



Wayanad

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Wayanad is a rural district in North of Kerala state, southwest India. In the east, the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is a lush, forested region with areas of high altitude, home to animals including Asiatic elephants, tigers, leopards and egrets. In the Ambukuthi Hills to the south, Edakkal Caves contain ancient petroglyphs, some dating back to the Neolithic age. Wayanad shares borders with Karnataka and Tamil Nadu state. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is adjacent to Nagarhole National Park & Bandipur National Park in Karnataka and Mudumalai National Park in Tamil Nadu. Thanks to nature, unlike humans, animals from all these areas move and freely without any board or paying taxes.

FACT SHEETS

District	: Wayanad
District headquarters	: Kalpetta
Area	: 2,132 km ²
Population	: 8.47 lakhs (2018)
Highest elevation (Vellarimala)	: 2,240 m (7,350 ft)
STD Code	: +91 - 4936, 4935
Nearest Airport	: Calicut / Kannur in Kerala, Mysore in Karnataka
Nearest Railway Station	: Calicut / Kannur in Kerala, Mysore in Karnataka
By Road Connected	: Mysore/Kannur/Calicut
Languages	: Malayalam/English/Hindi / Kannada

ACCESS

Wayanad can be accessed by Air, Rail and Road. Kannur International Airport (105 Kms) are the nearest airport. Mysore airport is 130kms and it takes 2 hours to reach Wayanad. The nearest railway station is Kozhikode which is 95 Kms away. Bus is connected from Kozhikode and Kannur. From Kannur Railway Station to Wayanad cover 120 Kms. It is 140 kms from Mysore Railway station.

Skyway - Complete Travel Care!

Skyway International Travels – Recognized by Department of Tourism, Govt. of India based in Bangalore with offices in Mysore, Madikeri, Mangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Indore. We are operating for past 29 years. IATA Accredited, Active Member of Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), Travel Agents Federation of India, Karnataka Tourism Society. And PATA India Chapter. We take extra care to ensure that your travel to Coorg is comfortable.

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About Wayanad - History

Comprising an area of 2,132 sq. kilometres, Wayanad has a powerful history. Historians are of the view that organised human life existed in these parts, at least ten centuries before Christ. Countless evidences about New Stone Age civilisation can be seen on the hills of Wayanad. The two caves of Ampukuthimala located between Sulthan Bathery and Ambalavayal, with pictures on their walls and pictorial writings, speak volumes of the bygone era and civilisation. Recorded history of this district is available from the 18th century. In ancient times, this land was ruled by the Rajas of the Veda tribe. In later days, Wayanad came under the rule of the Pazhassi Rajahs of Kottayam royal dynasty. When Hyder Ali becomes the ruler of Mysore, he invaded Wayanad and brought it under his sway. In the days of Tipu, Wayanad was restored to the Kottayam royal dynasty. But Tipu handed over the entire Malabar region to the British, after the Sreerangapattanam truce, he made with them. This was followed by fierce and internecine encounters between the British and Kerala Varma Pazhassi Rajah of Kottayam.

When the Rajah was driven to the wilderness of Wayanad, he organised the war-like Kurichiya tribals into a sort of people's militia and engaged the British in several guerrilla type encounters. In the end, the British could get only the dead body of the Rajah, who killed himself somewhere in the interior of the forest. Thus, Wayanad fell into the hands of the British and with it came a new turn in the Home of this area. The British authorities opened up the plateau for cultivation of tea and other cash crops. Roads were laid across the dangerous slopes of Wayanad, from Kozhikode and Thalassery. These roads were extended to the cities of Mysore and Ooty through Gudalur. Through the roads poured in settlers from all parts of Kerala and the virgin forest lands proved a veritable goldmine with incredible yields of cash crops. When the State of Kerala came into being in November 1956, Wayanad was part of Kannur district. Later, south Wayanad was added to Kozhikode district. In order to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Wayanad for development, north Wayanad and South Wayanad were carved out and joined together to form the present district of Wayanad. This district came into being on November 1, 1980 as the 12 district of Kerala.



Places to visit Wayanad

Chembra Peak:

The hills, rocks and valleys which contribute to the very unique character of Wayanad provide a lot for adventure tourism. Trekking to the Chembra peak is a risky mountaineering endeavour. Chembra peak, the highest hill in Wayanad, is near Meppady town. Trekking to the top of this peak takes almost a day. Tourists can also stay one or two days at the top of the peak in temporary camps. District Tourism Promotion Council provides guides, sleeping bags, canvases, huts and trekking implements on hire. The scenic beauty of Wayanad, which is visible from the top of Chembra, is very exhilarating.



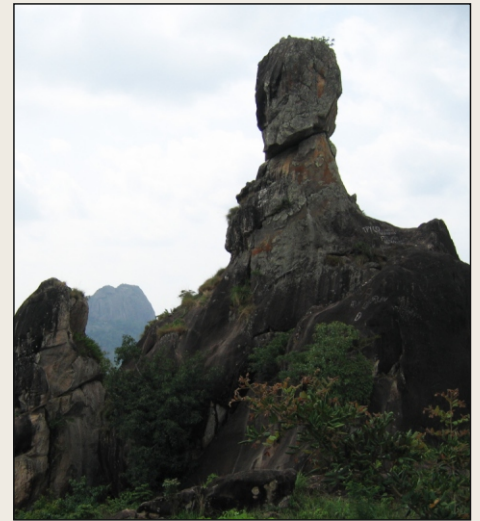
Edakkal Cave:

This location of breathtaking beauty is three kilometres from Ambalavayal which is 25 kilometres from Kalpetta. The Edakkal cave in the Ambukuthy mountain, is not a cave in the real sense. As stated in the India Antiquary (Vol.XXX, page – 410) and quoted in the District Gazette, Kozhikode, it is only 'a cleft about 96ft. long and 22ft wide in the rock'. It is a fissure made by a corner of rock splitting off from the main body due to some natural causes. The depth of both the cleft and the fissure is 30 ft. What makes it a cave to the ordinary observer is the fact that in the other portion of the large cleft, an enormous rock, weighing several tonnes, has fallen forming a roof over a large part of it. The rock wall contains some interesting carvings, which represent human and animal figures and objects of human use and symbols. These carvings speak of a highly civilized people of pre-historic age and inspires the archaeologists and historians to rewrite the history of Wayanad and Kerala as a whole.



Phantom Rock

The towering Phantom Rock and its surroundings are popular among nature lovers and photographers. The rock formation, which resembles a skull, is a unique example of nature's artistry. It is a great place to relax and reflect on the beauty of the surrounding landscape



Kuruva Island:

The Kuruva island, 950 acres of ever green forest on the tributaries of east flowing river Kabani, is an ideal picnic spot, far away from the disturbances of city life. The island is uninhabited. Rare species of birds, orchids and herbs are the sovereigns of this supernal kingdom. It is 17 Kms. east of Mananthavady and 40 kms. north west of Sulthan Bathery.



Muthanga Wild Life Sanctuary:

Muthanga, Which is 16 kms. east of Sulthan Bathery, is located very near to the Karnadaka border. Wild forests covering an area of 345 sq.kms form the Muthanga wild life sanctuary; the biggest abode of wild animals in Malabar. Elephant, spotted deer, bison, tiger, cheeta, wild bear, etc. are found in this sanctuary. The forest Department has facilities for providing elephant rides to tourists, here.



Pookkot Lake:

It is a natural fresh water lake brimmed with ever green mountains. The weather here is salacious, the scenic beauty is hypnotising and the nature is unspoiled. There is an aquarium and a greenhouse here. Boating facilities are also available. Spices and handicraft items are also arranged for sale at Pookot. The lake has an area of 8.5ha. and the maximum water depth is 6.5mtrs. This lake is three km from Vythiri.



Kanthanpara Waterfalls:

Relatively smaller than Sentinal Rock Waterfall and rather less frequented, Kanthanpara and its surroundings are nonetheless very pleasant. An easy hike away from the main road, it is perfect for picnic. Also the cool, sparkling waters at this lesser-known destination are sure to soothe all who wish to rejuvenate in a silent environment. Surrounded by beautiful greenery on all sides, it is worth spending a day picnicking in the calming

Banasura Sagar Dam:

Banasura Sagar Dam, which impounds the Karamanathodu tributary of the Kabini River, is part of the Indian Banasurasagar Project consisting of a dam and a canal project started in 1979.[1] The goal of the project is to support the Kakkayam Hydro electric power project and satisfy the demand for irrigation and drinking water in a region known to have water shortages in seasonal dry periods. The dam is also known as Kuttiyadi Augmentation Main Earthen Dam. The dam has a height of 38.5 metres (126 ft) and length of 685 metres (2,247 ft).

This is the largest earth dam in India. The topography here is such that many islands will be formed in the upstream of the dam when the dam is full. These islands with the background of the Banasura hill will provide a hypnotising sight to tourists.



Culture & Heritage

Thirunelli Temple :

Nestled amidst mountains and forests, the ancient riverside temple of Thirunelli is a fine specimen of classical Kerala Temple Architecture. The temple is dedicated by Brahma to Vishnu in the form of Chaturbhuj. Often referred to as Dakshina Kasi (the Kasi of South), this temple draws pilgrims from all over, primarily for ancestral rites. A short walk from Thirunelly temple is the clear mountain spring known as Papanasini. A ritual dip here is believed to wash away all the sins. The two main festivals here are in April and August/September. The temple is 64 Kms. away from Kalpetta, 71 Kms. away from Sulthan Bathery and 29 Kms. away from Mananthavady.



Sita Lava-Kusha Temple:

This is the only known temple dedicated to Lava and Kusha, the sons of Lord Rama. Local legends connect this region with many important episodes from the Ramayana. As the favoured shrine of the Pazhassi Raja, this temple has traditionally permitted entry to devotees from all faiths. The temple is 50 Kms. away from Kalpetta, 25 Kms. away from Sulthan Bathery and 41 Kms. away from Mananthavady.



Pallikkunnu Church:

Dedicated to the Lourdes Matha, Pallikkunnu Church was established in 1905 at the initiative of a French Missionary Fr. Jeffrine. An interesting aspect of this church is that it has several rituals and practices similar to those prevalent in Hindu temples. The annual two week "Perunnal" festival in early February draws large number of devotees from other parts of Kerala, as well as outside. The temple is 19 Kms. away from Kalpetta, 38 Kms. away from Sulthan Bathery and 23 Kms. away from Mananthavady.



Sulthan Bathery Jain Temple :

This Temple is one of the most important amongst a series of ruins spread across the state of Kerala that testify to a period of a strong Jain presence in this region. Believed to have been built in the 13th century, it served as a Hindu shrine, an important centre for commercial activity and eventually as a battery (ammunition store) for Tipu Sulthan's marching armies. Apart from this temple, there are other significant jain remnants in Wayanad. The temples at Punchavayal and Puthenangadi are the best known of these. With their beautifully carved pillars now partly ruined, and the area rather derelict, these sites exude a peculiar airomystery. The temple is 24 Kms. away from kalpetta, 12 Kms. away from Sulthan Bathery and 41 Kms. away from Mananthavady.

SHOPPING

Best Spots For Shopping In Wayanad

You can buy some local spices, tea, coffee etc. Here are some of the best places to shopping in Wayanad.

1. Wayanad Gandhigramam for spices
2. Wayanad Tea and Craft
3. ValmEEKam Clay Art Gallery

CUISINE

Like in many cities of south India, the people of Wayanad are also fond of rice and it is their staple food. Rasam, Sambhar, Moru koottan and Poricha koottu are some most delicious dishes to be taken alongwith rice. For those vegans preferring pure vegetarian food, there is Pulissery, Stew, Avial and Thoran.

Travel Plan

FROM BANGALORE OR MYSORE OR KANNUR OR CALICUT

2 Nights / Days - minimum recommended:

- Day 1: Bangalore / Wayanad: Sightseeing and overnight
Day 2: Wayanad : Sightseeing and overnight
Day 3: Wayanad to Bangalore: Checkout and drive to Bangalore

3 Nights / 4 Days -

- Day 01: Bangalore / Wayanad: Relax and overnight
Day 02: Wayanad: Sightseeing and overnight
Day 03: Wayanad - sightseeing and overnight
Day 04: Wayanad / Bangalore - Checkout and drive to Bangalore
Wayanad is in central location , which can be combined with other tourists places

OPTIONS:

1. Bangalore / Mysore / Wayanad / Coorg / Bangalore
 2. Bangalore / Bandipur National Park / Wayanad / Coorg / Bangalore
 3. Bangalore / Bandipur National Park / Ooty / Wayanad / Bangalore
 4. Bangalore / Nagarhole National Park / Coorg / Bekal / Mangalore
 5. Bangalore / Ooty / Wayanad / Bangalore
 6. Bangalore / Ooty / Wayanad / Coorg / Bangalore
- Similarly itineraries may be tailored from Kannur / Calicut / Mysore or even from Mangalore to Wayanad.

Day-wise Itinerary:

Day 1 : Morning breakfast proceed to visit famous pilgrim temple Thirunelli Temple, Sita Lava-Kusha Temple, Pallikunnu Church and Sulthan Bathery Jain Temple.

Day 02 : Morning breakfast and proceed to visit to Chembra Peak, Edakkal Cave, Phantom Rock, Kuruva Island, Kanthanpara water fall, Pookkot Lake, Banasura Sagar Dam

Day 03 : Morning breakfast and check-out from hotel and proceed visit to Muthanga wildlife Sanctuary and depart to Airport/ Railway Station.

Distance from Wayanad (Kalpetta):

Kannur	:	100 kms
Calicut	:	120 kms
Mysore	:	130kms
Ooty	:	110 kms
Madikeri (Coorg)	:	120kms



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