

WAYANAD

History lies asleep in the many caves, forts and temples of Wayanad. With its tribal traditions and forest secrets, Wayanad makes for a soul stirring retreat. Forests entwined with tea plantation estates followed by the ruins of Jain temples and a handful of waterfalls. The composition of Wayanad is surprisingly vivid. A mud road would culminate in Chegadi, the first entirely agricultural village pearlled in the midst of a forest. Boundaries are a blur and it is hard to draw a line of where one ends and the other begins in Wayanad.



Tourist Map of Wayanad District

Not to scale



This map illustrates the tourist attractions and connectivity in Wayanad District. The region is shaded in light blue and features a network of roads represented by orange lines. Key locations marked include:

- North:** Pakshipathalam, Thirunelly Temple, Begur Wildlife Sanctuary, Tholpetty, Kuruvadweep, Perikkalore, and To Coorg.
- South:** Pookot Lake, Vythiri, Lakkidi, To Kozhikode, Chembra Peak, Meenmutty Waterfalls, To Ooty, Choormala, and Sentinel Rock Waterfalls.
- East:** Wayanad Heritage Museum, Edakkal Cave, Sultan Bathery, Noolpuzha, and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, with a connection to Mysore.
- West:** Pazhassi Tomb, Mananthavady, and a connection to Kuttiadi and Thalassery.

Text Labels:

- Distance From the
Sea: 97 km from
Kozhikode, 86 km from
Thalassery &
Mysore; 97 km from
Ooty.
- To Kozhikode
- To Ooty
- To Mysore
- To Gudallur
- To Kuttiadi
- To Thalassery
- To Coorg

ACCESSING WAYANAD

Telephone Access Code: +91-4936

Air: Nearest Airport: Kozhikode

Rail: Nearest Railway Station: Kozhikode

Major Towns in the District and Distance From the Nearest Railway Station: • **Kalpetta:** 72 km from Kozhikode • **Mananthavady:** 80 km from Thalassery & 106 km from Kozhikode • **Sulthan Bathery:** 97 km from Kozhikode • **Vythiri:** 60 km from Kozhikode.

Road: Well-connected by roads from Kozhikode, Kannur, Ooty (114 km from Kalpetta) and Mysore (140 km from Kalpetta).

Tourist Information Offices: • Tourist Information Office
Dept. of Tourism, Govt. of Kerala (Civil station, Kalpetta)
Ph: 0444141, Email: kalpetta@tourism.kerala.gov.in

• District Tourism Promotion Council, Kalpetta

Telefax: 202134 Pookot Ph: 255207

Email: info@dtpcwayanad.com www.dtpcwayanad.com

- Govt. Guest House, Sulthan Bathery

Ph: 04936-220225

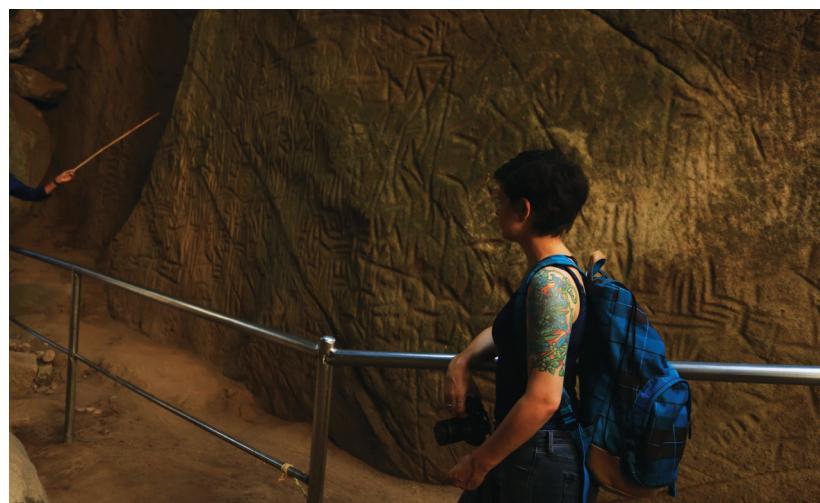
Vythiri:

Vythiri, a small village nestled amidst a lush tropical rainforest is the ideal jaunt for the curious traveller. Endowed with emerald lakes, forests and breathtaking scenery, Vythiri begs to be explored via long treks and boat rides. Go boating in Pookode lake in search of *Pethia pookodensis*, a cyprinid fish, and take a stroll through the Lakkidi hills, the Gateway of Wayanad.

Get acquainted with the *Changala maram* (chain tree) which is believed to have chained the spirit of Karithinadan, a native tribal who helped build the road from Calicut to Wayanad and was shot dead by a British engineer.

Mananthavady:

Once ruled by Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja, the lion of Kerala, Mananthavady has played a great role in the history and evolution of Kerala. Today, owing to the diversity of the landscape, Mananthavady is an ideal spot for a cycling expedition. Begin with Pazhassi Kudeeram, a museum and tomb that pays homage to one of the greatest rulers in the history of the state, and trudge along to the Tirunelli Temple, and the Latin Church built in Victorian architectural model that is a reminder of the colonial past of Wayanad. Take a pitstop at the 7000-year-old Ambukuthy caves which is adorned with new and old age pictorial



writings. In the slopes of the Ambukuthy Hill, where the Edakkal Caves are located, you get to dine in a cosy little cavern. End the trail at the Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary. Assimilate the sounds of the jungle that would greet you on your Jeep safari through the sanctuary. Here, come face-to-face with Indian bisons, elephants, panthers, macaques, bears and deers.

Sulthan Bathery:

A dilapidated fort forms the epicentre of Sulthan Bathery, which gets its name from the arms battery of the erstwhile King of Mysore, Tipu Sultan. At the Jain Temple in Sulthan Bathery, religion and history collide. Built by the Jains who migrated from Mysuru to Wayanad, this shrine was conquered by Tipu Sultan after which it served as the ammunition store or battery for Tipu's army. The Ambalavayal Heritage Museum, situated nearby, offers many such insights and is a storehouse of rare archaeological tribal finds. Earlier known as Ganapathivattom, Sultan Bathery is the largest town in Wayanad district and is home to the Edakkal caves. To explore the carvings from the Neolithic age, take an hour-long steep climb to the Edakkal Caves.

Edakkal Caves:

You are seated on a moss-clad rock at the centre of the conclave in Edakkal, Wayanad. The rocks have huddled together around you.



Their heads collide as if to discuss a secret, which is a series of petroglyphs inscribed on the caves. Chiselled on the walls are masked men holding jars, animals, stars, wheels and other shapes; and in between these, four transcripts from the Neolithic and Mesolithic age. One has been roughly deciphered as "Here lived a man once who freed us from the beasts; this is inscribed for the fame of his clan." When you come across the drawings portraying a gallant caveman or an ace hunter pouncing upon a tiger, you think of the person who inscribed this note and the respect that he deserves from his modern-day counterparts. If trekking and sweating is your idea of a vacation then the climb to the Edakkal Caves is the right pick.

Muthanga and Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary:

Bordering the Bandipur reserve forest of Karnataka, the Muthanga forest range is a part of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Sulthan Bathery. With common sightings of herds of elephants and other wild species, a trip to the Muthanga forests offer a unique experience in learning and recreation. The indigenous tribal community of Muthanga will remind you of the rustic life, away from city splendour. Furthermore, as you take the bumpy motor road connecting Tholpetti and Thirunelly to explore the wild side of Wayanad, you are likely to spot an elephant or a deer. Watch it cross your path leisurely with the comfort of being at home and quench their thirst at the nearby lake. Tholpetty, situated on the border

of Coorg and Wayanad, is home to many nocturnal birds as well.

Chembra Peak

Hire your camping gear from the DTPC (District Tourism Promotion Council) office and attempt the 4km trek to the Chembra peak. Three hours into the trek, you will come across a heart-shaped lake that never dries up called Hridayathadakam. Pitch a tent when you reach the highest point. From here, watch the entire Wayanad district, and also parts of Malappuram, Kozhikode and the Nilgiris. Washed in the scent of forest flowers, replete with the sounds of the wild and blanketed by a bewitching sky, Chembra peak is the remedy to your city life blues.

Banasura Sagar Dam:

Banasura Sagar Dam, situated in Kalpetta and built on behalf of Banasura Dam project in 1979, is the largest earthen dam in India and the second largest in Asia. A one-km long mud structure built with massive stacks of stones and boulders, it impounds the waters of Karamanthodu, a tributary of the Kabani river. Banasura gets its name from Banasura, son of king Mahabali. The Banasura hills, the second tallest in Wayanad, becomes the backdrop of this dam, making it a picturesque view. The placid and crystal clear waters along with the rustic nature of the dam and the hills in the background attract a number of shutterbugs, making it a photographers' paradise.

Pookode Lake: (15 km from Kalpetta)

This perennial freshwater lake near Lakkidi is surrounded by a lush evergreen forest.



Kayaking, pedal and row boating, a freshwater aquarium, children's park, and a handicrafts and spices emporium are among the tourist facilities available here an ideal picnic spot for tourists. A restaurant and café adds to the splendid charm of this place.

Ph: 04936-255207

Chain Tree: (15 km from Kalpetta)

This large ficus tree, located near Lakkidi, towards the end of the Ghat road is bound by a heavy iron chain. It is said that a British engineer, with the aid of a tribal guide named Karinthandan, found the difficult mountain route to Wayanad. Eager to take credit for the discovery, the engineer killed the guide, whose soul, according to the legend, constantly haunted subsequent travellers. It is believed that a priest chained the troublesome spirit onto this tree.

Karalad Lake: (8 km from Vythiri)

An unusually quiet retreat, Karalad lake is a natural freshwater lake and offers scope for a wide variety of adventure activities and facilities like angling, rock climbing, zip-line, canoes and kayaks, zorbing, paint ball, archery, boating and all season Swiss cottage tents. An excellent recreational park is also at hand here.

Lakkidi: (55 km east of Kozhikode, 5 km south of Vythiri)

The gateway to Wayanad, Lakkidi is situated 700 mts above the mean sea level, at the crest of the Thamarasseri Ghat Pass. Lofty peaks, gurgling streams and luxuriant forests add magic to the journey up the winding roads to this hill station.

Sentinel Rock Waterfall:

(23 km from Kalpetta)

Locally known as Soochipara (needle rock), the pool at the foot of the falls is ideal for a quick dip. One of the most attractive falls in the district, the water hits the sharp spikes of granite at the base and hence the name.

Meenmutty Waterfall: (29 km from Kalpetta, on the Ooty main road)

An interesting two km jungle trek will lead to the largest and most spectacular waterfall in Wayanad. A unique feature of Meenmutty is that the water drops, from nearly 1000 ft over three stages, presenting a triple-decker effect.

Uravu Thrikkaietta Village:

Uravu is a Non-Government Organization located in Thrikkaietta Bamboo Village in Wayanad. Uravu promotes social enterprises based on value addition of local and natural resources, especially bamboo, the "Green Gold." Uravu strives to empower marginalized social groups, especially the traditional artisans, women and the indigenous people, and promote sustainable tourism in the village.

Kanthanpara Waterfall:

(22 km away from Kalpetta)

Smaller than the Sentinel Rock, the nearby Kanthanpara falls and its surroundings make for an ideal picnic spot.

Karapuzha Dam:

(13 km northeast of Kalpetta)

Located near Kakkavayal town, this picturesque reservoir contains many small islands scattered around the vast area it occupies. One of the biggest earth dams in

the country, the Karapuzha dam's reservoir, with partially submerged hills and lush green islands, is an ideal breeding ground for aquatic birds. The dam and its premises, with large lush green parks, is an ideal leisure spot.

Phantom Rock: (13 km from Kalpetta)

Phantom Rock is situated adjacent to the Ambalavayal town. The rock has the shape of a skull and hence the name. Locally called Cheengeri Mala, the place offers great photography opportunities.

Rock Adventure - Cheengeri:

(15.6 km from Kalpetta, 17.2 km from Sulthan Bathery)

This destination is perfect for trekking and adventure sports. Cheengeri Hills, with its pristine ambience and lush green foliage, are popular among nature and adventure lovers.

Banasura Meenmutty Waterfalls:

(33.8 km from Kalpetta and 25.6 km from Sulthan Bathery) The Meenmutty waterfalls located close to the Banasura Sagar Dam is a charming picnic spot that can be reached with a short one km trek. The area is also ideal for a quick nature walk.

Neelimala Viewpoint: (33 km from Kalpetta and 24.8 km from Sulthan Bathery)

The Neelimala viewpoint is situated among the upper part of the district. Here, one gets a pristine view of the great Meenmutty waterfalls, causing people to throng to this destination in large numbers. The trek up to the viewpoint is just as beautiful as the destination itself. This area is today a popular picnic spot. The aura

of exclusivity and wonder surrounding the place is the perfect reason to make the trek.

En Uru: (15 km from Kalpetta and 38.5 km from Sulthan Bathery)

The name En Uru or 'My village' is a nostalgic reminder of the days gone by. En Uru endeavours to rebuild and resurrect the relinquishing tribal heritage and cultural legitimacy of Wayanad by protecting the culture, art and architecture, crafts, traditional wisdom, tribal cuisine and herbal practice of tribal people. It is a tribal tourism initiative of Kerala State Scheduled Tribe Development Department to introduce the nature-friendly life and ways of Adivasis to the world.

Kuruvaldweep: (17 km east of Mananthavady, 45 km northwest of Sulthan Bathery)

This 950-acre uninhabited island on the eastward bound Kabani River is an ideal picnic spot. The wooded stretch of land is home to rare species of birds, orchids and herbs. Permitting authority: Divisional Forest Officer, South Wayanad, Kalpetta Ph: 04936-203428 (Open 0930 - 1530 hrs)

Tholpetty Wildlife Sanctuary:

(25 km east of Mananthavady, 13 km from Thirunelly on the Kodagu road)

This sanctuary has a wide variety of animals, but visitors are restricted to the outer tourist zone. Permitting authority: Asst. Wildlife Warden, Tholpetty.

Ph: 04935-250853.

(Open 0700 - 0900 hrs, 1500 - 1700 hrs)





Boys Town:

(15 km north of Mananthavady)

Established by the Wayanad Social Service Society, Boys Town has a herbal garden, nature care centre, sericulture unit and permaculture centre. The Gene Park, also situated here, was developed as part of an Indo-Danish project to promote herbal gardening.

Pakshipathalam:

(8 km from Thirunelly) This natural rock cave at the northern end of the Brahmagiri Hills is home to a wide variety of rare birds, animals and distinctive species of plants. However, the place can be accessed only by a seven km trek from Thirunelly, through a deep jungle, that will take about three hours. Special permission has to be obtained from the Forest Department to visit or camp at Pakshipathalam, which literally means birds in the nether world. DTPC arranges package tours, complete with guides and camping equipment. Ph: 04935-210377

Priyadarshini Tea Environ:

(7 km from Mananthavady, 42 km from Kalpetta) Located at Pancharakolly is the Priyadarshini Tea Environ - a cooperative society for the rehabilitation of the bonded tribal people of Wayanad district. A tea museum and a tea estate are the major attractions of the project.

Pazhassi Tomb and Museum:

The memorial of Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja, who organised guerilla warfare against the British East India Company, is situated at Mananthavady. Pazhassi took refuge in the Pulpally Cave until he was captured by the

British. A small structure houses a collection of memorabilia belonging to Pazhassi. Mondays are holidays.

(Open 0900 - 1700 hrs). Ph: 04936-240871

Pazhassi Park: The Pazhassi park is named after the Great King of the princely state of Kottayam in Malabar, Sri Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja. The park, spread over an area of 5.5 acres of land, has dense woods surrounded by the beautiful Kabani River. Pazhassi park, also known as Mananthavady park, is 1.5 km away from Mananthavady Town. The park is also known for its colony of bats.

Wayanad Heritage Museum, Ambalavaya:

(10 km from Sulthan Bathery)

One of the best heritage museums in Kerala, it houses artefacts and belongings of the various tribes of the land.

(Open 0900 - 1800 hrs). Ph: 04936-260127

Jain Temple, Sulthan Bathery:

One of the prominent Jain temples in Kerala, the Bathery Temple in Sulthan Bathery is believed to have been built during the 13th century. Its design is strongly influenced by the architectural style of the erstwhile Vijayanagara Dynasty. Another unique feature is the rather checkered history of the temple which first served as a shrine, next as a centre of commercial trade and finally, as the ammunition store or battery of Tipu Sultan's army. The town, Sulthan Bathery, derives its name from the temple.

Chethalayam Falls:

(12 km east of Sulthan Bathery)

This is one of Wayanad's lesser known seasonal waterfalls. Though it tends to dry up during summer, it is a lovely place to visit, and trekking enthusiasts will enjoy the climb up the rocks to the waterfall.

Sunrise Valley:

(20 km south of Sulthan Bathery)

Witness a magnificent sunrise and sunset, amidst a background of misty mountains and clouds. The Sunrise valley at Kadasseri also offers a panoramic view of the valley below.

Nellarachal Village:

(15 km from Kalpetta, 17 Km from Sulthan Bathery)

Experience village life at Nellarachal village with a village tour arranged by Kerala Tourism. Far removed from the madding hubs of urban life is Nellarachal, a small hamlet in Wayanad. This rustic paradise has in store umpteen gems that have some unique stories to tell you.

Krishnagiri Stadium:

(14.8 Km from Kalpetta and 9.3 km from Sulthan Bathery)

The stadium holds up to 20,000 people, and at 2,100 feet above sea level, it is a high-altitude stadium used exclusively for cricket.

Regional Agricultural Research Station:

(20 km from Kalpetta and 12 km from Sulthan Bathery)

The Regional Agriculture Research Station (RARS) located in Ambalavayal town is part of the Kerala Agricultural University. This station conducts researches on spices, tropical and sub-tropical fruits, vegetables and hill paddy. RARS also has a nursery with a large collection of rare roses and ornamental plants. Visitors can purchase seeds and saplings at the purchase counter.

Pazhassi Memorial, Mavilamthode, Vandikadavu:

(33.5 km from Kalpetta and 27 km from Sulthan Bathery)

Pazhassi Raja is a popular hero of yesteryears and he stands tall in the banks of Kinaram River, a beautiful place surrounded by forest.

Other Attractions in Wayanad:

- Panamaram Jain Temple: (23 km from Kalpetta)
- Pallikkunnu Church: (12 km north of Kalpetta)
- Kallianathum Pallickal Mosque: (10 km southwest of Mananthavady)
- Kaduva Kuzhi at Ambalavaya: (15 km south of Sulthan Bathery)
- Adventure Tourism Centres in Cheengeri hills, Ambalavayal and Kolagappa Adventure Tourism, Meenangadi

FACILITIES

Restaurants: • Jubilee Restaurant, Sulthan Bathery Ph: 04936-220937 **KTDC Pepper Grove**, Sulthan Bathery Ph: 04936-221900

• Hotel Prince (Bar attached), Sulthan Bathery Ph: 04936-221397, 220339 • Sudarshana Heritage, Kakkavayal Ph: 04936-249570

• Vazhiyoram, Kattikulam Ph: 04935-310980
• KTDC Tamarind Easy Hotel, Thirunelly Ph: 04935-210475 • Hotel Pankaj (Bar attached), Kalpetta Ph: 04936-203731 • Green Park, Muttill Ph: 04936-323332 • Wilton, Sulthan Bathery Ph: 04936-226444

Shopping:

• Amrid Handicrafts Ph: 04936-202195 • Vinay Handicrafts, Sulthan Bathery Ph: 04936-220643
• Green House, Pookot Lake Tourist Resort Ph: 04936255207 • Edakkal Gandhi Gramam, Thalipuzha Ph: 9544409444
• Uravu Eco Shop Ph: 9747075610

Do

- Go pedalling and row boating at the Pookot Lake and the Karalad Lake.
- River raft on the Kabini river and explore the many islands en route.
- Trek to the Kolagappa hills and the Rock Cave at Brahmagiri.
- Go bamboo rafting in the Vythiri-Pozhuthana river.
- Go cycling at various points in Wayanad.
- Plantation walk, cultural activities, bird watching, angling, archery
- Stock up on a variety of exotica like pepper, cardamom, nutmeg, tea, coffee, honey, bamboo products and native handicrafts.

Buy

Check out a wide range of products made out of two dozen varieties of bamboo at the Uravu Eco Shop. They also sell pickles, spices and honey.

Ph: 04936-231400/3326896.

Visit the Uravu factory en route to Soochipara Falls for interesting products like mini tables and tea coasters.

Ph: 04936-283244 www.uravu.org

Buy excellently carved **coffeewood products** from Vinay Handicrafts

Ph: 04936-220643.

Stock up on a **variety of fresh spices** like pepper, cardamom and nutmeg from any of the local shops.