

Wayanad



God's Own Country

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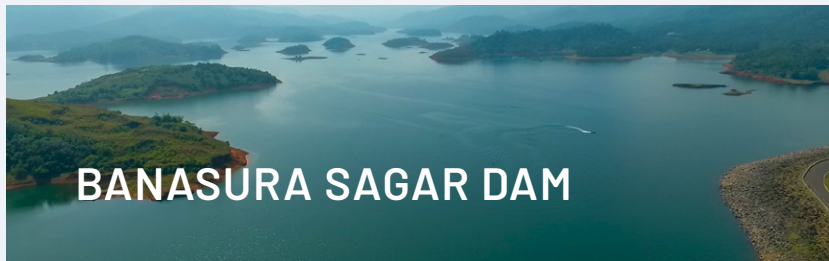
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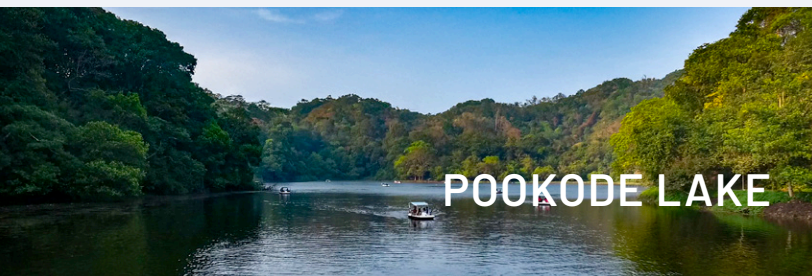
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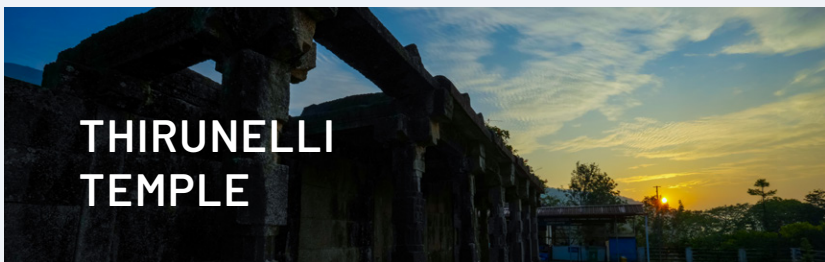
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Wayanad, located in the Western Ghats of Kerala, is a district celebrated for its lush greenery, rich biodiversity, and cultural significance. Known as the “land of paddy fields” (from the term *Vayal Nadu*), it is a harmonious blend of natural beauty, adventure, and heritage. With its cool climate and mist-covered hills, Wayanad serves as a perfect retreat for those seeking tranquility or a closer connection with nature.





Geographic and Ecological Features

Wayanad spans 2,132 square kilometers and lies at the southern edge of the Deccan Plateau. Its dense forests, rugged terrains, and serene valleys form an ecological bridge between the wildlife habitats of Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai and Karnataka's Bandipur sanctuaries. The district enjoys a pleasant climate year-round, with its highest rainfall recorded in Lakkidi, Vythiri, and Meppadi. These features make Wayanad a sanctuary for diverse flora and fauna, with its wildlife sanctuaries forming a crucial part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.





Cultural & Historical Heritage

Wayanad's history dates back to prehistoric times, as evidenced by the Edakkal Caves on Ambukuthi Hills. These caves showcase rock carvings from the Neolithic era, offering a glimpse into the lives of early human settlers. These carvings depict human figures, animals, and geometric designs, indicating the existence of an advanced society in this region thousands of years ago.

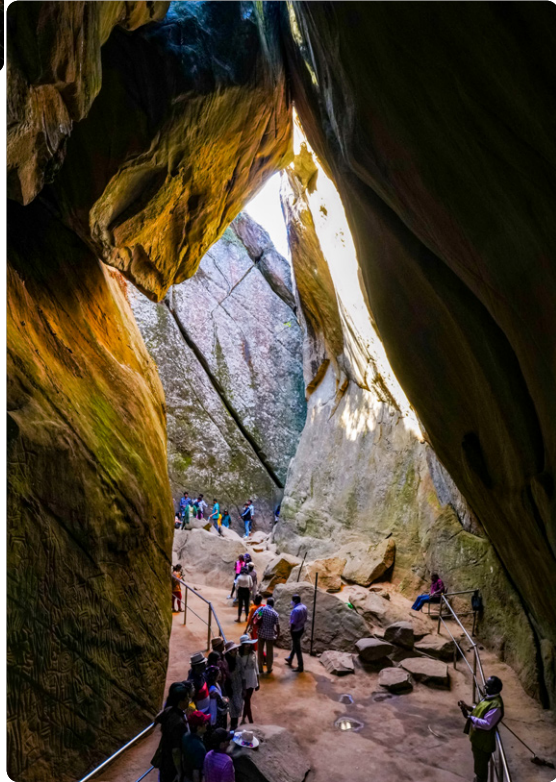
In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Wayanad became a focal point of resistance against British colonial forces. The dense forests of the region provided a strategic advantage to Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja, famously known as the "Lion of Kerala." He led guerrilla warfare against the British, delaying their dominance in the region. His defiance, known as the Pazhassi Revolt, symbolized the spirit of local resistance and inspired future freedom movements.



Mananthavady, a prominent town in Wayanad, played a key role during this period. It was here that Lord Arthur Wellesley (later Duke of Wellington) launched military campaigns to suppress Pazhassi Raja's rebellion. The Pazhassi Raja Tomb in Mananthavady stands as a memorial to this legendary leader and his contributions to India's freedom struggle.

When Kerala was formed as a state in 1956, Wayanad underwent significant administrative changes. Initially, parts of the region were integrated into Kozhikode and Kannur districts. In 1980, Wayanad was carved out as a separate district, comprising the three taluks of Mananthavady, Sultan Bathery, and Vythiri. Kalpetta was designated as the district headquarters.

Over the centuries, Wayanad has preserved its cultural richness through its indigenous communities, temples, and historic landmarks.



Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore, built a fort in Sultan Bathery, reflecting the strategic importance of Wayanad during his reign. The region's Jain heritage is also evident, with Kalpetta once serving as a significant Jain center.





Biodiversity and Community Life

Home to vibrant tribal communities like the Paniyas, Kurichiyas, and Kattunayakans, Wayanad is a treasure trove of cultural diversity. These tribes contribute to the region's agricultural heritage and offer visitors a chance to experience their traditions through eco-tourism initiatives. The Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, houses elephants, tigers, and various bird species, providing opportunities for wildlife safaris and nature education.



Activities and Attractions

Wayanad offers a range of activities, from trekking to Chembra Peak with its iconic heart-shaped lake to bamboo rafting at Kuruva Island. Spice plantation tours are a unique experience, revealing the region's agrarian roots and its role in Kerala's spice trade. Adventure enthusiasts can also enjoy zip-lining, boating, and exploring the Banasura Sagar Dam, India's largest earthen dam.



Vythiri





Nestled in the verdant hills of Wayanad, Vythiri is a serene hill station offering a harmonious blend of natural beauty, adventure, and cultural richness. Situated at an altitude of about 2,600 feet above sea level, Vythiri stands as a gateway to the Wayanad district, just five kilometers from Lakkidi, along the Kozhikode-Mysore route.

Vythiri showcases Wayanad's stunning landscapes with mist-clad hills, dense forests, and sprawling plantations of tea, coffee, and spices. Its tranquil atmosphere, enriched by the scent of fresh spices, offers a refreshing escape for visitors. Nearby attractions such as Pookode Lake and Kanthanpara Waterfalls provide picturesque settings for boating and relaxation, while Lakkidi offers panoramic views of valleys and streams. The iconic Chain Tree at Lakkidi adds a touch of local folklore, enhancing the area's charm. Vythiri's lush greenery and serene environment make it an ideal spot for both adventurers and those seeking quiet moments amidst nature.

Vythiri also holds a place in the history of Responsible Tourism (RT) in Kerala. In 2008, it became the first RT destination in Wayanad, focusing on eco-friendly tourism practices and community empowerment. The "Village Life Experience" in Vythiri invites visitors to explore tribal art, handicrafts, and traditional cuisine. Highlights include visits to spice plantations, the Uravu Bamboo Craft Village, and cultural demonstrations like the making of indigenous percussion instruments. This initiative ensures sustainable tourism while providing visitors with an authentic cultural immersion.

For adventure seekers, Vythiri offers trekking opportunities through the dense forests and hilly terrains. Pookode Lake, surrounded by evergreen forests, allows visitors to enjoy pedal boating, while Karlad Lake provides a serene retreat for angling and picnicking. Vythiri exemplifies the essence of Wayanad—a destination where natural beauty meets sustainable practices and rich cultural heritage, offering something unique for every traveler.

EXPLORE ►



Calicut International Airport,
about 66.5 km away



Kozhikode Railway Station,
about 62.5 km away



Kalpetta, about 10.9 km away



Location

Kuruva Island





Kuruvadweep, also known as Kuruva Island, is a unique and serene river delta in the Wayanad district of Kerala. Spanning 950 acres, this cluster of uninhabited islets sits in the middle of the Kabini River, offering a rich ecological haven for nature enthusiasts. The island's lush greenery, diverse flora and fauna, and tranquil surroundings make it a sought-after destination for those seeking a retreat into nature.

Kuruvadweep is renowned for its dense evergreen forests, bamboo groves, and an impressive variety of plant species, including rare orchids and medicinal herbs. The island serves as a natural habitat for many birds, such as Malabar hornbills and kingfishers, along with butterflies and other small wildlife. Its pristine environment, untouched by urban influences, offers an unparalleled opportunity to experience Kerala's biodiversity up close. The island's landscape is interspersed with bamboo bridges and natural trails, which add to its charm. Visitors can enjoy a serene stroll under the shaded canopy, making it a perfect location for photography and quiet reflection.

Kuruvadweep offers a range of eco-friendly activities that immerse visitors in its natural setting. Bamboo rafting along the calm streams of the Kabini River is a popular way to explore the area, with rafts provided by the Kerala Tourism Department. This peaceful ride gives a closer view of the island's ecosystem while offering a unique and thrilling experience. Nature walks and trekking trails across the island provide opportunities to explore its dense forest cover. While the forest is home to rare plant species, animal sightings are less common, making it an ideal spot for those who enjoy birdwatching or observing smaller wildlife. Picnicking is restricted to designated spots to maintain the area's ecological balance.

Kuruvadweep stands out as a pristine escape where visitors can rejuvenate amidst untouched natural beauty, making it a must-visit destination in Wayanad.

EXPLORE ►



Kannur International Airport,
about 78.2 km away



Kozhikode Railway Station,
about 104 km away



Mananthavady Bus Stand,
about 17 km away



Location



Divisional Forest Officer :
+91 493 620 3428



Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary





Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the northern part of Wayanad district, is a vibrant conservation area and a gateway to the rich biodiversity of Kerala's Western Ghats. As part of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary and the UNESCO Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, this sanctuary is renowned for its thriving ecosystems, captivating landscapes, and commitment to preserving nature.

Tholpetty is home to a remarkable variety of flora and fauna. Dense tropical forests, interspersed with teak, rosewood, and bamboo, form the sanctuary's lush landscape. Wildlife enthusiasts can encounter Indian elephants, tigers, leopards, gaurs, sambar deer, and the elusive Malabar giant squirrel. The sanctuary also hosts diverse bird species, including hornbills, eagles, and kingfishers, making it a haven for birdwatchers. Reptiles and amphibians such as the king cobra, Malabar gliding frog, and Indian rock python thrive here, adding to the region's ecological significance. The sanctuary's diverse habitats also attract butterflies and insects, making every visit a vibrant experience for nature lovers.

Exploring Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary is best done through guided jeep safaris. For those seeking a more immersive experience, the sanctuary offers trekking opportunities through its rugged terrain. Guided treks lead visitors along forest trails, revealing hidden streams, tranquil lakes, and the sanctuary's rich plant life. Nature walks are particularly appealing for birdwatchers and those looking to delve deeper into the region's unique biodiversity.

Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary is a cornerstone of Kerala's conservation efforts. As part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, it plays a critical role in protecting endangered species and maintaining ecological balance.

Local communities are actively involved in eco-tourism initiatives, creating a harmonious relationship between human livelihoods and wildlife preservation. Guided tours and educational programs offer insights into the sanctuary's ecological importance, fostering a deeper appreciation for its natural heritage.

EXPLORE ►



Kannur International Airport,
about 86.1 km away



Thalassery Railway Station,
about 98.7 km



Thirunelly Bus Stand, about
18.5 km away



Location



+91 493 529 4853



Banasura Sagar Dam





Banasura Sagar Dam, located near Kalpetta in Wayanad, holds the distinction of being India's largest earthen dam and the second largest of its kind in Asia. Built in 1979 across the Karamanathodu tributary of the Kabini River, this engineering marvel is renowned for its stunning natural surroundings and its significance in the region's irrigation and hydroelectric projects.

Nestled at the foothills of the Banasura Hills, the dam is surrounded by verdant landscapes, with its reservoir offering captivating views of clear waters dotted with small islands. During the monsoon season, the reservoir swells, submerging nearby areas and forming temporary islands, making it a paradise for photographers and nature enthusiasts.


The dam is a hub for adventure activities, attracting thrill-seekers and families alike. Popular options include speed boating, which offers a close-up view of the reservoir and the surrounding hills, and trekking to the nearby forested peaks. Trekkers are rewarded with panoramic views of the vast reservoir and its emerald-green surroundings. Other attractions include horse riding, camel riding, and ziplining.

The Banasura Sagar Dam was constructed as part of the Banasura Sagar Project, which supports the Kakkayam Hydroelectric Project and helps meet irrigation and drinking water demands in the region. Built entirely with stones and boulders, the dam exemplifies robust engineering and sustainable infrastructure. It continues to play a crucial role in managing water resources, especially during the dry summer months.


The dam derives its name from the Asura king Banasura, the son of the legendary King Mahabali, who is celebrated during Kerala's Onam festival. According to local lore, Banasura undertook a penance atop the hills that now bear his name, adding a layer of cultural and mythological significance to the site.

Banasura Sagar Dam is more than just a functional structure; it is a serene retreat that combines history, natural beauty, and adventure. Whether you are seeking an adrenaline rush, a peaceful escape, or a glimpse into Kerala's mythological past, this destination has something to offer.


[EXPLORE ►](#)




Kannur International Airport,
about 80 km away



Kozhikode Railway Station,
about 88 km away



Kalpetta Bus Stand, about 21
km away



Location

En Ooru





En Ooru, Kerala's first tribal heritage village, is nestled amidst the lush greenery of Pookode in Wayanad. Spread over 25 acres on the slope of a hillock, this initiative by the Government of Kerala offers a vibrant showcase of the traditions, art, and lifestyle of the state's indigenous communities.

Traditional tribal huts with hay roofs against the backdrop of majestic hills offer a glimpse into indigenous architecture and daily life. Managed by tribal communities, the village fosters the preservation of traditional arts and crafts like pottery, weaving, and basketry. The village is also a platform for reviving traditional knowledge systems, including organic farming and food processing methods.

En Ooru offers extensive facilities designed to engage visitors while promoting eco-friendly practices. Cafeterias serve ethnic tribal cuisine, while a market provides a space for selling spices, handicrafts, and souvenirs made by tribal artisans. An amphitheater with a seating capacity of 300 serves as the stage for tribal art performances, including Thudi Thalam and other ancestral customs.

Visitors can also explore a felicitation center, a handicraft warehouse, and stalls showcasing tribal medicines and products. The serene setting, coupled with interactive exhibits and cultural demonstrations, makes En Ooru a significant destination for those interested in understanding and appreciating tribal life.

Jointly managed by Kerala Tourism and Scheduled Tribe Development, En Ooru aims to transform into a model heritage village that highlights Kerala's ethnic diversity. The village supports tribal livelihoods by providing a permanent marketplace and opportunities for tribal artists to earn a sustainable income.

En Ooru Tribal Heritage Village stands as a testament to Kerala's commitment to celebrating its cultural diversity and preserving the unique traditions of its indigenous people. For visitors, it offers an enriching journey into the heart of tribal culture, creating a deeper appreciation for their ancestral ways of life.

[EXPLORE ►](#)



Calicut International Airport,
about 65.3 km away



Kozhikode Railway Station,
about 61.3 km away



Vythiri Bus Stand, about 5.6
km away



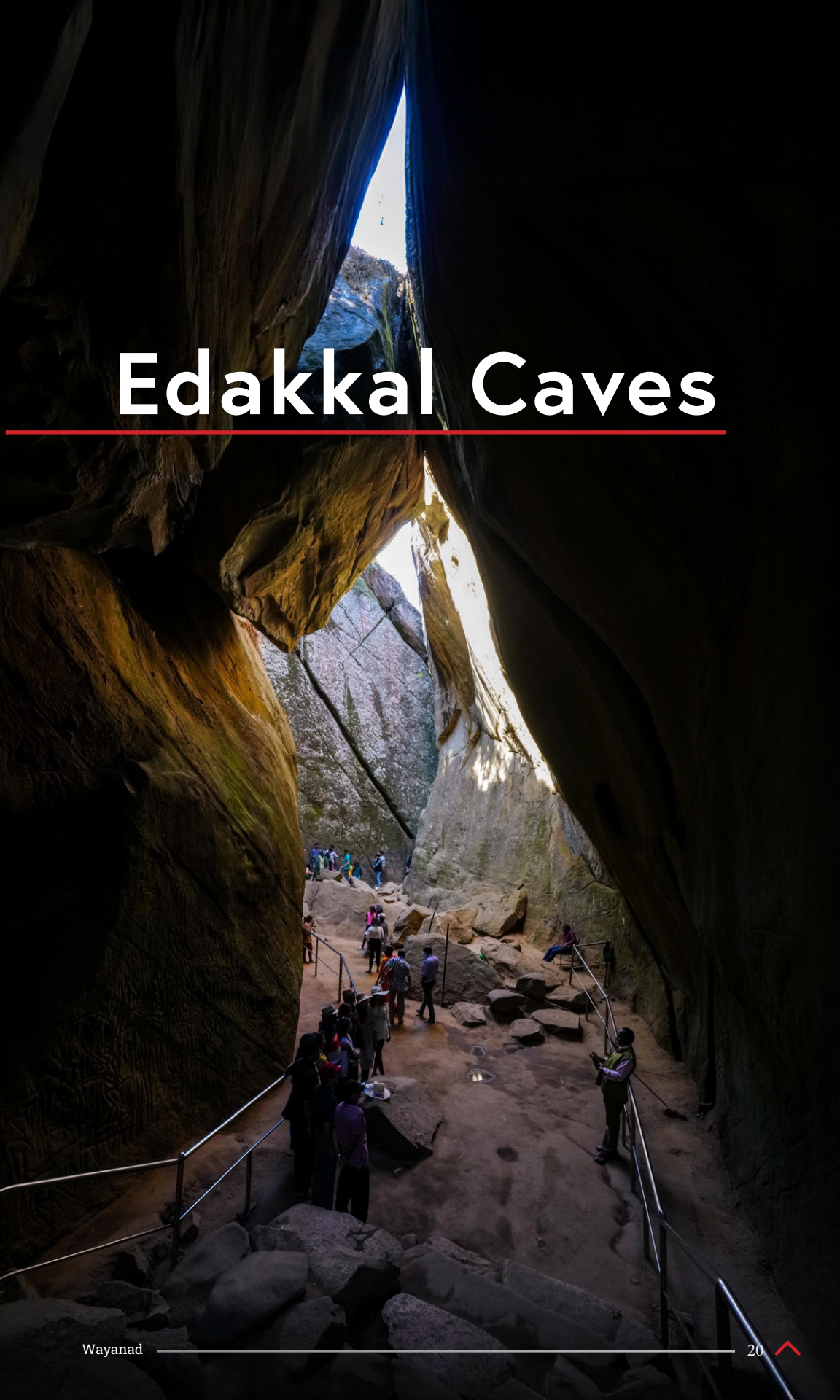
Location



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Edakkal Caves





The Edakkal Caves are among the most significant archaeological and historical sites in South India, located in the Sultan Bathery region of Wayanad, Kerala. Perched at a height of 1,200 feet on Ambukuthy Mala, these natural rock shelters provide a rare glimpse into the life and culture of early human settlers, making them a must-visit for history enthusiasts and curious travelers alike.

Despite being referred to as caves, Edakkal is actually a naturally formed rock shelter. The name “Edakkal” translates to “a stone in between,” aptly describing its formation- a massive boulder wedged between two larger ones, creating a fissure-like structure. This cleft, which extends over 30 feet deep, features two chambers: the smaller, lower chamber measures 18 feet long and 12 feet wide, while the larger upper chamber is 96 feet long and 22 feet wide.

Edakkal Caves house one of the earliest known examples of human expression. The engravings within the caves date back to the Neolithic and Mesolithic periods, around 6000 BCE to 1000 BCE. These petroglyphs include intricate carvings of human figures, animals,

tools, wheeled carts, and geometric motifs such as crosses, triangles, and spirals. The diversity and complexity of these carvings suggest that the site was inhabited multiple times throughout history. Notably, some symbols found in the caves, including the “man with a jar cup,” have been linked to the Indus Valley Civilization, indicating possible cultural exchanges between northern and southern India.

To protect the delicate carvings, iron railings have been installed to restrict access, and visitors are required to follow conservation guidelines to preserve the site’s integrity. Reaching the caves involves a trek up Ambukuthy Mala and climbing a steep flight of around 300 stairs. The nearby Muniyaras, ancient burial sites discovered in the hills, add further archaeological interest.

The Edakkal Caves are more than just a historical site; they are a testament to the creativity and ingenuity of early humans. They serve as a bridge between the past and present, offering visitors a chance to connect with humanity’s shared heritage.

EXPLORE ►



Calicut International Airport,
about 101 km away



Kozhikode Railway Station,
about 97 km away



Sultan Bathery Bus Stand,
about 14.5 km away



Location

Chembra Peak





Chembra Peak, rising to an elevation of 2,100 meters (6,890 feet), is the highest peak in the Wayanad district of Kerala and a prominent part of the Western Ghats. Renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, challenging treks, and the iconic heart-shaped lake, this destination is a favorite among nature lovers and trekking enthusiasts.

Chembra Peak offers a moderately challenging trek that takes approximately 3 to 4 hours to complete. The journey begins at Meppadi, with permissions and guidance provided by the Forest Department to ensure safe and sustainable exploration. The trail winds through lush tea plantations, dense evergreen forests, and rolling grasslands, offering panoramic views at every turn. On misty days, the trek is particularly magical, with clouds often enveloping the path, creating a surreal experience.

Halfway up the peak lies Hridaya Saras, a natural heart-shaped lake that has become a symbol of Chembra's allure. This lake, believed to never dry even in peak summer, reflects the sky and surrounding greenery, making it a perfect resting spot for trekkers.

Its unique shape and tranquil setting attract photographers and couples, adding a romantic touch to the adventurous climb.

Chembra Peak is a sanctuary for diverse flora and fauna. The lower slopes are adorned with tea plantations, while higher altitudes feature grasslands and montane forests. The area is home to rare orchids, medicinal plants, and various wildlife species, including elephants, deer, and monkeys. Bird watchers will enjoy spotting species like the Malabar whistling thrush and white-bellied treepie.

Protected by the Forest Department, Chembra Peak is a model for eco-tourism in Wayanad. Regulations ensure that trekking activities do not harm the delicate ecosystem, with permits and guides provided to manage the number of visitors. Trekkers are encouraged to follow eco-friendly practices, preserving the peak's pristine beauty for future generations.

Whether it's the thrill of reaching Wayanad's highest point, the serene beauty of the heart-shaped lake, or the rich biodiversity, Chembra Peak offers an unforgettable experience for all who visit.

EXPLORE ►



Calicut International Airport,
about 95 km away



Kozhikode Railway Station, about
90 km away



Kalpetta Bus Stand, about 22
km away



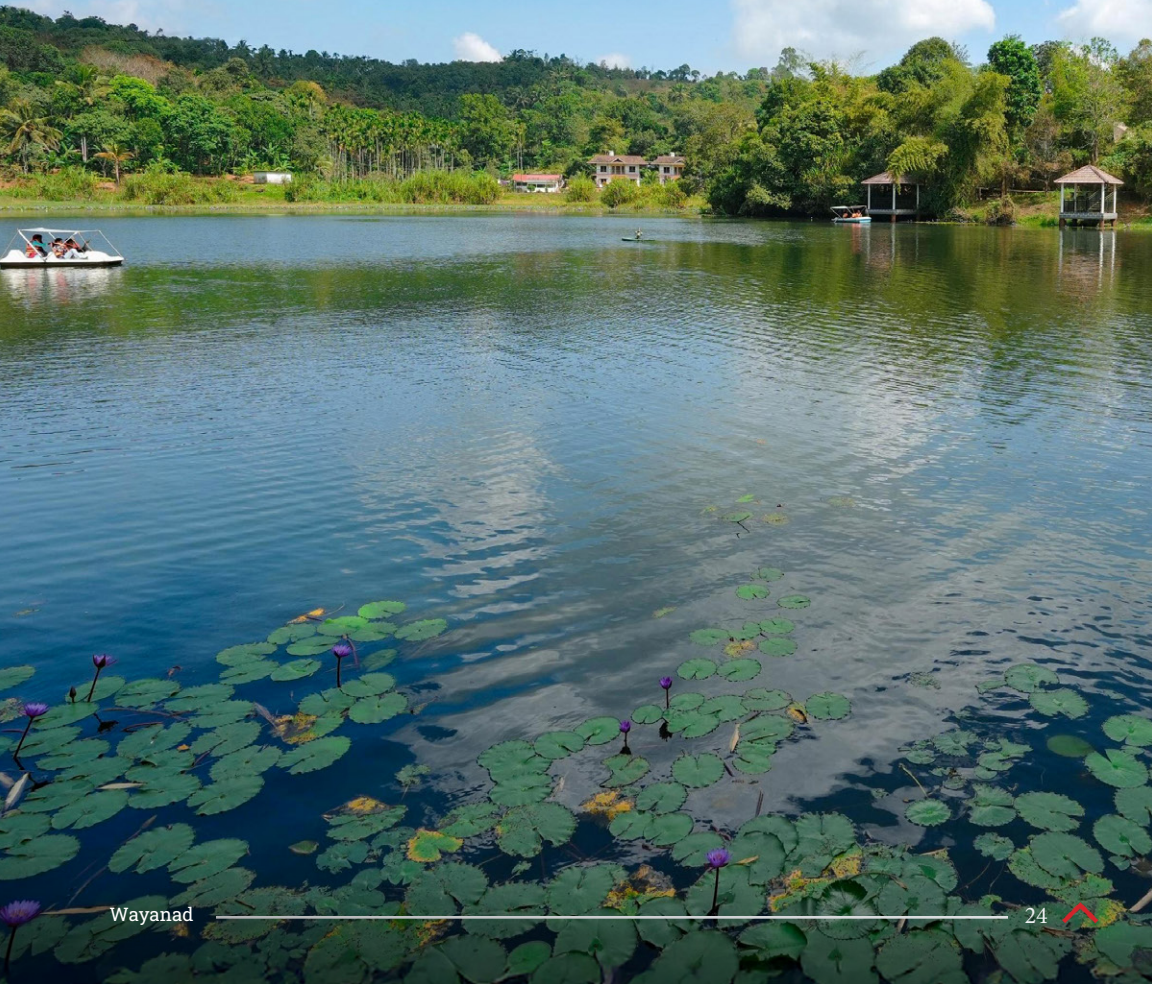
Location

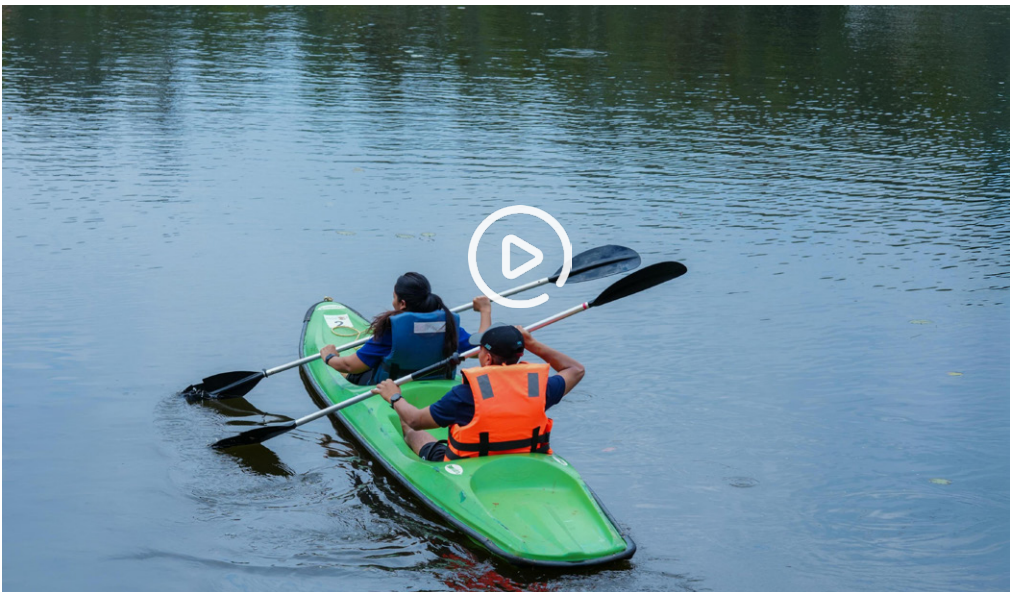


Forest Conservation Committee :
+91 97472 68696



Karlada Lake





Karlad Lake, the second-largest freshwater lake in Wayanad and the third-largest in Kerala, offers a serene escape amidst the lush greenery of the Western Ghats. Located in Thariode, just 3 kilometers from Banasura Sagar Dam, this picturesque lake is a hub for adventure, relaxation, and cultural exploration, making it a must-visit destination in the region.

Managed by the District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC), Karlad Lake is home to the Wayanad Adventure Camp, which provides an array of thrilling activities for visitors. Highlights include ziplining across the lake on a 250-meter-long aerial rope, boating, kayaking, rock climbing, zorbing, and bamboo rafting. Nature walks around the lake offer a more tranquil way to appreciate its beauty, while the lake's pristine waters and lush surroundings create an ideal setting for relaxation.

For those looking to extend their stay, tents and cottages are available, making it possible to immerse yourself in the serene environment. The adventure camp also accommodates corporate events, blending work with the lake's natural charm.

Karlad Lake is surrounded by the verdant landscapes of Wayanad, with towering trees and crystal-clear waters reflecting the vibrant hues of the surrounding greenery. Its peaceful ambiance provides an excellent backdrop for picnics, photography, or quiet contemplation. Nearby attractions, such as the Banasura Sagar Dam, Pookode Lake, and Soochipara Waterfalls, complement the experience, allowing visitors to explore Wayanad's rich natural offerings.

Beyond its physical beauty, Karlad Lake offers a window into the local culture of Wayanad. Visitors can engage with nearby communities to learn about their traditions, crafts, and stories that have been passed down through generations. A handicrafts and spices emporium at the site provides a chance to take home locally made products, supporting the region's artisans.

Whether you're an adventure enthusiast seeking thrills, a family looking for a picturesque picnic spot, or a traveler in search of peace and solitude, Karlad Lake offers something for everyone. Its unspoiled natural setting, combined with a range of activities and cultural experiences, makes it a versatile and enriching destination in Wayanad.



Calicut International Airport,
about 85 km



Kozhikode Railway Station,
about 81 km



Vythiri Bus Stand, about 18
km away



Location



Pookode Lake





Pookode Lake, situated near Lakkidi in Wayanad, Kerala, is a serene freshwater lake surrounded by the lush greenery of the Western Ghats. At an altitude of 770 meters above sea level, it is the highest altitude freshwater lake in Kerala and a favored destination for those seeking peace and natural beauty. The lake spans an area of 5 hectares and is also the smallest freshwater lake in the state.

The lake, shaped like the map of India, is nestled amidst evergreen forests and offers an idyllic setting for relaxation and recreation. Its tranquil waters are adorned with vibrant blue lotuses and water lilies, enhancing its charm. The lake is also home to *Pethia pookodensis*, a species of cyprinid fish found exclusively here.

Visitors can enjoy pedal boating or kayaking, immersing themselves in the lake's calm ambiance while savoring the scenic views of the surrounding forest. The lake is also a haven for photographers and nature enthusiasts, with sightings of animals and birds from nearby forests adding to its allure.

Additional attractions include a freshwater aquarium managed by the Fisheries Department, a children's park, and a shopping center offering bamboo and coconut husk handicrafts, as well as local spices.

Pookode Lake is the origin point of the Panamaram River, a tributary of the Kabini River that flows through the valley. Its serene surroundings, combined with its ecological significance, make it a unique feature of Wayanad.

The lake is easily accessible by road, with frequent bus services available. The South Wayanad Forest Division manages the site, ensuring it remains pristine for visitors.

Whether it's boating on the tranquil waters, strolling along the forest-lined pathways, or simply soaking in the peaceful atmosphere, Pookode Lake offers a memorable experience for all. Its unique charm, coupled with family-friendly facilities and proximity to other attractions like Lakkidi, makes it one of Wayanad's most sought-after destinations.

EXPLORE ►



Calicut International Airport,
about 65 km



Kozhikode Railway Station,
about 60 km away



Kalpetta Bus Stand, about 12
km away



Location



Bathery Jain Temple





The Bathery Jain Temple, located in Sultan Bathery, Wayanad, is a historic site steeped in cultural and architectural significance. Built in the 13th century, this temple exemplifies the architectural style of the Vijayanagara Dynasty, which once dominated southern India. Despite its current ruined state, the temple remains a key heritage site and a symbol of Kerala's Jain legacy.

The temple's design reflects the grandeur of the Vijayanagara style, with intricately carved square columns supporting a stone slab roof. Floral motifs, depictions of snakes and swans-important symbols in Jainism-and sculptures resembling those in Hindu temples adorn its pillars and doorways. Statues of Jain Tirthankaras, the spiritual teachers of Jainism, further emphasize its religious importance.

An intriguing feature is an inscription on a pillar depicting Dharnendra Bandanam, the form of a coiled snake. The architectural and sculptural elements highlight the temple's prominence as a center of worship and cultural activity during its peak.

The Bathery Jain Temple played a significant role during the height of Jainism in Kerala. By the 18th century, as Jainism declined and Hinduism flourished in the region, the temple adapted to new purposes. It became a commercial trade center and later, during Tipu Sultan's invasion of Kerala, served as a storage facility for ammunition, or "battery." This use gave the town its name, Sultan Bathery.

Today, the temple is under the care of the Archaeological Survey of India. While its main idol of Lord Mahavir has been relocated to the Ananthanath Temple in Kalpetta, it is brought back annually for the Mahavir Jayanti festival, marking the temple's continued religious significance.

The temple, located on the Bangalore-Calicut Highway, about 25 kilometers from Wayanad, is an educational and historical destination. Its serene setting amidst green hills provides a tranquil atmosphere for visitors. Though no longer a functioning shrine, the temple stands as a testament to Wayanad's rich cultural and religious history.

EXPLORE ►



Calicut International Airport,
about 100 km away



Kozhikode Railway Station,
about 96 km away.



Sultan Bathery Bus Stand, about
2.5 km away



Location



Wayanad Heritage Museum





Located in Ambalavayal, 12 kilometers from Sultan Bathery, the Wayanad Heritage Museum is one of Kerala's largest and most comprehensive archaeological museums. It offers an unparalleled glimpse into the history, culture, and traditions of the region, showcasing artifacts that span from the Neolithic era to the 16th century.


The museum's establishment was driven by large-scale archaeological research in the 1980s, particularly in areas like Edakkal Caves and Sultan Bathery. Artifacts unearthed from locations such as Muthanga, Nalluvayal, and Edathara highlighted the historical significance of Wayanad. With the support of local authorities, anthropologists, and the Archaeology Department, these invaluable relics found a permanent home in the Wayanad Heritage Museum.

The museum's exhibits are thoughtfully organized into four sections. Veerasmruthi displays Veerakkallu or Hero Stones, which commemorate ancient warriors and their heroic deeds, such as battles or tiger hunts.


These stones, dating back to the 14th–16th centuries, offer a glimpse into the valor of Wayanad's past. Gothrasmruthi focuses on tribal life, showcasing tools, headgear, jewelry, cowbells, and musical instruments used by indigenous communities like the Kurichiyas and Paniyas. Devasmruthi houses terracotta figurines, writing stones, and nearly 20 stone idols from the 12th–16th centuries, representing Wayanad's ancient artistic and religious heritage. Jeevanasmruthi features hunting traps, ornaments, and daily life artifacts, providing insights into the survival techniques of Wayanad's tribes.


Beyond the exhibits, the museum also features a multimedia theatre that offers an engaging audiovisual presentation on Wayanad's history and culture. Visitors can stroll through a nearby botanical garden that adds a touch of natural beauty to the site. Managed by the District Tourism Promotion Council, the museum is a popular destination for tourists and scholars alike, with its well-preserved artifacts offering a vivid portrayal of Wayanad's cultural evolution.

EXPLORE ►

 **Calicut International Airport,**
about 98 km

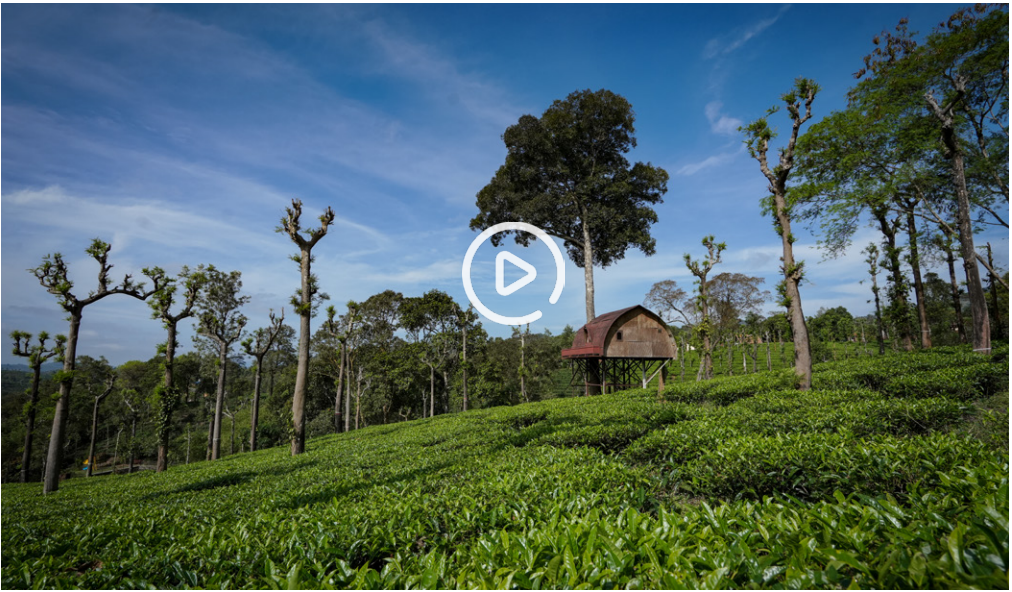
 **Kozhikode Railway Station,**
about 92 km

 **Sultan Bathery Bus Stand,**
about 13 km

 **Location**

Priyadarshini Tea Environs





Nestled in the rolling emerald hills of Wayanad, the Priyadarshini Tea Environs is a 500-acre tea estate offering a unique combination of scenic beauty, cultural immersion, and eco-tourism. Established in 1984 as a cooperative society, this project rehabilitated over 400 tribal families, primarily from the Paniyar community, making it the second-largest tribal resettlement initiative in Asia. Located near Mananthavady and bordering the Brahmagiri forest range, Priyadarshini stands as a testament to sustainability and community empowerment.

Priyadarshini Tea Environs is more than just a tea plantation; it's a destination where visitors can immerse themselves in the art of tea-making. The estate features a tea factory and a museum that provide guided tours, offering insights into the meticulous processes of withering, rolling, fermenting, and drying tea leaves. Visitors can enjoy tea-tasting sessions, savoring the unique flavors of Wayanad's teas, cultivated in pollution-free, mist-covered hills enriched by the fertile soils of the Western Ghats.

The estate boasts numerous attractions, including Biswas Point, a viewpoint at 1,500 meters above sea level that offers panoramic views of the surrounding hills and valleys. Visitors can stay in treehouses or well-furnished rooms while enjoying ethnic delicacies prepared by local communities. For adventure enthusiasts, the estate offers trekking, nature trails, night camping, and mountain biking. A recreational park with tribal murals and an amphitheater enhances the cultural experience, while swimming facilities and nature walks add a touch of relaxation.

Priyadarshini Tea Environs exemplifies the harmonious coexistence of nature and community. Managed by a cooperative society, the project empowers tribal communities through employment and skill development. Tribal artisans also contribute by crafting murals and producing handicrafts available for purchase, creating a sustainable economic model that benefits both the environment and the local population.



Calicut International Airport,
about 115 km away



Kozhikode Railway Station,
about 103 km away



Mananthavady Bus Stand,
about 10 km away



Location



Soochipara Waterfalls





Soochipara Waterfalls, also known as Sentinel Rock Waterfalls, is a prominent natural attraction near Kalpetta in Wayanad. This three-tiered waterfall drops from a height of approximately 200 meters into a clear natural pool, making it a popular spot for visitors seeking a refreshing retreat in the midst of nature.

The falls are located about 35 kilometers from Wayanad, along the Kozhikode-Vythiri-Gudallur Highway, and are surrounded by lush deciduous and evergreen forests. Access involves a scenic drive followed by a 2-kilometer trek through rocky trails, offering a blend of adventure and tranquility. The pool at the base of the waterfall is a highlight, inviting visitors to enjoy a swim while taking in the serene environment.

Soochipara Waterfalls is also a hub for activities like trekking and rock climbing, with the rugged terrain providing opportunities for exploration and adventure. For photography enthusiasts, the area is particularly appealing due to its picturesque landscapes, vibrant greenery, and unique features like tree huts that offer panoramic views of the surroundings.

In addition to the main falls, the area features picnic spots, shallow pools, and small springs, enhancing its appeal as a family-friendly destination. Whether for relaxation, adventure, or photography, Soochipara Waterfalls provides an enriching experience and is considered one of the must-visit sites in Wayanad.

EXPLORE ►



Calicut International Airport,
about 105 km away



Kozhikode Railway Station,
about 71 km away



Kalpetta, about 23 km away



Location



+91 8547602689



Thirunelli Temple





Thirunelli Temple, nestled in the picturesque Brahmagiri hills of Wayanad, Kerala, is a revered Hindu shrine dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Known as the 'Kashi of the South,' this ancient temple attracts pilgrims and tourists alike, blending spiritual significance with natural beauty.

Believed to be over a thousand years old, the temple's origins are steeped in mythology. Legend credits its construction to Lord Brahma, who installed the idol of Lord Vishnu under an Amla tree. Its name, 'Thirunelli,' reflects this connection. The temple showcases traditional Kerala architecture, with intricate carvings, granite pillars, and a sloping tiled roof. The sanctum sanctorum enshrines Lord Vishnu as Chaturbhuja, holding a conch, discus, mace, and lotus. The Papanasini stream, flowing nearby, is considered sacred and central to rituals like Bali Tharpanam, performed for the liberation of departed souls.

Set amidst lush greenery, Thirunelli Temple offers a tranquil escape. The journey to the temple winds through dense forests and rolling hills, with the serene surroundings enhanced by the soothing sounds of the Papanasini stream. The area is rich in biodiversity and offers trekking opportunities, making it appealing to both pilgrims and nature enthusiasts.

Located in Mananthavady, the temple is easily accessible by road, with the nearest railway station in Kozhikode and Kannur International Airport nearby. Accommodation ranges from budget stays to scenic guesthouses and resorts. October to May is the best time to visit, as the weather is pleasant for sightseeing and outdoor activities.

Thirunelli Temple stands as a testament to Kerala's rich heritage, offering visitors a harmonious blend of spirituality, history, and natural splendor.

EXPLORE ►



Kannur International Airport,
about 91 km away



Thalassery Railway Station,
about 101 km away



Mananthavady Bus Stand,
about 26 km away



Location



+91 493 521 0201

BOOK YOUR STAY

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For more assistance

District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC)

Civil Station (Collectorate), Kalpetta North, Wayanad, 673122

Ph : +91 493 620 2134, +91 9446072134

Email: info@dtpcwayanad.com



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