



CULTURAL EXPERIENCE


Kerala Responsible Tourism
Mission



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CULTURAL EXPERIENCE



God's Own Country has a plethora of art forms, rituals and festivals that have been in existence for centuries and proclaim its exotic culture. Such a rich and old tradition makes this land unique. Most of the cultural phenomena of Kerala are in one way or the other related to the religions that thrive in the region, their customised forms of worship and their special rituals. From depicting native legends, distinctive traditions, historical yarns and mythical tales to providing commentary on social injustices in the form of satirical plays and skits, the cultural art forms and festivities reflect the beliefs and values of the people and, in turn, have moulded their thinking and world view for centuries.

Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission welcomes you to experience this cultural diversity of Kerala!





Magic of Rituals

Figuratively speaking, the ritual art forms practised in Kerala are significant artistic points that have shaped the cultural graph of the land. We, the Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission, offer you an opportunity to experience the magic and myths of these ritual arts.



Theyyam

Retelling ancient myths and fables, Theyyam, the traditional ritual art of North Kerala creates an atmosphere that all should experience at least once in a lifetime. With visual vibrance, flamboyant costumes, majestic headgear, ornaments and vigour, Theyyam performances scintillate with an inexplicable mystical allure. This ritual that incorporates dance, mime and music is believed to have 400 varieties.





Theeyattu

Kerala is a land of myriad traditional rituals and cultures. Theeyattu is one in that long list of ancient celebrations. Performed by the members of the Theeyaattunni or Thiyaadi Nambiar community in Kerala, this ritual is customarily presented in two forms – Bhadrakali Theeyattu and Ayyappan Theeyattu. Richly decorated in flamboyant costumes, elaborately decked headgears and face paintings, the dancers narrate and depict the tale of the fight between Darikan and Bhadrakali. Kalamezhuthu, the ritualistic three-dimensional portraits created on consecrated floors using colourful powders, is a main attraction of Theeyattu.





Garudan Thookkam

Popular in the Kali temples of Kerala, Garudan Thookkam or Garudan Parava, offers you the vibrant spectacles of people dressed up like *Garuda* (eagle), dancing to the tunes and rhythms of traditional percussion instruments. In this ritual, you can see magnificent makeup, vivid costumes and resplendent headgear transform an ordinary man into a wonderful performer.



Learn an Art

Kerala Responsible Tourism
Mission gives you an opportunity
to learn the basics of art forms.
Make sure you don't miss it!





Koodiyattam

Koodiyattam means 'acting together'. This is said to be one of the first dramatic art forms to be born in Kerala. Based on Sage Bharata's 2nd century treatise *Natyashastra*, it soon became popular in the state, while evolving through the centuries. RT Mission, Kerala, offers you a chance to learn some steps of Koodiyattam.





Kathakali

Kathakali performances involve intricate and exquisite expressions and *mudras* (hand gestures). Each emotion and word is expressed through these gestures, thus making the performance more interesting and fascinating. You can see a harmonious blend of facial acting, mudras and footwork, enjoy the music, and appreciate the literary beauty of the lyrics in this classical dance drama of Kerala. Learn a few Kathakali expressions before leaving Kerala.



Hues of Festivities

Soak yourself in the festive spirit of Kerala with us. Tour packages are introduced according to the festival calendar of Kerala.





Attuvela Mahotsavam

An awe-inspiring water carnival where magnificent, illuminated replicas of the temple float over the Muvattupuzha River in small vibrantly festooned canoes – this is the Attuvela Mahotsavam. It is conducted as part of the annual festival of the Elankavu Bhagavathy Temple. Celebrated with immense pomp and pageantry, to the accompaniment of traditional percussion instruments and visual extravaganza, the festival is a splendid spectacle to behold.



Nattinpurangalil Onam Unnam, Ona Sammanangal Vaangam

“Nattinpurangalil Onam Unnam, Ona Sammanangal Vaangam” [Feast in the Villages, Win Onam Prizes] is one package that will overwhelm you in the varied hues of Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala. The main attraction of the programme is the ‘Onam Special Gramayatrakal’ (Onam special village tours), and village life experiences. Tourists are allowed to participate in the Onam programmes arranged by various clubs, libraries, resident associations and so forth, and are given Onam gifts from Responsible Tourism Mission of Kerala ventures in the area.

Celebration of Art

Performing arts have played a major role in developing the great heritage and tradition of God's Own Country. For centuries, they have vividly showcased our great epics and held a mirror to the life and lifestyle of the society, through its subtle presentation. What can be more exciting than experiencing these art forms, first-hand?





Yakshagana Bommeyaatta

Prevalent in Kasaragod district in North Kerala, Yakshagana Bommeyaatta (puppetry) is believed to be a parallel tradition of the ancient art of Yakshagana. Puppets are used for performances in this art form. These wooden puppets are similar to Yakshagana performers. Sri Gopalakrishna Yakshagana Bommeyaatta Sangha (troupe) is the most popular art group in Kerala.



Kolkali

Men clad in special costumes stand in a circle and make fascinating moves, while striking small sticks and keeping rhythm with quick movements. This Muslim art form of Kerala is popular in the North Malabar region. The very sight of Kolkali artistes – all of the same height and with similar physique – performing dynamic steps against the backdrop of pulsating music, is really worth seeing.





Margamkali

Margamkali is a popular Christian art form that presents captivating performances of women with quick steps, rhythmic movements and dynamic music. These group performances are usually conducted at Christian wedding ceremonies and feasts at churches.



A composite image featuring Kathakali performers. On the left, four performers in full traditional costumes, including tall, ornate headdresses and green face paint with white masks, stand in a row. On the right, a large, circular inset provides a close-up of a performer's face, showing intricate green makeup, black eye makeup, and a red mouth. The background is a solid yellow color.

Kathakali

The classical art Kathakali is admired all over the world for the incredible visual treat it offers. Believed to have originated nearly 300 years ago, this art form amalgamates dance, drama and music, while the artistes perform intricate mudras, wearing flamboyant costumes and elaborate makeup. Myths, mythology and epics of Kerala combine to offer resplendent recitals of Kathakali.



Yakshagana

Yakshagana is a classical dance drama in which performers, decked in striking costumes, sing and dance and show artistic gestures. It is believed that Yakshagana originated in South Canara district of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala. Yakshagana performances are unique and eye-catching!



Handmade Happiness

Exquisite and intricate are the
handicraft products of Kerala.
Explore the innumerable
handicraft products and the
art of making them with us.





Kathakali Koppu

The classical dance-drama of Kerala, Kathakali is usually accompanied by elaborate hand-crafted accessories. These ornaments add more charm to this centuries-old art form. Watch the making of Kathakali Koppu, the headgears and the ornaments used for Kathakali, in a studio in Palakkad.



Cultural Experience



www.keralatourism.org/responsible-tourism
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Come. Embark on a cultural journey.
It will be the ultimate reboot for your soul!

