SPICE ROADS
CYCLING



ROAD

ROAD CYCLING INDIA COAST TO COAST

Tour Code
IND-DRB

11 DAYS
10 NIGHTS

Destinations	India
Tour Meets Tour Ends	Chennai, India Kochi, India
Fly in to Fly out of	Chennai International Airport Cochin International Airport
Group Size Minimum Age	2-16 riders 18 (on scheduled departures)

ACTIVITY PROFILE

8 Cycling days	**756** km Total cycling distance
95 km Avg distance / day	**826** m Avg climbing / day

PRICING

Price	US$ 3,025
Bike Hire (Road Bike)	US$ 330
Single Supplement	US$ 575

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ SpiceRoads jersey
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ Support vehicle
- ✓ Guide(s)
- ✓ Meals (as indicated)
- ✓ Accommodation

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Domestic flights
- ✗ Airport pick up
- ✗ Airport drop off
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Alcohol
- ✗ Tips

DEPARTURES

29 Nov - 09 Dec 2026
10 Jan - 20 Jan 2027
31 Jan - 10 Feb 2027
28 Feb - 10 Mar 2027
31 Oct - 10 Nov 2027
28 Nov - 08 Dec 2027

TRIP PROFILE

This trip covers 756 kilometres in 8 cycling days, crossing the southern part of the Indian sub-continent. Daily distances are often over 100 kilometres on paved roads, and while most are relatively flat, there are 2 very challenging days of climbing in the Western Ghat mountains towards the end of the trip. Our route is scenic and full of variety as we ride from one coast to the other, through ancient civilizations, off-the-beaten-path farming communities, majestic mountains, and tropical backwaters.

Suitability: This trip is suitable for the experienced road cyclist, and those comfortable riding over 100 kilometres per day on back to back days. Climbing experience and a good cycling fitness will be helpful on days in the Western Ghat mountains. However, the support vehicle will always be nearby for those that need it.

Biking Conditions: This trip is on quiet, tarmac back roads in good condition, but keep in mind that this is India! There may be sections of rough road and chaotic traffic in and around urban areas. Your local cycling guide will keep you aware of what's ahead, and the air-conditioned support vehicle will ride behind the entire way should you need a rest.



Day 1: Arrive in Chennai

Arrive in Chennai, formerly known as Madras, capital of the state of Tamil Nadu. A fascinating mix of modern and traditional, this Indian metropolis has plenty of cosmopolitan and historic

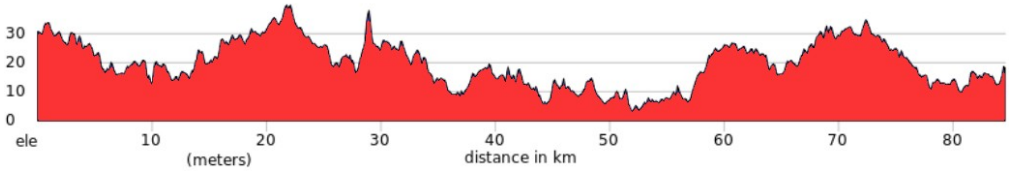
diversions for visitors. Feel free to explore some of the city's many temples, colonial churches, museums, and more before meeting up at our hotel in the afternoon for a trip briefing. In the evening, our guide will welcome us to India in true Tamil style with a lavish dinner of South Indian cuisine!

Accord Metropolitan Dinner

Day 2: Mahabalipuram to Puducherry

Our first cycling day of the tour begins with an hour and a half transfer out of the urban sprawl of Chennai to Mahabalipuram, a coastal town famous for its ancient rock-cut monuments and temples that are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll have some time to peruse and admire some of these thousand-year-old relics before hopping on our bikes and enjoying the first ride of the trip! We'll make our way out of Mahabalipuram, heading inland to the backroads of rural Tamil Nadu. The terrain is mostly flat as we pass through farmland and farming villages, dotted with colourful Hindu temples famous to the region. There's a short and gentle climb at the end of our ride before we reach the coastal town of Puducherry, a former French colony on the coast. Take a stroll to admire the uniquely French colonial architecture in this easy-going town before meeting the group for dinner.

Hotel Atithi Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

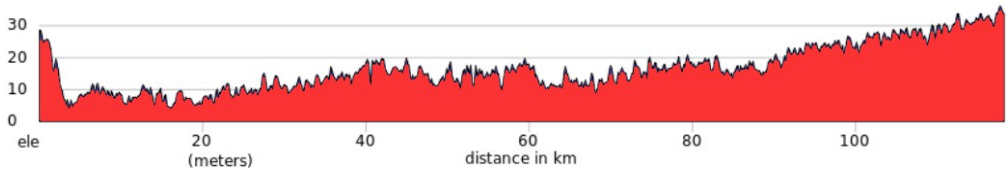


Ride 85km +336m -349m

Day 3: Puducherry to Kumbakonam

It's time to break away from the Bay of Bengal and begin our journey to the other coast! We'll transfer out of Puducherry to begin our ride in the countryside. Though our ride today is long, and the terrain is mostly flat like the previous day's ride, but the scenery is noticeably greener, especially after we cross the Kollidam River. It's a pleasant ride, passing through small but colourful Tamil villages with their many temples and the occasional church. We'll ride directly to our accommodation for the evening, a stunningly designed hotel showcasing traditional Indian and colonial architecture in a lush and serene setting. After the ride, you'll have time to enjoy the pleasant surroundings of the hotel, take a dip in the pool, or enjoy the Ayurvedic spa.

Indeco Swamimalai Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



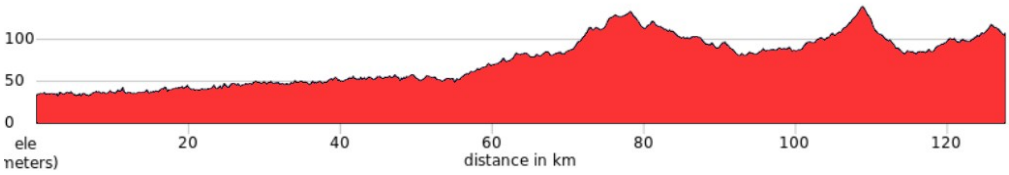
Ride 118km +564m -559m

Day 4: Kumbakonam to Pudukkottai

After breakfast, we head out from our pleasant hotel in Kumbakonam, riding east along the Kaveri River. It's a flat ride along the river for roughly 45 kilometres before we head south towards the town of Pudukkottai. There are some very gentle and gradual climbs before we reach our destination, but overall it's a pleasant ride through an area of Tamil Nadu that seldom sees foreign tourists- especially not cyclists! Enjoy the view of authentic South Indian life. After reaching our destination at a rural hotel, you'll have time to freshen up and maybe take a short

stroll through the surrounding countryside, including a temple full of horse sculptures honouring Ayyanar, a Hindu deity, before rejoining the group for dinner.

Chettinad Heritage and Wellness Resort Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

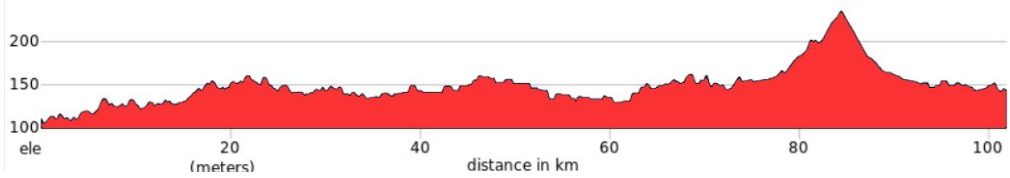


Ride 128km +616m -541m

Day 5: Pudukkottai to Madurai

Today we'll rise early to get a head start on the South Asian sun and heat. Our destination for the day: the ancient city of Madurai, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. After 4 days of cycling through Tamil Nadu, today's ride is an easy achievement. The ride begins with a fast and flat warm-up, followed by a gradual climb into gently undulating terrain at around 20 kilometres, passing through small towns and farming villages. We'll have a slow, several-kilometre climb as we pass by the Alagar Kovil Forest Reserve, before making a smooth descent into the city of Madurai. Our accommodation is a beautiful boutique hotel that is centrally located for our sightseeing day off the bikes tomorrow. Take a dip in the pool, sip a drink at the bar, or get some laundry done before rejoining the group in the evening for dinner.

JC Residency Madurai Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Ride 102km +442m -408m

Day 6: Madurai Rest Day

Spend today out of the saddle and soaking up the experience of walking among the two-thousand-year-old streets of Madurai. One of the oldest cities in India, the history of this truly ancient metropolis speaks for itself with its towering temple complexes and monuments. After breakfast, we'll head out into the city to see some of the most famous sights, like the Meenakshi temple, dedicated to the Hindu goddess of the same name, and adorned with thousands of colourfully painted sculptures. Explore this vast sacred site and its beautiful works of art, a peaceful oasis amid the teeming city. Your afternoon is free to continue exploring, with lunch and dinner at your leisure. Your guide will be happy to provide suggestions, and you are also welcome to spend your day relaxing at the hotel. Be sure to rest well for a big day tomorrow!

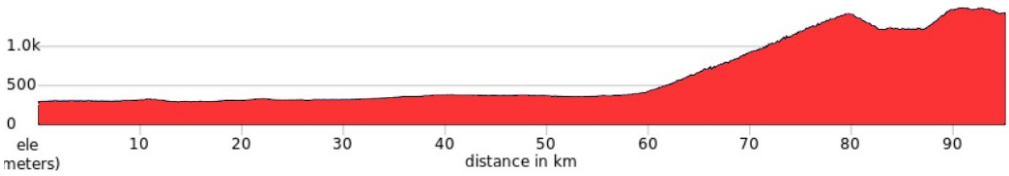
JC Residency Madurai Breakfast

Day 7: Madurai to Chinnakanal

After a day off the bikes, we're well-rested and ready for a big day in the Western Ghats, the storied mountain range that provides water for the state of Tamil Nadu. We'll transfer out of busy Madurai to our start point among the quiet villages with picture-perfect views across the farmland to the mountains. The ride starts with a flat and steady warm-up for 40 kilometres as we head west - straight for the Ghats! Our journey today is a long climb. The terrain can be quite tough, with sustained ascents that go on for 20 kilometres. Be sure to keep your bidon topped-up and take breaks when necessary, or just stop to admire the view. After we reach the top of the climb, we'll enjoy a nice downhill that takes us straight into lush Kerala Province, a sudden change of landscape from the arid to the verdant. The last 10 kilometres are rolling hills, with a final steep

ascent to our accommodation for the evening, situated firmly within the Western Ghats. Tonight we'll enjoy a hearty dinner to fuel up for a final day of riding in these impressive mountains!

The Siena Village Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

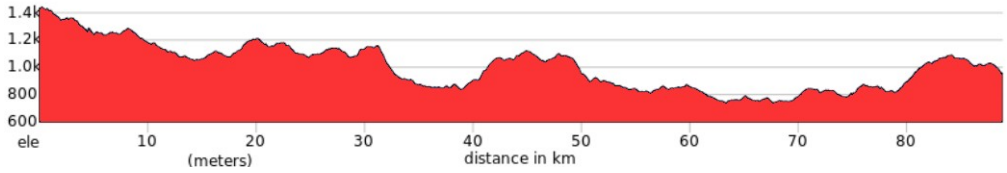


Ride 95km +1952m -811m

Day 8: Chinnakanal to Vagamon

Ride out into the soft morning sunlight on the perfect rows of tea fields. A series of plateaus separated by steep climbs takes us deeper into the Western Ghats on winding mountain roads, with some winding descents into plunging gorges. We'll get a break from the South Indian heat, with cool mountain air and forested slopes offering some shade on our ride, especially as we skirt the edge of Mathikettan Skola National Park with its gigantic trees and rushing rivers. Today's climbs are less gradual, and your legs will be tested on short but steep gradients across the rugged landscape, backdropped by mountain panoramas and waterfalls, all the way up to our destination for the day- the hill station of Vagamon. Our accommodation for the evening is a hotel perched amid these serene natural surroundings, the perfect place to get a good night's sleep after a challenging day!

Foggy Knolls Resort Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



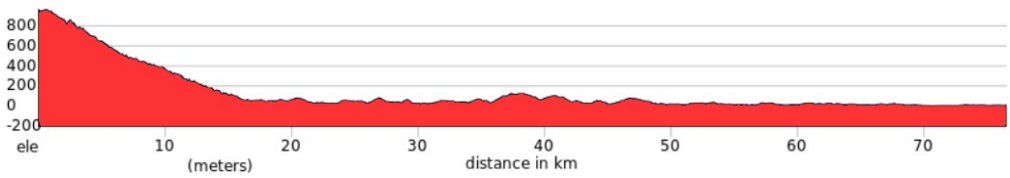
Ride 89km +1766m -2240m

Day 9: Kolahalamedu to Kumarakom

We'll bid farewell to the Western Ghats on our ride today. The ride begins with a long and smooth spectacular 20-km descent out of the Vagamon hill station. Watch the scenery change from pine-lined ridges to tropical forest as we descend over 1,000 meters almost back to sea level. Welcome to Kerala! After the descent, it's an undulating ride through the lush countryside of Kerala province, including stops at historic churches and corner stores, where we can taste fresh buttermilk, a local specialty.. There are hills to watch out for, but nothing we won't be able to handle after our last two days of climbing! We'll pass through the town of Kottayam before a final stretch through the peaceful backwaters to Kumarakom, famous for its houseboat lifestyle and bird sanctuary. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon at our resort, located on the shores of Vembanadu Lake (a lagoon off the Arabian Sea).

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon at our resort, located on the shores of Vembanadu Lake.

Abad Whispering Palms Resort Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

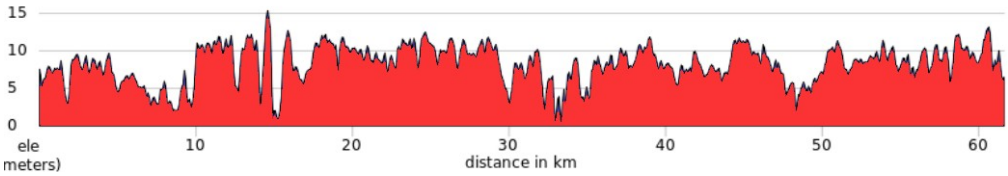


Ride 77km +712m -1657m

Day 10: Kumarakom to Kochi

Our final cycling day is a treat: a scenic joyride through the serene backwaters of Kerala as we make our way to the Arabian Sea. The first half of our route takes us through lush coconut plantations and backwater fish farms tended by fisherman and stalked by a wide array of birdlife. The road is dotted with temples, churches, countless schoolchildren on all manner of bicycles, and local women in vibrantly coloured saris that stand out like flowers against the green surroundings. Around halfway through our ride, we meet our goal - the sandy shores of the Arabian Sea! We'll stop for lunch before completing our journey on a coastal road, all the way to Kochi. After checking into our hotel in the old town, you'll have time to pack up your bike, freshen up, enjoy the pool or go for a stroll through this laid back beach town before joining the group once again for a final South Indian feast. We'll trade stories and congratulate ourselves on the tremendous accomplishment of cycling through India from Coast to Coast!

Abad Dutch Bungalow or Abad Old Court House Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Ride 62km +218m -219m

Day 11: Departure

After breakfast, you're free to explore Kochi or head to the airport for onward travel. We recommend extending your stay in charming Kochi or exploring more of Kerala and its scenic backwaters, and SpiceRoads will be happy to make the arrangements for you.

Breakfast

Disclaimer: The adventure cycling tours we operate often go beyond the beaten track, and the countries where we ride are not always predictable. Due to these reasons, it is occasionally necessary to reroute or update itineraries. Our guarantee is that we will not change a trip unless for safety or to improve it. Our listed hotels are always accurate at the time of writing, but should we have to change any hotel, it will always be for a similar or better one.

NUTS & BOLTS

Bikes

Because some people can't imagine going on a trip without their own beloved bicycle, we do not provide them as part of this tour. However, you can hire bikes locally for the price listed in the tour pricing section.

If you bring your own bike, please make sure it is in good mechanical order, and bring any spare parts you may need.

Bike Repairs

Basic spares and tools are carried by the guide and on the support vehicle, though we cannot guarantee having spares for every conceivable problem. Carrying a basic tool kit, a spare tube and a pump while riding is recommended.

Safety

Wearing a helmet is required on all our biking adventures and is non negotiable. If you do not wear a helmet you will not be allowed to cycle. Your tour leader is trained in first aid and emergency rescue, but to a large degree you must be responsible for your own safety while riding. It is therefore compulsory that you take out travel insurance that will cover you for a mountain biking tour.

Guides

You will be led by a local English-speaking guide and if the group is 9 people or more we will add another guide to the tour. All our guides are well informed in the history, culture and religions of the area where you are biking and are skilled at passing that knowledge on to you. Your guide is also medically trained and an experienced cyclist, able to handle most minor repairs en route.

THE NITTY GRITTY

Passports and Visas

Please make sure that your passport is still valid for at least six months at the end of the tour. An electronic visa (e-visa) is available for passport holders of 150 countries including Australia, New Zealand, UK, USA and citizens of EU countries, with the application and the fee submitted at least 4 days before date of arrival. Fees vary depending on nationality. The visa is valid up to 60 days from the date of arrival. Visit here to apply and for the full list of eligible countries. For citizens of countries not specified a visa must be acquired *before* arriving in India. Please contact your local Indian embassy to receive a standard tourist visa. Locations on embassies worldwide are available here.

Health

There are no compulsory vaccinations although it is strongly recommended that you are vaccinated against Typhoid, and Hepatitis A and B. Tetanus and polio vaccinations should also be up to date at the time of travel. Please speak to your doctor/physician for the most recent information.

Weather

As India is such a large country, the climate and weather conditions vary across the vast region. However, the country is divided into six main climatic zones ranging from arid desert in the west, alpine tundra and glaciers in the north, and humid tropical in the southwest and the island territories.

We have tours in the following regions

Rajasthan: weather can be divided into four seasons - summer, monsoon, post-monsoon, and winter. Summer from April to June is the hottest season with temperatures ranging from 32C to 45C. Monsoon extends from July to September with a slight drop in temperature but plenty of rain. The post-monsoon period is from October to November where the lowest temperatures can reach as low as 18C. From December to March is the cold season and the best time to visit Rajasthan. Temperatures range from 15C-18C with little or no humidity.

Kerala: mostly has a tropical wet climate, which can be divided into three seasons. Summer is from February to May and is generally hot and humid. Monsoon season begins in June till around October or November. December to January holds the best weather for travel as it is cooler and the rains have subsided.

Tamil Nadu: Tamil Nadu has a tropical climate with hot weather year-round and an average annual temperature of 24 to 32 degrees Celsius. Summers from April to June are very hot, often above 40 degrees inland. The months from October to March usually have daytime temperatures between 20 and 28 degrees, making this the most pleasant season to visit.

Leh/Ladakh has a cold desert like climate with somewhat extreme conditions. summers bring in harsh direct sunlight at such high altitudes while winters can get as cold as below freezing point. Lowest ever recorded was -23C. May to August is the best time for tourists to enjoy the weather and everything it has to offer.

Sikkim: has a very temperate climate with enjoyable 5 seasons. Depending on the location and altitude, the weather can vary. In Summer, the lowest temperatures reach 13C up to 28°C while in winter Temperature between 0C to 13C. The monsoon season hits around June to September.

Food

Meals are included in the itinerary where B = breakfast, L = lunch, and D = dinner. Any special dietary requirements can also be catered for as well. Please let us know at the time of booking.

Drink

Keeping you completely hydrated is a job we take very seriously. Cold water and energy-restoring drinks are included in the tour price while riding. Soft drinks and other beverages during meals are not included. Beer and alcohol are available, but NOT included in the price.

Solo Travelers

SpiceRoads does not require you to pay a surcharge for traveling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveler of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

Extra Expenses

We recommend that you tuck away a few extra dollars a day for incidentals. Included entrance fees are those for the listed sites and national parks that are part of the itinerary. Any other site fees are not included.

Money

The currency is the Indian rupee (Rs) and there are ATMs in major cities and most towns that take international cards. However, we suggest that you withdraw money at the airport at the start of your tour. During the tour, our guide will inform you of the ATM locations in different cities.

GENERAL BOOKING INFO

If this is the tour for you here's what you need to do to confirm your place:

FLEXIBLE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Booking a SpiceRoads cycling adventure is easy and we try to do everything possible to make sure you have full flexibility and peace of mind. We do not require a deposit to hold your place on a tour and once full payment has been made your money is protected in our client account and you have the flexibility to cancel or change your booking if needed.

CONFIRMING YOUR BOOKING

Just complete our online booking form or send your booking details offline (email or post), and we will confirm your participation. No deposit is needed to confirm your place on a SpiceRoads tour.

You are advised to read our Booking Conditions in full before you make your payment and should you require further clarifications of any of the conditions below, please email us or call our office.

TRIP STATUS

There is a minimum number of participants (usually 2) required to enable the trip to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to Depart'. Once a trip is guaranteed to depart you are free to book your flights and make other travel arrangements. If the trip status is 'Limited' will mean we have only a small number of spaces available for booking. If you are unsure about the trip status, please email us or call our office.

BOOKING ONLINE

From the tour page, click the 'Book Now' link. All departures for this tour will appear, just select the date you'd like to travel. For the next steps, you'll need to know the names of the people travelling. If you wish you can also provide extra details such as passport numbers, height (for bike hire), or you can add that later by logging into Manage My Trip (we'll set up an account for you automatically if you don't already have one). Our system will contact you from time to time to fill in the missing information, as it will be required before departure. However, if the trip that you are booking offers a child discount, you will have to fill out the date of birth of each rider (so we can calculate the appropriate discount).

If you are having any problems please send us an email, or give us a call (+66 026 3295) and one of our travel specialists will assist you with your booking.

BOOKING OFFLINE

Just call us or send an email indicating which trip you want to join and we will happily send you a list of questions and process your booking for you.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS

We do not require a deposit or full payment to book a place for you on a tour.

The balance of the tour's cost (final invoice) will need to be paid 60 days before the departure date with fees for any bicycle rental(s), single supplement(s) and extra hotel nights.

In the case where a booking is made when there are less than 60 days until the tour departure date, the tour's cost should be paid in full within 72 hours of receiving an invoice from SpiceRoads. Payment can be made by credit card using our online payment gateway or by bank transfer. When making payment online you will need to confirm that you have read these booking conditions during the "checkout" process, which equates to agreeing to the terms of services and stipulations as indicated in this document.

In all cases, tour fees need to be paid "in full" before participation in a tour. No person(s) will be allowed to join a tour without fully settling their invoice and receiving a confirmation number from SpiceRoads.

The exception can be made for last-minute miscellaneous fees that can be paid locally (visas, additional local hotel bookings, etc.) can be settled on the day of arrival.

FULL FLEXIBILITY FOR TOUR CANCELATIONS

If the tour is cancelled or postponed by SpiceRoads because we didn't make the trip numbers and the tour can't run, we will make a full cash refund (by bank transfer or on your credit card).

If the tour is cancelled for any other reason, including due to Covid related travel restrictions, we will give you a full credit (with no deductions for admin or any other small-print item) to use on any SpiceRoads tour with no time limit. (Exceptions being flights, special permits and other non-refundable items and these will be advised when booking the trip).

Before paying for your tour, you can cancel your booking with no charge and up until 40 days before departure, you can change your booking to another travel date or move your booking onto another SpiceRoads tour with no charges.

If you need to cancel after you have made full payment, please see our cancellation policy.

Loyalty Riders Club

For those who have been on several long tours with us, we reward customer loyalty by offering repeat customers a special discount off the tour price (excludes single supplement and bike rental). If this is your fourth scheduled tour or more you will receive a 5% discount. If this is your eighth scheduled tour or more we will extend a 10% discount. The discount will be reflected in your online booking, but please contact us if any questions. Loyalty discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Note: Only tours of 7 days or more will be applicable for a loyalty discount.

International Flights

International flights, to and from the start and finish points are not included in the tour price. Once your tour is Guaranteed to Depart you can book your flight. Please contact us for advice before arranging flights for the best arrival and departure times. We would only cancel a trip for an extreme circumstance, but in that case, where we cancel your trip, we cannot be liable for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made. Please claim any losses from your travel insurance that you acquired when you booked your holiday.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from SpiceRoads, be sure to subscribe.

CONTACT US

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