

DISTRICT HANDBOOKS OF KERALA
KOTTAYAM



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of Kerala**

KOTTAYAM



Department of Information & Public Relations
Government of Kerala

*District Handbooks
of Kerala*

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DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

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KOTTAYAM

Department of Information and Public Relations
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Contents

History	6
Physiography	8
Climate	8
Rivers	9
Population	9
Administration	10
Agriculture	11
Animal Husbandry	14
Forests	16
Industries	17
Education	19
Transport	23
Art and Culture.....	26
Places of Tourist Interest	29
Bare Facts	61

FOREWORD

Reference books have always been in great demand in Kerala and the educated public approach the Information Public Relations Department, Government of Kerala, for authentic information on our State and districts. It is in this context that District Handbooks used to be published. To be abreast of times, the Department has launched a website, www.prd.kerala.gov.in and maintains the State Government web portal www.kerala.gov.in. It has been our sincere endeavour to update these on a day-to-day basis and popularise the use of computers through out the State to enable information and services to reach the needy. However the Department feels that the time is not ripe for a complete switch over from the print media and hence a new series of District Handbooks is now published.

I hope that this book would cater to the requirements of the tourists as well as the general public who seek a handy booklet containing relevant information about the district. Suggestions for improvement of the publication/the contents of the website/portals are welcome.

G.Rajasekharan,I.A.S.
Director & Secretary
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Thiruvananthapuram,
18th March 2003.

INTRODUCTION

Kottayam is a land of unique characteristics. Panoramic back water stretches, lush paddy fields, high lands, extensive rubber plantations and a totally literate people have given this district the enviable title *the land of letters, latex and lakes*. Bordered by the lofty Western Ghats on the east and the Vembanad lake and paddy fields of Kuttanad on the west, Kottayam is the ideal take-off point for visit to Peerumed, Munnar, Idukki, Thekkady and the Temple City of Madurai.

Kottayam can claim many first places. It is the most literate district in the State as per 2001 census. Kottayam is the first town in India to achieve cent per cent literacy in 1989 June 25. English education in South India started at the old seminary here in 1813. The first Printing Press in Kerala CMS Press - which was started by Rev. Benjamin Baily in 1821 was in Kottayam. The first College in the State - CMS College - was also started here in 1840. First printed Malayalam - English and English - Malayalam Dictionary were published from Kottayam in 1846 and 1847 respectively. Sahithya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sanghom (S.P.C.S), the only co-operative society of literary workers for book publication was set up here in 1945. Kottayam stands in the main stream in the field of publication of Newspapers, Periodicals and printing-book publishing industry in the State. Kottayam is the first city in India to launch an 'Eco City Project'. After all the first Malayali to become the President of India - Sri. K.R. Narayanan - is none other than a native of Uzhavoor in Kottayam district.

HISTORY

Kottayam literally means the interior of a fort *Kotta+Akam*. Rulers of Munjanad and Thekkumkur had their head quarters at Thazhathangadi in the present Kottayam town. Marthanda Varma of Travancore attacked Thekkumkur and destroyed the palace and the Thaliyil fort. The remnants of palaces and forts are still seen here.

The present Kottayam district was previously a part of the erstwhile princely state of Travancore. Earlier, the Travancore State consisted of two revenue divisions viz., the southern and northern divisions, under the administrative control of a '*Diwan Peshkar*' for each. Later in 1868 two more divisions Quilon (Kollam) and Kottayam were constituted. The fifth division Devikulam came next but for a short period, which in course of time, was added to Kottayam. At the time of the integration of the State of Travancore and Cochin (Kochi) in 1949, these revenue divisions were renamed as districts and the *Diwan Peshkars* gave way to District Collectors, making the birth of the Kottayam District in July 1949.

The beginning of the ninth Century A.D is the age of the Kulasekharas. At that time, Kottayam was a part of the Vempolinad, which belonged to the Kulasekhara Empire (1090 - 1102 A.D.). The Vembanad lake itself derives its name from Vempolinad. The Kingdom of Vempolinad split itself into the Kingdom of Thekkumkur and Vadakkumkur by about 1100 A.D. and later these two kingdoms were annexed by Marthanda-Varma of Travancore between 1749 and 1754. The Portuguese and the Dutch had their business relations with both Thekkumkur and Vadakkumkur Kingdoms, pepper and other spices being the main attractions. In addition to Thekkumkur and Vadakkumkur, Marthanda Varma brought two more small principalities in Kottayam under his control - Poonjar and Meenachil.

After Marthanda Varma Dharma Raja (1758-1798) placed Kottayam in a key position in the new defence strategy against

Haider Ali and Tippu Sultan of Mysore. Apart from this, Kottayam afforded asylum to a number of refugee princes who left Malabar in the wake of Mysore invasions.

Kottayam occupied a predominant position in the cultural life of the Travancore princely court, the main reason being migration of Ramapurathu Warriar, the famous poet of Vadakkumkur to Thiruvananthapuram following the annexation of Kottayam by Marthanda Varma.

Kottayam has played its role in all the political agitations of modern times. The 'Malayali Memorial' agitation may be said to have had its origin in Kottayam. The Malayali Memorial sought to secure better representation for educated Travancoreans in the Travancore civil service against persons from outside. The Memorial, which was presented to the Maharaja Sri Mulam Thirunal (1891) was drafted at a public meeting held in the Kottayam Public Library. The event marked the beginning of the modern political movement in the state.

It was here that the famous Vaikom Satyagraha (1924 -25) an epic struggle for eradication of untouchability, took place. Scheduled castes and other backward classes in Travancore were not only denied entry into temples, but also access to temple roads. Vaikom, the seat of a celebrated Siva Temple, was the venue of the symbolic satyagraha. It is of immense historic significance that national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, C. Rajagopalachari, Acharya Vinoba Bhave and E.V. Ramswami Naykar, associated with the struggle.

The *Nivarthana* agitation of the early thirties, to secure adequate representation for the non-caste Hindus, Christians and Muslims in the State Legislature, enjoyed considerable support from the district.

The district was also a centre of the agitation led by the State Congress for responsible Government in Travancore. The agitation had a triumphant end, with the overthrow of Sir. C.P. Ramaswami Iyer, the then Dewan of Travancore.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

Kottayam district has a total area of 2208 sq. km. lying a little south to central Kerala, the district is bordered on the north by Ernakulam, on the east by Idukki and on the south by Alappuzha and Pathanamthitta districts. The Vembanad lake forms the western boundary. The district is naturally divided into high land, mid land and low land, the bulk being constituted by the mid land regions. Meenachil and Kanjirappally taluks have high land and mid land areas while Kottayam, Changanassery and Vaikom taluks have mid land and low land areas. Kanjirappally and Meenachil taluks have laterite soil, where as Vaikom taluk and part of Changanassery and Kottayam taluks have aluvial soil. The district has no coastal area. Kottayam lies between Latitude 9° 15' and 10° 21' and Longitude 76° 22' and 77° 25'.

Classification of Geographical area (1998 -99, in Hec.). Total 219550, forests 8141, land put to non agricultural uses 23077, barren and uncultivable land 1376, permanent pastoral and other grazing land two, land under tree crops 129, cultivable waste 1874, fallow other than current fallow 2625, current fallow 4924, net area sown 177409, area sown more than once 39382, total cropped area 216784.

Source: Farm Guide 2001.

CLIMATE

The district has a tropical climate with an oppressive hot season in the plains and plenty of rain fall through out. The hot season from March to May, is followed by the south west monsoon from June to September. October and November constitute the post-monsoon or retreating monsoon season, when day temperature increases gradually and the heat is nearly as in summer. December to February forms the north east monsoon. Rain cease early in January. The district normally gets an annual average rain fall of 3130.33 mm.

Average rain fall (in '99)

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rain fall in mm	6.9	5.7	50.3	183	532	620.6	503	233.4	105.3	615.9	92.2	8.8

RIVERS

The important rivers of the district are the Meenachil, the Muvattupuzha and the Manimala. The 78 kms. long Meenachil river flows through the taluks of Meenachil, Vaikom and Kottayam. It has a catchment area of 1272 Sq.km. and utilisable water resource of 1110 Cubic mm. The river is formed by several streams originating from the Western Ghats in Idukki district. At Erattupetta, Poonjar river also joins it, takes a sharp turn and flows towards the west. At Kondur, it is joined by the Chittar and at Lalam, it receives the Payapparathodu and flows in a south-west direction till it reaches Kottayam. Here, it branches into several streams before emptying into the Vembanad lake. The important towns in the basin are Pala, Poonjar, Ettumanoor and Kottayam. Meenachil Medium Irrigation project is having a net ayacut of 9960 hectares, 155 sq.km. catchment area and a water spread area of 228 hectares.

The Muvattupuzha river originates from Ernakulam district, flows through Vaikom taluk and empties into the Vembanad lake. The most important town in the basin is Vaikom, the famous pilgrim centre.

The Manimala river flows through Kanjirappally and Changanassery taluks. The Chittar joins it on its course further down the west as it flows to Alappuzha district. The important town in the basin is Mundakkayam.

POPULATION

The total population of the district is 19,52,901 - 6.13 per cent of the population of the State according to the Census of 2001 (Provisional). Male population is 9,64,433 and Female Population is 9,88,468.

Of the total population, 2,06,769 is in the 0-6 age group. Of this, 1,05,680 are male and 1,01,089 are female. Kottayam is the most literate district in the State. The literacy rate here is 95.90 per cent 97.41 per cent of male and 94.45% of female are literate. Of the total 16,74,592 literate persons, 8,36,491 are men and 8,38,101 are women. The density of population is 884 per sq.km. and the sex ratio, number of female per 1000 male, is 1025. There is a 6.76% increase in the population during the last decade (1991 - 2001). The sex ratio also increased by 22 in this decade.

ADMINISTRATION

Kottayam district consists of two Revenue divisions - Kottayam and Pala - each under the control of a Revenue Divisional Officer. There are five taluks - Kottayam, Changanassery, Vaikom, Meenachil and Kanjirappally and 95 revenue villages. The District Panchayat consists of 21 divisions. There are four municipalities - Kottayam, Changanassery, Pala and Vaikom and 11 block panchayats - Madappally, Pallom, Ettumanoor, Kaduthuruthy, Vaikom, Uzhavoor, Lalam, Erattupetta, Kanjirappally, Vazhoor and Pampady in the district. The number of grama panchayats comes to 74.

The district has 10 Assembly constituencies - Kanjirappally, Uzhavoor, Changanassery, Kottayam, Ettumanoor, Puthuppally, Poonjar, Pala, Kaduthuruthy and Vaikom. The only Parliamentary constituency within the district is Kottayam. Certain parts of Kanjirappally, Poonjar and Pala Assembly constituencies are included in Moovattupuzha Parliamentary constituency.



Civil Station, Kottayam

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture forms the livelihood of the majority in the district. It is also the main factor influencing the economy. Food crops as well as cash crops are cultivated here. Paddy and Tapioca are the main food crops while rubber, coconut and pepper are the main cash crops.



A rubber plantation

Annual crops like plantain and pine apple, seasonal crops like ginger, tubers, vegetables and a wide range of perennial crops like jack fruit, mango etc., are also grown.

Paddy is the most important food crop. The area paddy cultivation (96-97) is 25213 hectares and 78462 tons of paddy is produced - an average of 2918 kg/ha. Though the area under paddy cultivation is decreasing, the production and productivity is increasing. 20000 tons of paddy produced in the district is procured and distributed by 18 Co-operative Societies.

Next to paddy is tapioca. It is cultivated in 9976 hectares and 304589 tons of tapioca is produced per annum - an average of 30532 kg./ha.

Vegetable cultivation is undertaken in 3144 hectares. Cultivation in 365 hectares is being done by 'Haritha' Societies.

Rubber is the major cash crop. It is grown in 109,582 hectares - the largest area under rubber cultivation in the State and its production is going up gradually. Here, 120946 tons of Rubber is produced per annum-productivity being 1104 kg./ha. Meenachil and Kanjirappally taluks top in rubber cultivation. A big Rubber centre, Kottayam has been chosen as the head quarters of the Indian Rubber Board.

Coconut, another important cash crop has a total area of 39603 hectares under cultivation. Production is 177 million and productivity 4469 per kg /ha. Production is being raised by adopting modern farming methods, enhancing irrigation facilities and distributing quality seedlings.



Rubber Board Office

Pepper, tea, coffee, ginger, arecanut, pulses, plantains, pine apple, sugarcane, cocoa etc., are also cultivated in the district. The area under cultivation (in hectares) and production (in ton) is given below respectively. Average production kg./he. is in brackets.

Pulses 1371-1184 (864), Sugarcane 160-1158 (7238), Pepper 8219-1325 (161), Ginger 277-788 (2845), Turmeric 193-469 (2430), Nutmeg 472-122 (1258), Banana 1713-27088 (15813), Plantain 3818-33986 (8902), Pineapple 549-3412 (6215), Cashew 700-200 (786), Cocoa 2278-1182 (518), Arecanut 1041-136, Coffee 824, Tea 1947-140, Cardamom 345-33.

Krishi Bhavan is functioning in all the 74 Grama Panchayats and four Municipalities. The District Agricultural Farm

Irrigated Area*

Crop	Area
Paddy	13617
Tubers	14
Vegetables	342
Coconut	165
Arecanut	21
Nutmeg	314
Condiments	123
Banana	76
Leaves	9
Cane	137
Others	704
Total	15522

* in Hectore

and Regional Agricultural Training Centre are situated in Kozha, near Kuravilangad. State Seed Farm was set up in Kozha and Valachira. In Ettumanoor, there is a soil Testing Laboratory and Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory. State Ag Mark Grading Laboratory is functioning in Kottayam. A Parasite Breeding Centre is also attached to the laboratory. The Headquarters of Oil Palm India Ltd., and the Plantation Corporation of Kerala Ltd., is in Kottayam.

Rubber Board

The Indian Rubber Board, constituted under the Rubber Production and Marketing Act 1947, has its headquarters at Kottayam. The Board has been implementing various schemes since 1957 , for expansion and modernization of rubber plantation industry in India. The Board gives aid to farmers as cash incentives, plant insurance schemes, agricultural materials including crop seedlings and promotion of fencing and irrigation facilities. In 1998-99, the Board has given financial assistance of 190 lakh for new/replanting, 150 lakh for schemes related to increasing productivity, 35 lakh for plantation workers welfare activities and 17.32 lakh for other schemes.

The Board has five regional offices. As part of advisory and extension services, the Board runs two tapping training centers. There are 492 Rubber Producers, Societies. The Board gives technical and financial assistance to eight Rubberwood processing factories functioning in the district under the auspices of the Co-operative Societies under Rubber Producers Societies. Construction work of the 20 crore Rubber and Rubber wood Development Training Centre at Manganam is in progress. Apart from rubber wood processing and crump rubber factories, a laboratory for assessing the quality of rubber and training demonstration facilities is also being set up here.

Another important institution associated with the Board is the Rubber Research Institute of India (R.R.I.I) which has eight categorical divisions of detailed study and research. The Institute is situated at Puthupally, eight kms. east of Kottayam town. The training wing attached to the institute, organises training programmes on various subjects for

agriculturists and industrial entrepreneurs. A laboratory for testing soil and leaf is functioning in this institute. Regional laboratories were also set up in Kanjirappally and Pala.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

The main species of live stock in the district are cattle, goat, pig and buffalo. Cattle population as per 1996 Census is 2.29 lakh, of which 1.91 lakh is cross bred. Majority of the cattle found in the district are *Rangayam*, *Hallikyr* and cross breeds of *Jersey*, *Sindhi* and *Swiss Brown*. Following the introduction of artificial insemination schemes and intensive cattle development, there is a fairly large number of cross- bred Jersey and Swiss brown animals here. Two other breeds found here are *Murrah* and *Surabhi*.

The goat population is 1.48 lakh and it consists of *Kalabari*, a few cross breeds of *Jamnapari* and the local breeds, fowls, ducks, turkey, etc., form the poultry.

Under the Animal Husbandry Department, one District Veterinary Centre (at Kodimatha), four Veterinary Poly Clinics (Pala, Kanjirappally, Pariyaram and Changanassery), 19 Veterinary Hospitals, 58 Dispensaries, One Mobile Veterinary Hospital, Two Mobile Farm Aid units, One Rinder Pest Eradication Unit, two Regional Artificial Insemination Centres (Vaikom and Kanjirappally), two Pig breeding unit/farms (Thalayolaparambu and Kappad), one regional Poultry farm/ hatchery (Manarcad), one calf breed Subsidy Programme Office, One Clinical laboratory and 89 I.C.D.P. Sub Centers were functioning in the district.

In 1997-98, the district produced 1.94 lakh tons of milk, 17.35 lakh eggs and 2765 metric tons meat.

The number of dairy co-operatives in the district is 222 of which 184 Anand model and 38 traditional .Dairy Extention Office has opened in all the 11 blocks. The Department has a Mobile Quality Control Laboratory. Dairy farmers training centre was set up in Vadavathoor.

The Pasteurisation Plant of Milma here has a daily capacity of 30,000 litres. The Milk Chilling Plant at Marangattupally has a capacity of 12,000 litres and the Milk Chilling Plant of Manjoor Dairy Society has a capacity of 3000 litres per day. The daily capacity of Malanadu Development Society's Parathodu Plant is 30,000 litres. The society has 28 dairy societies. A cattle feed manufacturing factory with a daily capacity to produce 240 tons of cattle feed is functioning in the private sector near Ettumanoor.

FISHERIES

Deprived of a sea coast, but abundant in lakes and rivers, inland fishing flourishes here, providing livelihood to around 6000 families. To popularise inland fishing, various programmes are being implemented for giving assistance to fish farmers. Fingerlings of new varieties of fish are distributed to the farmers. Farmers are also given government subsidy.

Fish production in the district is mainly concentrated on Vembanad lake in the western portion of the district, which is part of Kuttanadu and fishing related activities take place mostly in the villages lying near to the lake. Changanassery, Kumarakom, Thiruvappu, Vaikom, Thalayazham, Chempu, Kaduthuruthy and Kottayam are the fisheries villages in the district which are in Kottayam, Changanassery and Vaikom taluks. The Fishermen community consists of 25000 members of which 6000 registered.

The district has 1700 hectares of ponds/ tanks. Of the 20000 hectares of paddy fields in the Upper Kuttanad, 10000 hectares is suitable for fish farming. At present farming is under taken only in 2500 hectares. Fish production from paddy fields and ponds under the peoples fish farming scheme began in 1997. In 1998-99, 3273 tons of fish produced through traditional fishing methods and 1134 tons through fish farming. In 1999-2000 fish farming was under taken in 2514 hectares and 4499 fishermen involved in the scheme.

The Regional Agricultural Research Centre at Kumarakom started in 1972 under Kerala Agricultural University began fisheries research in 1979.

They studied on integrating fish farming with pig, poultry, duck, cattle and paddy farming. The findings from the studies shows that integrating fish farming with others will bring economical benefit to the farmers. Schemes like fish ranching, cage culture and pen culture were introduced with the financial assistance of State Government and I.C.A.R for enriching the fish wealth of Vembanad lake.

A model fish farm has setup in Pallom under the aegis of fish Farmers' Development Agency. In 1999-2000, the farm produced 3.38 lakh fingerlings under the people's fish farming scheme. The agency distributed one crore fingerlings in 1999-2000. There are 37 fishermen co-operative societies in the district of which 25 is affiliated to the Matsyafed. In the inland fishing sector, 16 societies has set up. Nine Women Societies are also functioning in the district. Fish markets were constructed in all the Municipalities and in 28 Grama Panchayats. Hatcheries were functioning in Vaikom, Velloor, Pulikutissery, Olassa and Kothavara with financial assistance from Fish Farmers' Development Agency. Many fishermen earn a livelihood through shell fishing from the Vembanad lake and industries using shell as raw material is functioning in the district.

FOREST

Forest plays an important role in the economic development of the district by influencing various sectors like agriculture, industry, employment, climate etc.

The district has 100 sq.km., of forest land (4.5 per cent of total area) of which 54 sq.km. is forest land with trees, mostly plantation crops. There are two groups of forest - natural and man-made. The man-made forests mainly consist of eucalyptus, teak, soft wood, rubber, cashew and other plantations. Participatory forest management was introduced in 1999-2000 with the target of forest management by people's participation. Planting activities in the natural forests also taken up with World Bank assistance. Malaveda, Malaaraya, Sambava, Ullada, Oorali and

Nayadi Communities are settled in the forest areas of the district. A society is functioning in Kossady, which is engaged in the collection of forest resources. A Timber Depot under Timber Sales Division was set up in Parambuzha.

The Kottayam high range circle has four forest divisions - Kottayam, Munnar, Kothamangalam and Mankulam. The Directorate of Tiger Project, established for the protection of tigers is at Nattasseri. The Forest Development Corporation has its head quarters at Kottayam. Forest resource development programmes are carried out by the corporation.

INDUSTRIES

The growth Kottayam has achieved in the industrial sector during the past few years is considerable. Significant growth has been achieved in the agro-based industrial sector especially Rubber based industries, food products, Engineering and other service sector industries.

Kerala produces 90 per cent of the rubber production in India, major part being the contribution of Kottayam. The increasing output in production and the advent of modern processing techniques has resulted in the establishment of rubber based industrial units like latex, crepe rubber and latex diversifying into items such as M.C. sheets, footwear etc.

The district has a rich forest wealth with good availability of soft wood and other varieties of timber. As a result, many industries like plywood, packing cases, splints and veneers, furniture etc. are thriving.

There are 13 large and medium scale industries functioning in the district. Of this, one is in the central public sector, two each in the state public sector and co-operative sector. The only central public sector undertaking in the district is the Hindustan News Print Limited at Velloor in Vaikom taluk which is engaged in the production of News print.

Travancore Cements Limited at Nattakom is the major state public sector undertaking in the district which manufacture the unique white cement. Two major industrial estates have set up in Changanassery and Ettumanoor apart from the 12 mini industrial estates at Nattakom, Kumaranalloor, Pampady, Karukachal, Madappally, Payppadu, Manimala, Erattupetta, Mutholi, T.V. Puram, Ayarkunnam and Aymanam. Industrial development plots have been developed at Vaikom, Athirampuzha and Poovanthuruthu. A Common Facility Service Centre, Training Centre and Field Testing Laboratory for Rubber-Plastic Industries has set up at Changanassery and a Central Government Production cum Training Centre at Ettumanoor. Rubco opened a new factory at Pampady in 2001.

The number of Small Scale Industrial Units registered as on 31.03.1999 is 20809. These units generated 75000 employment opportunities. Around 1000 artisan units and 2000 non registered small scale units providing 1.18 lakh employment opportunities is functioning in the district. The number of registered sick unit comes to 239. In 1998, there were 3198 women S.S.I. Units and 423 SC/ST Units.

The coir industry in the district is more or less confined to Vaikom taluk. There are 27 coir co-operatives and 20000 workers. In the handloom sector, there is eight co-operative societies which provide employment to 2100 persons. In 1998, there were 151 industrial co-operatives in the district of which 63 women, 18 SC and 4 ST.

The Rubber Board, District Industries Centre and the Common Facility Service Centre, Changanassery with the Co-operation of KITCO, Centre for Management Development and SIDCO organizes entrepreneur development programmes. The DIC is implementing schemes like capital investment subsidy, sales tax exemption, money margin and development loan for SC entrepreneurs. 15% of capital investment, maximum being 15 lakh, was given as subsidy for starting new industries. Subsidy up to 20 lakh was given to new industries in the I.T, rubber, engineering, electronics, leather and food products sector.

EDUCATION

Kottayam is always in the fore front in literacy and education. In the 17th century, a Dutch school was started at Kottayam which however, proved to be short-lived. The first English school in Kerala was started by the Missionaries of the Church Mission Society (C.M.S) at Kottayam, in the beginning of the 19th century. The first college in Kerala is C.M.S. College, Kottayam.



CMS College

Kottayam has a Medical College, Engineering College under government sector and a University. The Mahatma Gandhi University has 26 teaching departments and conducts research studies in 34 subjects at various centers. Self financing courses was also conducted by the University's School of Medical Education.

The Government Engineering College, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology, was started at Puthuppally in 1991. Lal Bahadur Sastri Science and Technology sub centre and the South Indian branch of the



Medical College, Kottayam

Indian Institute of Mass Communication have also been started at Puthuppally and Vadavathoor respectively. The Central School at Puthuppally and Velloor, Navodaya Vidyalaya at Vadavathoor, I.H.R.D Engineering College at Poonjar and Erattupetta,

Co-operative Academy of professional education at Kidangoor are worth mentioning. An Engineering College in the private sector have started functioning in Kanjirappally.



Mahatma Gandhi University

There are four educational districts- Kottayam, Pala, Kanjirappally and Kaduthuruthy and 13 sub districts in Kottayam Revenue District. There are 465 L.P Schools, 207 U.P Schools and 241 High Schools in the district. As per the figures available for 1999-2000 out of 911 schools, 296 in the Government, 569 in the aided and 46 in the unaided sector. There are 21 Arts and Science Colleges (One Govt.), Five Training Colleges, Three Co-operative colleges, Four Polytechnics (Govt. Poly-Nattakom, Pala and I.H.R.D.Poly Erattupetta, Mattakkara), 10 Teachers Training Institutes (3 Govt.), two Government Industrial Training Institutes, 11 Private I.T.Cs six Technical high Schools, two Nursing Schools and a B.Sc Nursing School functioning in the district. Three out of the seven sports divisions attached to the High Schools, are allotted to Kottayam. Other institutions includes Indira Gandhi National Open University study Centre (C.M.S. College). School for the blind-Olassa, Deaf and Dump school - Neerpara, D.I.E.T.,- Velloor and the Tailoring Training School, Ettumanoor. During 1999-2000 Vocational Higher Secondary Course introduced in 21 High Schools of which 17 in the government sector. Higher secondary course started in 48 High Schools during that period, of which 15 Government and 33 Aided.

The total number of teachers during 1999-2000 is 11039 of which 3700 in the L.P., 3337 in the U.P. and 4002 in the High School section. The number of teachers employed in the Government, Private Aided and Unaided sector are 2959, 7391 and 689 respectively. Of the total, 8564 are lady teachers.

The Nair Service Society founded in 1914 which run several educational institutions in the State, has its head quarters in Changanassery. The Athurasramam Homeo Medical College at Kurichi is one prestigious institution.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Integrated Child Development Scheme is functioning in all the 11 development blocks in the district under the Social Welfare Department. Pala and Changanassery Municipalities have a U.S.N.P Project. Out of 1719 Anganwadis 644 have own buildings. The welfare institution run by the department are Mahila Mandiram-Kallara, Old age Home-Kottayam, Juvenile and Observation Home-Thiruvanchoor. These institutions have a total capacity of accommodating 225 persons, 46 Orphanages and 25 Oldage Homes of voluntary agencies are functioning in the district with Government grant.

HOUSING

The Kerala State Housing Board and Co-Operative Housing establishments have launched various housing schemes in the district mainly for the benefit of the weaker sections.

Housing scheme for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe colonies are also being implemented under special component plan and Tribal sub plan. District Nirmithi Kendra, a Government agency to propagate cost-effective techniques of housing construction is also at the service of the people. The production centre and the administrative office of Nirmithi Kendra is at Poovanthuruthu, 6km. away from Kottayam town.

CO-OPERATION

The co-operative sector plays an important role in intensifying the growth of agriculture and development of rural economy in the district.

There are 825 Co-operative Societies in Kottayam. The District Co-operative Bank and its 43 branches have a deposit of 367 crores.

There are also 147 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, six Marketing Co-operative Societies with Rubber Processing facilities, five Agricultural Co-operative Rural Development Banks, six Urban Banks, two Primary Agricultural Rural Development Banks, seventy nine Employees Credit Co-operative Societies, six Marketing Co-operative Societies, nineteen Housing Co-operatives, 28 S.C. and S.T. Co-operatives and 312 School and College Co-operatives. A Whole Sale Consumer Co-operative Store is functioning in the district headquarters. There is a Co-operative Tea Factory at Theekoyi and Pine apple Marketing Co-operative Society at Amayannoor.

The Sahithya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sanghom (S.P.C.S), a unique co-operative venture of authors and writers for publishing and marketing of books is in Kottayam.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The field of Public Health gives a fair picture. Apart from the Medical College, there is one District Hospital and one District T.B.Centre. There are also one Childrens' Hospital, four Taluk Hospitals, six Community Health Centres, 11 Block Health Centres, 51 Primary Health Centres and seven Government Hospitals under the Health Department. 3475 patients can be treated in these hospitals. The total health workers in the government sector comes to 2487 including 448 doctors. In the private sector hospitals 5750 patients can be treated.

All modern treatment facilities including the ultra modern Wholebody Scanning and Open Heart Surgery, are available both in the government and private sectors. A disease surveillance programme has been undertaken in the district.

The Kottayam Medical Hospital, the third of its kind in the State. Over six lakh out patients and fifty thousand in patients get the service of the hospital every year. The bed strength of the hospital is 1100. There are 17 major and four minor operation theatres in the hospital. A modern blood bank is functioning round the clock.

For the first time in the country, a Cancer Care Centre was established with the investment of the public in Kottayam. A highly sophisticated institution with Cobalt unit and most modern facilities has been commissioned here. Under the savings for Cancer Care Scheme of the Central Government, the centre has been authorised to execute cancer care and preventive measures in the district and in the adjoining districts. The centre functions in the Medical College Hospital.

The Medical College was inaugurated on 30th December 1962 and from 15th January 1963, clinical training was imparted to students by converting the district hospital into a medical college hospital. Later all the departments were shifted to the campus in Gandhinagar. The campus itself was named Gandhinagar in 1969 on the eve of the Centenary Celebrations of the Father of the Nation. Institute of Child Health and College of Nursing are also attached to the Medical College.

Under the Indian System of Medicine Department, Seven Ayurveda Hospitals, 31 dispensaries and 48 Grant in Aid-Vaidya Salas are functioning in the district with a bed capacity of 133. There are also four Homeopathy Hospitals and 28 Dispensaries with a bed strength of 225 functioning in the district. In the private sector there are 375 Ayurvedic Institutions and 436 Homeopathic Institutions. The district has a Central Research Institute in Homeopathy at Sachivothamapuram, Kurichy.

TRANSPORT

Kottayam district is fairly well networked in the matter of transport. The main transport modes in the district are roads and railways. Inland water transport is negligible. Out of the two transport modes, road transport caters to a major part of the traffic.

The district has 2106.86 km. road network under P.W.D. as on 01.04. 1998. The details is as follows (in Km). State Highway 409.70, Main district roads 1460, Other district roads 152.60, Village roads 84.60. The district has 5542. 28 km. panchayat roads. Apart from the M.C.

Road (S.H.I) and Punalur-Moovattupuzha Road which passes through the district, the Main State Highways in the district includes Kottayam-Kozhencherry road (S.H.9) Kottayam-Kumili Road (S.H.13), Ettumanoor-Erattupetta Road (S.H. 32), Erattupetta- Peerumed road (S.H.14), Ettumanoor-Ernakulam Road (S.H.15) and Changanassery- Alappuzha Road (S.H.11). A notable fact is that the passenger road transport is mainly in the private sector. However the State owned Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is also expanding its operations in the district by taking over new routes, providing additional schedules and establishing the existing services.

The 49 kms. of railway line runs through Changanassery, Kottayam and Vaikom taluks. Meenachil and Kanjirappally taluks are not reached by rail. There are seven railway stations in the district- Changanassery, Chingavanam, Kottayam, Ettumanoor, Kuruppanthara, Vaikom Road and Piravom Road.

Apart of the traffic and cargo is borne by the Vembanad lake and the rivers flowing into it. There are also a few navigable canals in Changanassery, Kottayam and Vaikom taluks. Kottayam town is connected by a Canal to the Vembanad lake.

ELECTRICITY

The district has two Electrical Circles- Kottayam and Pala and five Electrical Divisions- Pallom, Vaikom, Changanassery, Pala and Ponkunnam. There are One 220 K.V. Sub Station at Poovanthuruthu. Three 110 K.V. Sub Stations at Pala, Vaikom and Chengalam and seven 66 K.V. Sub Stations at Pampady, Mundakkayam, Kottayam, Kanjirappally, Gadhinagar, Ettumanoor and Changanassery. A network of 2069.89km. H.T. line, 14657.99km. L.T. line, and 2285 transformers constitute the distribution sector in 1999-2000. In the Transmission Sector 118km. 220 K.V. line, 107.42km. 110 K.V. line and 81.5 kms. 66 K.V. line have set up. The connected load and energy consumption in October 1999, are 497.67 M.W. and 381.32 Million unit respectively. The total electricity consumers comes to 4.47 lakh of which 3.29 lakh is domestic consumers.

MASS MEDIA

Kottayam occupies a prominent place in the history of Journalism. Kottayam is the headquarters of three leading Malayalam dailies- Malayala Manorama, Deepika and Mangalam.

The origin of journalistic activity in the district can be traced back to the middle of the last century. *Jnananikshepam* the first newspaper published by the natives, was brought out from C.M.S press at Kottayam in 1848. Vidyasamgraham a publication of the C.M.S College, was started in 1864. This is the first College Magazine in the State. Many of the then famous writers, had contributed to this publication. In 1867, *Sandishtavadi*, another newspaper was started at Kottayam by W.H.Moor, which was later banned. *Malayala Mithram* started in 1878 was in circulation for about 12 years.

In 1887, Nasrani Deepika was started at Mannanam, near Kottayam by the Carmelites of Mary Immaculates (C.M.I) Missionaries, which later became the Deepika. Malayala manorama, the leading Malayalam daily was started at Kottayam in 1890 by K.C. Mammen Mappilai. Bhashaposhini, the literary magazine was also started by him in 1892. After a long break, this publication has been revived by the Malayala Manorama group of Publications. Contribution of veterans like Kerala Varma Valiyakoi Thampuran, Muloor S. Padmanabha Panicker, Kattakkayathil Cheriyan Mappilai and Moorkothu Kumaran had appeared in the pages of this publication. First agricultural publication Karshakan and first political satire magazine Sarasan was brought out from Kottayam. In the last century, Mangalam daily started publication from Kottayam.

Kottayam is the centre of news papers and periodicals. Six major dailies- Malayala Manorama, Mathrubhoomi, Deepika, Mangalam, Kerala kaumudi, Desabhimani and Rashtra Deepika evening daily are being published from here. So many periodicals are brought out from Kottayam which include Vanitha, The Week, Malayala Manorama Weekly, Manorama Year Book, Karshaka Sree, Thozhil Veedhi, Balarama, Kalikkudukka

Magic Pot, Business Deepika, Career Deepika, Childrens' Digest, Kuttikalude Deepika, Kasrshakan, Sthree Dhanam, Rashtra Deepika Cinema Weekly, Mangalam Weekly, Cinema Mangalam, Bala Mangalam and Vartha Mangalam.

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (I.I.M.C.), a Central Government Institution with its head quarters in New Delhi has opened its second branch at Kottayam. The site of the branch is at Vadavathoor, 3km. away from Kottayam town. I.I.M.C. is engaged in improving professional knowledge and technical skill of the personnel working in various media, Information and Publication Departments of the Government and Public sector undertakings.

ART AND CULTURE

The dances of Kottayam consists of *Margamkali* and *Arjuna Nritham*.

Margamkali is an art form popular among the Syrian Christian community of the erstwhile Travancore. This consists of group dance and martial arts like *Parichamuttukali*. The theme of the songs revolves round the life of St. Thomas. *Margamkali* is performed by men and women separately.

Arjuna Nritham also known as *Mayilpeeli Thoorkam* performed by men is popular in Kottayam and Alappuzha districts. This is performed by one or two persons at night and the lighting is done by the traditional lamp *Nilavilakku*. Arjuna was proficient in dance among the Pandavas and he is supposed to have danced and sung praising *Bhadrakali*. Since the lower part of the of the dance costume is made of peacock feather.

Kottayam has its place of honour in the cultural map of Kerala. Kunchan Nambiar, the Father of *Thullal*, a popular temple art form was supposed to have lived at Kidangoor. *Unnuneeli Sandesam*,

the exquisite Malayalam poetical work, is supposed to have been written by one of the Vadakkumkur Rajas. Ramapurathu Warriar (1703-53) is one of the celebrated names in Malayalam literature. The Christian Missionaries enriched Malayalam literature by their valuable contributions in the 18th and 19th centuries. *Varthamana Pusthakam* (1778) written by Parammekkal Thoma Kathanar, on a travel to Rome, is the first travelogue in Malayalam. The first autobiography in Malayalam by Vaikom Pachu Moothathu was published from Kottayam in 1870.

In the closing decades of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, Kottayam shot into lime light as the nerve centre of all literary and cultural activities in the erstwhile Travancore. Late Kottarathil Sankunny, Kandathil Varghese Mappilai, Kerala Varma Valiyakoi Thampuran, K.C. Mammen Mappilai, Kattakkayathil Cheriyan Mappilai, Vadakkumkoor Raja Raja Varma, Karoor Neelakanta Pillai, Vaikom Muhammed Basheer, D.C. Kizhakkemuri and Abhaya Dev are dignitaries worth mention. Ponkunnam Varkey, Mahakavi Pala Narayanan Nair, Kudamaloor Karunakaran Nair, Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy, film actor Mammooty, writer Vaikom Chandrasekharan Nair, music director L.P.R. Varma and film director Jayaraj are some other notable personalities from the district.

Kottayam stands first in the field of education, mass communication, printing and book publication. The part played by Deepika, Malayala Manorama and Bhashaposhini for the cultural and literary development is of immense significance. There are many printing presses and book publishing companies in Kottayam. D.C. books started publication from here in 1974. Kottayam is the headquarters of Current Books from 1977. It is estimated that 70 per cent of the State's book publication take place in Kottayam.

The services rendered by Kottarathil Sankunny Memorial School of Arts, Travancore Devaswom Board's Kshethra Kalapeedhom at Vaikom and Kudamaloor Kalakshethram in the cultural field are notable. The 10 day Annual International Book Fair organised by Darsana

Cultural Centre in January- February attracts many people. About 150 publishers from India and abroad take part in the fair.

The library movement has taken deep roots in the district. There are 419 registered libraries. Of this, 91 are, A grade libraries. A library has started functioning in Thiruvanchoor Juvenile Home. A book distribution scheme for rural women was undertaken in 10 libraries. In five libraries, Career Guidance centre was opened. A Rural Information Centre has set up in Panamattom Deseeya Vayana sala with the Co-operation of I.T.Department and Grama Panchayat. Balavedi was constituted in 42 libraries and book published by the Bala Sahithya Institute being distributed here. Reading competition for children being conducted in district and taluk levels. An Academic Study Centre has been opened in Vazhoor Novelty club library. This is a Reference Centre for students studying in the professional courses at university level.

The district has 273 arts clubs, 236 sports clubs, 62 cinema theatres and 38 community halls.

Public Library

The Kottayam Public Library is one of the oldest in Kerala. It is the first library set up by the public in Travancore. Started in 1882 with the initiative of Sri.T.Rama Rao, the then Peshkar of Kottayam, the library attracts book lovers in and out of the district. There are about 3000 members and a collection of 1.25 lakh books. The Children's Library and the Balabhavan attached to it were started in 1972. About 20000 books have been collected here for children. 450 Children below the age of 15 have given membership in the library. Coaching classes in music, dance, painting and craft are conducted at the Balabhavan.

Sahithya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sanghom

The Sahithya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sanghom (SPCS) or the Writers Co-operative Society founded in 1945, with its headquarters at Kottayam, is a unique co-operative of men of letters.

The main objective of the society is to ensure economic and cultural stability to the writers. Authors get the highest royalty from this society. Publication and sale of books are the main activities of the Society. For this, the society has printing wing and sales wing. The printing wing consists of India Press at Nattakom and M.P. Paul Memorial offset press at Kottayam. The former press started in 1953, while the later in June, 1998. The sales wing of the society is National Book Stall (N.B.S) and it has branches in nine districts. Prof.M.P. Paul and Karoor Neelakanta Pillai are the first President and the first secretary of the S.P.C.S respectively. The society at present has 1074 members and a capital of 150 lakhs. The first book published by the S.P.C.S. is Thakazhiyude Kadhakal (stories of Thkazhi) by Thakazhi Siva Sankara Pillai. The largest number of editions of a book-50 editions-brought out by the society is Ramanan by Changampuzha Krishna Pillai. 1.63 lakh copies of Ramanan have been sold through these editions.

PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST

Kottayam with its landscape, rivers, lakes, bird sanctuaries, temples, churches, mosques and historic remnants attract tourists. Sea shores denied, the western parts of the district are embraced by Vembanad Lake.

Kumarakom

Kumarakom gained national and international importance with the visit of Prime Minister of India, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee in December 2000.

Kumarakom is a small village 14 km. west of Kottayam. It is a part of Kuttanad, which is a 'wonder land' lying below sea level, comprising of a number of islands, in the back waters. Kumarakom Village covers an area of 5166 He. of which 2413 He. is lake portion, 1500 He is paddy fields and the remaining 1253 He. is dry land. Kumarakom is a paradise of mangrove forests, emerald green paddy fields and coconut groves interspersed with enchanting water ways and canals adorned with white lillies. Situated on the Vembanad lake, this small water world has plenty

of traditional country boats, crafts and canoes which will take you into the heart of scenic Kerala. The resorts near by offer comfortable accomodation and exclusive leisure options like Ayurvedic massages, Yoga and meditation besides boating, fishing, angling and swimming.



Tourist Cottage at Kumarkom

In the last Century, Henry Baker, an English man, attracted by the beauty of the place, selected Kumarakom as his residence and built a bungalow, obtaining 104 acres of land from the then Maharaja of Travancore. He also made a beautiful garden. Preserving the old style, the beautiful bungalow of Baker has now been modified into the Taj Garden Retreat, a hotel with modern living facilities. The Kerala State Tourism Development Corporation is converting this place into a Tourist Complex. K.T.D.C. has constructed Cottages here and it runs a floating restaurant. Boating facilities are also provided by the Corporation. Coconut lagoon is a beautiful resort here.

Vembanad lake

Kottayam has a vast network of rivers and canals which empty into the great expanse of water called the Vembanad Lake, a fast developing back water tourism destination. Vembanad lake is having 83.72km. length and 14.48km. width. Traditional cargo boats called *Kettuvallams* are modified into cruise boats and house boats, with all basic facilities like kitchen, toilet, bathrooms, sitouts etc. These boats gracefully move around the back waters, providing facilities to tourist to enjoy the beauty of the Vembanad lake in a relaxed pace. The Kumarakom tourist village offers house boat cruises and holiday packages.

In the Vembanad lake there is a small beautiful island called *Pathiramanal* or the Midnight sands. This lonely island in the Vembanad Lake is accessible only by boat.

Boat races

In the festive months of August and September, the rivers in and near Kottayam are turned into festival centres. The serene lakes comes alive during onam with a spectacular water regatta- the snake boat races. It is amazing to watch oars men, atleast a hundred in one boat, slice their way through the waters to the fast rhythm of their own full throated singing. In the Kumarakom boat race, about 50 types of boats viz; *veppu*, *ody*, *churulan* and few snake boats participate.

Bird sanctuary

Another attraction of Kumarakom is the Bird Sanctuary spreading over 14 acres of land. Located on the banks of the Vembanad lake, the sanctuary is a favourite haunt of migratory birds like the Siberian stork, egret, darter, heron and teal. Local birds like the water fowl, cuckoo, owl and water hen other common varieties like the wood pecker, sky lark, crane and parrots can also be spotted here. 91 Species of local and 50 species of migratory birds are found here. Best time to bird watch is June-August and migratory birds during November- February. A cruise along the Vembanad lake is best way to experience the sanctuary. House boats and motor boats are available on hire for bird watching cruises on the lake.

Elaveezhappoonchira

Elaveezhappoonchira, a hill station near Melukavu Mattom, 60 kms. from Kottayam is gaining tourist importance. Elaveezhappoonchira means valley where leaves don't fall and is named so because the place has no trees. This is also one of the best places in Kerala to witness both the sun rise and sunset.

Located among three beautiful hillocks Mankunnu, Kudayathoomala and Thonippara, Poonchira is a place of picturesque charm. Legends say that the pool here was a bathing place for *Panchali* the heroine of *Mahabharata*. The D.T.P.C. is developing this place into a trekking spot. The beautiful valleys of Poonchira spread across thousands of acres. The verdant land scape punctuated by the gigantic hills , each rising to around 3200 sft. is an ideal place to un wind. During the monsoons when the valley fillup to form a scenic lake, this place unveils yet another beautiful slice of nature.

Kurisumala

Three Kms. from Vazhikkadavu, this renowned Christian pilgrim centre is where hundreds of devotees from far and near converge during the holy week and after, to climb the hill in faith, carrying small wooden crosses. The peaceful Jewish monastery at the top of the hill, the cool mountain air and the lush green landscape are all soothing to the soul. On the eastern side of the hill is Murugan mala, home of a rock cut temple dedicated to *Murugan* (son of Lord Siva). The road to Kurisumala offers wonderful sight-seeing opportunities in a European model house and the beautiful artificial lake both designed by the renowned architect, Laurie Baker.

Poonjar palace

The Poonjar palace in Meenachil taluk is a glorious testimony to the regal opulence of a by gone era. With the palace walls is an extra ordinary royal collection of antiques and exquisite furniture which include a palaquin, a thoni carved out of a single piece of wood for ayurvedic massages, huge chandeliers, palm leaf engravings, jewels boxes, a variety of lamps, sculptures of *Nataraja* (dancing Lord Siva), grain measures, statues and weapons. A unique couch preserved here is taken out once a year for ritualistic purpose. Near the palace is an amazing replica of the Madurai Meenakshi Temple. The walls of this temple have sculptures with war fare stories from the *Puranas* (the legends of ancient India).

However the most fascinating thing here is the *Chuttuvilakku* (row of lamps) carved out on the stone walls of the Sastha temple nearby. Such rock cut lamps are rare in India.

Vaikom

A picnic spot ideal for langourous break. Tourists can avail of various recreation options. Boat cruises are available on the Vaikom lake.

Vayaskara and Chirattamon

These places are well known for their ayurvedic rejuvenation centres.

Monroe light

The Vemband lake at its glorious magnificance is seen at Pallom. The sunset from the Monroe light area is an unique experience, that one will always cherish. The vast expanse of the blue waters as seen from here, awakes the glorious feelings of awe and love for the mother nature. Situated at the eastern extremity of the Vembanad lake, the light was established by colonel Monroe, the Resident in 1813. This being an engineering marvel, the like of which is very rare.

Wagamon

Situated 64 kms. from Kottayam, this enchanting hill station at an elevation of 1100 meters above sea level is a trekkers paradise. This enchanting hill station on the Idukki -Kottayam border dotted with tea gardens and meadows, will soon be one of India's foremost eco- tourism projects. The breeding centre of the Kerala Live Stock Board is located here.

PILGRIM CENTRES

Kottayam is a district known for its religious harmony. There are over 50 temples, 70 churches and a number of mosques including one 1000 years old. Besides, Kottayam is also the gate way to the pilgrim

centres of Sabarimala, Mannanam, Vaikom, Ettumanoor, Kaduthuruthy, Bharananganam, Erumeli, Manarcad, Aruvithura and Athirampuzha.

TEMPLES

Erumeli

Erumeli is the biggest pilgrim center in the district. There is an ancient temple where Sri Dharma Sasta is the presiding deity. There is also an ancient mosque dedicated to Vavar, who is considered to be the friend of Lord Ayyappa. During *Mandala* and *Makaravilakku* seasons in December and January respectively, lakhs of pilgrims arrive here on their way to Sabarimala. Erumeli is famous for *Pettathullal*. Before the devotees start *Pettathullal* they offer prayers at the mosque of Vavar. Thus Erumeli portrays a spiritual picture of Hindu-Muslim harmony.

Vaikom

Associated with the legendary Parasurama, Vaikom Siva temple is a typical example of the Kerala style of temple architecture. More popular as the *Kasi of the South*, this temple is famous for its elephant pageants and traditional art performances. Here two *Ashtami* festivals are held annually one in Kumbhom (February- March) and the other in Vrischikam (November-December) of which the latter is more famous. The celebrations last for 12 days and end with an *Arat* at the Subrahmanya temple at Udayanapuram, on the day after *Astami*. *Panchavadyam* is an attractive item of the festival. *Prathal* is the main *Vazhipadu* here. *Vadakkupurathupattu* being held in every 12 years attracts many devotees. There is a school for teaching temple arts - Kshethra Kalapeedom - attached to the temple.



Vaikom Mahadeva temple

Ettumanoor

The Siva temple here is famous for its murals, especially the paintings of Nataraja in the Gopuram and the golden elephants- *Ezharaponnana*. The elephants, seven large ones and a small one, are well known. Though actually eight in number, these are only considered as seven and a half. These were presented to the Lord by Sri Karthika Thirunal, Maharaja of Travancore. The *Ezharaponnana Ezhunnallathu* festival here is in Kumbhom (February- March). On the eighth day of the festival, the golden elephants are taken out of the temple in a procession, which attracts thousands of devotees.



Ettumanoor Mahadeva temple

Panachikkad

Saraswathy (Goddess of learning and the arts) temple at Panachikkad, also known as *Mookambika of the South*, is famous for Saraswathy pooja in the month of Thulam (October-November). On the day of *Durgashtami*, the *Poojaveppu* is performed with books arranged in a decorated room and all sorts of study and work are given up for the day. The *Mahanavami* day is devoted to the worship of *Saraswathy*, the *Vijayadasami* day is observed as the day of the conclusion of the *Pooja* (*Poojaeduppu*). On that day thousands of children are initiated into the world of letters at the *Vidyarambom* held here.

Thirunakkara

In the heart of Kottayam town is this 500 years old Siva temple built by the Thekkumkoor Maharaja. This temple built in the Kerala style of architecture has colourful murals on its walls which are worth exploring. The *Koothambalam*, the special building in the temple premises used for cultural purpose, is one of the best in Kerala. Three festivals are celebrated here- in Thulam (October- November).

Midhunam (June-July) and Meenam(March-April) of which the last one is the most important. The *arat* conducted on the last day of the festival is the festival of Kottayam irrespective of cast and creed.

Kumaranelloor

Kumaranelloor is famous for the Karthyayani (Devi) temple. Here *Thrikarthika day* is important and is celebrated in the month of Vrishchikam (November-December). The display of lights in the evening (*Karthika Vilakku*) is the high light of this celebration.

Pakkil

Pakkil Sree Dharma Sashta temple is one of the eight temples established by Parasurama, the legendary founder of Kerala. Annual festival is *Samkranthi Vanibham* during June -July. The principal items of trade are agricultural implements and house hold articles.

Thalikkotta

Siva temple at Thalikkotta, two km. away from Kottayam, is the place of worship of the erstwhile Thekkumkoor royal family. Annual festival-ten day *utsavam* (April-May), Sivarathri (January-February)

Adithyapuram

The Sun temple here is dedicated to Adithya, the Sun of God. The first and last Sundays of the Zodiacs Scropio (November-December) and Aries (April-May) are considered auspicious.



Adithyapuram temple

Pallipurathukavu

Situated in the southern part of Kottayam town, this temple is devoted to Devi. The *Kumbhakuda Mahotsavam* here attracts large crowd.

It is held on the day of *Pathamudayam* (10th day of the month of Medam). The *Garudan Thukkam* at night is also famous.

Thiruvappu

Situated six kms. away from Kottayam town, this temple is devoted to Lord Krishna. Offerings start as early as 3 o'clock in the morning. The festival here, is in the month of April which lasts for 10 days. The *Vilakkeduppu* ie, carrying lamps by virgin girls during the festival is famous. Thiruvappu is also famous for Usha (Payasam) which is the main *Vazhipadu*.

Kidangoor

Twenty three kms. northeast of Kottayam, the Subrahmaniya Swamy temple here attracts a large crowd of worshippers on the day of *Shasti* every month. In Kumbhom (February- March) a 10 day long festival is celebrated here. The Chakkiarkooth performed here is a speciality.

Perunna

Situated about 20 kms. south of Kottayam town, this is also one of the famous Subrahmanya temples. The festival in Dhanu which lasts for 10 days .Hundreds of worshippers especially ladies attend the *Shashti* here.

CHURCHES

The chief ecclesiastical dignity of the Orthodox Syrian Church, the Catholics of the East, has his headquarters in Devalokam Aramana at Muttambalam in Kottayam. The Bishops of the Knanaya Catholic Church, Latin Catholic Church and the Church of South India have their headquarters in Kottayam. The Arch Bishop of Changanassery who follows the Syro- Malabar rites, has his headquarters in Changanassery. The Bishops of Knanaya Jacobite and the Church Mission Society have their headquarters at Chingavanam and Kurichy respectively.

Bharananganam St.Mary's church also known as Anakkallu Palli is an important pilgrim centre in the district. The mortal remains of the Blessed Sister Alphonsa who died on 28th July 1946 is kept here. Thousands of devotees gathered at this holy shrine on 28th July every year to pray on her death anniversary. Bharananganam is five kms. from Pala.

Mannanam St.Joseph's church was built by the Blessed Fr. Chavara Kuriakose Elias. The mortal remains of this saintly priest is preserved here. Thousands of devotees gather here to pay homage to the saint every day.

Manarcad St.Mary's church is one of the most important Churches of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Christians. The *Ettunoympu* (eight day fasting) is the main annual event which begins on the first of September every year. The feast falls on eighth and ninth of September. Pilgrims participating in the retreat stay in the Church these days fasting and praying. The church has a tank and a cross which are considered sacred.

Puthuppally St. George's Orthodox church is located at the centre of the famous temples of Vennimala, Kadamuri, Iravinellor and Vazhakkulam. This church is believed to have been built by the Thekkumkoor Raja's when they ruled Vennimala. The feast of St.George (Geevarghese) in May is the annual event which attracts a large crowd. The golden cross in this Church is well known.

Aruvithura St. George church is one of the oldest Churches in Kerala. Believed to be one of the seven churches established by St. Thomas, this is also one of the Churches in Kerala which collects the largest amount of monetary offerings during the festival days. The reconstruction of this church was done in the 16th Century A.D. The annual feast is celebrated on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th of April.

Vimalagiri church (Angathattu Palli) situated near Kottayam railway station is the Cathedral of the Diocese of Vijayapuram.

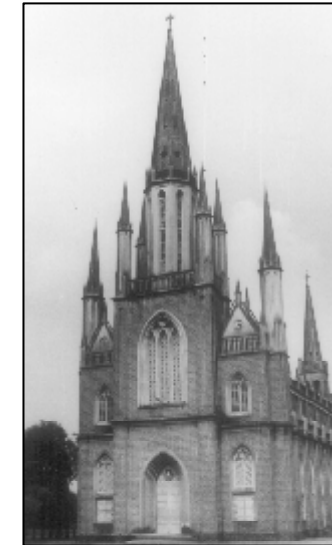
The foundation stone of the Church was laid in 1956 and the construction was completed in 1964. This church built in the Gothic architectural style has a 172 feet tower which is considered as the highest Church tower in Kerala. Vimalambika is the deity here. The feast is celebrated in December.

Valiyapalli St. George's church situated at Thazhathangadi, two kms. west of Kottayam town. Built in 1550 A.D. This church belongs to Kananya Orthodox Syrian community. The Persian cross made of stone, believed to be one of the seven brought here by St. Thomas and the *Pallavi* inscriptions of this church are famous. The feast of St. George is on 26th April.

Cheriyapalli St. Mary's church is situated two kms. from Kottayam town. Built in 1579 by the Thekkumkoor Maharaja. This Church displays outstanding architecture which is a blend of Kerala and Portuguese styles. The walls are adorned with beautiful murals in the oriental and western styles on biblical and non biblical themes.



Kuruvilangad church



Vimalagiri church

Good Shepherd church situated behind the Civil Station at Kottayam. This is the first Church of the Diocese of Vijayapuram. The construction of this church, which is in Italian style, was completed in 1882 and

was renovated in 1964. The feast of St. Sebastain is on 20th January and that of Good Shepherd is from 10th to 12th April.

Athirampuzha St. Mary's church is situated 10 kms. north of Kottayam town. Though dedicated to Mother Mary, it is the feast of St. Sebastian which attracts a large crowd. The statue of St. Sebastian installed here, is considered very ancient. During the days of the Portuguese, three figures were brought to Kerala. Legend says that the smallest of them has brought to Athirampuzha by local traders. This is known as '*Adiyelpicha Roopam*' (the tortured figure). The original church, is said, was constructed in 1680 A.D. The feast in January lasts for five days. Display of fire works in connection with the celebration is most attractive.

Valiyapalli-Pala is situated about 39 kms. from Kottayam town. It is generally accepted that this St. Thomas Church was built in 1002. The church was destroyed by the muslim invaders in the 17th century and was reconstructed in the next century. The important festival of this church is the *Rakkulithirunal* which is celebrated on 6th January every year.

Kuravilangad The *Moonnunombu* and the ship made of wood at the ancient **St. Mary's church** here is famous. The *Kappalottam* during the second day of *nombu* attracts thousands of devotees.

MOSQUES

Erumeli

At Erumeli, there is a famous mosque in the name of Vavar, a friend of Lord Ayyappa. The *Chandanakkudam* festival is celebrated here in January every year. This coincides with the *Makaravilakku* of Sabarimala. At night, there is an attractive procession with caparisoned elephants and *panchavadyam*. This is an important festival which exudes the spirit of Hindu-Muslim unity.

Changanassery

At Changanassery there are two famous mosques; Pazhayapalli and Puthiyapalli. The Pazhaya palli is said to be more than 1000 years old and it is constructed at the site which was donated by a King of Thekkumkur. The



Puthoor masjid

The annual festival *Thangal Adiyanthiram* is well known and is marked by a grand community feast. Meat and two tones of rice offered by the devotees are used to prepare *biriyani* for the community feast at this day. A Bhagavathy temple and a Catholic Church are situated in the vicinity of this mosque, bearing the testimony to the religious unity of the people there. The Puthiyapalli is about 400 years old. The *Chandanakkudam* festival is celebrated by the followers of different religions.

Erattupetta

The mosque is famous. Here also, the *Chandanakkudam* festival is celebrated every year. The procession attracts the people of the locality as a whole.

Thazhathangadi



Juma Masjid, Thazhathangadi

The Juma masjid at Thazhathangadi, on the banks of the Meenachil river is one of the oldest mosque in India. It is believed that Malik Dinar had built this mosque about 1000 years ago. The artistic value of this mosque is of special interest to the tourists.

AT A GLANCE

Assembly constituencies

1. Kanjirappally 2. Vazhoor 3. Changanassery 4. Kottayam
5. Ettumanoor 6. Puthupally 7. Poonjar 8. Pala 9. Kaduthuruthy 10. Vaikom

Parliamentary constituencies

1. Kottayam 2. Moovattupuzha (Certain parts of Kanjirappally,
Poonjar and Pala Assembly constituencies)

Revenue divisions

1. Kottayam 2. Pala

Taluks

1. Kottayam 2. Meenachil 3. Kanjirappally
4. Vaikom 5. Changanassery

Municipalities

1. Kottayam 2. Changanassery
3. Vaikom 4. Pala

Block panchayats

1. Ettumanoor 2. Pallom
3. Vaikom 4. Kaduthuruthy
5. Erattupetta 6. Lalam
7. Pampady 8. Madappally
9. Vazhoor 10. Kanjirappally
11. Uzhavoor

Grama panchayats

Vaikom taluk

1. Thalayazham 2. Chempu
3. Maravanthuruthu 4. T.V. Puram
5. Vechoor 6. Udayanapuram
7. Kaduthuruthy 8. Kallara
9. Manjoor 10. Mulakkulam
11. Njeezhoor 12. Thalayolaparambu
13. Velloor

Kottayam taluk

14. Ettumanoor 15. Aymanam 16. Athirampuzha
17. Arppookara 18. Kumaranalloor 19. Neendoor
20. Akalakkunnam 21. Kooroppada 22. Pampady
23. Pallikathodu 24. Meenadam 25. Ayarkunnam
26. Kumarakom 27. Nattakom 28. Puthuppally
29. Panachikkad 30. Thiruvappu 31. Vijayapuram
32. Manarcad

Kanjirappally taluk

33. Kanjirappally 34. Parathodu 35. Chirakkadavu
36. Elikkulam 37. Erumeli 38. Koottikal
39. Manimala 40. Mundakkayam

Changanassery taluk

41. Payippadu	42. Thrikodithanam	43. Vazhappally
44. Karukachal	45. Kurichi	46. Madappally
47. Nedumankunnam	48. Vakathanam	49. Vazhoor
50. Kangazha	51. Vellavor	

Meenachil taluk

52. Karoor	53. Mutholi	54. Bharananganam
55. Meenachil	56. Erattupetta	57. Poonjar
58. Poonjar Thekketara	59. Thalappalam	60. Thidanadu
61. Kadaplamattom	62. Marangattupalli	63. Kadanadu
64. Kuravilangadu	65. Kidangoor	66. Kozhuvanal
67. Melukavu	68. Moonilavu	69. Ramapuram
70. Theekoyi	71. Thalanadu	72. Uzhavoor
73. Kanakkari	74. Veliyanloor	

ACCOMMODATION

Guest House/ Rest house/ Hotel	Phone No:
Guest House, Kottayam	2562219
P.W.D. Rest House, Kottayam	2568147
P.W.D. Rest House, Changanassery	242036
P.W.D. Rest House, Vaikom	2622268
P.W.D. Rest House, Pala	2212204
P.W.D. Rest House, Kanjirappally	2872294

P.W.D. Rest House, Mundakkayam	2802394
P.W.D. Rest House, Erattupetta	2272262
Vembanad lake resort	2564866
Anjali Hotel	2563661
New Anand Lodge	2560558
Hotel Ceasar Palace	2568513
Hotel Windsor Castle & Lake Resort, Kodimatha	2580172
Hotel Green Park	2563331
Hotel Indraprasatham	2568970
Hotel Prince, Kanjikkuzhi	2578809
Hotel Rajadhani	2566299
Hotel Nithya, Gandhi Nagar	2597849
Hotel Ambassador	2563293
Hotel Sakthi, Baker Jn.	2563151
Hotel Aida, M.C. Road	2568391
Hotel Nisha Continental, Sastri Road	2563984
Hotel Athira, Kodimatha	2565967
Hotel Aiswarya (K.T.D.C), Thirunakkara	2581440
Hotel Floral Park, Gandhi Nagar	2597108
Presidency Guest House	2572907
Venad Tourist Complex, M.C. Road	2581383
Exon Guest House	2564916
Home Stead Hotel, K.K. Road	2560467

Nellimoottil Tourist Home	2560714
Hotel Vani, Changanassery	2427403
Hotel Breez International, Changanassery	2422909
Yathrinivas, Changanassery	2400899
Hotel Maharani, Changanassery	2428090
Hotel Arcadia, Changanassery	2423027
Hotel Arcadia, Kottayam	2565601
Maharani, Pala	2212520
Motel, Vaikom	2625789
K.T.D.C. Kumarakom Tourist Village	2524258
Coconut Lagoon Resort	2525834
Golden Waters	2525826
Taj Garden Resort	2524377
Kumarakom Lake Resort	2524900
Illikkalam Lake Resort	2524234

HOSPITALS

Institution	Phone No:
Medical College Hospital, Gandhi Nagar	2597311
Dist. Hospital, K.K. Road	2563611
Taluk Hospital, Changanassery	2420349
Taluk Hospital, Pala	2212302
Taluk Hospital, Vaikom	2621261
Taluk Hospital, Kanjirappally	2802292

Institute of Child Health, Gandhi Nagar	2597344
Cheriapalli Hospital	2566588
Karipal Hospital, Kalathipady	2570445
Mandiram Hospital, Managanam	2578823
M.G.D.M., Kangazha	2494244
Susrutha Hospital	2566826
St. Mary's Hospital, Manarcad	2578177
Carithas Mission Hospital, Thellakom	2790025
S.H. Medical Centre, Nagampadam	2562240
Bharath Hospital, Azad lane	2582947
Matha Hospital, Thellakom	2790921
E.S.I Dispensary, Vadavathoor	2576198
Ayurveda Hospital, Vayaskara Hill	2584803
Central Research Institute of Homeopathy Sachivothamapuram	2432238
Sukhodaya Ayurveda Hospital, Kanjikuzhy	2572179
SreeSankara Ayurveda Hospital, Perunna	2421154
St. Thomas Hospital Chethipuzha, Changanaserry	2421797
Indo-American Hospital, Vaikom	2673281
Cherupushpam Hospital, Pala	2212585
Sreerangam C.V.N. Kalari Chikilsa Kendram Karukachal	2486114

IMPORTANT OFFICES

Office	Phone No:
District Collector	2562001 Res: 2570057
District Panchayat President	2565966 Res : 2537877
D.S.P	2564700 Res: 2578115
A.D.M.	2564800
District Information Officer/ District Information Centre	2562558
Collectorate Information Centre	2562201
'Friends' Nagampadam	2304341
Consumer Court	2565118
M.A.C..T	2562517
Govt. Press, Vazhoor	2457040
Vigilance & Anti corruption Bureau	2585144
M.G. University Enquiry	2730730
M.G. University P.R.O	2730671
Nehru Yuva Kendra	2565335
Field Publicity Office	2578699
D.R.D.A	2578802
D.M.O. Health	2562778
D.M.O. I.S.M	2568118
D.M.O. Homeo	2583516
D.I.C	2570042
R.T.O	2560429
Ex. Engr. Bldgs	2563783

Ex. Engg. Local Works	2564213
Ex. Engg. R & B	2563212
Ex. Engg. M.I	2562662
Ex. Engg. Major Irrigation	2586494
Nirmithi Kendra	2342241
Public Library, Kottayam	2582434
Jawahar Bala Bhavan	2583004
D.E.O Kottayam	2566750
D.E.O Pala	2212351
D.E.O Kanjirappally	2721357
D.E.O Kaduthuruthy	2682998
Govt. Polytechnic, Nattakom	2561884
Govt. College, Nattakom	2563116
Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology, Pampady	2507763
D.I.E.T., Velloor	2506013
Fire Station, Kottayam	2567444
Fire Station, Changanassery	2101
Fire Station, Pala	2212484
Ex. Engg. Erattupetta	2274700
Ex. Engg. Kanjirappally	2802777
School of Nursing	2562285
Director of School of Letters, M.G. University	2730622
Election Deputy Collector	2560085
Asst. Dev. Commissioner	2560645

Panchayat Deputy Director	2560282
Education Deputy Director	2583095
Collegiate Education Deputy Director	2563317
National Savings Deputy Director	2568324
Dairy Development Deputy Director	2562768
Survey Deputy Director	2563425
Sales Tax Deputy Commissioner	2562314
Dist. Planning Officer	2561638
Dist. Informatics Office	2565485
Dist. P.S.C Office	2578278
Dist. Supply Office	2560371
Dist. Social Welfare Office	2563980
Dist. Stationery Office	2342175
Dist. S.C. Development	2562503
Dist. Sainik Welfare Office	2570287
Dist. Sericulture Office	2566805
Dist. Insurance Office	2572176
Dist. Statistical Office	2562073
Dist. Soil Conservation Office	2568519
Dist. Animal Husbandry Office	2563726
Dist. Treasury Office	2562281
Dist. Employment Office	2560413
Dist. Labour Office	2564365
Dist. Lottery Office	2560756

Dist. Ground Water Office	2572436
Dist. Veterinary Centre	2564623
Dist. Food Inspector, Changanassery	2421077
Dist. Registrar	2563822
Dist. Forest Office	2562276
Dist. Town Planner	2564160
Dist. Legal Services Authority	2563496
Dist. Literacy Mission	2302055
Dist. Sanitation Mission (Nirmal)	2301366
Dist. Sports Council	2563825
Dist. Co-operative Bank	2563603
Asst. Excise Commissioner	2562211
Asst. Director of Fisheries	2566823
Asst. Controller Legal Metrology	2582998
I.T.D.P Kanjirappally	2802751
Principal Agricultural Officer	2562263
Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies	2562069
P.W.D. Electrical Wing	2562779
ANERT, Kaduthuruthy	2643052
ANERT, Kanjirappally	2847687
Conservator of Forests	2563448
Asst. Conservator, Social Forestry	2560412
Factories & Boilers Inspector	2562131
Puncha Special Officer	2560122

Regional Electrical Inspector	2568878
Common Facility Service Centre, Changanassery	2420311
Kudumbasree Dist. Mission	2302049
Red Cross	2560238
Audio Visual & Reprographic Centre	2584433
Traffic Police Station	2302977
Women's Police Station	2560333
Kumarakom Police Station	2524339
S.P.C.S / N.B.S	2564111
D.C. Books	2583414
Regional Agricultural Research Station, Kumarakom	2524421
Travancore Cements, Nattakom	2561371
Kerala Forest Development Corporation	2582640
Kerala State Development Corporation for Christian Coverts from S.C. and the Recommended Communities	2563786
Oil Palm India Ltd.	2567881
Plantation Corporation	2578306
Pollution Control Board (Regional Office)	2563145
K.W.A Supdt. Engr.	2562745
K.W.A Ex. Engr.	2563711
K.S.E.B. Dy. Chief Engr. (Ele. Circl, Pallom)	2562613
K.S.F.E	2564681

Khadi & Village Industries Board	2560586
Ex. Engr. Housing Board	2570410
Milma Dairy, Kottayam	2578764
SC-ST. Corporation Regional Office	2562532
Civil Supplies Corporation Regional Manager	2567216
Backward Communities Development Corporation	2303925
K.L.D.C	2571507
A.G's Office	2562672
NABARD	2578688
B.S.N.L. Directory Enquiry	2565334
Lead Bank (S. B.T)	2564242
Income Tax Dy. Commissioner	2567841
Central Excise Asst. Collector	2566847
Pension Pay Master	2564082
Hindustan News Print, Velloor	2657711
F.C.I Dist. Manager, Chingavanam	2430660
Rubber Board	2571231
Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Vadavathoor	2573131
Indian Rubber Research Institute	2578311
Press Club	2568877
C.M.S. College	2566002
S.B. College, Changanassery	2420025

Calendar of religious festivals

1. Thirunakkara Temple Festival - Thulam, Mithunam & Meenam
2. Manarcad Church Ettunoimbu - First to 8th September
3. Chandanakkudam at Changanassery - 25th December
4. Bharananganam Church Festival - 28th July
5. Ashtami at Vaikom Temple - Kumbham / Vrichikom
6. Ettumanoor Temple Festival - Kumbham
7. Petta Thullal at Erumeli - Dhanu
8. Navarathri Celebrations and Vidyarambham of Panchikkad Temple - Thulam
9. Kumaranalloor and Udayanapuram Thrikarthika - Vrichikom
10. Thiruvappu Temple Festival - Medom
11. Aruvithura St. George Church Perunal - 22nd, 23rd, 24th April.
12. Parayil Church Perunal Changanassery - 8th December.
13. Pakkil Samkramthi Vanibham - Karkadakam

Distance to major centres from Kottayam (in km.)

Destination	By Road	By Rail
Thiruvananthapuram	154	161
Kilimanoor	114	-
Varkala	-	120
Kadakkavoor	-	129
Chirayinkeezh	-	132
Paravoor	-	108
Kollam	106	96

Kottarakkara	80	-
Sasthamkotta	-	76
Karunagappally	-	69
Oachira	-	61
Punalur	140	-
Alappuzha	48	-
Kayamkulam	-	55
Mavelikkara	-	47
Chengannoor	36	35
Pathanamthitta	56	-
Adoor	59	-
Pandalam	50	-
Mallappally	30	-
Thiruvalla	26	26
Kozhencherry	44	-
Pamba (Via Manimala)	122	-
Piravom Road	-	31
Karukachal	18	-
Pampady	16	-
Ponkunnam	34	-
Kanjirappally	39	-
Mundakkayam	53	-
Idukki	130	-
Thodupuzha	65	-
Kattappana	116	-

Peerumedu	78	-
Vandipperiyar	92	-
Devikulam	188	-
Kumily	110	-
Thekkady	115	-
Munnar	146	-
Sabarigiri	119	-
Ernakulam	70	59(Jn.) 62(Town)
Moovattupuzha	55	-
Perumbavoor	74	-
Angamali	88	88
Aluva	91	79
Koothattukulam	38	-
Kaladi	83	-
Thrissur	134	134
Chalakkudi	105	103
Irinjalakkuda	-	110
Kunnamkulam	156	-
Guruvayoor	161	-
Vadakkanchery	-	150
Nilambur	-	233
Kuttippuram	188	197
Thiroor	226	212
Thanoor	-	220
Parappanangady	-	228

Palakkad	202	212
Ottappalam	-	180
Pattamby	-	179
Malampuzha	226	-
Shornur Jn.	-	167
Kozhikode	262	253
Kadalundi	-	239
Faroke	-	244
Koyilandy	286	278
Vadakara	309	300
Ramanattukara	246	-
Kalpetta	336	-
Kannur	352	343
Thalassery	329	322
Valapattanam	-	349
Ezhimala	-	371
Payyannoor	398	376
Kasaragod	468	428
Thalipparambu	375	-
Neeleswaram	-	396
Kanjanagad	428	405
Manjeswaram	497	457
Neyyattinkara	174	179
Parassala	184	191
Kaliyikkavila	186	-

**Distance to major destinations
of India (in km.)**

Destination	By Rail	By Road
Chennai Central	762	
Bangalore	690	616
Kolkata	2421	
Mumbai	1904	
Delhi	2857	
Managlore	474	
Coimbatore	266	
Pollachi	270	
Salem	430	
Nagarcoil Town	227	224
Nagarcoil Jn.	232	
Kanyakumari	248	243
Madurai		250
Teni		175
Kambam		136
Mahe	325	313
Chenkotta	190	
Thenkasi	198	
Sivakasi	296	
Sucheendram	236	
Mysore		476

Bhopal	2257	
Ahmedabad	2659	
Ludhiyana	4125	
Jammu Tawi	4199	
Bhuvaneswar	1986	
Hyderabad	1556	
Kodaikanal		225
Coonor	987	
Mathura	2817	
Agra	2763	
Jhansi	2548	
Howrah	2429	
Ittarsi	2165	
Pune	1848	
Visakhapatanam	1342	
Nagpur	1867	
Secunderabad	1552	
Vijayawada	1192	
Thiruppathi	907	
Guntur	897	
Thiruppur	357	
Erode Jn.	367	
Jolarpett	546	
Kadpady Jn.	630	

**Distance to tourist / pilgrim centres
of the district (in km.)**

Destination	By Road	By Rail
Kumarakom	14	
Vaikom	42	
Pala	28	
Erumeli	56	
Ettumanoor	12	10
Kumaranalloor	6	
Panachikkad	18	
Changanassery	18	18
Aruvithura	42	
Manarcad	10	
Puthuppally	8	
Athirampuzha	10	
Bharananganam	33	
Wagamon	64	
Elaveezhappoonchira	60	
Thazhathangadi	2	
Pakkil	3	
Perunna	20	

**Journey time to major
tourist centres of the State (in Hrs)**

Alappuzha	1.5
Changanassery	0.5
Bakel	11.5
Ernakulam	2

Guruvayoor	4
Kaladi	3
Kanyakumari	6
Kannur	9.5
Kappad	7.5
Kollam	2.5
Thiruvananthapuram	4
Thrissur	3.5
Thekkady	3
Sulthanbathery	10
Palakkad	5.5
Moonnar	3.5
Kozhikode	7
Kovalam	4.5

BARE FACTS

Area (sq. km.)	2208
Revenue Divisions	2
Revenue Villages	95
Taluks	5
Development Blocks	11
Grama Panchayats	74
Density of Population (Persons/ sq.km)	884
Population Total	19,52,901
Male	9,64,433

Female	9,88,468	
Percentage to State Population	6.13	
Decadal (1991 -2001)Increase	6.76 %	
Sex Ratio (Females/ 1000 Males)	1025	
Decadal Increase	22	
Literacy	95.90%	
Male	8,36,491	(97.41%)
Female	8,38,101	(94.45%)
Population in the age group of 0-6	2,06,769	
Male	1,05,680	
Female	1,01,089	
Livestock Population	8.3 lakhs	
Primary Schools	465	
U.P Schools	207	
High Schools	241	
Allopathy Institutions	453	
Ayurveda Institutions	362	
Homoeopathy Institutions	481	
