

## PLACES OF INTEREST

**Palakkad Fort:** The old granite fort situated in the very heart of Palakkad town is one of the best preserved in Kerala. It was built by Hyder Ali of Mysore in 1766. The fort was taken over and modified by the British in 1790. It is now preserved by the Archaeological Survey of India.



### **Malampuzha Dam Garden (10 km from Palakkad)**



This famous picnic spot which comprises a dam and beautifully landscaped gardens, is situated on the lower hills of the Western Ghats. There are frequent buses to this place from Palakkad.

### **SILENT VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, PALAKKAD (ABOUT 69 KM FROM PALAKKAD)**

The Silent Valley National Park with an area of 237.52 sq km is located in the Northeastern corner of Palakkad district. It rises abruptly to the Nilgiri Plateau in the North and overlooks the plains of Mannarkkad in the South. Extremely fragile, a unique preserve of tropical evergreen rain forests which is a veritable nursery of flora and fauna, some of which are found nowhere else in the world.



**Pothundy**(45 km from Palakkad)



**Situated on the way to Nelliampathy, the Pothundy Reservoir Complex is a charming location for picnics and half-day trips.**

## **Nelliampathi**

Nelliampathy is a hill station 60 kilometres from Palakkad, state of Kerala, India. It is surrounded by tea and coffee plantations.



The village has its own gram panchayat and forms a part of the Chittur taluk. Thiruvathoor (10 km from Palakkad) The ancient temple here has some fine wood work and stone sculptures.



**Dhoni:-**It takes a three hour trek from the base of the Dhoni hills to reach this reserve forest area with its small, beautiful waterfall.



## **Kottavi :(15 km via Poodur from Palakkad)**

This tiny village is the native place of the late Chembai Vaidyanatha Bhagavathar, the doyen of Carnatic music.

**Kollengode (19 km south of Palakkad):**

Kollengode or the abode of blacksmiths enshrines the pristine beauty of rural Palakkad. The Kollengode Palace, the Vishnu Temple and the poet P. Kunhiraman Nair Memorial are worth visiting. Seethakundu and Govindamalai hills near Kaachankurichi are ideal for adventurous trekkers.

**Lakkidi (30 km from Palakkad):**



Killikkurissimangalam at Lakkidi is the birthplace of Kunchan satirist and (classical art has been by the State Nambiar, the 18th century exponent of the Tullal form). The poet's house preserved as a monument Government.



**Meenkara(32 km from Palakkad):**

This picnic spot is the site of a dam across the river Gayathri which flows into the Bharathapuzha.

**Ottappalam(35 km from Palakkad):**

The town is known for its numerous places of worship and their colourful festivals. Durga Temple the Pooram at Chenakkathur the Nercha festival commemorating the Aulia.

This place is noted for its monuments and historic ruins. The Siva Temple and the ruins of a mud fort near Thrithala on the Chalissery road are notable cultural monuments. The Kattilmadam Temple, a small granite Buddhist monument on the Pattambi-Guruvayoor road, is of great archaeological importance. It is believed to date back to the 9th/10th century AD. The Paakkanaar memorial, honouring the Pariah saint, stands near Thrithala Koottanad road. This is also the native place of renowned writer and social reformer VT Bhattathiripad.

**PARAMBIKULAM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (110 km from Palakkad):**



Sprawled across 285 sq. km, the Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary is home to rare wild animals. Boating/cruising facilities are available at the Parambikulam Reservoir. The Rest Houses of the State Forest Department at Thoonakkadavu, Thelikkal and Anappady offer

accommodation. A tree house in the reserve forest area in Thoonakkadavu has to be booked in advance. The oldest teak tree, kannimari is found here.

**Siruvani (46 km north of Mannarkad and 48 km from Palakkad):**

The reservoir at Siruvani was built for Tamil Nadu by the Kerala Government to meet the drinking water requirements of Coimbatore. The gateways on either side of the road across the dam are typical of the Kerala and Tamil architectural styles. Siruvani is also home to certain tribals like the Mudugars and Irulars. Festivals/Art forms

**Kalpathi Ratholsavam:**



Annual chariot festival at Viswanatha Temple (November )

**Vela at Manappulli Kavu:**

Annual festival at the Bhagavathy Temple (March)

**Kanniyarkali:**



An art form exclusive to the Nair community of the district of Palakkad, **Kanniyarkali** is performed in temples as well as Nair centres (March/April)

**Nenmara Vallengy Vela**



Annual festival at the Bhagavathy Temple at Nellikkulangara near Nenmara, on the Pooram day of the Malayalam month of Meenam (February/March). Highlight: Fireworks displays



## **Pavakkoothu:**

This shadow play is performed at the Bhagavathy temples of Palakkad (March/April)



## **Kaalapoottu**



This exciting ox race is an agrarian sport held in the Malayalam month of Makaram (January).

## **Konganpada of Chittur**

Annual festival of ritual drama at the Chittur Kavu Bhagavathy temple (February /March)

## **Pattambi Nercha**

The festival is conducted in memory of Aloor Valia Pookkunjikoya Thangal, noted Muslim saint of South Malabar (January - February)

**KAPPAD BEACH** is not only beautiful but also serene. It is a peaceful and clean place where you will simply love to be. Also, besides the long stretch beach, you can also view a temple situated in a rock which is about 800 years old. You are sure to fall in love with this beach. The locals call this rock-studded beach as Kappakkadavu and this beach is the gateway to the Malabar Coast. Travelers can reach the beach by backwaters through the River Korappuzha.



**MANANCHIRASQUARE** IS the palace tank of King Vikrama, one of the great rulers in the region. It is situated in the heart of the city and is named after the Mananchira pond that spans an area of a square kilometre. While the place derived the name from the pond, the pond derived its name from the ruler of Zamoothiri Kingdom known as Manadevan. The palace tank has a traditional architectural design and is reminiscent of the ancient times. The Square is inclusive of the Mananchira Square, pond or Mananchira and Old Krishanamenon part comprising of the musical fountain. The Mananchira Square is surrounded by temples, churches, mosques and several traditional houses. The whole square is encircled by a laterite-sculpted wall and the area is carpeted with green grass.



**PAZHASSIRAJA MUSEUM** is situated in East Hill, at a distance of 5 km from the Kozhikhode town. It houses several historical and archaeological artefacts that are significant to the region such as the antique bronzes, gold coins, old paintings, ancient umbrella stones and monuments that are megalithic in nature such as the dolmonoid cysts. The art gallery and museum was named after Pazhassiraja Kerala Varma of the PadinjareKovilakom of the royal family of Kottayam. Pazhassiraja was known for leading the renowned Pazhassi Revolt and introducing guerrilla warfare against the British colonialism.



**PERUVANNAMUZZHI DAM** is situated about 60 km northeast of the district headquarters. The Peruvannamuzhi Dam is located amidst the hills and serves as an ideal picnic spot. The reservoir offers facilities for rowboat and speedboat cruises that include a visit to the SmarakaThottam, a garden built in the memory of the region's freedom fighters. A bird sanctuary, uninhabited islands and crocodile farm add to the charm of the place.



**BEYPORE** is a small village situated at the mouth of Chaliyar River, at a distance of 10 km



to the south of the Kozhikode town. Previously, it was known as -Sultan Pattanamø during the reign of Tipu Sultan and as -Vayapuraø by the locals. The Beypore Port has a historical significance as it was one of the ports where trading commenced between Asia and the Middle East and was considered an important maritime and trade centre. This village was also popular as a centre for shipbuilding, meeting the demands of the merchants from Western Asia and mainly constructed traditional ships like the Uru or

Arabian trading vessel. The 1500 year old tradition of shipbuilding is still carried on by the locals.



**THUSHARAGIRI WATERFALLS** as the name suggests, land and water have struck an extraordinary kinship at Thusharagiri (mist capped peaks). The plantation destination that abounds in rubber, arecanut, pepper, ginger and spices, is also a trekkers delight. Trekkers start early morning from the second waterfall on the hills and climb up through the pristine dense evergreen forests teeming with exotic birds and animals to reach Vythiri in Wayanad district by evening.

**MUZHAPPILANGAD DRIVE-IN BEACH** is the longest Drive-In Beach in India and is featured among the top 6 best beaches for driving in the world in BBC article for Autos.<sup>[2]</sup> Even though Goa has many beautiful beaches, it does not have a Drive-in beach.



The beach festival is celebrated in the month of April and it is one of the important tourist attraction in the district of Kannur in Kerala. The youth also try many driving stunts in cars like drifting and wheeling in bikes as this is a paradise for driving along the shore. Just 100m from this beach you would find a

private island Dharmadam island, which can be reached by walk at times of low tide.



**VAITHALMALAOR VAITHALMALA** is a hill station in the Kannur district of Kerala in India. Located near Pottenplave village, at a height of 1371.6 m above sea level, this is the highest geographic peak in Kannur.<sup>[1]</sup> It is located at 40 km from Taliparamba and 65 km from Kannur.<sup>[2]</sup> Nestled in the KeralaKarnataka border near to Kodagu forests, it lies in the Western Ghats. It has become a favourite spot for the nature enthusiasts, photographers, trekkers and leisurely visitors.



**ARALAM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY** is the northernmost wildlife sanctuary of Kerala, southwest India. It is 55 km<sup>2</sup> (21 sq mi) in area and located on the western slope of the



Western Ghats. It was established in 1984. The headquarters of the sanctuary is near Iritty. Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the southeast part of Kannur District. The sanctuary area falls in Aralam, Kelakam and Kottiyoor revenue villages and is located in the northwest slopes of Western Ghats contiguous with the forests of Coorg (Kodagu) district of Karnataka state. The PA (protected area) consists of Aralam Range, the only range of Aralam wildlife division,

which is part of Northern Wildlife Circle (Northern Region) Palakkad. The extent of the sanctuary is 55 square kilometres (21 sq mi). The sanctuary was constituted in 1984 as per GO (P) 300/84/AD dated 15 October 1984.

**TELLICHERRY FORT** is in Thalassery (Tellicherry) a town in Kannur District of Kerala state in south India. Tellicherry was one of the most important European trading centers of Kerala. The Fort lies on the group of low wooden hill running down to sea and protected by natural waters.





**EZHIMALA BEACH** is also known as Ezhimalai, which is located in Kannur district in Kerala. It has seven mountains in it so it is proudly called in Tamil as Ezhimala. This beach lies between the hills and it is surrounded by Coconut trees and Palm grooves which gives a fascinating view of sunset. It is a nice place to visit on a holiday at any time of the year as this place experiences pleasant climate always. Carved stone pillars and an ancient burial chamber can be seen at the foot of the hills.



**PAYYAMBALAM BEACH** is a popular picnic spot of the local people and holds much potential for development into a tourist resort. Quiet, secluded, this beautiful stretch of sand and surf is the best locale for a relaxed evening. The rest of the land - Kannur - is equally fascinating to explore. Being the cradle of ageless folk arts like Theyyam and folk music, Kannur has always remained a land of ageless charms.

