

PALAKKAD

A Potpourri of Experiences



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Widely heralded as the Rice Granary of Kerala, Palakkad is the treasure trove of astounding sights and the Gateway to Kerala from North. The place is a melting-pot of culture, history, art, literature, folklore and ethnic denominations, because of the invasions from the bordering kingdoms in the past. Palakkad gap, the biggest mountain pass in the Western Ghats, separate Kerala and Tamilnadu. The proximity of Tamilnadu is well reflected in the food culture, festivals and dialects of Palakkad.

The swaying palmyra trees, the extensive paddy fields and the mountains of the Sahya Range are the prime icons of this picturesque district. Credited with a number of sightseeing options like forts, rivers, hills, forests, dams, wildlife sanctuaries, waterfalls, temples and heritage spots, Palakkad is an ideal destination to enlarge the vistas of your journeys.



POTHUNDI DAM





Unwind yourself in the magic spell of nature in a Dam site. Pothundi Dam is constructed in the 19th Century across the Meenichiladipuzha and Padipuzha rivers in the Pothundi village in Palakkad. It provides water for irrigation to an area of 5,470 hectares and supplies drinking water to the surrounding places. This dam is one of the oldest ones in India and a main stopover on the way to the Nelliampathy Hill Station.

The unique feature of the dam is the entire structure was built using boulders and, the core wall of the dam is built by the mixture of jaggery and quicklime. No cement, iron or steel are used there and yet, the dam is very strong still. A perfect blend of engineering and architecture can be seen there. It's a treat for your eyes to view the stunning Nelliampathy Hills on one side and acres of green paddy fields on the other side of the dam.

You can also visit a small beautiful garden over there. It will be an amazing experience if you visit the dam and reservoir during the monsoon season. A famous festival called Nenmara Vallangi Vela is held on the shores of the reservoir. The tranquil water along with the hills in the backdrop will surely make your mind and body reinvigorated.



CONNECTIVITY



By Road

There are plenty of private buses plying to Pothundi Dam from Nenmara. 8 km from Nenmara Town 42 km from Palakkad



By Rail

Palakkad railway Station, around 38 km



By Air

Coimbatore International Airport, around 90 km





ROCK GARDEN



Loiter in a garden of wonders with your loved ones. The Rock Garden in Malampuzha, Palakkad is first-of-its-kind in South India and second one in India. Inaugurated in 1996, the Rock garden is now maintained by the District Tourism Promotion Council, Palakkad. Get captivated in the artistic beauty of sculptures made from scrap.

The well-known sculptor Nek Chand Saini is the mastermind behind this garden, who made first of such kind in Chandigarh years back. Discarded waste materials such as, plastic bottles, cans, broken tiles, bangle pieces, stones, power insulators etc. are used to create this exotic artifact.

You can find the cultural and social diversity of India engraved in these sculptures. Popular art forms, historical and mythical scenes, birds, animals and pieces of folklore are transformed into a stunning architectural marvel. Located 800 m South of Malampuzha Dam, the garden is shimmering in the background of the scenic mountain ranges of Western Ghats. Enjoy the aesthetics and brilliance of this unique expression or art.





CONNECTIVITY



Timing : 10 am - 6 pm



By Road

15 km from Palakkad Town Bus Stand



By Rail

7 km from Palakkad Railway Station



By Air

Around 62 km from Coimbatore
International Airport





PERUVAMBA

Prick up your ears for the resonating beats of rhythm. Perceive the aesthetics and role of percussion instruments in the cultural arena of Kerala. Peruvamba, a tiny hamlet in Palakkad, has a 200-year legacy and is well-known for its contribution of the finest makers of leather-based percussion instruments.

The Indian percussion instruments run the gamut of music magnificently. Shorn of publicity and advertisements, the place is a home for many skilled craftsmen who make Mridangam, Tabla, Chenda, Maddalam, Idakka, Thimila etc. They do not sell the instruments commercially and you need to pre-order to buy them.

Peruvamba village is sought-after by many renowned musicians from all over India for purchasing and maintenance of the instruments. Around 74 families are continuing this tradition and they are mostly from the Kadayan community. The strenuous manual labour of these artisans are priceworthy but, often unrecognized.

A self-help group called Thukal Vadyopakarana Nirmana Sangham formed in 2007, comprising around 60 families, run as a resort to this community currently. NABARD, in association with Vision India Charitable Trust, also agreed to render modern technological support to them. We shall take a bow to the relentless efforts and dedication of these craftsmen to keep their tradition alive, regardless of all the hardships.

CONNECTIVITY



By Road

15 km from Palakkad Town Bus Stand



By Rail

14 km from Palakkad Railway Station



By Air

72 km from Coimbatore International Airport

PARAMBIKULAM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY





Follow your heart when it yearns for a peaceful sojourn on the lap of nature. An enticing wildlife experience is always on the top of many tourists' bucket list. It's a rare scenario nowadays to enjoy the beauty of nature without the sight of mobile towers and electric posts! Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, as part of Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, is one such destination in Palakkad district of Kerala. Stretching across an area of 643.66 sq. km., this tiger reserve offers a wide ecological diversity, biological richness and landscape beauty.





This place is well known as the best protected ecological park in the country. Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the Sungam range of hills between the Nelliampathy – Anamalai landscapes of the Southern Western Ghats in India. It's a well conserved place enriched with a peninsular flora and fauna. This spectacular hill ranges are seen at an altitude of 300 to 1438 m above the sea level.

This tiger reserve is also the home of four different tribes of indigenous people and, you can avail their services as trekking guides. The place is under consideration for selection as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Parambikulam is also popular as the first scientifically managed teak plantations of the world. It houses the world's tallest and oldest teak tree named "Kannimara", which is believed to be 350 years old.





If you are a green panther, the place provides you ample opportunities to explore more on nature. Don't miss the trek, jungle safari and the Treetop hut stay which are the must do things that you will cherish for a lifetime. Get ready to be amused to see the wild animals so closely there! It's a unique experience as compared to the other wild life sanctuaries. The wet tropical climate and the alluring greenery of this forest offer you a perfect getaway. You can also visit Peruvaripallam and Thunakkadavu dams nearby.



Activities

- Trekking
- Bamboo rafting
- Camping
- Jungle Safari
- Paid Natural Camps
- Modern Nature Interpretation Centre

CONNECTIVITY



Timing : 7.00 am - 6.00 pm



By Road

There are three bus trips to/from Parambikulam on daily basis:
Two TNSCT buses start from Pollachi and one KSRTC bus from Palakkad.



By Rail

Coimbatore, about 85 km



By Air

Coimbatore International Airport

This sanctuary is a year-round destination but, October-March is the highly preferred by tourists.

DHONI WATERFALLS





Journeys have different dimensions to each traveller. It may be solace, exploration, escapade, salvation, refreshment, or a quest for something. Be it any of the above, going to nature is a best choice you can ever make! Dhoni Waterfalls in Palakkad district of Kerala, is a pristine piece of nature that you will definitely long to visit again.

It's said that the place got its name from a boat-shaped rock on one of its hills. Boat in Malayalam is called "Thoni". The Waterfalls is 12 km from Palakkad town and situated on the top of misty mountains in a reserve forest.



Bordered by the Western Ghats, the place is an ideal option for trek lovers to traverse nature in its most tranquil form. It will take a 3-4 hours of trek through a 4 km long trekking trail from the foot of the Dhoni Hills to the waterfalls. Private vehicles are strictly prohibited there. The waterfalls are full only during the monsoon season and you can see the stunning sight of it overflows through small streams. Don't go for a bath there because it might be dangerous.

The surrounding forest is rich with wild animals like elephants, tigers, deer etc. Since the long trek is much exhausting, you can carry refreshments with you. Be vigilant keep the environment clean and avoid plastics. You need to pre-book your tickets and entry passes are required. It's a guided trek and only limited batches of tourists are allowed a day. Get geared up for an indelible journey that would bring about a smile on your face whenever you recall it!



CONNECTIVITY



Timing : 9.30 am , 11 am and 2 pm



By Road

11 km from Palakkad town



By Rail

12 km from Palakkad Junction railway Station



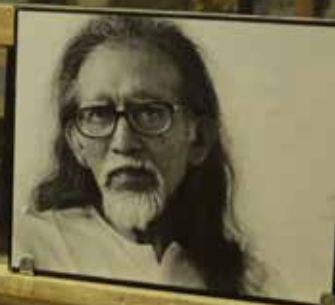
By Air

78 km from Coimbatore International Airport

101 km from Calicut International Airport

Ideal Time to Visit : June - October

O. V. Vijayan
PHOTO GALLERY



O V VIJAYAN MEMORIAL

The fabled land of Khasak, the setting of Malayalam Novelist O V Vijayan's iconic novel "Khasakkinte Ithihasam" (The Legends of Khasak), the village Thasrak in Palakkad is now replicated as a throbbing memorial. This project is aimed to preserve Thasrak from where O V Vijayan got his characters and completed this illustrious novel. Traverse through the foray into the endless dreams and solemn mood of the mystic village.

The place brings reminiscence of Ravi, Appukili, Maimuna, Nisamali, Allapicha Mollakka et.al. and the impulses of life in Khasak.

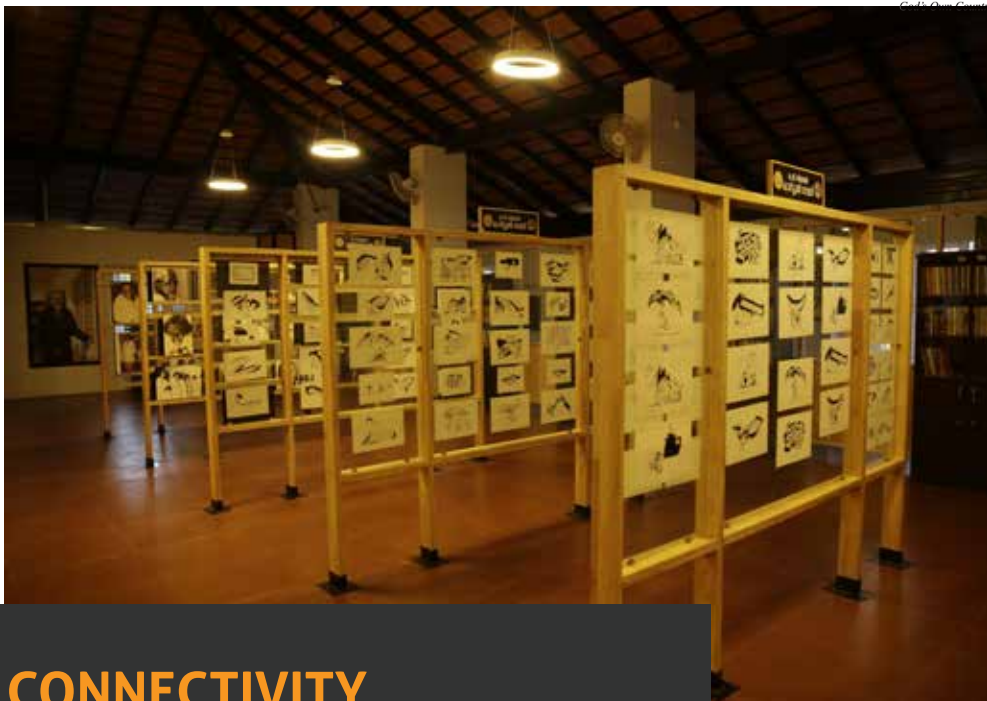


You will get amused to see the 140 granite sculptures, the mere reflections of O V Vijayan's characters and story contexts, which are made to adorn the archway.

Njattupura, the building where the rice seeds and agricultural implements were kept, which once served as a temporary shelter for the author, is a major attraction here. There is a theatre set up to play the documentaries based on O V Vijayan's life and also, short films, feature films and recorded memorial lectures on demand.

You can also visit a photo and cartoon gallery which exhibit the pictures from various phases of the writer's life and a collection of his cartoons. Arabikkulam, Vazhiyambalam (The wayfarers Inn), Pavilion, Seminar Hall, Paintings, O V Vijayan's Mural works and a few letters written by Vijayan to his friends are the other features here. Thasrak offers a facsimile of the mindscape of thousands of readers and literature enthusiasts who love the novel.





CONNECTIVITY



Timing : 10.00 am to 5.30 pm



By Road

13 km from Palakkad town



By Rail

15 km to Palakkad railway Station



By Air

65 km to Coimbatore International Airport

NELLIYAMPATHY



A picturesque hill station is always a place of solace for those from the scorching heat of plains. Nelliampathy Hill Station, located around 60 km from Palakkad, is gifted with cloud-caressed lofty peaks and ethereal landscape. Get captivated in the breezy wind and pleasant climate of this majestic mountains.

Lying on the lap of Western Ghats, Nelliampathy seats around 1,600 m above the sea level and is surrounded by tea, coffee, cardamon and orange plantations. You need to drive up from the town of Nenmara to reach Nelliampathy.



There are 10 exhilarating hairpin bends that lead to this hilly abode. On the drive you will be awestruck by the sight of Pothundi Dam and the abundance of wildlife.

Don't miss visiting Palagapandi Estate where you can see a heritage bungalow built during the British rule, stand amidst a fascinating tea, coffee and spice plantations. You can explore Padagiri trekking trails and routes that lead to the tallest peak in the Nelliampathy range. Seetharkundu, 8 km from the hill station, is another splendid vantage point to enjoy the panoramic view of Nelliampathy.

A 100 m high waterfall is also seen from there to add the appeal. Those who are interested in bio-farming can visit some privately managed farms there. The place is also famous for orange farming. Embark on a trip to discover the untainted beauty of this stunning hilly retreat.



CONNECTIVITY



Best Time to Visit : October to March



By Rail

Palakkad Railway Station, around 60 km

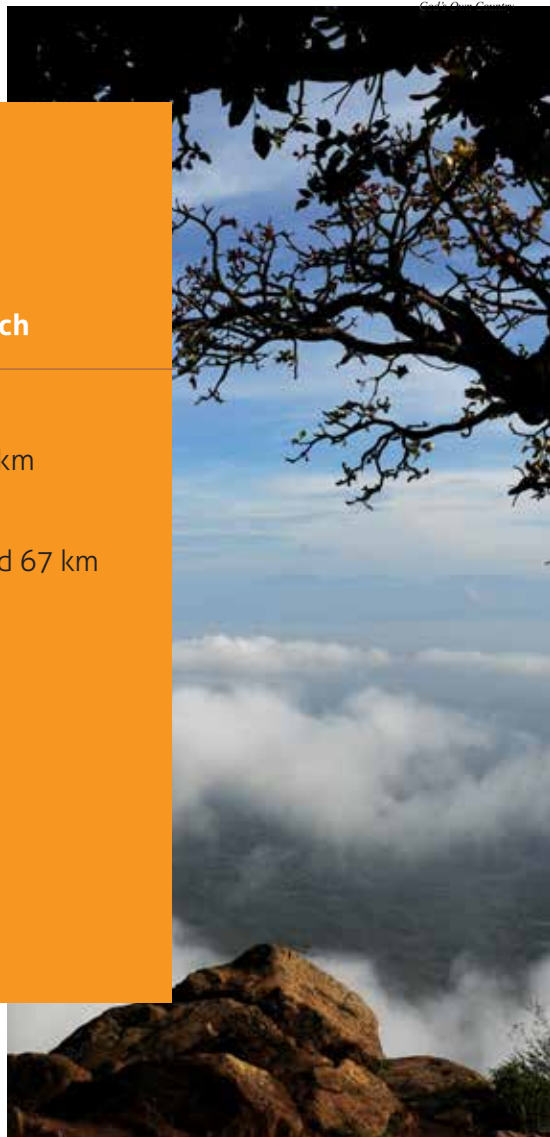


By Air

Coimbatore International Airport, around 67 km

ACTIVITIES

- Sightseeing
- Boating
- Trekking
- Plantation Walk





KAVA VIEW POINT

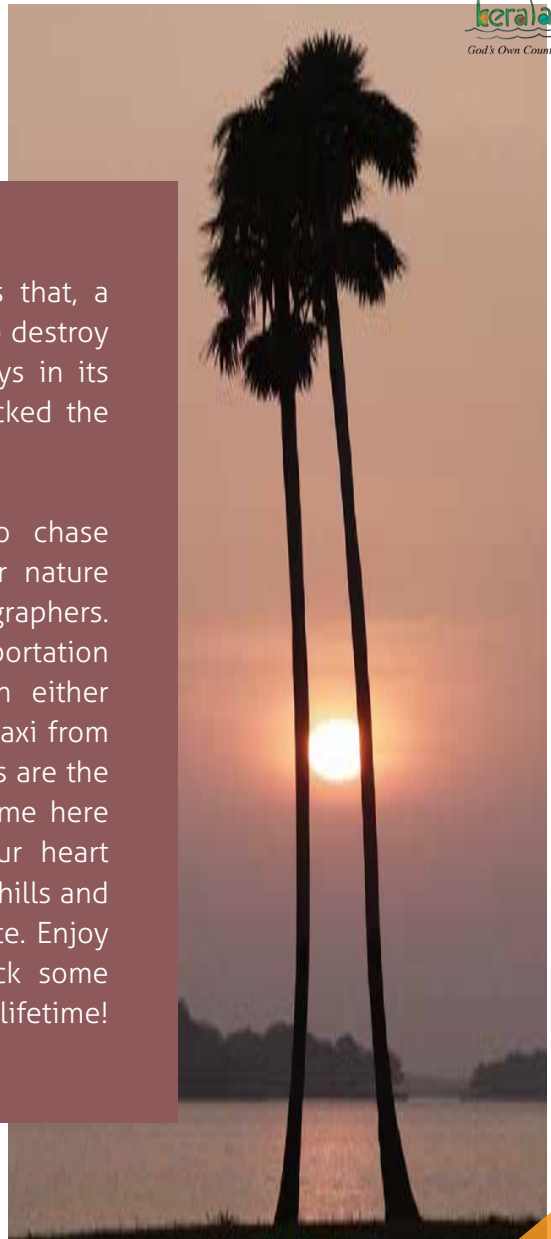
The womb of rain clouds and the abode of winds, Kava is a picaresque place blessed with the marvels of mother nature. It is known as the “Gateway of Rains to Kerala” as you can come across the wonderful gathering of dark rain clouds and downpour at regular intervals here. Located behind Malampuzha Dam in Palakkad district, Kava is a scenic catchment area surrounded by forest-clad hills.

You can find many rare species of birds and butterflies in the forest en route to Kava. The locals believe that the tallest peak of the Western Ghats in Kava is a severed tail.



The legend behind this belief is that, a huge dragon-like monster came to destroy the earth and its full-strength lays in its tail. Then a powerful prince attacked the monster and slashed its tail.

Kava is a finest destination to chase monsoons and an ideal spot for nature lovers, adventurers and photographers. There is only limited public transportation to reach Kava so that, you can either drive your own vehicle or take a taxi from Palakkad or Malampuzha. Evenings are the best time of the day to spend time here with family and friends. Fill your heart with the fabulous sight of waters, hills and greenery in this silent celestial site. Enjoy the mesmerizing sunset and click some amazing pictures to preserve for a lifetime!





CONNECTIVITY



By Road

7 km from Malampuzha Dam

13 km from Palakkad town



By Rail

14 km from Palakkad Railway Station



By Air

Around 60 km from

Coimbatore International Airport

KANJIRAPUZHA DAM



Our land is blessed with a lot of jaw-dropping structural feats, each with its own unique engineering excellency. Dams are the one type of structure that always leaves us in great awe. Kanjirapuzha Dam in Palakkad District of Kerala is a spectacular masonry earth dam built for irrigational purposes. It is surrounded by misty mountains and marvelous thick forests. Get away from the monotonous chores of daily life and experience an undefiled unity with nature!



With a core area of 2,400 acres, Kanjirapuzha Dam is situated in the Kanjirapuzha river, a tributary of Thuthapuzha River. The dam is a reservoir which has a catchment area of 7,000 hectares of lush green forests called Vettilachola. The reservoir is rich with three islands within it and the abundance of fishes. You can see a commercial fisheries development programme in the islands operated by the Fisheries Department.

The beautiful garden situated at the bottom of the dam provides a number of recreational activities for the tourists. The 8 acres of garden offers Boating facilities for children, Park and Playing area, Swimming Pool, Musical Fountain and special lighting arrangements. Initiated by the Tourism Development, the garden adds to the charm of the dam. Watching the sunset from the dam will surely be a heartwarming experience for you. You can well-spend an evening with family and enjoy each moment here.



CONNECTIVITY



Timing : 10.00 am to 7.00 pm



By Road

12 km from Mannarkad

35 km from Palakkad town

85 km from Coimbatore



By Rail

35 km from Palakkad Junction Railway Station

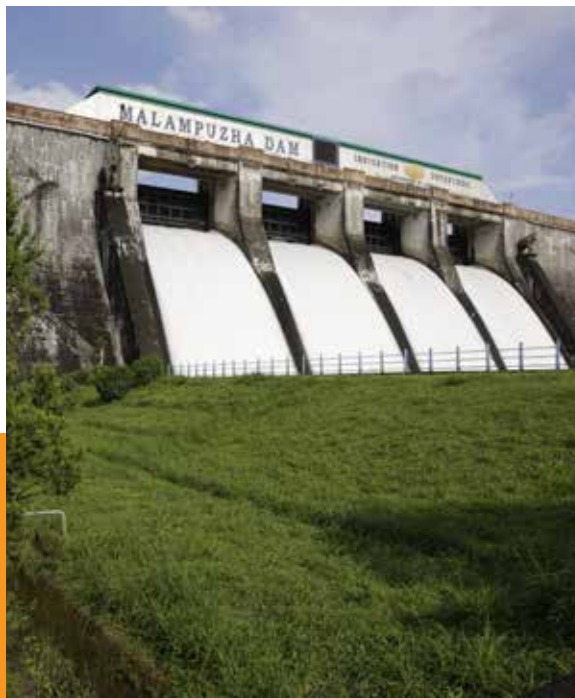


By Air

85 km from Coimbatore International Airport



MALAMPUZHA DAM AND GARDEN



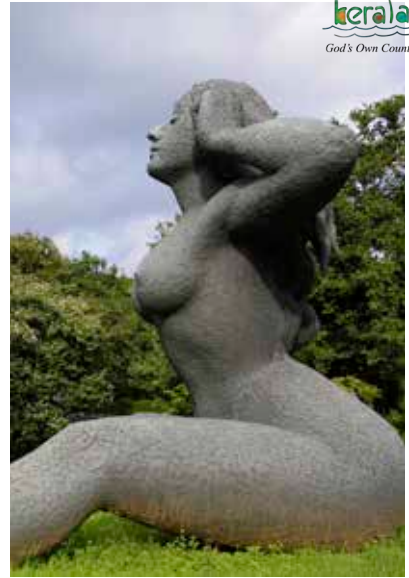
We often tend to have a humbling feeling when viewing a dam because of its gigantic structure and immense capacity. Set aside your time for a fulfilling experience in one of the most sought-after destinations in Palakkad district, i.e., Malampuzha Dam. A plethora of activities are awaiting you in and around the dam and the garden nearby.

Being the largest dam and drinking water reservoir in Kerala, Malampuzha Dam is situated in the scenic hills of the Western Ghats. It's a combination of masonry dam and earthen dam, which crosses the Malampuzha River, a tributary of Bharathappuzha River.



The multi-purpose uses of the dam water encompass irrigation, drinking, industries, power generation and fish farming. The picturesque view from the dam is breathtaking and is the main attraction.

Go for a hangout in the dazzling garden which is well-maintained and adorned by fountains and sculptures. Malampuzha can boast about its rock-cut garden, the only one in South India, which is conceived and designed by the renowned artist Nek Chand Saini. It features sculptures and ornate walls made out of unwanted junk such as, broken bangles, used plastic bottles, tiles and other waste materials. The colossal statue of "Yakshi" is one of a kind built by Kanayi Kunhiraman, a popular sculptor of Kerala. You can also have a Ropeway ride and Boating there. Other interesting spots in the surroundings are, Children's Park, Snake park and Fish-shaped aquarium. In short, the diverse range of experiences in this fascinating place will leave a mark on your heart forever.



Activities

- Boating
- Ropeway ride

CONNECTIVITY



Timing : 9.00 am to 8.00 pm



By Road

15 km from Palakkad town bus station



By Rail

Palakkad Junction- 7 km



By Air

Coimbatore International Airport - Around 62 km



KALPATHY HERITAGE VILLAGE



Relish the tempting aroma of filter coffee, jasmine flowers and agarbattis in a heritage village. Rejoice in the euphony of temple bells, blowing of conch shells and holy musical chants. Kalpathy, located in the heart of Palakkad town, is a Tamil Brahmin settlement recognised as the oldest heritage village in Kerala.

The place consists of an area of 22.36 hectares of Old Kalpathy and New Kalpathy. The Tamil Brahmins came there centuries ago from Mayavaram,

Thiruchirappally, Kumbhakonam, Tanjore etc in Tamil Nadu. Kalpathy is definitely a home-away-from-home for them. A language that has intervened between Tamil and Malayalam over time has become their own. The streets there are called "Agraharams" where you can see similar-looking houses lining both sides of a road that leads to a temple. You can catch a pretty sight of "Kolam", designs made with rice batter, outside each household to welcome Goddess.

Don't miss to visit the prominent temple of the place, Vishwanatha Swamy Temple which nestles on the banks of Kalpathy River. If you visit the place in the month of November, you will be thrilled to see their famous Chariot Festival called "Rathotsavam". Explore the unique blend of architecture, language, devotion and music in this serene hamlet.



CONNECTIVITY



By Road

Palakkad Stadium Bus Stand - 3 km



By Rail

Palakkad Junction - 3 km



By Air

Coimbatore International Airport - 70 km

SILENT VALLEY





Being the last remaining tropical rain forest in Kerala, Silent Valley is an indispensable destination for the nature lovers and backpackers. If you are yearning for a serene, tranquil break from the hustle and bustle of life, this place would be the best option. It is an epitome of making people realise the true value of the treasures that Mother Nature has bestowed us with. Silent Valley got its name for the striking silence of the region because of the absence of the stridulating sound of cicadas.





In 1984, the valley was declared as a National Park and formally inaugurated in 1985. Silent Valley, a part of the Nilgiri Sub-Cluster, is recognised by UNESCO in 2012 as World Heritage Site. You can enter the forest from Mukkali which is 50 km from Coimbatore. Prior booking is required. From Mukkali, Forest Department arranges 25 km drive which takes 2 hours to reach Sairandhri. You get an awesome view from 100 feet height watchtower there. The 360-degree view of lush green dense forests and luring sight of River Kunthi transform you to another level of ecstasy.





The sheer magnitude of ecological diversity of Silent valley is noteworthy. It is a home to the lion-tailed macaques, an endangered species. You can see there the habitat of elephants, tigers, leopards, snakes, Malabar Giant Squirrels, Nilgiri langurs, hundreds of species of insects etc.

There are some indigenous tribal groups live within the park boundary and their heritage is well protected. The Park offers many eco-tourism packages for tourists. Please visit www.silentvalley.gov.in. and mail at ww-svnp@forest.kerala.gov.in for more information and booking. Go explore and store some precious memories for a lifetime in this green cradling of biomes.

Bommiyampadi Trekking- stay over

Timing: Check in: 12pm and check out: 1.30 pm

Sairandhri Safari Trip

Timing: From 7 am to 1 pm

Walk with the Master (Jungle Camp)

Timing: From 9 am to 3 pm

Keerippara Camping

Timing: Check-in (Day1): 3 pm and Check-out (Day2): 8.30 am

CONNECTIVITY



By Road

60 km from Palakkad via Mannarkad to Mukkali
(Base Camp)



By Rail

69 km away from Palakkad railway Station



By Air

91 km away from Coimbatore International Airport



VIDEO GALLERY





MALAMPUZHA DAM



ROCK GARDEN



NELLIYAMPATHY

VIDEO GALLERY



KAVA ISLAND



NELLIYAMPATHY



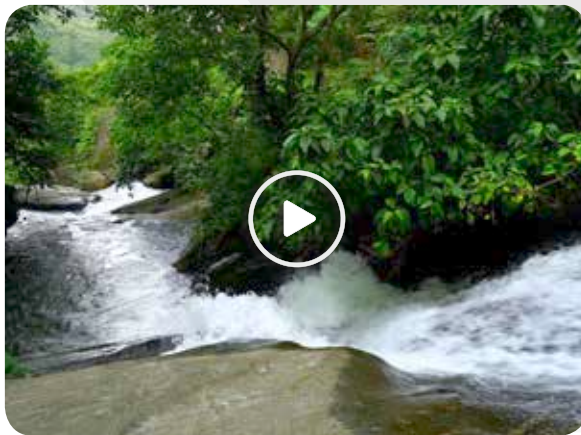
PALAKKAD – SOLO TRAVELLER SERIES



RAYIRANELLUR HILLS



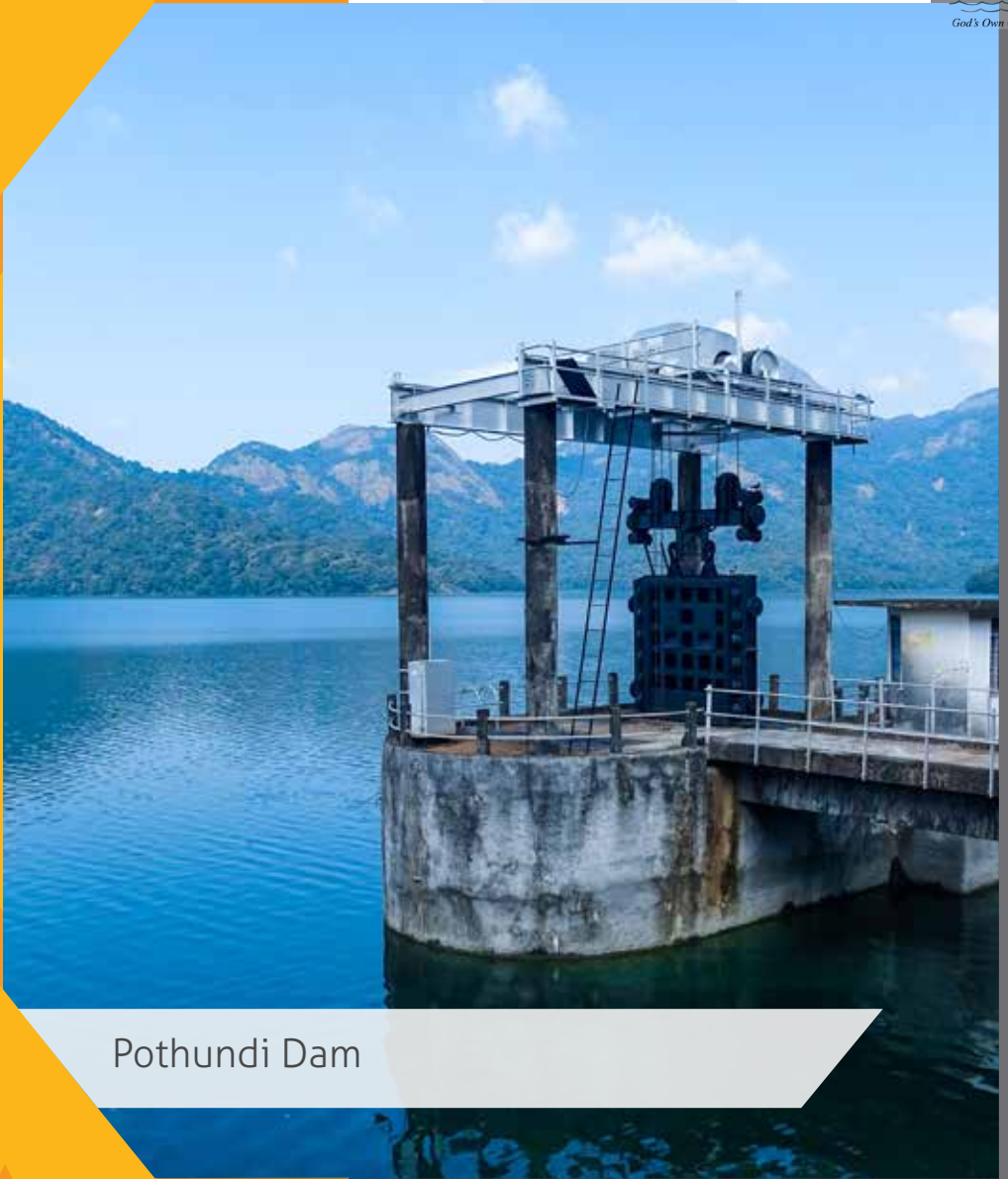
VELLINEZHI – PERUVAMBA



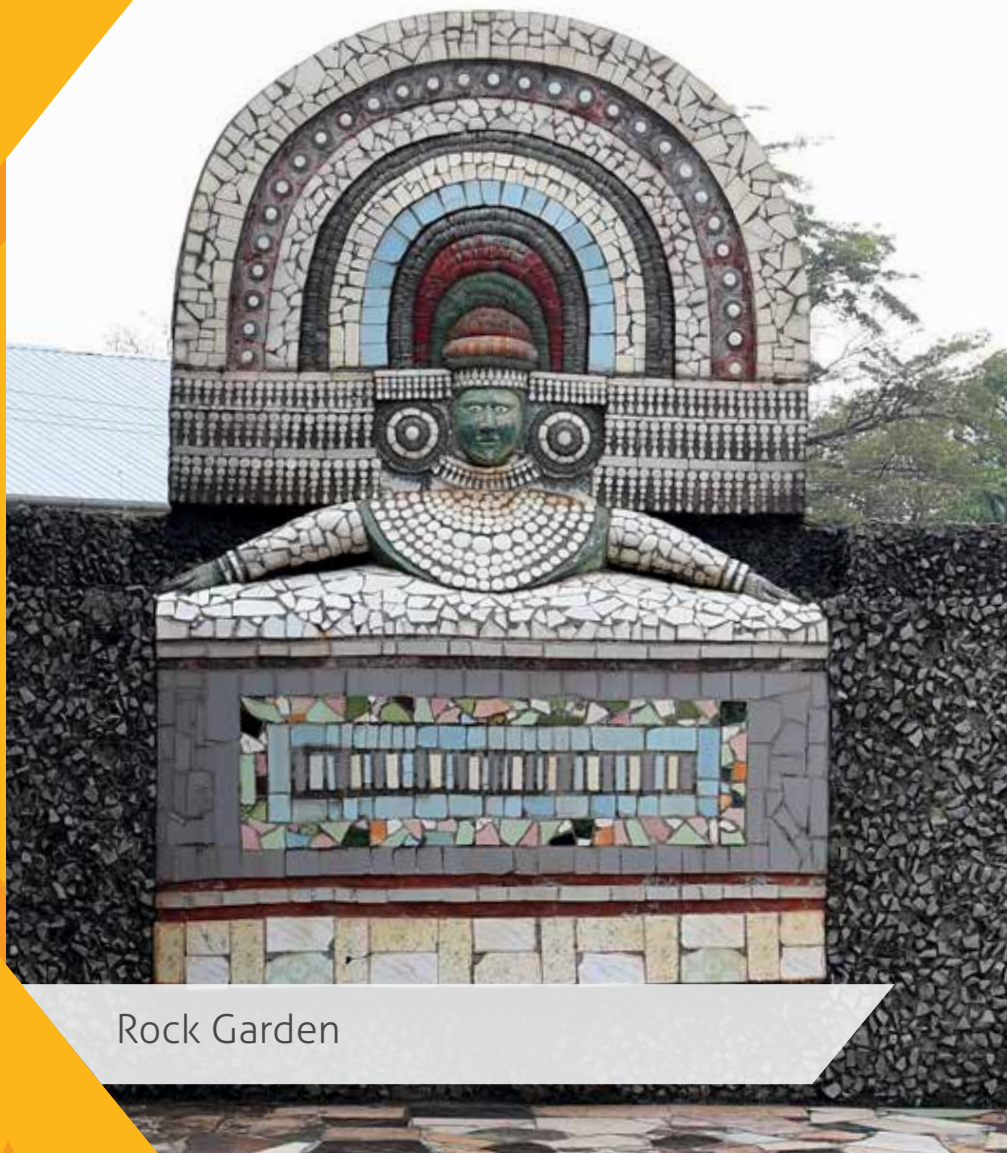
DHONI WATERFALLS

PHOTO GALLERY





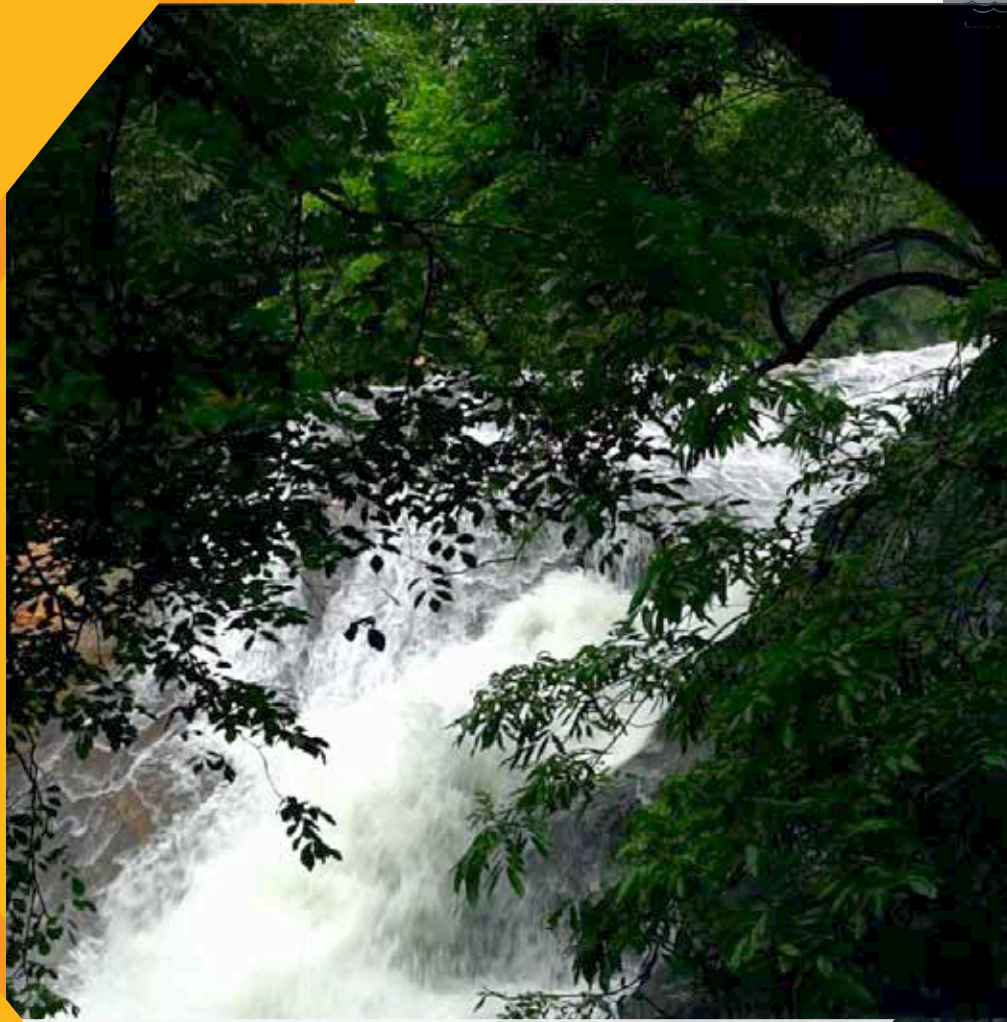
Pothundi Dam



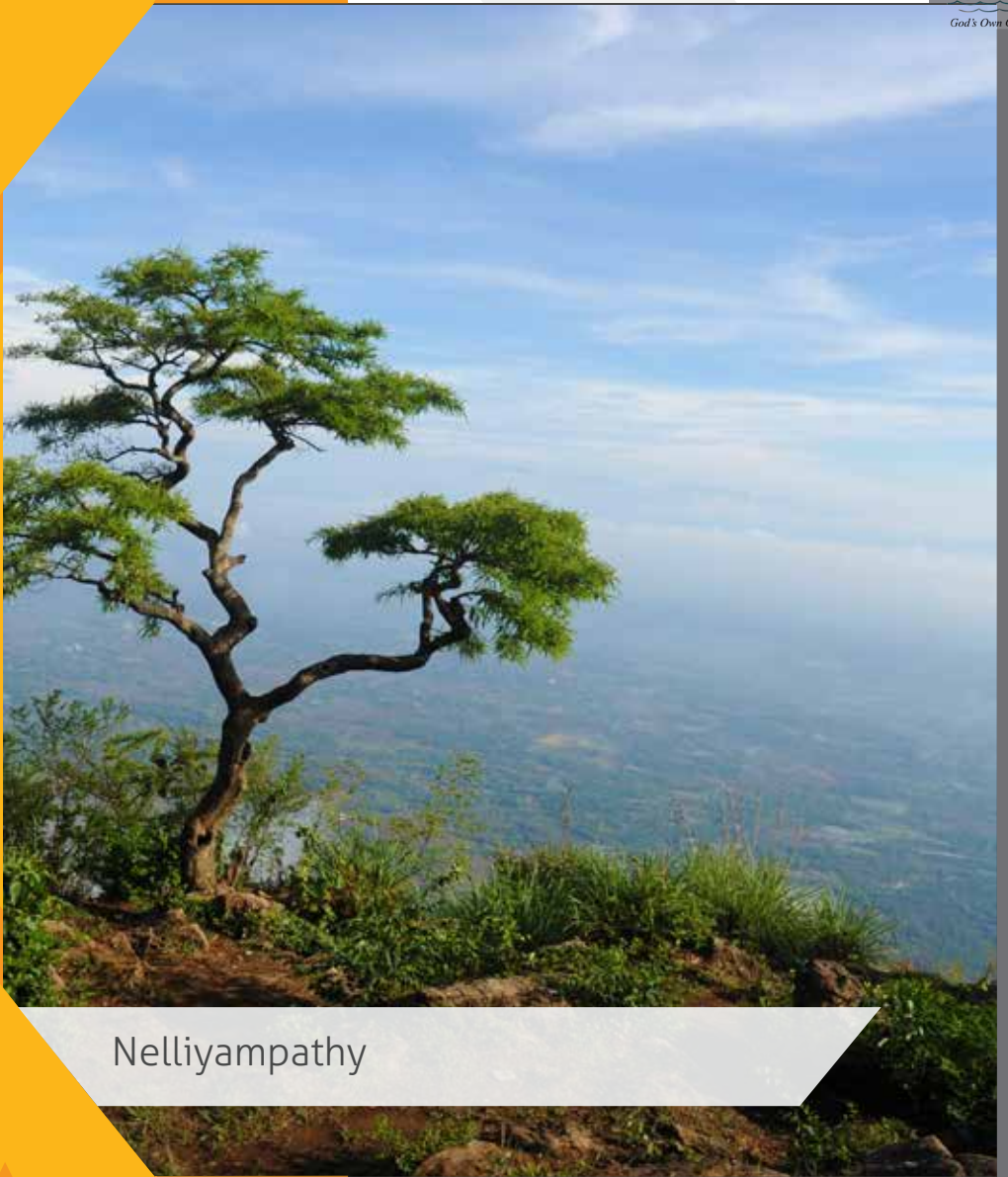
Rock Garden



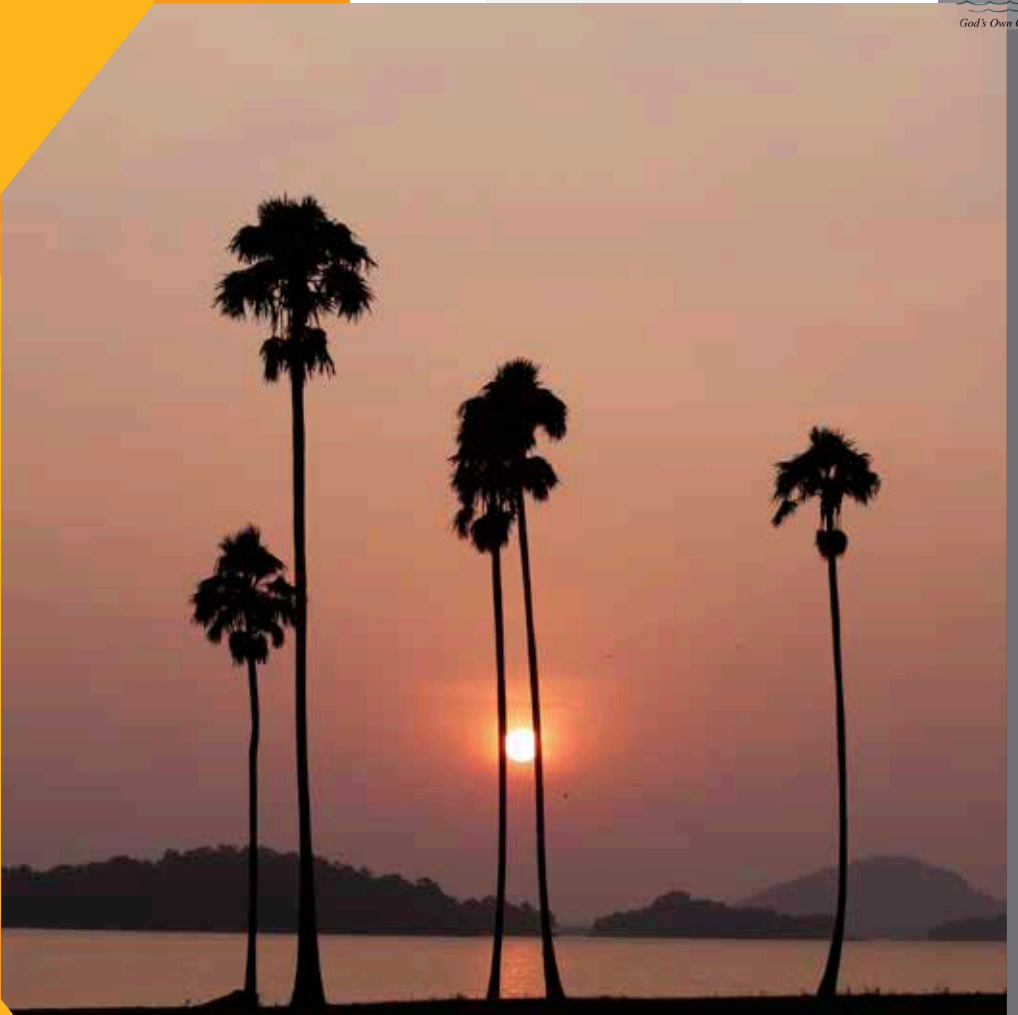
Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary



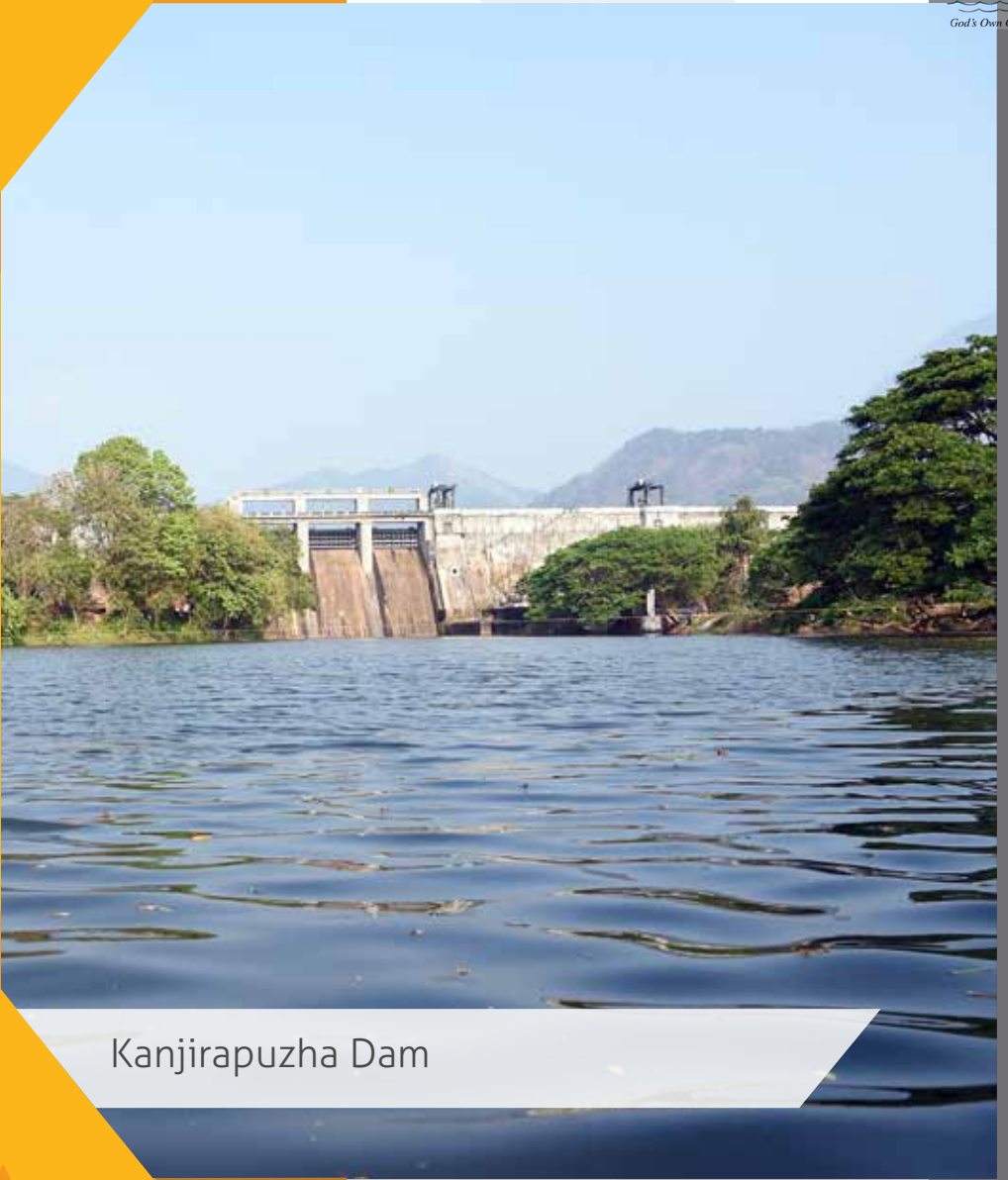
Dhoni Waterfalls



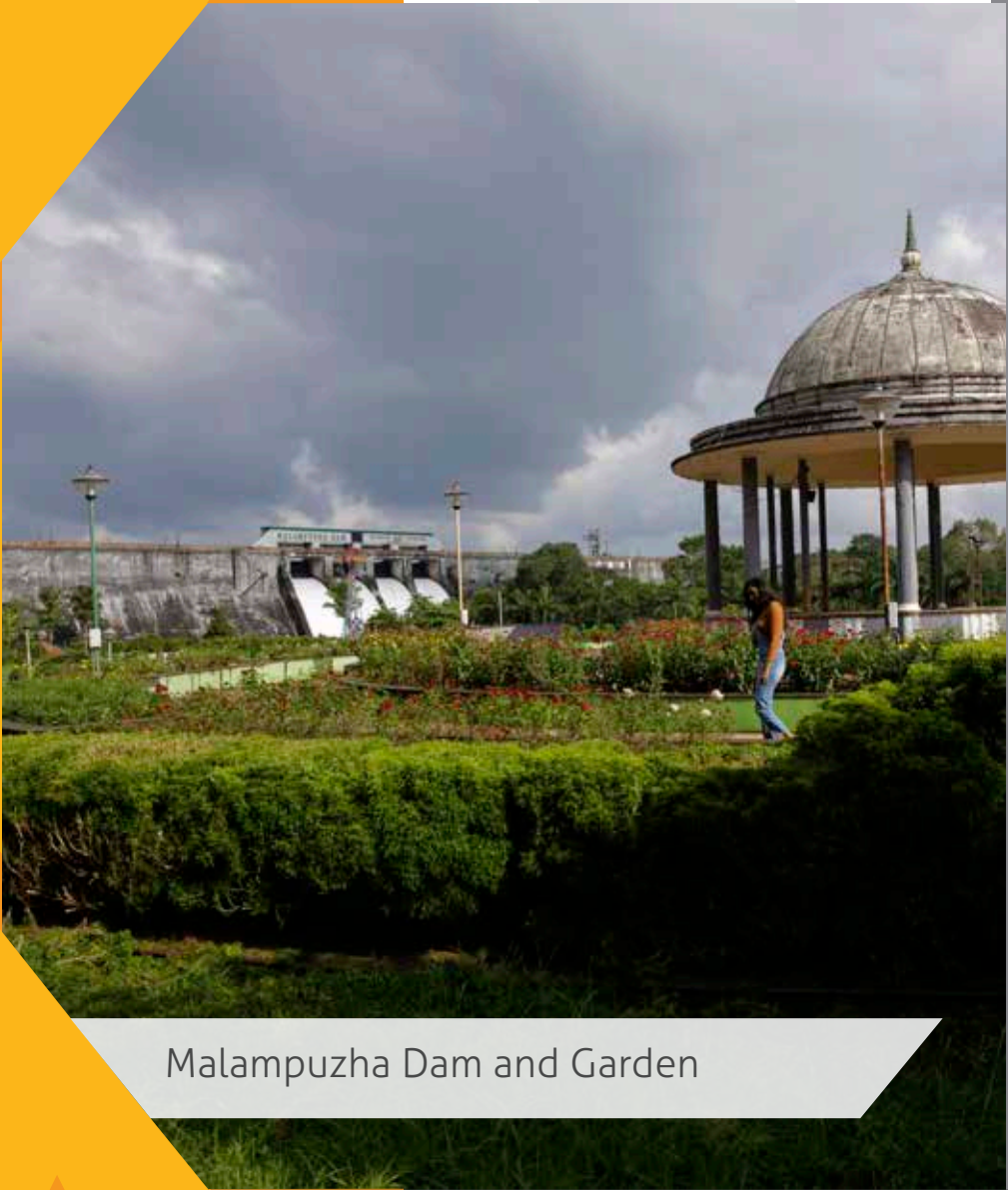
Nelliyampathy



Kava View Point



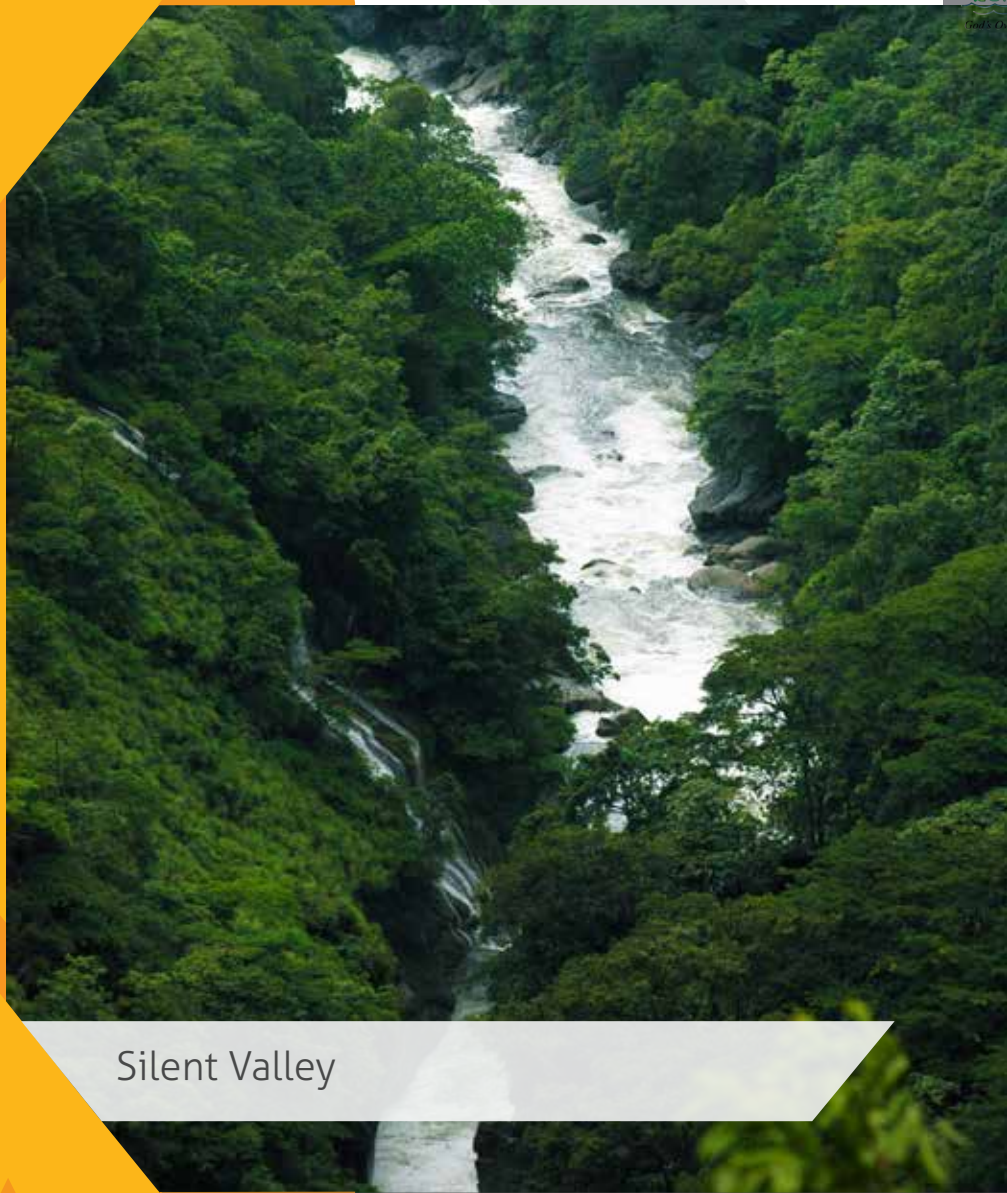
Kanjirapuzha Dam



Malampuzha Dam and Garden



Kalpathy Heritage Village



Silent Valley