

Othoni

Pearls in the Wild



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introduction

In the upper regions of God's Own Country, there lie destinations that its very own citizens have not fully explored. Be it natural barriers or a lack of media coverage in these areas, these sites have taken their time in becoming known to the public eye. Often tourists stumble upon these gems, and they instantly become hotbeds that attract people in droves. Dhoni sits atop that list, as its rise from a hidden jewel known only to those who regularly visit Palakkad to one of the hottest picnic destinations in the State, is a fascinating story in itself. A picnicker's dream come true, the intensive three-hour trek that this place promises you is one of the most refreshing hikes that the entire State has to offer.



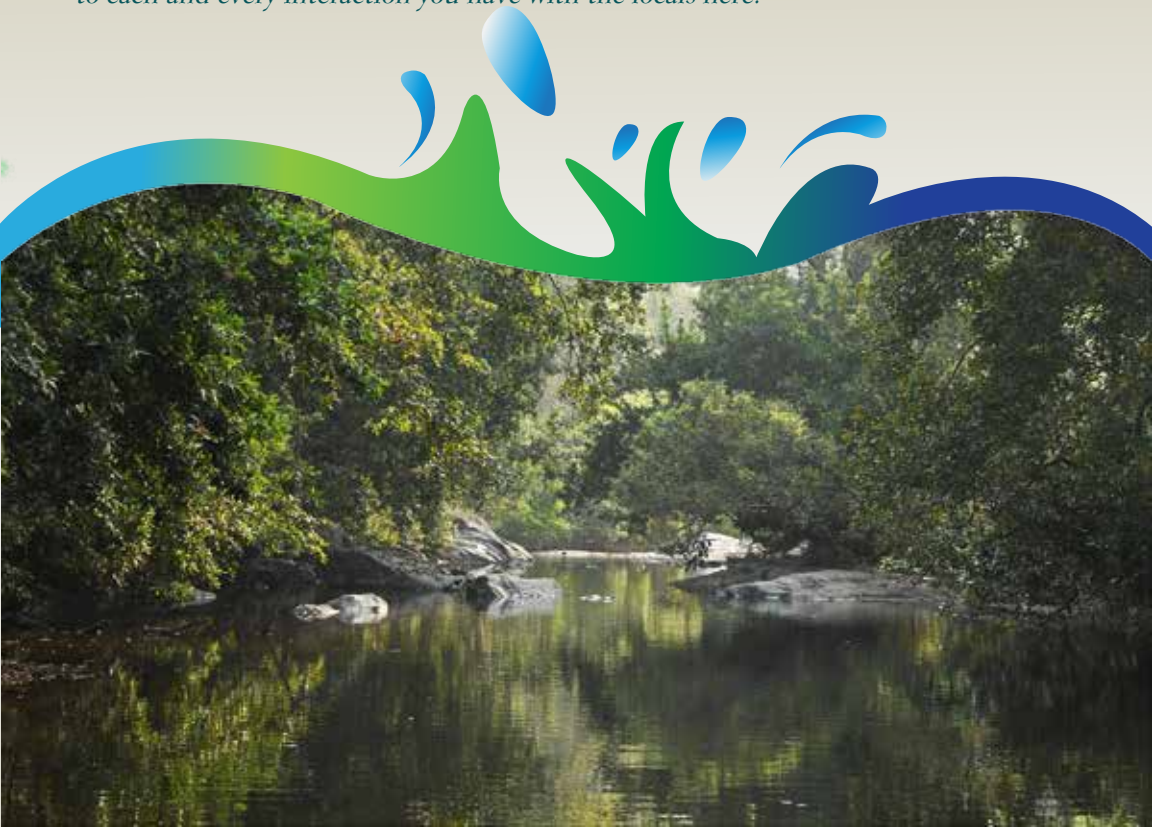
Geographical Features

Dhoni captures you with its systemic range of hills, its famous waterfalls, trails that twist deep into the forests, and a very homely atmosphere that is very conducive to people who come to these parts to simply unwind. Around 15 km from Palakkad, the district is known to beget average rainfall of around 2135 mm. The monsoon is when this entire area lights up, with the best time to come to Dhoni being during the time when the skies fill up its entire waterfall. The period between June and late October is usually the prime time to make this trip to Northern Kerala.



Attractions at Dhoni

This area is flush with greenery, along with many sightings of elephants and tigers being reported from some of our visitors here. Guides escort you on hikes that take you through an intricate path which shows you the entire glory of this clandestine location. From honeymooners to entire generations of families, each and every demographic can find a quaint spot here to loosen up and simply thrive in the palms of nature. Palakkad and all its unique flavours are exemplified in this area, from the moment you drive in, to each and every interaction you have with the locals here.



Historical Significance

A lot about Palakkad can be understood from its location itself. Most consider it the traditional northern entry point into Kerala. Though it has no coastal line, its geographical position, historical background, educational status, tourism hot-spots and above all, the industrial developments that have occurred here, make it an integral cog in the running of both Kerala and the country. Historically, many great cultures have played their roles in shaping the ethos of this place. Since the legends of the Pallava dynasty of Kanchi having their headquarters in second or third century C.E, to the Sekharivarma Rajas of Palakkad to the times of Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan, this area has seen a wide variety of cultural influences. Renowned now as the land of Palmyra's and its distinct paddy fields, it is host to some of the most mystical destinations in all of God's Own Country



Nearby Destinations

This entire area is home to a plethora of heritage and natural sites that are a dream lineup for every tourist who makes it to this northern district. Some of the prominent ones include Peruvemba – the traditional percussion instrument making village, Malampuzha Rock Garden and Dam, Palakkad Fort, Vellinezhi – the traditional village for art forms, Kollengode – the land of metal artisans. Some of these sites are among the most unexplored destinations in the State, and researchers have discovered many new and endemic species that reside in these parts. Silent Valley National Park and Parambikulam Tiger Reserve in Palakkad are especially famous for the sheer magnitude and range of beings that are being protected here.



Claim to Fame

It has a long history of artistic greatness as well. KunjanNambiar, the legendary poet of Malayalam language and creator of the beloved art form Ottamtullal was born here. Another beloved hero of the State, Thunchathu Ramanujan Ezhuthachan, a pioneer who is considered by many as the father of Malayalam literature, is said to have spent his last days in Palakkad. K. P. Kesava Menon, a great freedom fighter and the founder of the newspaper daily Mathrubhumi that is still widely in circulation today, was born in Tharoor village of Palakkad. This area is still well known as the granary of Kerala, its landscape includes dense forest cover, rivers, valleys and hills. It accounts for two-thirds of the rice production in the State. Visuals of row upon row of sprawling paddy fields in all directions is a visual that is endearing to all Keralites, with many a famous cinematic production and postcard using the same over the years.



Unique Flavours

Palakkad is also where one can see the famous Palakkad Gap, the corridor between Kerala and neighbouring Tamil Nadu, that has played an integral role in facilitating commerce between the east and west coasts of peninsular India. It is a 40-kilometre break in the mountains that is situated at the foot of the Western Ghats that opened up access to the entire place. It is the largest pass in the Western Ghats. Having no coastal line, the border state has a close bond with neighbouring Tamil Nadu that goes beyond their geographical proximity. From influences in cuisine, arts and even language, it is a relationship that is deeply entrenched in the very spirit of the district. The special dialect spoken here is among the most unique and beautiful features of the State.



Trekking

Journey up the Waterfalls

The journey to this quaint spot at the top of Dhoni hills begins at base camp. Once you're done collecting tickets from the official cabin located here, one can immediately see the uphill trail that takes you to your destination. There's an extremely calm and settled vibe here, and the air is unbelievably crisp and fresh, a rarity in modern civilization. Post inspection at the checkpoint, the road widens which could normally be traversed with vehicles, but access via automobiles is not allowed at this point. It would be important to note that it may be wise to carry water beyond this point, as the hike to the top does get intense.

Guided groups in specific time slots are taken on a hike that takes about 3 hours and is nearly 4 km in length. There have been elephant and tiger sightings here, and the experts travelling with you will keep you abreast about any situation at all times. At the bottom, teak plantations welcome you to the area. These majestic guardians are a testament to how long this gem has hidden from most of civilization. Most people get a number of sightings of smaller tree animals and avian species in these parts, constantly lurking around the trees and the wildlife. Gentle breezes bring forth the soft buzz of secret rivulets and streams seem to emanate from the woods, with the guides letting you know if and when you can veer off the set path for a bit to dip your feet in the water. Eventually, the crescendo rises in your ears and the quaint and beautiful waterfalls slowly reveal themselves. This place is absolutely a must for people who wish for solitude and space to simply soak in a natural wonder at their own pace. People seem to love settling by the rocks, dipping their feet and absorbing all the pleasant visuals on displays. Families and giant groups love picnicking here, as the vibe is hard to replicate in most modern settings. Monsoon is when this area overflows and streams of beautiful water gush down, and this is when people are recommended to go visit Dhoni hills. This usually falls between June to October and most crowds can be seen here during this time period. While bathing is not directly allowed at this specific spot, there are many sites downstream where the guides will permit you to do the same. At the end of the trip, the downhill walk is easier and one can tap into any of the freshwater streams they run into to rejuvenate themselves. This takes about two hours and is a pleasant way to end the entire hike. Liquor, smoking and plastic are strictly prohibited.

Timing: 09:30 A.M., 11.00 A.M., and 02.00 P.M.

Cost of the Package

Rs.100 per person

Contact Details of Permitting Authority:

Forest Range Officer

Olavakkode

Ph: +91 491 2555815

Divisional Forest Office, Palakkad Mobile +91 8547602072

KSRTC bus stand, Ph: 2520098

DTPC Information Counter, Near Children's Park, Palakkad, Ph: 2538996,

Fax: 2530566

Telephone access code for Palakkad: +91-491

Ecotourism

This planet we are on nurtures over 7 billion inhabitants on a daily basis. While its marvels are beyond the realm of any one person's imagination, it is easy to notice the damages that are being caused on each and every front, due to the rise in population and the spread of civilization. Even the uninhabited corners of Mother Earth are now being turned into urban centres, and this affects the fragile balance that has kept the planet afloat this entire time.

Tourism is a great bonding element, mixing and mashing cultural experiences from across the world. People gain empathy for those they may have nothing in common with, with places their ancestors may never have heard of or traditions they could never have even dreamt of. Hence, the combination of environmentally driven ecological sites being used as prime tourist destinations leads to the wonderful concept of ecotourism.



Significance of Ecotourism

Ecotourism lets people appreciate the many boons that Mother Earth has bestowed us with. It is the epitome of making people realize the true value of the treasures that we are endangering with our reckless actions. It is the clarion call that resonates within one's soul in a seamless but provocative manner, evoking the basic empathy that is the first step in battling the environmental dangers we are facing in this day and age.



Ecotourism at Dhoni

At a time when man is recognising the need to preserve the boons of nature for the future generations, Dhoni is striving to embody the very spirit of Ecotourism. A plethora of steps has been taken to ensure that the pristine calm of the locale remains undisturbed. Officials have taken stringent measures to ensure that the region is unsullied by the ravages of human touch. Dhoni has been declared a plastic-free zone, with strict checks to prevent any plastic and polluting materials from being brought into its fold. Tourists are encouraged to simply soak in the ethereal beauty of this precious jewel while ensuring that no lasting damage is done to the region. It is through such measures that visitors realise that seemingly small steps are all it takes to lay the foundation for the preservation of our valuable natural resources so that countless generations ahead of them can also enjoy its myriad rewards.



Ecotourism at Dhoni

The majestic trees and peeking wildlife that greet you during your journey are hallmarks of Kerala and its endless bounty of natural beauty. Much of our lore and tradition emanates from these parts, and they are treasure troves of our past and heritage. They are priceless cultural landmarks, behemoths of history and proud jewels that adorn our vast landscape. Kerala and its people have known for a long time the immense responsibility they have inherited from their ancestors; true crusaders who ensured the well-being of this land for centuries. It is now our moment, our time in history, to repay the gifts that the land has blessed us with. Hence, the people and governments at all levels have come together to formulate ways to conserve and protect the myriad floral and faunal species that grace our unique landscape.

Concerted efforts have been made in the last few decades, alongside budgetary allotments and specific policy changes, that has made Kerala one among the pioneers in the Ecotourism movement around the world. Being a region with such an abundance of natural resources, it seems only fitting that we set an example and lead the way in the global resistance against any threats to our environment.



Dhoni waterfalls trekking route



Photos



Streams inside Dhoni forest



Photos



Dhoni falls, Palakkad



Photos

Dhoni waterfalls in Summer



Photos

A Tree Hut next to Dhoni Waterfalls



Photos

Hues of Summer



Photos

Peripheral Forest of Dhoni



Photos

Come and join Nature here



Photos



Waterfalls of Dhoni



Photos

Woods of Dhoni



Photos

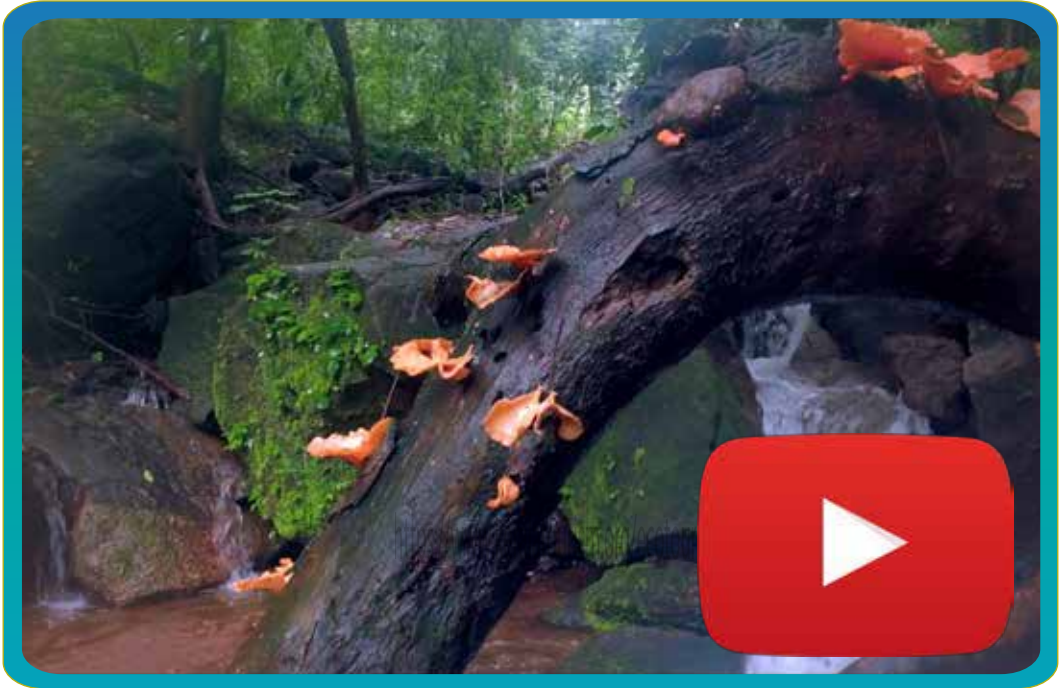
Bird's eye view of Dhoni Waterfalls



*Youtube
Videos*



Dhoni Waterfalls in Palakkad



*Youtube
Videos*

Off to the waterfalls of Dhoni



*Youtube
Videos*



Rejuvenate your senses @ Dhoni



*Youtube
Videos*



Trekking route of Dhoni



*Youtube
Videos*



Dhoni during Monsoon



*Youtube
Videos*



Why Kerala

The majestic trees and peeking wildlife that greet you during your journey are hallmarks of Kerala and its endless bounty of natural beauty. Much of our lore and tradition emanates from these parts, and they are treasure troves of our past and heritage. They are priceless cultural landmarks, behemoths of history and proud jewels that adorn our vast landscape. Kerala and its people have known for a long time the immense responsibility they have inherited from their ancestors; true crusaders who ensured the well-being of this land for centuries. It is now our moment, our time in history, to repay the gifts that the land has blessed us with.

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Getting There



Nearest Railway Station

Palakkad Junction is the closest major Railway Station via Olavakkode Dhoni Rd, which is about 12 km away.



Nearest Airport

Coimbatore International Airport, is about 78 km away and Calicut International Airport which is about 101 km away.



Location

Latitude: 10.862304, Longitude: 76.622658