

THE HINDU

Tourist destinations, except beaches, to open today

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Two-phase opening up of sector adhering to COVID norms

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Enabling the revival of the tourism industry, all tourist destinations in the State, except beaches, will be opened to visitors and domestic tourists from Monday after remaining closed for over six months owing to restrictions to contain COVID-19.

Advancing the plan to open up the sector in a staggered manner by three days in the wake of the arrival of visitors to Wayanad and other places, the government has allowed visitors and domestic tourists to the hill stations, adventure tourism centres, Ayurveda centres, and backwater destinations. Houseboats, safari, and speed boats will also be available for tourists from Monday.



Rosy days? Pink water lilies in full bloom along the polders at Ambattukadavu, near Kottayam, on Sunday. The location had hosted a tourism festival coinciding with the flowering season last year. — VISHNU PRATHAPAN

The government has issued orders for the two-phase opening up of the tourism sector adhering to CO-

VID-19 protocols. Beach destinations will be opened only in Phase II, beginning on November 1.

All domestic tourists will have to register on www.covid19jagratha.kerala.nic.in and will have

to follow the COVID-19 protocols. Those showing symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 infection should not travel to the State.

Domestic tourists will have to wear masks, ensure physical distancing of two metres, and use sanitisers.

Domestic tourists coming to the State for trips lasting up to seven days need not undergo quarantine. Those planning for holidaying in the State for more than seven days should come with a COVID-19-negative certificate or undergo a test immediately on reaching the State.

Revival of industry

Minister for Tourism Kadakampally Surendran said on Sunday that the decision to open up the sector had been taken to alleviate the misery faced by the stakeholders, in line with the steps taken by other States. Besides, tourism was assessed to be what was needed for the revival of the industry.

The Deputy Director and Secretaries of the District Tourism Promotion Councils have been asked to ensure that COVID-19 protocols are followed at destinations.