMBAI 2 NIGHT PRE TOUR

[Learn More](#)



KOCHI 1 NIGHT POST TOUR

[Learn More](#)



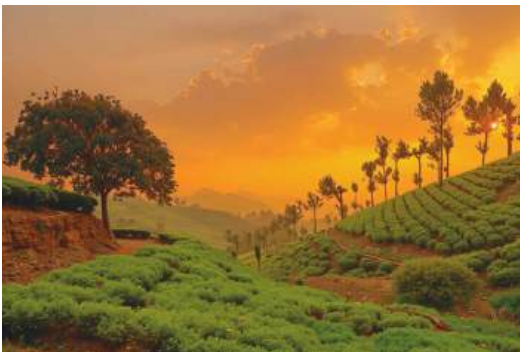
MARARIKULAM FISHING VILLAGE BEACH BREAK POST TOUR

[Learn More](#)



FROM THE BACKWATERS TO THE CARDAMON HILLS POST TOUR

[Learn More](#)



CONT'D

OPTIONAL PACKAGE ADDONS & OTHER INFORMATION

Free Drinks On Board

Pandaw is happy to announce that our India expeditions are now all inclusive experiences, including local soft drinks, mixers, spirits and beers free of charge. Also included free of charge is our onboard house wine during lunch and dinner only. Onboard purchases of alcoholic beverages will not be possible.

River Conditions Warning!

The rivers you will sail on are subject to seasonal rises and falls of water level, in some places as much as 30 metres. Water levels can change dramatically overnight and a sudden rise can impede our progress upstream considerably and even prevent us from passing under certain bridges. A sudden fall can result in our being unable to get into certain places or go as far upstream as we would hope. Groundings on sandbars are not infrequent and are part of the excitement of any Pandaw expedition. Published itineraries are indicational only and subject to sudden change. In such events alternative itineraries will be provided and we do our best to ensure that if a stop is missed we make up for it with another stop. Passengers are thus forewarned and expected to be flexible and patient. River cruising in Asia can be a dramatic and adventurous experience - not like cruising the controlled waterways of Europe or America. Note also that we operate in areas with little or no developed infrastructure and subject to the strictures of local officialdom. Be prepared for this and it is all more the fun!

Useful Links

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS CLICK [HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

GENERAL INFORMATION & LIFE ON BOARD CLICK [HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

VISA INFORMATION CLICK [HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

CONT'D

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



facebook.com/pandawriverexpeditions



@pandaw_river_expeditions



@pandaw-river-expeditions



Pandaw Expeditions



PANDAW

UK

+44 (0)208396 7320

uk@pandaw.com

GLOBAL

+84 (0)28 4458 2618

information@pandaw.com

NORTH AMERICA

TOLL FREE 1-877-872-6329

usa@pandaw.com

AUSTRALIA

TOLL FREE 1800 207 625

aus@pandaw.com

NEW ZEALAND

TOLL FREE 0800 115 250

aus@pandaw.com

GERMANY, SWITZERLAND & AUSTRIA

+49 30 3464981 30

dach@pandaw.com

PANDAW.COM