

Kottayam

ECHOES OF HISTORY IN NATURE'S EMBRACE

A Journey Through the
Tales of Nature-Heritage,
Hills and Backwaters

Unveiling Serenity & Timeless Heritage



From backwaters to rolling hills, cascading waterfalls, regal palaces, spiritual retreats, and charming villages – Kottayam is a tourist haven that caters to their varied tastes. The district is known as the land of letters, latex and lakes. A serene fusion of paddy fields, coconut plantations, rubber plantations and traditional Kerala architecture graces the landscape, creating a peaceful and picturesque ambience for visitors. The Vembanad Lake, characterised by lush greenery and quaint villages lining the shores, is the largest lake in India, and provides a habitat for a plethora of aquatic plants, fish and birds. The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary in Kottayam beckons avian enthusiasts with its peaceful surroundings, creating a haven where a diverse array of both migratory and indigenous bird species flourish. A journey along the waterways introduces you to the world of traditional fishing, coir-making units, and the bustling activities of villagers engaged in their daily lives.

Kottayam

A Journey through the
Tales of Nature – Heritage,
Hills and Backwaters



Area

2,208 sq. km



Altitude

Kottayam has
an elevation of
48 metres



Weather

Dec to Feb:

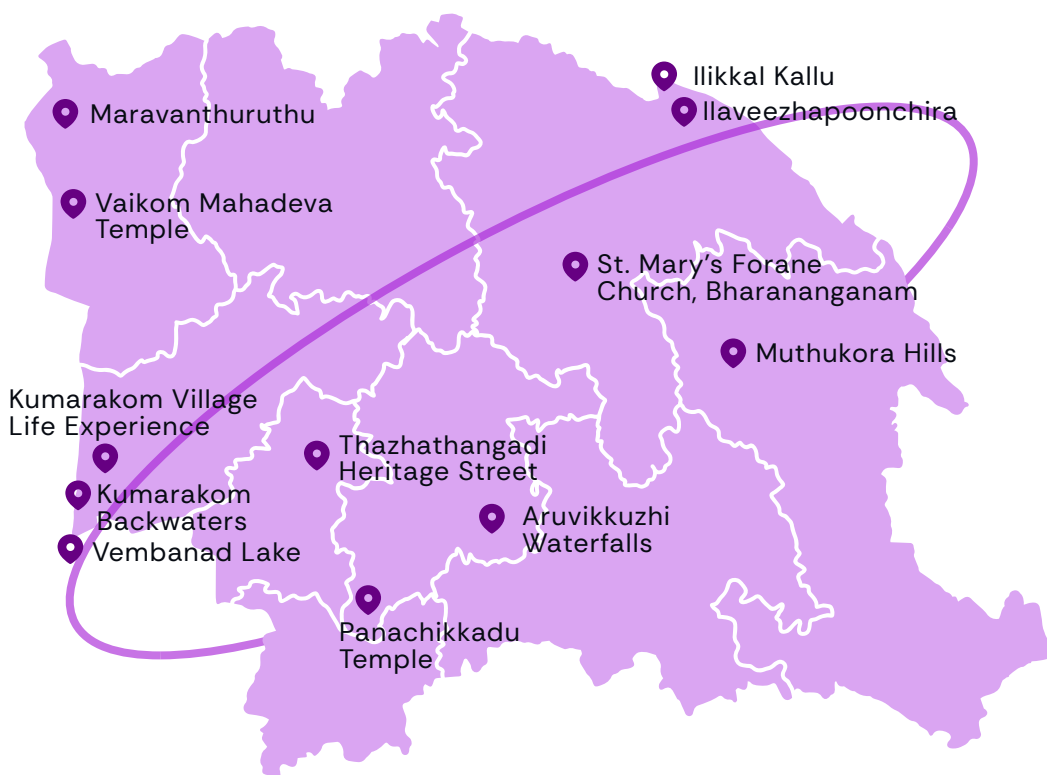
Pleasant Weather

Mar to May:

Warm Weather

Jun to Sep:

Heavy Rainfall



Cochin
International Airport



Kottayam
Railway Station



Kottayam
Bus Station



Kumarakom
Boat Jetty



Contents

06

Kumarakom
Backwaters

08

Ilaveezhapoonchira

10

Thazhathangadi
Heritage Street

12

Kumarakom Village Life
Experience

14

Illikkal Kallu

16

Panachikkadu
Temple



Vaikom Mahadeva
Temple



St. Mary's Forane
Church, Bharananganam



Aruvikkuzhi
Waterfalls



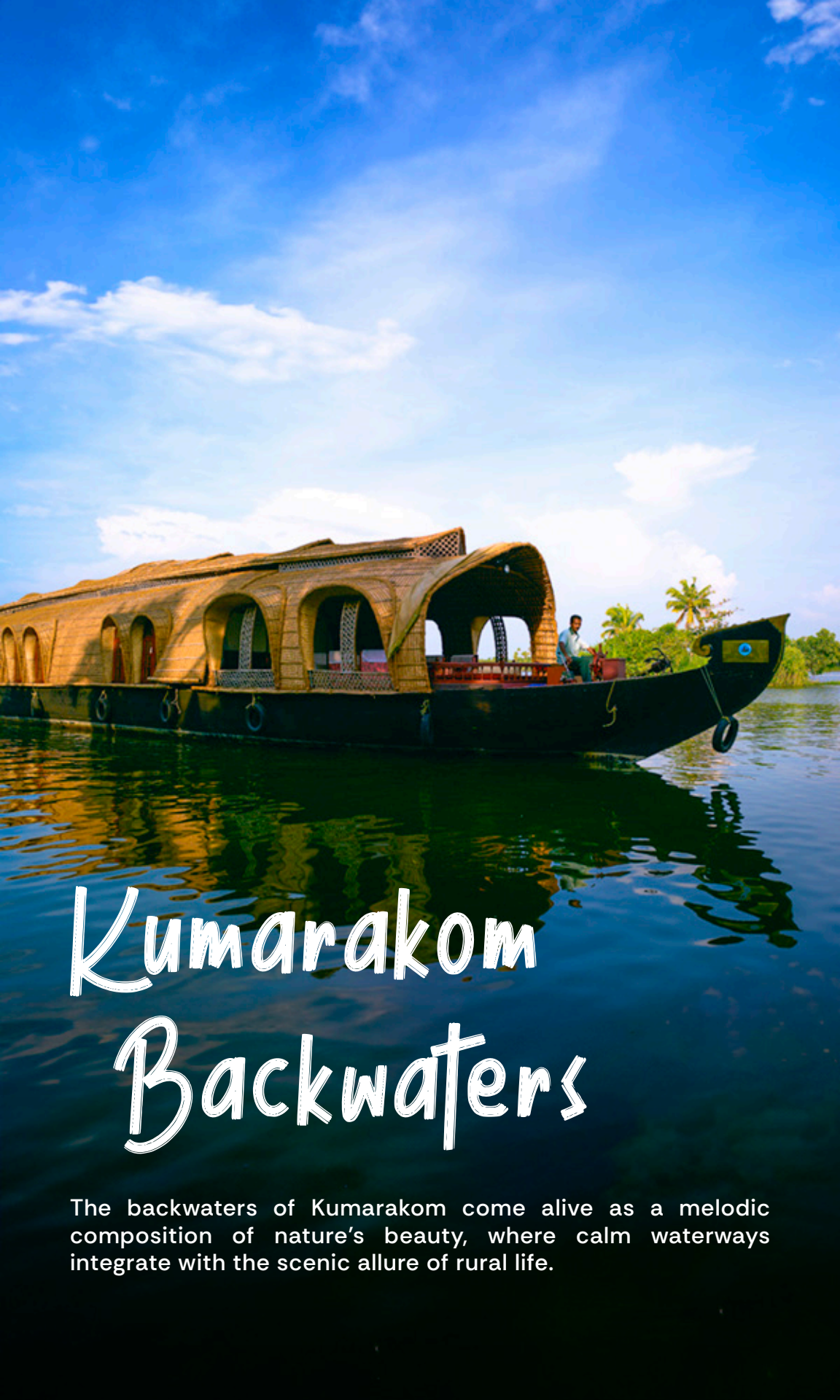
Maravanthuruthu



Vembanad
Lake



Muthukora Hills



Kumarakom Backwaters

The backwaters of Kumarakom come alive as a melodic composition of nature's beauty, where calm waterways integrate with the scenic allure of rural life.



Imagine cruising along the shimmering backwaters while listening to the symphony of birds! A houseboat cruise – the Kumarakom Backwaters beckons you with a soul-soothing journey along with sighting flocks of migratory birds gliding across the picturesque aquatic realm. Located on the Vembanad Lake, Kumarakom village is a harmonious assembly of small islands, which is a part of the scenic allure of the Kuttanad region. Spread over 14 acres, the bird sanctuary here is graced with the presence of Egrets, Darters, Herons, Teals, Waterfowls, Cuckoo, Wild Duck, and majestic migratory guests such as the Siberian Stork. Step into the culinary world of Kumarakom, where the air is filled with the aroma of cardamom, cloves, and the distinctive fragrance of curry leaves, crafting an indulgent experience for the senses. Let your taste buds savour the delicate fragrance of coconut-infused curries and the tantalising essence of freshly caught non-vegetarian foods, a culinary journey that unveils the rich gastronomic legacy.

Entry Fee : No Fee

[EXPLORE](#)



Cochin International
Airport, about 74.3 km
Contact: +91 484 261 0115



Kottayam Railway Station,
about 19 km
Contact: +91 481 256 3535



Kottayam Bus Station,
about 12 km
Contact: +91 481 256 2908



Location



+91 481 256 0479



Throughout the day



Ilaveezhapoonchira

Tucked away in the Western Ghats, Ilaveezhapoonchira unfolds as a retreat of calmness. The rolling hills veiled in a gentle mist give rise to a breathtaking and serene view.

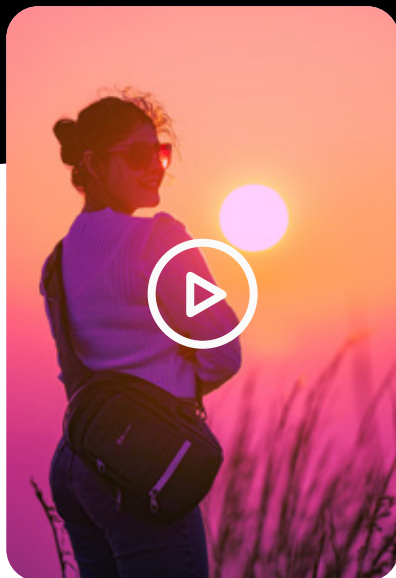
Soothe your senses on the foggy route to Ilaveezhapoonchira, allowing the misty roads to guide you to a peaceful retreat. Stretching as far as the eyes can see, the expansive greenery adorned with scattered wild flowers invites tourists to traverse a dreamscape in Ilaveezhapoonchira. Renowned for its scenic beauty, the place is encircled by three captivating hillocks – Mankunnu, Kodayathoormala and Thonippara.

The destination located near Kanjar in Kottayam district hosts exceptional trekking paths, providing a view that is nothing short of breathtaking. With the onset of the monsoon, the entire place undergoes a spellbinding makeover, turning into a surreal spectacle. Local legends narrate that the pool here holds historical significance as the bathing place of Panchali, the heroic figure from the epic, the Mahabharata.

The name 'Ilaveezhapoonchira', translates to the pond of flowers where leaves do not fall, earns its name from the absence of trees.

Entry Fee : No Fee

EXPLORE



Cochin International
Airport, about 76 km
Contact: +91 484 261 0115



Kottayam Railway Station,
about 55 km
Contact: +91 481 256 3535



Thodupuzha Bus Station,
about 21 km
Contact: +91 486 222 2388



Location



+91 86689 20349



From Sunrise to Sunset



Thazhathangadi Heritage Street

Thazhathangadi Heritage Street in Kottayam beckons with its timeless charm, inviting you to a historical journey that narrates about the age-old trading of Central Kerala.



Located on the banks of the Meenachil River, Thazhathangadi stands as a historic trade hub in Kottayam, showcasing time-honoured wooden houses that whisper tales of the past. The region laid the groundwork for its trade legacy in the 17th and 18th centuries, capitalising on its strategic location and waterway accessibility. Thazhathangadi's narrow streets were once vibrant with the exchange of goods from Central Asia, Egypt and China.

Traversing Thazhathangadi Heritage Street is like stepping into a living history book, where the resilience and grace of a town that once flourished at the crossroads of global trade are beautifully preserved. Thazhathangadi Heritage Street extends an open invitation to architecture enthusiasts, history lovers, or those simply yearning for a peaceful amble through a heritage corridor. Serving as a hub of cultural convergence, the street exhibits the diverse mosaic of influences that have contributed to Kerala's vibrant history over centuries. It is also dotted with several ancient temples, churches and mosques.

Entry Fee : No Fee

[EXPLORE](#)



Cochin International
Airport, about 85 km
Contact: +91 484 261 0115



Kottayam Railway Station,
about 4.3 km
Contact: +91 481 256 3535



Kottayam Bus Station,
about 4.1 km
Contact: +91 481 256 2908



Location



+91 481 256 0479



Throughout the day



Kumarakom Village Life Experience

Discover the allure of Kumarakom! The backwater hamlet in Kottayam is a blend of Nature, tradition and serenity, where every corner narrates the story of the local livelihood.



In the heart of the Vembanad Lake, lies Kumarakom where you can stroll along the shoreline to experience rustic life, go fishing, and boating. As you walk through the village, witness women immersed in the artistry of coir making, screw pine weaving, and broomstick making, showcasing the timeless elegance of traditional handiwork. Kumarakom unfolds as a sanctuary of Nature's treasures, housing an array of endemic flora and fauna. This backwater hamlet has been the epicentre of Responsible Tourism initiatives in Kerala, helping the locals to improve their livelihood through the region's authentic products.

The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, a celebrated refuge for migratory birds, beckons with its diverse avian residents. Travellers can watch the age-old thrilling tradition of bow-and-arrow fishing by setting out on a canal cruise with the local fishermen. It is home to a diverse range of freshwater fish species. The backwater is home to the much-famed *Karimeen* (Pearl spot fish) and shrimp, locally known as *Poovalan Chemeen*.

Entry Fee : No Fee



Cochin International
Airport, about 74.3 km
Contact: +91 484 261 0115



Kottayam Railway Station,
about 19 km
Contact: +91 481 256 3535



Kottayam Bus Station,
about 12 km
Contact: +91 481 256 2908



Location



+91 96339 92977



Throughout the day

EXPLORE



Mikkal Kallu

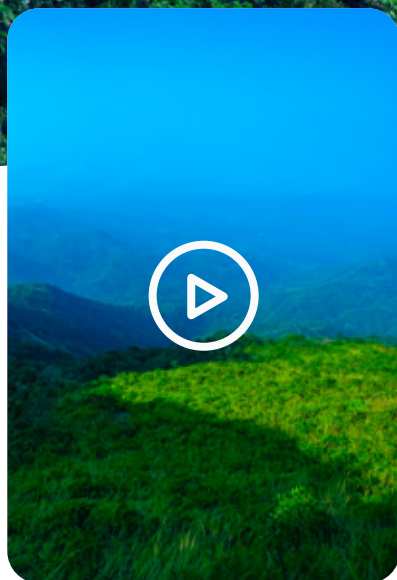
The lush green expanse, woven with the glistening threads of the Meenachil River, and the majestic peaks peeking through the clouds will transport you into a dream world.



A walk up to the hilltop – the result is a soul-soothing view of a giant rock adorned in mist. Located at about 3,500 feet above sea level, this rock formation feels like a dream that unfolds against the backdrop of a verdant landscape. Illikkal Kallu and its surrounding region emerge as a biodiverse realm, hosting a variety of plant and animal species.

Continuous exposure to all weathers has moulded the hills into unique shapes, inspiring people to give them names like 'Kuda Kallu' (umbrella-shaped rock) and 'Koonan Kallu' (hunchback rock). Legend has it that the mythical medicinal herb, *NeelaKoduveli*, grows here. Linking the hills are two bridges with symbolic names: *Naragapalam* (Bridge to Hell) and *Swargavathil* (Entrance to Heaven). Originating from this peak, a multitude of mountain streams cascade downward, eventually joining the majestic Meenachil River. The destination provides panoramic views of the surrounding valleys, lush greenery, and shimmering water bodies, making it a perfect getaway.

Entry Fee : No Fee



Cochin International
Airport, about 85 km
Contact: +91 484 261 0115



Kottayam Railway Station,
about 56 km
Contact: +91 481 256 3535



Erattupetta Bus Station,
about 19.7 km
Contact: +91 482 227 2230



Location



+91 86689 20349



08:00 AM – 06:00 PM

EXPLORE



Panachikkad Temple

The Panachikkad Temple is a religious haven that draws a huge number of devotees every year during the Saraswathi Mandala Pooja, celebrated with great fervour and devotion.



Encircled by lush greenery, the Panachikkad Temple dedicated to Goddess Saraswathi is located on the banks of the Meenachil River in Kottayam. It is also famously known as *Dakshina Mookambika* (the Mookambika temple of the South). Vidyarambham or the ceremony of beginning education is performed every day at the temple except on the days of Durgashtami and Mahanavami. Navaratri festival holds great significance at the temple.

The idol here is believed to be a swayambhu (self-manifested one), and devotees seek the Goddess's blessings for wisdom, knowledge and academic excellence. The idol has four arms, delicately holding a Veena, a book, a rosary, and a sacred water pot. Saraswathi Mandapam, a hall within the temple complex, is set aside for special prayers and cultural events. This space takes centre stage during the annual festival, hosting a variety of cultural activities such as classical music and dance performances. The temple exemplifies traditional Kerala architectural styles, with intricate wood carvings, sculpted pillars, and gabled roofs adorned with colourful murals and sculptures depicting Hindu mythology.

Entry Fee : No Fee



Cochin International Airport, about 101 km
Contact: +91 484 261 0115



Kottayam Railway Station, about 11 km
Contact: +91 481 256 3535



Kottayam Bus Station, about 10.5 km
Contact: +91 481 256 2908



Location



+91 481 233 0670
+91 62829 70674



5:30 AM – 10:30 AM
5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

EXPLORE



Vaikom Mahadeva Temple

Welcome to the divine land of Vaikom, believed to be protected by the *Vaikkathappan*. This temple dedicated to Lord Shiva is a priceless symbol of traditional Kerala architecture.

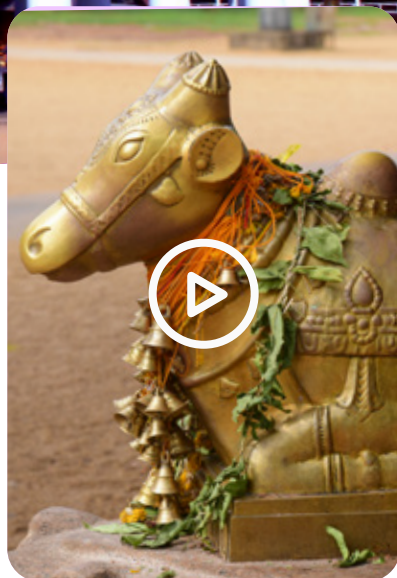


Known as the Kasi of the South, Vaikom Mahadeva Temple in Kottayam holds significant spiritual importance. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this architectural marvel is where divinity and nature converge. This ancient temple in Kerala is renowned for hosting the *Vaikom Ashtami* festival and holds the distinction of being one of the oldest in the region. Here, Lord Shiva is fondly called *Vaikkathappan*, translating to the Lord of Vaikom.

The architecture of the temple boasts an eight-acre courtyard where the grounds covered with river sand are enclosed by compound walls featuring four entrance towers or gopurams, one on each side. The two-chambered sanctum sanctorum is circular in shape and is roofed with copper sheets. Usually, the *Vaikkathashtami* festival is held from November to December on the day of Krishna Ashtami in the Malayalam month of *Vrischikam*. The special poojas held here are jaladhara, aluvilakku, ksheeradhara, appamnivedya, vilakku, bhasma mala, vilwapatra mala, ayirakudam, and a lot more.

Entry Fee : No Fee

EXPLORE



Cochin International Airport, about 57 km
Contact: +91 484 261 0115



Kottayam Railway Station, about 34 km
Contact: +91 481 256 3535



Vaikom Bus Station, about 1 km
Contact: +91 481 256 2908



Location



+91 82899 03526



4:00 AM – 11:30 AM
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM



St. Mary's Forane Church, Bharananganam

St. Mary's Forane Church at Bharananganam emerges as a divine spectacle with devotees from far and wide, a sanctuary where architectural brilliance meets spiritual grace.



A reflection of Saint Alphonsa's tireless dedication, the St Mary's Forane Church in Bharananganam graces the Meenachil riverbanks, symbolising a commitment to the welfare of the people. Also, known as the *Anakallu Palli*, the church beckons devotees of all castes and religions, creating a peaceful haven. The 'Feast of Saint Alphonsa', commemorated on 28 July every year is the major festival celebrated in the church as people come together to honour the death anniversary of Saint Alphonsa.

The Franciscan Clarist Convent, where Saint Alphonsa lived and attained martyrdom, adds to the spiritual significance of the Forane church. The space where she lived and took her last breath remains untouched, serving as a perpetual homage to her enduring legacy. Adjacent to the shrine, a museum unveils her preserved belongings, tenderly cared for through the years. A masterpiece of detailed design, the intricate architecture of the church skillfully weaves together tradition and modernity, enchanting the hearts and eyes of the visitors.

Entry Fee : No Fee



Cochin International Airport, about 75.8 km
Contact: +91 484 261 0115



Kottayam Railway Station, about 32 km
Contact: +91 481 256 3535



Pala Bus Station, about 5.1 km
Contact: +91 482 221 2250



Location



+91 86060 18353



Mass timings vary according to days

EXPLORE



Aruvikkuzhi Waterfall

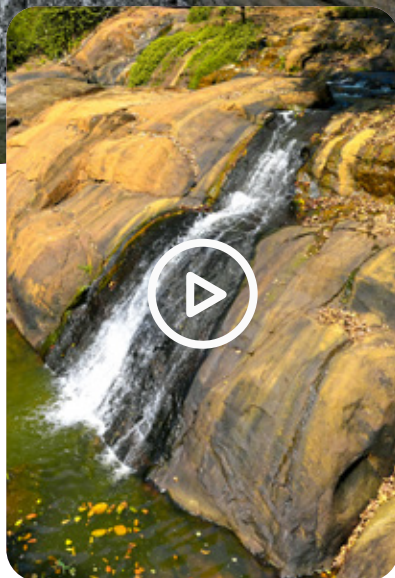
Encircled by lush rubber plantations, the Aruvikkuzhi waterfall in Kottayam is home to diverse flora and fauna, making it a paradise for Nature enthusiasts.



Amesmerising cascade amidst Nature! If you are planning to visit Kottayam, Aruvikkuzhi waterfall is a must-visit destination. The cascading beauty, located near Pampady in Kerala's Kottayam district, captivate visitors with its scenic beauty and tranquil ambiance. It is about 1 km from Pallickathod and is a dream picture painted on the canvas, featuring a five-tiered cascade falling from huge boulders at a height of 30 ft. Tucked away amidst rubber plantations, this locale is a haven for trekking enthusiasts, with the illustrious St Mary's Church gracing the top of the waterfalls.

It creates a natural pool, allowing visitors to dip themselves in the cool water. As you walk along the rubber plantations, treat your senses with the melodious symphony of birds while the soothing sound of water plays as the backdrop. The waterfall is a popular picnic spot for families, cocooned in a picturesque landscape. There are small shops and stalls nearby where visitors can purchase snacks and refreshments.

Entry Fee : Adults: Rs 26, Kids: Rs 26
Senior Citizens: Rs 13



Cochin International
Airport, about 88 km
Contact: +91 484 261 0115



Kottayam Railway Station,
about 19 km
Contact: +91 481 256 3535



Kottayam Bus Station,
about 19 km
Contact: +91 481 256 2908



Location



+91 481 256 0479



09:00 AM – 06:00 PM

EXPLORE



Maravanthuruthu

Maravanthuruthu, with its allure, welcomes visitors to uncover its hidden treasures and explore the local livelihood of the quaint surroundings.

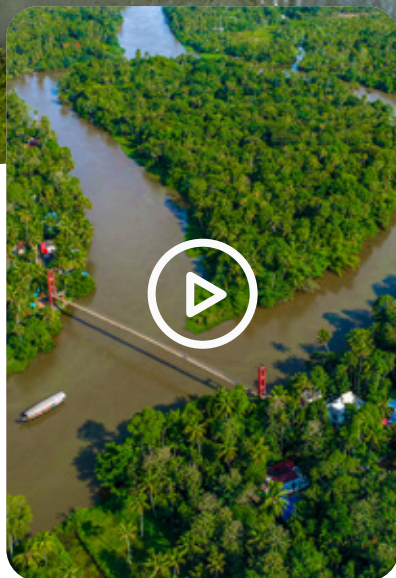


Kayaking, village life experience, handicrafts, indigenous foods and art – Maravanthuruthu in Kottayam’s Vaikom is a paradise for those who seek a memorable travel experience. Kayak through the waterways of Maravanthuruthu Island, where the verdant surroundings and quaint villages paint a captivating scene. Here, you have the opportunity to enjoy the local cuisine, and have close interactions with the villagers.

Situated on the banks of the Muvattupuzha River, Maravanthuruthu launched the first Water STREET (Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic Tourism) project in Kerala a year ago, helping to establish the foundation for Responsible Tourism. Take a walk around to witness villagers doing their daily activities – coir making, fishing, making handicrafts with coconut husk and a lot more. Kayaking, introduced as part of Responsible Tourism is now extended to the scenic Muvattupuzha River. Each tour package is about three-hour duration, commencing at 05:30 am and concluding at 06:30 pm.

Entry Fee : No Fee

EXPLORE



Cochin International
Airport, about 51 km
Contact: +91 484 261 0115



Kottayam Railway Station,
about 39 km
Contact: +91 481 256 3535



Vaikom Bus Station, about
7 km
Contact: +91 481 256 2908



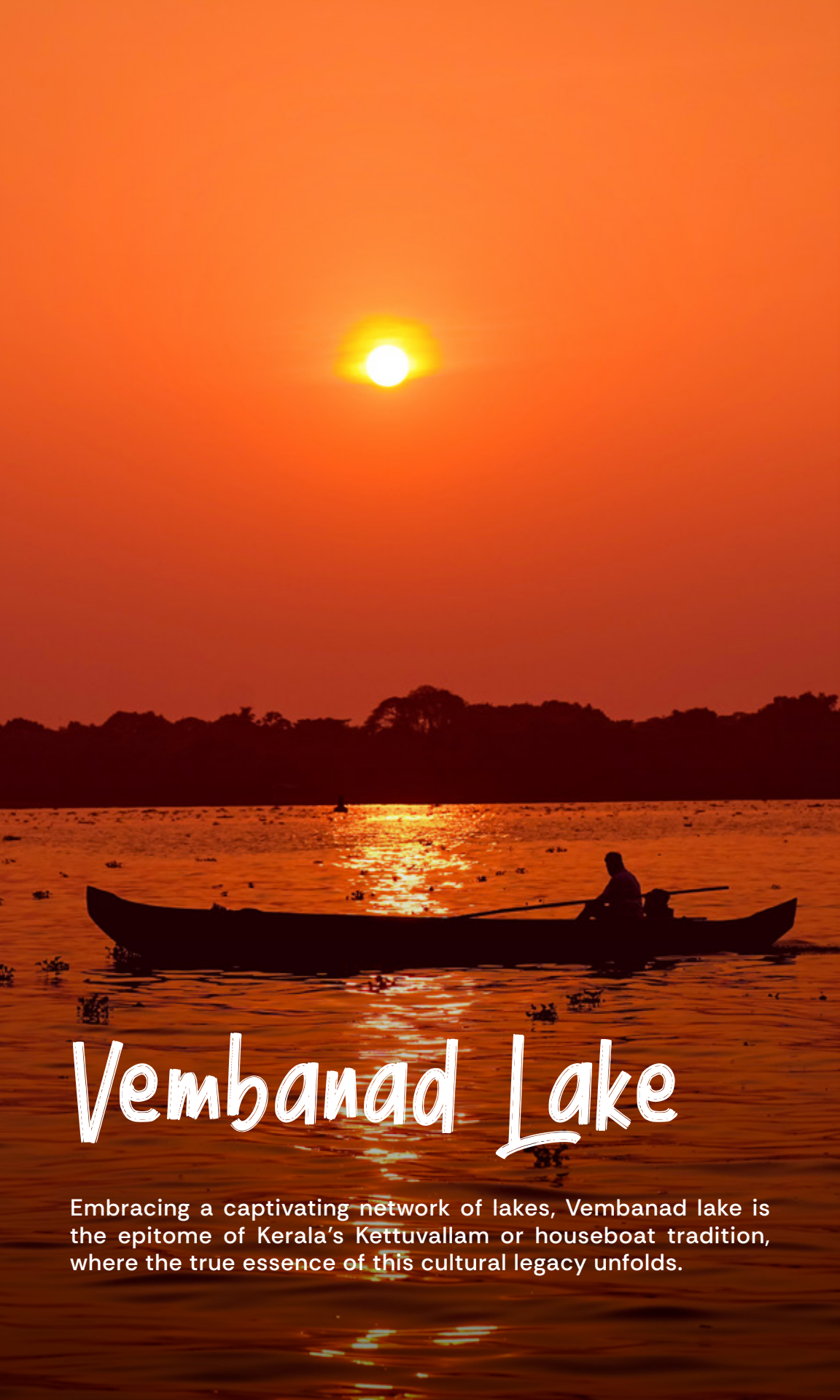
Location



+91 96339 92977



Throughout the day



Vembanad Lake

Embracing a captivating network of lakes, Vembanad lake is the epitome of Kerala's Kettuvallam or houseboat tradition, where the true essence of this cultural legacy unfolds.

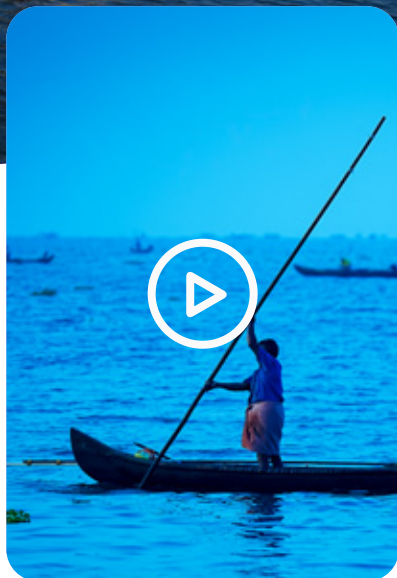


Imagine cruising through the largest lake in India, spreading across 2,033 sq. km. The Vembanad Lake is not just about houseboat journeys but also cultural experiences. Boasting a network of canals, lagoons and rivers, its stunning shores are adorned with quaint fishing hamlets that enhance the natural beauty of the surroundings. The villagers earn their livelihood by being engaged in a range of activities, including fishing, tourism, coir retting, inland navigation, lime shell extraction and agriculture.

Recognised as a wetland with global significance by the Ramsar Convention, this lake is a key focus of the convention's dedication to the conservation and sustainable utilisation of this crucial wetland area. Renowned for its vibrant biodiversity, the Vembanad Lake acts as a focal point for a diverse range of aquatic flora and fauna. It is home to 20,000 waterfowls, and a nurturing habitat for shrimps and clams. The Vembanad lake stretches across several districts in Kerala.

Entry Fee : No Fee

EXPLORE



Cochin International
Airport, about 80 km
Contact: +91 484 261 0115



Kottayam Railway Station,
about 14 km
Contact: +91 481 256 3535



Kottayam Bus Station,
about 13.5 km
Contact: +91 481 256 2908



Location



+91 481 256 0479



Throughout the day



Muthukora Hills

Muthukora Hills, sitting in the verdant landscape of Kottayam is a perfect spot for nature and adventure lovers. A trip to Muthukora Hills ensures an unforgettable experience.

Located near Poonjar, the Muthukora Hills is where you can witness Nature at its best. A sea of emerald meadows is waiting for you atop the hill, brimming with an array of trees and bushes that span across 3 km. The scenic vista from the peak is unrivalled in its splendour. An early trek across the summit, observing the sun gradually dissolve the fog with its warmth, will undoubtedly rejuvenate anyone. When the weather is clear, views extend to the areas of Kottayam, Idukki, Pathanamthitta, and Ernakulam.

Perfect for a weekend getaway, Muthukora Hills offers an ideal setting for trekking enthusiasts. With visitor traffic still on the rise, navigating the paths requires cautious attention. The presence of cliffs and steady breezes adds an element of thrill to the trek. Notable destinations close to Muthukora Hills are Ilaveezhapoonchira, Ilikkal Kallu, and Vagamon, drawing numerous visitors. Also, you can find the residence and burial site of J J Murphy, the pioneer Irish planter behind the first successful commercial rubber plantation in Kerala.

Entry Fee : No Fee

EXPLORE



Cochin International
Airport, about 94 km
Contact: +91 484 261 0115



Kottayam Railway Station,
about 51 km
Contact: +91 481 256 3535



Erattupetta Bus Station,
about 12.4 km
Contact: +91 482 227 2230



Location



+91 94955 57837



06:00 AM – 06:00 PM



Mikkal Kallu

Embracing Kottayam's Majestic Hills



Rediscovering the Life of

Kumarakom





Haveezhapoonchira

A Soothing Getaway

Book Your Stay

Hotels

Resorts

Serviced Villas

Home Stays

Find Tour Operators

E-brochure Gallery



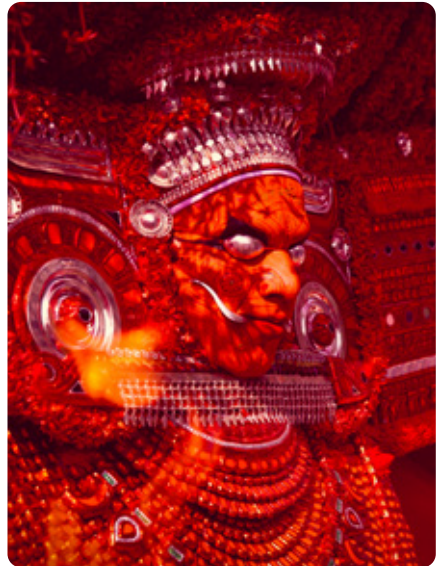
A Chronicle of Kerala's Cultural Richness



Go Camping in Kerala



Kozhikode
Hospitality at its Finest



Kannur
A Journey of Discovery and Enchantment

[Find More](#)

Thank You



Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala,
Park View, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695 033



Conceived and Visualised by
Invis Pvt. Ltd