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## Private Car & Guide Options:

### **Kochi Local Highlights Option: Provided by Pierce & Leslie**

Guests will enjoy a pre-arranged sightseeing itinerary with a Private Car and Guide to explore the following destination highlights.

#### The Best of Kochi

You will be met by our Peirce & Leslie colleague in the Arrival Hall. They will escort you to your waiting vehicle, introduce you to your guide and, together, you will explore the main attractions of Kochi.

Spread over a series of islands and crisscrossed by the sea and backwaters, Kochi (long known as Cochin) speaks of old-world charm and leisure. You will first take a heritage walk of the Fort Kochi area, beginning with a visit St. Francis' Church (closed on Saturday afternoons & Sunday mornings). Established by the Portuguese in the 1500s, this is one of the earliest European churches in the country.

Next, you will see the Chinese Fishing Nets, which were first erected between 1350 and 1450, indicating trading ties with China. Also on the tour will be a visit to the Nehru Children's Park area to see the beautiful Dutch houses that stand next to spacious porticoed British plantation-style homes, around the park. Thereafter, you will visit the remains of Fort Immanuel, a bastion of the Portuguese and the Dutch Cemetery, the oldest European cemetery in India dating back to 1724.

You will then walk past the beach and the old homes on Bishop's House Road to the Union Club and Santa Cruz Basilica, built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century with impressive murals on its ceiling. You will end your heritage walk with a cup of tea/coffee at a local café.

Thereafter, you will visit the Jewish Synagogue (closed on Friday afternoons, Saturdays, and Jewish holidays). One of the oldest in India, it is set in the Jewish Quarter, commonly known as "Jew Town". The interior of the Synagogue is decorated with 18<sup>th</sup> Century blue hand-painted ceramic Cantonese tiles. You will then stop for lunch at Ginger House Restaurant, a lovely waterfront restaurant.

This will be followed by a visit to the Dutch Palace or Mattancherry Palace (closed on Fridays), which was commissioned by the Portuguese for the Raja of Kochi in exchange for trading rights. Made of wood and richly carved, the palace exhibits memorabilia from the Raja of Kochi's collection, but it is best known for the outstanding murals painted on its walls.

Next, you will stroll through "Jew Town", famous for its aromatic spice market and its antique shops. Afterwards, your guide will then escort you back to Kochi Port where, our Peirce & Leslie colleague will bid you goodbye as you return to your ship.

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## Private Car & Guide Options:

**Included:**

- Private Luxury Sedan with English-Speaking driver/guide for 8 hours
- Entrance fees for listed sights
- Gratuities to driver/guide\*
- Bottled water in the vehicle

**Excluded:**

- Cost of meals and refreshments other than bottled water
- Items of personal nature

\*Gratuities have been prepaid. Additional gratuities are at the guest's discretion.

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## Private Car & Guide Options:

### **Kochi Customize Your Day Option: Provided by Pierce & Leslie**

Guests have the flexibility to customize their day to explore as they wish. Guests may advise their Private Guide on the day of the tour where they would like to go. Please plan ahead to secure any necessary reservations or entrance tickets for your guests' planned stops. \*

#### **Included:**

- Private Luxury Sedan with English-Speaking driver/guide for 8 hours
- Bottled water in the vehicle
- Gratuities to driver/guide\*\*

#### **Excluded:**

- Cost of meals and refreshments other than bottled water
- Entrance fees
- Items of personal nature

\*Mileage restrictions may apply.

\*\*Gratuities have been prepaid. Additional gratuities are at the guest's discretion.