CHAPTER III

HERITAGE CENTRES IN KERALA

The previous chapter has given a description about the growth, development and present position of tourism in general and specifically about Heritage Tourism in Kerala with particular attention to domestic as well as foreign tourists.

Interview with various officials of tourism related activities and the pilot study made it clear that Tourism in general and Heritage Tourism in particular is concentrated in certain locations. This may be partly due to the personal motives of the tour operators, Travel agents or the lack of infrastructure or lack of information to the touring team. In effect there are many such unnoticed spots in and around the major tourist spots. This chapter is intended to highlight the major Heritage spots as well as the neglected tourist spots available in Kerala.
Table 3.1

Mostly visited Heritage destinations in different districts in Kerala

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Major heritage destinations</th>
<th>incidence of visit</th>
<th>Weighted Average score</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ernakulam</td>
<td>Fort Kochi, Mattancherry, Willingdon Island</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fort Vypeen Integrated Heritage Zone.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ernakulam Central Area Heritage Zone.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fort area, Temples, Palaces</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hill Palace</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christian settlement, Churches</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tamil Brahmin settlement, Konkini settlement.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Temple, Palace in Edappally &amp; Trikkakara</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Trissur</td>
<td>Vadakkumnathan temple</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10.6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guruvayoor temple</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrivananthapuram</td>
<td>Padmanabhapuram Temple &amp; Priest’s quarters</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agraharams of Tulu and Tamil Brahmins.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kanakakkunnu, kuthirakmalika Palaces</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Napier Museum, Museum Gates,</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sreechitra Art Gallery, Natural Museum building,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University College Compound</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nedumangadu Koyikkal palace</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kerala University, Science &amp; Technology Museum</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pojappura Mandapam, Mandapams</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vellayambalam palace</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Churches, Mosque, Temples</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>
## Table 3.2
Mostly visited Heritage destinations in different districts in Kerala

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Major heritage destinations</th>
<th>Incidence of visit</th>
<th>Weighted Avg Score</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alapuzha</td>
<td>coir industry, houseboat cruise</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idukki</td>
<td>Munnar Tea Museum, Marayoor tombs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasaragod</td>
<td>Siva Temple of Adoor, Ananthapura Lake Temple, Bekal fort, Chandragiri Fort</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kollam</td>
<td>Thangassery fort</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kannur</td>
<td>St.Angelo fort</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kottayam</td>
<td>Krishna Menon museum</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasaragod</td>
<td>Kaduthuruthy valiya palli &amp; Muttuchira church</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paravur</td>
<td>Aruvithara, Parumala &amp; Manarcaid churches</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palakkadu</td>
<td>Palakkad fort</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palakkadu</td>
<td>Mud fort &amp; Trithala temple</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waynad</td>
<td>Kuruvadweep, Edakkal Caves, Tirunelli temple, Pallikunnu church, Pazhasi tomb, Jain temple, Ambalavayal heritage museum</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1 TEMPLES

3.1.1. Padmanabhaswamy temple

The Padmanabhaswamy temple, also known as the Sri Padmanabhaswamy temple is a famous Hindu temple of Lord Vishnu, located inside the East Fort in the city of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. This is an ancient temple and the city of derives its name from the name of the presiding deity enshrined in the temple. In olden days Sree Padmanabha Temple and its properties were controlled by Ettuveetil Pillamar under the guidance of Ettara Yogam. Later, Marthanda Varma defeated the Pillamar and his cousins "Kunju thampis", took over power. The last major renovation of the temple was done by King Marthanda Varma, Maharaja of the erstwhile princely state of Travancore. He dedicated his kingdom to the deity, and pledged that he and his descendants would serve the kingdom as "servants of the Lord Padmanabha".

3.1.2. Bhagavathy temple

This temple is dated back to 9th – 10th century AD is the earliest structural temple of the ancient devi is in a square plan of the chola type, and is situated at Kottukal village in Neyyattinkara, Vizhinjam. The base pillars are in stone and the super structure in the shape of a dome.
3.1.3 Madavoorpara rock cut temple

This rock temple dated back to 850 AD is located in Iroopara village. It has the styles of Kerala architecture in 7-9 century AD. This cave temple is found at the mid height of the rock, has an oblong shrine.

3.1.4 Neeramonkara temple

This Siva temple belongs to the 14th Century AD. It is in circular Dravida style raised on a circular paved disc which forms the outer path of Circumambulation. The inner wall of this inner ambulatory is square; it is the wall of the prasada proper. It is surmounted by an octagonal dome. The central shrine containing the linga is built of laterite, and between it and the circular prakara wall there are pillars, two on each of the four sides.

3.1.5 Vishnu temple

This temple located at Maranallur village at Aruvikara in Neyyattinkara is of circular vimana with granite adhistana and plastered wall.

3.1.6 Thrivikramangalam temple

This Mahavishnu temple is famous for its sculptural extravagance. The temple appears to be very old. Certain sculptures in front of the temple depict Chola features of 11th and 12th centuries. The figures of Dwarapalakas, singers and Mridangists and the exquisites dance poses on the balustrade to the lateral steps leading to the sanctum sanctorum are worthy to be mentioned.
3.1.7. Thirunarayanapuram temple

The structural temple of 14th century AD is located at Ottoor village in Chirayinkil. Adistana and wall are of granite. Square vimana, tritala type of superstructure, cloister namaskara mandapa etc are the main features of the temple. It is a sikhara type having a combination of the early Vijayanagara style of architecture with local forms and features. The carvings especially of the namaskara mandapa show the characteristic of early Vijayanagara style. Dwarapalakas are of granite. There is a Gajalakshmi figure as lalthatimba.

3.1.8. Kottukal rock cut temple

The Kottukal Rock temple dating back to 8-9th centuries AD is at Ittiva village in Kottarakkara taluk. It represents an outstanding and typical example of the rock cut temple style of Kerala. It has two cells on either side with Shivalingas is each with a projection carrying the figure of Ganapathi at the centre. The Mukhamandapa of the large cell has two pillars carved in rock. The wall of the Mukhamandapa carries a Ganapathi figure. There is a monolithic Nandi in each cave.

3.1.9. Madan kavu

It is in Mangad village, situated 8km north-east of Kollam town. This is a small traditional temple. This urn burial site is demarcated on the surface with uneven blocks of laterite within an area of approximately 10x10 meters. The stone blocks forms three circles and are in slanting position.
3.1.10. Chennamath temple

This old Shiva temple in Meenadu village has circular vimana. Two armed dwarapalakas in stone work is seen here on the flanks of the main door entrance. The balipita is on the open outside the prakara door on the eastern side. It is a unitary temple but with an interesting array of kostha devadas on the wall Gavakshas.

3.1.11. Rock cut temple

This is the oldest cave temple in Kerala and it is located at Kaviyoor village in Thiruvalla Taluk. It belongs to the latter half of the 8th century AD if not earlier as suggested by its close resemblance to later Pallava work. The cave is 19 ft 8 inches broad and 8 ft 6 inches high. Two pillars, 8 ft 8 inches in height, divide the breadth of the cave into three openings, two of which are 5 ft broad the other being only 4 ft 8 inches.

3.1.12. Narasimha temple

This beautiful temple dated back to 14th century AD is located in Chengannur, contains many wooden sculptures. Above the granite adhistana the outer wall is ornamented with 21 panels of different wooden sculptures of deities and puranic scenes. Balipita is well outside the inner scheme.

3.1.13. Pundareekapuram dehaswam

The temple dated to 17-18th century AD, located in Vaikom is of chathurasra vimana having sheet roof. Square ardhamandapa has beautiful carvings on the ceiling. Dwarapalakas present. Main deity is Vishnu with Sathyabhama seated on
Garuda. Beautiful murals are seen on the lime plastered granite walls of the garbhagriha.

3.1.14. Mangaladevi temple

The temple dated back to 8-9th century AD and located in Peerumedu on the top of the Mangaladevi hills facing the Cumbam Valley of Tamilnadu consists of four shrines of different sizes and orientation. There is a sub-shrine with a trunk of an image, the naval of which appears to be that of a female in Artha-Paryanka pose. The image is made of soft granite.

3.1.15. Kallil rock cut temple

The unique rock cut temple at Kallil near perumbavoor which may be assigned to the period after 800 AD was originally a Jain shrine. But during the period of the decline of Jainism, it got itself transformed into a Hindu temple dedicated to Bhagavathi.

3.1.16. Pazhoor perumthrikkovil

It is a sandhara type temple located in Muvattupuzha with cardinal doors on four sides is dated back to 12th century AD. The plinth and the wall together are of granite stone work and the rest of timber and sheet roof in circular vimana. Square ardhamandapa contains beautiful wooden carvings on the ceiling.

3.1.17. Ooramana temple

This structural temple of 12th-13th century AD located in Melmuri, Muvattupuzha is of circular vimana with granite stone plinth with plastered walls bearing beautiful mural paintings. Main deity is Narasimha Murthy facing east.
Dwarapalakas are painted on the wall. Square *ardhamandapa* carries beautiful carvings on the wooden ceiling.

### 3.1.18. Shivanarayana temple

This structural temple dated back to 11-12\textsuperscript{th} century AD is of *Vritta Vimana*. Granite stone for adhistana and wall. Granite wall is coated with plaster on which murals are seen. The square *ardhamandapa* possess carvings of *Navagraha* on the ceiling is located in Thirunayathode, Aluva.

### 3.1.19. Manjapra temple

This rare type of temple of square *sikhara* type is dated back to 9-10 century AD. The roof and all parts of the *Sreekovil* is made of granite rock. The main deity is Vishnu in ‘varadamudra’.

### 3.1.20. Uliyannur mahadeva temple

This structural temple dated back to 12\textsuperscript{th} century AD is in the form of *vritha vimana* with granite *adhisthana*. A unified tiled roof for the whole temple. Pranal a is of unusual pattern with a bull head at the tip and supported by a yakshi figure.

### 3.1.21. Trikkur mahadeva temple

This live rock cut temple is dated to the 8\textsuperscript{th} century AD and has an ever green pond on the top of the rock. The *Sivalinga* faces east and the door of the *garbhagriha* is on the north. There is a Ganapathy sculpture on the eastern wall.
3.1.22. Ariyannoor temple

This temple can be dated to 14th century AD. The temple has a granite adhisthana with laterite but ornate wall. The murals and sculptures around the Garbhagriha are almost deteriorated.

3.1.23. Irunilakode temple

This is one of the few rock cut temples in Kerala with a central figure on the wall of the cell datable to the 8th-9th centuries AD. The linga on the side is believed by the local people as growing in size every day.

3.1.24. Kizhthali temple

This temple located at Kodungallore, which is devoted to Siva, is one of the eighteen Thali temples in Kerala datable to early 13th to 14th century AD.

3.1.25 Guruvayoor temple

The Guruvayur Sree Krishna Temple is a famous Krishna temple located in the town of Guruvayur in the Thrissur district of Kerala.

The presiding deity in the sanctum-sanctorum is Mahavishnu. He is worshipped according to the pooja routines laid down by Adi Sankaracharya and later written formally in the Tantric way by Chennas Narayanan Namboodiri (born in 1427). The Chennas Namboodiris are the hereditary Tantris of the Guruvayur temple. The vedic traditions being followed here with absolute perfection and sincerity is the hallmark of the Guruvayur temple.
3.1.26. Chottanikara temple

It is the most important Temple among the 393 shrines spread over 3 Districts of Kerala and coming under the administration of Cochin Devaswom Board. Apart from the main deity, the temple complex consists of Kizhukkavu Bhagavathy temple, temples for Sastha, Siva, Ganapathi, Nagas and other Upa-Devas.

3.1.27. Sree Venkitathevar temple

This Siva temple is ornamented with the beautiful murals on the walls on the Garbhagriha and magnificent wood carvings on the Griva. The temple itself is a specimen of indigenous style of temple architecture of 19th century. The Garbhagriha and Mukhamandapa are square in form.

3.1.28. Kalpathoor paradevatha temple

This temple dated back to 14th century AD is at Quilandy. Main deity of this temple is Kirathamoorthy facing west. The ancient temple is having granite adhisthana with laterite wall. Dwarapalakas are of wood. The ceiling of the mukhamandapa and the balikalpura has beautiful wooden carvings.

3.1.29. Tirunelli temple

Set in the idyllic backdrop of the Brahmagiri hills near Mananthavady in Wayanad district, It is believed that Lord Brahma, the Creator, himself installed the idol of the presiding deity of the temple – Lord Vishnu, the Preserver– and the second member of the Trinity in Hindu mythology.
3.1.30. Jain temple

A striking Jain temple believed to be constructed during 13th century is dedicated to Ananthanatha Swami represents one of the saints belonging to the Jain faith is situated just six kms from Kalpetta. This temple is in the wayanad district and is commonly known as Tippu’s fort.

3.1.31. Thodeekkulam siva temple

This temple dated back to 10-13th century AD is famous for its murals which seem to belong to the middle stage of Kerala mural tradition perhaps of the 10th -13th century AD. The wall of the Garbhagriha is of laterite with plater coating on which mural scenes are painted.

3.1.32. Aranmula temple

The temple is believed to be built during the Mahabharata era, is located at a distance of 16 Kms from Tiruvalla.

3.1.33. Chendamangalam

A temple, a mosque a church and the remains of a Jewish synagogue lying in close proximity is a rare thing but found in Chendamangalam.

3.1.34. Ettumanur siva temple

This temple built in 16th century is about 12 Kms. from Kottayam. The conical tower above the sanctum is copper plated and looks stunning. This temple has exquisite mural paintings.
3.1.35. Mud fort and temples of Thrithala

This is located on the banks of the Bharathappuzha, in Palakkad district and is noted for its monuments and historic ruins and hence, has great archaeological importance.

3.1.36. Kattil Madom Temple

The Kattil Madom Temple, dated back to 9-10th century AD is a domed structure made of granite slabs, on the Pattambi Guruvayoor road is a Buddhist monument. The temple probably marks the transition from the Chola to the Pandya style of architecture.

3.2 PALACES

3.2.1 Padmanabhapuram palace

Padmanabhapuram was the capital of erstwhile Travancore state till 1792. Now it is in Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu state. But the palace and adjacent area of 6.5 acres of land is placed under the control of the government of Kerala as per the provision of the state reorganization settlement in 1956. Padmanabhapuram Palace, with the earliest structures built in about 1335 AD, is an ancient historical monument representing the traditional style of Southern Kerala.

The most noteworthy edifices are the entrance hall, the council chamber, the Natakasala, the Pooja Mandapa, the Saraswathy shrine and above all the uppirikka Malika which contain well preserved mural paintings. The wall paintings are made of mythological mastery, and are wonderfully fresh and unmutilated.
3.2.2 The Kanakakunnu palace

The Palace was constructed in the reign of the Travancore King, His Highness Sree Moolam Tirunal (1885-1924). This stunning piece of architectural excellence was used by the Travancore royal family to entertain their guests in the earlier days. The interiors are decorated with large crystal chandeliers and exquisite pieces of royal furniture.

3.2.3 Kuthiramalika

Kuthiramalika which means Horse Bungalow takes its name from the roof beams which are carved to resemble the faces of horses. It has on display ornaments, personal effects and weapons of the former Kings the erstwhile princely State of Travancore. It is a true specimen of Kerala's classical architecture. The palace with its excellent carvings and amazing architectural designs itself is a piece of heritage. This architectural delight was built during the reign of Swathi Thirunal (1813-1834 AD).

3.2.4 Koikkal kottaram

The ancient palace at Nedumangad village is famous in history as the residence of the Perakom Collateral branch of the ancient Venad Dynasty. This palace shows the general architectural characteristics of a typical old and influential Kerala house. The gabled roof, the corridors, the nalukettu style and the wooden character of its construction can be seen in the Koikkal palace representing the stylistic perfection of the medieval architecture of southern Kerala. The rich and
varied collection of musical instruments, occupational implements, house hold utensils, models of folk art forms and rare ancient coins etc displayed here represent the rich cultural heritage of the past.

3.2.5 Krishnapuram palace

This palace is the best example for the Kerala style architectural buildings, especially the residence of local Chieftains and royal palaces of Travancore. Its gabled roof, narrow stair-cases, dormer windows, classical impluva, heavy doors, narrow corridors etc are worthy to be mentioned. It carries one of the largest mural paintings of the 18\(^{th}\) century.

3.2.6 Kottayil kovilakom

This is a centre of historical importance. It is the place where the Royal Palace of the Villar Vattathu Raja, who ruled over the area of Chennamangalam and adjacent coastal areas was situated.

3.2.7 Buddha image at Krishnapuram palace

The Buddha image dated back to 9\(^{th}\) century AD is of 96 cm height in yogasana poster. This image was encountered from Maruthoor kulangara near Karunagapally and is now in a better state of protection.

3.2.8 Aranmula palace

Aranmula Palace was built more than 200 years ago. This palace is known as Aranmula Vadakke Kottaram. This palace is one of the rare example of
architectural form 'Naluketu' which is made based on Thatchu Shasthra, or the Science of Carpentry and Traditional Vasthu.

3.2.9 Bolgatty palace

One of the oldest existing Dutch palaces outside Holland, this quaint mansion, built in 1744, by Dutch traders, was later extended and gardens were landscaped around it. In 1947, when India obtained independence, the palace became the property of the state and was later converted into a heritage hotel resort.

3.2.10. Kowdiar palace

Kowdiar Palace in Trivandrum, was built in 1915 by Sree Moolam Thirunal and was gifted to Sethu Parvati Bayi. It is the official residence of the Travancore Royal Family. Kowdiar Palace’s architectural work is famous and has over 150 rooms.

3.2.11. Mattancherry palace

Mattancherry Palace with its medieval charm, situated at Palace Road, Mattancherry, Kochi, was built by the Portuguese and presented to Veera Kerala Varma (1537-65), Raja of Kochi, in 1555 AD. Today, it is a portrait gallery of the Cochin Rajas and notable for some of the best mythological murals in India, which are in the best traditions of Hindu temple art.
3.2.12 Nedumpuram palace

Nedumpuram Palace is situated in Tiruvalla, Pathanamthitta District. The palace belongs to a branch of the Kulasekhara dynasty that ruled the principality of Udayamangalam in Northern Kerala.

The palace is constructed in the traditional complex 'pathinaru kettu' structure, which divided the structure into four blocks of rooms with indoor open courtyards connected to each other. The structure is supported by teak beams and false ceilings.

3.2.13 Pandalam palace

Pandalam palace is the permanent home for the royal family of Pandalam. It is situated on the banks of river Achankovil. Although most of the original buildings have vanished by flood and fires, a few still remain which could be witnessed in the area among the newly constructed buildings. Pandalam Kingdom was established around 903 AD by the Pandalam royal family who are the descendents of the Pandya kings of Madurai.

3.2.14 Shakthan thampuran palace

Shakthan Thampuran Palace is situated in Thrissur and was reconstructed in Kerala-Dutchstyle in 1795 by Ramavarma Thampuran of the erstwhile Princely State of Cochin. This is preserved by Archaeological Department and was converted into a museum in 2005 by State.
3.2.15 Poonjar palace

A glorious testimony to the regal opulence of a bygone era. Royal collection of antiques and exquisite furniture are the attraction to this palace.

3.2.16 Hill palace

Hill Palace built in 1865 is the largest archaeological museum in Kerala, was the administrative office of Kochi Rajas. The complex has an archaeological museum, a heritage museum, a deer park, a pre-historic park and a children’s park. The Centre for Heritage Studies (CHS) an autonomous research and training institute and Manuscript conservation centre set up by the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Kerala

Poonthanam Illam of Perinthalmanna, Alwaye palace, Cochin Bishop’s House (Constructed in the early 16th century), Bastion’s Bungalow (Built in the middle of the 17th century) in Indo European style of architecture, Chittur Garumadam (Memorial of Thunchath Ezhuthachan), Gundert Bungalow – Koder House (Built in the year 1808 AD in Kochi), Mannadi (Memorial of Veluthampi Dalawa) Pierce Leslie Bungalow( Built in 19th century) with a Combination of Portuguese, Dutch and local architecture, Thakur House and Vasco House Fort Kochi (built in 16th century) are the other heritage spots available in Kerala.
3.3 MUSEUMS

3.3.1 Napier museum & art gallery

The Napier Museum named after the former Madras Governor, John Napier, is one of the oldest museums of India built in 1857. This museum complex reveals a glimpse of Kerala’s rich cultural heritage. It is a combination of the Kerala, Mughal, Chinese and Italian architectural styles, and it has a unique natural air conditioning system.

3.3.2 Sree chitra art gallery

The Sree Chitra Art Gallery features a rare collection of paintings by Raja Ravi Varma and Roerich among others, and fascinating works from the Mughal, Rajput and Tanjore schools of art. An oriental collection consisting of paintings from China, Japan, Tibet and Bali offers a visual treat and are a tribute to the art and culture of these countries.

3.3.3 Krishna Menon museum

The Krishna Menon Museum is dedicated to V.K. Krishna Menon, and was established in 1975 in Kozhikode (Calicut). His personal belongings, memorabilia and souvenirs presented to him by great national and international leaders and friends are on exhibit here.
3.3.4 Tea museum

The Tata Tea Museum in Munnar has showcased some of the most interesting aspects of the genesis and growth of the tea plantations of Kerala's high ranges. The museum is a fitting tribute to the toils and commitment of its pioneers, whose efforts helped transform Munnar into a major plantation centre of Kerala.

3.3.5 Ambalavayal heritage museum

The Ambalavayal Heritage Museum, the archaeological museum in Wayanad, has one of Kerala's largest collections of the remnants of an era dating back to the 2nd century A.D. The exhibits here are evidences of an advanced civilisation that existed in the mountains of Wayanad, and it includes articles like clay sculptures, ancient hunting equipment like bows and arrows, stone weapons and other curios.

3.3.6 Arrakkal museum

The Arrakkal Museum is a museum dedicated to the Arakkal family, the only Muslim royal family in Kerala, and which played a prominent role in the history of Malabar. It is still owned by the Arakkal Family Trust and does not fall under the control of the country's archaeology department, the Archaeological Survey of India. It is located at Ayikkara in Kannur.

3.3.7 Indo-portuguese museum

The museum has five main sections: Altar, Treasure, Procession, Civil Life and Cathedral. Among the pieces on display are a piece of the altar made in teak (16th century) from the Church of Our Lady of Hope, Vypeen, a chasuble (19th
century) from Bishop's House, Fort Kochi, processional cross, which is a combination of silver and wood (17th century) from Santa Cruz Cathedral, Fort Kochi, Indo-Portuguese Monstrance (18-19th century), from The Church of Our Lady of Hope, Vypeen.

3.4. FORTS

3.4.1 Pandavanpara

Pandavanpara is a monument standing in gigantic manner, protected by a kind of granite pagoda like natural rock facing west. The engravings at the entrance are mostly floral while on the interior some human figures could be seen in the hunting posture with bow and arrow. This particular characteristic of engraving and polishing in the gate would show that this work was executed most probably by the neolithic people.

3.4.2 Thiruvananthapuram fort

The Thiruvananthapuram fort is built around Sri Padmanabha Swami temple which was the centre of many historical events. Even though the work was started in 1747, during the reign of Marthanda Varma Maharaja, the fort was completed by Karthika Thirunal Dharma Raja in 1787 AD.

3.4.3 Thangassery fort

Thangasseri fort or Dutch in Quilon is situated in Kollam district, was the favorite spot of the Dutch and the Portuguese. The fort was built in the 16th century and at present only the ruins are left behind.
3.4.4 Pallipuram fort

The hexagonal building constructed by the Portuguese in 1503, is the oldest extant European monument in India. In 1663 the Portuguese surrendered it to the Dutch. About 1789, through the strategic diplomacy of Raja Kesavadasan, the fort was purchased by Travancore from the Dutch.

3.4.5 Kottapuram fort

The Kottapuram fort was built by the Portuguese in 1523 AD. Later it was captured and destroyed by the Dutch in 1662. The remains of the fort exists in Kodungalloor.

3.4.6 Palakkad fort

Palakkad Fort, or Tippu’s fort is a well-preserved fort of 18th century situated in the heart of Palghat (Palakkad) town was built by Haider Ali of Mysore, it is today a protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India.

3.4.7 Tippu sultan’s fort

In 1788, Tippu Sultan transferred the capital of the Province of Malabar from Kozhikode to the south bank of Beypore river and built a fort at the modern village of Feroke.

3.4.8 Ezhimala fort at Ettikulam

This fort at Ettikulam lies about 2 km south of mount De-eli or Ezhimala. The fort was built by the Portuguese and subsequently held by the French and the
English. It consists of three hexagonal prismatic structures, one of which has been completely damaged.

3.4.9 St. Angelo fort

A massive triangular laterite fort, replete with a moat and flanking bastions, the St. Angelo's Fort also called Kannur Fort was constructed by the first Portuguese Viceroy, Don Francesco de Almeida in 1505. In 1663, the Dutch captured the fort from the Portuguese and sold it to Ali Raja of Kannur. In 1790 the British who seized control over the fort, renovated and equipped it to be their most important military station in Malabar.

3.4.10 Poyilkotta, muliyar

This laterite fort was believed to be built by the Bednore Naikans in the 17th century AD. The fort is in complete decay. Inside the fort there is a temple, and a big pond with steps.

3.4.11 Chandragiri fort

This ancient fort is made of hard laterite stones. It was built by the Sivappa Nayaka of Bednore in the 17th century AD, who established his authority over the area and built a chain of forts. On the eastern and western side there are two underground passages. A deep well and a pond with flight of steps are there inside the fort.
3.4.12. Bekal fort

It is the largest fort in Kasaragod an important feature of this fort are the water-tank with its flight of steps, the tunnel opening towards the south, the magazine for keeping ammunition and the broad and wide steps leading to the Observation Tower which is a rarity. The Fort appears to have been built up from the sea since almost three fourth of its exteriors is drenched and the waves continually stroke the citadel.

3.4.13 Fort Cochin

The highlights of the fort are the Chinese fishing nets, the Jewish Synagogue, the Dutch palace, the Portuguese and British Architecture. Once an obscure fishing hamlet, Fort Cochin was the first European township in trade in Indian history. The magnificent Chinese fishing nets sketch a spectacular skyline. In 1553 with the permission of Maharaja of Cochin, Fort Immanuel, the first European Fort in India was constructed here by the Portuguese in which they built their houses, Churches and other buildings.

3.4.14 Thalassery fort

Thalassery Fort is in Thalassery (Tellicherry) a town in Kannur District. The British East India Company built the fort in 1708 to establish a stronghold on the Malabar Coast. The square fort, with its massive walls, secret tunnels to the sea and intricately carved huge doors, is an imposing structure.
3.4.15 Cranganore fort

Cranganore Fort, otherwise known as Kodungallur Fort, was built by the Portuguese in 1523 A.D. The Dutch took possession of it in 1661 and later it came under the control of Tipu Sultan. The Dutch wrested it back from Tipu Sultan, but the fort eventually came under the control of Tipu, who destroyed it in the following year.

3.4.16 East fort

The East Fort is located at the heart of the Thiruvananthapuram city, East Fort got its name from the eastern entrance to the fort built by the Kings of Travancore. The old city was all inside the fort on four sides with the Sri Padmanabha Swamy temple at the center. It is said that there were huge metal gates on this entrance to the Fort which was decorated with the symbol of a conch, which was the insignia of the Royal Family of Travancore.

3.4.17 Hosdurg fort

Hosdurg Fort is a fort in Kasaragod district of Kerala state, south India. Hosdurg Fort with its round bastion looks imposing from a distance. Somashekara Nayaka of Keladi Nayaka dynasty of Ikkeri built the fort. The place made well known by the Nithyanandasram with 45 caves.
3.5 CAVES

3.5.1 Ezhuthupara

Ezhuthupara at Marayur is noted for the collection of pre-historic cave paintings. Pictures in this megalithic art gallery are drawn in two different media consisting of reddish brown soil containing multi coloured iron minerals and white clay soil. Similar paintings have not been discovered anywhere else in Kerala.

3.5.2 Cave at Edakkal

Edakkal cave is found on its western slope of Edakkal Hills of Wayanad. The cave contains carved figures, some inscriptions and symbols on the walls. The carvings clearly represent human and animal figures. Human figures with peculiar head dress and swasthika in various forms are distinctly carved. Specimens of circular ‘Sun Symbols’ and some magic squares are seen engraved on the walls of the cave. It is believed to be the ancient human shelters of 5000 BC.

3.5.3 Pilicode cave

It is a megalithic site with number of rock cut tombs, encountered in this laterite zone are of archaeological value.

3.6. CHURCHES

3.6.1 Ancient house of Arnose padiri and St.francis Xavier forane church

Rev. Joannes Ernesto Hanxleden S.J. was one of the most remarkable scholar missionaries who dedicated their lives to enrich Malayalam literature with
their immortal contributions. Arnose Padiri built a residence for himself, which is a rectangular two storied building resembling the pilgrim halls of Hindu temple. The church of St. Francis Xavier Forane was constructed by Arnose Padiri in 1724. It is a beautiful Indo-European style. The roof is made in Kerala style with wood and is supported by fine huge wooden beams.

3.6.2. St. Sebastian church

It is located 22 km north of Alappuzha and was established by the Portuguese missionaries,

3.6.3. Muttuchira church

It is a group of 3 churches, built during different times, symbolic of the evolution of the church architecture in Kerala. - Neo Baroque style. It is located at Muttuchira in Kottayam district.

3.6.4 St.Joseph’s cathedral

The St.Joseph’s Cathedral,Kottayam is the spiritual center of the Jacobite Syrian Christians of the Kottayam diocese

3.6.5 St.Yeldho mar baselios chapel

The Chapel is situated on the banks of Kuroor thodu in the village of Kozhippilli where Saintly Yeldho Mor Baselios Bava met a Hindu Gentleman who guided him to nearby Marthoma Cheriapally.
3.6.6 St. George Simhasana church

St. George Simhasana Church at Perumpilly stands on the site where a Sunday school was started by Saintly Parumala Thirumeni over 100 years ago.

3.6.7 St. Thomas Orthodox Syrian church

Thottamon Church Ranni belongs to the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church which is celebrating its centenary in 2005.

3.6.8 St. George Jacobite Syrian cathedral

Karingachira Cathedral is situated to the east of Cochin City, and west of Hill Palace depicts architecture of olden days.

3.6.9 Malecuriz St. George Dayro

The Malecuriz St. George Dayro (monastery) is situated on a panoramic hill top near Puthencuriz, a small township east of Kochi.

3.6.10 St. Marys Jacobite Syrian church

St. Mary’s Church however is the first among the three ancient churches in Angamaly. The present church is believed to be constructed early 17th century.

3.6.11 St. Mary's Jacobite church

Nadamel Martha Mariam Church, Tripunithura was founded around 12th century A.D. by parishioners of Karingachira Church
3.7 MASJIDS

3.7.1 Cheraman Juma Masjid

This masjid located at Kodungalloor is built in Hindu architectural style, in 628 AD. This is the oldest one in the country and second oldest in the world.

3.8 SYNAGOGUES

3.8.1 Jewish synagogue

The structure was built in the year 1568 and later rebuilt by the Dutch. This is the oldest one in the Common Wealth nations.

3.9 OTHER HERITAGE ATTRACTIONS OF THE STATE

3.9.1 Suspension bridge Punalur

The suspension bridge erected in 1877 spanning the Kallada river in Punalur is the only of its kind in South India and it is 400 ft long. The suspension bridge is now of archaeological interest only.

3.9.2 Coir industry & Kettuvallams of Alappuzha

Alappuzha has always enjoyed an important place in the maritime history of Kerala, with its boat races, backwater holidays, beaches, marine products and coir industry. Another delightful experience while in Alappuzha is a houseboat cruise.
3.9.3 **Buddha images**

This Buddha image located at Mavelikkara is dated back to 9th century AD is about 3 ft height including the pedestal upon which it is seated. It has the jvala, usnisha and the upper cloth over the chest to indicate its Buddhist character. The sculpture has exhibited highly skilled craftsmanship in depicting the characteristics ornamentations.

Another image of Buddha located in Karumady, made of black stones popularly known as Karumadikkuttan. The usnisha, jvala and the traces of the upper cloth passing over the chest indicates that it is a Buddha image. Yet another image of sree Budha located at Bharani kav is executed very elegantly; the upper cloth, particularly the many folded part of it passing over the left shoulder and lying flat on the chest. It is in yogasana posture.

3.9.4 **Marayur tomb**

Marayur civilization is as old as 10,000 B.C. The land and its unique dolmens, caves, and engravings declare the rich heritage of Marayur. Tombs of Marayur is also called Muniyaras, These dolmenoids were burial chambers made of four stones placed on edge and covered by a fifth stone called the cap stone.

3.9.5 **Ernakulam central area heritage zone.**

The Ernakulam Heritage Zone is in fact the heart of today’s City of Kochi. Most work places, Administrative and institutional centers and market places are located here. Institutions such as the Kochi University on foreshore road, Maharaja’s College, Law College, St. Theresa’s college and St. Albert’s College etc. Many
cultural and religious institutions with some of the oldest temples churches, mosques and synagogues also become part of this heritage zone. Old commercial streets with buildings abutting roadsides are also seen in this area, especially in Broadway.

3.9.6. Canal & backwater network heritage zone.

Canal Network is part of our regional traditional heritage planning. These canal systems can be commonly experienced throughout in Kerala in the low-lying coastal areas. The Canals Network in Kochi is very much intertwined with rivers and backwaters. Most of the traditional areas and heritage zones are connected by such canal system. Most public spaces, settlements and institutions are also grown along them.

3.9.7. Stone inscription (Hebrew)

This inscription is seen in front of the Jews synagogue at Chennamangalam. The Hebrew stone inscription having eight lines shows that the synagogue was built in 1615 and the expenditure was met by David Gastiline, one of the leaders of the Jews.

3.9.8. Ariyittuvazhcha Kovilakom

A traditional style Nalukettu which was used for the Ariyittu Vazhcha, a ceremony in connection with the coronation of the new heir of Cochin Royal Family, is located at Mattancherry.
3.9.9. Old Kacheri Malika

This is a beautiful building in which the Alangad Taluk Kacheri near Aluva functioned under the Travancore kingdom. It is built in a blended style of Indo-European architecture. From 1922 onwards the union Christian college has been functioning in this building.

3.9.10 Vaipikotta seminary

Vaipikotta Seminary was built by the Portuguese in 1577. Many vattezhuthu inscriptions were encountered during the exploration done here in 1935. The potteries collected from the nearby areas of the church are exhibited in the archaeological museum.

3.9.11 Vattezhuthu inscriptions

A granite slab with vattezhuthu inscriptions on it, measuring 6 ft by 4.5 ft. Now it is in the compound of the Thazhekked church. Another granite slab with a three line inscription in vattezhuthu measuring about 1 ft by ¾ ft lying in front of the Sreekovil of the Thazhekked Siva temple, of Mukundapuram.

3.9.12 Menhir

A megalithic monument (Menhir type) in granite having 15 ft height and 12 ft 4 inches broad standing opposite Anappara on the left side of the Viyyur-Thanikudam Road, of Mukundapuram.
3.9.13 Kattil madam

This monument dated to 12th – 13th centuries AD is made in beautiful granite structure, in Dravida style with octagonal Griva and Sikhara. Its unique structure having ornated Sthambha pada, peculiar pranala, huge granite pieces used for making the wall and the roof etc. it is located at Ottappalam.

3.9.14 Monument indicating the first arrival of Vasco-de-gama

A monument to indicate the arrival of Vasco-de-Gama at Kappad, near Kozhikode on 27th May 1498, to document it to history.

3.9.15 Kunjalimarakkar’s house

The house located at Payyoli is stated to be the residence of the Kottakkal Kunjalimarakkar, one of the heroes of Kerala history. It is an ordinary single storied building built in laterite stones and with thatched roof. The old house must have been destroyed by the Portuguese in the 16th century. The wood works of the existing house are very strong and substantial.

3.9.16 Pazhassi tomb

The tomb of the celebrated historical giant and a reputed warrior Veera Pazhassi is a historical monument that has laid his great memories on the sands of time.

3.9.17 Kuruva island

Kuruva Island 17 Kms to the east of Mananthavady is situated on the tributaries of the river Kabani and is a fabulous picnic spot. Its serene silence, wide
expanse of the evergreen forest with an array of uncommon species of birds, herbs and orchids are the monarchs of Kuruva Island.

3.9.18 **Willingdon island heritage zone**

During the period of the British Rule, in early 20th century, Dredging of Port and formation of Willingdon Island was executed under the design and direction of Sir Robert Bristow. Willingdon Island grew as the port and seat of power for British rule. The entire port town was designed by Sir Robert Bristow and left an outstanding heritage.

3.9.19 **Mangalavanam natural heritage**

Known for its small bird sanctuary, Mangalavanam mangroves is situated in the Ernakulam District and it is gained importance because of the mangrove vegetation, and also due to the congregation of commonly breeding birds.

3.9.20 **Kochi estuary natural heritage zone**

Kochi Estuary is an important Natural Ecological Feature in the entire Vembanad Lake Region. The Vembanad Lake Region, which extends about 70 Kms to the South of the Kochi Sea mouth and 35 Kms to the North, flushes out 7 major rivers through Kochi Estuary. A major transactional point for most of the marine species and habitat for many of them, Kochi Estuary becomes a major zone of great environmental significance. This zone also becomes Kochi City’s most important place with the location of Port and the Vallarpadam Container Transshipment Terminal, and the southern Navel Headquarters.
3.9.21. Thripunithura heritage zone

This living fossil of Royal glory has an important place in the history of Kerala. It was the capital of the Kingdom of Kochi from 1755 onwards. The main area covers the following major heritage features like the Fort area, Hill Palace, Temples, Palaces, Malikas, Churches, Christian settlement, Tamil Brahmin settlement and Konkini settlement. The temple forms the focal point of the city. The growth of the city started from around the temple. The main spine, the heart of the Fort, passes through the temple in the east-west direction starting from the east arch and ending at the west arch.

3.10. FESTIVALS OF KERALA

Kerala has a number of festivals, mostly related with their religious institutions. A showcase to the traditional lifestyle and performing arts of Kerala, these festivals are characterized by vibrant music and dance, elaborate elephant processions and amazing fireworks. There are Utsavas of the Hindu temples and also the Perunals of Christian and Muslim churches that are celebrated with same enthusiasm and festivity along with the most famous occasions of the boat races, which have acquired an important place in the lives of Keralites. Here, we have covered the major events of the region.
3.10.1. Vishu

One of the important festivals of Kerala, is the New Year’s Eve according to the old traditional Malayalam calendar and falls in the month of April. Kanikanal the first thing that people see as a good omen when they get out of bed and ask for the blessings of the God. In Kerala, the Kani in the temples of Guruvayur, Ambalapuzha and Sabarimala are famous.

3.10.2 Navaratri

Durga Puja of Bengal, Dussehra of Bombay and the Saraswati Puja and the Ayudha Puja of the South, is a 10-day long festival devoted to Saraswati, the goddess of learning. In Travancore especially, the Navaratri is a state ceremony celebrated with great magnificence since the times of Padmanabhapuram.

3.10.3. Deepavali

Deepavali is the festival of lights and crackers and sweets and is celebrated to commemorate the riddance of the world from the oppression of the Naraka by the god Krishna. The chief feature in the celebration of this festival is the oil bath early in the morning.

3.10.4 Trikartika

It is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Goddess Bhagvati. The houses are illuminated and people flock to the temple of the goddess and make offerings. In the evening, women go out to worship the goddess.
3.10.5 Mahasivaratri

‘Maha Siva Ratri’ or the great night of Siva, is meant for fasting and is celebrated in the month of March. The celebration of this festival at Siva temple at Alwaye on the banks of the Periyar River is a splendid one. A fair is held on a very large scale featuring shows, dances and dramas.

3.10.6 Thiruvathira

This festival of womenfolk of Kerala, is celebrated to commemorate the death of Kamadevan, the cupid of Hindu mythology and then was granted an eternal spiritual life to him by Lord Siva. The maidens of the Nair families perform rituals since early morning and enjoy swings accompanied by songs and music. Special delicacies are prepared and a dance known as Thiruvathirakali or Kaikottikkali is performed by a group of women dancing in a circle around a lighted brass lamp wearing traditional dresses and singing exclusive Tiruvathira songs.

3.10.7 Onam

Onam the festival of flowers is the most renowned festival of Kerala. It is a 10-day long harvest festival featuring songs and Kathakali dance performances, feasting, various indoor and outdoor games and boat races. Anayoottu, Cherai Pooram, Cherukunnu temple festival, Guruvayur Ekadasi, Kottankulangara Chamayavilakku, Malanada Kettukazhcha, Neelamperoor Padayani, Nenmara Vallangi Vela, Parkadi Pooram, Purappadu festival, Thilanoor Vettakkorumakan, Uthrakkavu Pooram Vairajatha temple festival etc are other important festivals of Kerala.
3.10.8. Thrissur Pooram

Thrissur Pooram, the biggest and most colorful temple festival of Kerala. It is celebrated in Vadakkumnathan temple in the Thrissur district. Elephant procession (Kudamattom) is the major attraction of this festival, which witnesses the participation of elephants from various temples of Kerala. Apart from this splendid procession, other attractions of Thrissur Pooram festival include a spectacular display of colorful fireworks, parasol exchanges, an umbrella showing competition, display of pyro-techniques, and drum concerts. The festival makes no distinction between people on the basis of religion or caste. Panchavadya, performances by Thimila, Maddalam, Trumpet, Cymbal and Edakka artists are other major programs of Thrissur Pooram festival. Pandemelam performed by artistes belonging to the disciplines of trumpets, drum, pipe and cymbal is another event.

3.11. DANCES OF KERALA

Kerala is rich with about 35 different types of tribal people and tribal dances like Elelakkaradi, Paniyarkali and Mankali have managed to withstand the test of the changing times. The dances of Kerala can be divided into roughly three types - folk dances, dance dramas and semi-classical dances apart from the two most popular classical dance forms of Kathakali and Mohiniattam.
3.11.1 Folkdances

KUMMI.

Out of 50 traditional folk dances that have survived, Kummi is perhaps the most captivating with its continuously increasing pace and rhythm of the song and the dance steps and the exciting advancement of the complication of the dance steps that enchants the audience.

TIRUVATHIRA

It is the dance performed by maidens who revolve in a circle while performing dance steps to the beat of rhythmic claps that gives music to their graceful movements and the narrative song sung by the dancers as they go round.

MARGAMKALI

Evolved from Kalaripayattu, A group dance developed by the Syrian Christians of Kerala, which has its origin from kalaripayattu is known as Margamkali. There is no music to accompany the performance and dancers sing themselves while playing in a circle around a lighted oil lamp. Since the language used by the characters is old Tamil, which is not the language of the performers and the audience (which is Malyalam), master remains on stage as the interpreter and leads the song too for the group.

KOLKALI

This is another type of group dance performed in a circle, choreographed in such a way that dancers make rhythmic beat with short sticks in their hands. The
steps are vibrant while songs consist mostly of meaningless syllables followed by verses. The dance gains tempo and pace as it advances. Only males participate in this dance and require basic martial art training to perform its complicated steps. There is slight difference where it is performed by Christians, Muslims and Harijans.

OPPANA & ARAVANMUTTU.

Muslims of Kerala have specific dance forms of their own including Oppana and Aravanmuttu which is performed by both men and women, Oppana is accompanied by clapping of hands and is mainly performed in marriages. The women perform in a circle and receive the bride while men stand aside singing songs, ready to receive the bridegroom. However, the origin of Aravanamuttu can be traced back to the Arabs and is still accompanied by Arabic music. The instrument used to produce rhythm is called daf or tap, a round percussion instrument with one side covered with hide.
3.11.2. Dance dramas

YATRAKALI

Yatrakali is known by different names such as Samghakkali, Chattira Ankam, Sastramkam, Kshatramkam or Panemkali. This is an art of the Nambootiris, which originated when the Nambootiris were persecuted under the rule of one of the Cheraman Perumals who accepted the Buddhist faith as a mirror held against the artistic and social sense of the region and the times. Elements of many popular forms of dance and music were incorporated into this art either in their transformed or real forms.

OCHIRAKALI

It is held at a place called Ochira in Alleppey district as part of an annual festival where a mock fight is staged lasting two days to commemorate a battle fought between the kings of two feudal principalities, Kayamkulam and Ambalapuzha. The fight takes place in front of the Ochira temple that has no temple building or any image of a god or a goddess. Each group advances in offence and retreats in defence and the movements gain momentum and tempo as the show advances.

CHAVITTUNATAKAM

It is a Christian dramatic form which was introduced during the time of the Portuguese in Kerala in the 16th century A.D. Inspired by the Western Opera type of theatre, the themes, acting techniques, stage structure and plot treatment presented
were western while the texts were written in old Tamil. Rythmic steps accompanied by recitation of lines is the speciality of this dance.

KRISHNATTAM

This is a choreographed dance drama based on Krishna's life while the Raja of Kottarakkara introduced *Ramanattam*, play based on Ramayana. Ramanattam was performed in Manipravala style and was performed by the Raja himself and his Nayar soldiers.

3.11.3. Semiclassical dance

THULLAL

Thullal means dance and it emerged in the eighteenth century. It is a cumulative product of all traditional folk and classical theatrical arts of Kerala, it was founded by Kunchan Nambiar to represent the accumulated aesthetic experience of all sections of the society. The themes were drawn from the never failing myths and epics of India. A solo performance, it is a tale narrated in verse. The full painting of the face is retained for the expressive advantage. The costume is picturesque. Based on different styles of narrative singing, rhythms of dancing, foot work and make-up of the dancer, three varieties of Thullal that were evolved in course of time are *Ottan Thullal*, the most popular one, *Seethankan Thullal* and *Parayan Thullal*.
KOODIYATTAM

This art form emerged in the ninth century is a full-fledged dramatic presentation in Sanskrit. The Vidushaka, the comic character, was the only one character who spoke in Malayalam and was actually an ironic foil to the hero. Koodiyattom is a temple art and probably the only surviving form of the traditional presentation of Sanskrit drama.

NANNIAR KOOTHU

This dance form is conducted in some prominent Kerala temples by the womenfolk of Nambiar community, who are believed to be the descendants of the Devadasis community, as a ceremonial ritual. It is a solo dance based on the story of Sri Krishna.

KATHAKALI

A well-developed dance-drama, it is a performance where the actors depict characters from the epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata and from the Puranas (ancient scriptures). Adorned with elaborately painted faces, headgears and grand costumes, the dancers are accompanied by drummers and vocalists. Ritual traditions like Theyyams, Mudiyattam and the martial arts of Kerala played a major role in shaping the dance into its present form.

MOHINIYATTAM

This art form Older than Kathakali, is the female semi-classical dance form mainly performed in the temple precincts of Kerala. The dance of the enchantress,
Mohiniyattam is also the heir to Devadasi dance heritage like Bharata Natyam, Kuchipudi and Odissi. The first reference to Mohiniyattam is found in 'Vyavaharamala' composed by Mazhamangalam Narayanan Namboodiri, assigned to the 16th century AD. Vallathol, a poet, revived it and gave it a status in modern times. The theme of Mohiniyattam is love and devotion to god. There are circular movements, delicate footsteps and subtle expressions that include suggestive 'bhavas'. It maintains a realistic makeup and simple dressing. The dancer is attired in the beautiful white and gold-bordered Kasavu saree of Kerala.

3.12 BOAT RACES OF KERALA

The boat races of Kerala actually a platform for the display of physique and muscle power of the local people. The oarsmen and boats are selected and maintained in such an indigenous fashion as to give an exemplary performance. These boat races also bred communal harmony and unity as everybody could participate in them irrespective of caste, creed and classes.

The world-renowned Nehru Trophy Boat Race is held at Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha since 1952. The magnificent snake boats or Chundanvallams and the boisterous and rhythmic boat songs known as Vanchipattu, is the highlight of the race.
Champakulammoolam boatrace

This is the oldest and most popular snake boat race in Kerala, and it is held on the Champakulam Lake.

Aranmulaboatrace

The two-day Aranmula Boat Race is more a water fiesta than a competition, conducted during Onam. The event is actually a re-enactment of the legendary Brahmin who made a votive offering of feeding one pilgrim a day.

Rajiv Gandhi trophy boat race.

This event is held at Pulinkunnu, Alappuzha in the memory of the Late Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian Prime Minister.

Payippadu boat race

Starting from the Onam festival, Payipad Boat Race is a three-day long festival where snake boat processions are taken out on the first two days while the competitive boat race takes place on the third day.

Other boat races that are regularly organized are: -

Neerattupuram Boat Race, Thiruvalla, Pamba Boat Race, Haripad, Karuvatta Boat Race, and Mannar Boat Race are the other boat races organized every year in Kerala.

On comparing the survey results with the list of the available heritage net work in Kerala it is found that many of the heritage centres are not effectively tapped
so far. The efforts taken by DTPCs to connect these tourist spots on a commercially viable manner have not succeeded well. For administrative convenience and balanced implementation of various tourism related schemes the state of Kerala is divided into three zones, viz South zone, Central zone and North zone. Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha districts comes under the South zone. Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki and Thrissur are listed under Central zone and Malappuram, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Kannur, Kasaragod, and Wayanad comes under North zone.

The initial visits to various heritage centres in Kerala, review of literature and the information gathered from various other sources made it clear that the state of Kerala is blessed with many heritage spots with immense historical, architectural and educative resources but which are still remaining unnoticed by many.

This section is to line up the famous temples with enormously rich heritage but not adequately projected in the state tourism map or not effectively marketed or popularized by the concerned. Bhagavathi temple in chola architectural style in Vizhinjam (9th - 10th century AD), Madavoor para rock temple in a cave (850 AD), Neerumonkara temple in Dravidian architecture (1400 AD), Neyyattinkara Vishnu temple in circle form, Thirunarayananapuram temple with excellent carvings in Chirayankeezhu (1400 AD) Koothukkal rock temple with elegants in Kottarakkara (8th – 9th century AD), Madankavu Urn burial site built with laterite in Kollam, Chennamath temple with excellent stone work, Thrikkakudy rock temple in Pallava architecture (800 AD) Narasimha temple with wooden sculptures in Chengannur
are some of the elite and worth seeing monuments with excellent past, located in the south zone.

Pundareekapuram temple in Vaikom with beautiful murels on walls, mangaladevi temple on the top of a hill in Peerimedu (8th-9th century AD), Kallil rock cut temple in Perumbavoor (800 AD), Pazhoor perumthrikkovil with excellent wooden carvings in Muvattupuzha (1200 AD), Ooramana temple with beautiful carvings and wood work in Muvattupuzha (12th – 13th centuary AD), Sivanarayana temple with excellent carvings of navagraha in Aluva (11th-12th centuary AD), Manjapra temple with rare type of square sikkara and sreekovil with granite rock (9th-10th centuary AD), Uliyannoor Mahadeva temple in unified tiles (1200 AD), Trikkur Mahadeva temple in live rock cuts with evergreen pond on the top of the rock (800 AD), Ariyannoor temple with excellent murels and sculptures (1400 AD), Irunilakode temple with a rare fete of rock cut with a central figure (8th – 9th century AD) and Keezthali temple with rare fets (13th – 14th century AD) are available in central zone but not very much displayed in the tourism chartings in Kerala.

Kalpathoor paradevatha temple with enormously rich granite and wood carving in Quilandy (1400 AD), Thodeekkulam siva temple built in Kerala murel traditions (10th-13th century AD), Kattilmadom temple built in Chola and Pandya style (9th -10th century AD), and the Jain temple or Tippu’s fort for storing ammunition in Kalpetta (1300 AD) are living monuments of glorious past but not much attracted by tourists.
It is again noticed that the beautiful pillars and many other parts of the Jain temple in Kalpetta the almost dituriated. This again indicates the neglect of the concerned authorities in retaining the available residues of the yester years.

Almost all the palaces (except Nedumpuram palace (Thiruvalla) which is now in a disrepair condition), museums (except VK Krishna Menon museum, Kozhikkodu) and caves are adequately presented through the heritage tourism activities. Some of the forts and churches are not adequately coming to the notice of tourists, particularly the domestic tourists. It is again noticed that Poyilkotta Muliar fort of 17th century is now in a decayed position. Thankassery fort at Kollam happened to retain some remenance of the ruins of old Portuguese and Dutch rule and these ruins are now under the control of Archeological survey of India.

Among the churches with tradition and heritage of past Yeldo Mar Basaleous church of Kothamangalam, and St. Mary’s Jacobite church, Tripunithura gets away from the tourist attraction, for certain technical reasons emerging from litigation.

Other heritage attraction namely Menhir megalithic monument at Ottappalam also remain much unnoticed but without any specified reasons.

Most of the celebrated festivals are adequately marketed by the tourism department and tour operators, and has secured enough mileage on it. Specific efforts from the part of ministry of education and culture made to retain and maintain many of the performing arts coming under dance. Though youth festivals
and other cultural fetes are aimed at preserving these performing arts, some of them are getting neglected when it does not get a commercial market. Kummi and kolkali among the folk arts, yatharakali and chavittunadakom under the dance drama groups and thullal, koodiyattom and nangiyarkoothu under the semi classical group of dances comes under the threat.

The study thus came to the conclusion that many of the popular temples and forts with high architectural and historical value have yet to be projected well. By this the number of tourist destination in a belt can be increased. If these destinations are set aside for reasons other than religious matters, immediate steps shall be taken to identify and rectify such matters.

On building up the required amenities facilities and infra structure the heritage tourism could get a better shape and is of operation. Better connectivity between these heritage centers, adequacy of infrastructure and a small push from the tour operators and travel agents could yield better results and mileage when it is adequately initiated by the concerned departments and the appropriate government.