

An educational tour to Thekkady

Twenty students of travel & tourism accompanied by three staff members went on an educational tour to Thekkady on 13th March 2017. Thekkady proved to be an ideal spot away from the heat of Chennai and the lush meadows and greenery around were soothing to the eye. Being enraptured by a view and getting engrossed in the minute details of the components of a view was an enthralling experience. So, the students came back loaded with lots of learning and fun memories and most importantly understanding the need to preserve nature as it's meant to be.

Right from the first stop on 14th March 2017 at Munthiri Thottam on the Cumbum-Theni highway to the last at Alphonsa Church at Pala, the three-day trip went past in a buzz and was an experience of a lifetime.

Day 1

At the Periyar Forest Reserve, students were fortunate enough to catch glimpses of some deer, wild pigs, Malabar giant squirrels and some monkeys. They also enjoyed the elephant safari and later walked through the spice plantation with a guide.

In the evening the students went to watch the Kalari (Kerala's ancient Martial art form). The sword fight and the gravity defying jumps left them spell bound. All the participants in the show were extremely fit, agile and flexible. This show is a must watch for anyone visiting Thekkady.

The students also went to watch Kathakali, Kerala's Classical Dance form. The first part of the show was all about navarasas with a humor element which was entertaining. The other half constituted a story which was absorbing as well.

Day 2

Students visited a traditionally built Shiva temple which was atop a sloped hill. The temple is an instance of Kerala style of architecture and structure. The view from the top of the hill was spectacular.

This was followed by a trek to Ramakkalmedu. The climb up to the top proved exciting and adventurous for most students who were not used to walking in such terrain.

The next stop after an hour's ride was Anchuruli, a famous waterfall in Idukki district. There is a manmade tunnel here which is about 5km in length and connects the Idukki Dam reservoir with Erattayar.

Day 3

Among the other places visited on the third day were the Pattumala Church, Idukki, built entirely of granite and has a gothic style of architecture, the pine forest at Vagamon and the Mottakunnu mala (barren hills). And then it was destination Chennai.

