Idukki; God’s own home

Idukki is also famous as the spice garden of Kerala. This place is a non-coastal district of Kerala. Idukki is one of the most nature-rich regions in the city of Kerala. You'll be surprised to know that more than half of the area in Idukki is covered with forest. This craggy hill resort is recognized for its natural world safe havens, tea factories, bungalows, forests and rubber plantations.

Idukki is also known as "God's own home". An attractive destination for tourists. Surrounded by dense forests and adorned with green mountains, Idukki boasts of being here at Anamudi, the highest peak of India. Apart from this, there is also the second-largest arch dam in the world. Idukki has several important towns such as Devikulam, Udumbankola, Adimalai, Thekkady, Peermedu, Marikkady, and Thodupuzha. Idukki also has Periyar, Thodupuzha, and Thalya rivers. Apart from Anamudi, there are thirteen other peaks above 2000 meters in height. In this article, I'm going to share all the information and visiting places in Idukki.

# History of Idukki-

Idukki is also notable in history for being a part of the Chera dynasty and settling several early European races. This place was also ruled by Kulasekhar kings from the 9th to 11th century AD. In 1877 a piece of land was leased to the British planner John Daniel Manroe by the then Raja of Poonjar of Kerala Varma. Manro established a land plant and agricultural society where members set up their tea estates. For centuries, the place has been an important trading centre as rosewood, ivory, sandalwood, and peacock were exported to distant lands. Evidence of Stone Age civilization has been found in Idukki, although many historians believe that the Palaeolithic people were settled here. Menhir's remains and the Stone Age graveyard were excavated in 1947-48 near Udumbankola and Peermedu. Formed on January 26, 1972, the Idukki district is the second largest district of Kerala.

Idukki can be termed 'Kerala Power House' as it supplies 66% of its hydroelectric power consumption. Idukki Arch Dam, Kulamavu Dam and Cheruthani Dam are the three important dams in Idukki. Set in the beautiful backdrop, these dams are worth visiting, apart from being a wind power farm at Ramakalmedu, an important hill station of Idukki. Malankara Reservoir, an important irrigation project of Kerala, is a favourite place for boating and fishing for visitors. Idukki has many attractions for visitors. Apart from the beautiful landscapes, it also has several tea gardens and coffee plantations, serene waterfalls, enchanting lakes, and wildlife sanctuaries. The aroma of tea and coffee floats in the air at Marikkady, the famous plantation of Idukki. Nedumkandam Hill is known as the land of spices and is cultivated for black pepper and cardamom. The waterfalls of Basement Kovil welcome the visitors with great warmth.

# How to reach?

Cochin Airport is the nearest airport to reach Idukki, which is 101 km from Idukki, 94 km from Kottayam Railway Station; it serves as the nearest railway station at a distance of 94 km from Idukki. Being a major tourist destination in Kerala, Idukki is well connected to Kochi, Munnar, Trivandrum and Kottayam.

# Idukki tourist places:

## Hill View Park:

Hill View Park is one of the best places to visit in Idukki, located at a distance of about a kilometre from the city centre of Idukki. Hill View Park is one place to visit in Idukki from where tourists can enjoy spectacular views of the Cheruthoni and Idukki dams. Apart from being a famous tourist destination of Idukki, the park is also home to various wildlife that you can spot in their natural habitat. The park also has a children's play area with slides and swings inside, which makes it one of the best tourist places in Idukki to visit with family and kids. Apart from all this, you can also do some adventure activities like ziplining in Hill View Park and photography of amazing views from Idukki Dam.

## Idukki Dam

At a distance of about 2 kilometres from Idukki Bus Station, Idukki Arch Dam is the second arch dam in the world and the first in Asia, built on the Periyar river in the Kuravan and Kurathi hills.

The 550 feet high and 650 feet wide dam is located near Cheruthoni barrage. According to legend, Lord Rama cursed two natives when he saw them bathing Sita. It is said that the two original inhabitants were Korvan and Kurthi, who were converted into stones. The two then pleaded for mercy from Lord Rama on opposite banks of the Periyar River as they were never apart. Lord Rama blessed them that they would be together for years to come. And, today, the Idukki Arch Dam is connected by two hills, Korvan Mala and Kurathi Mala. The Underground Power House is located in Mudumattam.

## Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary:

Spread over an area of ​​70 square kilometres, Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the famous tourist places in Idukki. This place Situated at an altitude of 450 to 748 metres. The sanctuary spans the Cheruthoni and Periyar rivers which conserves a wide variety of wildlife species. If you are a wildlife lover, then Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the best places to visit in Idukki, where you can spot various wildlife and birds sitting on the trees while roaming in the lush green surroundings of the sanctuary.

## Peerumedu Hill Station, Idukki:

Located 40 km from Kumalli in the Idukki district in central Kerala, Peerumedu is 915 m above sea level. It is a very beautiful hill station situated at the height of. It is an idyllic place in the Western Ghats and is also a favourite stop for tourists visiting the Periyar Tiger Reserve. This famous plantation town gets its name from the Sufi saint Pir Muhammad and is closely related to the erstwhile royal family of Travancore.

Views of tea, cardamom, rubber and coffee plantations interspersed with silver streams, beautiful cliffs, pastures and fog-capped mountain peaks make Peerumedu an unforgettable experience. This place, the summer palace of the kings of the erstwhile princely state of Travancore, is famous for its important memorial site. The summer palace, which has now been converted into a government guest house under the tourism department, provides comfortable accommodation.

Peerumedu and its surrounding area is suitable for trekking, cycling and horse riding. Kuttikkanam, a place of adventure tourism and trekking, is only 3 km away from Peerumedu.

## Ilaveezha Poonchira:

48 km from Kottayam, 20 km from Thodupuzha, Ilviza Poonchira is a hill spread over thousands of acres at the foothills of three hills – Mankunnu, Kudaithur Hill and Thanipara near Kankajar. Ilaveezha Poonchira (meaning - the valley where the leaves do not fall) has no trees and is a place where leaves do not fall. This is one of the best places to visit in Idukki among the popular Kerala tourist places.

Surrounded by hills raised 3000 feet above sea level, Ilviza Poonchira is an ideal place for trekking. It is one of the best places to watch sunrise and sunset. Amazing views of Malankara Dam can be seen from this place. Malankara Dam (7 km), Thomkuthu Waterfalls (30 km) and Vagamon (35 km) are near the places.

Buses are available from Palai (25 km) and Erattupeta (30 km).

## Thommankuthu Waterfall

At a distance of 25 kms from Idukki, Thomkuthu Waterfall is an amazing waterfall falling from a height of 300 feet with pools at each level.

It is a perfect place to watch nature and take a bath in the falling waters. It is easily the best place to spend a day. Trekking in the surrounding picturesque hills is another popular activity at this place. This is a very popular place in Idukki tourism.

This place is connected by bus to Munnar and Thodupuzha. Unfortunately, there are no accommodation facilities available near the falls.

## Calvary Mount

This place is located 5 km from Idukki on the Kattpan- Idukki road. Mount Calvary is located on a steep slope and is a tourist hotspot. The place is famous for the processions held during Good Friday and fasting. During April, to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, devotees take out a procession carrying a cross. Here you can have a panoramic glimpse of the places near you. From one angle, you can see from Idukki Arch Dam to Ayyappankovil, and from the other side, you can see Kamakshi and Mariapuram villages. Mount Calvary is a popular tourist attraction as it is an ideal spot for trekking and picnics. While trekking on the hill, you can also see elephants on the way. The beautiful air and chirping birds will make you forget all your worries. There are small huts around the area for night rest in the hills.

## Penavu hill station:

Penavu is located within the Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary at an altitude of 3900 meters above sea level. It is indeed a busy hill station. There are many important Kerala government institutions here like Government Engineering College Idukki and Civil Station. Here you can see the Idukki Arch Dam (the largest arch dam in Asia), the Kulamav Dam, and the Cheruthoni Dam.

It is a beautiful place of rich greenery surrounding nearby dams. Some of the special travel activities offered here include a boat ride, an area specially designed for children, and the famous herbal garden. Just 5 km from Idukki Bus Station, Penavu is easily accessible by road.

## Thekkady:

Located in the Idukki district, Thekkady is one of the most amazing tourist places in Kerala. However, especially known for the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, this attractive tourist destination caters to the interests and interests of trekkers, nature lovers, wildlife lovers, adventurers, picnickers and bag-packers. Thekkady is situated close to the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border; hence a unique culture and tradition is visible here. Its special location makes it special to reach this place from both Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Wildlife Sanctuary of Thekkady attracts lakhs of domestic and foreign tourists every year. The diverse flora and wildlife found in this area further add to the charm of this area.

Thekkady's unique geographical structure and ecological structure sets it apart from other hill stations and sanctuaries. In this hilly area, there are expanses of beautiful natural landscape and gardens. The fragrance flowing in the air from the spice plantations rejuvenates the travellers. The winding hills in the background offer an ideal view for photography enthusiasts. The cool climate and the availability of excellent resorts and hostels make this place a favourite for picnics and honeymooners. The twisty mountainous terrain and long trekking routes provide an unmatched experience to trekkers and climbers. Recreational activities like hiking, wildlife train, rock climbing and bamboo rafting attract tourists in this area.

## Kulmavu:

Kulamavu is one of the most popular hill stations in the Idukki district. It is situated at an altitude of about 3,000 feet above sea level. This place attracts tourists for the breathtaking views. It is also a good place for trekking. The Kulamavu Dam is one of the three dams of the Idukki Reservoir Project. This dam attracts many tourists to visit this place. Situated amidst Rocky Mountains, Kulamavu is a reservoir spread over an area of ​​33 square kilometres. You can go for boating between Kulamavu Dam and Cheruthani. Moolamattom underground power station, located nearby, is another must-see place. Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary can also be visited from Kulamavu. The famous Nadukani Ghat is situated at a distance of just 70 kms from Kulamavu.

## Keejarakuthu Falls:

Keejarakuthu Falls is about 25 km from the serene town of Thudupuzha. This enchanting waterfall is also known as 'Rainbow Falls'. Keejarkuthu waterfall falls from a height of 1500 meters. This waterfall seems to be coming out of the rock. The waterfall flows throughout the year. The waterfall is surrounded by lush green forests which have many medicinal properties and many other important plants. It is an ideal place for adventure activities- trekking, camping, rock climbing, and mountaineering. This is a place that amateur photographers love to visit.

## Bottom Line

These Visiting places in Idukki make your trip exciting and memorable. So, plan a trip to the heavenly beauty of Idukki now.