

MALABAR MAPPILA MUSLIMS IN Kochi, India

Praying about moving here?



2.1 MILLION

Estimated Population

360,000

Muslims

KERALA

State

\$1000

Average Annual Income
Per Capita

MAP OF INDIA



ABOUT KOCHI

Located in southwest India, Kochi places sixth among its nation's best tourist destinations. This coastal city also enjoys many benefits of being part of the country's "least corrupt state." (As ranked by Transparency International).

The state of Kerala boasts the highest literacy rate (93.91%) and the longest life expectancy (74 years) in India. In addition to reporting the lowest number of homicides among all Indian states, Kerala is considered the country's "cleanest state."

Kochi's uniqueness also includes being the first European colonial settlement established in India and home to one of the nation's largest Christian populations.

Business visas are recommended for entry into Kochi, although tourist visas are another option. Both require leaving the country every six months. Among the many "business as mission" opportunities, the tourism industry may be worth considering.

While the majority of Kochi's residents are Malayalis – the largest people group in Kerala – the city includes a significant number of ethnic minority communities as well.

Malayalam is spoken by 96% of the population and is the medium of instruction for primary education. A number of middle schools and most institutions of higher education, however, teach in English... the preferred language of business. Though rarely spoken, Tamil and Hindi are widely understood.

The availability of electricity, fresh water, a long coastline, backwaters, reliable banking facilities, a major port, container trans-shipment terminal, harbor terminal and international air terminal are some of the factors contributing to the city's accelerated industrial growth.

Home to one of the best healthcare facilities in India, Kochi attracts large numbers of patients from all over the world, including "medical tourists" from the United States.



Since its earliest days, Kochi has been a major exporter of spices.

MALABAR MAPPILA MUSLIMS IN KOCHI

Overview & OPPORTUNITIES

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LIVABILITY

Kochi – formerly known as “Cochin” – lies about 137 miles north of Kerala’s state capital, Thiruvananthapuram. The city straddles the backwaters, encompassing the northern end of a peninsula, several islands and a portion of the mainland.

Situated along the eastern edge of the Arabian Sea, Kochi has 30 miles of shoreline. Much of the city lies at sea level.

Its location, close to the equator, provides Kochi with a tropical monsoon climate and little seasonal temperature variation. Average annual temperatures range between 74-88° F.

Rainfall is heavy from June to September, but lighter from October to December. The city averages 127.10” of rain annually and 132 rainy days per year.

With its own international airport, two major railway stations and several highways, Kochi is well connected to some international destinations and other Indian cities by air, road, rail and ferry.

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Hinduism, Christianity and Islam are the major religions in Kochi. Jainism, Judaism, Sikhism and Buddhism are also practiced. While 47% of the local population follows Hinduism and Muslims represent another 17%, Christianity’s substantial (35%) following makes Kochi one of the largest Christian cities in India.

Even with this significant Christian population, not one believer is known to be apostolically focused on reaching Muslims. Kochi’s Muslims are essentially unengaged. With persistent effort, however, the local churches might be mobilized and trained for partnership in such efforts.

Kanjiramattom Mosque, just 19 miles east of the city, is a major Muslim pilgrimage center. The imams of this mosque are recognized as leading scholars who historically were advisors to Kochi’s Rajas.



In 1503, St. Francis Church became the first European church to be built in India. Explorer Vasco Da Gama was buried here.

ECONOMY

Kochi has become the commercial hub of Kerala. It is home to Cochin Stock Exchange...the state’s only stock exchange.

In recent years, heavy investment and a GDP growth rate of 8.3% have designated Kochi as one of the fastest growing second-tier metro cities in India.

Kochi’s main business sectors include spice and seafood exports, gold retailing, banking, information technology, fishing, tourism and shipbuilding.

Tourism is one of the strongest drivers of the city’s economy. Several leading hotels have located in Kochi, providing a major source of employment for local people. In addition, Kochi Port is fast becoming one of the leading ports of call for international cruisers, and Kochi Marina (the first such facility in India) attracts large numbers of yacht owners.

Is God speaking to your heart about the **Malabar Mappila Muslim** people?
Kochi offers a unique opportunity for influencing how Muslims throughout the entire state of Kerala will experience the good news of the Kingdom.