



Lands of Majestic Treats

Thiruvananthapuram & Kollam



www.keralatourism.org

Tourist map of Thiruvananthapuram & Kollam



Thiruvananthapuram

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Explore a Luminous Past



- *Palayam junction, where a church, a temple and a mosque are located in the same area and a few feet apart, is a sign of a harmonious existence of different faiths*

Thiruvananthapuram, fondly called Trivandrum, is a place where the aspirations of many a common man has come true. It has remained the seat of power and come to be renowned for its illustrious institutions founded by visionaries. An exquisite landscape brimming with life and powerful histories, the capital city of Kerala, where the past is always alive in the grandeur of the architecture, enlivens you with new experiences. The city is a hub of creative and intellectual activities where artists at heart find a space to thrive. From the grand yet subtle splendour of palaces, to heritage sites and museums to the institutions, live entertainment spots and cafes which have mushroomed with the growth of the city's prestigious IT park, all that one needs here is an open mind and the zest to experience it.

THE BEACH EXPERIENCE

Sun and Sand for Every Vibe

Kovalam beach has remained Trivandrum's most popular tourist attraction right from the 70s. Between Trivandrum and Kollam lie a beach lover's paradise, with Poovar, Adimalathura, Varkala and Kappil, each offering its own sort of zen. The last two spots are an hour and a half away from the city.

While they may have had only cafes and resorts in the past, with a few water sports for the occasional visitor, today every one of the destinations bustles with its own specialties - from the array of seafood to professionally-run adventure sports companies, art & craft centres, and authentic Ayurvedic treatment centres, there's plenty for those who want more than to soak in the goodness of the salty sea.

Kovalam

Hawa or Eve's beach is a paradise for tourists who have found it to be the most charming of the three here

▶ ***Samudra Beach, one of the cleanest beaches in Kerala, is a favourite among surfers for its wave patterns***

Three beaches, each with its own charm, make this destination popular

Shaped like the crescent moon and shimmering in the sunshine, Kovalam introduces you to the most scenic and exuberant waters and vibrant colours. Stretched across 17 km of coastline, Lighthouse beach, Hawa beach and Samudra beach are separated by rocky cliffs, each showcasing a different view of the Arabian Sea.

A climb to the top of the lighthouse is worth it for the magnificent bird's eye view that it reveals of Kovalam beach.

Hawa or Eve's beach is a paradise for tourists who have found it to be the most charming of the three. If you want to spend the day lounging near the shoreline, sipping on drinks of your choice, from tea to tender coconut water, then Samudra beach is the place for you.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 12 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 13 km



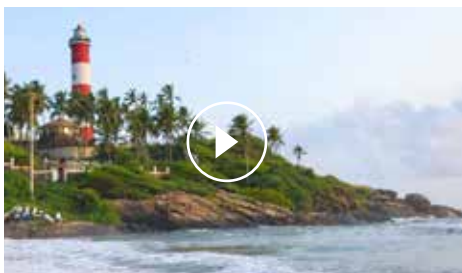
KSRTC Central Bus Station, Thampanoor, about 13 km



+91 471 2480085



No fixed timings



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Poovar

*Originally called 'Pokkumoosapuram',
Poovar was named so by Travancore king,
Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma*

► **Watch the Neyyar river empty itself into the Arabian Sea at the Poovar estuary, a rare sight**

An elephant-shaped rock, golden sands and mangrove canopies, Poovar is a gem

Poovar beach, which is 12 km away from Kovalam beach, is a hamlet of green wealth, an island of flowery waterbeds and golden sands.

To make the beach experience memorable, take the rare chance to swim across the lake to the sea, ideally after the monsoons.

Originally called 'Pokkumoosapuram', Poovar was named so by Travancore king, Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma.

Neyyar river holds Poovar island in its folds where it meets the Arabian Sea. Poovar is best known as a tourist destination today. Located on the southern tip of the state, it is relatively undisturbed and is a great choice for those who like solitude.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 27 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 28 km



KSRTC Central Bus Station, Thampanoor, about 28 km



+91 471 2480085



No fixed timings



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Adimalathura

*The serene village is crowned by the
Chowara hills in the north and
Karichal lake in the east*

► ***Adimalathura beach is where the life of the traditional coastal community thrives***

Spirituality meets nature's retreats at this coastal belt of southern Kerala

Sandwiched between the beaches of Poovar and Kovalam, the coastal belt of southern Kerala offers yet another visual spectacle of waters that blush in green. Literally meaning 'a shore over a hill beneath', Adimalathura beach is lined with green creepers, rocks and scattered pink flowers, the landscape adorned with chapels, roughly comprising 2km of land. Fascinatingly, it is situated on top of a submerged mountain in the Arabian Sea which is how it got its name.

One can watch the fisherfolk go about their lives, heading out to sea everyday for fresh catch. The quiet beach is slated to undergo a major transformation into an international tourist destination under the tourism department, Responsible Tourism Mission and local bodies.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 22 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 23 km



KSRTC Central Bus Station, Thampanoor, about 23 km



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No fixed timing



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Varkala

The beach attracts two types of crowds - the holidayers and those coming to perform the Shradh, or the last rites of their loved ones

▶ *The magnificent cliffs that form one side of the beach make Varkala unique*

Spiritual or fun, whatever the motive, Varkala never ceases to lift one's spirits

Varkala beach attracts two types of crowds - the holidayers and those coming to perform the Shradh, or the last rites of their loved ones. The beach originally became popular because of its natural springs believed to have medicinal qualities. The magnificent cliffs that form one side of the beach make Varkala unique.

Locally called Papanasam beach, it is of importance to Hindus as a place where the last rites are performed.

Varkala Cliff is a destination by itself, the edges of the cliff lined with cafes and homestays. Weekends are when the Cliff comes alive with lots of people flocking to the beach for a quick getaway. Parasailing, jetting and horse-riding are some of the adventure sports activities.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 44 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 41 km



KSRTC Central Bus Station, Thampanoor, about 44 km



+91 471 2315397



No fixed timing



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Kappil Beach

*The destination is also a popular spot
for adventure sports enthusiasts*



▶ *A walk through the coconut grove alongside the lagoon will be your best memory of Kappil Beach*

A drive-in beach running parallel to the backwaters is a perfect stopover on road trips

Spread across the outskirts of Trivandrum, Kappil Beach is a popular stopover destination where you can prominently feel the strong winds, the aura of the beach, and the sounds of gushing waves under the sunny sky.

A meeting place for the river and the sea, it is an 8km drive from Varkala Beach. Be sure to stop at the bridge overlooking the river for an amazing view. To the west lies the majestic Arabian Sea and to the east, the Edava Nadayara Kayal.

The Ayiroor River flows through Trivandrum district to unite with the estuary. It isn't everyday that one gets to see a confluence so close at hand. Kappil is a popular spot for adventure sports enthusiasts.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 50 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 47 km



KSRTC Central Bus Station, Thampanoor, about 50 km



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No fixed timing



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THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

Thiruvananthapuram | 11 ▲

A Treasure among the Western Ghats

Nestled in the elaborate terrain of the majestic Western Ghats forming a part of Thiruvananthapuram, lies one of the prominent biospheres of Kerala, the Agasthyamala Biosphere reserve. The reserve encompasses a number of sanctuaries of the district, and is home to diverse exotic flora and fauna. The tropical rainforest ecosystem constitutes an important bio-geographical 'hotspot' within the Western Ghats. The capital is also home to a unique genetic reservoir of a variety of plantations, endemic species of mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds. The two major wildlife sanctuaries are the Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary and the Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary which play a prominent role in preserving this ecological diversity. These biological resources are the main form of sustenance for a number of tribal settlements.

Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary

The sanctuary forms a part of Agasthyamala Biosphere reserve and is dominated by the tropical evergreen forests and Myristica swamps

► *Explore the splendour of nature that lies within the hills of Peppara*

The Fairyland of the Wild is home to a variety of endemic species like Nilgiri Langur, sunbird

With its crystal clear streams, canopied knolls and diverse flora and fauna, Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the most popular destinations among wildlife enthusiasts. The sanctuary was built in 1938. It was named after Peppara Dam, located about 50 kms from Thiruvananthapuram. The terrain is home to a variety of endemic species like the Sambar, Nilgiri Langur, Nilgiri Tahr, sloth bear, Asian elephant, lion-tailed macaque, leopard, barking deer, wild boar and rare birds like white-bellied treepie, Malabar Grey hornbill and the small sunbird. The sanctuary forms a part of Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve and is dominated by the tropical evergreen forests and Myristica swamps. The sanctuary offers one of the best trekking experiences of the capital city.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 37 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 40 km



KSRTC Central Bus Station, Thampanoor about 36 km



+91 471 2360762
+91 85476 02953



08:00 am to 05:00 pm



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Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary

Being a part of Agasthyamala Biosphere reserve, a view of the sanctuary can also be explored by trekking and engaging in a boat ride at the reservoir



Take a closer look at the wildlife and charms of nature

Take a walk into the wild, trek through the Agasthyamala biosphere

Traversing along the southeast corner of the Western Ghats, Neyyar Wildlife sanctuary is home to a substantial natural vegetation cover and a wide variety of fauna. The habitat includes Asian Elephant, tiger, leopard, Slender Loris and reptiles and amphibians like the King Cobra, Travancore Tortoise. The Crocodile Rehabilitation and Research Centre is home to around 20 mugger crocodiles. Similarly, rehabilitation centres for elephants and deers are also accommodated in the sanctuary to care for and preserve the delicate mammals. Being a part of Agasthyamala Biosphere reserve, the exotic view of the sanctuary can also be explored through numerous trekking trails and by engaging in a boat ride at the reservoir. A beautiful watchtower and a lion safari park are other attractions.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 29 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 34 km



KSRTC Central Bus Station, Thampanoor, about 29 km



+91 471 2360762
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Tuesday to Sunday:
09:00 am to 05:00 pm



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THE FUN EXPERIENCE

Thiruvananthapuram | 16

Fun, Laughter and Friendship

There is more to Trivandrum than shopping or visiting museums. There's plenty more fun activities that one can engage in for a change from the monotony of daily life. Visit Magic Planet, the world's first magic theme park that is all things magic including a haven for the talents of Indian street magicians and differently-abled magician children, founded by world-famous magician Gopinath Muthukad. There is also the zoo and Napier Museum apart from the tourist villages at Veli and Akkulam. For a breezy ride through the city while taking in the best views, opt for a KSRTC bus available exclusively for the purpose.

Thiruvananthapuram Zoo

*The highlight of this reptile house is the anacondas,
which were gifted by the Dehiwala Zoo
in Sri Lanka in 2017*

► ***The zoo is a favourite among families in the city to keep children engaged during the holidays***

The popular tourist spot has over the years, evolved into a space for conservation

Thiruvananthapuram Zoo can be best described as the most popular spot among the residents of Trivandrum. Spread over 55 acres, the zoo was created under the initiative of Maharaja Swathi Thirunal Rama Varma. It is one of the oldest zoos in the country and was opened in 1857. It is today home to various indigenous species of animals and birds. It has around 82 species of animals. The reptile house and snake farm has venomous and non-venomous snakes. The highlight of this reptile house are the anacondas, which were gifted by the Dehiwala Zoo in Sri Lanka in 2017. The whole area is surrounded by woodlands, lakes and lawns. Large crowds are witnessed during the holidays stretching from April to May. Make sure to carry an umbrella if you are visiting during the summer season.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 3 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 6 km



KSRTC Central Bus Station, Thampanoor, about 3 km



+91 471 231 6275
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Tuesday to Sunday:
09:00 am to 05:00 pm



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Veli Tourist Village

Overlooking the Arabian Sea, Veli Tourist Village stands magnificent on the banks of the Veli Lake, inviting tourists to have yet another divergent experience of the splendour of God's Own Country








► **Veli Tourist Village, a marvel at the bosom of water bodies, blended with the mellow touch of nature and art**

A miracle at the narrow estuary connecting Veli Lake and the Arabian Sea

Overlooking the Arabian Sea, Veli Tourist Village stands magnificent on the banks of the Veli Lake, inviting tourists to have yet another divergent experience of the splendour of God's Own Country. Veli Tourist Village only charges a nominal entry fee for tourists to enjoy this exotic tour in a steam engine. The floating restaurant with a wide variety of traditional Keralite dishes, mainly seafood, is one of the many attractions this tourist hub provides. The beautifully landscaped garden at the tourist village retains several massive stone sculptures by the renowned artist Kanayi Kunhiraman. Another major attraction is the floating bridge that connects the garden to the Veli beach. Horse riding at the beach and different types of boat rides at the lake add to the beauty of the tourist spot.

CONNECTIVITY

-  Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 9 km
-  Trivandrum International Airport, about 6 km
-  KSRTC Central Bus Station, Thampanoor, about 10 km
-  +91 471 2500785
-  10:00 am to 06:00 pm



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Magic Planet

From centuries-old charms to contemporary tricks, 'The Magic Gallery', the heart of the theme park, traces the history of magic in the most delightful manner, drawing upon a number of mediaeval accounts of magicians

► ***A novel chapter in the world of magic, Magic Planet continues to amaze people with the skills of its performers***

Fasten your seat belts and experience a full-on magical adventure here

Located at Kinfra Film and Video Park, Kazhakkootam, Magic Planet is the world's first magic theme park, showcasing the art in all its grandeur and versatility.

Magic Planet is home to hundreds of Indian street magicians, who never fail to amaze their audience with tricks like, 'The Indian Mango Mystery' and 'Indian Basket Trick', at the Street Magic Venue of this mystical fairyland. Magic Planet has a 'Fantasia Theatre', with high-end technologies, the 'Circus Castle', a perfect blend of acrobatics and magic, 'Start-Up Magic', a research and innovation hub for young magicians, 'Mpower', a venue for differently-abled children to display their creativity, 'Mazma', the traditional rope magic trick and several other attractions like 'Time Tunnel'.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 19 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 16 km



KSRTC Central Bus Station, Thampanoor, about 20 km



+91 471 2412811
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02:00 pm to 09:00 pm



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ECO-TOURISM EXPERIENCE

Thiruvananthapuram | 23

Stay Zestful, Stay Responsible

Kerala has been named one of the 'eco-tourism hot spots' from around the world in 2022. Recharismatic and invaluable assets managed by the city in South Kerala, call you to experience a bite from Kerala's astonishing natural habitat.

With a pass to ravish along a few bunches of spots, comes inalienable responsibility, as all these spaces are completely eco-friendly and monitored regularly. They offer various sightseeing, traditional backwater boating, mindful adventure sports or you can watch the tuskers, stroll around the butterfly park or engage in other recreational activities.

Unveil your day with a half an hour drive from the city hub to the suburbs that lets you experience Kerala in all its zeal and freshness.

Thenmala

The Thenmala eco-tourism project comprises exclusive packages. Activities in the adventure zone include mountain biking, rock climbing and river crossing

► ***Thenmala reveals a wild eco-system that offers many exciting options for visitors to explore and experience***

The Honey Hills where love for nature thrives is India's first planned eco-tourism destination

From the Mystirica Swamp Forest Patch along the outskirts of Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary where one sees the most vibrant exotic species of numerous butterflies, one can not help but stare in wonder at the inhabitants of this forest.

The Thenmala eco-tourism project comprises exclusive packages. Activities in the adventure zone include mountain biking, rock climbing and river crossing. The Deer Rehabilitation spot allows you to watch some of the protected deer like the Spotted deer and Sambar deer. Nakshathravanam harbours 27 trees named after 27 star signs, and the Leisure Zone contains a forest garden. Other attractions include a Children's Eco-park, Butterfly Safari, Boating and Musical Dance Fountain.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 71 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 74 km



KSRTC Bus Terminal, Thampanoor, about 71 km



+91 475 2344800
+91 475 2344855



09:00 am to 07:00 pm



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Thenmala

Kottur

The 56-km long Elephant Rehabilitation Centre shows the lives of these pachyderms in the wild

► *A jungle and a cruise through the Neyyar reservoir are fascinating experiences*

A long, rewarding drive into the world of elephants

Crowned by Neyyar reservoir, adjoining Kallar river is the quiet and pleasing landscape of Kottur, an Eden for tourists and nature lovers. A boating experience across the reservoir is amazing to say the least.

A drive of 33km from Thiruvananthapuram to Kottur will be the easiest escape into the wild. Cherish a stay at any of the six cottages. The Jungle Camp at Kappukadu will enrapture your senses as you hear the birds chirp and watch the elephants bathe in the morning. The 56km long Elephant Rehabilitation Centre shows the lives of these pachyderms in the wild.

Bamboo rafting, pedal boating and bowl boating are other attractions here.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 34 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 36 km



KSRTC Bus Terminal, Thampanoor, about 32 km



+91 85476 02960
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Tuesday to Sunday:
08:00 am to 05:00 pm



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SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

Thiruvananthapuram | 29 ▲

Devotion above all else

Kerala remains harmoniously secure in its inclusivity and celebration of faiths. It is also made alive through myths and exotic spiritual experiences as legends of sacrifice, faith in the supernatural and tales of divine intervention wander around the places of worship here.

The vigour of spirituality and the exuberance of nature are combined to weave soul-fulfilling and unforgettable moments, a pilgrimage drenched in faith and hope.

A day through these spiritual centres where wistful redemption and yearning for the fulfilment of desires resonate around the walls is a tour that should be made at least once in a lifetime.

Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple

*The temple is believed to be established on the
first day of Kali Yuga, over 5,000 years ago*

► **The idol of Sree Padmanabhaswamy is made up of 12,008 saligram stones collected from Gandaki river bed in Nepal**

Legends associated with the temple are preserved in palm leaves

A most revered shrine, the sanctum sanctorum is where Lord Padmanabha lies in majestic repose. It is a fascinating vision visible through three doors, it attracts people from all over the world. The temple is believed to be established on the first day of Kali Yuga, over 5,000 years ago. Padmanabhaswamy is considered the tutelary deity of the royal family. The 10 hymns composed by Nammalwar, a 9th century Vaishnavite poet in praise of Lord Padmanabha resonate across the corridors inside the temple as the innumerable pathways lead to the grand idol.

Legends associated with the temple are preserved in palm leaves and labyrinths protect the treasures which were given as offerings to Lord Padmanabha.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 1 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 4 km



KSRTC Bus Terminal, Thampanoor, about 1 km



+91 471 2464606
+91 93872 59877



03:30 am to 11:00 am &
05:00 pm to 07:20 pm



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Beemappalli Dargah Shareef

This spiritual centre also exists as a symbol of togetherness as it was designed and built by Hindus on the advice of the Rajah of Kodungalloor after he accepted a request by the King of Jeddah to build a Jama Masjid

► *The wells inside the mosque have cold and hot water, which is believed to possess medicinal properties*

A mosque raised on the pillars of faith and integrity, immersed in prayers

A tomb in a mosque reminds us of the fragility of life and the sheer inevitability of death where the search for peace never ends. It is what makes Beemappalli Dargah a space which draws hundreds of devotees together to pray, and heal with a renewed sense of faith.

Syedunnisa Beema Beevi and her son Sayyidussaheed Maheen Aboobacker, believed to be descendants from the lineage of the Prophet Mohammad, are buried here. A tomb was created for Beema Beevi who possessed divine powers, in order to commemorate her efforts of spreading the tenets of Islam in Southern Kerala. This spiritual centre also exists as a symbol of togetherness as it was designed and built by Hindus on the advice of the Rajah of Kodungalloor.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 5 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 6 km



KSRTC Bus Terminal, Thampanoor, about 6 km



+91 94978 10379
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06:00 am to 09:00 pm



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Vettukad Church

The Feast of Christ the King celebrations lasts for 10 days with rituals and grand processions where thousands of devotees gather in prayer








► **The chapel in front of Vettukad Church also serves as a horegallu where devotees can rest**

A Church built on the revered annals of Christianity in Kerala

A church for the Mother of God where a feast for the Christ takes place, Madre de Deus Church in Vettukad is where the Mother of God has been consecrated in a splendid blend of divinity and celebration of love. Five hundred years before, the region where hundreds were first evangelized by St. Francis Xavier is now a hub of Christian parishes. First constructed in 1937, the church was renovated in 2018 in its grand style of architecture with interiors to match.

Resembling the marvellous blend of antique and modern designs, the church reminds us of one of the classic styles of European buildings. The picturesque background where the church faces the sea and the shore gives the final touch of a pilgrimage in God's own country.

CONNECTIVITY

-  Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 7 km
-  Trivandrum International Airport, about 4 km
-  KSRTC Bus Terminal, Thampanoor, about 8 km
-  +91 471 2500143
-  07:00 am to 10:00 pm



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HERITAGE EXPERIENCE

Thiruvananthapuram | 36 ▶

Symbols of a Royal Past, but very much part of the present

The rich past of Southern Kerala is revealed in the mighty monuments and palaces that stand as a testament to the times. While there is never a dull moment around Napier Museum, located in the city centre, amidst the crowds that come to walk through the landscaped gardens around it, the grand Kuthiramalika and Padmanabhapuram palaces, are visited by tourists. Today, the iconic Kanakakunnu Palace, within walking distance of Napier Museum, is a venue for classical dance and music performances and literary events, allowing the public access through corridors once reserved exclusively for royalty and their guests.

Napier Museum

The museum houses close to 550 royal, historic and cultural artefacts including bronze idols, a temple chariot, and Japanese shadow-play leather

► *The park around the museum is a popular site among visitors for photography*

The past is preserved in the museum around which daily life carries on everyday

Established in 1885, the Napier Museum shares its premises with the Natural History Museum and the zoological park, all in over 55 acres of land, which also includes children's parks, a zoo and an art gallery. The evening sees strollers sitting in the breeze, listening to the music playing on All India Radio through the park.

Inside the museum is a whole other world, with close to 550 royal, historic and cultural artefacts including bronze idols, a temple chariot, and Japanese shadow-play leather. Named after the former Madras Governor General John Napier, it is also known as the Government Art Museum. Kerala, Indian, Mughal and Chinese styles of architecture are visible in the design of Napier Museum.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 3 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 6 km



KSRTC Bus Terminal, Thampanoor, about 3 km



+91 471 2316275
+91 94470 16828



10:00 am to 05:00 pm
Wednesday: 01:00 pm to 05:00 pm
Monday closed



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Kuthiramalika Palace

The palace remains a significant edifice that hosted the secrets of an empire and continues to fascinate tourists from all over the world

► **Kuthiramalika (Puthenmalika) palace is the place from where songs praising Lord Padmanabha were written**

An architectural treasury of fascinating antiques

A visit to Kuthiramalika Palace is recommended to understand Kerala architecture in all its splendour. The palace is made of priceless wood like teakwood and rosewood, supported by 42 beams and grand granite pillars. The palace remains a significant edifice that hosted the secrets of an empire and continues to fascinate tourists from all over the world.

The antique collection include marble sculptures, Kathakali mannequins, Belgium mirrors, crystal and ivory thrones, Bohemian chandeliers, oil paintings of rulers and much more. The legendary tales praising the intricacies behind the construction of the palace are many. They hail the dedication of 5,000 Vishwakarmas who made the palace a reality in four years.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 1 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 4 km



KSRTC Bus Terminal, Thampanoor, about 2 km



+91 471 2473952



Tuesday to Sunday:
09:00 am to 05:00 pm



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Padmanabhapuram Palace

Hailed as the largest wooden palace in Asia, the complex is a harmonious blend of imposing edifices, intricate woodwork and impeccable craftsmanship of the era

► ***The beauty of Padmanabhapuram Palace is a testament to the resilience and might of our ancestors***

The quintessential monument of the Travancore dynasty

Padmanabhapuram Palace, also known as Kalkulam Palace, is an indigenous masterpiece of Kerala architecture spanning an area of 6.5 acres encompassing more than 15 distinctive structures.

Hailed as the largest wooden palace in Asia, the complex is a harmonious blend of imposing edifices, intricate woodwork and impeccable craftsmanship of the era. The mahogany musical bow, the intricate rose carvings, the great Thai Kottaram, the palace clock tower, windows of coloured mica, are only a few of the splendid sights of the palace. Visitors from all around the world marvel at this beauty which dates back to 1,601 C.E. and experience the unique mysticism of history enmeshed within its walls.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 52 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 61 km



KSRTC Bus Terminal, Thampanoor, about 52 km



+91 4651 250255



Tuesday to Sunday:
09:00 am to 04:30 pm



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HILL STATION EXPERIENCE

Thiruvananthapuram | 43 ▶

Let The Misty Hills Win You Over

Experience a slice of the majestic blanket of the Western Ghats lining Kerala's southern region. It is the perfect weekend getaway for those who need to refresh after working in high-stress environments. The change in environment is immediately visible as the first view of the misty hills and waterfalls emerge, making the journey progressively more exciting.

Acclaimed as the Kashmir of Kerala, stowed away from the city buzz, the Ponmudi Hills that crown the city of the South, is nature's best gift to Trivandrum. With the fascinating Kallar river flowing parallel to the winding mountains, there are beautiful trails and tribal hamlets to explore while here.

Ponmudi

A drive from the heart of the city will take you to the suburbs, away from the relentless sounds and artificial lights to the world of nature's wonders

► ***The drive up to Ponmudi reveals the grand mountains and what the visitors are in for at the misty peak***

The misty hills are a gateway from Western Ghats to the exquisite stretch of Nilgiri Hills

A popular tourist spot, these mountain tops of Kerala which stand in the backdrop of the gurgling Kallada river, along with the tumult of the playful Meenmutty Waterfalls, are a visual treat, just an hour away from the capital city. The beauty of the Western Ghats is vividly present across these sprawling misty hills, which is also a popular choice for couples as a romantic destination.

A one-and-a-half hour drive from the heart of the city will take you to the suburbs of Vithura town, away from the relentless sounds and artificial lights to the world of nature's wonders. The hills are also saviours for rare species of flora and fauna. Stand by the road in between the serene gushing waters and the mighty green hills to get the best of both views.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 56 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 59 km



KSRTC Bus Terminal, Thampanoor, about 56 km



+91 471 2529169
+91 472 2842122



08:00 am to 04:00 pm

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Ponmudi

Kollam



Where Legacy Meets Beauty

Kollam, the gateway to the beautiful backwaters of Kerala, is an exquisite blend of scenery, tradition and hospitality. Referred to as the dreamland of Kerala, it is the leader in cashew trading and processing of the country. The city, being one of the oldest ports of the Malabar coast, traces its significance to ancient times. It is famous for its backwaters and unique blend of extensive biodiversity. Kollam is also home to a number of architectural relics of the past including temples and mosques built in the traditional ornate style. Once known as Quilon, Kollam hosts a number of attractions including the Ashtamudi lake, Jatayu Park, Palaruvi waterfalls, scenic islands and beaches and much more, making it one of most sought-after tourist destinations of Kerala. A relaxing cruise along the picturesque backwaters, local cuisine of exquisite seafood and the hospitality of the natives gives you an unforgettable experience.

Jatayu Earth Centre

Chadayamangalam was known as Jatayumangalam, with rocks in the area bearing carvings said to be beak marks of Jatayu and footprints belonging to Lord Rama

► **The first ever BOT tourism model of the state, it is a theme park and tourism centre**

Demi-god Jatayu is said to have fallen upon Chadayamangalam as he tried to save Sita

Jatayu Earth Centre, also known as Jatayu Nature Park or Jatayu Rock, the first-ever BOT tourism model of the state, is a theme park and tourism centre reigning at an altitude of 1,200 ft above sea level. Spanning 65 acres across four hills, it is home to the world's largest bird sculpture, Jatayu, making it hard to miss even from as far as Chadayamangalam as one approaches the capital city.

Myriad experiences await the traveller upon reaching the hilltop at Jatayu Park in a cable car, including the audio-visual museum and a 6D theatre inside the sculpture. The Burma bridges, commando nets, log walks, vertical ladder, chimney climbing, archery, zip-lining, rifle shooting and side jhoola are sure to give one an adrenaline rush.

CONNECTIVITY



Thiruvananthapuram Central, about 50 km



Trivandrum International Airport, about 52 km



KSRTC Bus Terminal, Thampanoor, about 50 km



+91 97784 14178



10:00 am to 05:30 pm



Munroe Thuruth

The narrow waterways, canal cruise, and the lively village life offers the traveller a unique experience while gliding through the tranquil backwaters

► *The lush green mangroves amidst the pristine waters of Ashtamudi*

The green paradise of tranquility amidst the placid waters

A trip to the backwaters of Kollam reveals an emerald stretch of eight islets, Munroe Thuruth or Mundrothuruthu at the confluence of Ashtamudi Lake and the Kallada river, hosting a diverse range of flora and fauna. The surreal view of lush mangroves adorning the stretch of waters, the serene pace of rural life, coir making, homely cuisine, fishing and much more make this place an unmissable experience.

The narrow waterways, canal cruise, and the lively village life offer the traveller a unique experience while gliding through the tranquil backwaters. One can marvel at the rustic architectural relics of the island including the Dutch church, one of the ancient churches of Kerala. The island is a hotspot for migratory birds.

CONNECTIVITY



Kollam Railway Station,
about 16 km



Trivandrum International
Airport, about 81 km



Kollam KSRTC Bus Station,
about 15 km



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Sambrani Kodi

During the ancient times, when small ships from China were said to be anchored along this coast, natives referred to these ships as 'chambrani', from which it derives the name

► **Tourists flock to Sambrani Kodi for a cruise along the lagoon**

The serene island is a chance to experience village life amidst a marine ecosystem

This charming island situated at the Southern tip of Ashtamudi Lake invites every traveller to a first-hand experience of the waterways adorned with lush mangroves. During the ancient times, when small ships from China were said to be anchored along this coast, natives referred to these ships as 'chambrani', from which it derives the name.

One of the enchanting spots of the island is where pearl spots, clams and mussels grow in abundance. Nine rare varieties of mangroves are here. Travellers can also ride cross the shallow waters, engage in fishing and experience village life in the marine ecosystem.

CONNECTIVITY



Kollam Railway Station,
about 14 km



Trivandrum International
Airport, about 75 km



Kollam KSRTC Bus Station,
about 13 km



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10:00 am to 05:00 pm



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Sambrani Kodi

Ashtamudi Lake

The panoramic beauty of coconut groves and palm trees surrounding the entire vicinity of the lake laid with Chinese fishing nets makes it a beautiful sight to behold

► *Ashtamudi is home to mangroves and islands, its topography unique by itself*

Eco-friendly options make naturally endowed Ashtamudi lake a popular destination

With a unique wetland ecosystem and a large palm-shaped water body, Ashtamudi lake is the second largest estuary ecosystem of the state. The lake's topography with its multiple branches resembles eight braids, hence 'Ashta', meaning eight, and 'mudi', for hair.

The panoramic beauty of coconut grooves and palm trees surrounding the entire vicinity of the lake laid with Chinese fishing nets makes it a beautiful sight to behold. The estuary is home to 43 variant species of mangroves. The three major recognised islands of Ashtamudi are Munroe Island, Thekkumbhagom island and Chavara island. A choice of houseboat rentals, lake resorts and a host of eco-friendly initiatives make it one of the most popular tourist destinations.

CONNECTIVITY



Kollam Railway Station,
about 15 km



Trivandrum International
Airport, about 81 km



Kollam KSRTC Bus Station,
about 14 km



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No fixed timing



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Thangassery Fort

The imposing structure, at 20 ft, was built entirely on sandstones and lime mortar with eight fortresses and vast corridors, though only a part of it remains at present

► *Testimony to a brave past*

History sleeps within the ruins of this legendary fort

Built in 1519 CE by the Portuguese, the historic fort of Thangassery, also known as St. Thomas fort, holds a riveting tale of inception and its many battles. The coastal defence structure was built on the shores of the Arabian Sea initially with three towers and four bastions to equip all the artillery requirements needed then.

According to historians, the fort was built for the protection of the Chinese trade of the first millennium, later becoming a historical landmark. The imposing structure, at 20ft, was built entirely on sandstones and lime mortar with eight fortresses and vast corridors, though only a part of it remains to date. The arched gateway and the ancient fort wall along with the remains of the towers is now managed by Archaeological Survey of India.

CONNECTIVITY



Kollam Railway Station,
about 3 km



Trivandrum International
Airport, about 68 km



Kollam KSRTC Bus Station,
about 3 km



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No fixed timings



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