

## ■ Backwaters

**Kuttanad** : Kuttanad is the most beautiful backwater region of Kerala, famous for snake boat races across its serene waterways fringed by palm groves and paddy fields. A cruise on a houseboat across Kuttanad offers a striking spectacle of Kerala's rustic life.

**Kumarakom and Pathiramanal Island**: It is undoubtedly the most invigorating and fascinating paradise in Kerala located on the shores of Vembanad Lake. A cruise by Houseboats' through the Lake with its majestic canals and streams along its banks is a wonderful experience. Pathiramanal is a small island on the backwaters of Alappuzha, rightly called the Venice of the East, and is a haven for hundreds of rare plant species, and birds migrating from different parts of the world. This little Island on the backwaters is a birdwatcher's delight.

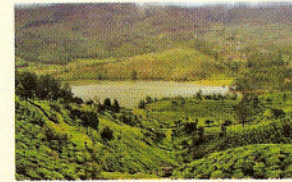


## ■ Beaches

**Kovalam**: This marvelous beach as a palm-fringed bay in secluded coconut groves, lined by boundless blue waters of the Arabian Sea, promises a relaxed stay. Miles of white sand washed away by the surf and the rocky promontory makes this beach a paradise for surfers.

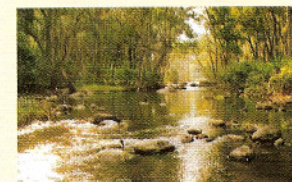
**Cherai**: The lovely beach bordering the Vypin Island near Kochi is ideal for swimming. The sea on the western side and backwaters on the east is a unique feature of this beach. Thick coconut groves and Chinese fishing nets on the waterfront are added attractions.

**Fort Kochi**: Fort Kochi is also home to one of India's oldest churches - the St. Francis Basilica. The raw and unused stretch of beach is a loner's delight, where one could swim, play cricket or volley ball and even manage to practise yoga.



## ■ Hill Station

**Munnar and Rajamala Hills**: These are breathtakingly beautiful tourist destinations in Kerala - a haven of peace and tranquility. Rajamala is the natural habitat of *Nilgiri Tahr* (*Hemitragus hylacrius*). The Eravikulam - Rajamala region is now home to half of the world's population (estimated at around 1300) of this endangered mountain goat.

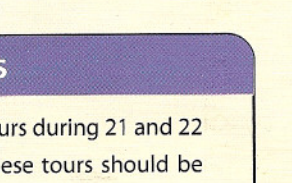


## ■ Wildlife

**Thekkady Wildlife Sanctuary**: Also called the Periyar Tiger Reserve, this is one of the finest wildlife sanctuaries in India much to the delight of nature photographers all around the world.

**Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary**: A unique thorny shrub forest in the rain shadow region of the Western Ghats, it fascinates the adventure traveller with its rugged undulating terrain. It is one of the only two habitats of the endangered Giant Grizzled Squirrel in India.

**Wayanad**: The scenic beauty and its rich natural resources offer several opportunities for adventure and eco tourism. The hills, waterfalls, rocks and valleys bring up the very unique character of Wayanad.



## Post conference Scenic Tours and Farm visits

The organizers of APA2011 & GP2011 will arrange post-conference farm tours and scenic tours during 21 and 22 January 2011. There will also be sightseeing day tours for the spouses of participants. These tours should be booked early as the seats are limited. General categories of tours are given here. For detailed packages and booking, please check the website [www.apa2011.org](http://www.apa2011.org)

### For Tours and Accommodation contact

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