

PATHANAMTHITTA

THE HOLY LAND





With a plethora of religious places, Pathanamthitta ([view video](#)) is fondly referred to as the Holy Land. The place is also noted for its folklore and art forms, the most famous among them being Padayani ([view video](#)), a traditional and ritual art form performed in Bhagavathi temples. Pathanamthitta is also where the greatest annual pilgrimage occurs, when over 1 million devotees go to Sabarimala ([view video](#)), a temple situated at a hilltop. Home to many temples, heritage villages and cultural training centres, Pathanamthitta is also renowned for the annual 'Vallasadya' ([view video](#)), which is held at the Aranmula Sree Parthasarathy Temple. This grand festive occasion continues to attract travellers from far and wide. The place is also the hub of Kathakali, classical art forms and Kalari-payattu, and is known for its fairs and festivals.

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Location Map

KONNI ELEPHANT CAMP



It is a place where one can play with the adorable giants of the forest. Konni Elephant Training Centre, situated 11 km from Pathanamthitta is a prominent elephant training camp in Kerala that attracts a large number of tourists throughout the year. Visitors can feed, ride and interact with the elephants here.

Lost, abandoned or hurt baby elephants are rescued from forests and brought to the training centre. Here they are housed in wooden cages called *aanakoodu*, nursed back to health, and trained by experienced mahouts. The existing *aanakoodu* was built in 1942 from a wood named kambakam.

Getting there: The nearest railway station is Chengannur, which is about 25 km away. The nearest airport, Trivandrum International Airport, is about 100 km away.



Location Map

ROCK-CUT CAVE TEMPLE



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The Rock-cut Cave temple at Pathanamthitta dates back to 8th century and is of great archaeological significance. Situated in Kaviyoor near Thiruvalla, the temple is now preserved as a monument by the Archaeological Department. The temple structure bears close resemblance to the Pallava style of architecture, and the stone engravings here are regarded as among the earliest specimens of stone sculptures in Kerala.

Getting there: The nearest railway station is Thiruvalla, located about 4 km away. The nearest airport, Cochin International Airport, is about 121 km away.



ARANMULA PARTHASARATHY TEMPLE



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Located 14 km from Pathanamthitta, Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple is a popular site visited by religious-minded tourists. It is said that the idol was brought here in a raft made with *aru* [six] pieces of *mula* [bamboo] which gave the town its name, 'Aranmula'. The temple exhibits fine murals belonging to the 18th century and is dedicated to the Hindu deity, Lord Krishna. Aranmula is also famous for its annual snake boat races held in the Pamba River.

Situated on the banks of the Pamba, the temple hosts some of the finest schools for traditional art forms like Kathakali, Kalaripayattu, classical dances and classical music. Visitors can stay here for long periods to get first-hand knowledge of these art forms that define Kerala.

Getting there: The nearest railway station, Chengannur, is about 11 km away. Trivandrum International Airport is the nearest airport located about 117 km away.



Location Map

PERUNTHENARUVI WATERFALLS



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Perunthenaruvi is a natural waterfall amidst a lush green environment with Western Ghats in the backdrop. Located in Vachoochira panchayat, 36 km from Pathanamthitta, Perunthenaruvi waterfall is a popular tourist attraction as it is easily accessible by road.

The water cascades down a rocky path into a ravine about 100 ft. deep, and the stream finally merges with the sacred Pamba River. The waterfall also offers trekking opportunities and is an ideal picnic spot for those who are looking for a relaxing getaway.

Getting there: The nearest railway station, Thiruvalla, is about 44 km away. Trivandrum International Airport, which is the nearest airport, is about 138 km away.



Location Map

NIRANAM CHURCH



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Niranam Church (**view video**) at Pathanamthitta is believed to have been built by St. Thomas, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ in 52 CE. Situated 12 km from Pathanamthitta town, the church is one of the oldest shrines in India. The present building, supposedly the fourth, was constructed in 1912 and was reinforced during 2000.

The main festival celebrated here is the Niranam Perunnal (feast) which draws in devotees from far and wide. The feast is dedicated to St. Thomas, who was the founder of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and the Apostle of India.

Niranam is also the birthplace of some poets and social reformers popularly known as the Karnassa Kavikal.

Getting there: The nearest railway station is Thiruvalla, about 10 km away. The nearest airport is Trivandrum International Airport, about 129 km away.



Location Map

ADAVI



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Adavi (**view video**) in Pathanamthitta is a spot famous for its picturesque forest patch. A plethora of eco-tourism packages are available here. Adavi is set on the banks of the Kallar, and has a 5 km stretch of river frontage. Water rides are offered at this place, including coracle rafting. The pristine green stretch, the placid, clear waters and the lush forest patch make for an ideal picnic spot in the lap of Nature. The best time to visit is the monsoon season.

Getting there: The nearest railway station Chengannur, is about 45 km away from Konni.

The nearest airport is Trivandrum International Airport, which is about 115 km away.



Location Map

KAKKI RESERVOIR



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Kakki Reservoir, located 62 km from Pathanamthitta, is part of the Sabarigiri Hydroelectric Project commissioned in 1966. The artificial lake here was created when Kakki and Anathode dams were built. It is constructed on one of the tributaries of Pamba, the Kakki tributary.

The reservoir is a popular tourist spot situated close to the Ranni reserve forest, where tigers, elephants and monkeys can be spotted. Visitors can also make use of the boating facilities on the lake.

Getting there: The nearest railway station is Chengannur, which is about 33 km away.

Trivandrum International Airport is the nearest airport and is about 113 km away.



Location Map

GAVI



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The landscape of Gavi (**view video**) comprises tropical forests, sprawling grasslands, and cardamom and tea plantations. The luscious greenery of this village makes it a desired destination for Nature lovers. The Kerala Forest Development Corporation's (KFDC) Gavi eco-tourism project with its planned adventure activities holds great promise to visitors.

Endangered species like the Nilgiri Tahr and Lion-tailed Macaque are often spotted in Gavi's forests. It is also a haven for bird watchers as more than 260 species of birds are found here, including Great Pied Hornbills, woodpeckers and kingfishers.

Trekking, boating and even tented accommodations are provided by the KFDC.

Getting there: The nearest railway station to Gavi is Kottayam, located about 114 km away.

The nearest airport is Madurai Airport in Tamil Nadu, which is about 140 km away and Cochin International Airport, which is about 190 km away.



Location Map

PANAYANNARKAVU



Panayannarkavu is in Parumala, a tiny village and island on the Pamba river in Pathanamthitta district in Kerala. Apart from its relaxed nature, the village is known for the Parumala Valiya Panayannarkavu Devi Temple. The deity is Goddess Bhadrakali. There is also a Siva temple on the premises. The temple walls feature murals depicting ancient stories from the Hindu epics.

Getting there: The nearest railway station is Chengannur, which is about 10 km away.
Trivandrum International Airport is the nearest airport and is about 126 km away.



Location Map

PARUMALA CHURCH



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The Malankara Orthodox Church at Parumala is famed for its legacy and attracts pilgrims from far and wide. One among the ancient churches in India, the Parumala Church is situated on the banks of the Pampa at Parumala. The Church contains the tomb of Saint Geevarghese Mar Gregorios, popularly known as Parumala Thirumeni. The *Ormaperunnal* [Commemoration Day] of Mar Gregorios Metropolitan is celebrated on the 1st and 2nd of November.

Getting there: The nearest railway station is Chengannur, which is about 10 km away.

Trivandrum International Airport is the nearest airport and is about 126 km away.

360° VIDEOS



Konni
Elephant Camp

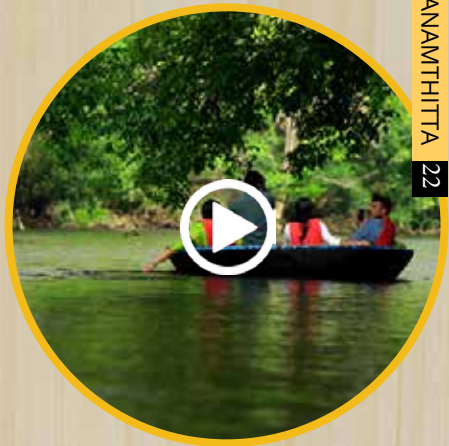
Perunthenaruvi
Waterfalls



VIDEO GALLERY



Niranam Church



Adavi



Visit Pathanamthitta



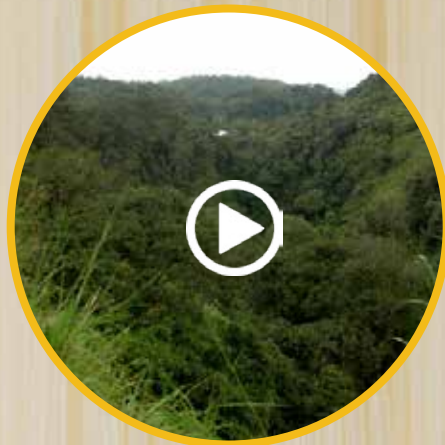
Heritage Village, Aranmula



Thiruvonathoni



Aranmula Vallasadya



Gavi Eco-tourism



Padayani



Sree Vallabha Temple



Sabarimala



Elanthoor Padayani

PHOTO GALLERY



Konni Elephant Camp



Aranmula Boat Race



Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple



Aranmula Kannadi



Niranam Church



Adavi



Gavi



Neelamperoor Padayani



Parumala Church



Rock-cut Cave Temple

THANK
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