

Nilambur

Tales Woven In Teak



God's Own Country

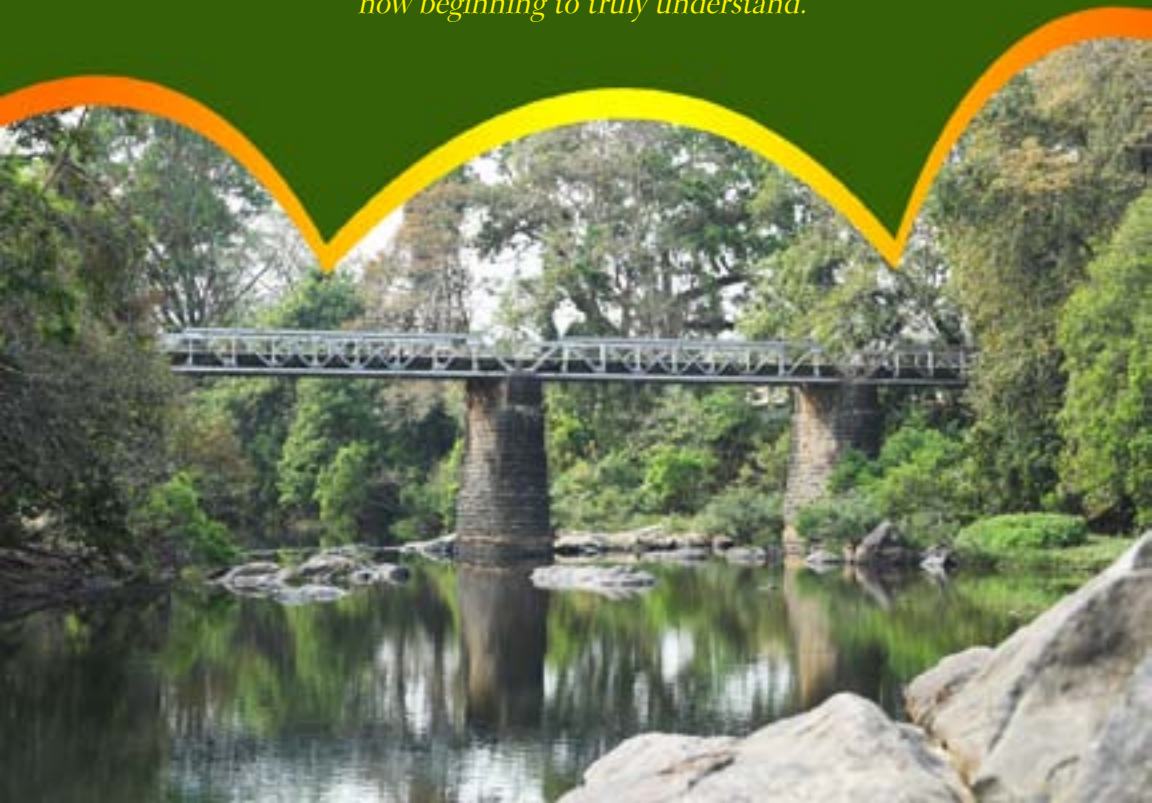
www.keralatourism.org/ecotourism

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Introduction

There are paths and trails that can escape the naked eye, yet have been dutifully preserved and maintained in nature's very own loving embrace for over a millennium. We stumble upon them while seeking other destinations, but these are the sites that define the very essence of our journey. These are pit stops which draw us in, years after we have left these parts, when in distant lands we remember that one meadow that granted us peace on an otherwise torrid day. In the green haven of Nilambur, where tales of the past are woven in teak, we come across the magnificent Nedumkayam Rainforest, a jewel that we are only now beginning to truly understand.



Nedumkayam Rainforest

Nedumkayam Rainforest forms a crucial part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, as it is considered a hotbed for trekking enthusiasts. The trails here are easily among the most unexplored natural paths in all of God's Own Country. Woven across an evergreen terrain, there are still newer paths being found by visitors on each trip. One is immediately mesmerised by the sheer untamed vegetation on all sides, with the cheers and echoes of a wide variety of animals resonating throughout the entire region. There are patches where one runs into shrubs with medicinal properties, while other vantage points help one observe animals going about their daily rituals. People regularly encounter a plethora of species that include elephants, deer, bison, wild dogs, rabbits and monkeys. Its Elephant Camps and wooden rest houses are much loved by all tourists, and make for an engaging detour.



Attractions in Nilambur

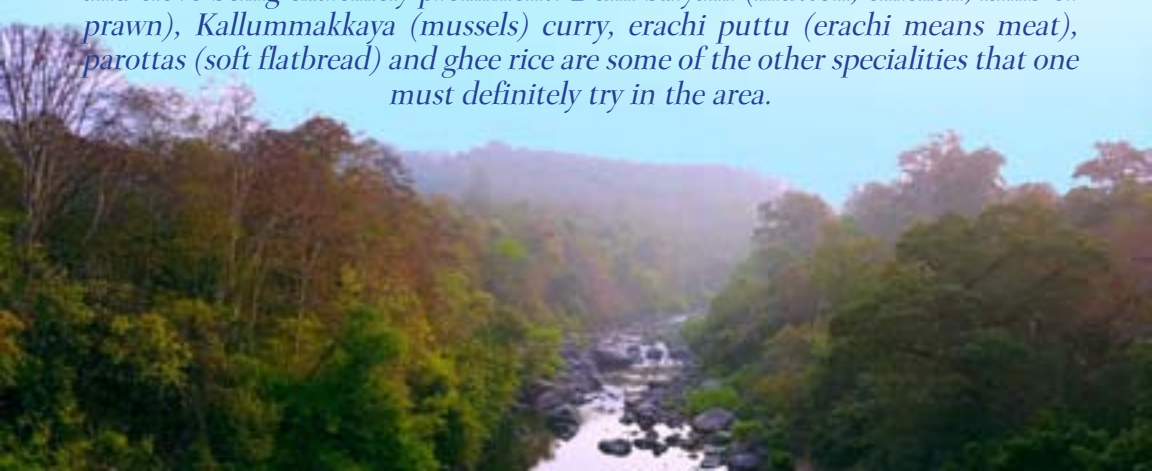
*N*edumkayam lies about 15 km away from Nilambur in Malappuram district, whose major claim to fame is being the site of what is considered by many to be the oldest teak plantation in the world. Over a century and a half ago, Sri Chandu Menon, as directed by H. V. Conolly (then Governor of Malabar under the British rule), converted over 14.8 acres of land into the teak plantation. He was laid to rest in the teak garden in Conolly's Plot. Today, around 5.7 acres of the original plantation area has still been preserved. The area is also beloved to many due to its famous Teak Museum, which chronicles the relationship between the area and the plant species to perfection, along with many other interesting anecdotes regarding the tropical hardwood tree.

Nilambur is also the original home of the Cholainaickans, the oldest aboriginal tribe of Kerala. Nearby lies the Kumbham Handicrafts Village, where an entire community of traditional artisans revived their craft together while staving off cheap industrial substitutes. To visit its tribal settlements and to get to know more about their unique way, one requires permission from the Forest Department to enter the forest zone here they dwell. Its kovilakoms are also an intriguing study, as these were the residences of the local rajas or rulers of yore.



Malappuram's Allure

*F*lanked by the Nilgiri Hills, Eranadu, Palakkad and Kozhikode, Nilambur is where most travellers to Malappuram district are first asked to visit. It imbibes the natural and pristine aura of the district perfectly. Malappuram, which itself means 'land atop the hills', is fed by the three great rivers in the area- the Chaliyar, the Kadalundi and the Bharathapuzha. The area is famous for the deep intermingling of a variety of cultures, drawing both from Islamic Philosophy and from the Vedas. It has its own ripe history, as it was the military headquarters of the renowned Zamorins of Kozhikode for a long time. Many of the great Mappila revolts against the British took place in this district. Apart from Nilambur and Nedumkayam Rainforest, some of the other sites of interest in the district include Kadalundi Bird Sanctuary, Adyanpara Waterfalls, Kodikuthimala, Karuvarakundu, Keralamkundu and Kozhippara waterfalls. Kadalundi Bird Sanctuary especially is every ornithologist's paradise, it has more than a hundred species of native birds and over 60 species of migratory birds, spread out over an area of 3 sq km. The Mappila Cuisine is a great blend of traditional Kerala and Arab food culture. Pathiri is a very tasty delicacy here, which is basically bread made of rice. The use of spices here is also legendary, with pepper, cardamom and clove being extremely prominent. Dum blyani (mutton, chicken, lamb or prawn), Kallummakkaya (mussels) curry, erachi puttu (erachi means meat), parottas (soft flatbread) and ghee rice are some of the other specialities that one must definitely try in the area.



Ecotourism

This planet we are on nurtures over 7 billion inhabitants on a daily basis. While its marvels are beyond the realm of any one person's imagination, it is easy to notice the damages that are being caused on each and every front, due to the rise in population and the spread of civilization. Even the uninhabited corners of Mother Earth are now being turned into urban centres, and this affects the fragile balance that has kept the planet afloat this entire time.

Tourism is a great bonding element, mixing and mashing cultural experiences from across the world. People gain empathy for those they may have nothing in common with, with places their ancestors may never have heard of or traditions they could never have even dreamt of. Hence, the combination of environmentally driven ecological sites being used as prime tourist destinations leads to the wonderful concept of ecotourism.



Significance of Ecotourism

Ecotourism lets people appreciate the many boons that Mother Earth has bestowed us with. It is the epitome of making people realize the true value of the treasures that we are endangering with our reckless actions. It is the clarion call that resonates within one's soul in a seamless but provocative manner, evoking the basic empathy that is the first step in battling the environmental dangers we are facing in this day and age.



Ecotourism at Nedumkayam

The mission in these parts has always been to ensure that the rainforest and its original inhabitants are always given the highest priority. Their well being is of utmost importance, with the trails and paths that visitors are led through being great examples of how one can educate the future generations on the simple fact that we can coexist with nature, even in these changing times. The structures and tours given here are all non-deterrent to innate sanctity of the place, and the authorities and locals have combined to make it among the most beautifully managed ecotourism spots in the country



Why Kerala

The majestic pines and peeking wildlife that greet you as you enter Silent Valley during your initial trek are hallmarks of Kerala and its endless bounty of natural beauty. Much of our lore and tradition emanates from these parts, and they are treasure troves of our past and heritage. They are priceless cultural landmarks, behemoths of history and proud jewels that adorn our vast landscape. Kerala and its people have known for a long time the immense responsibility they have inherited from their ancestors; true crusaders who ensured the well-being of this land for centuries. It is now our moment, our time in history, to repay the gifts that the land has blessed us with.

Hence, the people and governments at all levels have come together to formulate ways to conserve and protect the myriad floral and faunal species that grace our unique landscape. Concerted efforts have been made in the last few decades, alongside budgetary allotments and specific policy changes, that has made Kerala one among the pioneers in the Ecotourism movement around the world. Being a region with such an abundance of natural resources, it seems only fitting that we set an example and lead the way in the global resistance against any threats to our environment.



Trekking

Trails of Nedumkayam

The dense and evergreen forests of Nedumkayam are teeming with rare flora and fauna, and have some of the best trails in the region. A 3 hours trek will take to you Mundakadav Waterfalls, one of the most mesmerising sights in all of Malappuram district. So many of these paths are yet to be traversed by outsiders, and the entire track takes you on a wonderful roller coaster, physically and emotionally.

The entire journey is ripe with many animal sightings, including numerous elephants that freely roam around the area. They are regularly seen splashing around merrily in the waters of the beautiful Chaliyar. Let nature dictate your steps, taking you to crevices that it has hidden for over a millennium.

Entry is restricted during February to April, due to the possibility of forest fires in the area.

Visiting Time:
10.00 A.M. to 04.30 P.M.

Cost of the Package
Rs. 20/ for Adult
Rs. 10/- for children



Conolly's Plot

The history of Nilambur has an intimate relationship with teak, and Conolly's Plot could be considered among the best sites to understand the depth of the bond. H. V. Conolly, then Collector of Malabar, in 1842, began the original operations that led to the formation of the teak plantations in the area. This plot is today an exclusive teak plantation spot, and is among the oldest on the entire planet. There are many beautiful and ancient teak trees that adorn the landscape.

One passes through an area governed by the Kerala Forest Department and we encounter the longest hanging bridge in all of Kerala, constructed masterfully over the river Chaliyar. Beyond this lies Conolly's Plot, where our trip reaches its culmination. We have many unique sights, including a tree with a girth of 420 cm. This is easily one of the oldest man-made teak plantations in the whole world, and it lives up to its billing at every point.

Visiting Hours: 09.00 A.M.
to 05.00 A.M.

Cost of the Package

Rs. 25/- for Adults (Indian National)
Rs. 10/- for children (Indian National)
Rs. 40/- for Adults (Foreign national)
Rs. 20/- for children (Foreign National)



Teak Museum

Nilambur teak is Malappuram's joy and pride, and the Teak Museum here is a living testament to the proud relation between the two. Entire archives dedicated to a specific plant species are rare, and this spacious exhibit brings every single detail related to teak to life in an extraordinary way.

It is located on the campus of the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) and contains many artefacts that pertain to the historical, aesthetic and scientific aspects of teak. It is situated about four kilometres from the town, on the Nilambur - Gudallur Road. The best of the exhibits here are deeply entrenched in the living history of the very area it is built on. One sees an expansive root system of a 55- year- old teak the moment one gets past the gate, right at the portico. Depictions of the oldest naturally growing teak tree, the legendary 'Kannimara Teak', a spectacular life-size replica of the trunk of the largest known teak tree growing in Malayattoor forest, traditional granaries, miniature models of Urus (famous ships that were extremely important in the spread of trade in Kerala) ; these and many other unique attractions can be explored here.

There are other informative concepts and displays that visitors can observe here. These include the varied methods of seed-grading, pre-sowing treatment, preparation of teak stumps, vegetative propagation of teak and stages in the complete rotation cycle of teak. Then there is the attached Butterfly Park with over 300 butterflies, moths and insects found in teak plantations. One can also observe a wide range of paintings, photographs, exhibits on traditional harvesting tools, wood samples of different ages from all across the planet. The library and mini-auditorium have a lot of content regarding teak and separate plantations that gives people access to a large amount of knowledge on the subject. It is a quaint locale, having the unique distinction of focussing its entire research on a tropical hardwood tree that has deeply impacted the area.

Visiting time

10.00 AM to 04.30 PM

Cost of the package

Rs. 40/- for Adults

Rs.15/- for children

Guest House



Ph: 0483-2734311

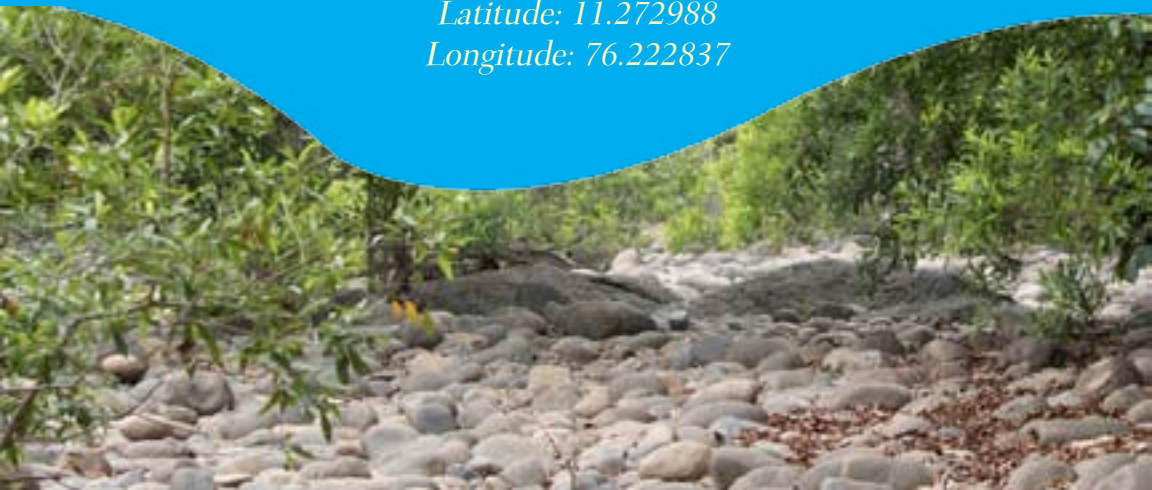
DTPC - Uphill, Malappuram-5 Ph: 0483-2731504

Email: info@dtpcmalyappuram.com

Location

Latitude: 11.272988

Longitude: 76.222837



Getting There



Nearest Railway Station:

*Nilambur Railway Station
lies about 5 km from the site.*



Nearest Airport:

Karipur International Airport



Bus Stations:

KSRTC, Malappuram Ph: 2734950

KSRTC, Perinthalmanna Ph: 04933-227342

KSRTC, Ponnani Ph: 0494-2666396

PHOTO GALLERY



*Misty woods of
Nedumkayam*

PHOTO GALLERY



*River through
Nedumkayam
Rainforests*

PHOTO GALLERY



*The tranquil waters of the
rivers flowing through the
forests of Nedumkayam*

PHOTO GALLERY



Sun
shines here for a reason

PHOTO GALLERY



Conolly's Plot
the oldest teak plantations in the world

PHOTO GALLERY



*The boulders of
Nedumkayam river*

PHOTO GALLERY



*Leave the road and lead the
trail at
Nedumakayam*

PHOTO GALLERY



Karimpuzha river

PHOTO GALLERY



*The hanging bridge at
Nilambur*

PHOTO GALLERY



Teak
Museum
at Nilambur

Video Gallery



Video Gallery



Hanging Bridge at Nilambur

Video Gallery



Nilambur Forests

Video Gallery



Bioreserve Nature Park at Nilambur

Video Gallery



Conolly's Plot in Nilambur

Video Gallery



Teak Museum at Nilambur

Video Gallery



Nedumkayam Rainforests