



**FORT KOCHI**

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**WHERE  
HISTORY  
SLEEPS,  
SERENELY.**

I t's an otherworldly charm, so much like taking a stroll down the path of history. Buildings from the colonial times, that reflect the enigma of the classic European architecture, on the one side. The majesty of the tranquil Arabian sea on the other. Chinese fishing nets set up, all across the region on the one end. A chain of eateries serving scrumptious delicacies on the other. It's a medley of experiences and emotions embracing you warmly, making you want to come back to them, many times over. Fort Kochi, a town from the yesteryears, is a destination you wouldn't want to miss.

Once a Portuguese, Dutch and British settlement, Fort Kochi is today a major part of the city of Kochi, drawing visitors from all over the world. Beaches, backwaters, monuments and many quintessential Kerala experiences are all waiting for you, right here. Welcome to what will be a holiday of a lifetime.





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# FORT KOCHI

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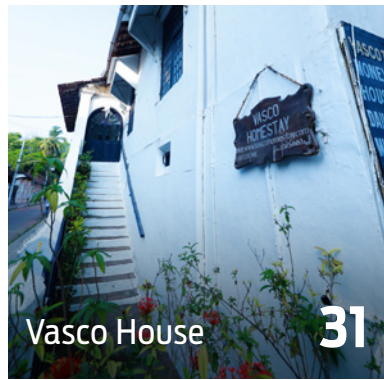
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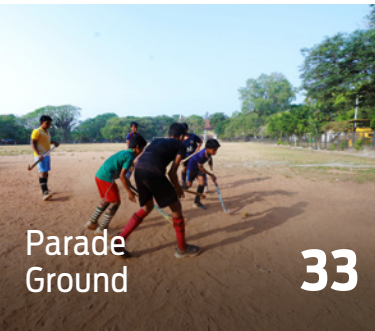
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# FORT KOCHI BEACH



The beach is a popular destination among both the local people and travellers



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
12.4 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
43.6 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
17.2 km away



Fort Kochi Beach



Timings:  
Throughout the day

## A VIBE SO ENTHRALLING

A shore brimming with life, the Fort Kochi beach is where Kochi celebrates itself. It's more than a beach. It's a venue where multiple experiences converge to give you a picturesque view.

The sun-kissed sands, Chinese fishing nets, a walkway, the greenery of the land and the vastness of the deep blue sea – the beauty is simply poetic. The beach offers a breathtaking view of the sunset and sometimes, of huge cargo ships passing by on their way to and from the harbour. You will also come across the relics of the historic Fort Immanuel, the first European fort in India, built by the Portuguese. Besides, a few other tourist spots in the locality are a stone's throw away from the Fort Kochi beach. The beach is also a venue for the famous Cochin Carnival, one of the most thrilling celebratory events in Kochi that culminates in a grand celebration on the new year eve. Enjoy the blend of the old and the new; and you'll be lost for words.

*You can also reach the destination through ferry from various part of Kochi*

# ST FRANCIS CHURCH

The St Francis Church is one of the oldest European churches in India



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
12.7 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
43.7 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
17.3 km away



St Francis Church



+91 484 221 7505



Timings



## DIVINITY MEETS ARCHITECTURAL SPLENDOUR

One of the oldest churches built by the Europeans in India, St Francis Church stands as a silent witness to centuries of change, as the region went through Portuguese, Dutch and British eras.

The church was built in 1503. The history of St Francis Church dates back to the time when Portuguese Franciscan friars came to Kochi. Reopened in 1616, the church was dedicated to Santo Antonio, the patron saint of Portugal. Through the centuries, the structure underwent many changes following various European invasions. It is a living tribute to various European architectural styles, with amazing views, from both inside and outside.

Vasco Dam Gama, the sailor from Portugal, who reached the shores of Kerala in 1498, died during his third visit to the region in 1524. He was cremated in St Francis Church. However his mortal remains were taken back to Portugal a few years later. With all this rich history and architectural glory, the church is a must-explore spot.

*The church is a testimony to European architectural brilliance*

# CHINESE FISHING NETS

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Sunset on the backdrop of Chinese fishing nets is a sight to behold



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
12.6 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
43.6 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
17.2 km away



Chinese Fishing Nets,  
Fort Kochi Beach



Timings:  
Throughout the day

## A PICTURE-PERFECT EXPERIENCE

These amusing wonders have been the face of Kochi for a long time, and continues to be so in many ways. The view of these beautiful structures, spread all over the blue waters against the setting sun is a sight to treasure.

Chinese Fishing Nets or 'Cheenavala' (in Malayalam) are believed to have been introduced to Kochi by the Chinese explorer Zheng He. During the period between 1350 and 1450 CE, these nets were installed all over the region. Used as fishing devices primarily, the operation of these nets is today a sight of great amusement to travellers and tourists. Made using teak and bamboo poles, these structures are mostly 10 metres high and carry a cantilever with a net attached to it, and usually spreads over an area of about 20 sq. metres.

It's a charming visual spectacle and a highly prolific fishing solution, both rolled in to one. If you would like to have a glimpse of fishing using these nets, make a visit during the early hours of morning or in the evening.

*Visit in the morning hours to see these nets in operation*

# SANTA CRUZ BASILICA

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Where divinity and history converge  
to offer a visual treat



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
12.3 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
43.3 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
16.9 km away



Santa Cruz Basilica,  
Bastian Street



+91 48422 15799



Timings



## GRANDEUR IN EVERY CORNER

One of the eight basilicas in India, the Santa Cruz Basilica is an abode of divinity and monument rich in history. Famed for its unique grandeur and historic significance, the basilica is a must-visit destination in your visit to Fort Kochi.

The construction of this imposing structure began in the 16th century when the Portuguese Viceroy Dom Francisco de Almeida was granted permission by the then Maharaja of Cochin. May 3, 1505 was chosen for laying the foundation, in commemoration of the Feast Day of the invention of the Holy Cross. Thus the church was named Santa Cruz. Over the centuries, the church underwent various structural changes, even demolished and reconstructed.

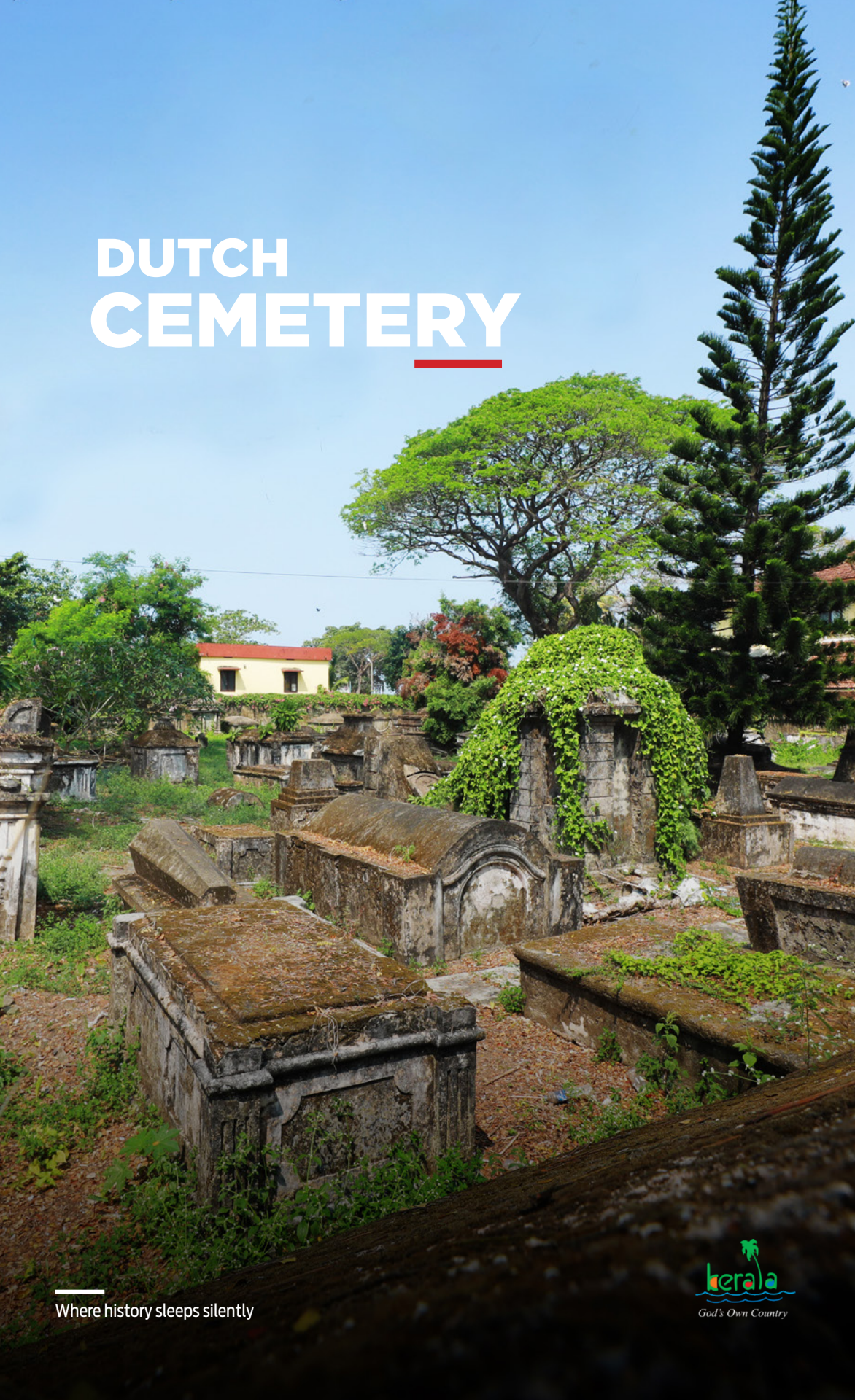
It was in 1905 that the church as it appears today was consecrated. In 1984, it was Pope John Paul II who elevated the status of the cathedral to that of a basilica, considering its historical importance and sanctity.

The grand exteriors and the Gothic style interiors truly set the basilica apart from other structures. Today, it is also the Cathedral Church of the diocese of Cochin.

*The basilica in all its grandeur on  
a Christmas night*

# DUTCH CEMETERY

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Where history sleeps silently



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
12.3 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
43.3 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
16.9 km away



Dutch Cemetery



Timings:  
Throughout the day

## AN ELEGY OF THE YESTERDAYS

The oldest European cemetery in India, the Dutch Cemetery is today a memorial that tells many a story of the Dutch lives lost during the years of colonialism and expansion. All the 104 tombs inside the cemetery are built in typical Dutch architectural style.

Many governors, commanders and other officials of the Dutch regime in the region were buried in this cemetery. Consecrated in 1724, the cemetery is among the most visited spots in Fort Kochi. It is surrounded by walls, and the tombs were made using granite and red laterite. You get to see old Dutch script inscriptions on the epitaphs. However, the cemetery, in spite of being a monumental structure with a rich history behind it, remains closed most of the time. All you might be able to get is a view from the outside. On special request, the cemetery is opened for visitors. The cemetery is managed by the Church of South India.

*The cemetery is home to the tombs of Dutch governors and other officials*

# PARADESI SYNAGOGUE

A 45-ft high clock tower  
built in 1760 adjacent  
to the synagogue





Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
9.7 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
40.7 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
14.4 km away



Paradesi Synagogue,  
Mattancherry



Timings



## REFLECTIONS OF A RICH LEGACY

“Splendorous” is the word that would best describe this marvel of a monument. The Paradesi Synagogue houses a rare and unique collection of antiques from the bygone centuries. The architectural splendour of the building adds even more grandeur to the premises.

The word ‘Paradesi’ means “foreigner”. The synagogue is a living testimony to the contributions of the Jews to the cultural fabric of the region. Also known as the Jewish Synagogue for that reason, it was first built in 1568, destroyed by the Portuguese in 1662, and reconstructed a couple of years later by the Dutch. The synagogue, with its huge central hall, splendid pillars, large open windows, glass chandeliers, lamps and ceramic floor tiles, is a treat to the eye. The place contains many rare artefacts that will be of great interest to history lovers. The synagogue is located in the Jew Town in Mattancherry, adjacent to Fort Kochi. It is the oldest active synagogue in the Commonwealth of Nations, and one of the seven synagogues in the area which is still in use.

*A spectacular interior image of the  
Paradesi Synagogue*

# THE DUTCH PALACE

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The Palace is listed as a UNESCO  
World Heritage Site





Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
9.9 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
40.9 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
14.5 km away



Dutch Palace,  
Mattancherry



+91 - 2226 085,  
+91 - 484 606 8716



Timings

## A TRIBUTE TO AN ERSTWHILE KINGDOM

One of the finest examples of traditional Kerala architecture, the Dutch Palace – also known as the Mattancherry Palace – is a protected monument. It is included in the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The palace was built at around 1545 by the Portuguese as a gift to the then Maharajah of Kochi, Veera Kerala Varma. It is said that they had plundered a temple nearby, and the palace was constructed in order to to appease the Maharajah. A quadrangular structure built in the traditional Kerala ‘nalukettu’ style, it features certain European influences in the construction. The palace underwent major changes during the Dutch regime, and hence began to be referred to as the Dutch Palace.

It houses a splendid collection of murals that depict Indian epics and legends. Every visitor gets an insight into the lives and lifestyles of the Maharajas of the erstwhile kingdom of Kochi. Many artefacts from the past centuries are preserved here.

*A living museum that tells interesting tales  
from the yesterdays*

# MARITIME MUSEUM

Throwing light into the rich  
maritime history of India



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
11.6 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
42.6 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
16.2 km away



Maritime Museum,  
Willingdon Island



+91 - 484 258 2199



[www.cochinport.gov.in](http://www.cochinport.gov.in)



Timings

## DEPICTING THE RISE OF A NAVAL POWER

It's a fitting tribute to the mighty naval force of India. The Maritime museum greets you with all you need to know about the rich maritime history of Kerala. It throws light on the operations of the navy, its history, evolution and depicts various stories of sailors' valour recorded in history.

The museum has many sections to it, and brings to you various facts and figures on India's naval growth. The Indus Valley Civilization period, the era of Arab links, colonial invasions – the phases of progress are included, which will give every visitor a comprehensive understanding of the maritime activities through the centuries.

There is a section that includes various war memorabilia including radars, guns, anti-aircraft missiles and so on. One other interesting section is dedicated to the shipbuilding ventures of the country which is an exciting subject of study. A special section is dedicated to India's naval victories since independence.

*The Museum showcases various artefacts which were used by the naval forces*



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# MARITIME MUSEUM

# INDO-PORTUGUESE MUSEUM



A venue to celebrate  
Indo-Portuguese relations  
from the past



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
12.6 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
43.6 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
17.2 km away



Indo-Portuguese  
Museum, Bishop  
Kureethara Road



+91 - 48 4215 400



Timings



## TALES OF THE COLONIAL PAST

As one of the early group of foreigners to sail to Fort Kochi, occupy and subsequently colonize the region, the Portuguese have left a legacy that is still very much alive. The Indo-Portuguese Museum is a true testimony to this unique bond that Portugal shared with India in general and Kochi in particular.

Located inside the Bishop's House compound in Fort Kochi, the Indo-Portuguese Museum showcases the Portuguese influence on the art and architecture of the region. There are five main sections within the museum – the Altar, Treasure, Procession, Civil Life and Cathedral.

The exhibits include a piece of the altar made in teak, a chasuble, a processional cross made using wood and silver and so on. The Indo-Portuguese Museum was established as a bid to protect the cultural heritage of Portugal and the Portuguese influence on Fort Kochi. This project was executed by the late Joseph Kureethra who was the Bishop of Kochi.

*The Museum has on display various artefacts from the colonial days*



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# INDO-PORTUGUESE MUSEUM

# INTERNATIONAL TOURISM POLICE MUSEUM & STATION

The police museum and station also offers assistance to tourists on various matters



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
9.6 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
40.6 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
14.2 km away



International Tourism  
Police Station and  
Police Museum,  
Mattancherry



94979 32659



sitourismksekm.pol@  
kerala.gov.in



kochicity.keralapolice.gov.in/  
wings/police\_stations/touris-ps



Timings

## A SALUTE TO KERALA'S POLICE FORCE

It's a fitting tribute to all the selfless police personnel who have protected and are still protecting the people of Kerala. The International Tourism Police Station and the Police Museum, the first of their kind in India, also offer various services and facilities to tourists who visit Kochi.

The facility was inaugurated in 2010, and is located in the Jew Town, Mattancherry. The Tourism Police Station helps tourists make their trips easy, convenient and comfortable. It addresses various issues, and finds solutions for the visitors.

Tourists can make use of this facility to clear all their doubts regarding passport and visa, hiring taxis, renting boats and so on. The Police Museum is located within the Tourism Police Station premises. It showcases various interesting exhibits from the pre-independence era including police uniforms, hats, armoury, etc.

The Tourism Police Station and the Museum have received positive responses from tourists who have made the best use of the facility to make their trips easy.

*Etching the rich history of  
Kerala's police forces*

# JAIN TEMPLE



A divine abode and a dazzling architectural marvel



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
10.5 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
41.5 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
15.1 km away



Jain Temple,  
Mattancherry



+91 484 222 4802



cochinjainderasar@  
gmail.com



Timings



## A DIVINE MARVEL

One of the major Jain pilgrimage centres in India is right here in Fort Kochi – the Jain Temple. Cementing the town's fame as a cosmopolitan centre, the Jain Temple, with its splendid architecture and divine ambience, attracts tens of thousands of visitors every single year.

Fort Kochi is one destination where people belonging to different socio-cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds reside in absolute harmony. The Jain Temple is a fitting testimony to this fact. The temple was built by Hirubhai Jivraj Dhanji in memory of her husband Jivraj Dhanji.

It is located in Mattancherry and dedicated to Shri Dharmanath, the 15th Jain Tirthankara. The architecture of the temple is unlike any other building in the region, and resembles Gujarati Jain temples.

The interiors are done in white marble, and adorned with various artworks and sculptures. Thousands of pigeons flock at the temple complex every day where they are promptly fed with grains.

*The interiors of the building closely resemble Gujarati Jain temples*

# PRINCESS STREET



The street is one of the busiest shopping and partying spots in the locale



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
12.7 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
43.7 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
17.3 km away



Princess Street,  
Near Jawahar Park



Timings:  
Throughout the day

## CELEBRATING THE BEST OF KOCHI

If you are in the heart of Kerala and yet feel that you have been teleported to a small quaint town somewhere in Europe, you are in the Princess Street, also known as the Loafer's Corner, in Fort Kochi. It has an ethereal charm, that is inexplicable.

One of the oldest streets in Fort Kochi, the Princess Street reflects the enigmatic grace of European architecture at its very best. As you walk along the street, you get to see various bungalows and buildings constructed in the colonial style. The vibrant street is lined with cafes, eateries, curio shops, art galleries and various commercial establishments. In the mornings, the aroma of freshly baked confectionaries fills the air and in the evenings, it is filled with jovial crowd. Some buildings also serve as comfy homestays for tourists. There are spas and Ayurveda centres where you can relax and rejuvenate. So whether you want to go partying, shopping or simply have a feel of the old-world charm, do make it a point to visit the Princess Street.

*A beautiful slice of Europe in the  
God's Own Country*

# SPICE MARKET

A street to explore everything  
that is so unique to the land



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
11.2 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
37.2 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
15.8 km away



Spice Market,  
Mattancherry



Timings

## SPICE MARKET

There's a street in Mattancherry, rich in the pleasant aroma of exotic spices. Walk in to the Spice Market and you will be transported to an entirely different world. The smells, the sights, the life – it's indeed a refreshing experience for any traveller.

Once a booming centre of spice and tea trade, the Jew Town in Mattancherry is no longer what it used to be. However, the spice trade continues to this day. Pepper, ginger, cardamom, turmeric – the spices that are sold in the street add a whole new charm to the locale. Just a walk across this picturesque setting is an experience in itself. The market is a hot shopping spot. Apart from spice merchants, there are shops that sell various curios and artefacts that reflect the artistic brilliance of the region. So if you want to buy some of your favourite spices and take back piquant memories of some time well spent, do make it a point to visit the Spice Market.

*One of the finest shopping spots in the city to buy authentic Kerala spices and artefacts.*

# PIERCE LESLIE BUNGALOW

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A confluence of Portuguese, Dutch and  
traditional Kerala architecture styles



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
8.9 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
40.3 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
12.6 km away



Pierce Leslie Bungalow



Timings:  
Throughout the day

## EMANATING AN ETHEREAL CHARM

One of the most imposing colonial architectural splendours of the region, the Pierce Leslie Bungalow once served as the office of Pierce Leslie & Co., who were coffee merchants. It was built in the year 1892, and is today a heritage building that is an object of fascination to travellers.

The Pierce Leslie Bungalow has a unique architectural style. One can see the influence of Portuguese, Dutch and traditional Kerala styles, that are blended in perfect harmony. There are amazing wooden panels that make the ceiling of the ground floor, doors that are carved elaborately and doorways created with imposing arcs. The rooms are pretty expansive and impart matchless grandeur to the whole structure. The waterfront verandas are another spectacular sight and offer a stunning view of the Kochi backwaters. The bungalow consists of two houses – the Old Harbour House and the Koder House, each with its special charm that catches the attention of every single visitor to the area. Staring at the majestic property, one gets a first-hand impression of Kochi's colonial past.

*A colonial architectural  
splendour that never ceases to amuse*

# VASCO HOUSE

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Where history seamlessly blends  
with the present times



Ernakulam Railway Station,  
12.7 km away



Cochin International Airport,  
43.7 km away



Vyttila Hub, 17.3 km away



Vasco House, Rose Street



+91-484 - 2216267  
+91-94477 98215



[www.vascohomestay.com](http://www.vascohomestay.com)



[vascoinformations@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vascoinformations@yahoo.co.uk)



Timings: Throughout the day



## CELEBRATING A GLORIOUS MYTH

The Vasco House boasts of an architectural style that is unique to Fort Kochi; a harmonious combination of colonial and Kerala genres. With arched doors, large windows, wooden ceilings – the building has a special charm to it that makes people stop by and stare.

It is believed that this was where Vasco Da Gama, the legendary Portuguese sailor, used to stay during his visits to Kochi. It is also rumoured that Gama, on his third visit to Kochi, contracted malaria and passed away in this very same house.

Though there aren't many substantial evidences to prove it, this story is a part of the popular folklore of the region. Just like the life and legacy of Gama himself, the Vasco House stands tall in the heart of Fort Kochi.

The Vasco House is today a privately owned property and homestay. Though the house has been modified to include certain modern amenities for a relaxing stay, much of the old charm of the building is still maintained.

*Vasco House is believed to be where Vasco Da Gama lived on his Kochi visits*

# PARADE GROUND

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The ground in the heart of Fort  
Kochi that was used for parades  
by colonial powers



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
12.5 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
43.5 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
17.1 km away



Parade Ground



Timings:  
Throughout the day

## WHERE HISTORY MARCHES ON

A ground that once witnessed the flamboyant military parades of three colonial powers; that saw the rise and fall of many dynasties and the establishment of a new nation, the Parade Ground in Fort Kochi carries much history, and continues to be an important landmark in the region.

The four-acre ground located at the heart of Fort Kochi was primarily used by the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British for military purposes, mainly parades, during their respective regimes. The Portuguese also used to store their armaments in this very ground. The Dutch and the English conducted various drills at this venue and also used it for playing hockey, football and cricket. At various points of time, the flags of all these colonial powers were hoisted in this ground. On the day of Indian independence, the British flag was finally lowered and the Indian tricolour flag hoisted. The ground is today a public sports facility for the local people. It also serves as a venue for the inaugural ceremony of the famous Kochi-Muziris Biennale, an international arts festival held annually in Kochi.

*The ground is today a venue for various sporting and recreational events*

# COCHIN CARNIVAL

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The spectacular display of Kerala art forms during Cochin Carnival



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
12.1 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
36.6 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
16.8 km away



+91 80752 20364



[cochincarnival.org](http://cochincarnival.org)



[info@cochincarnival.org](mailto:info@cochincarnival.org)



December - January



## A GALA OF VARIED EXPERIENCES

Although many celebratory events are conducted in Fort Kochi, there's one gala function that the residents eagerly wait for every year – the Cochin Carnival. Held during the final weeks of December annually, the carnival is an event of absolute festivity, and has been attracting tourists from far and wide.

The whole event is centred around the idea of celebrating the New Year in a grand way. The carnival is a display of the cultural richness of the region. Various art forms including music and dance are performed at the venue.

Other entertainments include sporting events such as beach football, bike race, swimming and badminton. The celebration nears its end on the New Year's eve with a splendid procession that passes through the streets of the town.

The celebrations come to an end in Fort Kochi Beach when Pappanji (a giant effigy of an old man that symbolizes old ideas and perspectives) is burned as the New Year is born.

*Various events are held during the event, culminating in a grand New Year celebration.*



Cochin Carnival

# KOCHI-MUZIRIS BIENNALE

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Art community from all over the world assemble here to display their works of art



Ernakulam Junction  
Railway Station,  
12.4 km away



Cochin  
International Airport,  
36.7 km away



Vyttila Mobility Hub,  
16.5 km away



+91 484 2215287



[kochimuzirisbiennale.org](http://kochimuzirisbiennale.org)



[info@kochimuzirisbiennale.org](mailto:info@kochimuzirisbiennale.org)



Timings



## SEEKING NEW ARTISTIC HORIZONS

In a city as vibrant and culturally diverse as Kochi, art plays a refreshingly unique role. The Kochi-Muziris Biennale presents to the world an event where art is celebrated in all its seriousness, and becomes a medium of sharing innovative thoughts and ideas.

Kochi-Muziris Biennale is one of the finest of its kind in the world today, with lakhs of people from all over the world participating every year. The event is the largest art exhibition in India and also the biggest contemporary art festival anywhere in Asia.

An initiative of the Kochi Biennale Foundation supported by the Government of Kerala, the festival is conducted at different venues across Fort Kochi and the neighbouring locales. Artists from different parts of the world come together in this festival to exhibit their work.

Different mediums of art including films, sculptures, installations, paintings and performing arts are exhibited by these talented artists and widely appreciated by the art-loving audience.

*A grand display of an artistic installation in  
the Kochi-Muziris Biennale*





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# FORT KOCHI



## BOOK YOUR STAY

HOTELS

HOMESTAYS



## EXPLORE TOUR PACKAGES

TOUR OPERATORS



## EXPLORE OTHER E-BROCHURES

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A CATALOGUE OF FESTIVITIES



A CHRONICLE OF KERALA'S  
CULTURAL RICHNESS



KERALA, HOTSPOT OF  
ADVENTURES



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# THANK YOU

