

THENMALA SHENDURNEY

Glistening Hills of Honey

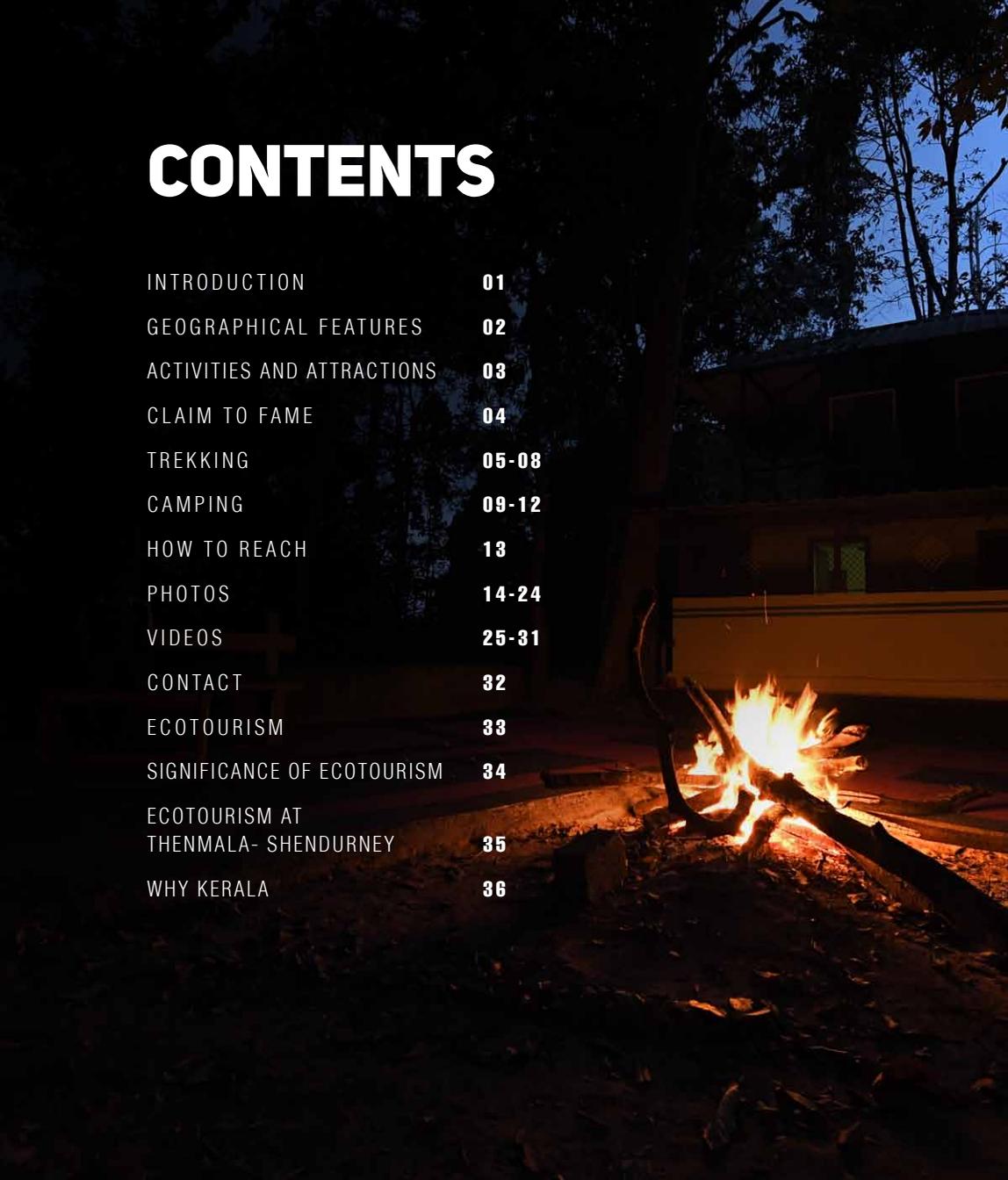


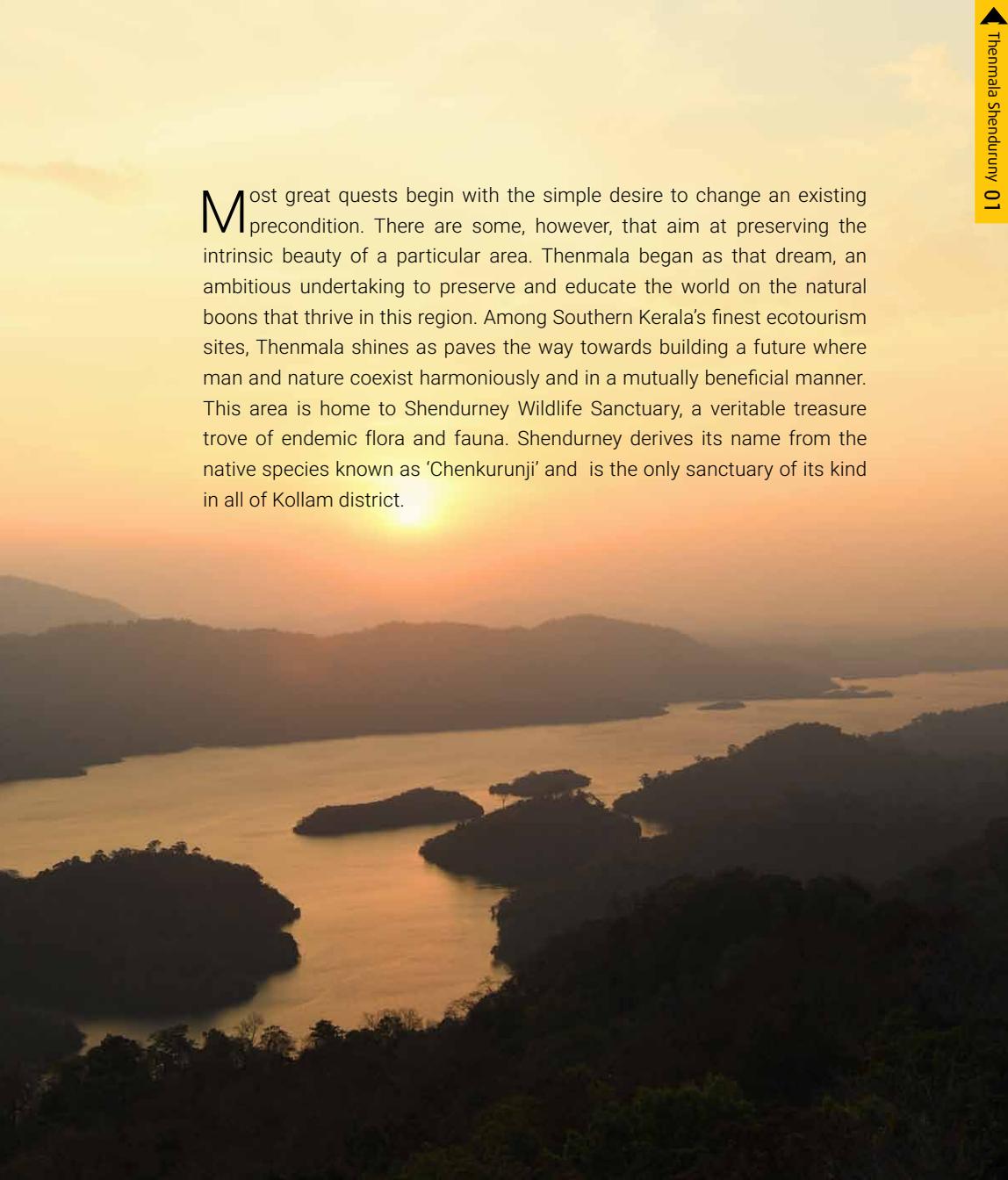
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Most great quests begin with the simple desire to change an existing precondition. There are some, however, that aim at preserving the intrinsic beauty of a particular area. Thenmala began as that dream, an ambitious undertaking to preserve and educate the world on the natural boons that thrive in this region. Among Southern Kerala's finest ecotourism sites, Thenmala shines as it paves the way towards building a future where man and nature coexist harmoniously and in a mutually beneficial manner. This area is home to Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, a veritable treasure trove of endemic flora and fauna. Shendurney derives its name from the native species known as 'Chenkunrui' and is the only sanctuary of its kind in all of Kollam district.



Geographical Features



Holding the record of being India's first planned ecotourism destination, it is located 66 km to the east of Kollam and 72 km from Thiruvananthapuram. It lies at the junction of the Kollam-Shencottah road and the Trivandrum-Shencottah Road. The overall property covers the majestic hill ranges of Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta and Kollam districts. Nearby Shenduruney Wildlife Sanctuary covers a total area of 171 sq. km and comes under the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve.

Activities and Attractions

Spread out over 10 specialized ecotourism spots, it encompasses everything from boat rides to leisurely walks to even adventure sports like mountain biking and rock climbing. Add to these the visuals of Themala Dam, the swaying bridge available at the Leisure Zone, winding pathways, boardwalk, sculpture garden and the deep woods of Themala are some the special attractions at this wonderful site. Nearby lie a famous picnic spot and one of the highest waterfalls in Kerala, Palaruvi, which literally means 'a stream of milk'. It is divided into three major zones, each with a particular theme – Culture Zone, Leisure Zone and Adventure Zone.



Claim to Fame

Its very name, 'Themala', translates to 'Honey Hill'. The place is famous for its high-quality honey that is famous around the world and is always in high demand. The surrounding dense forest is also known for the timber available here, with its overall terrain being dotted by rubber and tree plantations. The Nakshatravanam, a nursery of trees that are considered sacred to the 27 constellations, has people thronging to it to take home a sapling of the tree related to their own birth star. At the banks of the Kallada lies Themala's iconic Deer Rehabilitation Centre, its inhabitants include deer that have unfortunately strayed out of the forest. One always gets to see barking deer, spotted deer and sambar deer casually grazing in these parts at all times. Its Butterfly Park hosts around 125 species and many rare avian species as well, especially hornbills.

TREKKING

Shenduruney

Here lies one of Thenmala's most visited sites. Visitors are treated to one of Southern Kerala's finest wildlife sanctuaries, with interspersed ravines and age-old trails. The visuals on offer include herds of frolicking deer and bison, along with sightings of the rare Chenkurunji (*Glutatravancorica*) tree. You are offered an opportunity to explore the unique beauty of Shendurney Forests with two special types of trekking programmes– Soft trekking and Hard trekking.

The hard trekking options include around 4 hours of trekking to Kattilappara and Neduvannorkadavu.

For booking,

 85476 02930
85476 02931

Cost of the Package:

Rs.2000 per person

Sky Walk

Sky Walk is a program designed for those who wish to soak in all of nature from a special vantage point. This is a 4-hour trekking programme with a specific theme of conservation of nature. It lets one enjoy the scenic beauty of Parappa Dam (Thennala Dam) and eventually passes through semi-evergreen forests where one gets to see a bunch of the local wildlife congregating around water sources. The trek encompasses the areas of Enippara and Mananthara inside the forest. A maximum of 10 persons can go at a specific time and it is among the best group trips on offer here.

For booking,

85476 02930
85476 02931

Cost of the Package:

Rs.2000/- per person



TREKKING

Reservoir Walk

This package is meant for those who wish to have more of a casual stroll in these parts, where you get to explore the many secrets of the park at a more relaxed pace. It is among the more popular soft trek programs that help people enjoy the natural sounds and even take a dip in the streams that are extremely refreshing. The flora and fauna on display are simply breathtaking.

One must never forget the panoramic view of the reservoir. This two and a half trekking trail passes through the dense forests that encase some of the most novel spots in all of Kerala including Rosemala and Pallivasal.

Timings:

8 A.M. -10.30 A.M.
10.30 A.M.-1 P.M.
2 P.M.-4.30P.M.

For booking,

8547602930
8547602931

Cost of the Package:

Rs. 500/ person
Minimum cost: Rs. 2000/-

Wet 'N' Wild Trail

This is the fun yet intensive package that has gained a lot of traction among our visitors over the years. It is a full day trekking programme that lasts about 8 hours and covers a total of 18 km in the process. During the trek, at about the 1000m elevation mark, one gets a mesmerizing view of the entire forest and its many inhabitants. Elephant, Gaur, Sambar etc. are often sighted along this route and many rare avian species can be encountered on the way. A maximum of 5 persons can go trekking at a time and you are helped along with 2 trained guides and a forest guard at all times.

Timings:

8.00 am to 4.00 pm

For booking,



8547602930

8547602931

Cost of the Package:

Rs.400 for Adults

Rs.250 for Children

Rs.500 for Foreign
Nationals



Cost of the Package:

Rs. 7500/- for 2 persons
Rs. 1500/ head for extra persons

CAMPING

Idimuzhanganpara Nights

The all immersive trip is exactly what hardcore nature enthusiasts seek. This is a special opportunity to live and breathe the very forest at its most vulnerable. It combines elements of the hiking experience that can never be observed during the day. A trekking and camping programme which lets travellers trek through beautiful forest paths in the sanctuary and stay at the special camp near the beautiful reservoir called the Idimuzhanganpara camp. Trekking and boat rides are the only way to reach these places. The camp can be accessed either via hard trekking or by boat. Long walks on ancient forest trails, bird and butterfly watching and boating in the Shenduruny Lake are the highlights of this package. The delicious local cuisine is also included in the package.

**Cost of the Package:**

Rs.7500 for 2 persons
Rs. 1500/ head for extra persons

CAMPING

Woody Rockwood

This is a unique project which lets tourists enjoy the water bodies of the park at their finest. It lets visitors trek through the forests along the side of the streams and simply soak in the breeze of the forest. It has a charming ambience of its own, with the trees and canopies lulling your mind and invoking a deep sense of calm and peace.

This package also offers one the rare opportunity to come across some of the rare wildlife in Shenduruny, such as Lion-tailed macaque, Sloth bear, Elephants, Guar, Nilgiri langur etc. Tourists are provided with an A/C Thar vehicle for reaching the Rockwood camp shed situated deep inside the forests. The trip ends with special local delicacies being offered to the visitors.



CAMPING

Kurumthotti Top Hut Camping

Panoramic visuals need specific vantage points that truly make those words come to life. A dream come true package for all our beloved visitors, this package includes stay in a treetop hut located within the forests of Shenduruny sanctuary. Every single living being inside the forest now is right there in front of your very eyes. You can see them go about their day as you idly enjoy the food and amazing climate that this place constantly has to offer.

CAMPING

Rosemala - Pallivaasal Trekking

Spa 'N' Pallivaasal is another trekking and camping programme at Shenduruny. Rosemala is one of the true hidden gems in the entire state. It gets its name because it appeared like the unfurling petals of a rose, and since then, the trails here have been on most people's itinerary list while exploring Southern Kerala.

The forest road leading to Rosemala is steep and winding. You can absorb the magnificence of several mountain streams on your path through the thick forest tracts. Hiring a jeep would be the best choice to reach Rosemala. You can seek the help of the forest department for the journey. Here, the campers will be awestruck by the many special jewels interspersed about its landscape, along with a natural spa experience in the stream of Pallivaasal.

This package also includes trekking to a waterfall hidden in the forest, bird watching and camping.

Cost of the Package:

Rs.7500/- for 2 persons
Rs. 1500/- head for extra persons



How to reach



Nearest Railway Station:

Shenkottah, about 29 km and Kollam, about 66 km away.



Nearest Airport:

Trivandrum International Airport, about 72 km away.

Location

Latitude: 8.960346, Longitude: 77.061836



Photos

The scenic of Parappan Dam of Thenmala Dam from Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary.



Photos

Rockwood Camp - a stay over programme inside
the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary in Kollam.



Photos

Elevated Walkway of Themala Ecotourism location.



Photos

Boating in the Shenduruney Wildlife Sanctuary



Photos

Rosemala Pallivaasal Trekking - one of the trekking programmes to the visitors of Shendurney. Rosemala is one of the less explored eco tourism spots in Kerala.



Photos

Boating at Thenmala



Photos

Exploring the wildlife at Shendurney



Photos

Kurumthotti Top Hut Camping inside Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary.



Photos

A stream inside the jungles of Thermala - Shendurney.



Photos

The Mother and the baby: After a refreshing bath going back to the forests



Photos



Videos

Thenmala Ecotourism



Woody Rockwood Camping at Shendurung



Kurumthotti Top Hut Camping



Boating at Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary



*Scenic beauty Of
Parappur Dam or Thenmala Dam*



Idimuzhanganpara Nights Eco tourism Programme at Shendurung





CONTACT US

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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 Thenmala - Shendurney



From the very beginning, Thenmala aimed at being beyond the simple tag of an 'Ecotourism Project'. Regular steps have been taken to integrate the natural boons in these parts with internationally accepted tourism norms. All visitors get to learn and experience how modern technological inventions and simple heartfelt planning can go a long way in the process of coexisting with nature. Thenmala is living testament to the fact that man can build alongside nature instead of degrading and sullyng their intrinsic beauty. Each stroll, swim or hike takes you on a special through specific zones that nurture our very soul at every point, with nature being the perfect host it has always been.

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.

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.