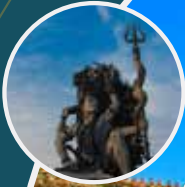


THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A tropical paradise



God's Own Country
www.keralatourism.org



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Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala, blushes in regal splendour. Such is the historic legacy that the moment you enter this district, you are transported to the age of the kings and the conquerors. With ancient palaces, royal complexes, museums and forts, Thiruvananthapuram bathes in the glory of the yesteryears. This city has everything a traveller needs. You can either walk along the royal corridors and experience the royal charm or tread through the rich natural bounties of nature. Endowed with a wide variety of flora and fauna, wildlife, beaches, mountains and backwaters, one would never be short of any activity to indulge in while being here. To be in the royal city is to be in a space and time that serenades one into a state of bliss and contentment. Life flows at a surreal pace here. Come and experience the multitude of adventures in store for you!



Kovalam



Several decades ago, back in the 70s, a serene beach in Thiruvananthapuram shot to fame. It became a stopover in the hippie trail from Goa to Sri Lanka and has never been the same. Over the years the beach became more of an emotion and firmly placed itself on the global tourism map. With its palm-fronted beaches, shimmering sands and a blend of unique cultural and adventurous experiences, it is one of the much-loved beaches in Kerala. This is Kovalam.

Life begins with a surreal vibrance at Kovalam. Whether you choose to laze away with your favourite drink and stare into the horizon amid fishing activities, to scuttle through the alleyways experiencing the myriad cultures or get adventurous by indulging in some sporty activities, Kovalam is a melting pot of experiences waiting to be explored by the traveller.



A beach lover's paradise, Kovalam is a small coastal town in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of Kerala. With its three crescent-shaped beaches and the cultural, heritage, wellness, zen and adventure sports experiences, Kovalam is the ideal destination to enjoy one's vacation.

Kovalam is formed of three beaches viz. the Hawa Beach or Eve's beach; Grove's Beach (Samudra Beach), which is also called Kovalam Beach, and the Light House Beach. The lighthouse beach is famed for its towering lighthouse which offers the best vantage point view of the coastline in southern Kerala.

The range of experiences includes sunbathing, surfing, swimming, catamaran cruise, boating, scuba diving, parasailing along with getting in touch with one's inner self by indulging in yoga or Ayurveda therapy. You can also visit the fishing hamlets to experience local life.





Ideal time to visit

November to February



Connectivity

Nearest railway station:

Thiruvananthapuram Central,
about 16 km away.

Nearest airport: Trivandrum
International Airport is about
10 km away.

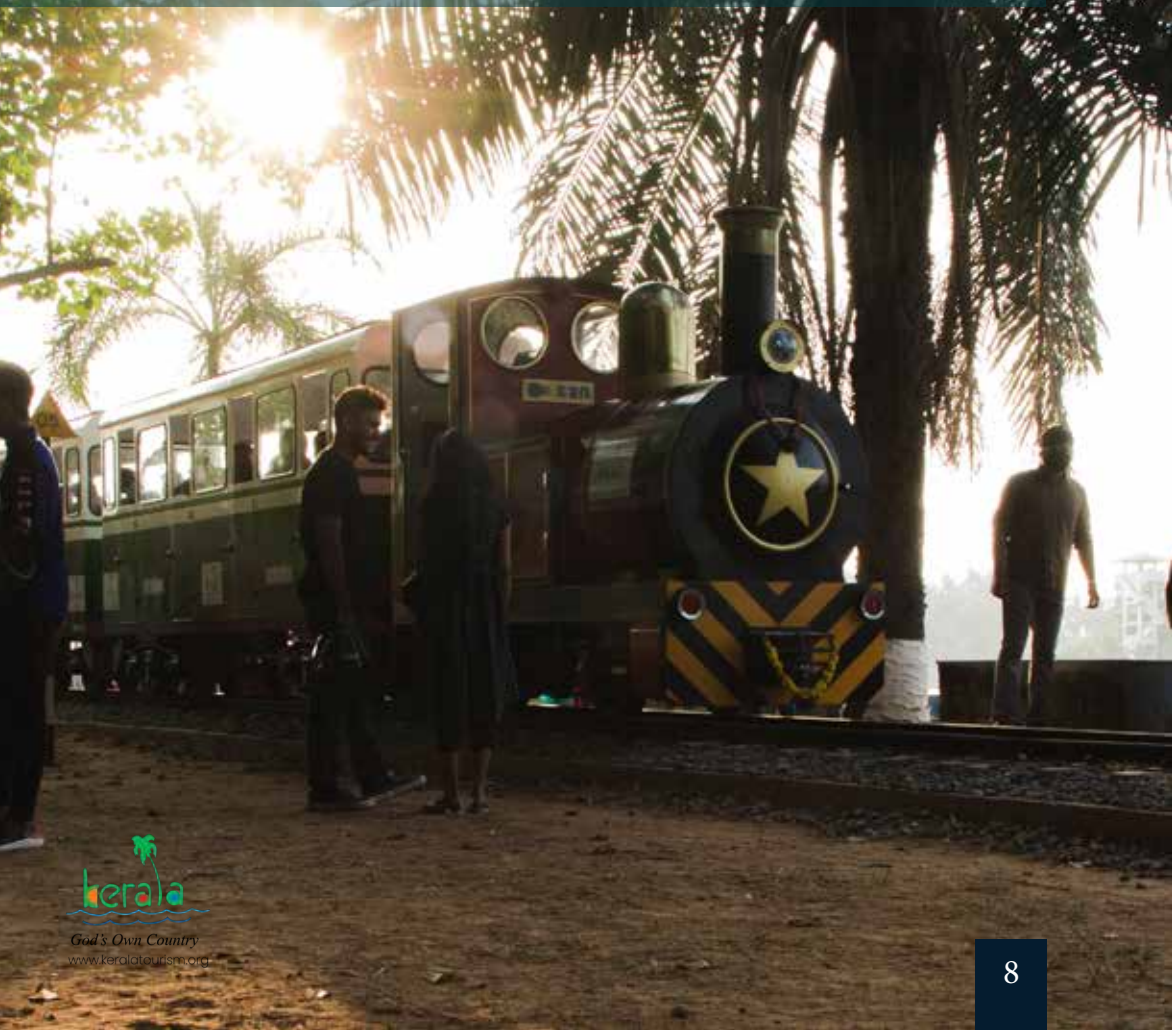


Activities

Surfing, sunbathing, swimming,
snorkeling, catamaran
cruise, boating, scuba diving,
parasailing, yoga, ayurveda and
holistic therapy.



Veli Tourist Village





Ever travelled like a child? The vintage steam engine has always been romanticized by all generations with the steam spewing from it as it chugs along in its own gentle rhythm. Well, you may not get your fire-breathing steam engine but you will surely get to experience its vintage charm. At the Veli Tourist Village, one gets to hop onto a mini-train modelled in the form of a vintage steam engine, experience the steam gushing out of the toy train as one enjoys the joy ride in the scenic surrounds of Veli. As you trundle along the lush surrounds of Veli, feel the wind in your face and meet the child in you.

A day full of fun and frolic, that's what the Veli Tourist Village will do for you. There is never a dull moment here with it being one of the go-to picnic spots in the city. Be it lazing away on the golden sands and watching the sun dip into the horizon or pedaling through the placid waters of the lake, Veli Tourist Village has everything to satiate the wanderlust in you.



The village lies where the Veli Lake meets the Arabian Sea. Marvel at the sculptures or, better, indulge in the many recreational activities on offer at the tourist village. Plenty of boating opportunities await travellers here. The well-equipped Children's Park offers plenty of exciting rides for kids. Alternately, one can enjoy the sights and sounds of Veli ensconced in the mini train as it chugs through the village. And finally, wind up your journey at the floating restaurant and enjoy your meal, all buoyed up in the quiet waters of the lake. The Veli Tourist Village is indeed your ideal escape from the humdrum of the city.





Ideal time to visit

All-year destination



Connectivity

Nearest railway station:

Thiruvananthapuram Central,
about 8 km away.

Nearest airport:

Thiruvananthapuram
International Airport, about 7 km
away.

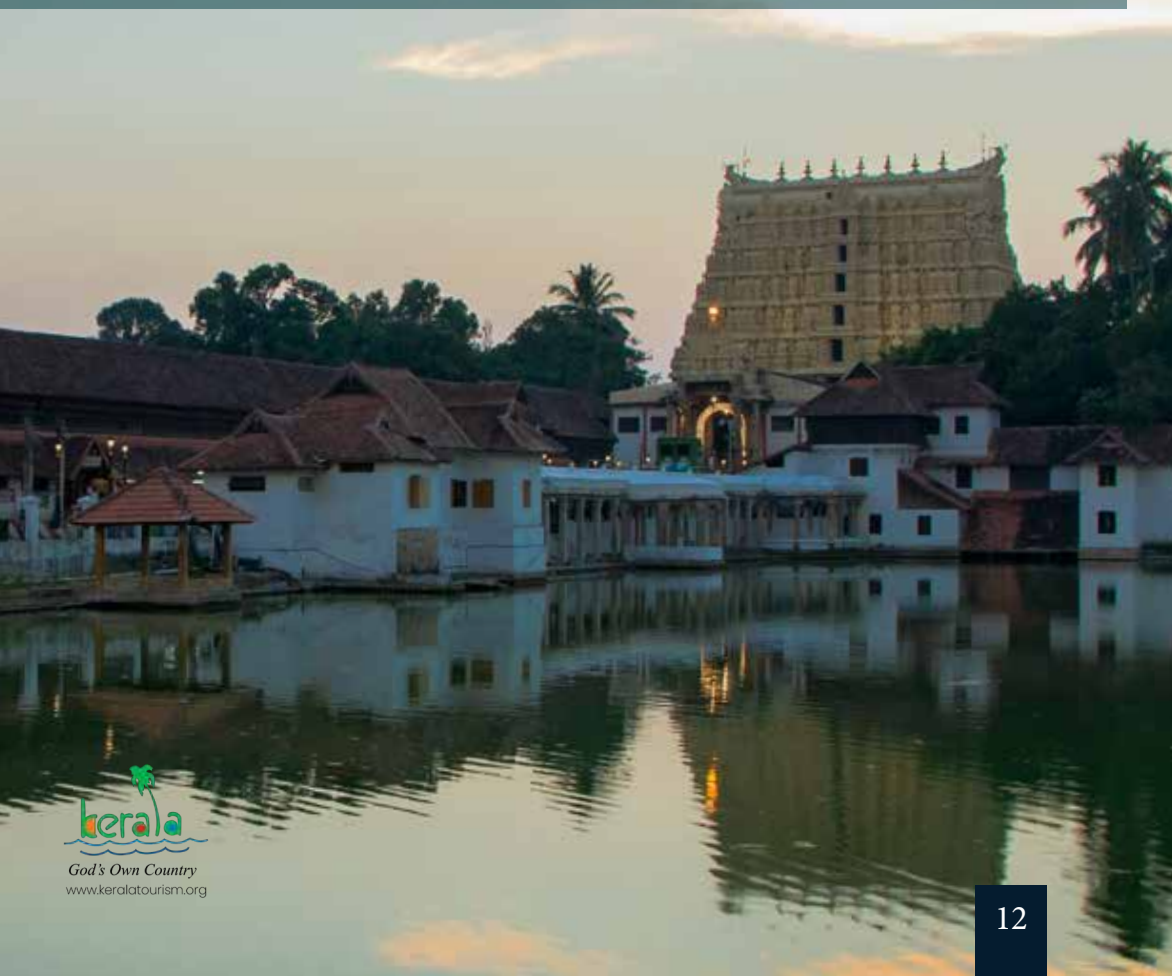


Activities

Boating, mini-train ride, park
and amusement rides



Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple





The wealthiest temple in the whole world, where gemstones, coins and other treasures to the tune of trillions of dollars lie in the vaults. One of the ancient temples in the state, the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple which blends the Chera and Dravidian styles of architecture evokes a sense of wonderment among anyone with a penchant for history and lores. The temple rose to fame in the global media after the wealth was discovered in its secret vaults. The treasure has been inventoried and still remains secured in its vaults, hidden from public view.

Located inside the magnificent fort complex in Thiruvananthapuram, the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The temple's history dates back to the 8th century and is one of the 108 sacred Vishnu temples in India. The presiding deity of this temple is Lord Vishnu, reclining on Anantha, the hooded Serpent.



The chamber where the presiding deity is kept is an architectural marvel. Devotees throng the area near the sanctum sanctorum to catch a glimpse of their deity. The idol is about 18 ft long and can be viewed through three different doors. While the head and chest are seen through the first door; the hands can be observed through the second and the feet through the third. The aesthetics and the architecture behind this are often lauded by visitors. Beautiful paintings, intricate wooden work and murals adorn the interiors of the temple. The heavily ornate structures in the temple speak volumes about the stellar art and craftsmanship in the olden days.





Highly revered by the pious, this temple is famous for the festivals that date back to ages. Devotees and travellers flock to the temple during the time of the *Alpasi* and *Painkuni* festivals which see magnificent rituals and traditions in all its splendour. To experience the old-world charm of the temple architecture and piety, there is no other place than the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple.





Ideal time to visit

All-year destination



Connectivity

Nearest bus/railway stations:

Thiruvananthapuram Central,
about 1 km away.

Nearest airport:

Thiruvananthapuram
International Airport, about 6 km.
away.



Activities

Temple visit, culture & heritage
trail and shopping



NOT TAKE PHOTOGRAPH
OUT OF THESE MODELS

Sunil's Wax Museum

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in the first c
because ev
successful
Maths start
'zero' only"

-APJ ABDU

15 OCTOBER 1931



It is Kerala's own Madame Tussauds. The first-ever wax museum in Kerala, Sunil's Wax Museum is your answer for that big celebrity moment you will have in your life. Gloriously sculpted wax statues that ooze life stand in all its splendour at the museum. Be it capturing that exclusive shot with great rulers, freedom fighters or celebrities, Sunil's Wax Museum has you covered. These life-like and life-size wax models include rulers, leaders, freedom fighters, soldiers, sportsmen, politicians and film stars.

The museum features the work of the wax sculptor Sunil Kandallloor. The artist, who holds a diploma in fine art, started his journey in the art of sculpting after being intrigued by the wax figures of Carl Lewis and Fidel Castro which he chanced upon in a magazine. The self-taught artist now has two such magnificent museums in the



country which features wax figurines that could give Madame Tussauds a run for their money. It is interesting to note that each figure consists of six pieces that can be easily dismantled and reassembled. Original hair is used on the wax figures and great emphasis is given to each and every aspect of the wax model.

Great care goes into capturing the right expression, ensuring each feature and gesture of the wax figurine stays true to the individual. If you are travelling to Thiruvananthapuram, this place shouldn't be given a miss. Capture that perfect shot with your favourite personality!





Ideal time to visit

All-year destination



Connectivity

Nearest railway station:

Thiruvananthapuram Central,
about 1.1 km away.

Nearest airport:

Thiruvananthapuram International
Airport is about 4 km away.



Activities

Museum visit, culture & heritage
trail and shopping



Elephant Rehabilitation Centre, Kappukadu





Life here is jumbo-sized. For the pachyderm inmates at the Elephant Rehabilitation Centre, Kappukadu, a normal day begins with immense pampering, long walks in the woods and indulging in playful fun with each other. The rehabilitation centre, which is located in the Agasthyavanam Biological Park (ABP) Range, lets a traveller experience wilderness like no other, in the company of elephants!

A rehabilitation centre modelled as close to the wild as it can be, the facility takes care of baby elephants as well as elephants in their old age. At this one-of-a-kind elephant rehabilitation centre, the focus has always been on creating a space that is in line with the needs of the pachyderms. The centre has open enclosures, and elephants are taken for walks in the reserve forest under the ABP.



At the centre, travellers can watch and experience the pachyderms up close. If one were to walk in during the morning hours, one can watch elephants getting fed as well as given a bath in the nearby river. One can also indulge in boating in the lake inside the facility. Coracle rafting or bamboo rafting is also available for travellers. For birders, the woods offer immense birdwatching opportunities. Accommodation inside the campus can be availed by travellers. Treks can also be undertaken with prior permission from the forest officials. The children's park offers a dedicated play area for kids. Nature camps are conducted here for students along with plenty of programmes to familiarise them with the wild. In all, a visit to the Elephant Rehabilitation Centre, Kappukadu promises you the trip of your lifetime! Come, indulge in the wilderness!





Ideal time to visit

All-year destination



Connectivity

Nearest railway station:

Thiruvananthapuram Central,
about 35 km away.

Nearest airport:

Thiruvananthapuram International
Airport, about 40 km away.



Activities

Boating, Trekking, Hiking,
Wildlife



Museum of the Word





Ever seen a collection of around 300 Bibles in different languages? Or handwritten Bibles scripted in vellum or a stellar replica of the metallic Bible used by royal families? Here is a chance to see all of them! At first, it is the Tree of Knowledge that greets you. And then as the place unravels itself, you get introduced to imposing models of the Garden of Eden, Babel Tower, inscriptions of the Ten Commandments and so on. In the sleepy little hamlet of Vembayam there is a treasure trove waiting to be explored. The 'MUSEUM OF THE WORD' narrates the tales of the Bible and traces the evolution and progress of mankind from the beginning.

A cluster of Museums, the Museum of the Word is home to five different theme-based Museums. The museum has been envisioned to quench the thirst for knowledge of theology enthusiasts, history buffs, and educationalists.



The International Bible Museum is one of the highlights here with its rich repository of knowledge. Any query one has regarding the Bible is answered through informational charts, Bible timelines, commentaries from famous theologians and so on. The Torah scrolls, a model of Gutenberg Press, and the Menorahs [seven-branched ancient Hebrew lampstand] on display are other intriguing models to watch out for.

The numismatic and philatelic galleries, artefacts and other memorabilia at the Museum take one on an interesting journey. The International Philatelic Museum showcases the rarest stamps from more than 200 countries. The Numismatic Museum also has a vibrant and extensive collection of currencies, coins, and tokens from different times.





Meanwhile, the finest of crosses such as the St Thomas Cross, Persian Cross, nail cross, and ornamental cross are displayed at the International Crosses Museum. Be awed by what can be described as the largest painting of the 'Last Supper' in Asia in the International Picture Gallery. The scenes from the Old Testament and New Testament are also depicted at the museum along with fossils from the Holy Land.

To learn the narratives in the Bible, there is no other place to be in other than the MUSEUM OF THE WORD, a haven for the seekers of knowledge.





Ideal time to visit

All-year destination



Connectivity

Nearest railway station:

Thiruvananthapuram Central,
about 19 km away.

Nearest airport:

Thiruvananthapuram International
Airport is about 22 km away.



Activities

Museum tour





Poovar



An unspoilt green labyrinth ready to be explored endlessly – that's what Poovar is for you. A picturesque, secluded spot with gorgeous backwater stretches, Poovar is a small coastal village in Thiruvananthapuram that offers plenty of recreational activities. As you cruise across the gentle backwaters in a houseboat, be awed by the tranquil pace of life at the village or focus on the birds of varied plumage vying for your attention at the mangroves. Or better still, laze away in the canoe and let the waters rock you as you watch the sun take a dip in the horizon.

Once here, the rewards are manifold for a traveller. You get to experience the Poovar Lake, Neyyar River, Arabian Sea and the golden sandy beach in all its glory. A haven of biodiversity, Poovar is also a much sought-after locale by birders for birdwatching.



Sunrise and sunsets at Poovar are quite famous and the best way to experience them is by drifting across the azure blue waters. Plenty of boating options are available for the traveller here and if one needs to try their hands at traditional fishing techniques or other indigenous art and craft making, one needs to just seek the help of a local village person. If you are a beach bum, you can opt to explore the sandy beach which is known for its serene, solitary stretch.

To experience the surreal pace of life and its quietude, head to Poovar.





Ideal time to visit

All-year destination



Connectivity

Nearest railway station:

Thiruvananthapuram, about 23 km away.

Nearest airport:

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, about 25 km away.



Activities

Boating, beach tour, sunbathing, swimming, fishing, village tour and shopping



Shanghumugham Beach





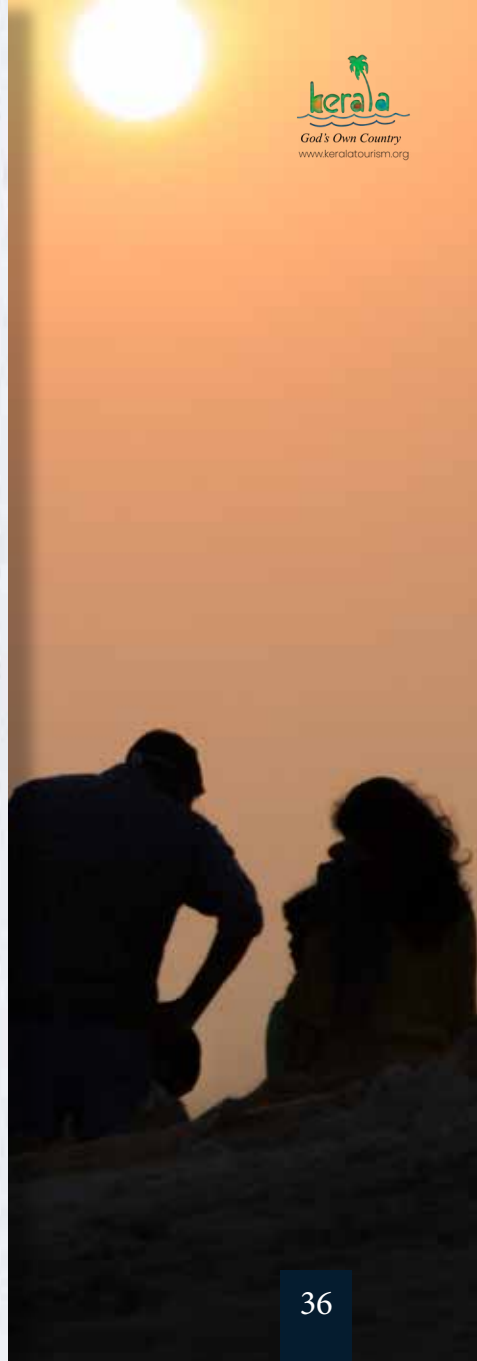
Noted for its relaxed surrounds and its imposing stone sculptures, Shanghumugham is that favourite beach destination in the city which offers a carnival of fun for all. Famous for its glorious sunsets, serene surrounds, golden sun-kissed sands and uninterrupted fun elements, Shanghumugham is where you can build all your sandcastles or fly your kite in abandon.

This favourite haunt of locals and travellers alike is noted for the magnificent sculptures that add a special drama to the beach. Matsyakanyaka or Jalakanyaka, a gigantic, 35-m long sculpture of a reclining mermaid which appears to have risen from the sea only to spend some time lazing away on the beach, is an iconic structure that continues to induce a sense of awe and wonderment among visitors. According to its sculptor Kanayi Kunhiraman, the mermaid is a tribute to the sea.



The beach is also noted for the Chacha Nehru Traffic Training Park, a training park-cum-recreational centre where children can pedal away and learn the traffic rules as well. The beach is also a spot favoured by the locals to watch the sunset.

History sleeps here, in the form of an ancient historic stone structure called the *Arattu Mandapam*, which is used for the arattu (ceremonial bath) of Lord Ananthapadmanabha of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in East Fort. The beach wears a festive look and is a significant spot for rituals and traditions during the time of the temple festivals.





Ideal time to visit

All-year destination



Connectivity

Nearest railway station:

Thiruvananthapuram Central,
about 7 km away.

Nearest airport: Trivandrum
International Airport is a short
drive away.



Activities

Sunbathing, swimming, beach
tour, amusement rides, culture
trail, spiritual tour and children's
park



Neyyar Dam and Park



Be it gliding across the waters of Neyyar watching the 'wild life' unfold on the shores, or lazing away in the park and experiencing moments of tranquillity or merging with the lush surrounds and staying still as you watch the mighty king of the jungle, the Neyyar Dam and Park offers an experience that can leave an indelible mark on any traveller.

Here, you experience the wilderness like no other. The Neyyar Dam is a picturesque picnic spot that is frequented by locals and travellers alike. It is part of the Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary, a verdant oasis, which boasts of a lush 12,000 hectares of natural vegetation. The rich flora and fauna of the sanctuary along with the many trekking trails is any nature enthusiast's dream come true.



The Watch Tower, Deer Park, Lion Safari Park and Crocodile Rehabilitation and Research Centre at Neyyar offer a wholesome travel experience replete with fun and blissful moments. At the reservoir, one may avail of the boating facilities where you can sail through the gorgeous waters of Neyyar lake and experience the panoramic view of the area.

For any resident of the city, the Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary is synonymous with lions, as you get assured sighting of these magnificent beings at the park. The boat rides of Neyyar are quite famous for the adventure it offers. Hop into the boat and slide through the tranquil waters, experiencing the jungle tales.





The first stopover is to see the big cats! The ride takes one to an island, where the lions dwell. After a drive into the sanctuary, you get to watch the big cats in close proximity. Next follows a boat ride to the Crocodile Rehabilitation Centre. At this island, you can watch the crocodiles. Now take a walk through the woods and you enter a buzzing deer park! This land of wonders offers a wholesome wildlife experience and is the ideal spot to spend your vacation.





Ideal time to visit:

All-year destination



Connectivity:

Nearest railway station:

Thiruvananthapuram Central,
about 32 km away.

Nearest airport:

Thiruvananthapuram International
Airport, about 38 km away.



Activities:

Trekking, hiking, nature, camping,
bird watching, boating, wildlife
and adventure sports





Ponmudi



God's Own Country
www.keralatourism.org



If all you seek is to escape into the mountains, then Ponmudi is your best bet. A narrow, winding trail leads you to this famed hill station in Kerala. Amble up the hill, marvelling at the exotic mountain flowers, rare butterflies and listening to the cries of the wild beings. There is drama everywhere you turn to. The hill station of Ponmudi is the getaway destination for every hiker in the city. With its mist wrapped peak, lush green surrounds, panoramic vista of rolling hills and an ethereal aura, Ponmudi located in the majestic Western Ghats is your ideal green hideout away from the din of the city.

Be it the constant cackle of the birds or the occasional sighting of the wild beings, Ponmudi has everything in store for the nature enthusiast in you. Located at about 915 ft above sea level and home to a diverse species of flora and fauna, Ponmudi is a paradise for trekkers. The glorious Meenmutty waterfalls and the gorgeous Kallar river add to the attraction.



Plenty of trekking options in the woods are available in the hill station. One of the most famous trails is the trekking trail to Varayadumotta, an 18km-long trek, which offers a panoramic view of the hills along with the Nilgiri Tahrs. The state forest department offers the trekking packages and one will get to experience the tropical forest wealth in all its entirety. The best part is that you can laze away at the crest of the hill in the sylvan surrounds and enjoy the misty early mornings with a hot cuppa in hand as plenty of stay options are available. The treehouse view tower is another place that shouldn't be given a miss.





Ideal time to visit

November to March



Connectivity

Nearest railway station:

Thiruvananthapuram, about 61 km away.

Nearest airport:

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, about 58 km away.



Activities

Trekking, Hiking, Cycling,
Nature, Camping



Kuthiramalika





Picture this. A palace of gloriously smiling horses! Well, that's typically what 'Kuthiramalika' is all about. 122 intricately crafted wooden horses smiling from cheek to cheek await travellers at this palace that oozes an old-world charm.

Also known as the Kuthiramalika Palace Museum or Puthenmalika Palace Museum, this unique structure is a two-storied palace that lies near the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram. Built by the erstwhile king of Travancore Swathi Thirunal Balarama Varma back in the 1840s, the palace is a stellar example of the Kerala school of architecture and is made from teakwood, rosewood, marble, and granite.

The palace showcases intricate carvings and magnificent pillars. The horses are carved into the wooden wall brackets of the palace and make for a resplendent sight.



Architectural enthusiasts, painters and history buffs will have plenty to explore here, starting with the architecture and craftsmanship.

Every year the palace hosts a special musical extravaganza titled the Swathi Sangeetholsavam or Swathi Music Festival where erstwhile king Swathi Thirunal Rama Varma's compositions are rendered. This famed festival is attended by music connoisseurs and travellers alike and is much revered in the music fraternity.

Spend your time in the lush garden, idling away on the lawn and admiring the architectural marvel or explore the museum which houses rare artefacts and experience the ways of the old. Kuthiramalika promises a journey into the past!





Ideal time to visit:

All-year destination



Connectivity

Nearest railway station:

Thiruvananthapuram Central,
about 1 km away.

Nearest airport:

Thiruvananthapuram
International Airport, about 6 km
away.



Activities

Museum tour, culture & heritage
trail, spiritual tour and shopping



Akkulam





If you are searching for an ideal tourist spot for all the members of your family, then Akkulam Tourist Village in Thiruvananthapuram district is an ideal choice. Resting on the banks of Akkulam Lake, the tourist village has attractions suiting people of all age — boat club, musical fountain, artificial waterfall, bicycle track, swimming pool, children's park and cafeteria.

Amid a calm and serene atmosphere, all the members of a family will find something that suits their interest at this backwater destination.

Located around 10km from the city, Akkulam provides an excellent view of calm backwaters, swaying coconut groves and thick foliage.

Offering a bouquet of rides, the Boat Club is the primary attraction in Akkulam. The ride between Akkulam and Veli amid beautiful and wide backwaters will provide a thrilling experience to visitors.



Focusing on the 'University in Diversity' theme, the musical fountain is a visual treat for both children and elders alike. The musical fountain along with towering artificial waterfall will surely leave you wanting more.

With elegantly-crafted landscape and wide playing area, the children's park is one of the best in the town and will give a gala time to the kids.

The well-maintained swimming pool is the other attraction that the visitors can either have some game at the waters or learn the art of swimming.

The bicycle track laid on the hilltop along with seating arrangements will attract the youth in a big way.

With a host of facilities amid a serene and green environment, Akkulam Tourist Village is one of the popular tourist destinations in the capital district.





Ideal time to visit:

9.30 am to 6.30 pm on all days



Connectivity

Nearest railway station:

Thiruvananthapuram Central,
about 10 km away.

Nearest airport:

Thiruvananthapuram
International Airport, about 7 km
away.

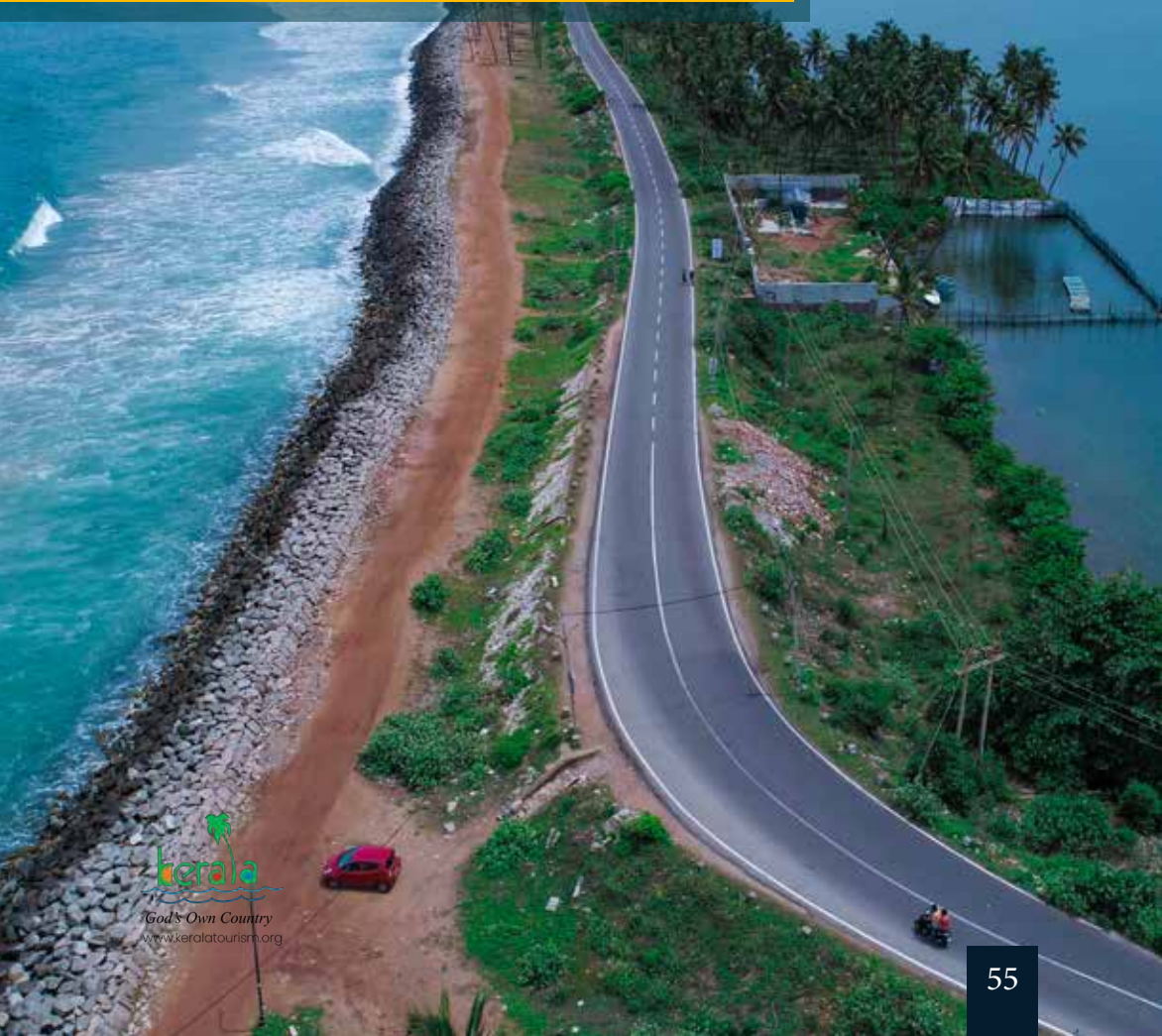


Activities

Boating
Cycling
Swimming



Kappil Beach





A blend of backwaters and sea, Kappil in Thiruvananthapuram district is a picture-perfect destination that you see in wallpapers.

Located around 7km away from Varkala, the Kappil beach is tucked in between Arabian Sea and the backwaters of Edava Narayana lake. The road towards the beach is itself a dreamy one, with the green-tinged lake on one side and blue sea on the other.

A length of around 1km makes the beach rarely crowded and it has ample space for every single visitor. For all those lucky souls, you might even spot a dolphin in the sea.

With a host of water sports activities, it is popular among domestic as well as foreign tourists. A boat ride through the serene backwaters is worth every penny as you can see glimpses of rural life and the lifestyle of fisherfolk.



If you want to step up the adrenaline quotient, take a trek to nearby Kodi Hills from where you will get some breathtaking moments. For those looking for more adventure, take a walk through the stretch between the Kappil and Varkala beaches. Even though the route is not properly laid out, it will give you some unique memories to cherish.

Kappil beach and backwaters are the kind of place where you don't keep track of the time and unwind yourself amid a sandy beach, a beautiful lagoon, swaying coconut palms and serene backwaters.





Ideal time to visit:

All-year destination



Connectivity

Nearest railway station:

Varkala, about 7 km away.

Nearest airport:

Trivandrum International Airport, about 55 km away.



Activities

Surfing
Swimming
Boating
Beach games

360° VIDEOS



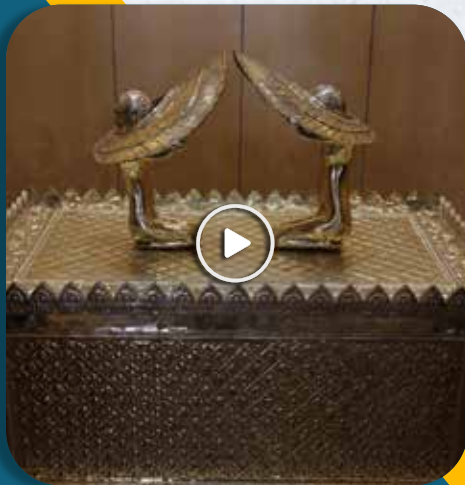
Poovar



Veli Tourist Village



VIDEO GALLERY



Museum of the Word

Sunil's Wax Museum

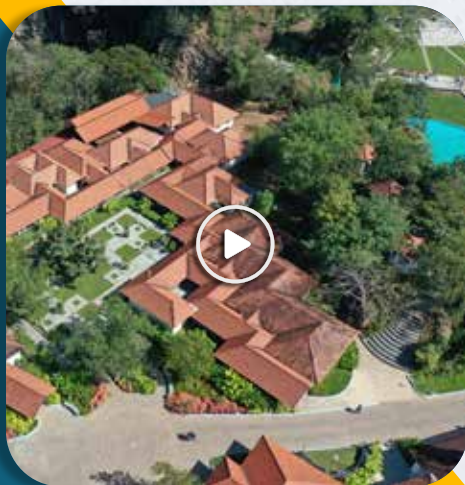




Vellayani

Madavoorpara, The Perfect Getaway





Vellar Arts & Crafts Village

Kovalam,
Here life's a trippy thing





Village Life Experiences

Monsoon Saga @ Kovalam



Picture Gallery



Kovalam



Veli Tourist Village



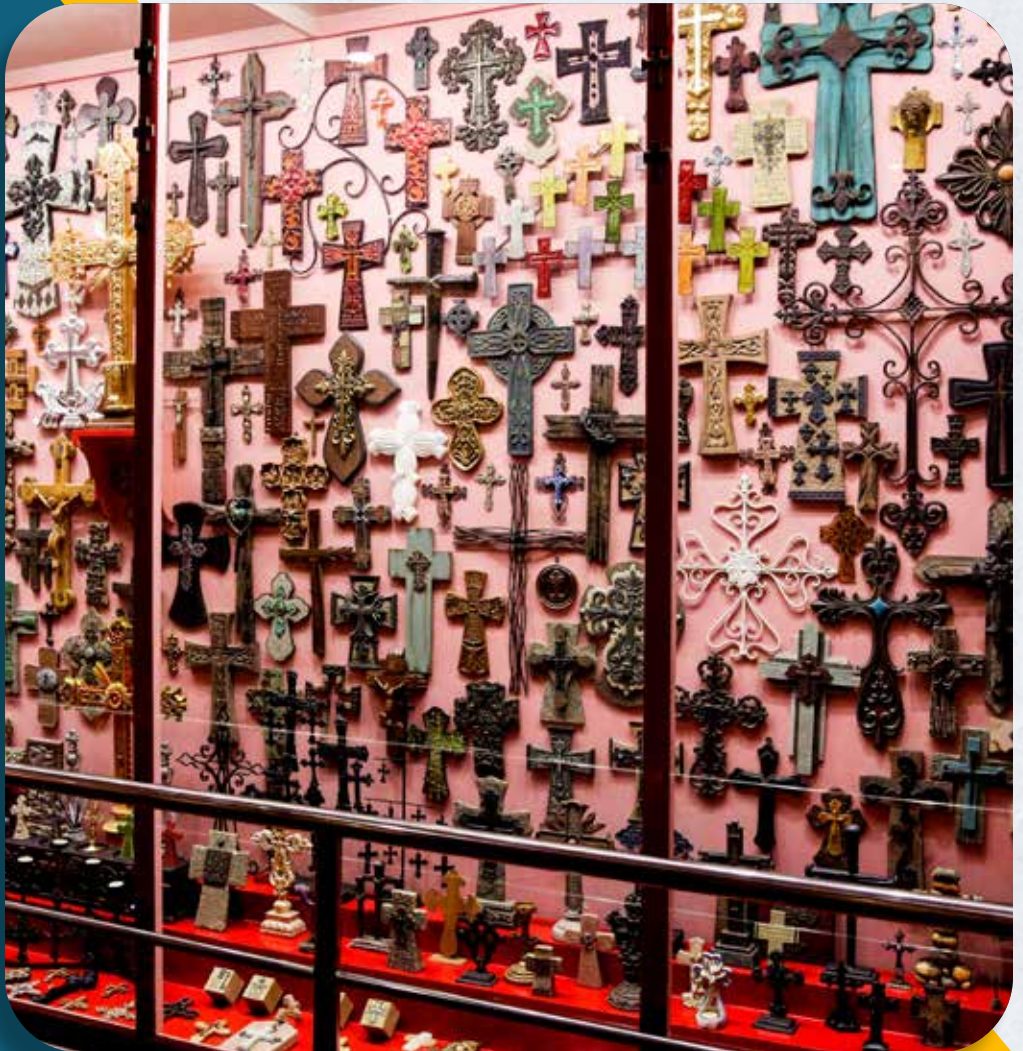
Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple



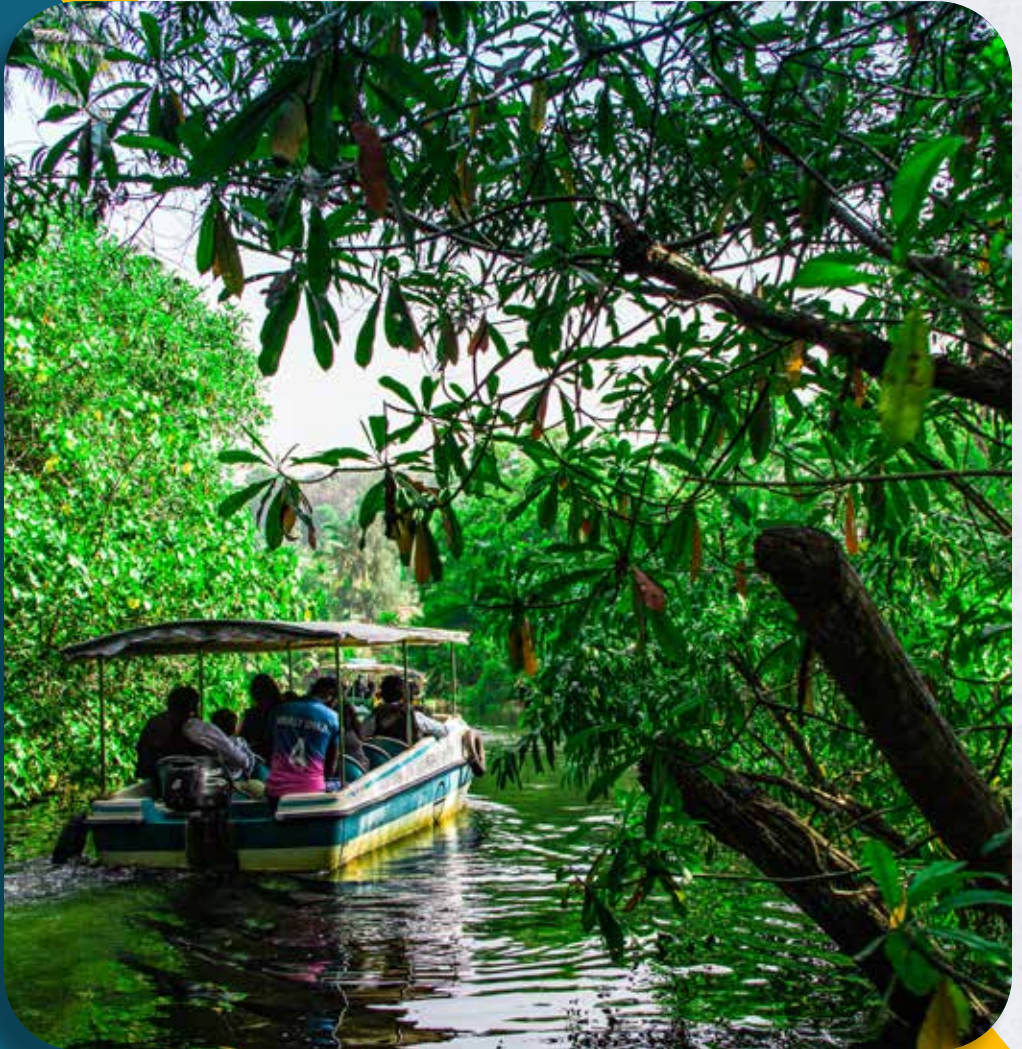
Elephant Rehabilitation Centre, Kappukadu



Museum of the Word



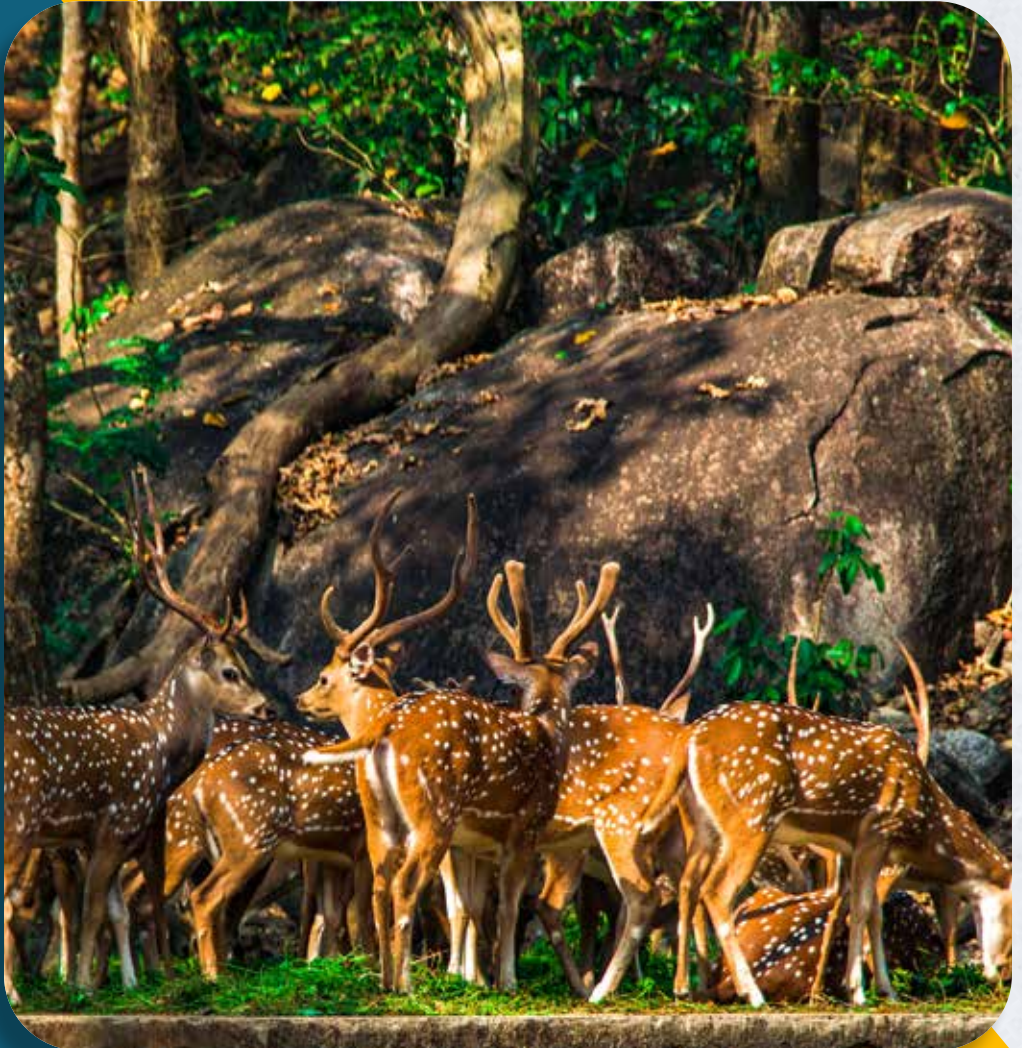
Poovar



Shanghumugham Beach



Neyyar Dam and Park



Ponmudi



Kuthiramalika





THANK YOU

