

Surya Samudra Private Retreats, Kovalam - Fact Sheet



Surya Samudra Private Retreats, Kovalam

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Surya Samudra Private Retreats, Kovalam - so unique

- India's first 'Private Retreat' concept hotel
- India's first 'Garden Bath' concept
- India's first 'Private Retreat Spa' concept
- Unbeatable location - perched on a cliff overlooking the Arabian Sea surrounded by two secluded beaches
- Eco-conscious architecture - accommodation in traditional unique tharavadu cottages combined with modern facilities.

Location

Kovalam, Kerala, India. Situated about 22 km south of Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), south of Kovalam between Vizhinjam and Chowara. Surya Samudra Private Retreat, Kovalam sits perched on a cliff overlooking the Arabian Sea, surrounded by two secluded beaches - all naturally insulated from Kovalam's tourist areas. Surrounded by 22 acres of lush vegetation Surya Samudra, Kovalam is designed for one's need for privacy.

Hotel opening and closing

Surya Samudra Private Retreat, Kovalam re-opened in December 2009 after intensive renovations and is now open year round. Ideal for relaxing part of the holiday, great for honeymooners and couples.

Transportation

By Air

To Thiruvananthapuram TRV (Trivandrum) Airport from Delhi, Mumbai, Dubai, Bangalore, London, Doha, followed by 22 km (40 minutes) car journey. To Kochi COK (Cochin) Airport from Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Dubai, Doha, Abu Dhabi followed by 240 km (4 hours 30 minutes) car journey.

By Train

To Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) from Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai followed by 24 km (40 minutes) car journey.

By Road

Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) 22 km; Kochi (Cochin) 220 km; Kerala Backwaters - Kumarakom 195 km; Varkala 75 km.

Transfers

The hotel can arrange luxury transfers (at extra cost) from Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) or Kochi (Cochin) airport/railway station.

Arrival Information

Check-In and Check-out

Check-in: 1400 Noon. Check-out: 1200 Noon

Parking

Complimentary Parking is available for guests.

Hotel Details

Accommodation

This is a heritage resort, each of its 22 residences are fully restored tharavadu house. The tharavadu is the traditional Keralite homestead, whose eco-conscious architecture emphasises harmony with nature. With changing modern lifestyles, many tharavadus were in danger of being stripped and sold for timber. Surya Samudra Kovalam was the first to restore these magnificent traditional homes and marry them with modern lifestyle conveniences. One's stay there, literally, bridges the past and the present.

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The terracotta roofs, wooden pillars, ornate furniture, and fine décor are all handpicked pages out of history. Each dwelling is set apart in a vibrant yet leafy private enclave. Some stand on the cliff with an open view of the sea, others sit snugly in palm groves dotting the hillside. **Surya Samudra Private Retreats, Kovalam introduces India's first 'Bath Garden' concept.**

The 22 units are spread between duplex or stand alone cottages offering 6 different categories of accommodation. Each unit differs in style, décor and size. All units accommodate up to 2 adults and 1 child. Extra bed is a rollaway.

Individual Cottages

Banyan Tree Bungalow, Mosque View, Cape View, Banyan, Pandanus, Cinnamon, Palm, Pappaya, Beach Garden East and Prince. All cottages have their own private veranda.

Duplex cottages

Octogan + Myra; Polygon + Ibis; Bamboo Garden 1 + Bamboo Garden 2; Beach Garden North (BGN) + Beach Garden South (BGS); Rock Garden 1&2 + Rock Garden 3&4. All cottages are surrounded by a common veranda which has been designed to offer privacy to each unit.

Accommodation categories

Banyan Tree Bungalow (BTB):

Direct sea-view bungalow sits by the Banyan tree facing the Arabian Sea, approx. 875 sq feet in size.

Octagon Cottage:

Near the swimming pool, surrounded by the lush gardens, offering direct sea-views with double bed. Approx. 1225 sq. feet in size.

5 Heritage Premium Cottages:

Myra, Ibis, Pandanus, Cinnamon and Polygon cottages all offer direct sea-views. Traditional large wooden tharavadu cottages with double bed. Approx. 850 sq. ft. and upwards in size.

5 Heritage Superior Cottages:

Banyan Mosque, Cape View, Bamboo Garden (BG) 1 & 2 cottages all fall in this category. Each unit offers direct sea-view and are located in front of the reception facing towards the cliff end and Arabian Sea. Traditional wooden tharavadu cottages with double bed. Approx. 675 sq. ft. and upwards in size.

6 Heritage Classic Cottages:

Banyan Cottage North (BCN), Banyan Cottage South (BCS), Banyan Cottage East (BCE), Prince, Palm and Pappaya cottages have sea views and are located on the left side of the reception area surrounded by lush vegetation. These simple brick cottage feature a double bed and do vary in sizes (from 850 sq. ft upwards).

4 Rock Garden Classic:

Garden view rooms with double bed approx. 814 sq. ft. in size.

General Suite Amenities

- Air-conditioning
- Overhead wooden fans
- Separate living area

- Garden Bath with shower (3 units with bath tubs)
- Bathrobes and slippers
- Tea and Coffee maker
- Complimentary mineral water
- Telephone
- Mini refrigerator
- Internet connectivity & work area with table and desk
- LCD TV
- Hair dryer

Amenities on Request

The following amenities may be available on request

- Crib
- Rollaway (extra charge)

Restaurants & Library

Restaurants/Grill/Bar

Dress code: Casual.

Oottupura Restaurant

A unique multi cuisine restaurant Oottupura, the sea facing all day dining restaurant, is open round the clock and offering a toothsome combination of global cuisine, Keralite specialties and Pan Indian cuisine. The restaurant is located by the swimming pool overlooking the Arabian Sea.

Hours of Operation:

- Breakfast- 07:00hrs to 10:00hrs
- Lunch – 12:30hrs to 15:00hrs
- Dinner – 19:00hrs to 22:30hrs

Kanal Grill

Surya Samudra Kovalam Kanal, the grill, that also faces the sea, sets the night aglow and puts an eclectic array of daily specials on the table, hot off the coals.

Hours of Operation:

- Dinner – 19:00hrs to 22:30hrs

Madira – poolside bar

Madira, the poolside bar, presents the perfect way to unwind before the inviting spectacle of an endlessly stretching sea.

Hours of Operation:

- Bar - 11:00hrs to 22:30hrs

Private Dining

Various locations around the hotel, depending upon group sizes.

Lounge

The relaxing lounge area is located near the main reception.

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Vayanashala Library

The relaxing library is located next to the restaurant. Access is via a spiral staircase, caution is required whilst using the staircase.

Guest Services

- Concierge/Travel Service
- Currency Exchange
- Laundry & Dry Cleaning
- International telephone and fax facilities
- Physician on call
- Children's playroom

Spa Niraamaya & Recreation facilities

A signature feature of Surya Samudra Private Retreats is Spa Niraamaya, which offers a range of natural therapies to rejuvenate body, mind and soul. These include, among others, a whole host of Ayurvedic treatments, international therapies like Swedish massages and contemporary treatments like Reflexology. An interesting innovation is the specially designed Jetlag therapy that globetrotting travellers will find especially relaxing. Surya Samudra Kovalam is the only hotel in Kovalam offering 'Private Retreat Spa Services'.

- Opening hours: 07:00hrs to 21:00hrs.

Guest Services

- Concierge/Travel Service
- Currency Exchange
- Laundry & Dry Cleaning
- International telephone and fax facilities
- Physician on call
- Library
- Kid's playroom
- Souvenir shop
- Internet facilities
- Baby sitting (with prior appointment)
- Life guard on the beach & by the pool

Recreation Facilities

Surya Samudra Kovalam also has much to keep guests entertained and occupied.

- **Yoga sessions:** Are conducted by a professional instructor by the cliff-side with prior appointment anytime of the day.
- **Swimming pool:** Is hewn out of a single rock, to cool off and laze around. It is open from 07:30hrs to 18:30hrs. **Life guard on duty by the pool.**
- **2 Pristine Beaches:** Secluded beaches access via the cliff steps approx. 100 feet below. **Life guard on duty.**
- **Evening entertainment:** Some evenings are spiced with Kerala's classical theatre, dance, music and other performing arts.
- **Tours:** The specially organised tours are lead into Kerala's hinterland: an intricate tapestry of backwaters, verdant forests, and misty mountains.
- **Kid's Playroom & Library:** The kids have a playroom, Kalliveedu, well stocked with indoor games and toys.
- **Library:** Perched above the Kid's playrooms, affording a magnificent view of the sea is the Vayanashaala, a quiet library, which has Internet connected workstations too.

- **Private Retreat Spa:** (see Spa Niraamaya above).
 - Opening hours: 07:00hrs to 21:00hrs.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

As Surya Samudra Private Retreats, Kovalam sits approx. 100 feet above the sea level on a cliff-top on a hill-slop and access to the beach is via the cliff steps, it is not ideal for the physically challenged.

Local attractions, possible excursions, and combinations

Kovalam – Lighthouse, Hawa and Ashok beaches

• **Vizhinjam Lighthouse at Lighthouse Beach** - A favourite haunt, the Lighthouse beach at Kovalam has wonderful Sapphire blue waters and palm trees swaying to the salty breeze. The beach is located at a distance of 10 km from Thiruvananthapuram. Relax, sunbathe or indulge in some shopping. Dine at the restaurants serving delicious seafood.

The Vizhinjam Lighthouse and is situated at the southern end of the beach. Enjoy breathtaking views across to the Vizhinjam mosque and the beach as fishermen do their daily chores. A memorial dedicated to Ayyanappilla Asan and Ayyippilla Asan, two 15th century poets from Kovalam is situated nearby.

• **Hawa Beach** is an extension of Lighthouse Beach. The two crescent shaped beaches are separated by a rocky promontory. Hawa Beach, in disjointed from Ashok Beach which is a scenic rocky promontory. Many shops selling jewellery, clothes, bedspreads etc. are found here.

Vellayani Lake

About 7 km from Kovalam is the Vellayani Lake which is a 750 hectare huge freshwater lake. The most unique feature is that a road passes through the lake. The locals call the banks of this crystal clear lake as Tiny Kovalam. On Onam August/September each year, there is a huge boat race on the lake which is attended by thousands of people each year.

Analothbhava Matha Church

In Chowara, a small fishing village 6 km from Kovalam beach is the beautiful and ancient Analothbhava Matha Church.

Ayyappa Temple

Near Chowra, the splendid hill top Ayyappa temple. The hill top Pulikudi Azhimala Shiva Temple is surrounded by dense forests and scenic views of the white sand beaches and tiny fishing hamlets.


Vizhinjam Village

Visit the marine aquarium and the unique image pearl production with images of Christ, idols of gods and goddess and Virgin Mary. The 18th century Cave temple is known for carved idols of Shiva and Parvati visited by thousands of people visit each year.

Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour

The busiest fishing harbour in Thiruvananthapuram is just 2 km from Kovalam is known for the Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour.

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The delightful sight of innumerable fishing boats coming and going to the harbour with the setting sun is a must.

Valiathura Pier

About 10 km from Kovalam, is the scenic Valiathura Pier which is usually frequented by local fishermen.

Thiruvananthapuram

Visit Aruvikkara Dam 16 km south of the city. Shop at East Fort area for authentic Malayalam handicrafts. A must is the famous evening demonstrations of Kalarippayattu at Kalari School. Kalarippayattu is the ancient martial art form full of acrobatic movements and emotions. Other places of interest are the Sri Chitra Art Gallery, Veli Tourist Village and the Zoological garden.

Padamanabhapuram Palace

Located within the complex of the Padamanabhapuram Fort, is at a distance of around 63 km from Thiruvananthapuram. Travancore architecture in style, this palace is famous for its 17th and 18th century murals, carved mahogany ceiling, coloured mica windows, secret underground passages, inner courtyards, museum, four poster medicinal bed, granite dance halls and special black shiny floors which are made from a unique combination of egg white, jaggery, lime, burnt coconut, charcoal and river sand.

Puttan Malika Palace, Thiruvananthapuram

After nearly 200 years, the royal family has opened the Puttan Malika Palace to the public, primarily in order raise funds for the restoration of the Palace. Most of the palace remains offlimits, but visitors are allowed to wander around some of the Palace's most impressive wings, which have now been converted into a museum. The Puttan Malika Palace, at the south-east of the Sri Padmanavaswami Temple, became the seat of the Travancore kings as Padamanabhapuram left at the end of the 19th Century. Walk through chambers lined with delicately carved wooden screens and polished plaster floors, and Travancore heirlooms.

The palace contains displays of weapons ,exquisite murals, finely crafted artefacts' from all over Europe and Asia, including solid crystal throne from Bohemia, marble from Italy, fine cut jewels from Belgium and other objects representing the pinnacle of European craftsmanship, porcelain from China and other handicrafts. The Indian elite in their day easily matched their European royal counterparts in extravagance. An open-air Carnatic music festival is conducted here annually during the festival of Navratri in the months of October or November.

Cape Comorin or Kanyakumari – Approx. 65 km

The Land's end of India, the coast town of Kanyakumari or Cape Comorin lies at the southernmost tip of India where the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean meet. It has been an important centre for art, religion and trade for centuries. Visit the Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Gandhi Memorial, and Kanyakumari Temple. Legend has it that the princess Kanya Devi, one of the many forms of Goddess Parvati was supposed to marry Lord Shiva. But due to his inability to turn up on the auspicious time, the wedding never took place and hence the name, Kanyakumari (virgin).

When to go/Climate

Kerala is warm and humid year round. No warm clothes are

necessary as it benefits from a tropical climate. During summers the days are quite warm. But the soothing breeze from the keeps up the mood and charm of the place. Kovalam has a tropical dry climate. Summers (March to May) are hot and the temperature varies from a minimum of 21°C to a maximum of 35°C. Winters (December to January) are pleasant and have moderate temperature varying from 18°C to 33°C. Monsoons (June to August) are accompanied by thunderstorms and abundant rain falls.

Monsoon season is the best period for Ayurvedic treatments in Kovalam, the ideal season for sun bathing is after the monsoon season. Many celebrations and festivals are held during the Onam season August to September. New Year celebrations in Kovalam beach are very famous and imposing.

Mosquitoes

Due to the tropical climate mosquitoes are not a problem but they do tend to come out in the evenings and early mornings, throughout the year and particularly in the warmer months. The hotel provides mosquito coils and repellents in the rooms to combat this.

Dress code

There is no official dress code and it is extremely relaxed here.

Mobile Telephones

Mobile telephones network service at the resort.

Children

Children below 6 stay free when sharing with parents. Children 6 years and above will be chargeable when accommodated in their parent's room in a rollaway. Maximum 1 child per room when sharing with 2 adults.

Extra person above 6 years

Extra person above 6 years will be charged 15% of the room rate. Maximum 1 extra person per room when sharing with 2 adults will be accommodated in a rollaway.

Length of stay

3 to 7 nights stay is recommended as the relaxing part of your holiday.

Payment/Cancellation Policy

Advance payment of 25% of the total room charges exclusive of Luxury tax is required. The balance amount inclusive of taxes is payable 31 days prior to arrival. Cancellation on or between 31 to 50 days prior to arrival - 25% of the total amount. Cancellation on or between 0 to 30 days prior to arrival - 100%.

Packages/Surcharges

Seasonal rates apply.

Taxes

Government taxes are applicable on room and food & beverage.

Credit Cards accepted

Visa, MasterCard and Amex are accepted for the advance payment (initial deposit). The balance is payable to the hotel who accept Visa or MasterCard.

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