

PLACES TO VISIT IN AND AROUND TRIVANDRUM

SRI PADMANABHASWAMY TEMPLE



Sree Anantha Padmanabha Temple is the key icon of the city. One of the oldest temples of India, it's a major Vishnu temple in the country. The temple itself has thousands of stories to tell with immaculate sculptures and

mandaps. The entire city was built around this temple. It's an architectural wonder and was nominated from India into last round of 7 Wonders of World. The building style is a mixture of Kerala and Tamil architecture. The temple has many structures inside, like musical pillars, golden mandap, 500 pillared corridors, famous for its sculptures and large collection of temple mural paintings. The temple also has a large clear pond called Padmatheertham, which is another landmark.

The deity is Maha Vishnu in a rare reclining posture, called as "ananthasayanam" or the Lords sleep. The temple has a huge role in history of Kerala, with the presiding deity even being crowned as Emperor of Travancore in 18th century and all the rulers ruling the state in the name of the deity. The royal crown of Travancore is preserved inside the temple; though getting a glimpse of it is rare.

DARSHAN TIMINGS	
MORNING	EVENING
03:30 AM TO 04:45 AM (NIRMALYA DARSHANAM)	05:00 PM TO 06:15 PM
06:30 AM TO 07:00 AM	06:45 PM TO 07:20 PM
08:30 AM TO 10:00 AM	
10:30 AM TO 11:10 AM	
11:45 AM TO 12:00 NOON	

EAST FORT



East Fort is an old fort around Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple. Today, most of its fortifications have been dismantled except the eastern side, thus the fort has got its current name- East Fort. The Fort Gate directly opens before

SreePadmanabha Temple and was designed in European style. The illumination of East Fort Gate in the evenings is a major attraction.

KUTHIRAMALLIKKA PALACE



Also known as Puthen Palace, this was constructed by famous musician king- Swati Thirunal. The palace features several relics and antiques belonging to Maharaja Swati Thirunal.

The key feature is its grand facade designed in form of horses, hence the name stuck. The Annual Swati Thirunal Music Festival is held on the palace lawns.

THE KERALA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT



It is the one of the most recognisable icons of the city. Built as Huzur Kacheri ('Secretarial Offices' in Malayalam) in 1860, to serve as the Royal Durbar Hall of Travancore Kingdom, this

building is a super-imposing structure. The building was designed by British Royal Engineers Corps combining Roman-Dutch-English-Kerala architectures, a testimony of Kerala's past influences with the Romans, Dutch and English. The old Legislature Assembly Hall inside the complex (Asia's first native legislature assembly) is a renowned museum with a detailed gallery that depicts the history of Travancore Legislature Assembly. Other areas of this building are not of tourist interest, as they are government offices.

THE NAPIER MUSEUM



Napier Museum is the big building in the park, to the north of Museum Road named after former Madras governor, Lord Napier (Francis Napier, 10th Lord Napier and 1st Baron Ettrick), is a beautiful building. This masterpiece was designed by Madras Government's architect Robert Chisholm in Indo-Saracenic style. This museum displays rare archaeological and historical artifacts including bronze idols, ceramics, an impressive carved wooden cart, Buddhist statues from various parts of the country and some neighbouring places, ivory carvings, chests, Balinese shadow puppets, various old coins and Hindu puja items.

SREE CHITHRA ART GALLERY



It is an art gallery located in the Museum compound and displays a rare collection of Indian paintings. The main attractions are paintings by world famous Kerala painter Raja Ravi Varma and other famous painters like Jamini Roy and Nicholas Roerich. Also featured are miniature paintings from around the world, Kerala mural paintings and Tanjore miniature paintings.

THE ZOOLOGICAL PARK



This is the first zoo in India that opened in 1843. Situated in the Museum Compound, this area is a rich botanical garden. There is a wide variety of animals, plants and birds. It has a separate reptile park and butterfly garden. The park is Closed on Mondays, on other days, it is open from 10 am -05 pm.

KERALA LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLY COMPLEX



The new Legislature Assembly Complex called as Niyamasabha ('Law House' in Malayalam), is a super-imposing modern structure located in heart of the city. It's famous for its classical Kerala architecture with ornate teak works, a unique Kerala styled dome, exquisitely designed interiors and a vast expanse of greenery around it. Photoshoots before this structure is a favourite activity among tourists.

KANAKA KUNNU PALACE



Kanaka Kunnu Palace ('Golden Hill Palace' in Malayalam) is a cultural hotspot of the town. The large palace and its sprawling gardens were once the banquet palace for visiting state guests of Travancore. Today it's famous for its galleries and the grand lawns serve as open air auditoriums for regular concerts and evening dance programmes.

KERALA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM



Near Priyadarshini Planetarium, it is one of the largest science museums, featuring a timeline of various technologies in area of electronics and technology. There are several galleries on several kinds of engineering. It has a

very good collection of many electronic equipments and a good 3D theatre with regular shows.

KOWDIAR PALACE



It is a super-imposing structure, located in Kowdiar. This is the current official residence of Travancore Maharajas and the Royal Family and is off-limits for public. However, a friendly guard may let you inside to have a glimpse of this

large architectural wonder built in mixture of Saxon-Travancore styles. The public however can enter into Panchavadi, the resting place of Late H.H. Maharaja Chitra Thirunal- the last King of Travancore who was a very popular king.

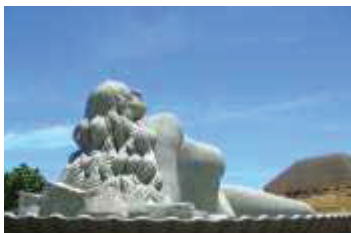
KOVALAM BEACH



Kovalam beach, situated 17 km from the city, is a world famous beach, noted for being one of the finest. There are two large beaches that are highly safe for swimming. A visit to Kovalam is a must when in Trivandrum. However, the beach

becomes too crowded during the end of the year, when foreign tourists flock in mass.

SHANGHUMUKHAM BEACH



This city beach is 8 km outside the city, adjacent to the airport. Local people flock there to watch the sunset. It's a well maintained and safe beach. There is an indoor recreation club nearby.

Matsyakanyaka, a gigantic sculpture of a mermaid by Kanai Kunjiraman, arouses mixed reactions. A small garden and a star-fish shaped restaurant operates within. There is also a peaceful temple nearby.

VELI TOURIST VILLAGE



A spot where lake blends into the beach, almost as if it were teasing the sea. Activities include boating, horse riding on the beach, a floating bridge, a shallow pond where you can feed the fish and beautifully maintained gardens.

It is very famous among tourists, especially those interested in water adventure sports.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

There are several attractions located outside the city limits, which are popular among tourists. Some of them are:

THE PADMANABHAPURAM PALACE



It is the old headquarters of the Travancore Royal Family, and is one of the most attractive palaces, which no tourist can afford to miss. The palace is recorded as the World's largest Wooden Palace, by Guinness Books of Records. It is entirely made of teak and rosewood and has exquisite flooring made of granite and a rare ayurvedic mixture with secret extracts to keep the floor cool in summer season and warm during rainy season. It has a grand durbar hall made out of rosewood and glass. The Palace houses numerous rare antiques, including a 600 year old spice bed, a rare bed made out of special wood treated in various spices, to rejuvenate the kings, as well as sandalwood pillars. The clock tower is one of the oldest in South Asia that still functions. It is 65 km from Trivandrum City and is in the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu. However, the palace and fort is still maintained by Kerala Government. The royal sword of the Travancore Maharajas is preserved here, which is taken to Trivandrum as a grand procession during Arattu festivals of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple

PEPPARA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary constitutes the catchments of the Peppara Dam on the Karamana River. The Peppara Dam was commissioned in 1983 to augment the drinking water supply to the city and suburban areas. Considering the ecological significance of the area, it was declared a sanctuary in 1983.

POOVAR



Poovar is a small coastal village in Trivandrum. This village is almost at the southern tip of the city and there is only one last village Pozhiyoor which marks the end of Kerala. This village has a beautiful beach which attracts tourists.

NEYYAR DAM



Neyyar dam is a gravity dam on the Neyyar River located on the foot of the Western Ghats about 30 km from Trivandrum. It was established in 1958 and is a popular picnic spot.

VIZHINJAM



to the international ship route.

Kovalam beach is just 3 km from Vizhinjam. The areas in and around Vizhinjam are known for its Ayurvedic treatment centres and internationally acclaimed beach resorts. Vizhinjam is a natural port, which is located close

PONMUDI



natural beauty. Ponmudi has a carpet of thick tropical forest that rolls down to the foot of the hill range.

Ponmudi (the Golden Peak) is a hill station. It is located 61 km north-east of Trivandrum at an altitude of 1100 m. It is a part of the Western Ghats mountain range that runs parallel to the Arabian Sea. Ponmudi is blessed with scenic splendour and