

PAPANASAM BEACH / VARKALA BEACH



The legend states that when a group of pilgrims approached Sage Narada and told him that they had sinned, Narada threw his valkalam, a loin cloth made from the bark of a tree, and it landed at this scenic village and hence, the place came to be known as Varkala. Narada told the pilgrims to pray for their redemption at Papanasam, which literally means redemption from sins. It is believed that a dip in the waters here will wash away all the sins (papam) and hence the beach obtained its name. The beach is renowned for a natural spring that is believed to have healing properties.

Distance: 01 KM
Time: 5mins by drive
11mins by walking

SOUTH CLIFF AND NORTH CLIFF



Varkala is the only region in southern Kerala where cliffs are found adjacent to the Arabian Sea.

These Cenozoic sedimentary formation cliffs are a unique geological feature on the otherwise flat Kerala coast, and are known among geologists as Varkala Formation. The only cliff geoheritage site recognized as a national Geological Monument. The linear wave-cut cliffs and beaches have a vibrant cultural heritage.

Distance: 1.3km
Time: 5mins by drive
15mins by walking

JANARDHANA SWAMY TEMPLE



The 2,000-year-old Janardhana Swami Temple, which is an important Vaishnavaita shrine in India and is often referred to as Dakshin Kashi (Benares of the South).

The temple of Sri Janardana sits on a tableland adjoining the sea, and is reached by a long flight of stairs. The entrance to the inner shrine is flanked by the idols of Hanuman and Garuda on either side. In the main shrine is the idol of Janardhana.

It is believed that a Pandyan King was instructed by Lord Brahma to build a temple at this very place to redeem him of his sins.

Distance: 300m
Time: 2mins by drive
5mins by walking

JATAYU EARTH CENTER



Jatayu Earth Center is a park and tourism centre at Chadayamangalam in Kollam district of Kerala.

It holds the distinction of having the world's largest bird sculpture, which is of Jatayu.

Jatayu was a demi-god in Ramayana who had the form of a vulture.

According to the epic, Ravana was attempting to abduct Sita to Lanka when Jatayu tried to rescue her. Jatayu fought valiantly with Ravana, but as Jatayu was very old Ravana soon defeated him, clipping his wings, and Jatayu fell onto the rocks.

Distance: 28km

Time: 1hr

IHCL SELECTIONS

KAPPIL BEACH AND BACKWATERS



The Pristine Kappil Beach and Backwaters is situated 7 km away from Varkala. The ideal blend of the backwaters and sea, it offers an idyllic escape from the world.

People come here to enjoy the scenic backwaters and the various water sports options. It is a peaceful area with ample chances to simply relax or take a comforting boat ride.

Sprawled across 25 acres of land, the thin line of sand beach separates Edava-Nadayara Lake from the Arabian Sea.

Distance: 8km

Time: 25mins

SIVAGIRI MUTT



Sivagiri Mutt is the headquarters of the Shri Narayana Dharma Sanghom Trust, devoted to Shri Narayana Guru (1855–1928), Kerala's most prominent guru and a leading social reformer. It's a major pilgrimage site, with devotees recognisable by their distinctive yellow clothing.

It is a pilgrimage centre of Varkala Town where the tomb, or samadhi, of Sree Narayana Guru is situated. It is a place where Guru built the Sarada Temple dedicated to Sarada Devi.

Distance: 5km

Time: 15mins

KAVERI ELEPHANT PARK / ANATHAVALAM



As the most ethical elephant park in Kerala, Kaveri Elephant Park Ananthavalam welcomes children and adults to celebrate an extraordinary wildlife experience. Spread across a sprawling 4.75 acres of land, this elephant sanctuary features lush green landscapes and diverse eco-tourism activities that provide excellent opportunities for tourists to have close interactions with over twenty amazing elephants.

Distance: 17km
Time: 40mins

ANJENGO FORT



The fort was the East India Company's first permanent post on the Malabar Coast. In November 1693, John Brabourne was sent by the British East India Company to Attingal, where he obtained from Rani Ashure a grant of a site for a fort on Anchuthengu (Anjengo), together with the monopoly of the pepper trade of Attingal.

The fort played an important role during the invasion of Mysore king, Hyder Ali too. During the Anglo Mysore wars in 18th century, the fort became the store house of ammunition for the British.

Distance: 15km

Time: 40mins

PADMANABHASWAMY TEMPLE



The Shree Padmanabhaswamy Temple is a Hindu temple, dedicated to Vishnu, in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of the state of Kerala, India. It is one of the 108 Divya Desams dedicated to Lord Vishnu. It is widely considered as the world's richest Hindu temple.

The temple is built in an intricate fusion of the Kerala style and the Dravidian style of architecture, featuring high walls, and a 16th-century gopura.

The principal Padmanabhaswamy (Vishnu) is enshrined in the "Anantha Shayana" posture, the eternal yogic sleep on the infinite serpent Adi Shesha.

Distance: 50km

Time: 1hr 30mins

RAJA RAVI VARMA ART GALLERY



Raja Ravi Varma was an Indian painter and artist. His works are one of the best examples of the fusion of European academic art with a purely Indian sensibility and iconography. The gallery has the largest collection of Ravi Varma paintings in India.

His representations of Hindu gods and goddesses and characters in the epics and the Puranas reflected his absorption in Indian culture.

Distance: 50km
Time: 1hr 20mins

MANGROVE FOREST KAYAKING



Immerse yourself in the lush beauty of the mangrove forest with kayaking trips. A perfect blend of serenity and adventure awaits you. Take in awe-inspiring views, breathe in the distinctive essence of the mangrove forest and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Distance: 16km
Time: 34min

GOLDEN ISLAND



This lush island is a perfect getaway for those who seek a break from the hustle and bustle of the urban life. This island is known for the Shiva Parvathi temple, which is also called 'Thuruthu kshethram' by the natives. The temple is situated amidst thick coconut groves, which has grown over the entire stretch. The temple situated here is of more than 100 years old.

Distance: 10km
Time: 38mins

BLACK BEACH



A 15-minutes walk from the North cliff in Varkala, you could see a small stretch of black beach. Don't pass up on this opportunity to explore this side of Varkala. Black beach in Varkala is away from the hustle and crowd of the main Varkala beach and the cliff.

Distance: 2.5km
Time: 10mins by drive
20mins by walking