



STOPOVER 5: LEELAMANI'S HOUSE

Here, local women weave coconut leaves into roof thatching. These leaves provide very efficient thermal insulation to houses. Observe the skill and speed with which they weave one leaf after another. Also, try your hand at it with expert guidance from the ladies here.

STOPOVER 6: LEELA'S HOUSE

We make our way to a house nearby to see the making of brooms using the veins of coconut leaves. Our host, Leela, with the help of our guide, will explain the commercial aspects and techniques involved in broom making.



STOPOVER 7: SOSAMMA'S HOUSE

Using a locally abundant resource, the screw pine, Sosamma and her family weave amazing handicraft mats. Screw pines have an almost mythical reverence in the villages and traditional Kerala mats are made out of their leaves.

STOPOVER 8: BACKYARD GARDEN

Homestead farming is a prevalent practice in Kerala. Familiarize yourself with the many crops found in the region as we go through the vegetable patch and participate in the farming activities. Also, taste the home grown fruits found here.



STOPOVER 9: PLANTAIN ORCHARD

We move on to the nearby plantain orchard managed by the local Kudumbashree (Self Help Group) unit. Kerala is known for the diverse variety of plantains cultivated, some of which can only be found in the State.

STOPOVER 10: SAROSH'S HOUSE

Our journey ends at Sarosh's house, where he, a skilled artisan, crafts beautiful snake boat models. Take one home as a complimentary souvenir from the Kumarakom Responsible Tourism Team. You also have the opportunity to buy other exhibits on display.



Kumarakom VLE Packages
 Half day: INR 1500/pax; Minimum 3 pax
 Full day: INR 2500/pax; Minimum 3 pax

For reservations and more details, please contact your
 Responsible Tourism Travel Desk,
 Kumarakom-0481 2524343, 9633992977.



**LIFE. AS LIVED BY
 GEORGEKUTTY.**



Village life

experience kumarakom

Experience the simple life of a village. Lived out everyday by Georgekutty, Mercy, Mohanan, Nalini, Thankappan and a hundred others. Choose from a full day or half day trip that takes you right into the heart of our village. And be part of an endeavour that distributes the benefits of tourism to the local community, thus making it meaningful and mutually beneficial.

PACKAGE 1 - FULL DAY

EXPERIENCE KUMARAKOM A DAY WITH FARMERS

THE EXPERIENCE

Your journey will begin from Kavanattinkara, Kumarakom at 9 am after a briefing session. Accompanying you will be a guide who will take you through expansive farming tracts and also introduce you to the farmers behind the effort. The trip will be made by country boat, bicycle and auto rickshaw.

STOPOVER 1: KAIPPUZHAMUTTU BRIDGE

Our journey will start from the Kaippuzhamuthu Bridge from where you can see traditional duck farming in the backwaters. Nearby, in a farmyard, you can watch and learn the complex process of converting coconut husk into coir fibre.

STOPOVER 2: NALINI'S HOUSE

Try your hand at coir making at Nalini's house, where you can observe the different stages involved in the process. We then proceed to Manchadikkary in an auto rickshaw.



STOPOVER 3: MOHAN'S FARM

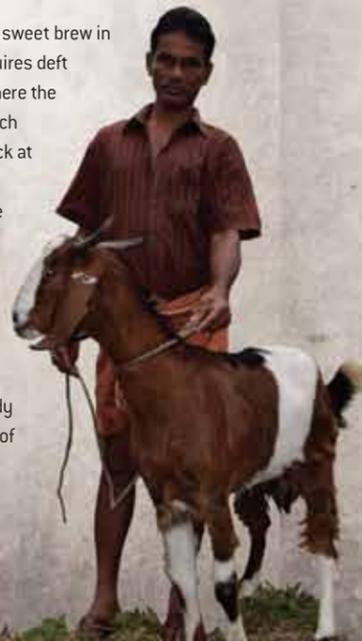
Mohan, the farm club secretary, has a vast farmstead where integrated farming is practised. Along with a variety of crops there is dairy farming and a fish pond with rohu, carp, katla, pearlspot, prawns etc.. Here, we can watch the process of tapping toddy from the coconut tree. A toddy



tapper climbs up with a tapping kit to extract the sweet brew in a systematic but cumbersome process that requires deft skills. Down the trail, we will reach a lakeside where the conventional way of fishing is followed using catch nets and rods and lines. You can also try your luck at hooking a catch. Choose from among the day's catch what you'll have for lunch. And watch while it gets cooked and served, then and there, with your Kerala style lunch served on a plantain leaf. Also try the fresh toddy and fish curry sourced from the locality.

STOPOVER 4: PADDY FIELDS

We resume our journey with a walk through paddy fields that teem with bird life for the greater part of the year. These fields are in fact part of the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary.



STOPOVER 5: SEBASTIAN'S FARM

A successful farmer, Sebastian practices organic farming. We can get to know the different techniques he employs in cultivating his various crops organically. Also, we find here a rare collection of ethnic breeds of livestock like Kasargodan cattle, Jamnapaari goats, quails, ducks and fowls.

STOPOVER 6: JOYCHAN'S FARM

A five minute walk will take us to our next stop - Joychan's farm. The secretary of the local farmers association, he will share with us how Responsible Tourism is benefitting the local community through



organized agricultural practices. Refreshments of tender coconut and bananas are waiting for us here.

STOPOVER 7: THANKAPPAN'S HOUSE

We move on in a country boat to Thankappan's house. A quaint hut on the canal bank and overlooking paddy fields, here you can get to know a simple life that hasn't changed for ages.

STOPOVER 8: PALLICHIRA

Our journey ends as we reach Pallichira, where a handmade country boat model from the Kumarakom Responsible Tourism Team is waiting for you to take back home.

PACKAGE 2 - HALF DAY

EXPERIENCE KUMARAKOM BEYOND THE BACKWATERS

THE EXPERIENCE

Your journey will begin from Kavanattinkara, Kumarakom at 2 pm after a briefing session. Take to the waters for a canal ride in a country boat operated by two experienced women. Accompanying you will be a guide who will take you through the backwaters as well as the villages.

STOPOVER 1: KANDAN KAVU

A 45-minute boat ride will take us to Kandan KavU. Enjoy Kumarakom's unique biodiversity while you relax and watch a typical day in the village unfold.

STOPOVER 2: CRECHE

Our next stop is the local *Anganwadi* [creche]. Don't miss this opportunity to interact with the teachers and kids studying here. The *Anganwadi* acts as as the nodal centre for the implementation of various schemes of the Government for the development of women and children.

STOPOVER 3: BOW & ARROW FISHING

A little ahead we can see an interesting local practice, a traditional fishing technique using bows and arrows. As the guide explains the intricacies of this method, you can also try your luck at making a catch.

STOPOVER 4: CATCH NET FISHING

Inland fishing practices have been around since time immemorial in this region. An elderly fisherman with a traditional craft and gear will take us fishing with catch nets and trawl nets to show us firsthand how it's done.

