

Kerala Tourism

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Kerala to reopen domestic tourism sector in Sept

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Clip 1

Clip 2

Image

Text

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EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
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KERALA has decided to reopen its tourism sector for domestic travellers from September, coinciding with Onam celebrations but adhering to Covid-19 protocol, Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran said on Tuesday. The government also announced a ₹455-crore loan scheme to support the sector, which has been the most-affected due to the pandemic.

"The plan is to reopen the tourism sector as early as possible," said Kadakampally.

"We've opened the temples with restrictions. Similarly, tourist centres will also have reasonable restrictions."

Kerala will follow in the footsteps of Goa, Himachal

Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which all have opened their tourist spots to domestic travellers. In those states, travellers will have to carry a Covid negative certificate, pre-booking of accommodation (at least five days prior booking in Himachal Pradesh) and should stay for a minimum of three to five days.

the rise in Covid cases resulted in the closure of the sector, which is a major revenue earner for the government.

IMA-Cochin president Dr Rajeew Jayadevan said the tourism sector can be opened but under strict protocol to ensure that there is no crowding or mass gathering.

"So, we can allow individuals, couples and families but there can be no conventions or campfires," he said. "On the one hand you have health and on the other sustenance. In this case, we need to ensure that both go together without affecting the other." • More on P5



₹455-crore loan scheme announced

Kerala has announced a ₹455-crore loan scheme for tourism sector. The existing entrepreneurs can avail upto ₹25 lakh and small ventures up to ₹3 lakh.

Pradesh and Uttarakhand, which all have opened their tourist spots to domestic travellers. In those states, travellers will have to carry a Covid

Kerala had opened the tourist destinations for a brief period immediately after the general lockdown. However, a lack of patronage along with