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LIVING CUSHIONS



THE MANGROVE FORESTS OF NORTH MALABAR





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The mangroves are a natural marvel that protect life on land by acting as a buffer and resisting rough seas and winds. They do a lot of other good things also, like combating climate change and global warming. By absorbing salt and other contaminants, they clean water and thus help sustain precious life. It is believed that mangroves taken in ten times more carbon than evergreen forests. Besides being excellent models of environment protection, the mangroves are rich sources of medicinal plants too.

But if innocent pleasures are what you have in mind, and you wish to enjoy their sheer diversity, come to Kerala. Especially to the villages and small towns of Kannur.





Although you can spot mangrove forests anywhere in Kannur and Kasaragod districts of north Kerala, won't it be exciting to start at a point where their grand work creates magic? If that is so, begin your journey from Ezhome village in Kannur, whose chief attraction is the mangrove belt that Kallen Pokkudan dedicated his entire life creating and nurturing.

The traditional organic farms of Kaippad, that stand close to the mangroves of Ezhome, form another special feature of north Kerala. Paddy and fish are cultivated in the same fields here! What's more, the quality of both harvests matches international standards.



For those who come to enjoy the sights, sounds and scents of the mangroves of Ezhome, there is an attractive bonus. A trip through the mangrove lake park at Vayalpra near Pazhayangadi, in Kannur that guarantees information and entertainment in equal measure.

At one point of time the mangroves were large trees. Sadly, today they have shrunk in size due to the pressures exerted by ever-increasing human population and over-urbanization. However, what is heartening is that the people of this area are now working in right earnest to protect the remaining mangroves so that their successors can enjoy the benefits of this precious natural resource.



Nearby attractions

- Madayippara
- Cherukunnu
- Vayalapa Park
- Payyambalam Beach
- Chootad Beach



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Madayippara

Madayippara is an extremely beautiful laterite plateau with many enchanting tales to tell. The verdant hues on display here are mesmerizing and the monsoon lends an extra layer of mysticism to it. While the rain cloaks the place in a lush green blanket, the summer brings with it the shades of the sun and spring turns it into a divine sea of blue.

A wide-angle photograph of the Madayippara laterite plateau. The foreground is dominated by dark, jagged mounds of laterite rock, interspersed with patches of dry, yellowish-brown grass. The middle ground shows a vast, flat expanse of the plateau extending towards a line of green trees in the distance. The sky is a pale, clear blue. In the bottom foreground, there are white, stylized silhouettes of palm fronds and a lotus flower, partially overlapping the landscape image.

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Cherukunnu

A serene village famous for the legendary Annapoornaeshwari Temple, it has other picturesque destinations like the Islands of Ayiramthengu and Mungam. Padiyil, Kavinisseri and Kunnanangadu are some of the popular hills located here.



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Vayalappa park

This secluded beach is a beautiful picnic centre with its chain of forts adding to its ethereal charm.

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Payyambalam Beach

The Payyambalam Beach is an impeccably maintained destination in Kannur. This secluded location is known for providing one with the opportunity to simply relax or enjoy a family picnic in absolute tranquillity. Surfing and swimming options are also available for those who seek a little adventure. The gentle waters form a picturesque setting that has been featured in many South Indian movies as well. Being close to Kannur town has made it a favourite haunt for tourists and locals alike.



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Chootad Beach

With casuarinas trees providing shade and the beach facing Ezhimala, Chootad Beach remains one among the most serene beaches in all of Kerala.



VIDEO GALLERY



Madayippara



Payyambalam Beach



Chootad Beach