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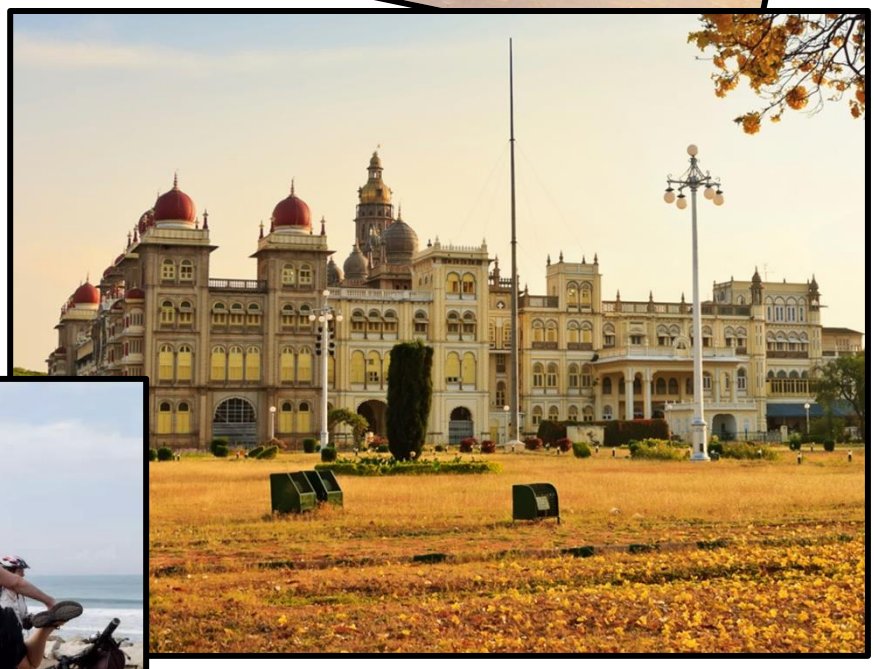
SOUTH INDIA by BIKE

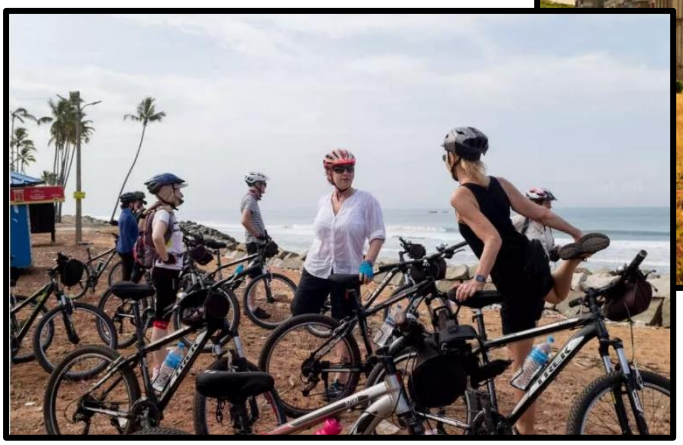
A tour for Outdoor Adventurer's!

wildside
for travel less ordinary

11 - 28 November 2027







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SOUTHERN INDIA by BIKE – 2027

INTRODUCTION

Discover two very different sides of Southern India on a journey from Tamil Nadu to Kerala by bike. Begin in coastal Pondicherry, once a French colonial outpost, and ride quiet backroads through colourful temple towns and traditional villages. Climb steadily into the lush Western Ghats, where spice gardens and tea plantations blanket the hills, before descending to Kerala's serene backwaters and ending your adventure in historic Kochi on the Arabian Sea coast. Embark on an epic ride from Tamil Nadu to Kerala. Discover UNESCO Heritage temples, Royal Palaces and Chettiar mansions. Savour the Taste of Chettinad's famous cuisine and join a family-run cooking class on their spice farm.

TOUR INFORMATION

The cycling grade on this tour is moderate, you don't need to be a pro to take part, but you should have a good level of fitness and be accustomed to cycling the distances and ascents as described. Cycling distances are mapped out in the day - to-day itinerary. We'll be covering a lot of ground in the itinerary as we cover two of India's most southern states. Expect a busy itinerary, balanced with some downtime to relax after a day of cycling.

TRAVEL COMFORT

It's worth noting there is a back-up vehicle to transport you if you're feeling tired or just fancy a break from pedalling. The roads we cycle on will mainly be country roads and backroads. This will bring us closer to local life. Transfers have been arranged to avoid the busy traffic in and out of many of the major cities on this itinerary.
Your included bike is either a 24 gear Merida D20 and D40 Mountain bike, 27 year Trek-3700 Mountain bike or 29 gear Rudley Trail Fire 4 Mountain bike and will be the correct frame size for your height. A 2.5 litre handlebar bag and water bottle holder are included as well as the facility to fit your own pedals or saddle if you wish to bring them.
During this tour, we stay in mainly comfortable 3* accommodation , with one night in a simple, but traditional houseboat, and homestay. Our accommodation is chosen with comfort, location and authenticity in mind but it's worth noting that standards might differ from those at home.

GROUND OPERATOR AND TOUR LEADER

Our ground operator will be Explore Worldwide, who 44 years ago were the ground breakers for providing safe and exciting access to wilderness areas, outdoor activity and rustic experiences for older travellers and to this day remain legendary! Wildside has had a long association with the Explore-style and their evolution in outdoor travel tourism over many decades. Please note we are joining a *scheduled departure* so other travellers will be present on this trip.

The Explore Tour Leaders are the key to the success of the company; they are local experts who are bursting with first-hand knowledge which they love to share, and their unique insights will bring the destination to life. Your Tour Leader will be on hand throughout your tour to make sure arrangements run smoothly, to organise all the local logistics and to keep you safe. Your Tour Leader should be your first point of contact if you encounter any difficulties or disappointments in country – please raise any concerns, however small, with your Tour Leader as they are best placed to assist you.

WEATHER

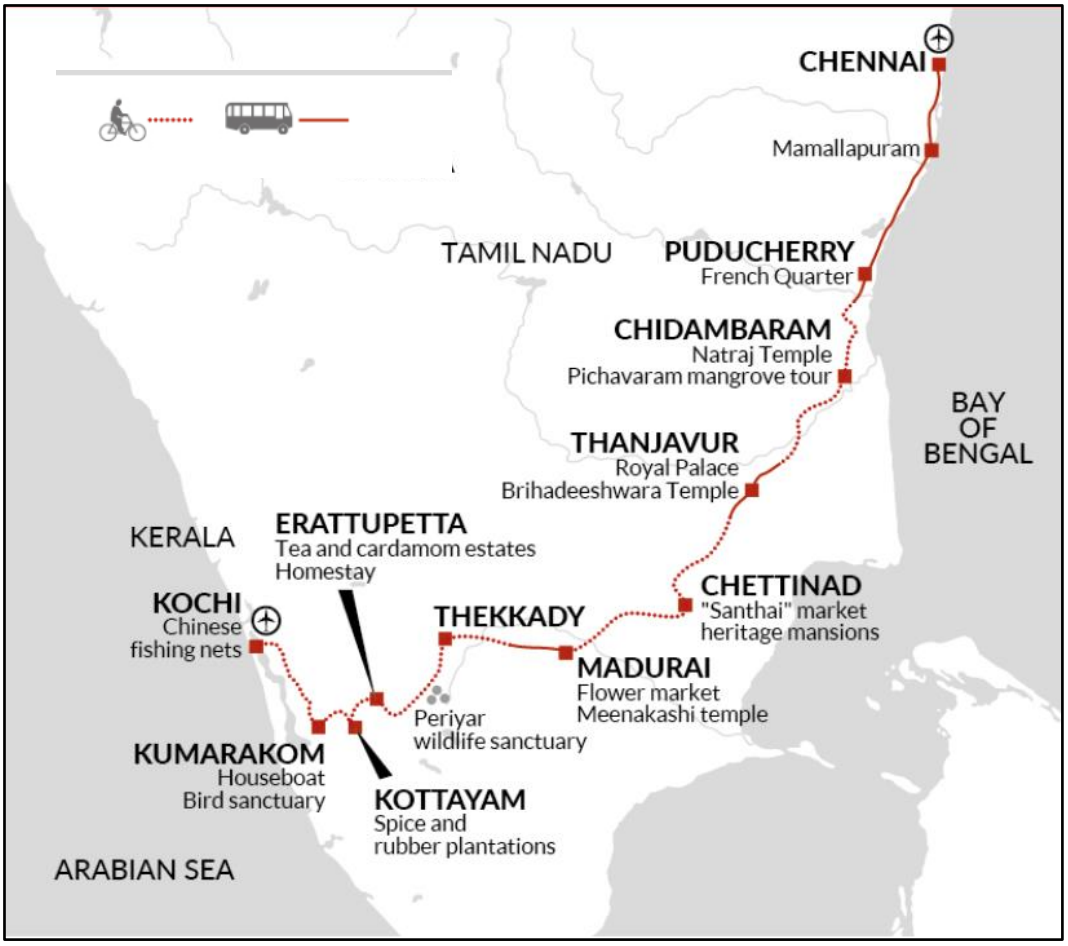
It can get incredibly hot and humid in Southern India, particularly from April onwards, as the country edges closer to monsoon season. For this reason, it's worth packing light, breathable layers that are comfortable to cycle in, and plenty of sun cream.
There is considerable variation between the different regions of India but, in general, the climate is tropical. The South-West Monsoon, which lasts from June- September and can be very wet and therefore very humid. At altitude, temperatures can become quite cool at night even in the summer and may drop below freezing between December and February so warm clothing is necessary. The south of India remains warm and sunny during the winter months. Please see the packing section for more information.

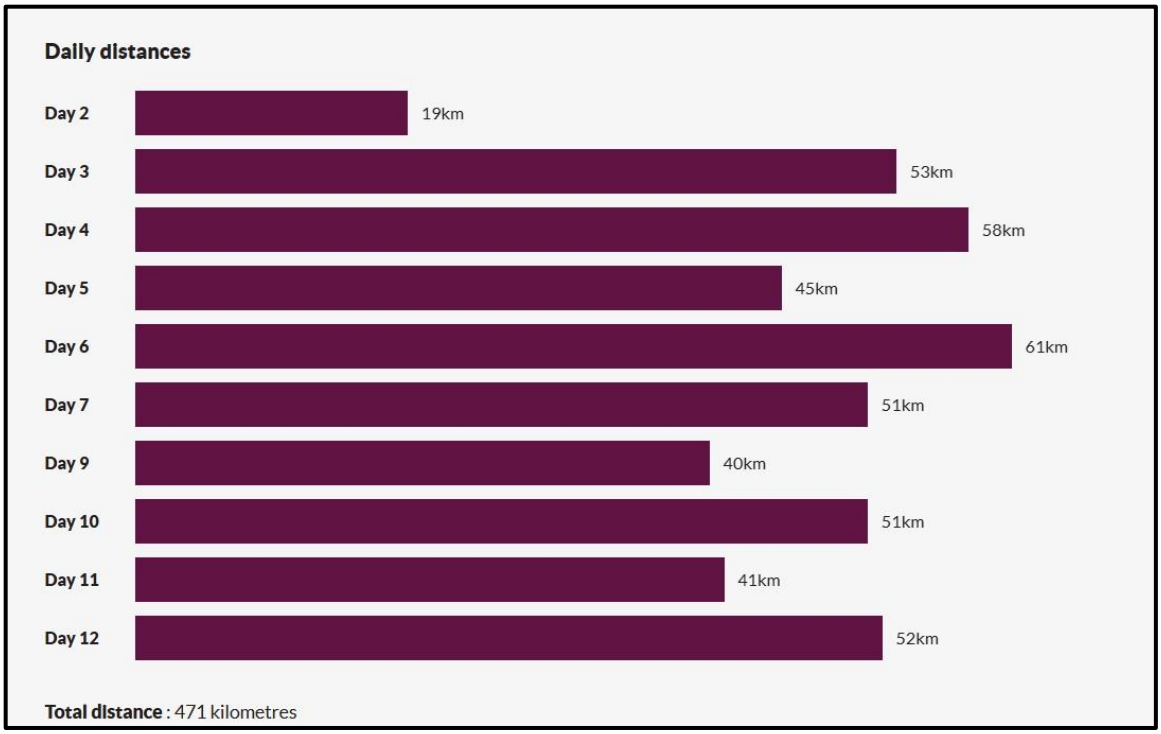
MONEY, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

USD$ or NZD$ are commonly taken and exchanged for local Rupee on arrival. It is difficult to obtain Ruppee outside of India. New Zealand passport holders are eligible for the e-Tourist Visa to enter India, valid for 30 days. An Arrivals card is separate and will also be required and can be done digitally in 2027.

Vaccinations: Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis, Typhoid and Polio. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure.

MAP





ITINERARY: SOUTHERN INDIA BY BIKE

11 NOV Day 1 – Arrive in Chennai
Arrive at the busy City of Chennai (Madras) for 1 night.
Transfer to airport hotel and settle in for a relax after the long flights. Dinner at hotel restaurant.

12 NOV Day 2 – transfer to Puducherry via Mamallapuram (B,D)
Our tour starts today in Puducherry, formerly known as Pondicherry, a former French colonial outpost on India's southeast coast. Known for its tree-lined boulevards, colonial-era villas and lively markets, the city blends French architecture with Tamil traditions, giving it a charming seaside atmosphere.
We'll have some lunch in Mamallapuram before continuing to Puducherry. After checking in , we'll meet the tour leader at the hotel lobby around 4pm to get set up with our bikes. We'll then transfer into Puducherry town where we'll take a gentle warm up ride, testing out our bikes along the coast. Back at the hotel, there's time to freshen up before we head out for our first group dinner and an evening briefing about the journey ahead.
Accommodation:
Hotel Atithi (or similar) *Swimming Pool

13 NOV Day 3 – Circular ride of the Auroville ashram, afternoon explore of Pondicherry's French Quarter (B)
We start our first full day in Puducherry with a ride out to Auroville, an experimental township founded in 1968. Created with human unity in mind, the spiritual commune was developed by Mirra Alfass, also known as 'The Mother', whose idea was to create a place for all people, regardless of their gender, nationality or religion, to live together in harmony. Today, Auroville is recognised for both its giant golden meditation dome, the Matrimandir, and for being one of the most famous ashrams in India.
After exploring Auroville's visitor centre and learning about the community's philosophy, we head back to Puducherry for lunch.
In the afternoon, our tour leader will take us on a city tour of this French colonial town on foot, exploring the European-style buildings of the French Quarter. We'll learn why the French colony settled in Puducherry in the 18th century, whilst walking past the colourful markets and colonial houses.
Our total cycling distance today is approximately 32 kilometres / 20 miles on flat terrain
Accommodation:
Hotel Atithi (or similar) *Swimming Pool

14 NOV Day 4 - Pedal through rural villages to Chidambaram. (B,L,D)
After breakfast, we take a one-hour transfer out of Puducherry to avoid the city's busy traffic. At our starting point, we meet the crew and support vehicle with our bikes before beginning today's ride. We follow quiet backroads towards Chidambaram, passing through small rural settlements and agricultural land, experiencing rural day-to-daylife in Tamil Nadu unfold. We should expect to see an array of migratory and endemic birdlife on our ride today as we pass through lakes and waterways which these birds call home. As we reach a big lake towards the end of our ride, we'll stop for a picnic lunch under a shaded tree before meeting our bus for the drive into Chidambaram. On arrival in the city this afternoon we use our vehicle again to avoid the busier urban sections, then check into our hotel. Tonight we'll be staying in a heritage property located in a small village outside of Chidambaram town. The afternoon has been kept free to relax after today's long ride. For those who want to stretch their legs, your Tour Leader can take you for a walk around the local village where hopefully you will see clay pot ovens being made. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 52 kilometres / 32 miles on flat terrain. Total cycling time should be around 5 - 6 hours.
Accommodation:
Lakshmi Vilas Heritage Resort (or similar)

15 NOV Day 5 - Follow the Cauvery River to Thanjavur, the Rice Bowl of Tamil Nadu (B,L)
After breakfast, we take a short transfer to the outskirts of the city to bypass the morning traffic. From our starting point, we'll mount our bikes and begin our 60-kilometre ride on quiet country roads as we follow the Cauvery River towards Thanjavur city.
Known as the 'Rice Bowl of Tamil Nadu', as it boasts some of the most fertile lands in India, producing vast quantities of rice, Thanjavur is also famed for its Chola dynasty temples and rich cultural heritage. At the end of our ride we complete the busier section of road into town in our vehicle.

Thanjavur was the former heartland of the Chola dynasty, an empire that originated in the fertile valley of the Cauvery River and ruled for over four centuries, from the 9th to the 13th century. Its power stretched beyond the borders of India, to as far as Sri Lanka, the Maldives and parts of Southeast Asia, thanks to its maritime presence. Besides their enormous influence in establishing trade connections between India and Southeast Asia, the Cholas were also great patrons of Tamil arts.
This afternoon we visit the UNESCO-listed Brihadeeswarar Temple, an outstanding example of Chola architecture with its 66-metre-high vimana (tower) and large stone Nandi bull statue. From here, we will visit the Royal Palace, whose paintings, manuscripts and sculptures depict the Chola dynasty.
From here, we will wander over to the Sangeet Mahal, a Hall of Music designed to showcase its excellent acoustics, where public events and concerts once took place.
Our total cycling distance today is approximately 60 kilometres / 37 miles (total 265 metres or 870 feef accumulated ascent and descent).
Accommodation:
Hotel Gnanam (or similar) *Swimming Pool

16 NOV **Day 6 - Cycle to Chettinad; afternoon explore of Athangudi and cooking demonstration of famous Chettinad cuisine (B,L,D)**
This morning, we leave the Chola heartland of Tamil Nadu as we head further south into the Chettinad region of Tamil Nadu. Known for its impressive mansions built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by wealthy traders known as Chettiars. This community amassed their wealth primarily as indigenous bankers and moneylenders across South and Southeast Asia, filling a credit gap left by colonial banks. They also traded precious stones with other countries. Sadly, overseas trade and lending were impacted by the Second World War, which resulted in many of these mansions being abandoned as the traders of the Nattukottai Chettiar community fled the country. Despite many of the mansions being abandoned and left to ruin, in more recent years, some of the mansions have been restored as boutique hotels, offering guests the chance to glimpse into the past. We'll finish up our ride for the day by taking a 45-minute transfer into the town, avoiding the highway, where we'll check into our hotel and head to lunch. This afternoon, we'll drive a short distance to Athangudi town, famous for its tile making. We'll visit a local tile maker who will show us the detailed process of how the beautiful tiles are poured and polished, all by hand - a process which has remained virtually the same for generations. From here, we will continue to Athangudi Palace, which showcases these tiles, along with intricate Burmese teak woodwork designs. Aside from its impressive Chettiar mansions, the Chettinad region is also renowned for its famous cuisine. This evening, we'll enjoy a cooking demonstration to discover why this part of Tamil Nadu is so celebrated, sampling a couple of regional dishes. Such as the famous Chettinad chicken (or vegetarian curry) and chutney. Please note in Chettinadu Court Hotel, breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be arranged in Chettinadu Mansion, which is approximately 30 metres from Chettinadu Court. The hotel will provide a buggy to collect you, alternatively you can enjoy a short walk between hotels. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 55 kilometres / 34 miles on flat terrain. Total cycling today should be around 5 hours.
Accommodation:
Chettinadu Court (or similar) *Swimming Pool

17 NOV **Day 7 - Ride to Madurai. Visit to Madurai Palace and rickshaw ride to Meenakshi Temple (B)**
We leave Chettinad this morning and will be making our way to Madurai via a couple of interesting stops. We'll cycle past granite quarries and mason workshops who are responsible for carving temple pillars for over 2,500 years. Our ride will take us past local villages until we reach the main highway. Here our vehicle will meet us, where we will pack our bikes up and head to our lunch spot for a Sadya lunch, served on a banana leaf (cutlery optional!) On the way to our hotel, we'll take a stop at the flower market in Madurai. The market is a colorful feast for the eyes (and nose!) where you'll see piles of jasmine, marigolds, and roses, to name a few, being bought and sold for weddings, celebrations, and worship. This afternoon will be spent exploring the old city of Madurai, starting with Madurai Palace. From the palace, we'll hop on rickshaws and weave our way through the city to Meenakshi Temple, stopping to look at the markets along the way. Sri Meenakshi- Sundareshwara temple, is arguably one of the most beautiful and atmospheric temples in Southern India. The Hindu temple is one of the biggest temple structures in India and is an iconic sight in Tamil Nadu. Thousands of huge stone pillars line the hallways, each adorned with different deities, and are said to represent the 3,333,333 gods of the Hindu cosmos. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 55 kilometres / 34 miles (total 200 meters / 655 feet accumulated ascent and descent). Total cycling time today should be around 5 - 6 hours.
Accommodation:
JC Residency (or similar) *Swimming Pool

18 NOV Day 8 - Cross into the lush Western Ghats (B,L)

Cross into the lush Western Ghats After breakfast, we leave behind the hustle and bustle of Madurai and drive towards the Western Ghats. Our bus journey of around two hours takes us through changing landscapes, from fertile plains into rolling fields of sugarcane and coconut palms. From Theni, we begin our ride passing by banana groves, vineyards, corn fields and ivy gourd plantations before we begin our slow but steady ascent up to the Western Ghats. Our time in Tamil Nadu comes to an end today as we cross into Kerala. The rest of the afternoon is free to spend wandering around Thekkady, visiting the many spice stores or trying some freshly-fried banana chips. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 50 kilometres / 31 miles (total 605 metres / 1985 feet accumulated ascent and descent). Total cycling today should be around 3 - 4 hour

Accommodation:

Abad Green Forest-Best Resort (or similar) *Swimming Pool

19 NOV Day 9 - Early morning trek in Periyar National Park. At leisure or an optional river safari (B)

We'll head out on a guided walk in Periyar National Park bright and early today. Led by a trained forest department tribal guide, the trek will take us approximately 3 hours through a dense forest of teak, rosewood, sandalwood and mango, where we will keep our eyes peeled for birds, butterflies and wildlife. Returning to the hotel in time for a late breakfast, the rest of the day is free for you to relax at the hotel or, for those who want to keep busy, to do an optional boat safari in the park. The boat safari is a great opportunity to spot Gaur, deer, monkeys, and, from March to May, herds of elephants. Otherwise, you have the option of an ayurverdic massage at your hotel, a spice plantation tour in the afternoon or an evening traditional martial arts show. Please see the budgeting section for more information. No cycling today.

Accommodation:

Abad Green Forest-Best Resort (or similar)

20 NOV Day 10 - Visit to a tea plantation en route to our homestay. Evening cooking demonstration at family home (B,D)

Today we continue our journey through the Cardamom Hills with a short transfer before reuniting with our bikes. We'll pause for a welcome tea stop at a local factory, learning about the tea-making process and the history of the industry in India. From here, we continue our ride, ascending towards Vagamon, an area of outstanding natural beauty. The road winds through tea plantations, offering some of the most scenic cycling of the journey before we begin our descent. Tonight, we stay at Planters Homestay, an 80- year-old two-storey family mansion set in a rural village. Built by her husband's family, our gracious host, Grace, has lived on the plantation for many years, and shares her home with her daughter and her grandchildren. Although the property is on the simple side, it will allow you to learn about local life in South India and spend time with the lovely family. All rooms are bright and airy with en-suite facilities, and some (but not all) have air conditioning. This evening, you will have the opportunity to help our lovely host, Grace, prepare dinner using ingredients grown in her plantation. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 40 kilometres/25 miles (total 690 metres/2,264 feet accumulated ascent and descent). Total cycling time today is approximately 3 - 4 hour.

Accommodation:

Planters Homestay (or similar)

21 NOV Day 11 -Cycle to Kottayam through spice and rubber plantations (B)

Today we set off from our homestay and head towards the backwaters. After our transfer, we'll cycle for 37km through the Keralan countryside as we make our way to our hotel located by Vembanad Lake. Approximately 10km of today's cycling will be on unpaved, uneven dirt roads as the road is currently under construction. It may be worth wearing sunglasses and a buff to prevent dust from getting in your face. This afternoon is free for you to relax at your hotel, where you can enjoy the pool or a massage. Otherwise, there is the option to do a Keralan village activity where you can learn about thatch roof weaving, coir weaving (rope making using coconut fibres) and local life. The activity is run by the Kerala Government as an initiative to create more income for rural villages. Our total cycling distance today is approximately 37 kilometres / 23 miles (total 520 metres / 1706 feet accumulated ascent and descent). Total cycling time today is approximately 5 - 6 hours.

Accommodation:

Abad Whispering Palms (or similar)*Simming Pool

22 NOV Day 12 - Morning cycle ride before our journey by traditional houseboat (B,L,D)
This morning, we have a leisurely start to the day. For those who want to stay active, there is the option to explore the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, home to cormorants, egrets, herons and more.
We'll board our houseboat around midday for an exotic journey, lazily chugging along the waterways used by villagers to connect each of the communities. We'll dock before dusk and watch the sun go down on the horizon.
The Kerala Backwaters are a remarkable 900km network of lagoons, canals and lakes, formed where the flow of rivers from the Western Ghats meets the Malabar Coast and Arabian Sea. The houseboat is perfect for observing locals who rely on it for transportation, fishing and farming going about their daily lives, as well as switching off and enjoying serenity and natural beauty.
The houseboats we use are simple yet comfortable, converted rice barges which have en-suite rooms and an area to relax and watch riverside life as we go by. Whilst the engine is running, there will be some power supply to charge cameras, but the air conditioning will be limited to nighttime only. Houseboat sizes range from two to five-bed barges; therefore, larger groups will likely be split over several boats.
Our total optional cycling distance today is approximately 35 kilometres/22 miles (total 65 metres/213 feet accumulated ascent and descent).
Accommodation:
Houseboat - Kochi (or similar)

23 NOV Day 13 - Cycle the coastal road to Fort Kochi (B)
Disembarking at Alleppey after breakfast, we'll travel by bus on the coast road north to Marari Beach, where we'll catch our first glimpse of the Arabian Sea. We'll continue to Andhakaranazhi, where the backwaters flow into the Arabian Sea, forming a strip of land called the "Azhi". From here, we'll ride the final stretch, concluding our epic ride from Tamil Nadu to Kerala.
We will be staying in a two-hundred-year-old heritage property located in the heart of Fort Kochi. The hotel is a great jumping point to explore Kochi, but for those who want to relax, the property has a rooftop pool to unwind in. The rest of the afternoon is yours at leisure to relax and celebrate the conclusion of a memorable ride.
Our total cycling distance today is approximately 40 kilometres/25 miles (total 73 metres/240 feet accumulated ascent and descent).
Accommodation:
Abad Old Court House (or similar) *Swimming Pool

24 NOV Day 14 - Day at leisure in Fort Kochi (B)
Today is completely free to explore Fort Kochi at our own pace. Our tour leader can arrange an orientation walk of the city for those who are interested.
Kochi was founded on trade, originally with the arrival of the Chinese, Arabs and Phoenicians in the 2 millennium BC. Its links to Europe strengthened in the 16th century, with the arrival of the Portuguese, closely followed by the Dutch and the English. This has produced an eclectic mix of styles and influences. You can find both the oldest European church and the oldest synagogue in India amongst its winding streets, and elsewhere, Chinese fishing nets vie for space alongside Portuguese houses and Dutch palaces.
Otherwise, there is the opportunity to visit the rural village of Chedamangalam to gain insight into what daily life is like in rural Kerala. The women of the village are supported by the Kudumbashree project, an initiative set up by the Keralan Government to eradicate poverty by creating livelihoods for the women. The visit will involve a cooking demonstration with a traditional sadya lunch served on banana leaves, followed by the opportunity to explore the village and farm.
Please see the budgeting section for information on this optional activity.
Accommodation:
Abad Old Court House (or similar) *Swimming Pool

25 NOV Day 15 – Cycle Trip ends in Kochi (B)
Our cycle tour ends at our hotel in Kochi today, but not our time in Kerala!

Wildsider's will check out of the city hotel and transfer to the quiet backwaters of North Paravur for a 3 day retreat
Our destination is the lovely **Madilina Heritage Villa**
Along with an outdoor pool, this villa has free use of bicycles and laundry facilities. Free WiFi in public areas
Additionally, a garden, barbecues and a picnic area are on-site. Five well-appointed bedrooms and 6 bathrooms.
We have this Villa to ourselves, along with a driver for access to surrounding activity and restaurants in the area.



26 NOV Day 16 – Kerala, Cultural Show (B)

We have a driver at our disposal for spontaneous exploring, restaurants and advice!
Tonight enjoy a local restaurant dinner before a Cultural Show.
The famous dance drama of Kerala, the Kathakali. Kathakali literally meaning "story dance" is the pantomimic dance drama, the dancing and the acting being blended together into an inseparable form. It is a combination of facial expressions and body movements, which brings out the thought and emotion of the character.



27 NOV Day 17 – Kayaking Kadamakudi (B)

Free Morning for cycling, a trip to the shops, a swim, laundry or social media!
We'll shop locally today and prepare for a home-cooked BBQ this evening.
This afternoon join up with ***Secret Routes Kayaking*** within the Kadamakudi backwaters which are calm, quiet, and untouched. Enjoy a paddle around a cluster of scenic islands which are protected from all kinds of pollution and are a favourite spot for a variety of migratory birds. Kayaking isvery tranquil via the mangrove trails where you get to witness traditional village atmosphere along the river.



28 NOV **Day 18 (B)**
Free Morning
We pack and prepare to leave wonderful India. One "last-day surprise" before our trip home. 😊
Transfer to Cochin International Airport (COK) this evening for flights home.

Terms & Conditions: INDIAN CYCLE ADVENTURE

Departs Auckland Saturday 11 November 2027
TOUR PRICE: NZ $13,250 per person

TOUR COSTS INCLUDE
*** Flights: Malaysian Airlines**
1 MH 132 **11NOV** Auckland – Kuala Lumpur depart 0140 hrs arrive 0750 hrs
2 MH 182 **11NOV** Kuala Lumpur – Chennai depart 0910 hrs arrive 1045 hrs
3 Overland
4 MH 109 **28NOV** Kochi – Kuala Lumpur depart 0035 hrs arrive 0725 hrs
5 MH 1330 **28NOV** Kuala Lumpur – Auckland depart 0830 hrs arrive 2355 hrs
OR
Singapore Airlines
1 SQ4284 **11NOV** Auckland – Singapore depart 1120 hrs arrive 1655 hrs
2 SQ 528 **11NOV** Singapore – Chennai depart 2035 hrs arrive 2210 hrs
3 Overland
4 SQ 535 **27NOV** Kochin – Singapore depart 2305 hrs arrive 0610 hrs **28NOV**
5 SQ 281 **28NOV** Singapore – Auckland depart 0845 hrs arrive 2335 hrs

Note: we are not holding flight allocations. Tickets will be issued once a group of 5 is formed.

***Explore Guide:** Qualified Adventure Guide in India. Experienced, knowledgeable and service oriented.
***All Vehicle Transportation:** Cycle, Boat, Bus plus return airport shuttles.
***All Tour Accommodations:** 1 night Boat, 1 night homestay, 9 nights comfortable hotel, 2 nights premium hotel, 3 nights private Villa
***All Entry Fees/Permits:** To all National Parks, State Parks, featured attractions and activities specific to the tour.
***Meals:** 18 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 dinners.

NOT INCLUDED
***Gratuities** for Van Driver/Guide (*Guide approx. $10/day, Driver approx. $3/day)
***E-Bike upgrades** – specify when booking so as not to miss out (limited number)
***Activity** – Extra experiences and some adrenalin activity is booked and paid locally. See activity section at bottom.
*__Meals__ not indicated (mostly lunch & evenings)
*__Insurance__ – mandatory
*__Domestic flights__ from provincial ports can be added from all Provincial towns and Cities: Please ask for a quote.
*__Premium or Business Class__ upgrades are allowed. Please ask for a quote.

FOOD & DRINK
We recommend bringing a reusable water bottle and perhaps a small lunch box and any other reusable items you think you may need. **Can you drink the water?** The water quality is poor and therefore it is recommended to avoid drinking tap water during your trip.

ACCOMMODATION
Accommodation in India is as varied as the country itself and standards might not always meet those back home. Service can be slow, especially when travelling with a group and a number of hotels in India don't serve alcohol due to complicated licensing laws or for religious reasons. Hot water is not always available at small properties, and with a group staying, you might find the water is cooler if you're showering last. Hotels also don't usually have heating, so it can become chilly in the winter months; however, blankets will always be provided.
Due to the growth in tourism in India, it's not always possible to stay at our listed accommodation and an alternative

will be found. We've graded the majority of hotels on this trip as 'comfortable'. Most have a good level of service and extra amenities like a restaurant, bar, garden, or swimming pool. Generally, rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.
We'll also spend a night at a 'simple' homestay. Planters Homestay is a spacious and comfortable two storey family mansion located in a small rural village. All rooms are bright and airy with en-suite facilities, and some (but not all) have air conditioning. The house is surrounded by lush gardens with tropical fruit trees, tall teaks, and lots of bird life.

ROOMING, NUMBERS & PACKING
Rooms have been costed for either Double or Twin-share. For single travellers we are happy to find roommates (same gender). Or if you prefer you may opt to have a Single room on your own and pay a single supplement of **NZ $1800** If we are unable to find a suitable roommate, the single supplement will apply. The tour has a maximum of 16 passengers but averages 11.

CLOTHING
Lightweights are needed all year round with some warmer clothes (ie fleece and long trousers) for the cooler winter evenings (November to March). When cycling: quick drying cycle tops, padded cycle shorts and cycling gloves are strongly recommended as they will protect you from sunburn and may also help protect your hands if you fall.
It's also recommended that you bring waterproof cycling gear should your trip fall in the monsoon season.
Bring a swimming costume or swim shorts for the beaches and to use at the hotel pools. Whilst cycling in shorts is acceptable and expected, please note that for visits to temples and city sightseeing, tight fitting sleeveless t-shirts, brief or tight shorts and miniskirts should be avoided, since they attract unwelcome attention.
When visiting religious sites you will need to dress respectfully by covering your knees and shoulders plus taking off your shoes and hats. You may like to wear socks for temple visits as the ground can get very hot and burn the soles of your feet. You will need to bring long trousers, or buy a sarong locally.

VACCINATIONS & VISAS
Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis, Typhoid and Polio. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. New Zealand passport holders are required to complete an **online entry Visa** for India prior to arrival. Details will be given after booking. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

AGE AND CAPABILITIES
This tour will appeal to and suit mature travellers. You should be a reasonably active person. The majority of our clients fall into the 60's to late 70's age range and enjoy our style of small-group travel. We don't focus on age, but if joining we want you to participate and enjoy everything on offer.
We are happy to help in any way, and to make your tour with us as enjoyable and as memorable as possible.

GENERAL CYCLING INFORMATION
On this tour we cycle approximately 455 km / 280 miles over ten days (an average of 45 km / 28 miles per day), with an additional optional ride available. We avoid main roads where possible, following quiet tarmac backroads through Tamil Nadu's rural plains, the Western Ghats highlands and Kerala's backwaters. The route is around 90% paved and 10% compact gravel or uneven surfaces, with some potholes to be expected in rural areas. Busier sections and short transfers are highlighted in the day-by-day itinerary. A support vehicle will accompany the group throughout, offering mechanical help, water, and the option to rest whenever needed. This tour IS graded Moderate.

BIKE INCLUDED
Your included bike is either a 24 gear Merida D20 and D40 Mountain bike, 27 year Trek-3700 Mountain bike or 29 gear Rudley Trail Fire 4 Mountain bike and will be the correct frame size for your height. A 2.5 litre handlebar bag and water bottle holder are included as well as the facility to fit your own pedals or saddle if you wish to bring them. A support vehicle accompanies the rides throughout the tour. We provide spare parts and take care of the day to day maintenance. All you need to bring is your own helmet.

ELECTRIC BIKES
Electric bikes (E motorad) are available for an additional cost of £190. Please note these are subject to availability on a first come first served basis and the cost is subject to change. If this is a condition of your booking please mention it at time of sale. Please contact us for more details or to request your e-bike.

EQUIPMENT
It is compulsory to wear a cycling helmet on all Explore cycling holidays. As we cannot guarantee the quality or structural integrity of locally hired cycling helmets, it is a requirement that you bring your own helmet with you. Most insurance providers require helmets to be worn whilst cycling, so in the event of an accident, it is likely that any insurance claim will be invalidated if you are not wearing a helmet.
Cycle glasses to protect against dust, pollen and the sun, padded cycle gloves and a water bottle or water delivery system (e.g. camelback or platypus) are also useful. You may choose to bring your own gel seat cover for added comfort. A pannier is not provided so you may like to bring a small rucksack to wear while cycling. Other items to consider bringing are a sunhat and sun cream, torch, earplugs and insect repellent. Please carry some or all of your cycling equipment e.g. helmet as part of your hand luggage.

FOOTWEAR
If you are not bringing cycle shoes then try to bring stiff-soled shoes as these are better for cycling - transmitting your energy into the pedals more efficiently. This becomes more relevant and recommended the more demanding the grade and distances to cover. SPD cycle shoes are not well suited to tours that combine sightseeing with cycling. Comfortable shoes, trainers, sandals or flip flops are useful when not on the bike, particularly for walking in the national park

Booking :

How To Book

Complete our ONLINE BOOKING FORM, and then email a copy of the front page of your passport and advise payment of a NZ**$1000** non-refundable deposit per person.
*This ensures we can fulfil payment of deposits to the airline and ground operator to secure seats and hotel rooms ahead of time.
Email: - andrea@wildsidetravel.nz
Bank Transfer - **ANZ 06-0507-0871753-01**
Account Name: **Wanderlust Travel Experts Ltd**
Please use **WILDSIDE /** as your Reference
Credit Card – add 1.4% fee. Phone this through to us.

FINAL PAYMENT
The balance of your tour cost is due 7 weeks before tour departure, **24 September 2027**. Payment can be made via Bank Transfer or Credit Card (1.4% card fee)

CANCELLATION TERMS
Should ***Wildside Travel*** cancel the trip due to advice from our Ground Operator and cannot provide the tour or sudden Boarder restrictions, and other reasons beyond our control, you are due a refund of deposit and all refundable services paid less an admin fee of $80 per person. Or monies can be deferred to any Wildside 2028 tour.
If **you** wish to cancel, your deposit remains non-refundable. If you have paid in full a refund will be calculated according to Airline and Accommodation refund policies. We recommend you take out insurance cover early, so you are covered for non-refundable money paid at any time. If you leave the trip to come home early, there is no refund for unused portions.
CHANGES TO FLIGHTS
If you need or wish to alter your booking in some way or upgrade to a higher cabin, change fees will apply. Please make any amendment requests prior to tickets being issued and prior to full payment to avoid this.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
Comprehensive Travel & Medical Insurance is essential for tours to India. We would recommend you purchase insurance at the same time you make any payments so we can be completely confident of your cover. We can provide a quote for you; we use Kiwi Holiday Insurance– so please discuss your cover needs with us.
If organizing your own, you will be required to provide us with details of your Travel Insurance and any medical conditions we should know about before we leave on tour. We will get this from you after full payment.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS
All participants must be in possession of a valid passport (valid for a minimum of 6 months) and all visas, permits required for your passport type. It is ultimately your responsibility to have the necessary documentation to travel. We will send those links for the e-Visa closer to depart time. If you have another type of passport, please let us know. We provide all our tour documentation and tickets via our **TRAVEL APP**. And will ask you to download this onto your smart phone. If you do not have a G4 or G5 smartphone, do let me know so we can make other arrangements.

EXCLUSIONS
We do reserve the right to amend the itinerary of any day due to weather, road and vehicle problems, or other civil circumstances beyond our control. We will also endeavour to take all reasonable steps to look after you and your personal property, but we will not be held liable for any accident, personal injury, illness and any consequential loss, damage or loss of property or delays. Wildside is not liable for defaults in the performance of other operators whose services we may employ.

We do look forward to you joining us on a tour designed to be spectacular every single day with our signature 'less ordinary' experiences!





wildside
for travel less ordinary

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Accredited Advisor