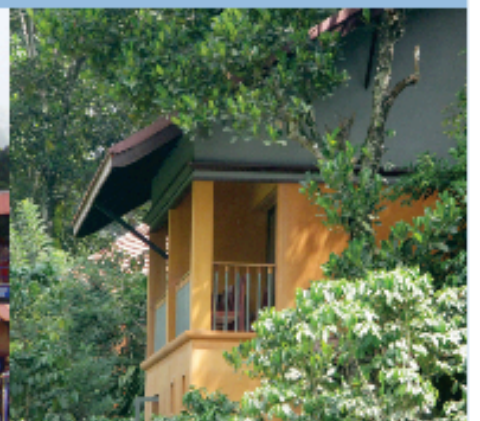




THEKKADY AND PERIYAR

THEKKADY

Thekkady and Periyar (110Km/3 Hrs from Munnar): The pride of Kerala and a testimony to nature's splendor and human innovation, the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary is situated on the banks of the Periyar lake - an artificial lake, at Thekkady. Here the high ranges of the Western Ghats are clothed in dense evergreen, moist deciduous forests and savannah grasslands. Below this thick green canopy roam herds of elephants, sambar, tigers, gaurs, lion tailed macaques and Nilgiri langurs.



PLACES TO WATCH

Thekkady: The very sound of the word Thekkady conjures up images of elephants, unending chains of hills and spice scented plantations. In the Periyar forest of Thekkady is one of the finest wildlife reserves in India, and spread across the entire district are picturesque plantations and hill towns that hold great opportunities for treks and strolls.

Mangaladevi temple: In addition to elephant rides, cruises on the lake and treks to the ruined Mangaladevi temple - a beautiful old stone temple situated in the heart of the Thekkady forest, this sanctuary offers the unique opportunity to watch and photograph wild elephants at close quarters.

The Sanctuary Watch Towers: There are two watch towers in the interior of the Periyar forest. Reservations can be made at the Forest Information Centre, Thekkady.

Kumily : This plantation town, closely associated with Thekkady, is situated on the outskirts of the Periyar Sanctuary. An important shopping centre and spice trade centre, the main bus station and most of the medium range accommodation in the Periyar region are in Kumily

Sabarimala (90Km from Kottayam and 110 Km From Thekaddy): Sabarimala dedicated to Lord Ayyappa, is the most famous and prominent among all the Sastha temples in Kerala. The temple is situated on a hilltop (about 3000 feet above sea level) named Sabarimala in Pathanamthitta district, which is unique in many respects. There is a place near the temple; east to Sannidhanam, dedicated to the Vavar (a sufi and friend of Lord Ayyappa) which is called 'Vavarunada', an epitome of religious harmony. Another interesting fact is that it is not open throughout the year. It is open for worship only during the days of Mandalapooja, Makaravilakku and Chitra Vishu. It is said that the pilgrims have to follow fasting for 41 days to cleanse their minds before going to Sabarimala. The journey to the temple is to be taken through difficult paths in the forest as the vehicles can go only up to Pampa.

WHERE TO STAY

Misty Hill
Misty Hill, Murinjapuzha
Panchalimedu Road
Ph : 9495211373, 8281354000
www.mistyhill.in

Hotel Tigers Roare
Near Entrance Gate.

Elephant Route resort
Anavachal Road.

Sliver Crest
Kumily Thekkady Rd.

Wildernest
Thekkady Road, Kumily.

Poetree Sarovar Portico
Ottakathalamedu,
Amaravathy.

Thekkady Wild Corridor
Murukkady.

AT A GLANCE

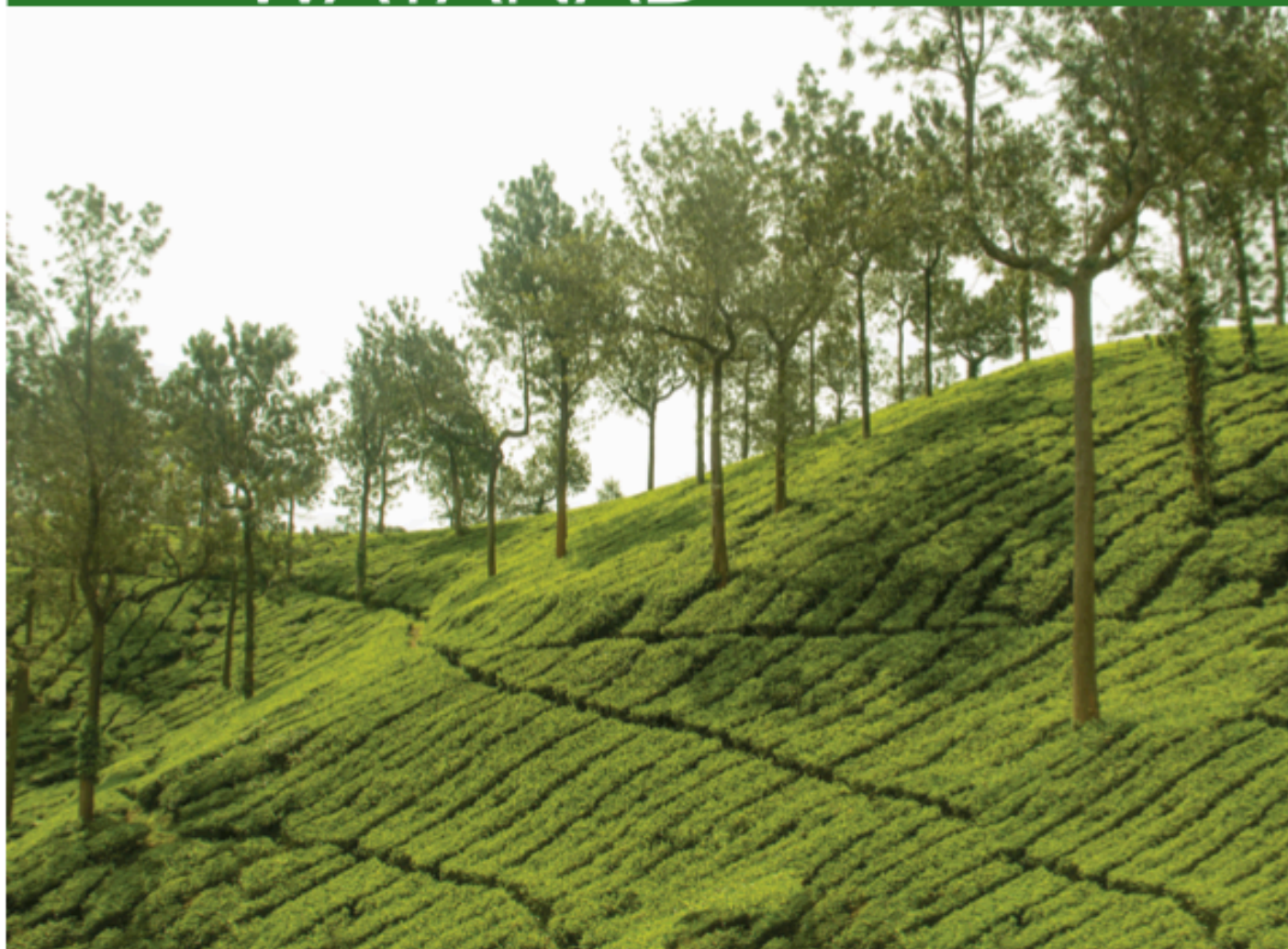
Climate: Winters are Cool,
Summers are humid

What to wear: Warm Clothes

Time to Visit: September to March

Languages Spoken:
Malayalam, Tamil, English

WAYANAD



WAYANAD

Wayanad (240Km / 5 Hrs fom Cochin)

Wayanad is one of the districts in Kerala that has been able to retain its pristine nature. Hidden away in the hills of this land are some of the oldest tribes, as yet untouched by civilization, Wayanad is known for its picturesque mist clad hill stations, sprawling spice plantations, luxuriant forests and rich cultural traditions.

AT A GLANCE

Climate: 25°C to 35 °C during summer and 12 °C to 22 °C during winter.

What to Wear: Cottons in summer and Woollen clothes in winter.

Time to Visit:
September to May

Languages Spoken:
Malayalam, Hindi and English.

PLACES TO WATCH

Vythri : The picturesque spot any time of the year in Kerala is Vythiri in Wayanad, the beautiful district of sprawling spice plantations, luxuriant forests and rich cultural traditions. Vythiri, which has been able to retain its pristine nature over the years, makes an excellent picnic spot for both locals and tourists.

Pookot Lake And Eddakkal Caves : Mother Nature's many albums on Kerala, the hilly, forested terrain of Wayanad offers a unique visual treat. The pictures depicts one such visual delights of Wayanad; the Karappuzha river with the picturesque hills in the distant background, which is also the site of Edakkal Caves with pre-historic significance attached to it.

Kozhikode or Calicut: The most important region of Malabar of yesteryears, was the capital of the powerful Zamorins and also a prominent centre of trade and commerce. It was here at Kappad that Vasco Da Gama landed in his search for the spices of the Orient. Today the serene beaches, lush green countryside, historic sites, all combine to make this a popular tourist destination filled with a warm ambience.

Kalari: In fact most of the popular martial arts of the world have been influenced directly or indirectly by this art. Unlike other martial arts, the person practicing Kalari wears no protective armour even while engaged in a combat with sharp weapons.

Bekal Fort: Kasaragod, the northernmost district of Kerala is renowned as the land of gods, forts, rivers, hills and beautiful beaches. The imposing fort at Bekal is one of the largest and best preserved forts in Kerala. The beautiful expanse of the shallow beach near the Bekal fort known as Bekal Fort Beach has been developed as an exotic beach

Ananthapura: 30 km from Bekal, this 9th century temple is the only lake temple in Kerala and is the moolasthanam (original abode) of Anandapadmanabha, the deity of Sree Padmanabha Swami Temple, Thiruvananthapuram. A crocodile at the temple pond, which is said to be 150 year old is a major attraction.

WHERE TO STAY

Morickap Resort
Banasura Sagar Dam Road
Vythiri, Ph-7022753001
www.morickapresort.com

Upavan Resort
Lakkidi, Vythiri
Ph : 04936 255272 / 255372,
9961207770,
www.upavanresort.com

Aranyakam (Homestay)
Valathoor, Rippon

Royal Palm Resort
Gudalai Kunnu Bye Pass Road
kalapetta

Rain Country Resort
Lakkidi P.O

Coffee County Resort
Nallannur, Meppadi Post



For Reservations

Panchalimedu,
Idukki, Kerala

Phone : +91 8594007277

8281354000

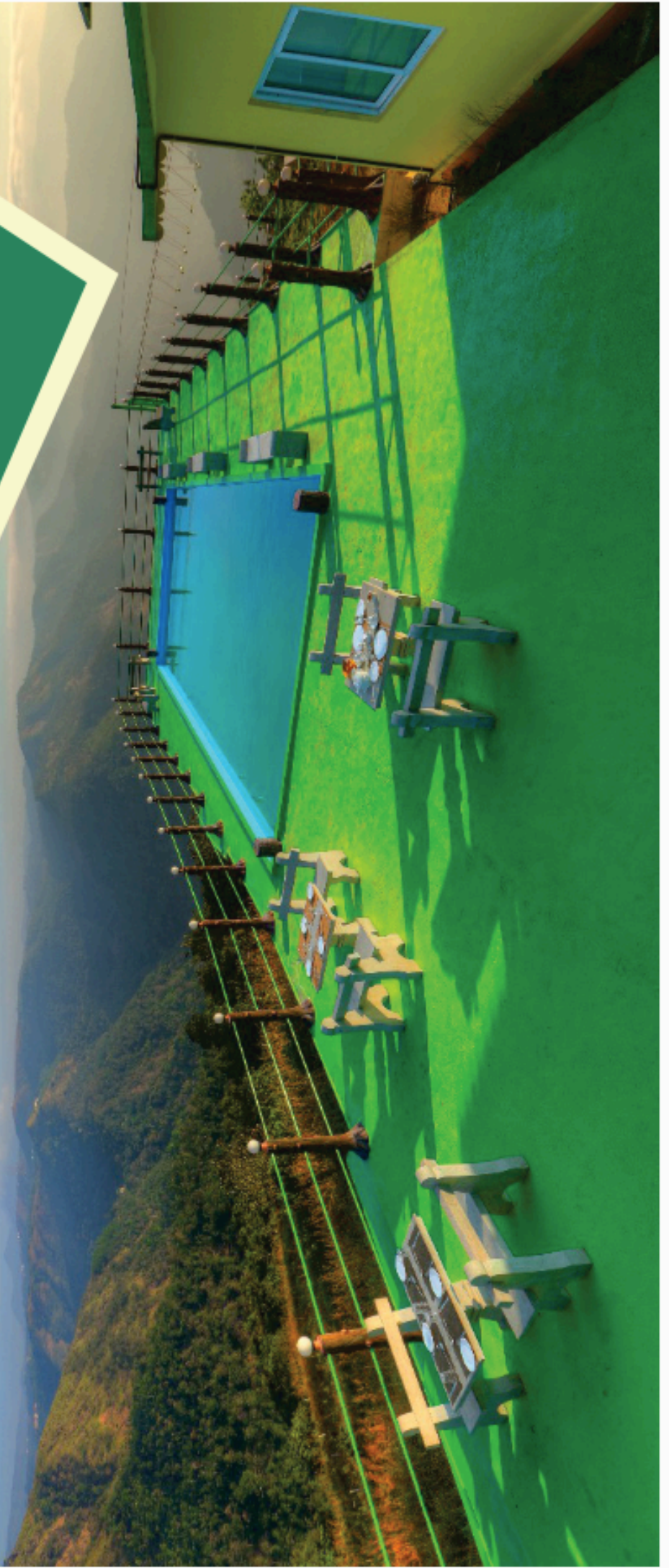
9495211373

Email : sales@mistyhill.in

Web : www.mistyhill.in



PANCHALIMEDU, KERALA



MUNNAR

MUNNAR

In the forested high ranges of Kerala there is a valley watered by three rivers. The slopes that rise out of it were once covered by dense jungles where elephants, and ancient men who built stone burial chambers, once lived. Today the mountains that hunch out of the valley are covered in manicured slopes of tea. And the little town in the valley is dedicated to growing, harvesting, curing and selling the drink that cheers but does not inebriate. Munnar is cool, the tea-planters are friendly and the old Munnar Club is as delightful as a woodcut: trophies on the walls, a Men Only bar and an excellent golf course. Driving out of the valley, where serene-faced cows chew the cud, visitors can trek down to a stream-threaded glen where trout are bred to stock the waters of Munnar. Tea planters love outdoor activities like golf, tennis and fishing. The Tea plantations makes us feel like a green carpet spread on the mountains.

HOW TO REACH



Air: The nearest airport is at Kochi (formerly Cochin) From there it is about 130 km to Munnar.



Rail: The nearest railhead is at Kochi - 130 km.



Road: There are tourist taxis and regular buses from Kochi to Munnar.

PLACES TO WATCH

Echo Point: This is at the river side with beautiful trees on one side of the bank and the other side is covered with green grass, during monsoon the clouds caress the mountains.

Devikulam: This idyllic hill station, situated about 8 km from Munnar, with its velvet lawns, exotic flora and fauna and the cool mountain air is a rare experience. The Sita Devi Lake, here, with its mineral waters and picturesque surroundings is a good picnic spot.

Pothamedu: Take a trip to Pothamedu, a hill top site where you can enjoy fine views of the surrounding mist-clad hills and green valley's in the embrace of cool winds amidst the vast plantations of tea, coffee and cardamom.

The Nilgiri Tahr: Eravikulam National Park, home of the handsome Nilgiri Tahr (ibex), a goat in dire need of the protection given by the State Forest Department and the company which owns the tea estates in Munnar.

Trekking: Munnar offers a moderately challenging 3 hour trek, through teacovered slopes, to the peak of the highest mountain in Southern India, the 2,689 metre high Anaimudi, the Elephant's Head. The estate where the trek starts is Nyamakad.

Top Station :

KERALA

WHERE TO STAY

Violet Woods
Ottamaramph
Ph : +91 9526735725
www.violetwoods.com

Green Ridge
NH Road, Central
Ph : 04865 -231164
Tel : 8136980980
www.greenridgeholiday.com

Hill View Munnar
Near Blossom Hydrel Park,
SH 16, Moolakadai.
Ph: 04865 230567
9496580300
www.hillviewmunnar.com

Camellia & Elettaria
The Twin Resorts.
Rathnagiri, Bison Valley
+ 91 4865285101 ,9744227000
www.camelliaandelettaria.com

AT A GLANCE

Climate: Winters are severe
Summers are cool

Time to Visit: September-March

What to Wear: Warm Clothes

Languages Spoken: Malayalam,
Tamil, English



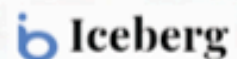
Marketing and Management by
Hawk Hospitality
BCG Golden Orchid Apt
3G, Ruby Lane, Thammanam Cochin
Ph : + 91 9526735725
Email:- info@hawkhospitality.in



Munnar



Munnar



Munnar



KUMARAKOM

Ride into Kumarakom - the backwater country. A town on the shores of the enchanting Vembanad Lake glitters against the starlit dark night. Make yourself at home in its small-still lagoons, gliding among the calm and serene backwaters flanked by green leaves and palm, enjoying the rustic charm of Kerala preserved through the ages. Here you find spacious houseboats moving slowly through a beautiful paradise of mangrove forests, emerald green paddy fields and coconut groves interspersed with enchanting waterways and canals adorned with lilies.

The houseboats of today are reworked kettuvalloms of olden times. The original kettuvalloms were actually used to carry rice and spices. The serene Vembanad Lake comes alive during Onam. It is indeed amazing to watch oarsmen, at least a hundred in one boat, slice their way through the waters to the rhythm of their own full-throated singing.

KUMARAKOM

HOW TO REACH



Air: Nearest airport: Cochin International Airport, about 80 kms.



Rail: Nearest railway station - Kottayam, about 16 km.



Road: The nearest bus terminal is at Kottayam, 14 Km away by road. National High Way #47 Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandram) and Kochi (Cochin).

PLACES TO WATCH

Bird sanctuary: The bird sanctuary here, which is spread across 14 acres, is a favourite haunt of migratory birds and an ornithologist's paradise. Egrets, darters, herons, teal, waterfowl, cuckoo, wild duck and migratory birds like the Siberian storks that live there in flocks area fascination for visitors. The best way to watch the birds of the Kumarakom sanctuary is a boat trip round the islands.

Kuttanad region: The village of Kumarakom is a cluster of little islands on the Vembanad Lake, and this small water world is part of the Kuttanad region. This is the only place in the world apart from Netherlands where the rice is grown below the sea level. The lushgreen paddy fields are a sight to behold.

Aruvikkuzhi Waterfalls: Pay a visit to the picturesque Aruvikkuzhi Waterfalls located 2km down a mud lane from Kumarakom. This is a beautiful picnic spot where streams tinkle as they make their waythrough the



landscape and waters roar as they cascade down the mountains from a height of 100 ft.

Pathirmanal Island: This is a small island in the middle of Vembanad Lake. Pathirmanal in Malayalam means "glittering in the night". In summer the island is surrounded with sand (as the water level falls) and on a full moon day, from a distance it looks as though the peripherals of the island are glittering.

WHERE TO STAY

Lakshmi Resort
Kumarakom North.

Ashirwad Heritage Resort
Chakrampady
Vayitharamattom.

Manor Backwater Resort
Cheepungal,
Kavanattinkara.

Coco Bay Resort
Chakrampady.

Aveda Resort and Spa
Ammankari Road.

Lake Song Resort
Ammankari Road.

AT A GLANCE

Climate: Moderate. Summers are hot and humid, and the weather is well influenced by sea

What to wear: Wear light clothing, made up of cotton. Jeans, Cotton trousers and T-shirts

Time to Visit: Sept - Feb

Languages Spoken:
Malayalam, Tamil and English

PLACES TO WATCH

Thiruvananthapuram: Thiruvananthapuram (225 Km/5.5hrs from Ernakulam)

Thiruvananthapuram derives its name from the name of the sacred serpent "Anantha" on whom Lord Vishnu rests. The Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple is located at a place in one of the seven Parasurama Kshetras. Also Visit Shankhumugham Beach, Padmanabhapuram Palace is 54Km away on the way to Kanyakumari.

Varkala Beach: About 37 km south of Kollam is Varkala Beach, a calm and quiet hamlet that lies on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram district. A 2000 year-old Vishnu temple and the ashramam - 'Sivagiri Mutt' at a little distance from the beach.

Padmanabhapuram Palace:

About 54 km away from Thiruvananthapuram on the way to Nagarcoil, this palace was once the royal residence of the Travancore kings before they shifted the capital from Padmanabhapuram to Thiruvananthapuram. The wooden palace contains 17th and 18th century murals. The construction of this palace is typical of the Kerala architectural idioms and fascinating example of art and craftsmanship.

Aruvikkara: A pilgrim centre and a place of tourist interest, Aruvikkara is situated on the banks of the Karamana river 16 km from Thiruvananthapuram. There is an ancient temple here dedicated to Bhagavathi, built on a rock on the right bank of the river.

Also visit Poovar (35Km / 45 min)

WHERE TO STAY

Pappukutty Beach Resort

Hawa beach.

Detour Neelakanta

Light House Beach Rd.

Sagara Beach Resort

Light House Road, Vizhinjam.

Turtle by the sea

ITDC Road.

Niraamaya Retreats

Pulinkudi, Mullur PO.

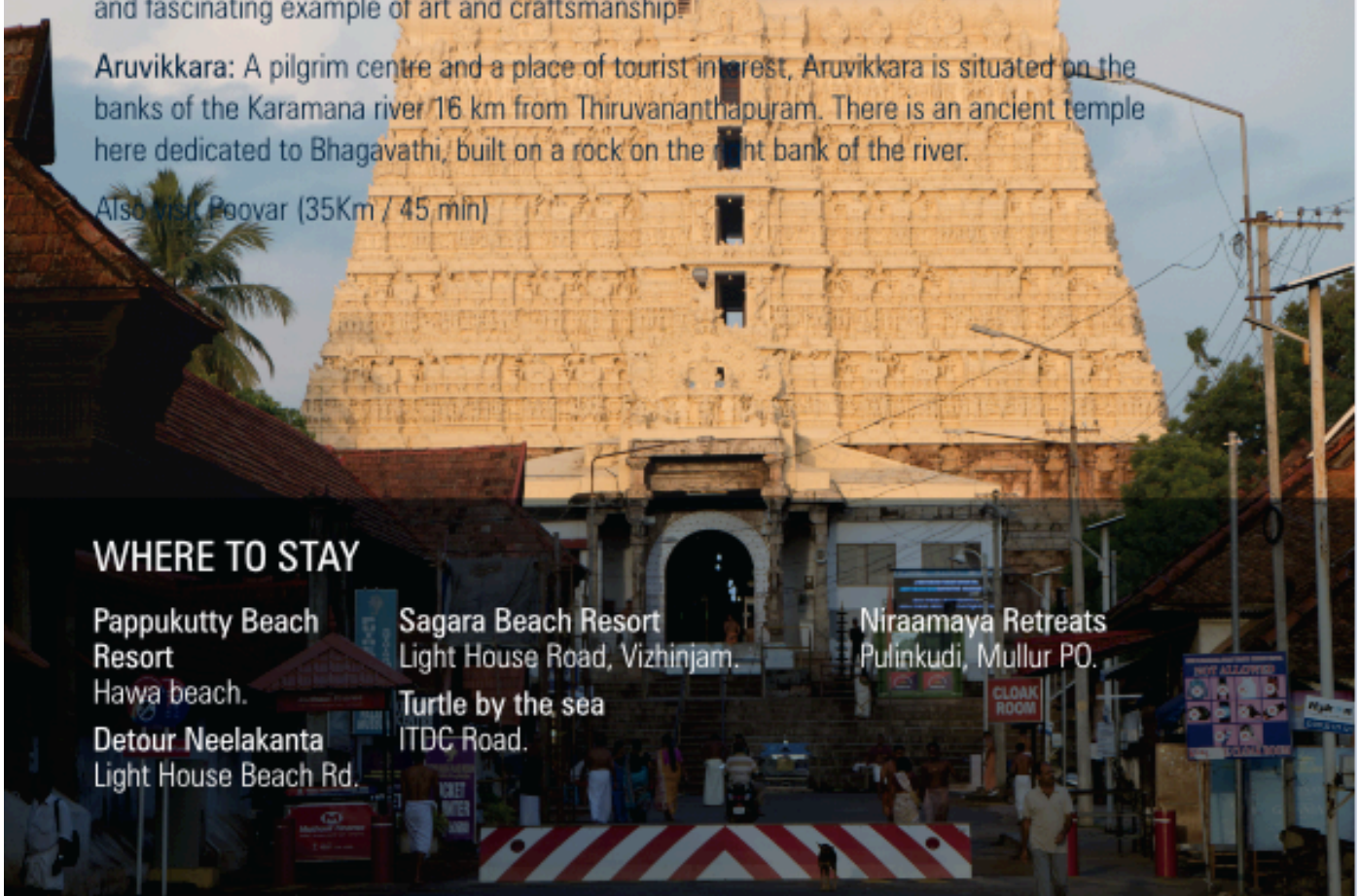
AT A GLANCE

Climate: Moderate in Summer and Cool in Winter.

Time to Visit:
Sept. to Feb

What to Wear:
Throughout the year-Cottons

Languages Spoken:
Malayalam, English and Tamil



KOVALAM



KOVALAM

A former fishing village, Kovalam is just 16 kms away from Thiruvananthapuram. Kovalam is an evergreen and pleasant climatic beach resort. The sheltered coves, the picture perfect tropical beaches, the palm-fringed bays in secluded coconut groves, the surf shampooing the shores all these make Kovalam a delightful retreat. Sip organic juices made from tropical fruit like succulent ripe mangoes, papaya, grapes, coconut water, bananas and pineapple, while you watch the fishermen heave their heavy wooden boats into the sea and cast their massive nets. These traditional vellams and catamarans are being used for years. It is warm and clean by the coconut trees and the white sand bed as the sea breeze gently plays with the waves. One can walk into the sea about 100m without losing ground. At many coastal places there are beautiful patches of coral reefs. The underwater view of marine flora and fauna, which is visible during snorkeling, is marvelous.

HOW TO REACH



Air: Thiruvananthapuram is the nearest airport.



Rail: The nearest railhead and airport is at Thiruvananthapuram (20 km).



Road: Road links to Thiruvananthapuram (formerly Trivandrum), Ernakulam and Kanniyakumari (80 km).

COCHIN

The 'Queen of the Arabian Sea', Cochin or Kochi is the largest city in Kerala. It is a perfect starting point to explore Kerala. Being an important port city since the 14th century, is centre of commerce and trade. It is a city celebrating its rich heritage of Dutch, Portuguese, British and traditional Carnatic influence has been a center of commerce and trade.

Chinese Fishing Nets (Cheenavala) are distinctly unique to Cochin. The traders from the court of the Chinese ruler Kublai Khan introduced these nets here.

St. Francis Church, Fort Kochi: It is the oldest church built by Europeans in India.

Jewish Synagogue and Jew Town: Built in 1568, is brilliantly decorated by Chinese tiles and Belgian chandeliers. Giant scrolls of the Old Testament can be found here. It is located near the Dutch Palace in Mattancherry.

Chottanikkara (15Km) Rajarajeswari is the presiding deity here. The image of Bhagawati (Rajarajeswari) is of laterite; untouched by the human sculptor, this image is of irregular shape and is covered with a golden kavacham. Also visit : Cherai Beach ,Fort Kochi Beach, and Veegaland . . .

Athirampalli: Waterfalls here is located 78 kms from Cochin, located at the entrance to Sholayar ranges, it offers the onlookers, one of the most bewitching sights. It Falls from about 80 feet high and located in the forest area. The Falls join the Chalakkudy River after plummeting a drop of 80ft.

Guruvayoor (95Kms from Cochin) is famous all over India as a pilgrim centre is dedicated to Lord Krishna popularly known as Guruvayurappan and popularly known as 'Dakshina Dwaraka' (Dwaraka of South) is in the form of a rectangle. The square 'Sreekovil' is the sacred sanctum sanctorum of the temple, housing the main deity. Only Hindus with Traditional dress Lungi and Upper Cloth are allowed inside the temple

WHERE TO STAY

Le Maritime Kochi

Goshree Road, Goshree Jn,
Ph : 0484 -2867777

Tel: 9072670000

www.lemaritimekochi.com

WetzlarResorts&Hotels

East Kadathy,Muvattupuzha
PH- 0485 2838444,

M-8589994200,

www.thewetzlar.com

Xandari Resorts

Thekkady, Marari Beach
Alleppey, Fort Kochi

Ph : +91 9447414344



HOW TO REACH



Air: Kochi Airport (Nedumbassery - 40 km). Thiruvananthapuram (150 km).



Rail: The station is well connected to major cities like Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram.



Road: An excellent road network links to all major towns & cities in India.



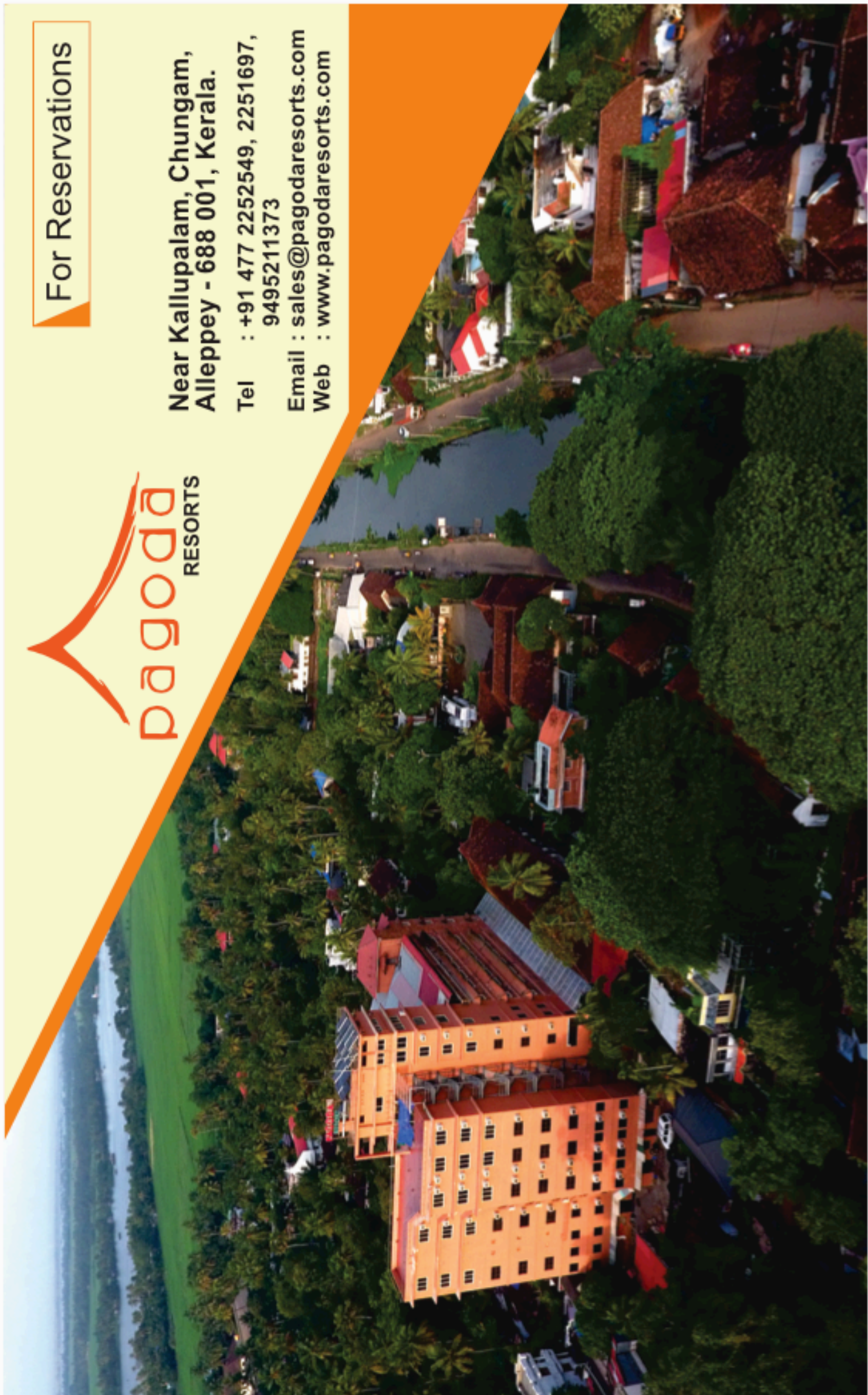
For Reservations

Near Kallupalam, Chungam,
Alleppey - 688 001, Kerala.

Tel : +91 477 2252549, 2251697,
9495211373

Email : sales@pagodaresorts.com

Web : www.pagodaresorts.com





ALLEPPEY

ALLEPPEY

With the Arabian Sea on the west and a vast network of lakes, lagoons and fresh water rivers crisscrossing it, Alappuzha is a district of immense natural beauty. The backwater country where Alappuzha is located is home to diverse animal and bird life. By virtue of its proximity to the sea, the town has always enjoyed a unique place in the maritime history of Kerala. Alappuzha has a long sandy beach and with its spectacular view. Alappuzha is also famous for its boat races, houseboat holidays, beaches, marine products and coir industry. A singular characteristic of this land is the region called Kuttanad. A land of lush paddy fields, Kuttanad is called the Rice Bowl of Kerala and is one of the few places in the world where farming is done below sea level. Alleppey is also known as Alappuzha. With the beautiful backwaters Alappuzha reminds you of Venice. That is why Alleppey/Alappuzha is rightly called as Venice of East.

HOW TO REACH



Air: Kochi Airport (Nedumbassery - 85 km). Thiruvananthapuram (150 km).



Rail: The station is about 5 km from the main town and it is well connected to major cities like Eranakulam, Trivandrum...



Road: An excellent road network links the district to all major towns and cities in Kerala.



Water: Linked by boat to Kollam (8 Hrs), Changanacherry (3hrs), Cochin (4 hrs), Kumarakom (2 hrs)

PLACES TO WATCH

Kuttanad: Kuttanad is called the rice bowl of Kerala because of its wealth of paddy crops. The scenic countryside of Kuttanad with its gleaming waterways is a good sight for the tourists. This is perhaps the only region in the world apart from Netherlands where farming is done 1.8 to 2 m below sea level. Inland waterways, which flow above land level, are an amazing feature of this region.

Nehru Trophy Boat Race: Nehru Trophy Boat Race, is one of the most important boat races in Kerala. It is an annual event conducted on the second Saturday of August every year, in the afternoon. A splendid procession unfolds with all types of boats called 'Kali- Vallangal', led by the largest and the most majestic of them, the 'Chundan'. Its rowers sing songs known as 'vanchi pattu' to the rhythm of the oars - a feast for the eyes and the ears.

Chavara Bhavan: Chavara Bhavan is the ancestral home of the blessed Kuriakose Elias Chavara. Here, a 250-year-old historically important beacon of light is preserved intact in its original and primitive form.



Ambalappuzha Sree Krishna Temple: Built in the typical Kerala architectural style, this temple is famous, for the Palapayasam, the daily offering of deliciously sweet milk porridge. Paintings of the Dasavatharam are on display on the inner walls of the Chuttambalam. Ottanthullal, a satiric art form created by the poet Kunchan Nambiar, was first performed here.

WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Green Aura
Nr Uduppi Sree Krishna
Templ, Thondankulangara
Ph : 0477-2236371 /
9847840123
www.greenauraheritage.com

Haveli Backwater Resort
Finishing Point Road,
Finishing Point.

Pagoda Resort
Near Kallupalam ,chungom
Ph- 0477 2252549, 9495211373
www.pagodaresorts.com

Cozy Residency
Near Finishing Point, Thathampally.

Ramada Alleppey
Nehru Trophy Boat Race
Finishing Point Stadium.
Lake Palace Resort
Thirumala Ward, Chungam.

AT A GLANCE

Climate: Sea Climate,
Sultry and very humid.

What to Wear: Cotton Clothes
and always carry a spare t-shirt .

Time to Visit:
August to January

Languages Spoken:
Malayalam, English, Hindi