Kottayam - Keralaâ€™s Hidden Jewel for Nature-Lovers

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Travelers to Kottayam enjoy a range of tourist attractions including panoramic scenery, incredible backwater cruise and enticing modern ambiences. About 154-km in the Northwest of Thiruvananthapuram and about 65-km southeast of Kochi, amid captivating mangrove forests and beguiling lush green paddy fields, there locates a small town called â€˜Kottayamâ€™. As soon as you approach the city, it starts courting you with its unparallel natural beauty and exotic geographical features. Long stretches of coconut trees dotted with enthralling waterways, lovely plantations of tea, rubber and pepper, wide open grass fields and unrelenting ranges of gigantic mountains; no wonder Kottayam attracts thousands of nature-lovers from far and wide. Additionally, rare species of plants & flowers and scores of birds & wild animals make this place a heaven for eco-tourists.

There are many places of tourist interest in Kottayam. The religious harmony in/around can leave anyone spellbound. The region has above 50 temples, 70 churches and several mosques which offer grand religious fervor and historicity to savor. Cultural events and festivals which Kottayam celebrates are amazing and delight attractions of a Kerala tour. Some popular places of religious & cultural importance in Kottayam include famous Mahadeva temple, Shri Krishna Swami Temple, Bhagawati Temple, St. Maryâ€™s Church and Panchalimedu.

There is beautiful Kesari Falls located between Kuttikanam and Murinjapuzha on Kottayam-Kumili road. The Venbanad Lake, about 16-km from Kottayam, is another feather in crown of Kottayam tourism and Kerala tourism. A repository of galore rivers, canals and rills, this place is gaining huge popularity among nature-loving tourists. Along with breathtaking scenery, this lake provides excellent opportunities for fishing, houseboat cruise and birding. On the bank of Vembanad, the famous Kumarakom Bird sanctuary is another lure for tourists. Come here to explore a number of species of birds including Siberian Stork, egret, heron and Darter etc.

A place of opulent history & cultures, abundance of natural bounties and high alluring lifestyle, Kottayam is a wonder in itself. It has been thronged by visitors all through a year; however the best time to plan a Kottayam tour is between September and March when climate is comparatively cool and dry. Kottayam is well-connected to the rest of the state by excellent road-rail-air-waterways. Nedumbassery, about 90-km North, is the nearest airport, while Kottayam itself has a railway station which has connectivity to almost entire Kerala state. Ferry services are available to approach the city through waterways.

For accommodation, Kottayam has an array of choices to cater every need and budget. Tourists may choose from luxury hotels & resort to budget hotels and inns. Some popular hotels in Kottayam include the Pearl Regency Luxury Business Hotel, Kumarakom Lake Resort and Windsor Castle. You can opt for home stays if you want an accommodation at cheap rates. When planning for Kottayam tour, a range of Kerala tour packages are available in market. Searching online, you can find a holiday package that matches your vacation style and budget.

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