

MESMERIZING
Malabar

Suranga

WATER AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL



Water

At the end of The tunnel

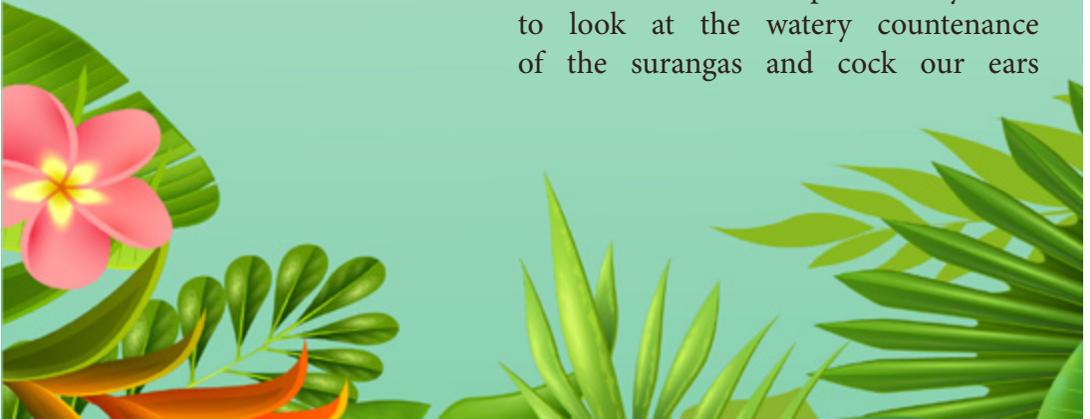
There was an age when the life of humans was completely in sync with the ways of Nature. While much of it has vanished with increasing urbanization, vestiges of that bygone culture are still to be seen in a region in Kerala that lies close to Karnataka. Known as Malabar, this northern end of Kerala is the abode of history, culture and environmental uniqueness. The sons and soil of this place continue to value and nurture the few living remnants of the past that time has not destroyed. They are the “Surangas” or tunnel wells which give north Malabar its most unusual feature.



North Malabar is a region that is rich in hills, slopes and valleys. And here people do not dig into the earth to reach the wellsprings of water, as is the practice among all human communities. Rather, they carve tunnels and walk towards the source. The older generations of natives not only had their own means of divining the presence of water but the skill too to bring this life-nourishing liquid to their settlements, along the tunnels they built. The wet trails of the region's ancestors have not gone dry yet! To this day the surangas give relief to the parched throat, and are a feast to the eye.

Among the surviving experts in Kasaragod who can still design surangas, the most experienced and skilled person is C. Kunjambu, whom the locals lovingly call “Jala shilpi” [Water sculptor]. He has carved out many surangas over 80 feet long, overcoming several accidents, and in his 66th year is still active in the field. Having started his vocation at the tender age of 14, he has crossed his golden jubilee in this uncommon career.

Perhaps the drops of water, that trickle through the dark recesses of the earth and fall into grateful, cupped palms of the natives, have a lot to say about the olden times, the people of those days, and the miraculous phenomena of Nature . . . Perhaps we only have to look at the watery countenance of the surangas and cock our ears



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Amakkulam
- Eleri Cave
- Ranipuram
- Bandadukka Forest
- Kasaragod



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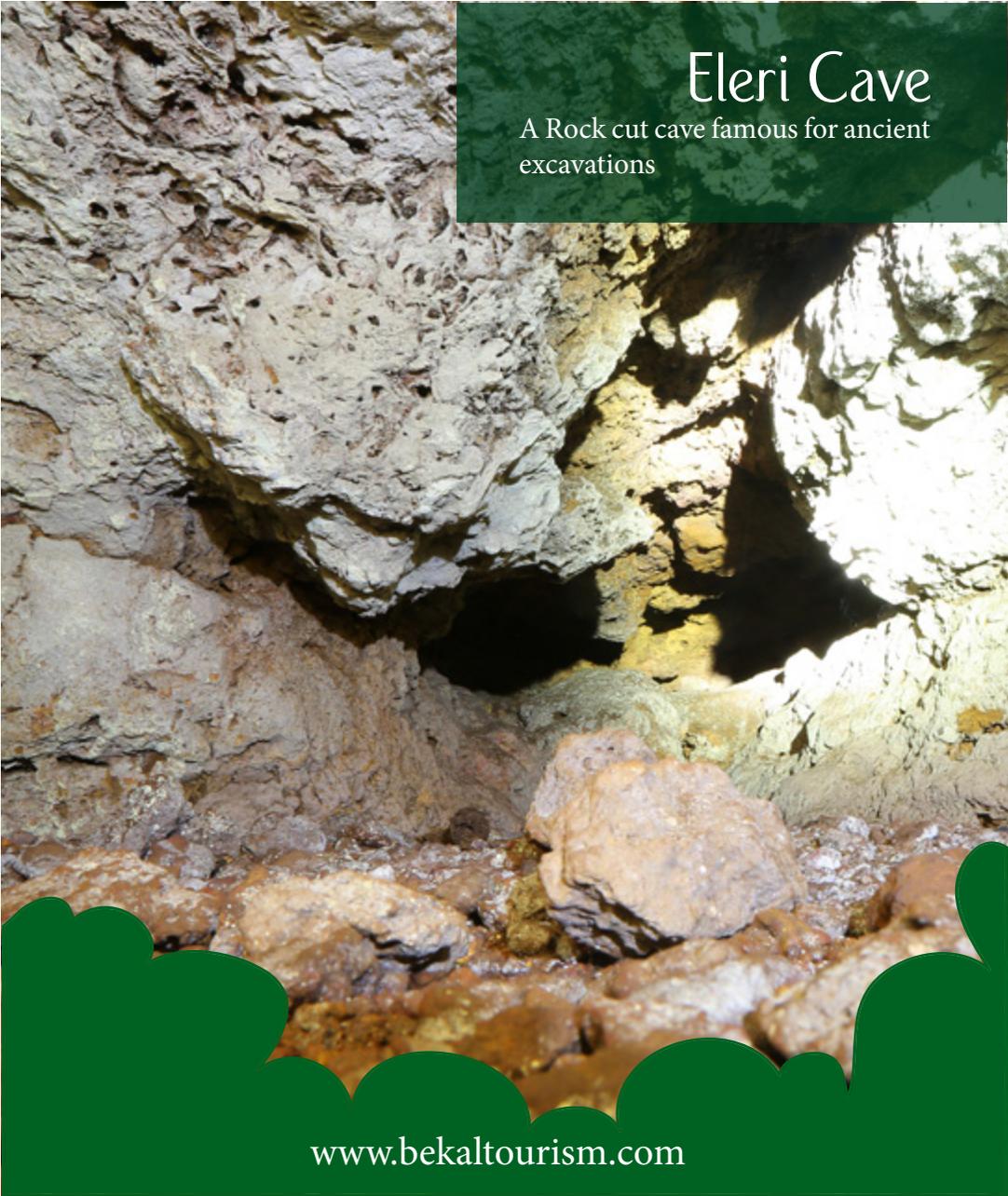


Aamakkulam

Aamakkulam, literally meaning the pond of turtles, is a popular place where people love to simply sit and observe these freshwater reptiles go about their day.



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Eleri Cave

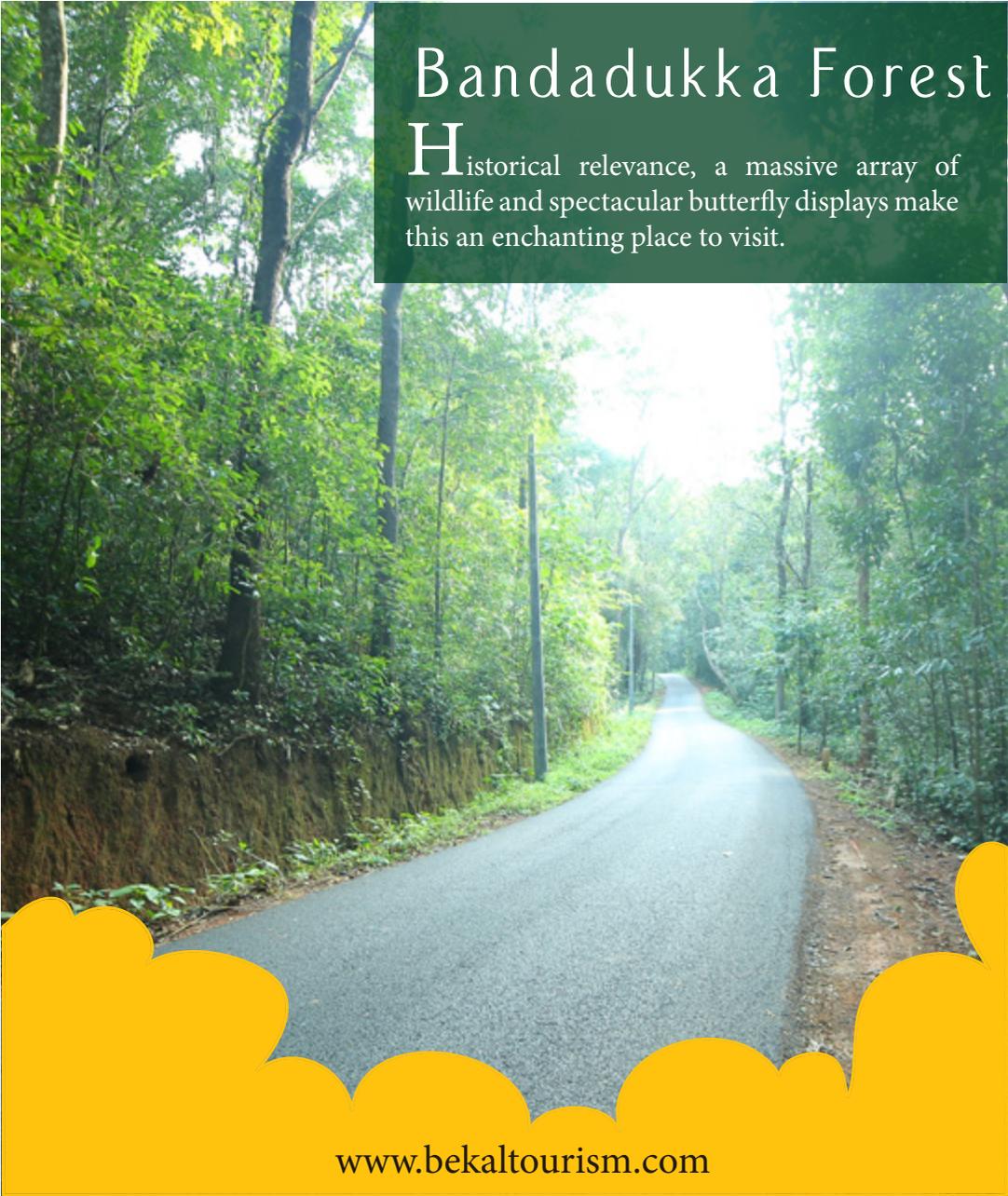
A Rock cut cave famous for ancient excavations

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Ranipuram

This is one of the largest hills in all of North Kerala and is popularly considered as Kerala's answer to Ooty. Nature lovers throng to this site in large numbers throughout the year.





Bandadukka Forest

Historical relevance, a massive array of wildlife and spectacular butterfly displays make this an enchanting place to visit.

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Kasaragod

This tranquil place is famous as the land of gods, sea-kissed forts, majestic hills, rivers and delightful beaches.





Amakkulam



Ranipuram



Kasaragod

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