



Kerala



## Kerala

- \* **Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram
- \* **Date of formation:** Nov 1, 1956
- \* **Languages:** Malayalam
- \* **Size:** 38,863 sq km
- \* **Population:** 3,34,06,061
- \* **Sex Ratio:** 1084F/1000M
- \* **Literacy:** 94%
- \* **Density:** 860 per sq km
- \* **Rivers:** Cauvery, Kadalundipuzha, Bharathapuzha, Chalakudy river, Periyar, Pamba, Achancoil, Kalladayar
- \* **Major crops:** Coconut, Rubber, Tea, Coffee
- \* **Minerals:** Magnesite, Thorium, Zircon, Iron ore
- \* **Highest Peak:** Anamudi (2695m)
- \* **Forests and reserved forest:** Periyar, Wayanad, Silent Valley
- \* **Fairs & festivals:** Onam, Vishu, Maha Shivarathri, Christmas, Navarathri, Miladi Sherif, Ramdan, Bakrid, Chinakathoor, Dharani dance festival, Thrissur Pooram, Pongala festival
- \* **Theatre form:** Krishnattam, Mudi yettu
- \* **Major dance and music forms:** Mohiniyattam, Kathakali, Kalaripayattu
- \* **Arts and crafts:** Kalamezhuthu paintings: Murals in temples using 'pure' colours such as white, red, black, green and Bell metal idols, Aranmula Kannadi
- \* **Museum:** Kerala Kalamandalam, Thrissur
- \* **Cuisine:** Avial, Malabar Parantha, Payasam, Thalassery biryani
- \* **State animal:** Elephant
- \* **State bird:** The Great Indian hornbill
- \* **State flower:** Kanikonna or Indian laburnum or amaltas
- \* **State tree:** Coconut tree
- \* **Tourist attractions:** Kovalam, Wayanad, Kannur

## Factoids:

- \* Edakkal caves in Ammukutty Mountain have petroglyphs or rock carvings that are believed to have been made by Neolithic men.
- \* Believed to be the oldest of all martial art forms, Kalaripayattu gets its name from 'kalkari' or school and 'payattu' or practice.

