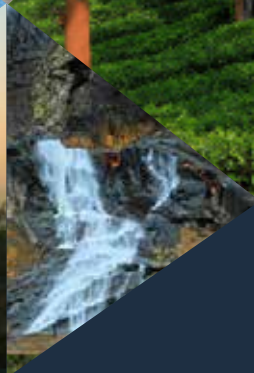




God's Own Country
www.keralatourism.org



WAYANAD

THE LA-LA LAND OF ADVENTURE



Walk through the pages of history, listening to the stories of the kings, gods and civilizations. Let the forest spirits lead your way. Take in the petrichor after the first rains. Surrender your earthly woes to mother nature. Rest on your laurels for a day.

Wayanad is unlike any destination in Kerala. Neolithic humans to troops of Tippu Sultan have scouted these woods. From the Edakkal Caves to millennia-old Jain temples, Wayanad has everything to please the history buff in you.

Flamboyant abodes to budget-friendly backpackers hostels, Wayanad has bottled a special experience for every traveller. Take the jeep safari through the Muthanga forest, explore some of the off-beat wonders or have a hand in the bamboo rafting in Kuruva Island.

Wayanad is unblemished nature served on a rosewood platter. Chembra peak, Banasura Sagar dam, Pookode lake... The list goes on. Put on your trekking boots and hike off the beaten track.



CONTENTS

WAYANAD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY	01-04
BANASURA SAGAR DAM	05-08
CHEENGERI HILLS	09-12
VILLAGE LIFE EXPERIENCES (VLE)	13-16
KANTHANPARA WATERFALLS	17-20
KARLAD LAKE	21-24
KURUVADWEEP OR KURUVA ISLAND	25-28
POOKODE LAKE	29-32
PRIYADARSHINI HILLS	33-36
THE EDAKKAL CAVES	37-40
360° VIDEOS	41
VIDEO GALLERY	42-43
PHOTO GALLERY	44-53



A photograph of a jeep driving away on a dirt path through a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The jeep's headlights are on, creating a bright glow. The path is covered with fallen leaves and branches. The forest is lush and green.

WAYANAD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



ABOUT

Silence! A feeble cry blooms from the jungle gloom. As you close your eyes and tune in to the symphony of the wilderness, a dozen haunting voices envelop the entire surroundings. In the animal kingdom, such a shrieking crescendo comes off as a warning. But for the trained ear, it is a treasured tempo of notes signalling an impending moment. As you take a deep breath and open your eyes, a predator flashes its stripes and stalks its prey.

In the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, moments like these take your breath away. Spread over an area of 345 sq. km., it is the second largest wildlife sanctuary in Kerala. Rich in biodiversity, the sanctuary is an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Established in 1973, the Sanctuary is contiguous to the protected area network of Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka on the northeast and Mudumalai of Tamil Nadu on the southeast.

Thousands of tourists flock to this heavenly abode every year to witness the exotic flora and fauna of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary which consists of tropical moist dry deciduous, evergreen forests, bamboo thickets and plantations. One of the major attractions is undoubtedly the large population of pachyderms. Elephants roam freely in the wilderness and you can spot a variety of wildlife such as tigers, panthers, jungle cats, civet cats, monkeys and wild dogs. Blessed with its endless population of birds like cuckoos, woodpeckers, peacocks, babblers, owls, jungle fowls etc., Wayanad is every bird watcher's paradise.

The four ranges of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary are Sulthan Bathery, Kurichyad, Muthanga and Tholpetty. Of them, Muthanga and Tholpetty ranges are mostly targeted by the tourists. They are also ecotourism centres that aim to create conservation awareness among visiting tourists.





**BEST TIME
TO VISIT**
June to October

ACTIVITIES

- Jeep Safari
- Trekking
- Bird Watching
- Elephant Camp Visit
- Tribal Folklore

CONNECTIVITY

- 🏰 **Sulthan Bathery town**, 15 km away
- 🚂 **Kozhikode Railway Station**, 97 km away
- ✈️ **Calicut International Airport**, 120 km away



BANASURA SAGAR DAM

ABOUT

Fancy visiting the largest earth dam in India with a connection to perhaps Kerala's most well-known mythical king and also find out what a fish pedicure feels like before you head back? Then it is the Banasura Dam, Wayanad, where you have to head to. Named after the son of Mahabali and made of stones and boulders, the dam packs a charm like no other.

The dam stands across the Karamanathodu, which is a tributary of the Kabini river. It is an ideal picnic spot, with breathtaking views all around. Some of the tallest peaks of the Western Ghats, including the Banasura Hill, are nearby.




Taking a boat ride here over the serene clear waters might result in your sense of wonder being rekindled. Go for it anyway. This experience must simply not be skipped. The atmosphere is so calm, one might even be hard-pressed to call it Lake Placid. But hey, no crocodiles here!

There are many activities, including zip-lining and of course, the aforementioned fish pedicure that one can engage in here at the dam. To reach here, one may head to Padhinjarethara from Kalpetta and then hire a jeep ride. For thrill-seekers, hiking would be an amazing experience. The whole bit of getting up to the dam is part of the fun. The dam is close to many trekking routes and it's a trekker's dream destination. Be sure to visit the Banasura Dam to experience the might of the Western Ghats.





CONNECTIVITY

-  **Kalpetta Bus Station**, 22 km away
-  **Kozhikode Railway Station**, 85 km away
-  **Calicut International Airport**, 98 km away

CHEENGERI HILLS

ABOUT

On the way to Kaduvakuzhi from Sultan Bathery stands Cheengeri Mala; a hill that more than just visibly stands out from the rest. It is a trekker magnet and is well known for its ease of climbing, as this one isn't forest-clad, unlike most other hills of Wayanad, and has a gentle slope.

The hill isn't home to wild animals which makes it safe to start climbing to the top well before dawn, so as to be able to experience, perhaps the most remarkable thing about this hill: the view it offers early in the mornings. It is most usually a dazzling sunrise, with dreamy-looking clouds floating below, akin to a milky white ocean or white cotton candy, with the hill standing head and shoulders above it.

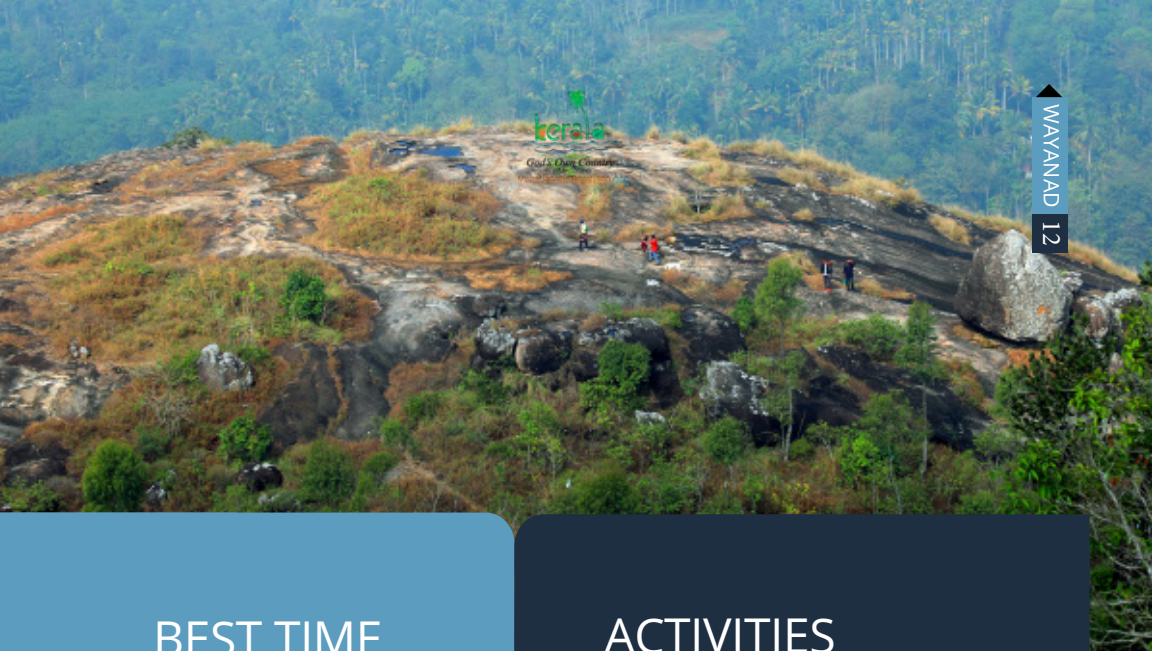
The view from the top stretches as far as Kolagappara, Manjappara, Phantom Rock hills, and the reservoir of the Karappuzha Dam. There is also a narrow cave here; one just wide enough for a single person to descend at a time.

Tickets for the trek can be obtained at the counter and foot of the hill. The treks are organized by the DTPC and attract many visitors daily. Owing to the gentle climb, the hill is a popular family spot and also attracts many novice trekkers to get their first taste of the climbing. There are also seats near the counter, available to those who do not fancy the trek and would just like to enjoy the views from below.

If you choose to ascend in the morning, it is recommended to make the climb as early as possible, as it gets uncomfortably warm at the hilltop, post sunrise. If you climb after 4 pm, you can reach the top well in time, evade most of the heat, and return at sunset. The DTPC also offers a tent camping facility at night.

Tourists are allowed from 6 a.m. till 9.30 am in the morning. Afternoon admission starts at 2 pm and ends at 4.30 pm. You are expected to make the trip downhill by 6 PM. Tickets for adults are Rs. 80 per person and for children, it is Rs. 50. A separate ticket is required to use the camera.








**BEST TIME
TO VISIT**
September to May

ACTIVITIES

- ☐ Trekking
- ☐ Tent Camping

CONNECTIVITY

-  **Kalpetta town**, 22 km away
-  **Kozhikode Railway Station**, 94 km away
-  **Calicut International Airport**, 107 km away

VILLAGE LIFE EXPERIENCES (VLE)

ABOUT

The magical wilderness apart, Wayanad is known for indigenous tribal population, sub-tropical savannahs, rich cultural traditions, quaint hill stations, dense forests, lush green spice plantations and the like. The rustic charm of life in these terrains offers travellers authentic Village Life Experiences (VLE) - ranging from savouring native cuisines to the making of indigenous tribal percussion instruments and handicrafts.

Many VLE tours are available for tourists at villages like Ambalavayal, Chetyalathoor, Nellarachal, Pakkam, and Cheruvayal. Through these VLE tours, one can experience the authentic local way of life and also sample the delicious cuisine. Thanks to these initiatives, visitors may now experience the authentic local way of life in a way that gives back to the local society. Besides the tours offered, one may pick up locally made soaps, candles, and other souvenirs which again contribute to the welfare of the local population.

If you are a true history buff, you might want to visit the Jain Temple in the village of Punchavayal which offers insights into the contribution of Jainism to the culture of Kerala. Ambalavayal, located about 10 km from Sulthan Bathery, is perhaps the most quintessential of the villages in Wayanad. It is a place where one goes deep into the rainforest and also into Kerala's history. Wayanad Heritage Museum run by the DTPC (District Tourism Promotion Council) at Ambalavayal houses many ancient artifacts from bows and arrows to tribal pottery. A visit to the museum sheds much light on the old ways of life here and one might even be impressed to see how advanced they were.

You can reach Ambalavayal via road through Kalpetta and also, Mananthavady. The ghat roads offer impressive views nearly everywhere and once at the village, you can catch sight of the famed Phantom Rock of Wayanad from pretty much everywhere.

Learn more about the activities of [Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission](#) now.





CONNECTIVITY



Calicut Railway Station - 94 km away



Calicut International Airport - 108 km away

KANTHANPARA WATERFALLS

ABOUT

With ever shiny rocks, both caressed and pummelled constantly by white water, Kanthanpara waterfalls are yet another jewel of Wayanad. Tucked amidst the thick rainforest is this serene spot, where one can truly feel cut off from the tentacles of civilization, lost in sheer admiration of the beauty of the rainforest. Interestingly, in the local tongue, Kanthanpara translates to 'magnetic rock'.

The air here is cool and crisp all the year round, owing to the thickly forested areas close by. Often mist-clad, the falls are a sight indeed. Cascading down into two sections, the second drop is the deeper of the two, with a depth of about 30 m.

It is best to visit in the non-rainy season to enjoy this waterfall. This is the time when the pool created by the initial sections of the falls is safely accessible by visitors. This is one of those places you can visit, accompanied by friends and family, have a pause, and just let the world slip by for a day for nature to reclaim you. There are many other well-known waterfalls in the vicinity, fit for you to plan a Western Ghats waterfall tour.





**BEST TIME
TO VISIT**
August to May

ACTIVITIES

- Riverside Hiking
- Bird Watching

CONNECTIVITY

Kanthanpara waterfalls are 8 km away from Meppadi, where taxis can be rented. Public transport to here is not available and hence the other option is to drive to here. However, this involves navigating some hazardous terrain and hence, all caution must be exercised and it is recommended to avoid night-time travel.



Kalpetta town, 18 km away



Kozhikode Railway Station, 85 km away



Calicut International Airport, 98 km away

KARLAD LAKE



ABOUT

The chirping of a dozen birds wakes you up from your reverie. Out here, time has a tempo on its own. Floating along the pristine lake that invites calmness and introspection, you finally begin to grasp the natural essence of life and its events. When you are drifting across the Karlad lake, you don't have a choice but to go with the flow.

Tucked away between the misty mountains of Wayanad, Karlad lake is relatively a new destination for travellers. Opened to the public in 2016, it is the second-largest lake in Wayanad after Pookode Lake and the third-largest freshwater lake in Kerala. Deep canopy shades of dense trees and a variety of birds make this location ideal for a weekend getaway. Spread across seven acres, the Karlad lake is located inside Wayanad Adventure Camp with just 15 km from Kalpetta town. The visitors are welcomed from 9 am to 5 pm with an entry ticket fee of Rs. 30.

Wayanad Adventure Camp offers a wide range of adventure activities to invoke the inner child inside us all. One of the most preferred activities is Zip Lining across the Karlad lake with a magnificent 360-degree view of the surrounding mountains and greenery. There are numerous watchtowers throughout the lakeside to enjoy the view and unwind as you please. Boating through the lake is undoubtedly an experience to cherish.

Wayanad Adventure Camp offers a stay in tents for enthusiastic travellers who want to experience nature at its best. There are common washrooms that are clean and hygienic for visitors. For thrill-seekers, the adventure camp offers activities such as kayaking, rock climbing, Zorbing, Commando Net and Burma Bridge. There is also a handicrafts and spices emporium to bring home souvenirs from nature's lap.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Lakkidi View Point (4.6 km)
- Wayanad Heritage Museum (9 km)
- Pazhassi Raja Tomb (4.8 km)
- Karapuzha Dam (4.9 km)

ACTIVITIES

- Boating
- Kayaking
- Bamboo Rafting
- Zipline
- Wall Climbing
- Luxury Tent Camping

GETTING THERE



Kalpetta town, 15 km away | **Sultan Bathery**, 36 km | **Vythiri**, 21 km



Kozhikode Railway Station, 80 km away



Calicut International Airport, 98 km away

KURUVADWEEP OR KURUVA ISLAND



ABOUT

It's unnaturally quiet here. The only sound you may come across is the occasional flapping of the wings of a heron as you drift in the green tangle in a bamboo raft. Welcome to Kuruvadweep or Kuruva Island, a cluster of islets over the middle of Kabini River in Wayanad. A vast green expanse rich with flora and fauna, Kuruvadweep is a remote destination noted for its sylvan surrounds and vibrant ecosystem.

A verdant biodiversity haven, Kuruvadweep takes one on an enchanting soulful journey through wilderness curated by nature herself. Located near Pakkom in the estuary of Panamaram river and Mananthavadi river and the tributaries of Kabani, this chain of 64 islets is a land of wonders. Spread over 950 acres, the place is ideal for those looking for an escape into nature and is famous for its boat rides on bamboo rafts.

The islets are famous for being home to various species of birds and butterflies. The islet also welcomes plenty of avian visitors during the migratory bird season and is a delight for birders. The Kuruvadweep is under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department.

One can even while away one's time on the bamboo benches and watch the life in the wilderness pass by. The islands are surrounded by plenty of streams and a thrilling journey across these still waters might offer the ultimate reboot for your soul. One can also indulge in soft treks along. Many micro-organisms and unique plants thrive in these islets.

Frequented by nature lovers and trekking enthusiasts, this idyllic spot where you can glide through the placid waters in the green labyrinth is any traveller's fantasy.








BEST TIME TO VISIT

October to May.
(Entry is restricted during rainy seasons - June to September)

ACTIVITIES

- Boating
- Nature Walk
- Wildlife
- Bamboo Rafting
- Bird Watching

CONNECTIVITY

-  **Mananthavady town**, 17 km away
-  **Kozhikode Railway Station**, 99 km away
-  **Calicut International Airport**, 119 km away

POOKODE LAKE



ABOUT

How would you like to visit a lake that is both small and tall? The smallest freshwater lake of Kerala also happens to be the highest one. At an altitude of 770 meters above sea level, the Pookode lake in Wayanad is truly a spectacular one; nestled in the Western Ghats as if she were a pet of the mountains, guarded under their close watch, and surrounded by magnificent views for the eyes to feast upon.

The evergreen forests that surround the lake are home to a wide range of flora and fauna. Perhaps the most notable fact about the lake is that it is home to a species of fish which is named after it, (a carp) called *Pethia pookodensis*, which astonishingly, has been found only here. Blue lotus flowers abound in the lake, offering infinite photographic possibilities. Also, it is indeed interesting to note that the very shape of the lake resembles the geographical map of India very closely! Alert, droners.

The visiting time is from 9 am to 5 pm. One can take boat rides offered by the DTPC here and take it all in at a leisurely pace. The rides are very popular with visitors and are an experience that is not to be skipped. Besides, there is a walker's path around the lake for one to take long walks in perfect solitude. Also, if you are in the mood for some shopping, there are plenty of little shops around to pick up souvenirs, as well as spices and handicrafts.

Pookode Lake is an ideal place to spend a leisurely day with the family and admire some untouched natural beauty





ACTIVITIES

- Boating
- Rowing
- Kayaking
- Cycling
- Bird Watching
- Nature Walk

CONNECTIVITY



Vythiri town, 2.5 km away



Kozhikode Railway Station, 61 km away



Calicut International Airport, 73 km away

PRIYADARSHINI HILLS

ABOUT

Every home has its own tea ceremony. Even more so in Kerala, where everyone celebrates the brew. So how about experiencing the charm of tea, whilst tracing its journey from the plantations? Welcome to one such tea land – the Priyadarshini Hills.

The Priyadarshini Hills in Wayanad are endowed with enchanting beauty, picturesque surrounds, rolling hills and many trekking and mountain biking trails. But the choicest destination to explore here is the Priyadarshini Tea Estate where you get to indulge in a dazzling tea tour. Picture this. A wonderful plantation walk, a visit to the tea factory, tea tasting, and then taking home that tea you want to spend time with! Apart from the tea estate, one gets to visit the tea factory and tea museum. This and more awaits you at Priyadarshini Hills.

Priyadarshini Tea Estate also plays host to **MTB Kerala**, an International Mountain Cycling Event, organised by Kerala Tourism, under the aegis of Kerala Adventure Tourism Promotion Society (KATPS), District Tourism Promotional Council Wayanad (DTPC) and Cycling Federation of India (CFI). MTB Kerala is the first mountain bike race in India to be featured in the MTB race calendar of Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), the Swiss-based world governing body for sports cycling and oversees international competitive cycling events.

You also get to indulge in the ethnic delicacies prepared by local communities here. Vishwas Point, the highest point in Priyadarshini, is a trekking point and adventure enthusiasts will be in their element here. Plenty of camping opportunities are also available at these green hills.

A tea tour is arranged by the District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC) in Wayanad along with the Mananthavady Tribal Society. In these tea trails, you will learn how tea gets plucked from the plantations, how it is cut, heated, rolled and dusted, before it is packed. And then after you have watched the tea-making process, you get to enjoy the hot brew. You can take your pick from the many varieties of tea here and enjoy it, while perched on one of the most verdant locations in Wayanad. Stay can be arranged at the many cottages in the estate.








**BEST TIME TO
VISIT**
October to May

ACTIVITIES

- Tea Tour
- Trekking
- Mountain Biking
- Hiking
- Tent Camping

CONNECTIVITY

-  **Mananthavady town**, 9 km away
-  **Kozhikode Railway Station**, 104 km away
-  **Thalassery Railway Station**, 80 km away
-  **Calicut International Airport**, 124 km away
-  **Kannur International Airport**, 65 km away

THE EDAKKAL CAVES

ABOUT

The Edakkal Caves in Wayanad are steeped in mystery. Located at an elevation of 1200 ft above sea level, they have been fascinating both tourists and historians alike, since their discovery in 1895. The paintings and carvings inside the cave, that date back to at least 6000 BC, indicate the presence of ancient human inhabitants in the area. It is believed that human beings had been present here at many different times of history.

The word 'Edakkal' translates to 'a stone in between'. The inclusion of the word 'caves' however, is a misnomer as these are not real caves. They were part of a larger historical monument and several beliefs are associated with their origin. Some believe that the rock was formed by the arrow of Lord Rama, hence the name 'Ambukuthi' hill. Many idols carved out of stone can still be seen on this hill.

Many tourists come to Edakkal Caves to have a go at trekking while enjoying the natural beauty offered by the numerous trek routes that run through the coffee plantations here. Tourists have to take an entrance pass to enter the Edakkal Cave. One will have to climb the stone steps first, to reach the cave. This makes the trip up a very thrilling one. Admission to Edakkal is daily from 9 am to 4 pm. Tickets cost Rs. 20 for adults and Rs. 10 for children.





BEST TIME TO VISIT

October to May

CONNECTIVITY



Sultan Bathery town, 13 km away



Kozhikode Railway Station, 97 km away



Calicut International Airport, 110 km away



Kannur International Airport, 113 km away



Kanthanpara
Waterfalls



Priyadarshini
Tea Plantation



Edakkal
Caves



Banasura Sagar
Dam

VIDEO GALLERY



Cheengeri Hills



Karlad Lake



Visit a Village



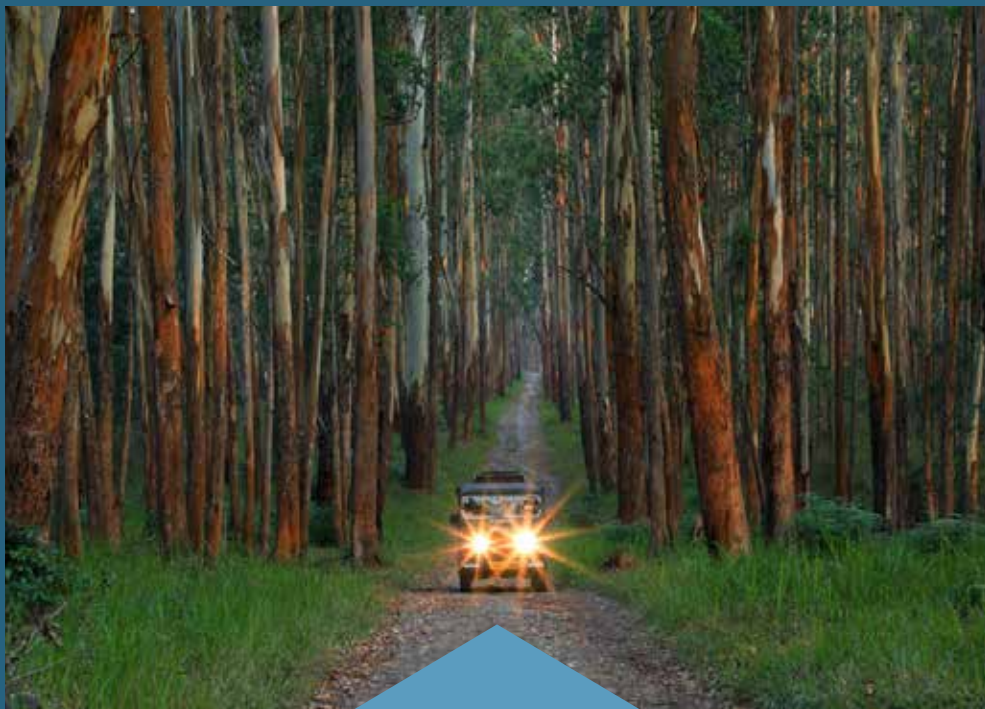
Kanthanpara waterfalls

Wayanad Adventure
Camp



Wayanad Churam

PHOTO GALLERY



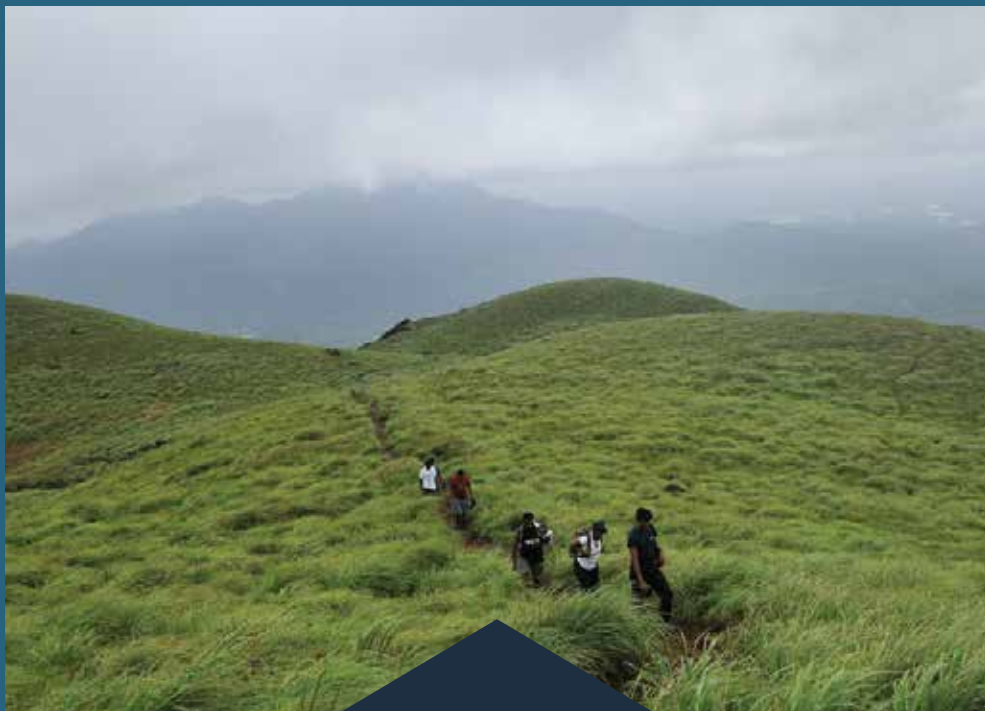
WAYANAD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



BANASURA SAGAR DAM



CHEENGERI HILLS



CHEMBRA PEAK



KANTHANPARA WATERFALLS



KARLAD LAKE



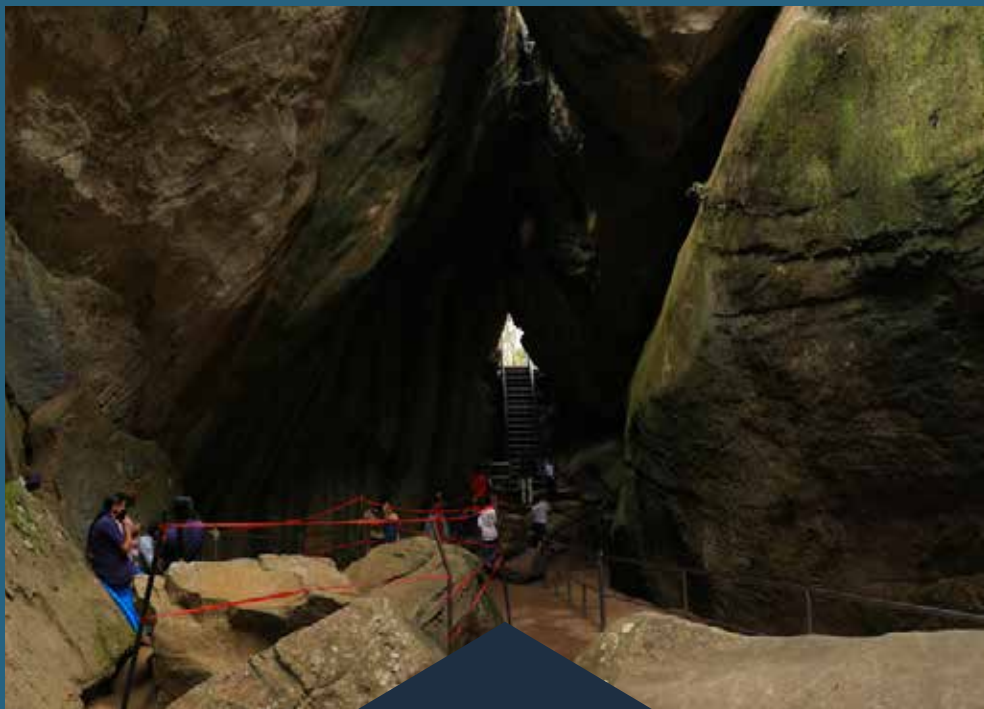
KURUVADWEEP (KURUVA ISLAND)



POOKODE LAKE



PRIYADARSHINI HILLS



THE EDAKKAL CAVES



THANK YOU