

ERNAKULAM



God's Own Country
www.keralatourism.org

Ernakulam

Kochi, arguably the most famous part of Ernakulam district, was the centre of trade during ancient times. The port city, which emerged in the 14th century, played a key role in the historic spice route trade. It has been the hub of spices of all kinds since then. Arab, Greek, Jewish, Chinese and Roman traders would frequent the route to Kochi. Ancient travellers and traders used to gush about this port city, which was always the sought-after destination for foreign traders. Even with its cosmopolitan nature, the city still exudes an ancient charm, its cultural heritage attracting travellers from around the world. The extensive stretch of backwaters of this port city continues to awe travellers. At Kochi, you see a hodgepodge of cultures and traditions co-existing with ease.



God's Own Country

www.keralatourism.org

A close-up photograph of an elephant's head and trunk, partially submerged in water. The elephant's trunk is curled, and its skin is dark and wrinkled. The background is a blurred green landscape with water.

CONTENTS

Fort Kochi	01
Mattancherry	03
Kumbalangi	05
Kodanad Elephant Camp	07
Thattekkad	09
Paradesi Synagogue	11
Kadamakkudy	13
Kaladi	15
Bolgatty Island	17
Chendamangalam	19
360° Videos	21
Video Gallery	22
Photo Gallery	24



Fort Kochi



Fort Kochi (View Video) is a cultural vessel shaped by many historical influences, the traces of which can still be found in its very streets. Portuguese, Dutch and British influences are evident in the Indo-European architecture of the buildings dotting this town.

A prime example of this is Fort Immanuel, a Portuguese bastion built in 1503 to mark the strategic alliance between the Maharaja of Cochin and the Portuguese monarch. The Dutch cemetery near the beach was built in the Dutch style of architecture of those times. Consecrated in 1724, the cemetery carries the remains of hundreds of people of Dutch and British nationality. It is currently managed by the Church of South India (CSI).

How to reach

Ernakulam town railway station lies about 15 km from Fort Kochi and is well connected to all major cities of India.

The nearest airport, Cochin International Airport Ltd. (CIAL), is about 37 km away.



Mattancherry





Mattancherry was once a prominent trading centre in Kochi. Frequent invasions from across the sea have left traces on its geographical, social, historical, cultural and artistic landscapes.

The town is a cultural hub comprising various ethnic communities who have struck roots here. A Jain temple, Jewish synagogue, Dutch palace, Shiva temple, mosque and church figure among the major tourist attractions in Mattancherry.

Mattancherry streets are also famous for their colonial-style buildings, rare antique stores, spice supplies, Kashmiri artefact shops and more.

How to reach

Ernakulam town railway station lies about 13 km from Mattancherry. It is well connected to all major cities of India.

The nearest airport is Cochin International Airport Ltd. (CIAL), about 40 km away.



Kumbalangi



Kumbalangi (View Video) is a fishing hamlet located about 15 km from Kochi city. It is surrounded by the backwaters and now emerging as a tourist hotspot, owing to its rural tourism activities.

The mangrove forests here provide a good breeding ground for prawns, crabs, oysters and small fishes. This island village is dotted with Chinese fishing nets, and boasts of a rich aquatic life.



How to reach

The nearest railway station is Ernakulam, which is nearly 14 km away.

The nearest airport, Cochin International Airport Ltd. (CIAL), is about 46 km away.



Kodanad Elephant Camp



Kodanad Elephant Camp, which has now been moved to Abhayaranyam at Kaprikad, is one of the largest elephant training centers in Kerala. Situated in the high ranges on the southern bank of the Periyar River, it nurtures elephants that are abandoned or hurt, and trains them later.

Elephants specially trained for safari are fitted with saddles. Visitors can spend time here in the company of elephants, and also visit the nearby Abhayaranyam zoo.

How to reach

The nearest railway station is Ernakulam, about 45 km away. The nearest airport is Cochin International Airport Ltd. (CIAL), and is about 20 km away by the Vallom – Kodanad road.



Thattekkad



Thattekkad

Dr. Salim Ali, the renowned ornithologist from Kerala, discovered Thattekkad ([View Video](#)) and considered it to be the richest bird habitat in the peninsula. In his famous Ornithological Survey of Travancore in the 1930s, he realised the richness of Thattekkad's bird diversity and the need to conserve it by establishing a sanctuary there.

With its evergreen forests, Thattekkad is noted for indigenous birds like Malabar Grey Hornbills, many types of woodpeckers, and rose-ringed and blue-ringed parakeets. Named after Dr. Ali, the bird sanctuary here is home to diverse species, especially during the migratory season. Rare birds like Ceylon Frogmouths and Rose-billed Rollers are also spotted here.

How to reach

The nearest railway station is Aluva, located around 48 km away. The nearest airport is Cochin International Airport Ltd. (CIAL), which is about 44 km away.

Paradesi Synagogue



The Paradesi Synagogue or the Jewish Synagogue in Mattancherry is the oldest active synagogue among the Commonwealth nations. Constructed in 1568, this synagogue was destroyed in a shelling during the Portuguese raid in 1662 and rebuilt two years later by the Dutch.

The Paradesi Synagogue is notable for its mid-eighteenth century hand-painted, willow-patterned floor tiles, Hebrew inscriptions on stone slabs and great scrolls of the Old Testament. Another valuable possession of the synagogue is a set of copper plates belonging to the 4th century with Malayalam inscriptions on them.

The area around the synagogue called Jew Town is known for spice trade and curio shops.

How to reach

The railway station closest to the synagogue is Ernakulam, which is about 13 km away.

The nearest airport, Cochin International Airport Ltd. (CIAL), is about 40 km away.





Kadamakkudy

Kadamakkudy is a cluster of fourteen islands scattered among the distributaries of the Periyar River. Situated about 8 km from the city, this region is an emerging tourist destination. Though technically within the urban limits, it is tucked safely away from the city's clamour, which makes this island group a perfect place to relax and unwind.

Water transport boats, private boats and tourist boats frequently ply in this route. Kadamakkudy is easily accessible as it is linked to Varappuzha town by National Highway 66.



How to reach

The nearest railway station is Ernakulam, which is about 15 km away. The airport nearest to Kadamakkudy, Cochin International Airport Ltd. (CIAL), is about 28 km away.

Kaladi





Kaladi, situated 27 km from Ernakulam, is the birthplace of Adi Sankaracharya, the great Advaita philosopher of the 8th century.

The presence of many important temples dedicated to Sree Sankara, Goddess Sharada Devi, Sree Krishna and Sree Ramakrishna greatly adds to the air of sanctity associated with this place.

Crocodile Ghat in Kaladi is the place where Sree Sankara took his vows of renunciation. According to the legend, a crocodile caught hold of him and refused to let go until his mother, Aryamba, permitted him to take up sanyasa (renunciation).

How to reach

The nearest railway station is Angamali, about 8 km from Kaladi. The nearest airport is Cochin International Airport Ltd. (CIAL), at a distance of approximately 7 km.

Bolgatty Island





Bolgatty Island ([View Video](#)) is a picturesque location in Fort Kochi with a famous palace that shares its name. The Bolgatty Palace was built in 1744 by the Dutch and later taken over by the British. It has now been converted into a Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) resort that boasts of a golf course and special honeymoon cottages.

The other attractions of this island are Kochi International Marina and Bolgatty Event Centre.



How to reach

The nearest railway station is Ernakulam, which is about 6 km away.

Cochin International Airport Ltd. (CIAL), located about 33 km away, is the nearest airport.



Chendamangalam





Situated about 42 km from Ernakulam, Chendamangalam is a land blessed with a rare geographical combination of three rivers, seven inlets, hillocks and vast expanses of green plains.

Paliyam Palace represents the past architectural splendour of Kerala. Formerly the abode of Paliath Achans, Prime Ministers to the erstwhile Maharajas of Kochi, it boasts of a collection of historical documents and relics.

The hillocks at Kottayil Kovilakam present an unusual sight – a temple, a church, a mosque and the remains of a Jewish synagogue, all situated next to each other. They stand testimony to the spirit of religious tolerance and harmonious co-existence of the people here.



How to reach

The nearest railway station is Ernakulam, located about 29 km from Chendamangalam. The nearest airport, Cochin International Airport Ltd. (CIAL), is about 23 km away.



360°
VIDEOS

Bolgatty Island



Marine Drive

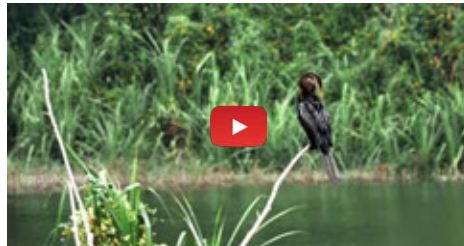


VIDEO GALLERY

Kumbalangi



Thattekkad



Kochi



Chinese Fishing Nets



Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary



Kochi - Aerial view



River Periyar and Bhoothathankettu



Chinese Fishing Net - Building and Installation



Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary



Cherai Beach





PHOTO GALLERY

Chinese Fishing Nets



Kaladi



Bolgatty Palace



Kumbalangi



Chendamangalam Synagogue



Hill Palace Museum



Muziris Aerial View



Mattancherry Synagogue



Vallarpadam Church



Kadamakkudy



**THANK
YOU**