

# Kammadam Kavlu

MESMERIZING  
Malabar

Where nature is worshiped



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# KAMMADAM KAVU WHERE NATURE IS WORSHIPPED

The kavu [sacred grove] symbolizes an entire culture and a way of life. Even today, Kerala boasts of numerous kavus, that not only embody the beliefs, rituals, myths, and legends of the land but also collectively reflects an ethos of Nature worship, and celebrates the close-knit bond between Nature and humans. The role of kavus in the cultural and ritualistic life of north Malabar is perhaps more significant than that in the rest of the state. And among all the kavus that are havens of bio-diversity in the district of Kasaragod, the most impressive is the Kammadam kavu. In fact, it is more of an evergreen forest than a kavu.



Kammadam kavu that spreads across Bheemanadi village in Kasaragod district once covered about 55 acres. Even today, it is the largest kavu in Kerala. Once upon a time, the lands to the east of Neeleswaram were part of a kingdom. The Bhagavathy temple and the surrounding areas were gifted by the king of Neeleswaram to the Kammadam illam [Brahmin household]. Legend has it that the master of the illam was the first to discover the divine aura of the Bhagavathy, and invoke her presence in the sanctum. That was how the place of worship came to be known as Kammadam Bhagavathy temple.

The evergreen forest surrounding the temple is a very unique one. Even today you can spot rare species of flora and fauna in the kavu. They are the vestiges of a once vibrant spot of biodiversity. Kammadam kavu is perhaps the only one of its kind to be the habitat of leeches, a species that thrives in forest floors. An abode of rare birds, butterflies, insects and animals, Kammadam kavu also has five brooks running through it. At one point they converge, and the stream flows on for several kilometres before joining the Kariyamgode River. What is noteworthy is that the forest stream does not dry up even in the peak of summer.



# NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- **Malom**
- **Bekal Fort**
- **Kanhangad Beach**
- **Pulimoot Beach**
- **Cheruvathur**



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# Malom

Popular among visitors as the “Coorg of Kerala”, Malom is a haven for nature lovers. The place is famous for a rare performance of Theyyam, the ‘Mukri Pokar’, a Muslim Theyyam that is only seen at Malomkuloth.



# Bekal Fort

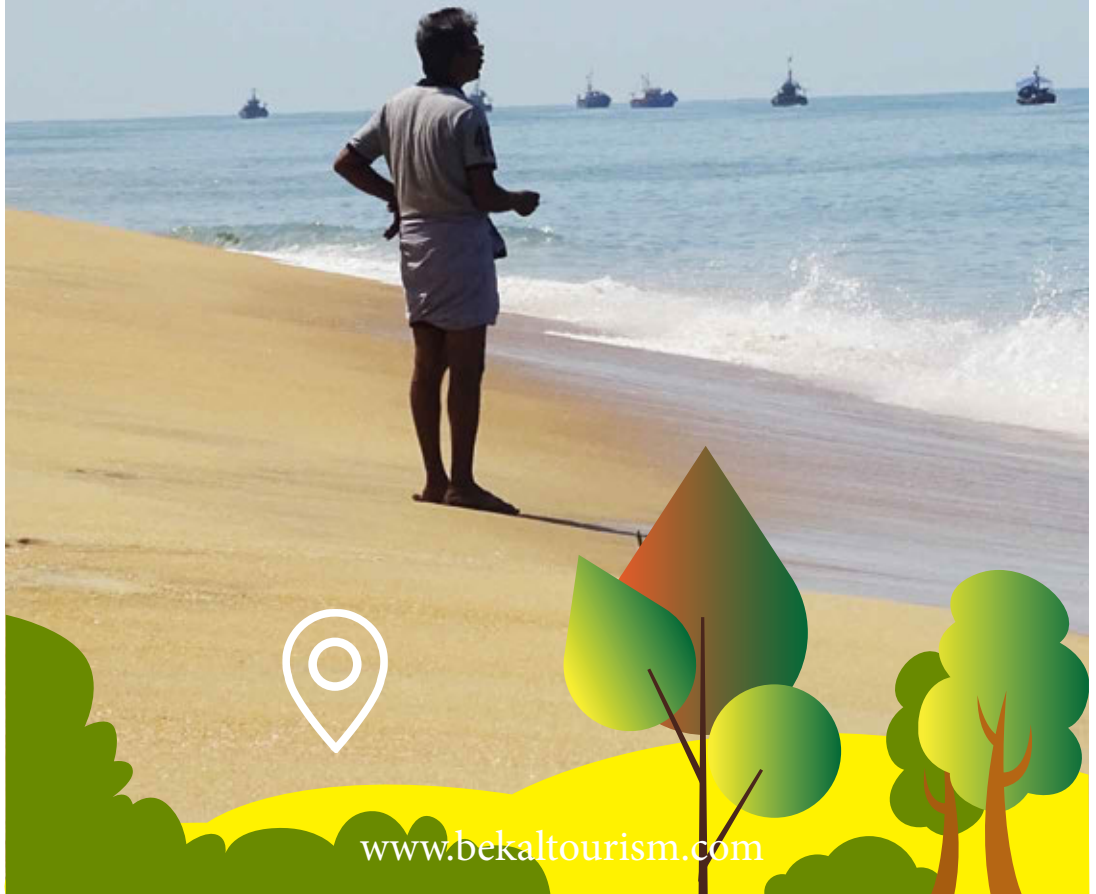
The largest fort of its kind in all of Kerala, Bekal Fort is among the most visited destinations in God's Own Country. It rises 130 feet above sea level and is an imposing sight, nestled beside the Arabian Sea.





# Kanhangad Beach

This secluded beach is a beautiful picnic centre with its chain of forts adding to its ethereal charm.



# Neeleswaram

Neeleswaram, once the cultural centre of Kasaragod District, this place is home to the Nileshwar Rajas, said to have come from Kozhikode nearly 600 years ago. Their palaces showcase the fine architecture and spectacular woodwork of the times. The Neeleswaram Palace today functions as the folklore centre of the Department of Archaeology. The town is also famous for its numerous kavus (shrines), temple festivals and the Kavil Bhavan Yoga and Meditation Centre.



# Pulimoot Beach

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Less crowded, this beach is a tourist's paradise, with golden sands and surfable waters that make it a safe haven for water sport enthusiasts.



# Cheruvathur

A fascinating picnic spot, the main attraction here is the Veeramala Hills and the ruins of a Dutch fort built in the 18th century.



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## VIDEO GALLERY



*Neeleswaram*



*Malom*



*Bekal Fort*