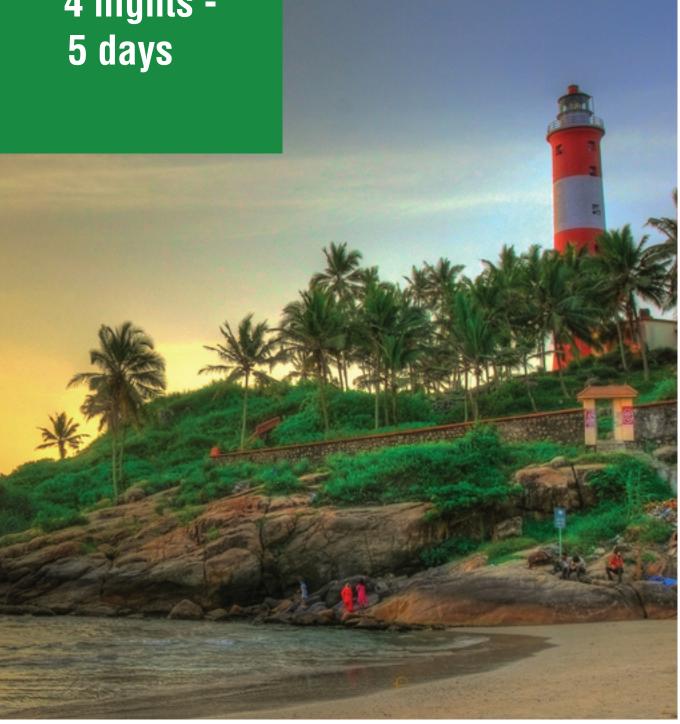
## **ROMANCE IN KOVALAM**

Joyhul Tripping

4 nights -5 days





# **ITINERARY**:

### A detailed guide for visiting Kovalam

Kovalam is a small coastal town in the southern Indian state of Kerala, south of Thiruvananthapuram. At the southern end of Lighthouse Beach is a striped lighthouse with a viewing platform. Palm-backed beaches also include Hawa Beach and Samudra Beach. Heading south, Vizhinjam Juma Masjid mosque overlooks the busy fishing harbor. Inland, Sagarika Marine Research Aquarium displays technology used in pearl production.

#### Day 01 Arrival in Trivandrum

Meet our representative upon arrival in Trivandrum and drive to Kovalam. Located close to the state capital Trivandrum, Kovalam is internationally famed for its palm-fringed beaches and rejuvenating centers. This coastal town initially came to notice with the construction of Halcyon Castle by the last Maharani of Travancore. At Kovalam check-in to the hotel and spend rest of the day at leisure. You can enjoy a lovely romantic evening walk or a leisurely swim at one of the most popular beaches - Lighthouse Beach, Hawah Beach or Samudra Beach. The Light house beach is also a perfect location for various adventure sports such as swimming, sur¬ng, parasailing and paragliding. Stay overnight in Kovalam.

#### Day 02 Trivandrum Sightseeing

In the afternoon, enjoy a half-day sightseeing trip to Trivandrum. Visit the Napier Museum, built in the 19th century. This Indo - Saracenic structure boasts of a "natural" air-conditioning system, and houses a rare collection of archaeological and historic artifacts of bronze idols, ancient ornaments, a temple chariot and ivory carvings. Located near the Museum, the Shree Chitra Kala Art Gallery displays select paintings of Raja Ravi Varma, Svetlova and Nicholas Roerich, and exquisite works from the Rajput, Mughal and Tanjore schools of Art. Visit the Kuthiramalika Palace, built by the King of Travancore. The palace museum displays paintings and various priceless collections of the royal family. Post lunch, explore the highlights of Kovalam- covering the Lighthouse, Vellayani Lake and Valiyathura Pier. Stay overnight in Kovalam.

#### Day 03 Excursion to Kanyakumari

Enjoy a full day excursion to Kanyakumari (80kms). Kanyakumari is the southernmost point of the Indian peninsular and the meeting point of three oceans-the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. The multicolored sand is a unique feature of the beach here. Visit the Kumari Amman or the Kanyakumari Temple, located on the shore. It is dedicated to a manifestation of Parvati. Visit the famous Vivekananda Rock Memorial built in 1970 - it is here that Swami Vivekananda is said to have sat in deep meditation. Also visit the Gandhi Memorial, built on the spot where the urn containing the Mahatma's ashes was kept for public viewing before immersion. Return to Kovalam for an overnight stay

#### Day 04 Kovalam – Varkala (55kms / approx. 1.5 hour)

After breakfast, drive to Varkala. On arrival check-in to your hotel. Varkala is a calm and quiet hamlet that lies on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram district. Later proceed for a sightseeing tour covering Sivagiri Mutt and a 2000-year- old Vishnu Temple. The Sivagiri Mutt was founded by the great Hindu reformer and philosopher, Sree Narayana Guru (1856 - 1928). The Samadhi (the ¬nal resting place) of the Guru here attracts thousands of devotees every year during the Sivagiri Pilgrimage days - 30th December to 1st January. Sree Narayana Guru propagated the ideology: "one caste, one religion and one god", in a society torn by the taboos of caste system. Enjoy the rest of the day on the beach and stay overnight in Varkala.

#### Day 05 Departure from Trivandrum

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Trivandrum airport for return right back home

