



THE HOUSEBOAT GUIDE

All you need to know





Types of Houseboats

Houseboats are classified into three categories:

- **DELUXE** – In a Deluxe category houseboat Air-conditioner will be operated in the bedrooms between 9 pm to 6 am (during night time only). Amenities & Linen used in the Deluxe boat will be of Deluxe quality.
- **PREMIUM** – In a Premium category houseboat Air-conditioner will be operated in the bedrooms whenever requested by the client during their stay onboard. Amenities & Linen used in the Premium boat is of Premium quality.
- **LUXURY** – In a luxury category the Houseboat is fully air-conditioned wherein the air-conditioner is on throughout the cruise. Amenities, Linen and entire facility of the Luxury boat will have a luxury quality.





Houseboat vendors recommended for FIT

DELUXE HOUSEBOATS:

- Lakes & Lagoon
- Raxa Collective River Escapes
- Spice Coast Houseboats
- Marvel Cruise
- R.K.V Tours

PREMIUM HOUSEBOATS:

- Lakes & Lagoon
- Raxa Collective River Escapes (Deluxe houseboats with Premium amenities)
- Punnamada Resort Houseboats
- Marvel Cruise (Deluxe houseboats with Premium amenities)
- Abad Houseboats

LUXURY HOUSEBOATS:

- Blue jelly By Lakes and Lagoons
- Spice Routes
- KLR Houseboats
- Hills and Hues

Note: For FIT it may not always be a 01 room houseboat, based on availability, some vendors may provide 2 or 3 bedroom houseboat with only 01 bedroom accessible and the rest being closed.





Houseboat vendors recommended for Groups

DELUXE HOUSEBOAT

- Lakes & Lagoon
- White water cruises
- R.K.V Tours

PREMIUM HOUSEBOATS

- Lakes & Lagoon
- Punnamada Resorts Houseboat
- R.K.V Tours
- White water cruises
- Marvel Cruise (No special rate applicable for groups as they have limited inventory .However rates can be procured on adhoc basis)

LUXURY HOUSEBOATS

- Spice routes houseboats

Note: Special GIT rates applicable only if there is a minimum of 6 paying rooms. Special GIT rates negotiated with the below vendors are available in the tariff. GIT movement can be a combination of 02, 03 or 04 Room houseboat & vendors will advise/update us exact configuration closer to date/previous day only.





Vendors for day cruise

DELUXE HOUSEBOAT

- Lakes and Lagoons
- Marvel Cruise
- R.K.V Tours

PREMIUM HOUSEBOAT

- Marvel Cruise
- Raxa Collective
- Lakes and Lagoons
- Spice coast
- Kumarakom Lake Resort
- R.K.V Tours





A time wise schedule for the Houseboat overnight cruise

- 1230: Check in and Welcome with tender coconut. Cruise towards Lunch point.
- 1330: Lunch is served during which time boat will be anchored.
- 1400: Start cruising again.
- 1700: The Cruise ends and is anchored.
[If the clients are interested, they can explore the village. They can take the help from houseboat crew member. Beware of dogs and uneven surfaces, pits and wooden bridges on the walk]
- 1930: Dinner is served. [Guests can amend the timing with crew]
- 2100: Retire for the day.
- 0700: Start with tea/Coffee [No Tea/Coffee machine available in the room]
- 0800: Breakfast [Bread, Butter, Jam/Dosa or Idli, Sambhar, Tea/Coffee, Eggs to order] and boat will move towards the disembarking point.
- 0900: Disembark and Proceed to your next destination.





Limitations

There are chances that clients may compare their facilities in the houseboat with that of a hotel which may lead in to dissatisfaction, hence, all the below points need to be communicated with guests before booking.

- Bed & bath rooms have limited space for occupants & storage of baggage.
- Toilet facilities are limited and sometimes the shower pressure will be low.
- Extra person in the room will be provided with Extra Mattress and not proper bed due to the space constraints.
- Hot water for bath will be given on request in a bucket.
- Houseboats are the best way of experiencing nature and the boats are anchored in the night. Most of these anchoring points are near the paddy fields and on some occasions, guests may find insects attracted by the light that gather during the night which can cause some discomfort.





Cruising & Anchoring

- House boat will cruise only during the day from 0730 to 1700 hrs. (Depending on weather & local conditions), as fishing nets are spread across the backwaters overnight, there is complete stoppage in movement of boats during this time.
- The boat will be anchored in the night to the closest available power point near the back water villages.
- During the night, crew will be present on board in case of any requirement. There is no intercom available on board & if the crew is required they have to be personally summoned.
- Normally during the lunch time the houseboat will be anchored and will not cruise.





General Information

- Boarding / disembarking jetty - Various houseboat operators listed above have different jetty from where clients board or disembark. This will be advised & handled by the Alleppey office. Check-in is at 1230hrs & check out the following day at 0900hrs.
- Crew - Houseboat crew are people from the area around backwaters who are well versed in sailing around the lake & canals, they are good cooks of local cuisine, which is the highlight of house boat experience. They are however not as well trained like the hotel staff in housekeeping and may not converse in English. Clients may also experience disparity in housekeeping with comparison to hotels. Also the salt content, moisture in the atmosphere & the moving object [Boat] will not give the perfection in the housekeeping like a hotel room.
- Personal belongings - House boat crews are reliable & have been with these operators for certain duration of time, however, clients should be cautioned to take care of personal belongings / valuables & keep it under their safe custody. Whilst on the houseboat it is advised to carry light luggage for convenience.





General Information

- Menu - Menu mainly consists of standard Kerala cuisine like rice, curry, pappad, pickle etc. with fish (The variety of fish is subject to change, depending on availability). They will also be served one other non-vegetarian dish during lunch or dinner. It will be casual dining for the groups especially on day cruises.
- Beverages - One bottle mineral water per person per day is complimentary, if extra water bottle or soft drink is required it will have to be purchased on direct payment. None of the house boat operators have liquor license, if client requires they have to carry their own liquor before boarding the boat. However some of the operators unofficially serve beer on direct payment, now with the new liquor policy announced by Kerala government this cannot be guaranteed & is subject to external conditions.
- Optional Sale - During the cruise clients will find hawkers in small boats coming up to them offering fresh water catches like prawns, lobster or other varieties of fish as well as local antique shops and Massage centers which are priced higher than the market rate. Clients should be cautioned that it is purely optional to purchase at their own discretion & we will not be responsible for quality or price.





General Information

- Precautions - Mosquito repellents & basic first aid are available on board. However it is advisable for the clients to carry their own mosquito repellent or medicines as per their requirement. Swimming in the backwaters can be done subject to weather conditions, as it is not advisable to do so on a rainy day.
- Safety - Each and every houseboat is equipped with safety materials like Life buoy and life jackets in case of any emergency. Furthermore, there are ground staff on duty 24 hours a day. Every houseboat has a mobile phone to communicate with the office. Other safety measures like storage of extra fuel, fire extinguisher and other facilities are also advised to follow the safety guidelines & not take unnecessary risks during their stay.
- First Aid - There are First Aid equipment onboard the houseboat to take care of minor ailments like headache, stomach ache and few more.
- Air conditioning - For deluxe category AC is switched on from 2100 hrs to 0600 hrs & for premium category it is also switched on during the day time if the client so requires. Each operator have different timings during the day, Please check with the Alleppey office and ascertain exact detail & brief clients accordingly. In case of AC failure steps will be taken to rectify at the earliest & clients will have to bear non-availability of AC until such time.





General Information

- Routing – General routing for the houseboat will be Alleppey to Alleppey. Depending on the vendor it will be from Punnamada, Aryad & Pallathuruthy regions. These are the best routing for the cruises and comprises both narrow canals and lakes. Whereas in the other routings like Kumarakom to Alleppey and Thottapally to Alleppey, there will be more of lake cruising which our guests may not like. Main disadvantage for the pick-up from hotels will be late reporting as weather conditions is main factor and it will be difficult to Moore the boat to the landing area if it is windy. Also sea weeds [Water Hyacinths] in the lake will make the sailing difficult as it will get stuck in the propellers and crew have to manually fix it by going under the water.
- Rates – The contracted rate vary for similar category of boat for different operators listed. The charges are as “applicable” for the specific routing like pick up/drop from Thottapally, Kumarakom & Kumarakom Round etc., these rates are available. In case of any doubts on rate or routing it should be checked with Alleppey office before provisioning to avoid disputes later. Voucher should be generated as per specific routing with description.

Thank you