wildlife sanctuaries, where you can watch wildlife at close range. The vegetation, the flora and fauna and the birds of Thekkady are uniquely rich, vast and varied that it does not bear semblance to any other wildlife sanctuaries in the world. Even a casual visitor to this place will not fail to observe the special ecological pattern of Thekkady.

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| **THEKKADY FACT FILE** | |
| **Location** | Idukki District on the high ranges of the Western Ghats |
| **Altitude** | 5000-8000 ft above sea level. |
| **Area** | 26.2 sq. km. |
| **Temperature** | 0°C - 25° C (Summer : 15.2°C - 25°C  Winter : 0°C - 10° C |
| **Rainfall** | 275 cm |
| **Best time to visit** | September to May |
| **Clothing** | Woolen and cotton |
| **Languages spoken** | Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi and English. |
| **Boundaries** | North : Coimbatore  South : Pallivassal Panchayath  East : Vattavada Panchayath  West : Kuttampuzha Panchayath |

Thekkady - The very sound of the name conjures up images of elephants, unending chains of hill and spice scented plantations. In the crisp, cool air of the Western Ghats you will experience the most enchanting holiday. With the animals of the wild and the simple mountain people. In the Periyar forest of Thekkady is one of the finest wildlife reserves in India, and spread across the entire district are picturesque plantations and hill towns that hold great opportunities for treks and mountain walks. The Thekkady sanctuary is one of the best in the country for watching and photographing wild life. Thekkady is on the border with state of Tamil Nadu , in fact just 5 kilometers from the border town of Kumily which is very well connected by bus to both Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Notable among the denizens of Periyar are the tigers, the majestic Asiatic wild elephants and the distinctive Nilgiri langur. Other animals include the wild boar, wild dog, bison, bear and leopards. Amongst the avifauna, the most profuse are herons, egrets, darters, kingfishers and the great Malabar grey hornbill. A cruise through the waters of Periyar lake around which the wild -life sanctuary is situated, offers a soul - stirring pleasant experience.