



Condé Nast  
**Traveller**

THE LAST WORD IN TRAVEL  
OCT-NOV 2017 | ₹200

**INDIAN EDITION**

7<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION  
**THE BEST  
OF THE  
WORLD**

**EXCEPTIONAL TRIPS FROM EVERY CONTINENT  
FROM MACHU PICCHU TO ANTARCTICA  
MOHAMMED HANIF MANU JOSEPH DEVDUTT PATTANAİK  
THE DALAI LAMA & OTHER HIMALAYAN HEROES**

# Condé Nast Traveller

COMPLIMENTARY WITH  
OCT-NOV 2017 ISSUE

INDIAN EDITION

## THE BEST OF KERALA

BEACHES ★ BACKWATERS ★ HILLS ★ FORESTS



## BACKWATERS

**Le Meridien Kochi** Favoured for its view of the backwaters and lush foliage, this hotel has its own pond, butterfly garden and organic vegetable garden. The rooms overlook the hotel's manicured lawns, the three-tiered pool and the backwaters. Start your day at the Yoga Centre, indulge in an ayurvedic spa treatment at the in-house Le Revive Spa or just feed your soul in the hotel's art gallery and library. ([www.lemeridienkochi.com](http://www.lemeridienkochi.com); from ₹7,000)

**Crowne Plaza Kochi** This hotel provides more than a touch of leisure along with panoramic views of the backwaters. While it's located close to Fort Kochi and Mattancherry, if you choose to stay in, there's lots to do. Take a dip in the pool, spend a few hours at the in-house Sohum Spa—one of the largest in Kerala at 25,000sq ft—or dine at the speciality restaurant Trilogi, which offers regional cuisines from Malabar, Travancore and Kochi. ([www.crowneplaza.hotelsgroup.in](http://www.crowneplaza.hotelsgroup.in); from ₹8,000)

**Beaumonde The Fern, Kochi** Located in Ernakulam, this ecotel stays true to its philosophy, having fitted energy saver panels in each of its 49 rooms. Since it is set amid lush and tranquil surroundings, relax in the terrace pool or enjoy cocktails at the contemporary Gravity restobar followed by a meal at the hotel's multi-cuisine restaurant Cilantro. ([www.fernhotels.com](http://www.fernhotels.com); from ₹3,600)

**Radisson Blu Kochi** A stay here promises to be modern and stylish. Located in the neighbourhood of Elamkulam, this hotel is within easy access of the city's many landmarks. After a sightseeing trip, unwind at the library lounge, Wellington, and afterwards, head to the rooftop High Bar. Sip on an exotic cocktail and savour spice-infused Mediterranean and



Lamps lit at The Malabar House. Opposite page: **Ayana Fort Kochi**

Indian barbecue treats with a view of the backwaters. ([www.radissonblu.com](http://www.radissonblu.com); from ₹6,000)

**Ayana Fort Kochi** This boutique hotel is set in a 200-year-old courthouse. While you will find the usual staples—an elegant colonial eatery, a tea lounge and other luxuries—there's more. Join the chef as he takes you through the entire culinary process. Go shopping for ingredients, select the freshest seafood at the market, attend a cooking class in the kitchen, and finally, when it's time for lunch, savour the dishes prepared during the class. ([www.ayanahospitality.com](http://www.ayanahospitality.com); from ₹15,240)

**Xandari Harbour** Set in Fort Kochi's spice district, this hotel gives you an insight into the region's colonial history and its burgeoning art scene. Once a

spice trading house, it is now a glass-encased retreat with 14 rooms and two suites, an infinity pool and 51, an all-day restaurant with a farm-to-table concept. Just outside is Bazaar Road, a stretch of spice showrooms and warehouses that looks, smells and sounds just as it always has. ([www.xandari.com](http://www.xandari.com); from ₹16,000)

**Fort House Hotel** A short walk from historical monuments such as the Old Synagogue and the popular antique market of Mattancherry, this family-run hotel is done up in Kerala style of architecture. All rooms open to an outdoor area that leads to the backwaters through a lush tropical garden. The hotel provides several packages—sightseeing excursions, cultural shows and treatments at the in-house Fort Ayurveda centre.

Dine by the waters at least once—order fish curry and tapioca—and witness the sea change colours from sunset to twilight. ([www.hotelforthouse.com](http://www.hotelforthouse.com); from ₹5,500)

**Brunton Boatyard** This hotel gets its name from Geo Brunton and Sons, the Victorian shipbuilding yard whose remains were repurposed for its construction. Artefacts and curios that decorate the hotel give it a 19th-century charm. Sign up for walking tours of the historic stretch that it's set on. On other days, sip a cocktail by the waterfront as ships cruise in and out of the harbour, take a dip in the chlorine-free pool and dine at the charming, alfresco Armoury Café. ([www.cgearth.com](http://www.cgearth.com); from ₹26,000)

**Old Harbour Hotel** This property is believed to have been the first hotel of Old Kochi. Set in a 300-year-old Dutch-style structure, its interiors have period furniture and varied art. Its 13 rooms are named after old streets of the precinct, while the garden cottages have open-to-sky bathrooms, a veranda and a private pond. During your stay, do yoga and enjoy a barbecue under the stars, during a musical show. ([www.oldharbourhotel.com](http://www.oldharbourhotel.com); from ₹19,000)

**The Malabar House** A quick walk to the beach, this hotel is set in a mid-17th century house. Since it was built, the house has been owned by a Dutchman, spice traders, tea traders and bankers before opening as a hotel in 1996, becoming Kochi's first modern boutique property. Its interior design is a mix of local art and culture, curated with artefacts. Plan a day to visit Jew Town to shop at its renowned curio and antique market and enjoy an organic dinner in the hotel's landscaped gardens. ([www.malabarescapes.com](http://www.malabarescapes.com); from ₹15,000) 📍

