



Featured

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Kochi, also known as Cochin, is an Indian city in the state of Kerala that is widely renowned for its beauty and rich history. This city has long been a hub of international trade, with merchants from around the world coming to Kochi to exchange various products for aromatic spices, fine fabrics and shiny jewellery. The city's architecture is influenced by the Dutch, Portuguese, Chinese and Italian cultures, and it is filled with museums, temples, shops, restaurants, and other attractions to keep visitors entertained.

Adisa/Shutterstock.com

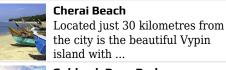


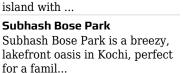
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Stretching along the serene

Top 5

Chinese Fishing Nets

Cheena val...

Museum in K...

Marine Drive

One of Kochi's most iconic sights

is the Chinese Fishing Nets, or

With over 4,000 artefacts from

across India, the Kerala Folklore

Chottanikkara Bhagavathy T...

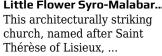
Chottanikkara Temple is one of

the most famous temples in

India, renowned fo...

Kerala Folklore Museum







THE CITY



Dan Baciu/Shutterstock.com

Kochi is a famous Indian port city known for its internationally-linked history and culture. Iconic Chinese fishing nets, spice markets, and a beautiful skyline have made the city a popular destination for tourists, whilst still helping maintain its authenticity.

One of the most famous districts of the city is Fort Kochi, an island located not far from the coast of Kochi, known for its colonial architecture, antique shops, and beaches.

Another popular area is Ernakulam, the commercial and business hub of Kochi, filled with restaurants, shops, malls, and museums. Most of Kochi's important landmarks are located in Ernakulam.

DO & SEE



MrNovel/Shutterstock.com

No matter the amount of time you allocate to Kochi, you will always have too little. Because of the city's rich historical background, there are plenty of sites, museums, and attractions to visit.

Take a stroll along the scenic Chinese fishing nets or visit one of the religious buildings. Make sure you don't lose track of time since there is so much to do and see in Kochi.

Chinese Fishing Nets



One of Kochi's most iconic sights is the Chinese Fishing Nets, or Cheena vala, which have been associated with the region for centuries.

These massive, cantilevered fishing contraptions, introduced by Chinese explorers during Kublai Khan's reign, are still used by local fishermen today.

The nets operate with a mesmerising ballet of precision and balance, elegantly lowered and raised with the tide, often requiring several men to pull the catch. At sunset, the silhouette of these age-old devices against the horizon creates a mystical atmosphere, turning the act of fishing into a spectacle of heritage and ingenuity. Photo: johnnychaos/Shutterstock.com Address: Fort Vypin, Puthuvype, Kochi

Kerala Folklore Museum



With over 4,000 artefacts from across India, the Kerala Folklore Museum in Kochi is a visual and cultural feast. The museum showcases an

eclectic collection ranging from traditional ornaments to toys and coins, each piece telling a story of India's rich heritage. Detailed written descriptions accompany the items on display, providing fascinating insights into their history and significance.

Photo: Pikoso.kz/Shutterstock.com

Address: 2059C, No 26, Pandit Karuppan Road, near Thevara Ferry Road, Junction, Kochi Opening hours: Daily 9am-6pm Phone: +91 70347 77499 Internet: www.instagram.com/folkloremuseumcochin

Chottanikkara Bhagavathy Temple



Chottanikkara Temple is one of the most famous temples in India, renowned for its beautiful ancient decorations and tranquil atmosphere. This

revered temple is dedicated to the goddess Shakti Devi, who has been worshipped here for centuries. It continues to maintain its stunning interior décor, drawing pilgrims and visitors alike to experience its spiritual and aesthetic splendour.

Photo: Milada Vigerova/Unsplash Address: Chottanikkara, Kochi Opening hours: Daily 4am-noon / 4pm-8:30pm Phone: +91 484 271 1032 Internet: https://chottanikkarabhagavathy.org

Marine Drive



Stretching along the serene backwaters, this waterfront boulevard is not just a spot for leisurely strolls but also a hub of local life and

activity. The Rainbow Bridge, with its stunning arching design, is a highlight, especially when illuminated at night. Along the way, visitors can explore a variety of shops, cafés, and street food stalls offering local delicacies. For a unique experience, hop on a sunset cruise to witness the breathtaking views of the Kochi skyline and the tranquil waters merging into the horizon.

Photo: mTaira/Shutterstock.com Address: Marine Drive, Kochi

Little Flower Syro-Malabar Catholic Church



This architecturally striking church, named after Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, known as the 'Little Flower', provides visitors with a glimpse

into the Syro-Malabar rite, one of the oldest Eastern Catholic traditions. The church's murals and intricate stained glass windows depict scenes from the life of St Thérèse. Visitors can also appreciate the unique blend of Indian and Western architectural styles, reflecting the region's diverse cultural influences.

Photo: NoName_13/Pixabay Address: Sahodaran Ayyappan Road, Elamkulam, Kochi

Cherai Beach



Located just 30 kilometres from the city is the beautiful Vypin island with a mesmerising beach, and a 15-kilometre-long

coastline sprinkled with sea shells and coconut trees. If you want to get away from the city and relax on a breathtaking island, Cherai Beach is the place to be.

Photo: Daniel J. Rao/Shutterstock.com Address: Vypin Island, Kochi

Paradesi Synagogue



The Paradesi Synagogue is the oldest active synagogue in the former British colonies. Its interior features multiple low-hanging Belgian glass

chandeliers, and it houses artefacts such as the Scrolls of Law, containing the Jewish Pentateuch.

Photo: ChameleonsEye/Shutterstock.com

Address: Synagogue Lane, Jew Town, Kappalandimukku, Mattancherry, Kochi

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-2pm, Sat closed

Phone: +91 1800 425 4747

Subhash Bose Park



Subhash Bose Park is a breezy, lakefront oasis in Kochi, perfect for a family day out. It features lush lawns, a children's

playground, and benches

with water views. Designed with young visitors in mind, the park includes a delightful small train that takes kids on a scenic ride through the greenery, allowing families to enjoy the beautiful nature and serene atmosphere together.

Photo: AlinaMD/Shutterstock.com Address: Park Avenue, Marine Drive, Kochi

Vypin Island



Just a short ferry ride from the bustling heart of Kochi lies the island of Vypin. Connected to the mainland by a series of bridges and the iconic

Goshree Bridge, the island is renowned for its stunning beaches like Cherai, where dolphins occasionally play near the shore. Beyond its natural beauty, Vypin boasts historic lighthouses, charming fishing villages, and the intriguing remnants of Portuguese and Dutch colonial architecture.

Photo: Valentin Valkov/Shutterstock.com Address: Vypin Island, Kochi

DINING



hlphoto/Shutterstock.com

It's not difficult to find a good restaurant in Kochi. Even though there are loads of establishments that focus on Indian cuisine, there is also plenty of choice of international restaurants. The state of Kerala (where Kochi is located) also goes by the 'Land of Spices', so expect a plethora of pungent scents and flavours.

Ginger House



Authentic Indian dishes full of flavour and spices. That's exactly what you get at Ginger House: ginger prawns, local curries, and even ginger

ice cream. What makes the restaurant even more impressive is the fact that the dining area looks much like a museum filled with old Indian treasures.

Photo: adycreative/Shutterstock.com

Address: Jew Town, Kappalandimukku, Mattancherry, Kochi Opening hours: Daily 8am-10pm Phone: +91 484 221 3400

Dhe Puttu



Local and traditional dishes, that's Paragon in a nutshell. Loved by the locals because of the huge variety of quality dishes. They especially

focus on curries with mutton, seafood, and vegetables.

Photo: its_al_dente/Shutterstock.com Address: Dhe Puttu NH Byepass Edappally, Ernakulam, Cochin Opening hours: Mon-Sun Noon-Midnight Phone: +91 484 280 7591 Internet: www.dheputtu.com Email: dheputtukochi@gmail.com

Brindhavan



Vegetarian eaters are well-catered to in town. Brindhaven's main focus lies on traditional vegetarian dishes. Let your taste buds be blown

away by their signature dishes such as 'ghee

masala dosa' and 'channa masala'.

Photo: espies/Shutterstock.com Address: Ground Kalavath Tower 32/2352 A16 Civil Line Road Behind Kakkanad, Palarivattom, Ernakulam Opening hours: Daily 7am-10:30pm Phone: +91 484 234 2239 Internet: https://brindhavan.in

Punjab House



Punjabi dishes all around in Punjab House. The restaurant is a local favourite, and it's not difficult to see why. They only use the freshest

ingredients they can find, which is just one of the reasons why their dishes, such as the parathas with onions and potatoes, taste delicious.

Photo: norikko/Shutterstock.com Address: 40/1920 Broadway, Marine Drive, Cochin Opening hours: Mon-Sun 9.30am-3pm / 7pm-10pm Phone: +91 484 236 8605

Mosaic



Indian, Italian, and American dishes are featured on the menu. Mosaic is known for their huge variety of dishes, which is one of the

reasons why the restaurant is popular. Patrons seem to especially enjoy the Greek salad and the braised lamb shanks.

Photo: DronG/Shutterstock.com Address: XI/641A Kundanoor Junction, NH-47 Bypass, Maradu, Ernakulam, Cochin Opening hours: Mon-Sun 6.30am-11pm Phone: +91 484 286 5000 Internet: www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/gb/en/kochi/cokch /hoteldetail Email: reservations@crowneplaza-kochi.com More Info: Located in hotel Crowne Plaza

CAFÉS



Yuliia Kononenko/Shutterstock.com

Whether you are looking for a traditional curry, homemade lassi, or just a good old cup of joe, you will not be disappointed by what Kochi has to offer. The city is filled with cafés, which will give you a taste of Indian and international café cultures. Locals are also known to have a sweet tooth, so be prepared not to skip dessert.

Pepper House



If you are looking for a place to completely unwind and relax with a cup of coffee, search no further. It's a cafe, library, art shop, and

design shop combined. Be prepared to spend a long time in this cafe, since there is plenty to see and taste.

Photo: iravgustin/Shutterstock.com Address: 11/10A&B Kalvathi Road, Fort Kochi, Kochi Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10am-6pm Phone: +91 484 221 5667 Internet: www.pepperhouse.in Email: phd@pepperhouse.in

Loafer's Corner Cafe



There's no shortage of good food at the Loafer's Corner Cafe. The cafe has a menu full of sandwiches and a huge collection of cakes and salads. The

cafe is frequented by locals, who enjoy spending some time in this little place.

Photo: EM Karuna/Shutterstock.com Address: 1/351 Princess Street, Cochin Opening hours: Mon-Sun 8.30am-6pm Phone: +91 484 221 5351 More Info: Opp. Park Avenue Hotel Fort Nagar

Cake Hut



Cake Hut is exactly what one would imagine it to be, a café overflowing with a variety of cakes. It's one of the most popular confectioneries in

the city, with amazing chocolate truffle, caramel toffee and red velvet cakes as just a few examples.

Photo: Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com Address: Parish Hall, Kaloor - Kadavanthara Road Near St. Francis Xavier's Church, Kochi Opening hours: Daily 9:30am-10pm Phone: +91 80860 00401 Internet: www.cakehut.in

French Toast



One of the locals' favourite brunch spots, French Toast is known for its sweet and savoury breakfast staples, including brioche,

flourless chocolate cake and strawberry French toast.

Photo: vaaseenaa/Shutterstock.com Address: 8th Cross, Street B, Ambikapuram Road, Panampilly Nagar, Ernakulam Opening hours: Daily 9am-10pm Phone: +91 484 406 1618 Email: iwantfrenchtoast@gmail.com

Happy Camper Cafe



Breakfast all day, every day: that's the philosophy of Happy Camper Cafe, located in the hostel with the same name. Hence the menu being filled with

breakfast foods such as scrambled eggs, American pancakes and grilled sandwiches. It might take you some time to take your pick!

Photo: Oleksandra Naumenko/Shutterstock.com Address: Njaliparambu Junction Fort Nagar, Fort Kochi, Cochin Phone: +91 484 221 7144

Cocoa Tree



Sandwiches, cakes, and smoothies. Cocoa Tree has earned its well-deserved good reputation among locals who are happy to spend

time at the little café. They also focus on international dishes, such as the British fisherman's pie, American brownies and Italian pasta.

Photo: verca/Shutterstock.com

Address: 1st floor, Manna Building, SBT Ave, near ICICI Bank, MIG Housing Society, Panampilly Nagar, Kochi Opening hours: Daily 11am-11pm Phone: +91 97456 88855

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Maksim Fesenko/Shutterstock.com

What better way to end the day than with a drink and some finger food? You will not be disappointed by the bar selection Kochi has to offer. Due to existing regulations, bars close on the early side; most bars close before midnight. Despite this fact, you are guaranteed to have a wonderful evening.

Mattancherry Bar



Known for its relaxing piano music, traditional yet modern drinks and a vintage decor, the Mattancherry Bar is a favourite of the locals.

They even have a special Detox series, aimed at making you feel invigorated.

Photo: Travel_Master/Shutterstock.com Address: Malabar, Cochin, Willingdon Island, Cochin Opening hours: Mon-Sun 11am-10pm Phone: +91 484 664 3000 Internet: www.vivanta.tajhotels.com/en-in/malabar-cochin/res taurants/mattancherry-bar-restaurant More Info: Located in Vivanta by Taj

Mezzo



Mezzo is a cosy lounge and restobar that guarantees you a fabulous night. The bar offers a huge variety of cocktails and has an

international wine list. You can also order tapas, mini steaks and local seafood to satisfy your cravings.

Photo: santypan/Shutterstock.com

Address: The Avenue Regent, Mahatma Gandhi Road Pallimukku, Kochi Opening hours: Mon-Sun 11am-11pm Phone: +9995-2-8888-0 Internet: www.theavenueregent.com/food-drink.php#mezzo Email: fbm@avenuehotels.in More Info: Located in The Avenue Regent

ConneXions



One of the most famous bars of the city, and for good reason. They serve cocktails, wine, whiskey and anything that you could possibly imagine. If

you are feeling fancy, you can even order a cigar from their special collection.

Photo: Georgii Shipin/Shutterstock.com Address: XI/641A, Kundanoor Junction, NH 47 Bypass, Ernakulam, Cochin Opening hours: Mon-Sun 11am-11pm Phone: +91 484 2865 000 Internet: www.crowneplaza.hotelsgroup.in/crowne-plaza-kochi.html More Info: Located in Crowne Plaza Kochi

Swirl



Imagine yourself sitting at a table dimly lit by a tiny fire lamp. Swirl forges that magical atmosphere where you feel right at home with a

drink and finger food in front of you. Try one of the many contemporary cocktails such as the Jamaican Blossom.

Photo: cdrin/Shutterstock.com

Address: Shanmugham Road, Marine Drive, Ernakulam, Cochin Opening hours: Mon-Sun 11am-11pm Phone: +91 484 667 3300 Internet: www.gateway.tajhotels.com/en-in/marine-drive-erna kulam/restaurants/swirl More Info: Located in The Gateway Hotel

SHOPPING



Mikadun/Shutterstock.com

You can definitely shop till you drop in this beautiful town filled with malls, boutiques, and quirky shops. There are plenty of shops to discover, ranging from ones selling jewellery, clothing, spices - and the list goes on.

Fabindia



'Celebrate India' is the place's motto, and that's exactly what they do. They sell the most beautiful traditional and contemporary Indian

wear one can find. They use authentic Indian fabrics and designs and even traditional techniques to guarantee an authentic look.

Photo: SL-Photography/Shutterstock.com

Address: 1/279 Napier Street, near Parade Ground, Fort Kochi, Kochi Opening hours: Daily 10am-8pm Phone: +91 96335 85550 Internet: www.fabindia.com

Centre Square Mall



You could spend an entire day at the Centre Square mall. Food courts, clothing shops, a cinema...and the list goes on. Due to its smaller

size, it's less crowded, which makes for an even better shopping experience.

Photo: Dragon Images/Shutterstock.com

Address: 40/6972, Rajaji Junction, Mahatma Gandhi Road Shenoys, Cochin Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10.30am-10pm, Sat-Sun 10.30am-10.30pm Phone: +91 484 404 1888 Internet: www.centresquarekochi.com Email: info@centresquarekochi.com

Bhima Jewels



In the mood for something sparkly? At Bhima, you can find a piece of jewellery for any occasion. The shop was established almost a century ago and has always been a favourite go-to place for the locals to buy precious accessories.

Photo: espies/Shutterstock.com Address: Mahatma Gandhi Road, Jos Junction, Ernakulam South, Ernakulam Opening hours: Daily 10am-7:30pm Phone: +91 484 237 8382 Internet: https://bhima.com

Oberon Mall



One of the busiest shopping venues of the entire city, Oberon Mall is known for its huge variety of shops, restaurants and even an

indoor gaming zone. There is a kids' play area where the children can enjoy their time as well.

Photo: Ivanko80/Shutterstock.com Address: National Highway Bypass, Edappally, Cochin Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10am-10pm Phone: +91 484 280 9444 Internet: www.oberonmall.com Email: mall@oberon.in

Anokhi



Unique and authentic fabrics, that's what you'll get when you visit Anokhi. The shop is loved by locals, which makes sense since the quality is

superb. The shop only hires the most skilled craftsmen who create the beautiful fabrics by hand.

Photo: Filip Fuxa/Shutterstock.com Address: Lilly Street, Fort Kochi, Cochin Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10am-7pm Phone: +91 484 312 7426 Internet: www.anokhi.com More Info: In June-July the shop is closed on Sunday

LuLu Mall



From restaurants to clothing, jewellery, shoe shops, cafes, a cinema and whatever your shopaholic heart desires. LuLu Mall is even one of

the biggest shopping malls of the Asian continent. You can walk around for days without seeing everything that the mall has to offer!

Photo: India Picture/Shutterstock.com Address: 34/1000, N.H 47, Edapally, Cochin Opening hours: Mon-Sun 10am-10pm Phone: +91 484 272 7777 Internet: www.lulumall.in Email: lulukochi@in.lulumea.com

Kochi Books



Kochi Books is known for offering a diverse selection of reading material, including comics, old classics, and various other genres.

Photo: Casezy idea/Shutterstock.com Address: Princess Street, Fort Kochi, Kochi Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-8pm, Sat 9am-8pm Phone: +91 94959 61215 Internet: www.instagram.com/kochibooks

TOURIST INFORMATION



Jiang Liu/Shutterstock.com

Passport/Visa



All foreign nationals entering India are required to possess a valid international travel document with a valid visa. A visa is required for

most nationalities, except for Bhutan, Nepal, and the Maldives (if not arriving from mainland China).

The visa can be requested through an online application process. This process is straightforward and must be done through the official Indian government visa application website. Travellers should not hire agents who claim they can expedite the process or guarantee a speedy/express grant of an e-visa.

Photo: ConvertKit/Unsplash

Cochin International Airport (COK)



Located approximately 30 kilometres from the heart of Kochi, Cochin International Airport is not only remarkable for its eco-friendly

design—being the world's first fully solar-powered airport—but also for its seamless connectivity. It is conveniently set at the crossroads of all three national highways, NH 47, NH 17 and NH 49, and it takes approximately 30 minutes to get here from the city centre. Taxis and ride-sharing services like Uber are still among the most convenient ways to get to the city from the airport.

Photo: Bao Menglong/Unsplash Address: Cochin International Airport Phone: +91 484 261 0115 Internet: www.cial.aero

Best Time to Visit



The best time to visit Kochi is October through February. The weather is pleasant, with temperatures ranging from 20 to 33 degrees

Celsius. Oddly, there are hardly any tourists during this period. If you are a fan of high temperatures, travel to Kochi between the months of March and June, when the highs hit 40 degrees Celsius. July through September is the monsoon season, which means lots of rain, but also beautiful nature since the city turns into a green oasis thanks to all the moisture.

Photo: patrick_worldwide/Pixabay

Public Transport



Kochi boasts a range of public transport options, from the iconic orange-and-yellow auto-rickshaws that weave through its

bustling streets, to the newly introduced Kochi Water Metro, which provides a scenic way to travel along the backwaters.

The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses are another reliable option, linking key areas with frequent service.

While the public transport network is functional and connects major hotspots, ride-sharing apps and taxis might offer a bit more convenience for tourists, especially for those who prefer a more direct route.

Photo: Aditya Rathod/Unsplash Internet: https://watermetro.co.in

Taxi



Finding a taxi in Kochi, is quite straightforward, especially in the bustling areas and near popular landmarks. While traditional taxis are

available, they are often not metered; instead, fares are typically negotiated before setting off, so a bit of haggling might be part of the adventure. A convenient and reliable alternative to the classic taxi experience is the ride-sharing apps like Uber and Ola.

Photo: Gustavo/Unsplash

Post



In Kochi, post offices generally operate from 10am to 5pm on weekdays and 10am to 1pm on Saturdays. They offer various services

including mail and parcel delivery and financial services.

Photo: Ali Bakhtiari/Unsplash

Address: Head Post Office - Ridsdale Road Near Parade Ground, Fort Kochi Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun closed Phone: +91 484 221 6388 Internet: www.indiapost.gov.in/vas/Pages/IndiaPostHome.aspx

Pharmacy



Some of Kochi's most prominent pharmacy chains include Apollo Pharmacy and MedPlus.

Photo: Diana Polekhina/Unsplash Address: Apollo Pharmacy Palarivattom - Opposite to Medical Centre Road, Chakkalakkal, Palarivattom, Ernakulam Opening hours: Open 24 hours Phone: +91 484 401 1156

Telephone



Country code: +91 Area code: 484

Photo: Miryam León/Unsplash

Electricity



In Kochi, as in the rest of India, the standard voltage is 230 V and the frequency is 50 Hz. The types of electrical plugs commonly used are Type

C, D, and M.

Photo: Mika Baumeister/Unsplash

Population Metro area: 3.5 million (2024) Currency Indian rupee (INR)

Internet www.keralatourism.org

Newspapers Malayala Manorama (in Malayalam): www.manoramaonline.com Deshabhimani (in Malayalam): www.deshabhimani.com The Times of India (in English): https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com The New Indian Express (in English): www.newindianexpress.com

Emergency numbers Police: 100 Fire brigade: 101 Ambulance: 102