

PERIYAR

Embracing the Wild




God's Own Country

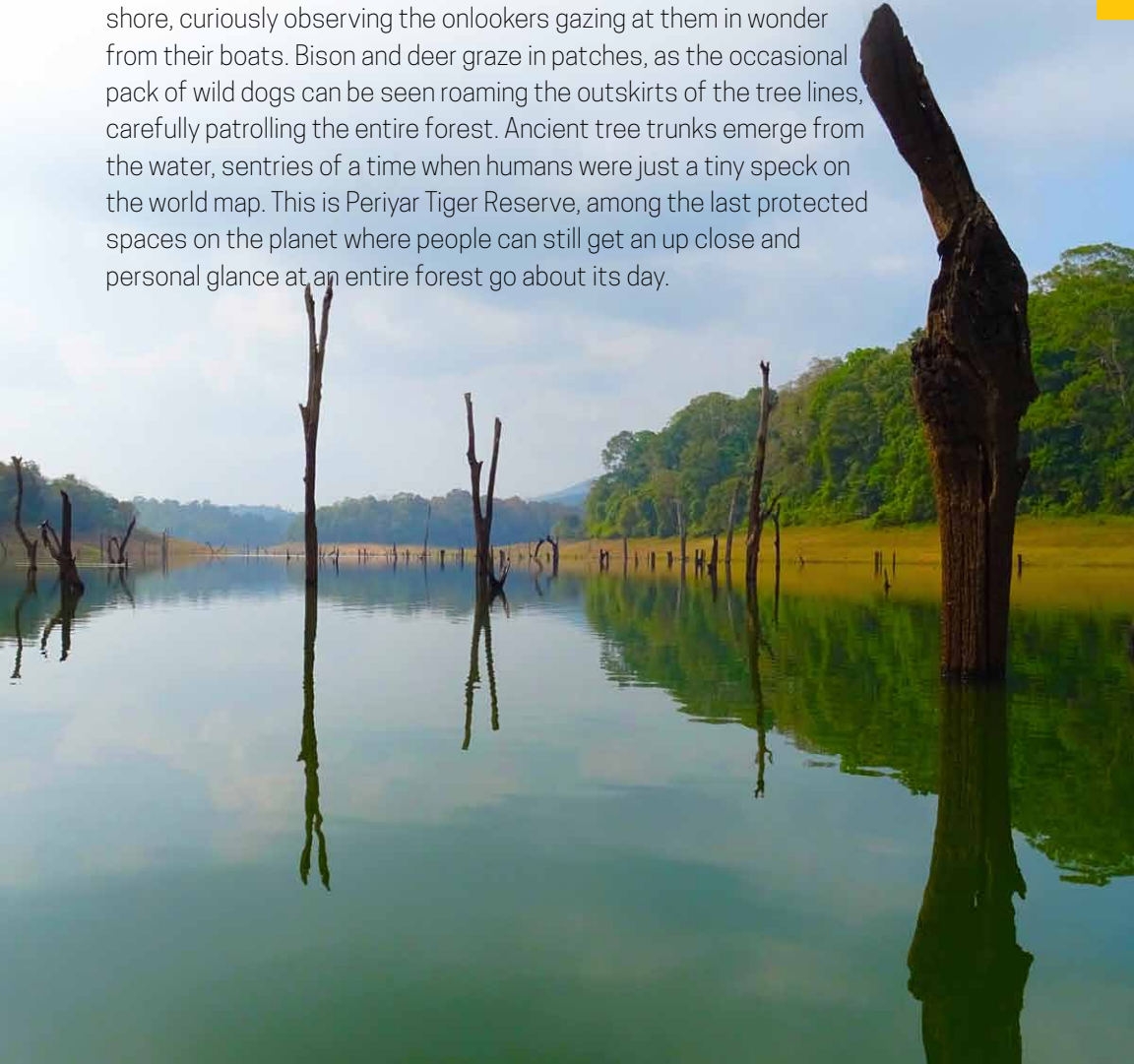
www.keralatourism.org/ecotourism

(Adobe Acrobat Reader recommended for better experience with e-brochure)

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Slow ripples in the water let you know that you are not alone. A kingfisher sweeps in from afar and as your gaze turns to the water, a small herd of muddy baby elephants playfully make their way to the shore, curiously observing the onlookers gazing at them in wonder from their boats. Bison and deer graze in patches, as the occasional pack of wild dogs can be seen roaming the outskirts of the tree lines, carefully patrolling the entire forest. Ancient tree trunks emerge from the water, sentries of a time when humans were just a tiny speck on the world map. This is Periyar Tiger Reserve, among the last protected spaces on the planet where people can still get an up close and personal glance at an entire forest go about its day.



GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES

Situated in the ever-bustling Thekkady region in Idukki, Periyar is nestled in the upper reaches of the Western Ghats. Both the Periyar and Pamba Rivers emanate from the depths of the forest, which covers a colossal land mass of around 777 sq. km. The terrain here is varied, including tropical evergreen forests, tropical semi-evergreen forests, moist deciduous forests, marshy grasslands and eucalyptus plantations. This area sees annual average rainfall of around 1700 mm, with the October to May being the most recommended times to visit the area. The construction of Mullaperiyar Dam in the erstwhile kingdom of Travancore in 1895 led to the formation of an artificial lake in its middle of the Sanctuary. This is the special vantage point from which most visitors get to experience its beauty through boat rides that run throughout the day. Parts of the Sanctuary spill into Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts as well. Tea, cardamom, pepper and coffee plantations surround the Sanctuary with vast and seemingly endless stretches of greenery.



Nature's Bounty

Its biodiversity is what ranks Periyar high among Kerala's most precious treasures. The sheer variety of species here is magical. Declared a sanctuary in 1950 and a tiger reserve in 1978, it plays host to over 1965 flowering plants including 171 grass species and 143 species of orchids. The latest estimates on tigers put their numbers at around 35, with the other regularly spotted species here being the Asian Elephant, Indian Bison, Sambar Deer, Indian Wild Dog, Leopard, Barking Deer and the Smooth-Coated Otter. Some of the rarer species in these parts include the Lion-Tailed Macaque, Bonnet Macaques and the Nilgiri Langur. The Nilgiri Tahr, an endemic mountain goat, can be viewed in the higher rocky areas of the Sanctuary. Lovers of avian life are also in for a treat as the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary is home to about 265 species including migrant birds. Some of the common birds here that your eyes can feast on include the Malabar Grey Hornbill, The Indian Pied Hornbill, White Bellied Treepie, many species of Drongos, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Babblers and the magnificent Malabar Trogon.



Bamboo Rafting

The forests of Periyar make for smooth viewing during the day. Atop a specially made bamboo raft, this entire experience gets elevated to another level altogether. The breeze caresses you the entire way and animal and bird sightings are extremely regular on this path. It begins at 8 A.M., and the crisp climate of the place enhances the entire experience.

The package also includes boat landing and a guide. Local food delicacies are also included in the trip.

This packages can also be taken for a half day.

Timing: 08.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M.

Full day

Rs. 2400/- per person
(for a group of a minimum of four, maximum of six)

Rs. 4800/- per trek

Half-day

Rs. 1800/- per person (for a group of a minimum of four, maximum of six)

Rs. 3600/- per trek



Group size: One group of two (minimum) to 10 (maximum) people @ Rs. 1500/- per person (Minimum Rs. 3000/- per trip)

Only children of 12 years and above are allowed to participate in the above programme.

Bookings are confirmed against 100% payment. Ticket rates do not include Entrance fees.



Nature Walk

Strolls are a great way to reconnect with your very core. These are special instances when a human being comes in contact with a wide range of thoughts and feelings in relative solitude. When nature plays host to such an event, it usually brings into perspective a person's entire life in a short amount of time. At Periyar, the Nature Walk evokes many such emotions among all our visitors.

The wildlife of the Sanctuary comes to life in these parts, especially at dawn. Chirps and roars intertwine into a divine orchestra that

follows you the entire time you are on this time-tested trail. You witness many of the endemic beings of the place in their natural habitats, going about a variety of activities, including taking the time to greet some of our more lucky visitors. The greenery is majestic, with a massive amount of tree cover forming the perfect base for the entire journey.

This guided trekking programme which lasts for two-and-half hours and traverses a distance of 4-5 km is offered in six time slots.



Time slots:

07.00 A.M., 07.30 A.M.,
10.00 A.M., 10.30 A.M.,
02.00 P.M. and 02.30 P.M.

Package Cost

Rs. 350/- per person (for a group of a minimum of four, maximum of six)
Rs. 1400/- per trek
Ticket rates do not include Entrance fees

Green Walk

A 3-hour walk, with over 4-5 km covered in the very embrace of Periyar. Visuals of butterflies and a plethora of avian species highlight this walk, with a green canopy covering everything your eyes see. It takes you to all the best spots where you can observe some of the finest visuals the Sanctuary has to offer. This invigorating trek is definitely a must for anyone who wishes to experience the natural boons of Periyar.

These walks are offered between 7 A.M. to 3 P.M. in different nature trails inside the Sanctuary. A maximum of 5 persons can go for the trip at a time along each trail accompanied by a trained tribal guide.



Time slots:

07.00 A.M., 07.30 A.M.,
10.00 A.M., 10.30 A.M.,
02.00 P.M. and 02.30 P.M

Cost

Rs. 350/-

per person (for a group of a minimum of four, maximum of six)

Rs. 1400/- per trek

Ticket rates do not include Entrance fees

Jungle Scout

The jungle truly comes to life at night in these parts, partly due to the fact that Periyar is among the only areas which have maintained their raw and rustic charm to this very day. This guided trek takes you to a lot of unique places inside the Sanctuary, where the absolute silence of the night is broken only by the beings that are brave enough to roam around these parts at this time. Our experts help you know where one can see some of these beautiful species in their resting places, the nighttime and early dawn being the best moments to get a true feel of their daily routine.

It occurs within the periphery of the Eco-development Zone of the Tiger Reserve. Along with the company of armed guards, the trip starts at 19.00 hrs and ends at 04.00 hrs.



Rs. 1200/- per person
(Minimum Rs. 2400/- per trip)



Border Hiking

An elevated hike along Periyar's edges is among the most rejuvenating treks available in this area. On a trail that ranges between 900 to 1300 m, it gives one a beautiful glimpse of the higher peaks of the terrain. One also gets to witness interesting species along the way including Gaur, sloth bear and elephants.

This programme is open to a maximum of 10 tourists in 2 different groups. The trekkers along with two guides participate in the programme which starts at 8 A.M. and ends in the evening. The package includes food as well.



Timing:

From 08.00 A.M.
to 05.00 P.M.

Rs. 1800/- per person
(Two groups each with six persons)

Rs. 3600/- per trip
Ticket rates do not include
Entrance fees



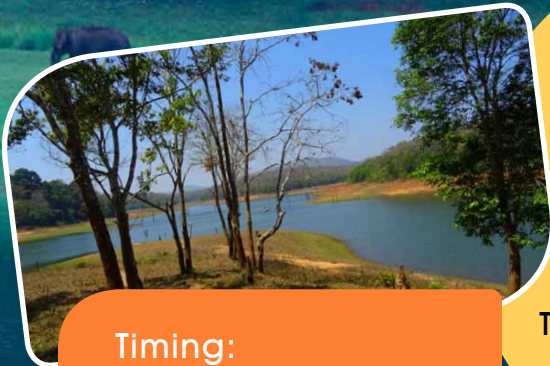
Periyar Tiger Trail

The forest trembles with periodic roars that resonates through every fiber of your being, sending shivers down your spine. A place like Periyar is among the only habitats where the majestic tiger still reigns supreme, and this trail takes you through some of their most visited spots in the entire Sanctuary. Stay inside a tent and let the chaos of the jungle unfold all around you.

This guided trek covers a distance of 20 to 35 km that lets one view other species in the wild including Nilgiri langur, elephant and the Malabar Giant Squirrel.

En route one gets treated to vegetarian meals as well.

This package is available in two slots, one is one night and two days (1N/2D) and the other is two nights and three days (2N/3D). It is conducted twice in a week and prior booking is needed. A group may include a maximum of six people.



Timing:
Starts from 09.00 A.M.

Rate for 1N/2D
Rs. 6000/- per person
(Minimum Rs. 9000/- per camp)

Rate for 2N/3D
Rs. 8400/- per person
(Minimum Rs. 12000/- per camp)

Ticket rates do not include entrance fees.

Bamboo Grove

Surrounded by bamboo thickets, one gets an extremely picturesque view of the entire forest. This unique package is a tribute to the very concept of ecotourism, with visitors being treated to a beautiful place to stay in a completely natural surrounding.

15 bamboo huts with double-bedded occupancy with hygienic and modern furnishing are available here. One also gets to attend an orientation programme, visit a tribal colony, witness wildlife film shows, enjoy bird watching, trekking and a complimentary boat ride on the mystical Periyar Lake.

Lunch, dinner and breakfast are included in the package
The package excludes children of below 12 years.

Rs. 4000/- per cottage
Rs. 1 200/- for extra person



Jungle Inn

The watchtowers of Periyar offer one a brilliant visual of the entire place. A stay gives you a birds-eye view of the entire area, watching the inhabitants of this ancient site going about their day to day activities. The forest cottage at Kokkara, about an hour's walk from the Forest Checkpost, is a great way for visitors to enjoy the stillness and glory of an entire sanctuary from the sky.

Tea, snacks and dinner are included in the package.

Rs. 2000/- per person
(Two persons per night)

Ticket rates do not include Entrance Fees



Timing:

Check-in : 03.00 P.M.
Check-out : 09.00 A.M.



Photos



PHOTOS

Periyar Wildlife



PHOTOS

Periyar Nature Walk



PHOTOS

Bamboo Rafting



PHOTOS

Green Walk at Periyar



PHOTOS

Border hiking



PHOTOS

A package to live in Nature



PHOTOS

Malabar Grey Hornbill



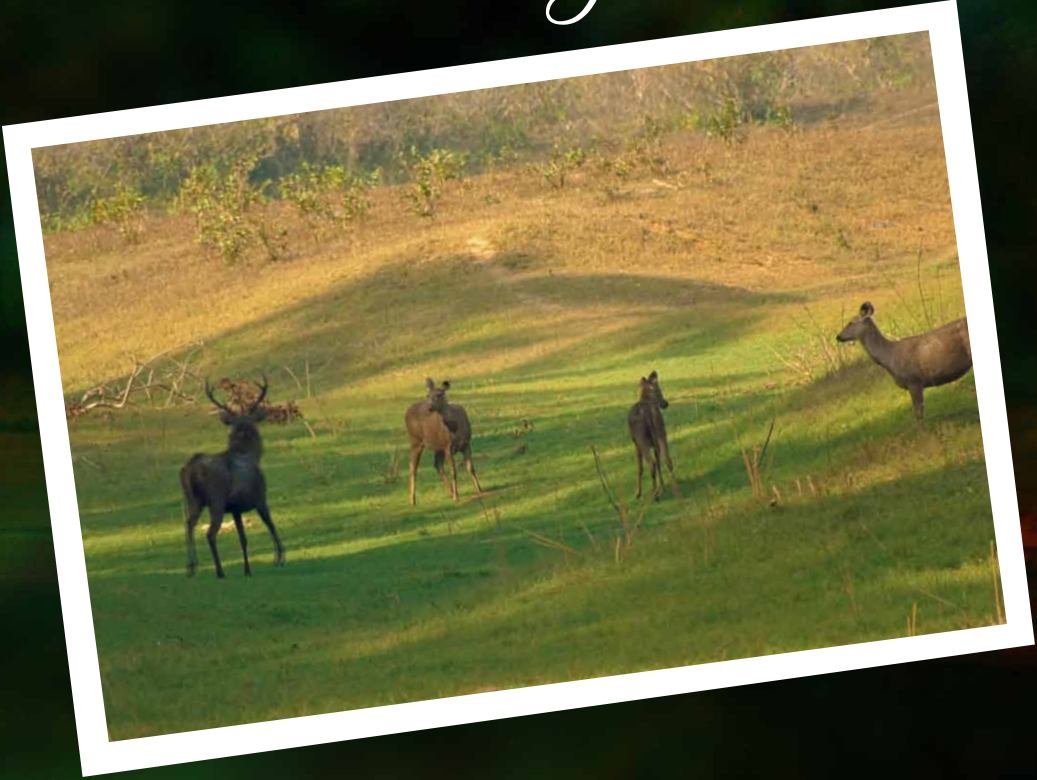
PHOTOS

View of the Valleys



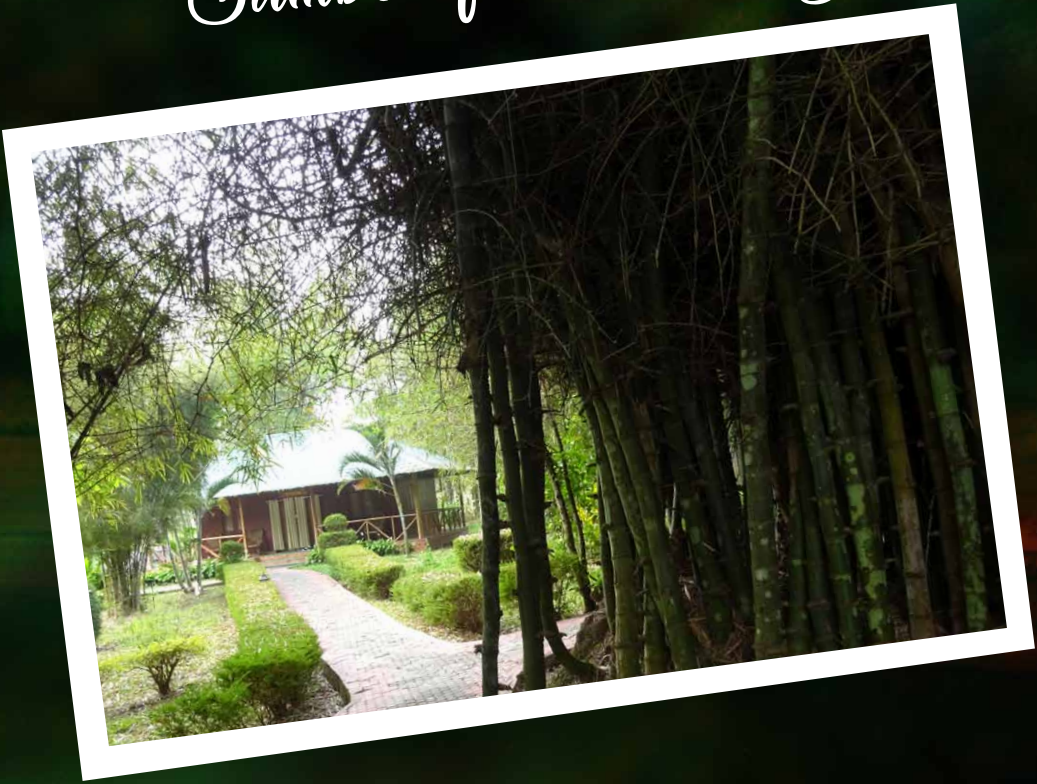
PHOTOS

Periyar Wildlife



PHOTOS

Bamboo forest at Periyar



Videos



Videos

Bamboo Rafting at Periyar



Videos

Border Hiking at Periyar



Videos

Nature Walk at Periyar



Videos

Jungle Scout at Periyar



Videos

Periyar Tiger Trail



Videos

Exotic Wildlife of Periyar



Contact Details

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 Website: www.periyartigerreserve.org

Getting There



Nearest Railway Station:

Kottayam Railway Station, about 110 km
 from Thekkady



Nearest Airport:

Madurai, about 140 km and Cochin
 International Airport, about 190 km from
 Thekkady

Location

Latitude: 9.4679, Longitude: 77.143328



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 in Periyar

Periyar and its surroundings represent one of Kerala's firmest commitments to the ecotourism movement. Packages, nature walks and the lodgings provided here are a testament to the same, with people being given a modern experience in a completely raw and untouched surrounding. This area has been carefully shaped for years, with the locals combining with the authorities to create a safe haven to cultivate and revitalize many of the species that have thrived here for aeons. It is a beautiful story, dating back to the times the Sanctuary was instituted and the entire community came together to ensure its originality was maintained for our future generations to witness and learn from.



A photograph showing a man and a woman sitting on a large rock in a lush green forest. They are both wearing backpacks and holding cameras, suggesting they are hikers or nature enthusiasts. The background is a dense forest with a large tree in the foreground on the left. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Why Kerala

www.keralatourism.org

The majestic trees and peeking wildlife that greet you during your journey 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.