



52 Coolest Things to Do in Kerala

There are SO many **cool things to do in Kerala, India** – you definitely need to include a decent amount of time there in your India itinerary. [I was in Kerala for 6 days](#), and loved the houseboats, the people, and of course, the food.

With over 600km of Arabian coastline, Kerala is known for its ber-*utiful* beaches, but inland is pretty cool too. Home to the W¹estern Ghats mountains, parks like Eravikulam and Periyar and wildlife like tigers and elephants, there are plenty of activities to do in Kerala to keep you busy.

1. Walk on almost water. Wait until the tide is low then walk to the private and pretty island of Dharmadam from Dharmadam Beach in Thalassery.
2. Strap on the boots and go hiking around the hills of Munnar.
3. Stop for a cuppa with a visit to one of Munnar's many tea plantations.
4. Travel in style on a traditional houseboat along the Alleppey backwaters.
5. Find yourself some wheels and visit Muzhappilangad's drive-in beach where you can actually drive right up to the waves.
6. Spice up your life with a visit to one of the many spice farms in somewhere like Thekkady or Munnar.
7. Chill out in the tiny surf and hipster town of Kovalam.
8. Become a member of the nighttime [Periyar](#) jungle patrol protecting the tiger reserve.
9. Try local cuisine, watch the fishermen and master crafts with a day in a rural village like those of Kovalam or Wayanad.
10. Feel like you're definitely getting your five a day by loading up on banana fritters served Kerala style.

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11. Time a visit to the famous Chinese fishing nets in Fort Kochi at sunset.
12. Catch an extremely colourful and creative traditional dance [Kathakali Show](#).
13. Rejoice if you're a veggie when you stop by Sree Arul Jyothi vegetarian restaurant in Thiruvananthapuram.
14. It might not sound the most exciting, but getting out the binoculars for a bit of birdwatching at the [Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary](#) is actually a great way to spend the afternoon.
15. Pick up that gramophone you've always wanted with a bit of antiquing on Jew Town Street in Fort Kochi.
16. Have the best time bathing an elephant at the Kodanad Elephant Training Centre.
17. Make like Tarzan and live amongst the wildlife with an overnight stay in a tree house like [Jungle Jive's](#).
18. Indulge yourself with a traditional and yoga inspired medicinal ayurvedic treatment.
19. Fancy a glass of sap? Swap out the beer for what locals call a toddy, the traditional liquor created from the sap of palm trees.
20. Strike your power pose to the backdrop of Fort Kochi's selection of graffiti and street art.
21. Step back in time with a trip to Muziris, a legendary seaport once hailed as the "ancient world's greatest trading centre."
22. For all things fishy head to [3rd Rock Cafe](#) in Kovalam where you can even see the fishermen from your seat before you tuck in to some of the best seafood.
23. Learn about the history of our love for leaves at the [Munnar Tea Museum](#).
24. Feel refreshed and a little perkier after taking a quick dip in the mineral, and supposedly medicinal waters, of Varkala Beach.
25. Spend a day filling up your camera roll with snaps of the beautiful wildlife and landscapes of the [Silent Valley National Park](#).
26. Pack a picnic and go boating on the Veli Lagoon.
27. Walk the length of the Marine Drive promenade in Kochi.

28. Wake up happy knowing you don't have to travel far for good coffee with an overnight on a [coffee plantation](#).
29. Trek to the top of the Western Ghats' Banasura Hill and get that classic tree swing picture.
30. Kerala loves a mural and you can see some of the best at the Thirunadhikkara Cave Temple.
31. Travel back in time with a visit to the Edakkal Caves in Wayanad where you can see some pre-historic cave paintings.
32. Find your way to the biggest falls of Kerala, Athirapally Waterfalls.
33. Pick up some boat building skills in Beyore, known as a shipbuilders paradise.
34. Be a beach bum on the quieter Marari Beach.
35. Become slightly addicted to drinking from a coconut.
36. Be a little nosy and visit a [heritage house](#), aka a tharavad, to see what a traditional Keralan home looks like.
37. Add another farm to the list and get a good dose of vitamin C with a day trip to one of the orange farms of Nelliampathy.
38. Go [bamboo rafting](#) through the forests of Periyar.
39. Relax when you realise watching a snake boat race doesn't actually mean being near a boat full of snakes.
40. See how the royals lived with a visit to the Mattancherry Palace in Ernakulam.
41. Marvel at the [musical dancing fountain](#) in Thenmala in Kollam.
42. Take to the jeeps and do a safari at one of the many wildlife sanctuaries like Wayanad, Periyar or Gavi.
43. Learn about the culture of Kerala with a trip to the [Museum of History & Heritage](#).
44. Embrace that child's pose with a yoga session somewhere like the Palm Tree Yoga Centre or [Padmakarma](#).
45. Help rejuvenate India's love of street magicians with a visit to [Magic Planet Theme Park](#).

46. Catch a session of kalaripayattu, aka the mother of all martial arts, at the [Kalari Kshethra](#) temple.
47. Fill up on 187 types of dosa, the Indian version of a pancake, at Pai Brothers in Kochi.
48. Go boating on the Pookot Lake but, be warned that it's strictly forbidden to pick out the blue lilies no matter how badly you want to put one in your hair.
49. Freak yourself out with a visit to the Parassinikkadavu Snake Park.
50. Visit the Indo-Portuguese Museum to understand more about why there's so much Portuguese influence in the state.
51. See things from a different perspective by [paragliding](#) over the Varkala beach and cliffs.
52. Make your way through the Indian beverages at Nasha, a bar just inside the Metropolitan Hotel in Kochi.