ARC ADVENTURE RESORTS & CRUISES

MV VAIKUNDAM

CANAL CRUISE ON THE KERALA BACKWATERS

GUIDE BOOK



SAIL THE EMERALD BACKWATERS OF KERALA'S VENICE OF THE EAST.



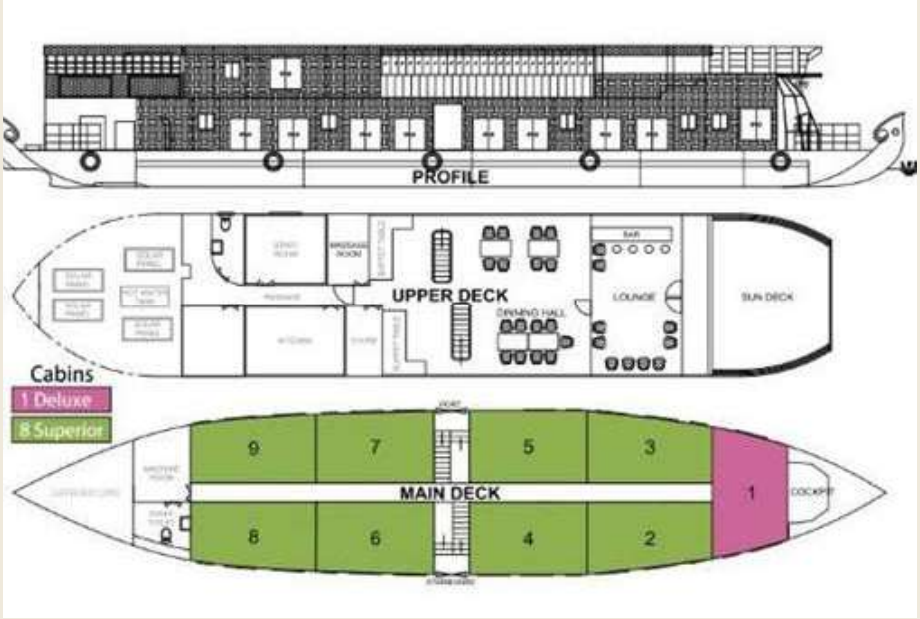
Welcome onboard MV Vaikundam!

The vessel, the only one of its kind on the iconic emerald-green Backwaters of Kerala, can accommodate 18 guests comfortably and cruise along the magical network of canals, lakes and lagoons, exploring the fascinating rural life along the meandering waterways.

The wooden hull of the boat is meticulously crafted in the time-honoured design of traditional Kettuvalloms, reminiscent of historic rice barges. Teakwood panels adorn the walls, floors, and the ceilings of the cabins; while the upper deck features an artful canopy crafted from bamboo matting and bamboo poles, seamlessly blending traditional craftsmanship with modern expertise. The interior wooden panels are intricately fashioned from teakwood, with each cabin door adorned and secured by traditional, finely carved bronze locks.

The hull of the boat is skilfully crafted by traditional boat builders, employing planks of locally sourced wild Jack wood. Below the waterline, the hull is meticulously copper-tacked and copper-bolted, reinforced with an aluminium layer to enhance strength and protect against corrosion. To ensure durability, the wood is coated with a caustic black resin derived from the boiling of cashew kernel and fish oil. Periodic treatments involving Neem oil and Fish oil contribute to the ongoing preservation of the wood.

TECHNICAL DETAILS



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Year of construction: 2000
LENGTH: 35.40meters
Width: 6.21meters
Draft: 1.58meters
Speed:3knots
Guests' capacity:18
Crew: 09

Registration:
Maritime Board, Kerala State, India.

FACILITIES ON BOARD

NUMBER OF CABINS: 9
Deluxe cabin: 1
Superior cabins:8

CABIN DIMENSIONS
Deluxe cabin: 160 Square feet
Superior cabin: 124 square feet

CABIN FACILITIES:
Deluxe cabin with attached bathroom: Double bed with storage compartment, wardrobe, luggage rack, locker, side table, Kettle, Mineral water, tea/coffee, mirror, slippers, toiletries and towels.

Superior cabins with attached bathroom: 2 Cots with storage compartments, wardrobe, locker, side table, Kettle, Mineral water, tea/coffee, mirror, slippers, toiletries and towels.

The attached bathrooms are fitted with shower, shower tray and shower curtain, hanger and mirror. Running hot & cold water is available round the clock.

KEYS TO CABINS
Each cabin will be given its key. Each time before leaving the boat, the passengers are requested to exchange the key with their shore -pass given by the Manager and on return to the boat to exchange the shore-pass with the key of their cabin.

ROOM SERVICE
Room service is provided if guest is unwell.

KITCHEN
The kitchen is manned by well experienced Chef.

BAKERY
Muffins, cookies and cakes are baked onboard.

DINING
The air-conditioned elegantly furnished dining area has the buffet setting and fine dine facility. 18-20 guests can be comfortably seated. Coffee making machine, Water cooler are available onboard.

LOUNGE
The air-conditioned lounge with a mini BAR is ideal for the guests to gather and chit chat.

SUN DECK
The vessel has a sun deck for the guests for sunbathing, spotting the birds or to savour the 360 views of the spectacular green surroundings. There may be times, especially when it is raining or when the boat has to pass below low-lying bridges the Sun deck may have to be closed. Please take note that the sundeck and the steps may become slippery if there Is rain.

LIBRARY & GAMES
A small collection of books and board games are available onboard.

AIR-CONDITIONING:
All cabins have individually controlled cooling system. So also, for the DINING and the LOUNGE.

INTERCOM
For any help, you may use the intercom to contact the manager of the boat.

LOCKER
Locker is provided in each cabin. We suggest the guests to keep all their valuables in the locker and remind them to take them back at the time of departure.

HOUSEKEEPING
Your cabin will be cleaned once a day and turn-down service is provided in the night.

LAUNDRY
Laundry and ironing services are available onboard on additional charges.

WI-FI
Wi-FI is available onboard, on chargeable basis.
ELECTRICITY
Power supply of 220V, 50Hz. 3pin plug sockets are provided. Ironing is not permitted

WATER
Bottled mineral water free of charge.

OTHER FEATURES: RO water treatment system & Solar heating system.

FACILITIES ON BOARD

MEALS
The sumptuous traditional lunch on day of arrival. Other meals are served in buffet style. The menu includes Indian as well as Continental cuisine. Frech juice is served on arrival, breakfast and each time after the village walk/excursion.

DIETARY PREFERENCES
Please mention dietary restrictions, if any, at the time of booking, and also reconfirm with the Chef when you embark on the boat.

EMBARKATION TIME: Noon
DISEMBARKATION TIME: 9.30am

WELCOMING THE GUESTS
Once the guests are well received and settled onboard, the manager of the boat will give a briefing about the boat, the facilities onboard and the safety rules.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
From time to time there will be announcements related to the safety guideline, weather or interesting sights or events happening around. Please listen to them.
ALARM
An alarm will be sounded in the event of emergency.

EMERGENCY AND SAFETY MEASURES
Fire alarm and fire extinguishers are installed in each cabin and the public areas of the vessel. Safety jackets are provided in each cabin for each person.

FIRST AID & MEDICAL CARE
First-aid kit is available onboard. The staff onboard are trained in first-aid services. Should you require minor medical assistance, clinics are available in each village. Well-equipped hospitals are available in the townships. not far from the cruising route. The necessary arrangements will be taken care of by the staff onboard.

MOSQUITOES
Electrical Mosquito repellents are provided onboard.

MOORING
The mooring of the vessel is generally near villages alongside the inland waterways.

OPERATIONAL CHANGES
Despite meticulous planning, changes in itinerary or activities may happen due to unforeseen situations such as strike, natural calamities, which are beyond our control. You will be informed in case of such eventualities.

LOST PROPERTY
Lost and found basket is provided onboard. You may keep your valuable belongings inside the locker and take them back when you disembark.

DRESS CODE
Comfortable cotton ware in all places except places of worship.

FEEDBACK
As part of our earnest interest to improve the quality of service, we welcome valuable feedback from the guests. Therefore, we request you to fill up the questionnaire that will be provided to you by the Tour manager.

VISITORS
Visitors are allowed to meet any guest and spend some time, subject to prior intimation given to the captain of the boat. The visitors will have to carry their identity card.

SMOKING
Smoking is not permitted inside the cabins and public areas inside the boat. Designated areas can be provided.

LIFT
Lift is not available on the boat.

SWIMMING POOL
Not available.

SAUNA
Not available.

GRATUITIES
Gratuities are included in the holiday package.

GIFT SHOPS
Gifts and souvenirs can be purchased during excursions.

PAYMENT ONBOARD
The vessel operates on a signed-chit system whereby the payments have to be settled only before disembarkation.

CURRENCY
Currency onboard is Indian rupee. VISA, MASTER CARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS and Debit cards.

ABOUT MV VAIKUNDUM



MV Vaikundam has nine well-appointed cabins with attached washrooms on the lower deck and, a well-functional kitchen, air-conditioned and exquisitely set dining hall and bar with lounge on its upper deck.

MV Vaikundam is a boat whose hull was modelled on the traditional Kettuvallom or rice barges of the past. The rooms are made using wooden panels with wall papering, wood panelling, sparkling wooden flooring and the upper deck has some bamboo matting with bamboo poles for roof, following some of the traditional practices but contain all modern amenities.

The wooden hull of the boat on the upper segment is made by joining planks of local wood 'Aanjili,' using strong coir rope on the segments above the waterline. The wood is coated with a caustic black resin made by boiling cashew kernel and fish oil. The wood is periodically treated with the Neem oil and Fish oil. This is the traditional style called Kettuvallom.

ACCOMMODATION

The lower deck features nine well-appointed cabins. The first cabin is a Deluxe Cabin with a double bed, while the remaining eight are Superior Cabins with twin beds. All cabins are fully air-conditioned and equipped with en-suite washroom and toilet facilities, ensuring a comfortable stay for guests.

Each cabin has windows. All cabins have a wardrobe, dresser, and side tables.

· Deluxe Cabin: 160square feet
· Superior Cabin: 124 square feet

DINING

·Well equipped kitchen managed by experienced Chef and service team.
·Buffet Menu: Traditional Indian cuisines Vegetarian and non-vegetarian Indian food using locally available fresh products.
·Beverages: Authentic Indian Wine and beer is available onboard – prior notice is required.
·A special chef's meal is arranged serving Kerala Cuisine with fresh catch of seafood in a traditional style on a banana leaf.

The following cooking demos curated by our onboard chef can be organised on prior request:

·Food in Toddy Shops
·Street Food of Kerala
·Ayurveda Inspired Cuisines
·Kerala Dumplings

ENTERTAINMENT

·The open sun deck with direct view of the idyllic waterscape
·air-conditioned lounge with a mini-BAR
·Air-conditioned dining with buffet and fine dining facilities
·Live kitchen
·Indian and international cuisine
·Library and Board games



On Board Experiences
·Lectures on Ayurveda, Yoga, History, Politics, Agriculture, and video streaming on various insightful topics relevant to the visiting destinations
·Live Music on request as supplement
·Demonstration of Mural painting as supplement.

HEALTH AND FITNESS
Morning and evening walk in the rural villages
Yoga & Meditation for inner well being – demonstration of the basics by experts.
Guests may opt for Ayurveda consultations and massages at the resort, available with prior appointment and at an additional charge.

ENRICHMENT
·Rural life by the canals

Witnessing life along the canals is spiritually revitalising.
On the journey through Kerala's backwaters, it's possible to visit several beautiful villages. We encourage travellers to witness this laid-back and peaceful life, occupied with coir making, fishing and shell harvesting.

Visit a village creche and engage with the children as they narrate their stories. Spend some time with them and we hope that both our guests, and the children use the time to mutually learn from each other.

Meet the women of the village who are getting empowered through the mission, "Kudumbha Shree" to take care of the economic and social development of rural villages. This mission is aimed at enabling the women to be healthy, safe, and self-reliant to strengthen their family income and letting the benefits of the democratic governance reach the common people through their active participation.
Meet the farmers and fishermen and watch the indigenous practices being followed practiced.
Visit local houses and get deeper understanding of the living culture. Guests get the chance to watch cooking practices and have hands-on experience.
·Off-the-Beaten-Path Villages of Craftsmen
This journey takes travellers through villages that are hard to find even on the internet. We'll cruise through the scenic expanses of greenery and waterways to remote villages.

Aranmula- a heritage village on the bank of river Pampa.





The village preserves various traditional art & craft of Kerala, such as mural painting, wooden Snake boat building, handloom weaving and many more. Among these, the most outstanding craft is the Mirror of Aranmula, locally known as Aranmula Kannadi, which is made of an alloy.
These mirrors have a cultural significance in Kerala It is regarded as one of the eight auspicious objects displayed during religious festivals or auspicious occasions and ceremonies. The unique feature of this mirror is that the 100% reflection of the image is taking place from the surface, unlike in the normal mercury mirror, The handicraft of mirror making, using a secret combination of specific metals in certain ratio, is an indigenous skill of a family of Aranmula, being handed down through the descendants of Vishwa karma – the mythological god of craftsmanship.

Mannar village: at a foundry in the village, you get the chance to watch the bell-metal casting of traditional locks, cauldrons, and traditional lamps, which are of daily use in temples and houses.

·**Partaking in Ancient Healing Treatments**
It's not a trip to Kerala if you didn't seek out Ayurveda. We encourage our guests to engage with the doctor and gain valuable insights into this holistic healing and curative therapies.

·**Explore the interiors of Kuttanad**
The expanses of land in Kuttanad were reclaimed from the lake for paddy cultivation when the region was severely hit by famine during the colonial period. These paddy fields are at the lower altitude than the sea. Dykes are built around to protect them from flooding of saline water during the tides.

Here we also get the chance to witness a traditional folk-dance performance known as Kaikottikali by the local village girls.

·**Elephant Stables**
Our guests have the option of heading off on a full day excursion by road to Konni Elephant Camp. Once there, guests will be able to feed the gentle giant banana, jaggery and coconut.

Add On: After spending time with the elephants, guests can proceed to Aranmula- a heritage village on the bank of river Pampa. Aranmula is famous for ancient temples, the art of metal mirror making, traditional snake-boat building, mural painting and architecture. The metal-mirror making, especially, is an indigenous art, known only to a few families in the village.

·**Day excursions**
Our guests can spend a day on land visiting tea, coffee, rubber, or spice plantations, exploring the diverse geographical features.

·**Birding expedition by country boat**

Nestled on the banks of the Vembanad Lake, the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is a wonderful paradise of lush green jungles along the waterways next to the lake. The canals are rich with avian life, and one ends up seeing a very wide varieties of water and land birds here. From Kingfishers to Fishing Eagles, from Indian Darters to Large Cormorants, from Parakeets to Gulls and hundreds of species of birds. The place just comes alive with the sounds and sights of birds in the early morning and evening hours. A great destination to take a canoe for a lovely boat safari.

·**Visiting Coir village**
Guests get the rare chance to visit the coir spinners and handloom weavers of a riparian village. Coir and coir products are major exports of Kerala, are of much relevance today than ever before when plastic has become a global menace. People of this village are major suppliers of this cottage industry.

· **Meeting traditional wooden boat builders**
As the guests stroll along the picturesque village surrounded by paddy fields, they get the chance to see traditional wooden boat building practices, stitching together wooden planks using coir rope and caulking using cotton and natural resin.

· **Get to know about the Snake boats of Kerala**

Snake boats are designed for swift movement through all types of waterways- lakes, canals or rivers. The villagers preserve traditional skill in building Snake boats. The snake boats of the village that we visit -Aranmula- are known 'Pally Odams', (Divine vessel). In Aranmula these vessels are used only for ritualistic regatta being held annually on that Last day of the harvest festival- Onam (August/September)

The know-how to build Pally Odam is vested with a few members of communities (Vishwakarma) of the region who have inherited the skill to convert a log of wood into fascinating art pieces which live through generations. They possess the knowledge to understand the quality of any wood and the methods of treating the wood using organic substances. They follow the principles of Vedic architecture, which they learn from their ancestors, working with them from childhood days onwards.

Snake boat races are popular during Onam.

*Guests can join in Snake boat races or mock races as a supplementary activity

· **Crafts men of villages**

The Aranmula village that we visit during the multiple nights cruising, preserves various traditional art & craft of Kerala, such as mural painting, wooden Snake boat building, handloom weaving and many more. Among these, the most outstanding craft is the Mirror of Aranmula, locally known as Aranmula Kannadi, which is made of an alloy.
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The Mannar village is the hub of foundries where the guests can watch the bell-metal casting of traditional locks, cauldrons, and traditional lamps, which are of daily use in temples and houses.

· **Witness art forms**

From folk dances to ancient rituals, on our cruising holiday we make sure our travellers experience the truly unique side of Kerala.

We visit an ancient sacred grove where serpents are worshipped. Guests are allowed to walk inside and even see the rituals going on.

One of the rituals in Sacred groves is Pulluvan Paatu- recital of certain hymns with the accompaniment of a single string instrument and a drum made of clay and leather. This is one of the rituals considered as powerful to invoke the Serpent gods to seek blessing of the mystic power of Serpent Gos and Goddess. Devotees from far and wide come here seeking blessings for protection from health issues, especially fertility issues.

· **Watch classical performances**

Guests get the chance to watch Kathakali, Mohini Attom, Bharata Natyam and interact with the performers.

· **Witness Kerala's traditional Martial Arts Performance – Kalarippayattu.**

Our journey begins with action. Before we embark on our cruising adventure, guests get to witness Kalarippayattu at a traditional training centre – Kalari. This ancient martial art which was being practiced by the regional warriors of the Kings, In modern times this ancient science for

· **Places of spiritual wellness and architectural values.**

Our guests get the chance to visit Temples, Churches, Mosques, Memorials and Ashram ad Sacred Groves.

· **Temple festivals**

The annual temple **festivals** of Kerala are vibrant and distinctive, marked by grand celebrations that blend elaborate Vedic rituals—performed for the well-being of the universe—with rich cultural displays. A highlight of these festivals is the majestic procession of caparisoned elephants, accompanied by traditional percussion ensembles.
Late October till March is the season of such pompous festivals.
The cruise does not guarantee the viewing of local festivals or cultural events. However, our crew will make every effort to facilitate the experience whenever possible, subject to local schedules and conditions.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

About Kerala
Kerala is the Indian state at the south-western tip of India, located between the majestic Western Ghats and the Arabian sea. The landscape comprises of dense forests, High ranges, rolling hills, rivers, waterfalls, midland, network of Backwaters along the lowland and the secluded beaches under the shades of Coconut groves. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are the bordering states of Kerala. Kerala has a peace-loving, literate and very welcoming society. This socialist State has advanced and efficient healthcare system, professional educational institutions and excellent Judicial and Police force to protect law and order. Travelling in Kerala is safe for sensible and responsible visitors

About the Backwaters of Kerala
Kerala, a narrow stretch of land, located between the mountain ranges of Western Ghats and the Arabian sea, is crisscrossed by 44 rivers, two major wetland ecosystems- the Vembanad lake and Ashtamudi lake, and several minor lakes and lagoons, forming a continuous stretch of Backwaters running along the entire coastline, from South to North of Kerala.

Where in Kerala is the cruising expedition on MV Vaikundam
On the most picturesque and vibrant network of the emerald-green Backwaters, spread across the central and south Kerala, between the iconic destinations - Kollam, Alleppey, Kottayam and Cochin.

Which are the airports closer to the cruising route of MV Vaikundam?
Cochin International airport: 2-3 hours by road.
Trivandrum International airport: 4-5 hours by road.

Cities/towns closest to the cruising region.
Cochin, Kottayam & Alleppey

Distance of the embarkation/disembarkation points from Cochin city
Option 1: 7 Nights North to South Cruising: Pallippuram, 45 Minutes from Cochin city.
Option 2: 7 Nights South to North cruising: Punnamada, in Alleppey: 2 Hours from Cochin city

Which are the prominent cities/ towns closer to the cruising region?
Cochin, Alleppey & Kottayam

About Cochin City
Cochin (Kochi) the commercial capital of Kerala, is a prominent and prospering Port city along Arabian sea. The multi-cultural prospering and welcoming society living in harmony, respects and preserves the heritage. Hotels and restaurants of all categories are available.Tourist attractions: Old Kochi: Fort Cochin, Mattancherry, Vypeen, Wellingdon Island; Broadway, Ernakulam city (Mainland of Cochin), Tripoonithura-the seat of erstwhile Kochi Rajas.

Accessibility of Cochin: By Sea, Air and Road

Distance of the embarkation/disembarkation stations from Cochin city
Option 1: 7 Nights North to South Cruising: Pallippuram, 45 Minutes from Cochin city.
Option 2: 7 Nights South to North cruising: Punnamada, in Alleppey: 2 Hours from Cochin city

About Alleppey
Alleppey (Alappuzha), situated along the Arabian Sea, had a prominent Port of the ancient Spice trade route.
Alleppey is renowned for the Cruises on Houseboats along the picturesque emerald-green network of rivers, canals, lagoons and lakes; its serene and secluded beautiful beaches and the rich cultural heritage that it preserves. It is often referred to as the "Venice of the East."

The most exotic experience of the destination is the relaxing and culturally immersive rural expedition on 'Houseboats', the modernised form of traditional ‘Kettuvallom'-which were being used by the local people as a transport to the distant locations.

Alleppey has beautiful beaches the beach destinations-Kollam, Vakala and Kavalam.

The major events in Alleppey are the Boat races and grand temple festivals.

Accessibility of Alleppey
Alleppey is accessible by train, and road. The nearest airport is Cochin International airport. Alleppey has its own railway station, which is well-connected to major cities. Buses and taxis are available for road travel.

K**ottayam:** Located on the bank of the majestic lake – Vembanad -and nourished by Meenachil river, Kottayam is the gateway to the High rages of the Western ghats. It is famous for Natural rubber plantations and the wetland eco-system centred around the lagoons of Kumarakom on Vembanad lake. During our cruise we get the chance to visit the iconic destinations such as Vaikom and Kumarakom. We also organise day excursions to the Rubber/Spices or Tea plantations on the High ranges.
Accessibility of Kottayam: Trains/Buses and Cars.

Where does the Cruise Operate and for how many nights in Kerala?

· 7 Nights culturally immersive experiential river cruise on Backwaters on Alleppey, Kottayam and Cochin.
· 5 Nights culturally immersive experiential river cruises on Alleppey, Kottayam and Cochin.
· 3 Nights Cruises on the Backwaters of Alleppey.
· 2 Nights Cruises on the Backwaters of Alleppey.

ABOUT DESTINATIONS AND ROUTE OF CRUISES





- **Pallippuram Village**

Pallippuram village is at the border of Alleppey and Cochin, is an ancient lagoon, spread along the banks of lake on two sides and river on one side. The major landmark of the village is the filial church of the Holy Cross, which was miraculously found from the lake. When the community grew larger, a bigger church was built nearby where the present St. Mary's Forane Church stands and now the Holy Cross is preserved here.

- **Vaikom**

Accessible by MV Vaikundam

A sleepy town of Kottayam district in Kerala is centred at the ancient temple of Lord Shiva, on the Bank of Vembanad lake. This town made an indelible mark in the history of Casteism in Kerala, when the feudal ban on underprivileged communities from entering temples and premises was abolished due to a massive protest of the public. This incident had set in motion the social reformation in Kerala.

The architecture of the temples in Kerala is based on ancient science of construction and geographical features of the land. As per the traditional architecture, each element of temple represents an element of human body and, a temple is not only the space for spiritual enlightenment but also the venue for harmonious social networking. Even the devotees from far off places come all the way down to Vaikom for ritualistic ceremonies such as the first meal of babies, marriage and thanksgiving offers such as meal for the poor, cultural performances and specific rituals prescribed by the Vedas.

- **Chenganda**

Accessible by MV Vaikundam

Chenganda, the hub of coir spinners and weavers and bio concrete producers. Coir is one of the major exports of Kerala. The Coir industry is a cottage industry that provides livelihood for inhabitants of rural villages along the Backwaters. It is A strong rope made by spinning the organically softened fibre of Coconut husk. Because of the strength of the rope and high resistance to water and salinity, Coir is being used for weaving carpets, geo-textile for soil erosion and green houses, orthopedic mattresses, boat building and for lifting mighty fishing nets which dot along the Backwaters. Coir is of much more relevance today than ever before when plastic has become a global menace. Chenganda is the major centre of this cottage industry.

- **Kumarakom**

Accessible by MV Vaikundam

Kumarakom, part of Kottayam district of Kerala, is a cluster of islands on a wetland system between Lake - Vembanad- the largest in India, and the river Meenachil. It is home to Terns, Grey headed swamphen, purple heron, Grey heron, Pond heron, Kingfisher, Blue tailed bee-eater, Open bill stork, Egrets, Cormorants, Oriental darter, Pink headed warble, Indian cormorant/Shag, June To Brown headed gull, Osprey, Swallow, Water snake (checkered keelback), White throated kingfisher, Crow pheasant or Indian coucal Lesser whistling ducks. June to August is the breeding season of resident wetland birds and November to May is the season of migratory birds.



- **Kavalam**

Accessible by MV Vaikundam

- Kavalam village, on the northeast of Alleppey in Kerala live in the seasons' rhythms and the ebb and flow of the waters of the Pamba River and the Vembanad backwaters People work on farmland claimed from the shallow parts of the Vembanad and protected from its rampaging waters by mud bunds. They are socially bound together by a precarious agrarian economy that is always at the mercy of the monsoon rains. The spirit of collective action, despite the deep divisions of caste and class, permeate every aspect of life including music and art forms. People invoke the gods and ancestral spirits with dance and music. Kavalam is the meeting place of Backwaters of Vembanad lake and the river - Pampa. The hamlets of the village interspersed along the banks of the Backwaters and the river and the lake. The rhythms of Kavalam which shaped and stayed with Kerala's versatile poet, lyricist and playwright, Late Shri Narayana Panicker, find expression in his literary work.

- **Kainakari**

Accessible by MV Vaikundam

A little Holland of Kerala, this island is surrounded by the river- Pampa- before it merges with the vast lake -Vembanad lake The mode of transport of the villagers is ferry. Most of the villagers own a country boat. Paddy is extensively cultivated on land reclaimed from the lake bed by draining out water and enclosing with bund. Planting of seedlings, weeding and fertilising using ducks and harvesting the paddy, keep the local farmers occupied throughout the year

- The Chavara village in Kainakari is a secluded habitat where the ancestral home of an eminent Christian Saint and social reformer, Fr.Kuriakose Chavara is preserved. Fr. Chavara, is the first canonized Catholic male saint of Indian origin, the co-founder of the first congregation for men, the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate – C.M.I, and of Congregation of the mother of Carmel C.M.C. He had dedicated his life for the upliftment of the poorest among the poor.

- A**ranmula**

Aranmula is accessible by road from Alleppey, around 1.5 hours drive away.
Aranmula is an ancient scenic village spread along the banks of the Holy river – Pampa, where mirrors are made of metals, Regatta of Snake boats are held, traditional feast is hosted for oarsmen of the Snake boats of the village, mural art, hand loom weaving and traditional architecture are taught, the rituals in the temple of Krishna are performed based on Vedic knowledge and the festivals are celebrated with much pomp and show.

- **Champakkulam**

Accessibility by MV Vaikundam

During the ancient spice trade, Champakkulam market was on the commercial route for where the spices and forest produce from the hills were brought and stored for transshipment to the ancient port at Purakkad. Under the patronage of the welcoming local Hindu rulers, the Syrian traders and missionaries arriving through Purakkad were allowed to settle down in Champakkulam and were granted permission to build their church. Recorded as established in 427, this church of St. Mary on the bank of Champakkulam Lake is one of the most ancient churches in India. The present Church

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- **Aranmula**

Aranmula is accessible by road from Alleppey, around 1.5 hours drive away.

Aranmula is an ancient scenic village spread along the banks of the Holy river – Pampa, where mirrors are made of metals, Regatta of Snake boats are held, traditional feast is hosted for oarsmen of the Snake boats of the village, mural art, hand loom weaving and traditional architecture are taught, the rituals in the temple of Krishna are performed based on Vedic knowledge and the festivals are celebrated with much pomp and show.

- **Champakkulam**

Accessibility by MV Vaikundam

During the ancient spice trade, Champakkulam market was on the commercial route for where the spices and forest produce from the hills were brought and stored for transshipment to the ancient port at Purakkad. Under the patronage of the welcoming local Hindu rulers, the Syrian traders and missionaries arriving through Purakkad were allowed to settle down in Champakkulam and were granted permission to build their church. Recorded as established in 427, this church of St. Mary on the bank of Champakkulam Lake is one of the most ancient churches in India. The present Church building retains East Syriac architecture with Madbaha, Questrom, sanctuary veils, bema, Hykkala etc.

- **Changankari**

Accessible by MV Vaikundam
Changankari is a charming remote rural habitat amidst expanses of paddy fields. Cycling through the interiors and outskirts of this village takes you to an ancient church dedicated to St. George who is believed to have healing powers
St. George, the patron saint, won martyrdom venturing the Roman emperor Diocletian in proclaiming his unfaltering faith in Jesus Christ. The statue of St. George is of Persian architecture and one evoking instantaneous veneration.

- **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

- **What is the best time for cruising?**
  October till April is ideal

- **What are the technical features of MV Vaikundam:**
  Length: 35.40 meters I Width: 6.21 meters I Draft: 1.58 meters I Number of decks: 2 I
  Speed: 3 knots I Guests' capacity: 18 I Crew: 12 I Licence authority: Kerala State Maritime Board.

- **What are the categories and dimensions of the cabins?**
  Deluxe cabin: 160 Square feet I Superior cabin: 124 square feet

- **What are the facilities available in the cabins**
  Deluxe cabin with attached bathroom: Double bed with storage compartment, wardrobe, luggage rack, locker, side table, bottled mineral water, mirror, slippers, intercom, air-conditioner, and safety equipment,

- Superior cabins with attached bathroom: 2 separate single cots with storage compartments, wardrobe, locker, side table, Kettle, Bottled mineral water, mirror, slippers, intercom, air-conditioner and safety equipment.

- The attached bathrooms are fitted with shower, shower tray and shower curtain, hanger, mirror. Towels, toiletries.

- Running hot & cold water is available round the clock

- What kind of food is available onboard?
- The variety of food option include traditional Kerala cuisine, seafood and Indian and international dishes.

- **Are there vegetarian food options?**
  Yes, there are plenty of vegetarian options available onboard, ranging from traditional South Indian dishes to various vegetarian curries and rice preparations.



- **Is there an open space on MV Vaikundam?**
  Yes. MV Vaikundam features a welcoming sundeck.

What are the health precautions should be considered?
It's recommended to drink bottled water, use mosquito repellent, and carry any necessary medications. Ensure your vaccinations are up to date, especially if you plan to explore rural areas. If there are dietary restrictions, please do inform us at the time of booking.

Is MV Vaikundam recommendable for children.?
We accept children (below 5 years) on board sharing a cabin with parents or guardians. They will be the sole responsibility of the parents/ guardians and must never be left unattended. For Children of 12 years and above, a separate cabin will need to be booked. All Children must carry their school ID and Adhaar Card/Passport.

Is MV Vaikundam equipped to accommodate physically challenged or for those who needs special care?
Guests with limited mobility who can climb 8–10 steps may be accommodated. However, they may need to forgo excursions that involve long walks.

What are the fire and safety measures available on MV Vaikundam?
Fire alarm and fire extinguishers are installed in each cabin and the public areas of the vessel. Safety jackets are provided in each cabin for each person.

What is the Tariff per night?

· **Double/ Twin occupancy:**

Deluxe Cabin: per night INR 47500 for 2 persons, including all meals and excluding 5% GST.
Superior cabin: per night INR 42250 for 2 persons, including all meals and excluding 5% GST.

· **Single occupancy:**

Deluxe Cabin: per night INR 47500, including food and excluding GST.
Superior cabin: per night INR 36950, including food and excluding GST.

What is the Booking Policy?
25% of the full fare is required as a deposit to secure a confirmed booking.
Balance 75%, 90 days prior to date of sailing
· For the Christmas and New Year holiday, the full balance must be paid 120 days prior to the departure.
· All reservations are subject to cancellation if payments are not received by the due date.
· Upon full payment of the amount specified as the Full Fare (Invoice to be referred), ADVENTURE RESORTS & CRUISES agrees to arrange for the provision of the services as described herein and as modified by any supplementary marketing materials.
· Upon receipt of your deposit or full payment or upon the issuance of the Guest Booking Contract directly or by a Booking agent or upon receipt of a confirmation letter or final invoice from us, both the Guest and the Carrier will be fully bound by all of the terms and conditions of the Guest Booking Contract.

Reservation
To make a reservation, contact your local booking agency or email to ADVENTURE RESORTS & CRUISES, to <reservations@adventureresortscruises.com>

Modes of Payment

Bank wire transfer which is subject to bank wire fee.
PayPal system with additional 5% Transaction fee.
Through Amex, Master and Visa credit card with an additional 3% Transaction fee.
Cancellation policy
All cancellations must be emailed to reservations@adventureresortscruises.com
The following cancellation terms will be applicable for all written cancellations received prior to departure up to the scheduled time of departure:

CANCELLATION TERMS FOR CHARTER BOOKINGS APPLICABLE ON THE *FULL FARE:

- The 25% deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE.
- 90-75 days prior, 50% of the charter cost.
- 74-60 days prior, 75% of the charter cost.
- 59 days and less, 100% of the charter cost.

CANCELLATION TERMS FOR FIT AND GROUP DEPARTURES APPLICABLE ON THE FULL FARE:

- 120 to 90 days prior, 25% per person.
- 89-76 days prior, 50% per person.
- 75-46 days prior, 75% per person.
- 45 days and less, 100% per person.

- *Full Fare is defined as the full cost of any cruise package as mentioned in the price chart.

- Note: for Christmas and New Year Departures, 100% fee will be charged for cancellation during 90-the departure date.

Revision or Changes

Once a cruise booking has a deposit or fare is paid in full, all changes are subject to INR 3400 per change, provided the said change is prior to 90 days before date of departure/sailing.

The following situations are considered as Revisions and penalties will apply:

- Changes to departure date
- Changing to a promotional fare

Documents

Cruise documents will be issued approximately 3 weeks prior to departure.
Arrivals / Departure Airport / Hotel Transfers
As mentioned in the itinerary inclusions

