

ELLISON ROBERTS TOURS

“bespoke and original”



Malabari fishermen landing their catch near Tellicherry

The Malabar Spice Trail – a 15 day tour to discover the sights and tastes of the Malabar Coast, Mysore and the forests and spice plantations of the Western Ghats.

Itinerary

- Day 1 You will be met on arrival at Calicut International airport by an Ellison Roberts representative and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax after your journey.
- Day 2 After breakfast you will drive through the dense forests and spectacular scenery from Calicut to Wayanad high in the Western Ghats [68 Miles: 04 Hrs] arriving at Tranquil in time for lunch. The afternoon is free to relax by the pool or explore the estate.
- Day 3 The whole day is at leisure to enjoy the resort and its activities. Take a tour of the coffee, pepper and vanilla plantations or walk in the estate on one of the many marked trails. There is a wealth of bird and plant life to discover or catch up with some reading while enjoying the view from the belvedere.
- Day 4 After a leisurely breakfast pay a visit to the nearby Edakkal caves. They lie high in the hills on an ancient trade route connecting Mysore to the ports of the Malabar Coast. Inside the caves are petroglyphs believed to be the work of neolithic man, evidence of the presence of a prehistoric civilisation existing in this region. Such stone carvings are very rare and these are the only known examples in southern India. The rest of the day is at leisure.



View of the jungle from Tranquil

- Day 5 In the morning you will drive from Wayanad to Mysore [87 Miles: 4 Hrs] the second largest city in Karnataka. The afternoon is free to relax or visit the nearby Palace and gardens of Tipu Sultan's capital at Srirangapatnam.
- Day 6 In the morning you will be taken for a sightseeing tour of Mysore visiting Mysore Palace, Chamundi Hills, Brindavan Gardens and the Art Gallery. The rest of the day is free or visit Tipu Sultan's capital at Srirangapatnam if you prefer.
- Day 7 After breakfast you will drive from Mysore to Coorg [81 Miles: 3.5 Hrs]. This area of Karnataka, in the Western Ghats, is known as 'the Scotland of India' and is well known for its lakes, misty mountains and pleasantly cool climate. Coorg is the spice growing region and you will pass plantations of coffee, pepper, vanilla and cardamom and through many small villages where traditional agricultural methods are still practised.
- Day 8 Today you are free to enjoy the resort and its activities. There are guided forest walks and coffee plantation visits. Bird watching with an expert guide or you can hire a bicycle to explore the local area.
- Day 9 Another day to relax and unwind by the pool or explore the resort and the surrounding area.
- Day 10 Today you will leave the hills and drive down to the coast once again, arriving in time for lunch. Coorg to Neeleshwar [81 Miles: 4 Hrs]. In the afternoon take a swim and relax by the pool or take a walk along the miles of deserted palm fringed beach.



The beach at Neeleshwar

- Day 11 Free day to enjoy the sun, sea and sand.
- Day 12 Enjoy a day cruise on the quiet and unspoilt backwaters around Neeleshwar.
- Day 13 Day is at leisure.
- Day 14 Drive along the coast from Neeleshwar to Calicut [99 Miles: 05 Hrs]. In the afternoon enjoy some shopping and sightseeing in this lively coastal city. There is an option to extend your trip with a one or two night stay at Ayisha Manzil in Tellicherry (details further on).
- Day 15 Departure transfer Hotel / Calicut International airport to connect with your flight.

Please remember that this itinerary is only an outline suggestion and that we can amend it to include your personal preferences of accommodation and interests.

Accommodation

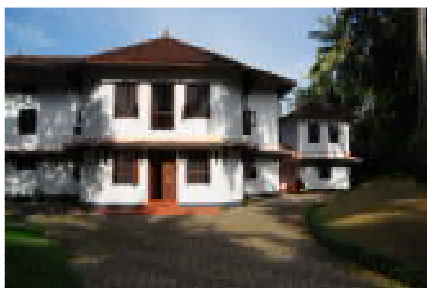
Dates	Nights	City	Hotel	Room Category	Meal Type
Day 1-2	1 Nt	Calicut	The Gateway Hotel	Standard Room	BB
			Harivihar Homestay	Superior Room	FB
Day 2-5	3 Nts	Wayanad	Tranquil Resort	Standard Room	BB
Day 5-7	2 Nts	Mysore	Gitanjali Farm	Standard AC Room	BB
			Royal Orchid Metropole	Royal Wing Room	
Day 7-10	3 Nts	Coorg	Orange County Resort	County Cottage	BB
				Presidential Villa	
Day 10-14	4 Nts	Neeleshwar	Neeleshwar Hermitage	Deluxe Garden View Cottage	BB
Day 14-15	1 Nt	Calicut	The Gateway Hotel	Standard Room	BB
			Harivihar Homestay	Superior Room	FB

Calicut - The Gateway Hotel

A modern hotel located between the centre of the city and the beach and around 18 miles from the airport. Part of the prestigious Taj group the Gateway hotels have been rebranded and are all undergoing renovation. There are 70 rooms and 4 suites with all the usual comforts. There is a bar, café, restaurant and a large outdoor pool.



Calicut – Harivihar



For those looking for something a little different this 150 year old royal heritage mansion has all the charm and character that you could want. It is located in a quiet suburban area but still close to the shopping areas, markets and the beach. Family run, with an emphasis on ayurveda and yoga, the property has a few well appointed rooms. The cuisine is exclusively authentic vegetarian Keralan dishes.

Wayanad – Tranquil

Located in the lush rainforest of the Wayanad district of north Kerala, Tranquil is a 400-acre working plantation growing coffee, vanilla, cardamom, pepper, patchouli and arecha nut. Your hosts at Tranquil, Victor and Jini Dey, have created a “homestay” of superb quality which regularly wins awards. There are six en-suite rooms in the guest block, all different, well finished and maintained, and one deluxe room/suite in the main house. Tranquil Treehouses - these new additions to the accommodation are set 35 feet up in the branches of a "Flame of the Forest" tree, with spectacular views of the forest from the balcony and ensuite bathroom. The pool is large enough for a swim and the Belvedere well equipped with tables and armchairs. The accommodation is set in impeccably maintained gardens and has been designed and executed by the owners. There are a number of signposted walks, of various lengths and difficulty, and the views from the very top of the hill are spectacularly panoramic.



Mysore - Gitanjali Farm

A delightful home stay with four charming ensuite guest rooms set in lovely gardens. Your hosts Dalu, Muthu and Yamuna Achaiah are a Kodava family who have settled in Mysore and will introduce you to their unique culture and cuisine.



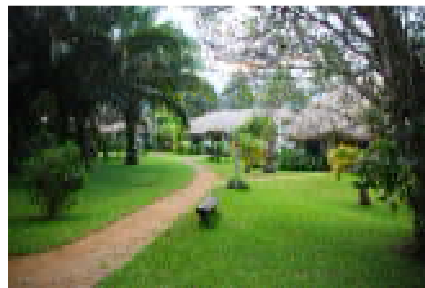
Mysore – Royal Orchid Metropole

A restored 1920s mansion located in the city centre, decorated with period antiques. Amenities include a fitness centre, an outdoor pool, conference rooms, a restaurant, a bar and guest laundry facilities. Guestrooms include varied period furnishings, balconies, LCD TVs with satellite channels, wireless Internet access, minibars and coffee/tea makers.



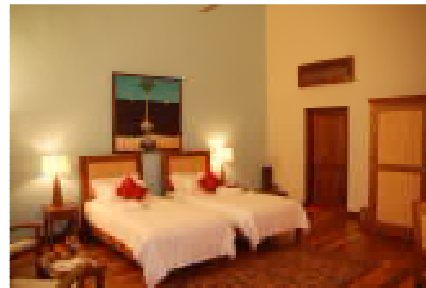
Coorg – Orange County

Situated in the hills of southern Karnataka this 300 acre working plantation resort has mainly single storey cottages spread out over a large area of well maintained gardens and woodland. There is a large pool, three restaurants, a bar and coffee shop, a shop and activity centre and a spa/treatment centre. The plantation is bordered by the River Cauvery where you can go boating or fishing and by pristine forest with a wide variety of flora and fauna. Other activities include nature and plantation walks, cultural programmes, or a visit to the Dubare Elephant camp across the river Cauvery. Here you can help in bathing and feeding the elephants. A specialist guides visitors in elephant behavior and the visit ends with an elephant ride through the forest to a nearby waterhole.



Neeleshwar – Neeleshwar Hermitage

This recently opened resort is destined to become the premier beach resort in South India. A place that combines the tranquil and rejuvenating simplicity of a retreat with the comfort and elegance of a first-class hotel. Set in twelve naturally landscaped acres, The Hermitage is built according to traditional architectural values in the local vernacular style. The rooms are all single storey and palm thatched so as to blend into the landscape yet there is no compromise with the excellence of the fittings and design. There are twelve cottages, a large infinity pool overlooking the sea and a lovely restaurant. The palm fringed beach is unspoilt and empty, apart from local fishermen landing their catch or mending their nets, and stretches on for miles.



Tellicherry – Ayisha Manzil

A heritage homestay overlooking the Arabian Sea. The owners and hosts are Moosa and his wife Faiza. The house was originally built by Murdock Brown, a trader from the East India Company, in 1862 and has been in Moosa's family since 1900. It is named Ayisha Manzil after the present owner's grandmother. There are six large bedrooms, each with an attached dressing room and bathroom. The furniture is imposing with carved beds, cupboards and a fine selection of Planter's chairs and lounging divans. In the well laid out gardens there is an emerald tiled swimming pool in the style of a temple pool. Good as the property is the star is undoubtedly Faiza's culinary prowess. Featured on UK Food and also the BBC, Faiza is an authority on "Moplah", the indigenous Muslim cuisine, with an emphasis on local seafood. Dinner served on the terrace overlooking the sea is a delight. Moosa and Faiza are excellent hosts and there are a wide variety of sights to be seen in the local area including the Theyyam dancing at Parasinikkadavu Muthappan temple.



Tour Cost based on two people sharing a double/twin room -

Standard accommodation: Calicut – The Gateway, Mysore – Gitanjali Farm and Orange County – County Cottage.

1 Nov'08 - 31 Jan'09 excluding Christmas/New Year	£1295
20 Dec'08 – 2 Jan'09	£1515
1 Feb' 09 – 31 Mar'09	£1255
1 Apr'09 – 30 Sep'09	£1145

Deluxe accommodation: Calicut – Harivihar, Mysore – Royal Orchid Metropole and Orange County – Presidential villa.

1 Nov'08 - 31 Jan'09 excluding Christmas/New Year	£1400
20 Dec'08 – 2 Jan'09	£1700
1 Feb' 09 – 31 Mar'09	£1360
1 Apr'09 – 30 Sep'09	£1245

Luxury accommodation: for the very best on offer you can upgrade to a Suite at the Gateway, a luxury treehouse at Tranquil, a private pool villa at Orange County and a Sea view cottage at Neeleshwar. Prices vary according to season and demand so please ask for a quote for your travel dates.

Additional options:

Add one or two nights to your tour and stay in Tellicherry at Ayisha Manzil (Heritage Room) to sample Faiza's world renowned cooking in the "Moplah" (local Muslim) tradition from an extra £55 per person (full board) depending on your travel dates.

Our price includes:

- 14 Nights accommodation on a twin sharing basis at the hotels mentioned above
- Meal Plan as stated above [BB: Bed & Breakfast, FB: Full Board]
- A visit to Eddakal caves in Wayanad
- Half day sightseeing tour of Mysore city
- Forest trek and coffee plantation walk in Coorg
- Day cruise on backwaters at Neeleshwar
- All transfers, sightseeing & excursions will be by an air-conditioned Toyota Innova or [similar] vehicle
- Entrance fees, road taxes, parking fees, fuel charges, interstate taxes, and porterage at all airports
- Service of a local English speaking guide for all sightseeing tours
- An Ellison Robert's representative for assistance on all arrival and departure transfers
- All currently applicable taxes, including the Indian service tax of 3.09% applicable on the total invoice amount

Our price excludes:

Expenses of a personal nature like tipping, laundry, telephone / fax calls, alcoholic beverages, camera / video camera fees at all monuments, medical expenses, airport departure taxes, etc.

Meals other than those specified above

Any insurance

Any air-fares or visa charges

Any other services not mentioned in the inclusions

Christmas & New Year Eve Dinner supplements

Special Notes:

Hotel Check-in & Check-out time is usually 1200 hrs noon time except Taj & Oberoi properties where check-in time is 1400 Hrs and check-out is at 1200 Hrs

In case of any currency fluctuations or amendments in local Government taxes, or any fuel price rises, we reserve the right to adjust the tour price accordingly

All tourists to India require a Visa and whilst we will assist you in completing the formalities it is your responsibility to ensure that you have the necessary documentation in place before you travel.



ELLISON ROBERTS TOURS

34 College Grove Road

Wakefield WF1 3RE

England

Tel. +44 1924 374293

Fax. +44 1924 782340

E.mail - info@ellisonroberts.com

Website - www.ellisonroberts.com

Registered in England No: 4222207

VAT Registration No: 780 5524 23

