




Best of Thekkady(periyar) Recommended by Indian travellers

 **Got a view of a...**
Rajesh *👍 We were walking in the periyar tiger reserve when we suddenly heard twig breaking. We stopped in our tracks and there was this herd of elephants... 👍*

202 travel stories about Thekkady(periyar) by Indian travellers



About Thekkady(Periyar)

Thekkady, located in the Idukki district of the state of Kerala, is the place where the Periyar National Park is located. Thekkady lies very close to Kumily, which lies on the border of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, spread across an area of 300 square miles, is home to thick evergreen forests, deciduous forests and a host of animal species, viz. elephants, sambar, tigers, Nilgiri Langurs, etc.

Things to do in Thekkady

The Mullaiperiyar Dam has been built across the Periyar River here, resulting in the formation of an artificial lake, which adds to the scenic beauty of the place. Apart from the park, Thekkady has a few more tourist attractions. Tourists can also try various attractive **packages** options to tour Thekkady.

There is the **Mangala Devi Temple** here which opens only during the Chitra Pournima Festival. The **Chellarkovil** which is known for its waterfalls and the Anakkara are other attractions. Thekkady is also known for its natural spices which are found in abundance here in the form of clove, cardamom, cinnamon and black pepper. In recent times, the government has made concerted efforts to promote spice tourism in the area. The area of Anakkara along with **Murikkady** is known for its spice plantations.

The **Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary** is surrounded by the Cardamom Hills, with the highest peak being that of Kottamalai at 2019 metres. The varying altitudes of the sanctuary give it different temperature conditions, which results in different types of vegetation. The temperature during the summer months could be between 15-20° Celsius, depending on the altitude.

Apart from being an ecotourism destination, Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary or Thekkady as it is often called, also attracts a lot of pilgrims every year who come here to visit the Sabarimala Temple here. The temple receives more than 3 million pilgrims every year.

The Periyar Wildlife sanctuary, which dates back to 1950, is largely a protected piece of land with tourist activity restricted to the northern end of the park. It has been done so to protect the flora and fauna of the region.

Food and Shopping in Thekkady

Thekkady offers quite a few places to shop, for the most produces are spices and small knicks-knacks. Market places are very few and not big on scales. But, there are a few attractive stalls centrally located in those areas. One can buy fenugreek, rolls of cinnamon, white and green pepper, cardamom, star anise, coriander, nutmeg, cloves and more. Traditional banana chips should be missed out, which are fried in fresh coconut oil and this is also a speciality.

Travelling to Thekkady

To **reach Thekkady**, the nearest airport is at Madurai in Tamil Nadu, which is located at a distance of around 136 km away from Thekkady. The nearest international airport is Nedumbassery airport in Kochi, which is at a distance of about 190 km away.

Thekkady has the nearest railhead at Kottayam at a distance of about 114 km. All the express trains that go to Trivandrum, passes through Kottayam as well. There is KSRTC public transport buses connecting Thekkady with nearby cities, along with super fast buses regularly available from Kochi, Kottayam and Trivandrum to Thekkady..

Accommodation options in Thekkady

Hotels in Thekkady range from mountain resorts and budget hotels to jungle resorts. Most of these hotels also offer transfers for sightseeing and pick-up from railway and bus stations.

Information

State: Kerala

Famous for/as: Jungle

District: Idukki

Featured review about Thekkady(Periyar)

Up the hills , Down the plains - Part 1

"A state known as God's own country. Which is famous for its spices and for its coffee. Which is densely populated with trees(lush green). Which has the highest literacy rate in India. You got that right I am talking about Kerala. The list is huge, the above mentioned are just a few points explaining the beauty and the serenity of the place. It is famous for its backwaters, beaches, monuments, forts, wildlife, hills, waterfalls and temples. There are a lot of places in Kerala which attract huge chunks of tourists, both Indian and foreign tourists. Munnar, Thekkady and Alleppey are among such places and these are the places which I visited.

Day 1: Kochi

Reached Kochi in the evening around 4. 30 pm, the flight got late otherwise would have seen Kochi a bit. Kochi is the starting point if you plan to see Munnar, Thekkady and Alleppey. You need maximum 6 days to cover all the three places and people generally cover these places in one trip, since there is no point of spending 5- 6 days in one of these places until and unless you have a specific reason for that and there is no point on going for 2-3 day vacation to place so far of from your place (I stay in Jaipur, so imagine me visiting Munnar or Thekkady for 2-3 days, that would be ridiculous). These places are not that far from each other, hence covered in one trip.

I was in Kochi only for few hours, since I was suppose to leave for Thekkady the next day that to early morning. I saw marine drive (I thought only Mumbai has marine drive, but every city which

is connected to sea has a marine drive). There is also an option of boat ride from marine drive. The person will charge Rs 300 per head for a 2 hour ride. It is not that great, but if you don't have enough time then you should go for it, otherwise you will spend your day in the hotel room which is not at all a good option. I saw shipyard, navy base (a too distant view) and Bolgatty resort of KTDC (a place where a lot of South Indian movies are shot). Also visited the local market but couldn't find anything worth buying.

Stay: I stayed in Hotel Sealord, which is opposite to marine drive. It serves variety of sea food (majorly). Vegetarian dishes are okay not that great. Talking about the room, it is spacious and the service is also good.

Day 2: Thekkady: I left for Thekkady early morning 7 am. It is best to leave as early as you can when you are out tripping, you could save yourself the traffic which you might encounter if you leave late. Apart from that you would also reach the destination on time would be able to cover maximum places. Our driver was very informative, he kept us telling the facts of Kochi like how many railway stations the city has, Milma - Dairy of Kerala, the refinery of Kerala etc. In Kerala, there are a lot of people following Christianity, I saw a lot of churches on the way and most of them were very beautifully built. The structure was astonishing making you wonder how much labor, time, money would have been spent to build the same. Apart from that I also saw rubber plantations, pineapple plantations, supari trees, banana plantations. Do stop and have look. Then next was, Vallamgalam waterfall (I guess that is the name), it is not that huge but it is a tourist stop, so probably stop for a few min. That's all and if you do then don't miss to taste the pineapples which are sold by the shops there. The taste is unusual. And off-course the majestic site of nature (by that I mean hills, waterfalls, rivers etc) will keep on making you awe struck on every turn which you will take.

Reached Thekkady by 1 pm. Checked in the Hotel, had lunch and then left for sight seeing. There are a few places to see, but if you are there for 1 and half day then following are the places which are to be covered:

1. There are three types of Jeep ride in Thekkady:

A) which covers the specific points in thekkady (you can call them nature points). It covers 4 points namely- Camel top, waterfall point, Kubily-TN point and the watch tower point. Charges are Rs 2000 per Jeep and generally it takes around 3-4 hours to cover all the points or may be more, depends how much time you spend at a particular point. The Jeep ride is very bumpy, its like you are cruising through the area covered densely with trees, the next moment you are climbing the mountain with a Jeep. The roads are not properly built. I did see some of the residential houses, whose owners own maruti alto, a maruti 800 etc. I was wondering they must be testing the limits of their cars everyday (since the area where 2 out of 4 points are located is very steep, and you normally only see cars like Jeep cruising through such routes). There is one point which is situated on the Kerala-TN border. From camel top point, you will witness a picturesque view of Thekkady.

B) which covers the grape and tea plantations. There is no point in taking that ride since you can witness these for free while you are on your way to Thekkady or Munnar.

C) I do not remember the name of the place. It takes around 2-3 hours to reach there and as told the view from that point is very pretty. Charges are Rs 3500 per Jeep.

2. Mudra Arts Center : There are daily shows of Kathakali (it is a dance of Kerala state and its intriguing how the artist dresses up, his gestures specially the movement of their eye) and Kalaripayattu (martial arts of Kerala State) happening in Mudra Art Centre. Charges are Rs 200 for each show per head. If you have seen these acts before then you can pass but if not then you should definitely see them. I opted for jeep ride mentioned as 1. A) and after that I saw kathakali and kalaripayattu and got free by 7pm. After that I roamed in the market for some time and came back to the hotel.

Day 3

3. Periyar National Park: There are some 5-6 activities which can be done while you are in reserve. Some are bamboo rafting, boating, trekking etc. Bamboo rafting is not worth money, so it's my advice not to go for that. Now trekking, I did not do it since I was running short of time, but it guess it would good (think trekking in the forest area with a guide who is making you familiar with the forest, there also an option of night trek).

Then comes the main activity Boating. It is advised that you book tickets on-line to avoid the long queues and to save time. If you do not want to book on-line, then it is advised that you reach at-least 1. 30-2 hours before the scheduled time. Boat timings are 6 am, 9 am, 12 pm and then I guess 3 pm is the last. So if you reach the booking counter by 8. 30 am and hope to get tickets for 9 am, then I am pretty sure you must be dreaming (all this is in context to peak season). It is a 2 and half hour long boating, if you are lucky then you will see animals on the shore of the islands which will come while you are boating (I wasn't that lucky, just saw a few birds). You will encounter picturesque views while boating.

Stay :I stayed in silver crest. It is a newly built hotel, and food is delicious. Also it has a swimming pool and the room are clean and spacious." - **Anuj Gupta, Jaipur, Feb 11, 2016**

A trip to get close to nature!

"Thekkady is located about 145 km from Cochin International Airport and one of the famous wild life sanctuary in Kerala (Periyar wild life sanctuary) is located there. The sanctuary is famous for its dense evergreen, semi-evergreen, moist deciduous forests and savanna grass lands. It is home to herds of elephants, sambar, tigers, gaur and lion-tailed Macaques. There are lot of options for activities such as

1. Cruise boat ride to the Periyar wild life sanctuary.
2. Jeep safari through some forest area.
3. Jeep safari through grape farm and kumily.

4. Elephant safari.
5. Bamboo rafting.
6. Jungle walk.

Other than this there are some thing else like tiger trail which I did not explored yet. Bamboo safari and Jeep safari is a must and Try Elephant safari and Jungle walk if you have time. Thekkady is pretty famous for its rich spices available and hence when you try food out from there, try some really spicy food. Also, you can buy spices from there which will be very good.

If you are planning for boat ride, you have to get up very early and go for the ticket counter. Else you will have to wait in long queues. The easy way to reach Thekkady (from Kochi) is via Pala vaikom road." - **Jaison Netto**, Kochi, Feb 10, 2016

Simply awesome Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary!

"The main reason behind visiting this place is Periyar wildlife sanctuary. One can reach Thekkady by bus or taxi from near by places like Munnar, Kochi, Kodaikanal, and Trivandrum. The stay should be prefixed. You must reach there before 6 in the evening so that, if you face any trouble with your booking, You can easily short it out. 24 hours is enough for Thekkady. For Periyar wildlife sanctuary.

There are a lot of ferry services available for boating in the jungle. It starts from 7 am. It's good to go early morning there, so that you can keep yourself away from heat and you can have the whole day for some other stuffs.

To book the seat in the first ferry. You will have to reach the main sanctuary gate by 5:30. You will get an auto easily for that. No worries. Take the tickets there. After gate opens, auto wallah will take you straight to the ticket booking counter for ferry, the previous ticket was just for entering the main gate. After reaching inside the sanctuary, you will have to run to get yourself booked first. I repeat you will have to literally run. Get the tickets, enjoy the 2 hours ride in Periyar.

When you come back, you can ask the same auto wallah (who took you to the sanctuary, the same will take you back.) for elephant ride and he will take you to his known place and you can get some discount for that. These are the two main places to visit in Thekkady particularly. The external sightseeing should be covered while travelling from one place to the other.

You can purchase spices and flavoured tea and coffee. North Indian? You can get Gujarati, Rajasthan food from a restaurant there in, on the main road itself. I hope the review will help you." - **Garvit Pandya**, Rajkot, Jan 19, 2016

Mist covered morning & limitless serenity

"The famous Periyar lake in Thekkady popularly known as" Mullaperiyar" offers a early morning Boat ride which happens to be a must enjoy attraction especially for the people from cities deprived of nature and it's limitless serenity.

The traveler has to be present early in the morning to get the limited tickets where as online reservations are also available. Geared with winter clothing and walking through the forest to the waterfront itself is a different experience. The department has provided name and further details of each tree lined on both the sides of the narrow road is more educative and pleasant with panoramic view. Once inside the double decked cruise numbered seat and provision of life jackets to each and every one is meticulous and hazel free and the crew of friendly.

The cruise along the width of the lake gives ample chances of seeing watering wildlife in close range if the traveler is lucky. The slow journey through the thick mist is awesome and forgettable. The rare birds perched on top of lonely and half submerged trees. Tree and their nest with young ones chirping is wonderful to watch." - **Charles Santhanaraj**, , Oct 12, 2015

[Read 202 Thekkady\(Periyar\) reviews on HolidayIQ.com](#)

Top attractions in Thekkady(Periyar) recommended by HolidayIQ.com travellers

1 Periyar Lake

Type: Lake

Entry: Free

Ranked: 1 Of 16

Ratings: 5.96/7 (66 Reviews)

"The calm soothing vast expanse of this lake, with the occasional occurrences of some rare wild life species coming from the dense forest to either drench themselves in the cool water, satisfy their thirst or perhaps enjoy the paparazzi that we..." - **Mrs pradhanya** , Mumbai, 2 weeks ago

2 Kadathanadan Kalari Centre

Type: Offbeat Attraction

Entry: Paid

Ranked: 2 Of 16

Ratings: 6.17/7 (18 Reviews)

Timings: Monday - Friday - 06:00 To 19:00 , Saturday - 06:00 To 19:00 , Sunday - 06:00 To 19:00 , Public Holidays - 06:00 To 19:00

"This is a art belongs to kerala. Really a nice place. Everyone should visit this place. This is a life saving art and really they teaches us how to save life anyone and self. First I was not thinking to see this art but when my wife told me then..." - **Shvetang Gupta** , 4 weeks ago

3 Mudra Cultural Centre

Type: Gallery

Entry: Paid

Ranked: 3 Of 16

Ratings: 5.83/7 (11 Reviews)

"Those fans of chienesese kung-fu movies would be disappointed. Original martial arts & their

techniques are present live. worth the time & money spent. Make sure to allot time for all three activities 1. martial arts 2. dance 3. magic show all..." - **Paresh Kose**, Nagpur, Jul 30, 2016

4 Elephant Junction

Type: Zoo

Entry: Paid

Ranked: 4 Of 16

Ratings: 5.12/7 (15 Reviews)

"Veena elephant name, I really appreciate these elephants they are fully trained. They charges 400 Rs for 30 minute ride but you really this trip. My baby really enjoyed a lot. If you want blessing plz give him some rupees, he gives blessing...." - **Shvetang Gupta**, , 4 weeks ago

5 Ramakalmedu

Type: Village

Entry: Free

Ranked: 5 Of 16

Ratings: 6.58/7 (11 Reviews)

"Nice place .Best place as a picnic spot. The best time to visit the place is evening 4pm to 5pm. Beautiful scenario !!! we could really enjoy it. we could take photos with beautiful natural backgrounds !!! " - **Allwyn Varghese**, Kottayam, Feb 21, 2017

6 Periyar Tiger trail

Type: National Park

Entry: Paid

Ranked: 6 Of 16

Ratings: 6.35/7 (6 Reviews)

Timings: Monday - Friday - 06:00 To 19:00 , Saturday - 06:00 To 19:00 , Sunday - 06:00 To 19:00 , Public Holidays - 06:00 To 19:00

"If you want to enjoy the mountains, forests and cascading water falls coupled with sighting of wild animals this is the place to be in. The range is called Gavi Forest and is one of the last remaining ecological remains of Western Ghats. One needs..." - **Subramania Pallavoora**, Bangalore, Sep 11, 2016

7 Kumily

Type: Village

Entry: Free

Ranked: 7 Of 16

Ratings: 6.08/7 (9 Reviews)

"Kumily, it's the boarder for Tamilnadu and Kerala. Most of the visitors goes to Sabarimala through vandi periyar route also pass through this distention, of course it's only January second and third week only. It's a best place for spices. we..." - **Vijay Potluri**, Vijayawada, Jul 16, 2016

8 Chellarkovil

Type: Village

Entry: Free

Ranked: 8 Of 16

Ratings: 6.63/7 (4 Reviews)

"Beautiful water fall view, we stayed in a resort near it so that we were able to see from top to bottom-Greenarkresorts. its starting from kerala and falling 3500ft down to tamilnadu forest" -

Jose J, Kottayam, Oct 4, 2016

9 Mullaperiyar Dam

Type: Dam

Entry: Free

Ranked: 9 Of 16

Ratings: 6.60/7 (4 Reviews)

"dam with speed boating nice experience with local shops around there...local person are so kind.....and friendly..... you can also buy the local products there....." - **Shashank , Delhi, Apr 14, 2015**

10 Deepa World Spice And Ayurvedic Garden

Type: Garden

Entry: Free

Ranked: 10 Of 16

Ratings: 5.77/7 (9 Reviews)

"We visited the spice garden in the first leg . It is a must visit if one wishes to understand the various varieties of spice plants and Ayurveda medicinal plants that are grown with all the attention it deserves. The garden is well laid and..." - **Subramania Pallavoor, Bangalore, Sep 11, 2016**

Popular KTDC hotels in Thekkady(Periyar) recommended by HolidayIQ.com travellers

1 Aranya Nivas



Price: Rs. Upto 5,682

Ranked: 5 Of 233

Ratings: 5.7/7 (167 Reviews)

Address: Thekkady P.O., Kumily, Kerala 685536

Phone: 4869222023

Website: www.ktdc.com

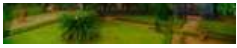
2 Lake Palace



Price: Rs. Upto 10,186

Ranked: 45 Of 233

Ratings: 5.75/7 (25 Reviews)



Address: Kumily, Thekkady
Dist:Idukki
Phone: 4869223888
Website: Wwww.ktfdc.com

3 Periyar House



Price: Rs. Upto 2,752
Ranked: 47 Of 233
Ratings: 5.1/7 (116 Reviews)
Address: Thekkady, Idukki, Kerala 685536
Phone: 4869222026
Website: Wwww.ktfdc.com

Best way to travel from Chennai to Thekkady(Periyar)

Thekkady/Periyar is located at a distance of 578 km from Chennai. Thekkady is famous for Periyar Tiger Reserve and is well-connected to Chennai by roadways and railways. However, the best way to reach Thekkady/Periyar from Chennai is by car, which takes around 9 hours. The places covered between Chennai to Thekkady/Periyar are Chennai -56km -> Chengalpattu - 116 km -> Villupuram - 165km -> Thiruchirapalli - 99km -> Dindigul - 39km - 144km -> Thekkady/Periyar. On the way, there are several petrol pumps of Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum, apart from restaurants and coffee houses situated at regular distance.

Transport options from Chennai to Thekkady(Periyar)

Chennai to Thekkady(Periyar) By Car: Take a cab from Chennai to Thekkady/Periyar, which takes around 9 hours. The cost of cabs ranges from INR15 to INR45 per kilometre, depending upon the type of the car. Travelling by cabs is recommended families, seniors and groups.

Chennai to Thekkady(Periyar) By Bus: Take a bus from Chennai to Thekkady/Periyar, which takes around 10 hours. Thekkady/Periyar bus stand is located at a distance of around 5 km from the city centre and can be covered by auto-rickshaw, taxi or bus. Journey by bus is an ideal option for individual travellers and backpackers.

Chennai to Thekkady(Periyar) By Train: Take a direct train from Chennai to Kottayam that takes around 12 hours. Kottayam railway station is situated at a distance of about 111 km from Thekkady/Periyar and can be travelled by auto-rickshaw, taxi or bus. Travelling by train is suitable for families, seniors and groups.

Chennai to Thekkady(Periyar) By Flight: Take a direct flight from Chennai to Madurai, the nearest airport to Thekkady/Periyar that takes about an hour. Madurai airport is located at a distance of 153 km from Thekkady/Periyar that can be travelled by autos-rickshaw, taxi or bus in about 3 hours.

Read more Travel options on HolidayIQ.com

> [Chennai To Thekkady\(Periyar\)](#)

(513Km)

- > **Mumbai To Thekkady(Periyar)** (1145Km)
- > **Bangalore To Thekkady(Periyar)** (377Km)
- > **Kochi (Cochin) To Thekkady(Periyar)** (105Km)
- > **Kolkata To Thekkady(Periyar)** (1870Km)
- > **Pune To Thekkady(Periyar)** (1056Km)
- > **Delhi To Thekkady(Periyar)** (2122Km)
- > **Hyderabad To Thekkady(Periyar)** (877Km)

Thekkady(Periyar) weather

Best Season / Best Time to Visit Thekkady(Periyar)



Thekkady is situated in the Idukki district of Kerala at an altitude of 2800 meters above sea level. Seasonal variations in temperature are not extreme and each season brings out the best of this popular tourist destination of the south. The weather in Thekkady is salubrious with pleasant summers and cool winters. Thekkady experiences three distinct climatic conditions namely summer, monsoon and winter. There is very little variation in day-time temperature throughout the year. The most suitable climate to visit Thekkady is during post monsoon and winter months. The summer in Thekkady – March to May – usually records a maximum of 36° Celsius and a minimum of 20° Celsius. High humidity leads to occasional showers which help to keep the temperature in check. Summer season usually invites those tourists to Thekkady who are interested in wildlife. The monsoon months in Thekkady are from June to September with an average rainfall of around 326 cm. Monsoon is a lean tourist season in Thekkady characterized by heavy rains and landslides. Monsoon months in Thekkady usually record a maximum of 25° Celsius and a minimum of 19° Celsius. Post monsoon Thekkady and its surroundings are at its greenest. The winter season in Thekkady is between December and February when the maximum temperature is around 27° Celsius the minimum at about 16° Celsius. Days are pleasantly warm and the nights are cold in Thekkady during winter. This is also the peak tourist season in Thekkady. September to March is the best time to visit Thekkady. Thekkady also attracts substantial tourists from the month of April to June. Tourists who are not too fond of rain should avoid visiting Thekkady during the peak monsoon months.

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HolidayIQ.com is a premier holiday information portal powered by India's first & biggest travel community; enabling travellers to first discover numerous vacation choices, then plan holiday trips in full detail

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