

KOVALAM

Kovalam:

(14 km from Thiruvananthapuram)

Kovalam was just another fishing village until the hippies stumbled upon the virgin coast in early 1970s and added it to their Hippie Trail which spread across Nepal, India and Sri Lanka. If you are here between June and August then it is worth the time to pursue the inky monsoon mood from the lighthouse.

Light House:

(15 km from Thiruvananthapuram)

Spiral your way up to the rim of the lighthouse to witness the season's sky and her mood swings. With the sea fretting beneath you and the breeze threatening to drag you away to the crescent shoreline surged in silver sand, you will catch a glimpse of the panoramic view of the surroundings. A romantic escapade, the lighthouse is the best seascape Thiruvananthapuram has to offer. With a nominal ten rupee ticket, you can ascend the pista green staircase, and hear the echo of your voice striking the whitewashed walls. In its early days, the lighthouse was not open to the public, but today it is an ideal evening hangout spot.

Make sure to drop by between 3 pm and 5 pm.

Samudra Beach:

(12 km from Thiruvananthapuram)

A calm and secluded beach, Samudra Beach is located in the northern-most region of Kovalam beach. It is an awesome sight to watch the waves crash on the rocks below as you walk along the stretch of sea wall here. The beach is mostly isolated. Due to the privacy here, this beach has always remained a favourite of honeymooners in Kovalam. The sight of the wooden fishing vessels and the distant view of ships sailing over the horizon are worth watching from here.



Thiruvallam:

(10 km from Thiruvananthapuram)

This serene backwater stretch, enroute to Kovalam, is famous for its canoe rides, kayaking and cruises in *kettuvalloms*. The Boat Club here organises tours to the nearby islands of Pozhikara and Edayar as well as visits to coir manufacturing units.

Vizhinjam Rock Cut Cave Temple:

(5 km south of Kovalam)

There are 18th century rock-cut sculptures in the cave temple at Vizhinjam. The granite cave here encloses a one-celled shrine with a loose sculpture of Vinandhara Dakshinamurthi. The outer wall of the cave depicts the half-complete relics of the Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvathi.

(Open 0900 - 1800 hrs.) Closed on Mondays

Arts and Crafts Village, Vellar:

(1 km from Kovalam)

A joint venture of Kerala Tourism and Kudumbashree units and modelled on the lines of Dilli Haat, one of the biggest shopping centres for handicraft products in the country, the proposed craft village at Vellar is divided



into three sections - Travancore, Kochi and Malabar. The craft village will have dedicated facilities for traditional artisans to work and market their finished products. Vellar, with its handicraft stalls, ethnic food joints, and recreational facilities, will give a genuine Kerala shopping experience to travellers.

Vizhinjam: (20 km from Thiruvananthapuram)

A fishing village located two km south of Kovalam, Vizhinjam is a natural port and one of the busiest fishing harbours in the district and is all set to become the biggest shipping ports of the region.

Vizhinjam Marine Aquarium:

(20 km from Thiruvananthapuram)

Located at the Harbour road, this aquarium, which houses a rich treasure trove of marine wealth has perfected the Image Pearl production technique, by which a mould of any shape, made of shell cement, is implanted into the pearl oyster. In a couple of months, a pearl in the shape of the mould would be ready.

Entrance fee: • Adults: Rs. 20

• Children: Rs. 10 Ph: 2480224.

(Open 0900 - 1730 hrs)

Azhimala: (7 km south of Kovalam)

A temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is located here. The temple overlooks the beautiful Azhimala Beach with its blue waters, and sandy shores, and is one of the best places to watch the sunset. Azhimala is also known for its Ayurvedic resorts.

Chowara: (8 km south of Kovalam)

This fishing hamlet, near Kovalam, has many picturesque spots. The Chowara Ayyappa Temple, atop a hill, offers an amazing view of the beach below. Chowara is also home to the ancient Analothbhava Matha Church. The Azhimalathara Beach here is identified as the only place where the sea recedes from the coast and does not eat into the beach during the monsoon.