

TOURIST POTENTIAL OF KERALA



PRIYANKA.E.K
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
LITTLE FLOWER COLLEGE, GURUVAYOOR



- Idukki, the highland district of Kerala with its mountains, valleys, dams, forests, wildlife, orchids, streams, scenic points, trekking trails, sanctuaries, hill stations and lakes, can be called as ‘God’s own Hideaway’.
- About 1/4th of the forest area of the state is in Idukki district.
- Idukki accounts for 12.9 percent of the area of Kerala and only 3.7 percent of the population of Kerala.



- About 50 percent of its area is Reserved Forests.
- Three Wildlife Sanctuaries (Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary / Tiger Reserve, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary) and one National Park (Eravikulam National Park) are situated in this district.
- Other places of attraction in Idukki district are Peermede and Vagamon etc.
- The district consists of four taluks - Devikulam, Udumbanchola, Peermedu and Thodupuzha.
- Munnar is a part of the high range district of Idukki and shares her boundary with Tamil Nadu and the districts of Ernakulam and Thrissur

MUNNAR



- This picturesque hill station is situated 60 km away from Idukki.
- Sandwiched at the confluence of three mountain streams- Nallathanni, Muthirappuzha and Kundala, it has a height of 1600 m above the sea level.
- This place was the summer resort of the erstwhile British Government in south India.
- Sprawling tea plantations, winding lines, picture-book towns, undulating valleys, trekking, golfing and boating and holiday facilities make this hill station as a famous resort town.



- Near to this hill station, India's highest tea estate, Kolukkumalai and the home of endangered Nilgiri tahr, Eravikulam National Park is located.
- Munnar and its surrounding environs abound in waterfalls that are particularly striking just after rains. The area is very famous on account of scenery.

Eravikulam National Park



- Munnar Idukki district is famous for its numerous hill stations.
- Its high ranges, deep valleys and dense forests lure nature lovers.
- Munnar, a hill station in Devikulam Taluk is known for its rare flora and fauna.
- Some of the endangered species are seen in this tourist spot.
- The Eravikulam National Park is situated 15 kilometres from Munnar.
- The park spreads over 97 sq.kms. It houses the endangered species Nilgiri Tahr.
- Half of the world population of this species lives in the high ranges of Idukki district.



- The Eravikulam National Park is divided into three regions – the core area, the buffer area and the tourism area. Visitors are allowed only to the tourism area. The Nilgiri Tahr can be observed at close quarters from here.
- Munnar is also famous for trekking and adventure tourism.

MATTUPETTI



- This picturesque hill station is a favourite place for film shooting.
- It is located at a height of 1700 m from sea level and 13 km away from Munnar.
- The lake and a dam situated here is a beautiful picnic centre.
- Boating through the lake is an ever remembering experience.
- Moreover, the famous Indo-Swiss Livestock Farm Project is also located here. More than 100 varieties of high-yielding cattle are reared here.

MARAYOOR



- Marayoor, located 40 km from Munnar, is known to the outside World in the name of its famous natural sandalwood forests.
- This is the only place in the World where a large area of sandalwood forest is found, which maintains such quality, not found elsewhere in the World.
- The climate of the region is also something special, cool, misty, and more or less equal to the climate in England.



- The weather condition of the region is not similar to Munnar, even though, this place is very near to it.
- The total climate and whether changes are similar to that of Tamil Nadu.
- A large variety of fruits and vegetables are grown here.
- This place tells the story of the pre historic rock paintings, the caves (muniyara), dolmenoids and therefore historically important.



- Dolmenoids were made of four stones placed on edges. It is covered by another stone on the top, called, cap stone.
- This place is anthropologically significant also. The tribes and inhabitants of this area are similar to the Australian aboriginal tribe.

PEERUMEDU



- This marvelous hill station is situated 35 km away from Thekkady in Idukki district.
- Abound estates of tea, cardamom, coffee; rubber and eucalyptus surround this charming hill station, an ideal holiday destination, dotted with tea gardens
- Peerumedu got its name from the sufi saint Peer Mohammed, who lived here.
- This picturesque hill station is an everlasting experience.



- Peermedu was once the summer residence for the Travancore Kings.
- Now the summer palace has been maintained as government guest house and is now an important monument here.
- Peerumedu is also famous for eco-tourism.

WAYANAD



- Wayanad is situated at 700 to 2100 mts above the sea level on the southern most part of Deccan Plateau in the mountain range of Western Ghats.
- It is bordered by Nilgiris (Tamilnadu) and Mysore (Karnataka) in the east, Coorg (Karnataka) in the north, Malappuram (Kerala) in the South and Kozhikode and Kannur (Kerala) in the West.



- The north and central Wayanad are hilly areas.
- The central ranges of hills are lower in height compared to the northern range.
- Banasura, Brahmagiri and Chembra are the few hills of mountainous appearance.
- The lower parts of the hills are suitable for tea, coffee and rubber plantations.
- The eastern area endowed with plain lands.



- Wayanad is situated at the junction of the three major hill ranges: Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and Nilgiris.
- The district shares its border with three Indian states: Kerala, Karnataka and Tamilnadu.
- Wayanad is also surrounded by four wildlife sanctuaries Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka, Mudumalai of Tamilnadu and Wayanad Wildlife sanctuary of Kerala

Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary



- Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary is located 18 Kms east of Sulthan Bathery
- This forest region is home to swamps, teak forests, bamboo and few other species of herbs and medicinal plants.
- Muthanga has been declared as a project elephant site and is also home for tigers.

Tholpetty Wild Life Sanctuary



- Tholpetty Wild Life Sanctuary is located 20 km east of Mananthavady along the northern part of Wayanad bordering Coorg district of Karnataka.
- This dense forest is home to elephants, gaurs, deers, leopards and rare species of birds and butterflies.
- Jeep safari is permitted in both Muthanga and Tholpetty



- These wildlife ecotourism centers offer unique experience of watching free roaming elephants, deers, monkeys, bears guars and rarely tigers.
- knowledge on medicinal plants, elephant camp and opportunity to interact with tribes are other attractions for tourists visiting Wayanad wildlife sanctuary.



Edakkal Caves

Wayanad has a unique prehistoric era.

The remains excavated from different places of the district prove the presence of Neolithic settlements in Wayanad.

Edakkal is an important heritage site with prehistoric petroglyphs(rock painting)

The literary meaning of Edakkal is 'In between' -It is a stone in between.

It is cleft or rift caused by a piece of rock splitting away from the main body.



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- Edakkal caves are two natural caves on Ambukuttymala
- The historians opined strongly the existence of human civilisation in these caves in the bygone era.
- Fred-Fawcett, the then Superintendent of Police of the Malabar district² in 1894 happened to see this Neolithic Celt (Stone axe or chisel) near a coffee estate. He identified the site as a habitat of Neolithic people during late Stone Age 4000BC to 1700 BC.



- The outer cave of Edakkal is about 33 meter long and the height is about 20 meters.
- The North East wall is completely covered with engravings.
- Four large figures with strange hair and feather ornaments are in the centre.
- Other engravings include, crossed wheels, animal figures, money signs, elephants, swastika, trident and magic squares.
- In south west side, there is a prominent figure in a strange perspective.
- The carvings on the walls all over speak of a highly civilised prehistoric age.



- The state archeological department took over the site and declared it as a protected monument in the year 1984, leading to an increase in the academic and research interest among archeologists and historians worldwide.
- Edakkal is a centre of attraction for tourists, students and researchers, who take a trek for one kilometer through coffee and pepper plantations up to Ambukutty hill.
- Apart from the archeological significance, the area provides a bird's eye view of three states Tamilnadu, Kerala and Karnataka from the top of the caves.



Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja of Kottayam dynasty fought against British rule determinedly.

The Guerrilla warfare operated by Pazassi Raja with the support of Kurichiya community of Waynad caused many sleepless nights to the East India Company in Malabar.



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PAZHASSI TOMB



- He fought a long drawn battle and was killed by British soldiers in 1805 at Mavilamthode near Pulpally in Wayanad.
- Pazhassi Raja popularly known as the ‘Lion of Kerala’ was cremated in Mananthavady and the place is a memorial today called, Pazhassi Memorial.
- Near this memorial is Pazhassi Museum. Pazhassi memorial and museum are very important places for students of history and tourists

POOKOT LAKE



- Pookot Lake is one of the beautiful tourist spots in Wayanad, located at 3 Kilometers away from Vythiry, a beautiful valley surrounded by evergreen forests.
- Pookot is a natural fresh water lake spread across 8.5 hectars with maximum depth of 6.5 meters.
- The Lake surrounded by woody hills, entertainment facilities and the misty climate make Pookot the most preferred tourist sites in Wayanad.
- Pookot Lake is an enchanting tourist spot for nature lovers. The site offers various entertainment activities for tourists like boating, Children Park and fresh water aquarium.

SOOCHIPARA WATERFALLS



- Wayanad is home to some of the beautiful waterfalls of Kerala. Soochippara, Meenmutty, and Kanthampara are important among them.
- Soochippara Water fall is also known as Sentinel Rock water fall, located 23 kilometer away from Kalpetta near Meppadi.
- It is a popular leisure and adventure tourism spot in Wayanad.



- The water cascades down in three steps from a height of 200 meters in Vellarimal surrounded by forest.
- The pool formed by the fall is ideal for swimming and rafting.
- Sentinel rock is a best place for rock climbing also.

CHEMBRA PEAK



- Chembra Peak is the highest peak in Wayanad located at a height of 2100 metres above the sea level.
- This place is very popular for trekking.
- District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC) provides guides and trekking equipment for tourists.
- With prior permission from Meppady forest office, tourists can trek to Chembra.



The most relaxing point for tourists is the heart shaped lake.

In about three hours one could reach the top of the peak which is a paradise for nature lovers and photographers.

The view of neighbouring districts like Kozhikode, Malappuram in Kerala and Nilgiris in Tamilnadu is an amazing experience.



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- Wayanad has beautiful hydel tourism sites in Banasura Sagar Lake.
- Banasura Sagar Dam is the largest earthen dam in India and the second largest in Asia.
- The dam impounds the water of Karamanathode, a tributary of river Kabani.
- The project includes one dam and a canal operating as a part of Indian Banasura Sagar Project commissioned in 1979.



- It supports the Kakkayam electric project and is a source of supply for irrigation and drinking water to local community during summer.
- The reservoir of the dam is spread across 1600 hectors.
- Speed boating, pedal boating created by KHTC (Kerala Hydel Tourism)