

NEELAKURINJI BLOOMS



God's Own Country

www.keralatourism.org/neelakurinji



The legendary Neelakurinji blooms!

(August-October 2018)

Yes folks. You heard that right! The long wait is now over! The hills of Munnar will soon be bathed in a dreamy shade of blue. The Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthianus*) blooms only once in every 12 years and it sure is a sight to behold!

Here, with pleasure, Kerala Tourism offers you in-depth insights into the 'Neelakurinji Phenomenon' through photographs of the blooming in 1982 and 1994, video clips of the Kurinji and other nearby attractions, the best routes to reach the flowering site at Rajamala, travel writers who share their experiences of having witnessed the flowering in the previous years and also scholarly articles on preserving the endangered Kurinji as well.

Why the NeelaKurinji flowers only once in 12 years?

Come! Join Mother Nature to celebrate blue in style!



How to Reach?

Where to Stay?

**Why the Neelakurinji
Blooms Only Once in 12
years**

Kurinji Pictures

1982 | 1994 | 2006

Kurinji Videos





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Neelakurinji

Every twelve years, the hills of Munnar in Kerala burst into a sea of blue, a rare natural spectacle for which travellers make a beeline. An endless stretch of rolling hills carpeted with tiny blue flowers welcomes the visitors. It is the time Neelakurinji, a flower with 40 odd varieties, blossoms in all its grandeur.

The long wait of twelve years is finally over. The hills will soon be bathed in a dreamy shade of blue from August 2018 to October 2018. Are you ready?

Botanists call it the blooming of 'Strobilanthes kunthianus', the botanical name of Neelakurinji. Neela in local parlance translates to the colour blue and Kurinji is the local name for the flower.

This stellar phenomenon can be witnessed between the months of August 2018 and October 2018 when the flower blooms in all its glory unleashing a visual extravaganza. In fact, there is no better time to visit Munnar than when the Neelakurinji blooms en masse.

The Nilgiri Tahr, the endangered mountain goat, is endemic to these hills. The majestic Tahr ambling down the hills that are swathed in Neelakurinji makes for an extremely enigmatic sight.

Flooded with travel requests, many tour operators have opened their bookings well in advance. A host of packages are now available for travellers. Moreover, tour planners and adventure clubs organise trekking in these hills when the Neelakurinji blooms. This unique lifecycle of the plant makes the hills a must-visit destination for biologists and nature enthusiasts alike.



Why the Neelakurinji flowers only once in 12 years?

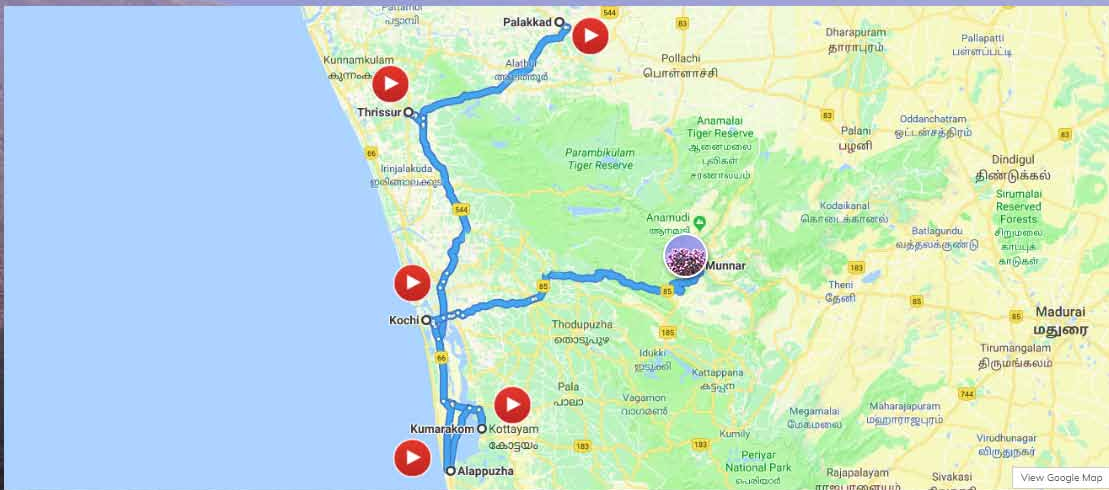
Among plants, there are annuals and perennials. Annual plants complete their life cycle in one year. They grow from the seed, bloom, produce seeds and die in one growing season. Perennials live for more than two years and usually flower every year and set seeds.

Some perennials flower only once in their lifetime, set seeds and die. The next generation of the plants are established from these seeds and the cycle is repeated. Such plants are known as monocarpic, opposed to polycarpic plants that flower and set seeds many times during its lifetime. Monocarpic plants flower only after attaining maturity. The time taken by different species may differ in this respect.

Bamboos are monocarpic plants taking more than 40 years to mature and flower. Another characteristic shown by such plants is that these will flower gregariously in a single season. This happens in the case of bamboos and Kurinjis. The term 'plictiesials' is used to refer to such plants. The time taken to mature varies in different species of Kurinjis. So different species of Kurinjis have different intervals of flowering. Neelakurinji matures in 12 years time and flowers gregariously every 12 years.

Prof. E. Kunhikrishnan

How to reach Eravikulam from major destinations



KURINJI PICTURES



STROBILANTHES VARIETIES



NEELAKURINJI - 1982



NEELAKURINJI - 1994



NEELAKURINJI - 2006

VISITORS GUIDELINES



Do not pluck the flowers or plant. They are an endangered endemic species and an integral part of the ecosystem. Any harm to even a single plant will impact the entire region at large.

Please understand that the plants will grow only above an altitude of 1500 meters and plucking them in hopes of growing them at home will be in vain.

The Kurinji plants are fire resistant and act as a natural protector to the grasslands from forest fires and also check soil erosion so please refrain from harming the plant.

If harmed the Kurinji will cease to exist not only denying future generations the sacred experience of witnessing its flowering but also irreparably damage the delicate balance of the environment.

The Neelakurinji flowering area is a **STRICTLY NO PLASTIC ZONE**. Please cooperate.

Do not forget, our Earth is our responsibility.

ERAVIKULAM NATIONAL PARK

Munnar is among the crown jewels of God's Own Country and has attracted visitors from around the world for centuries due to its natural splendour. Hidden inside, lies the famous Eravikulam National Park, the home and sanctuary of the Nilgiri Tahr. This sacred haven for this exotic animal is a relief in a time when different species are disappearing off the face of the planet. Situated in the Devikulam Taluk of Idukki district, people also flock to this park to view the special Neelakurinji flowers that bloom once every 12 years.

The park also boasts of hosting South India's highest peak, Anamudi (2695 m), in its southern area. This park is spread over an area of 97 square kilometers and packs tons of fun spots for people to have a good time in. The Rajamalai region of the park is open to the public and from here; the exotic Nilgiri Tahr can be viewed. The Rajamalai region falls under the tourism zone of the park. The other two are the Core area and Buffer area which are both not open to the public. There is a host of trekking options as well in the area.

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The rare flora and fauna present in the park also attract visitors. Official vehicles take people on trips where one can experience the biodiversity of a high elevation shola-grassland system. One can view rare terrestrial and epiphytic orchids and beautiful wild balsams along with the Nilgiri Langur, leopards and the Indian Bison as well. The early months of the year are the only time when the park is closed as this when the Tahrs are calving.

KURINJI VIDEOS



ALAPPUZHA



ATHIRAPPALLY & VAZHACHAL



MUNNAR TEA FACTORY



C.S.I. CHRIST CHURCH,
MUNNAR



CARMELAGIRI ELEPHANT PARK,
MUNNAR



KUMARAKOM



THEKKADY



MATTUPETTY DAM



VATTAVADA MUNNAR



HOW TO REACH
ERAVIKULAM FROM THRISSUR?



HOW TO REACH
ERAVIKULAM FROM ALAPPUZHA?



HOW TO REACH
ERAVIKULAM FROM KOCHI?



HOW TO REACH
ERAVIKULAM FROM KUMARAKOM?



HOW TO REACH
ERAVIKULAM FROM PALAKKAD?



HOW TO REACH
KERALA?



WHY TOP STATION, THE BEST PLACE
TO VIEW KURINJI FLOWERS



NEELAKURUNJI
BLOOMING 2018



MUNNAR ON THE WAY
IN SEARCH OF THE NEELAKURINJI



TWELVE YEAR WAIT IS OVER



VALLEYS OF ERAVIKULAM AND
NEELAKURINJI | KURINJI SEASON 2018



MARAYOOR AND NEELAKURINJI



ENJOY THE VIEW OF NEELAKURINJI
AND NILGIRI TAHR



MUNNAR'S TEA PLANTATIONS
AND NEELAKURINJI



PLAN YOUR VISIT FOR THE
NEELAKURINJI BLOOM



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

Munnar
Peerumedu
Rajamala
Periyar
Marayoor
Devikulam
Mattupetty



Munnar rises as three mountain streams merge - Mudrapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala. 1,600 m above sea level, this hill station was once the summer resort of the erstwhile British Government in South India. Sprawling tea plantations, picturesque towns, winding lanes and holiday facilities make this a popular resort town. Among the exotic flora found in the forests and grasslands here is the Neelakurinji. This flower which bathes the hills in blue once in every twelve years, will bloom next in 2018. Munnar also has the highest peak in South India, Anamudi, which towers over 2,695 m.



Let us now explore some of the options in and around Munnar that will provide travellers ample opportunities to enjoy the captivating hill station of Munnar.

Getting there

Aluva about 108 km and Angamali, about 109 km are the nearest railway stations. Cochin International Airport, about 108 km is the nearest airport.





Peerumedu is a lovely hill station located about 40 km from Kumily, Idukki district in Central Kerala, at an altitude of 915 m above sea level. It is an ideal retreat in the Western Ghats and a choice break for tourists en route to the Periyar Tiger Reserve. This famous plantation town, takes its name from Peer Mohammed, a Sufi saint and close associate of the erstwhile royal family of Travancore.

Wide vistas of tea, cardamom, rubber and coffee plantations interspersed with silver cascades, sculptural rocks, meadows and mist-cloaked hilltops make Peerumedu an unforgettable experience.

Peerumedu and its surroundings are suitable for trekking, cycling and horse riding. Kuttikanam, a place for adventure tourism and trekking, is just 3 km from Peerumedu (Peermede).

Getting there

Kottayam, about 54 km is the nearest railway station
Cochin International Airport, about 120 km
is the nearest airport





RAJAMALA

People flock to Rajamala to watch the Nilgiri Tahr in its natural habitat but it is the intrinsic beauty of the destination that makes you wish you never leave. Rajamala is among the finest hill stations in Idukki, located around 15 km from Munnar. You're surrounded by what seems like a lush green carpet on all sides. Rare flora and fauna abound along with some of the finest trekking trails in the area. These take you to some of the most wonderful vantage points in the district where the entire valley seems to open up on command.

Getting there

Kottayam, about 142 km is the nearest railway station
Cochin International Airport,
about 130 km away is the nearest airport





PERIYAR

The very sound of the word Thekkady conjures up images of elephants, unending chains of hills and spice scented plantations. The Periyar forests of Thekkady is one of the finest wildlife reserves in India. Spread across the entire district are the picturesque plantations and hill towns that nestle beautiful trails for treks and mountain walks.

Wealth of Periyar Forests

There are over 1965 flowering plants including 171 grass species and 143 species of orchids here. The only south Indian conifer, scientifically known as *Podocarpus Wallichianus*, grows in the forests of the Periyar Tiger Reserve. [more](#)

Getting there

Kottayam, about 142 km away is the nearest railway station
Cochin International Airport,
about 130 km is the nearest airport





MARAYOOR

Sandalwood in Kerala is synonymous with Marayoor. The reason is simple - it is the only place in God's Own Country that has a natural growth of Sandalwood Trees. Its legendary product is famous across the country and has competed on equal terms with other areas with larger pockets of Sandalwood Forests, especially in Southern India.

With murals and relics from the New Stone Age Civilisation, a gigantic Children's Park and a Sandalwood Factory run by the Forest Department form the core of the attractions here. People also throng to visit the ancient Dolmenoid Cists (Dolmenoids were burial chambers made of four stones placed on edges and covered by a fifth one called the cap stone) in *Muniyara*.

Getting there

Kottayam, about 142 km away is the nearest railway station
Cochin International Airport,
about 130 km is the nearest airport





DEVIKULAM

Devikulam is a wonderful picnic spot located 8 kilometres away from Munnar. Its velvet lawns and vast range of exotic flora and fauna have made it a must visit spot for all who are in the vicinity. The nearby Sita Devi Lake is frequented by visitors throughout the year. Its pristine waters and picturesque surroundings make it a beautiful location to unwind. This area is also perfect for trout fishing.

Getting there

Aluva, about 112 km is the nearest railway station
Cochin International Airport,
about 111 km is the nearest airport



MATTUPETTY

Mattupetty is among the most visited destinations in the tourist hotbed of Munnar. It is a beautiful picnic spot that regularly attracts visitors. People love visiting the dam and lake here and families can regularly be seen enjoying a fine afternoon in the area. The view of the valley from here is breath-taking and one gets to simply relax and enjoy the beautiful weather.

The lush green tea plantations and forests in and around Mattupetty are ideal for trekking and host a large number of unique bird species. The District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC), Idukki provides boating facilities at Mattupetty Dam that are loved by all visitors. The drive up the location itself is cherished by all who embark upon it, as the mist-covered valleys rising to meet you are a truly awe-inspiring sight.

Getting there

Angamali, about 109 km is the nearest railway station
Cochin International Airport, about 108 km is the
nearest airport

