

BLUE LOTUS TRAILS - TERMS & CONDITIONS

Last Updated: November 2025

By booking a Blue Lotus program, you agree to the following terms and conditions. Please read carefully before submitting your application.

1. BOOKING & CONFIRMATION

Application Process

All bookings are subject to availability and confirmation by Blue Lotus. Submitting an application does not guarantee a place until you receive written confirmation and pay the required deposit.

Deposit Payment

Upon receiving booking confirmation, a **30% deposit (\$2,046)** is required within **7 days** to secure your spot. Your place is not confirmed until the deposit is received.

Final Payment

The remaining **70% balance (\$4,774)** is due **45 days before your program start date**. Failure to pay by this date may result in cancellation of your booking and forfeiture of your deposit.

Payment Method

Payments are made via bank transfer. Participants may pay in their local currency equivalent to the USD amount. All bank fees are the responsibility of the participant.

2. PROGRAM PRICING

Standard Rate

\$6,820 per person (18 days / 17 nights)

Single Traveler Rate

\$7,520 per person (+\$700 single supplement)

The single supplement covers single room accommodation throughout the program and additional coordination costs.

Group Size

Minimum: 2 participants | Maximum: 8 participants

Minimum Participants Not Met

If a cohort does not reach the minimum of 2 participants, registered participants will be offered the following options:

Option A: Proceed as a single traveler by paying the single supplement (\$700 additional)

Option B: Transfer to an alternative cohort date at no additional cost (subject to availability)

Option C: Receive a full refund of all payments made

Blue Lotus will notify participants at least 30 days before the program start date if minimum numbers are not met.

3. CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellation requests must be submitted in writing to preetha@azconsult.in. Cancellations are effective from the date the written request is received.

Cancellation by Participant

More than 60 days before program start: Full refund minus 10% administrative fee (\$682)

45–60 days before program start: 50% refund (\$3,410)

Less than 45 days before program start: No refund (deposit and final payment are non-refundable)

Cancellation by Blue Lotus

In the rare event that Blue Lotus must cancel a program, participants will be offered:

1. **First option:** Transfer to an alternative cohort date at no additional cost
2. **Second option:** Full refund of all payments made

Blue Lotus is not liable for any additional costs incurred by participants, including but not limited to airfare, visa fees, or travel insurance.

4. CHANGES & MODIFICATIONS

Changes by Participant

Cohort Date Changes: Participants may request to transfer to a different cohort date up to **45 days before the original program start**, subject to availability. No fee applies for cohort changes.

Trail Changes: Participants may request to switch between the Culinary Heritage Trail and Weaving Mastery Trail up to **45 days before the original program start**, subject to availability. No fee applies for trail changes.

After 45 days: No changes to cohort dates or trails are permitted. Cancellation policy applies.

Changes by Blue Lotus

Blue Lotus reserves the right to make changes to the program itinerary, accommodation, or activities due to unforeseen circumstances, weather conditions, partner availability, or safety concerns. In such cases:

- Participants will be notified as soon as possible
- Equivalent alternatives will be arranged
- No refunds will be provided for minor itinerary adjustments

If significant changes materially affect the program, participants may request a partial refund or transfer to another cohort at Blue Lotus's discretion.

5. WHAT'S INCLUDED

Your program fee covers:

- Airport pickup and drop-off at Cochin International Airport (COK)
- All accommodation (17 nights)
- All meals throughout the program (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- Transportation between all program locations
- Workshop materials and equipment
- Expert guidance from chefs, artisans, and cultural experts
- Cultural activities and experiences
- Weekend retreat experiences
- Farewell celebration
- Your handmade creations to take home
- Program coordination and 24/7 on-ground support

6. PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Travel Documents

Participants are responsible for:

- Valid passport (minimum 6 months validity beyond travel dates)
- Appropriate Indian visa (tourist visa or e-visa)
- Any other entry requirements for India

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is mandatory. Participants must obtain comprehensive travel insurance covering:

- Medical expenses and hospitalization
- Trip cancellation and interruption
- Emergency evacuation and repatriation
- Personal belongings and baggage

Proof of insurance must be provided at least 10 days before arrival. Participants who arrive without valid travel insurance will not be permitted to join the program, and no refund will be provided.

International Flights

Participants are responsible for booking their own flights to and from Cochin International Airport (COK). Blue Lotus recommends booking flexible tickets where possible.

Personal Expenses

Participants are responsible for:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal shopping and souvenirs
- Laundry services
- Tips and gratuities (optional)
- Phone calls and personal internet usage
- Any activities not specified in the itinerary

7. HEALTH & MEDICAL

Fitness Requirements

Blue Lotus programs involve moderate physical activity including:

- Standing during cooking and weaving workshops
- Walking through markets, villages, and cultural sites
- Comfortable mobility for daily activities

Participants should be in reasonable health to participate fully.

Medical Conditions

Participants are encouraged to disclose any medical conditions, allergies, or dietary restrictions at the time of booking so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Medical Assistance

In case of illness or injury during the program, Blue Lotus will assist in arranging medical care. All medical costs are the participant's responsibility and should be covered by travel insurance.

8. CONDUCT & RESPECT

Blue Lotus programs involve meaningful interactions with indigenous communities, local artisans, and cultural heritage sites. Participants are expected to:

- Treat all community members, artisans, staff, and fellow participants with respect and courtesy
- Be open-minded and culturally sensitive
- Follow instructions from program coordinators and local guides
- Respect local customs, dress codes, and traditions
- Refrain from any behavior that is disruptive, offensive, or illegal

Blue Lotus reserves the right to remove any participant whose behavior is deemed inappropriate, disrespectful, or harmful to the group, community partners, or program reputation. **In such cases, no refund will be provided**, and the participant will be responsible for their own return travel arrangements.

9. PHOTOGRAPHY & MEDIA

By participating in Blue Lotus programs, you grant Blue Lotus permission to use photographs and videos taken during the program for marketing, promotional, and educational purposes, including website, social media, and print materials.

If you do not wish to be photographed, please inform the program coordinator at the start of the program.

10. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Blue Lotus acts as a coordinator between participants and various service providers including accommodation partners, transportation providers, restaurants, and activity partners. While we carefully select all partners, Blue Lotus is not liable for:

- Acts, omissions, or negligence of any third-party service providers
- Delays, cancellations, or changes caused by weather, natural events, or circumstances beyond our control
- Loss, theft, or damage to personal belongings
- Personal injury or illness during the program
- Failure of participants to obtain proper travel documents or insurance

Participants acknowledge that travel involves inherent risks and agree to assume responsibility for their own safety and wellbeing.

11. GOVERNING LAW & JURISDICTION

These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of India. Any disputes arising from or related to these terms or your participation in Blue Lotus programs shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Kerala, India.

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about these Terms and Conditions or your booking:

Program Curator: Preetha Mathews

Organization: AZ Consulting

Email: preetha@azconsult.in

Phone: +91 9947732122

Address:

West 85, Federal Park

Vennala, Kochi, Kerala, INDIA

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS

By submitting a booking application and paying your deposit, you confirm that you have read, understood, and agree to these Terms and Conditions on behalf of yourself and all members of your booking party.

Blue Lotus is operated by AZ Consulting in partnership with Forest Post.