



# Capturing Kerala: A Photographer's Guide to the State's Most Scenic Spots

Kerala, often referred to as "God's Own Country," is a paradise for photography enthusiasts. With its lush landscapes, serene backwaters, and golden beaches, Kerala offers a plethora of stunning locations to capture and share on Instagram. Here's a guide to some of the most visually striking spots in this picturesque state:

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## 1. The Tea Plantations of Munnar

Nestled in the Western Ghats, Munnar is renowned for its rolling tea plantations that stretch as far as the eye can see. The emerald-green hills, often shrouded in mist, provide a dreamy setting for photographers.

Best spots:

- Kolukkumalai Tea Estate: Known as one of the highest tea plantations in the world, it offers breathtaking sunrise views.
- Eravikulam National Park: Capture the rare Nilgiri Tahr amidst the lush greenery.
- Mattupetty Dam: Perfect for reflective water shots with the hills as a backdrop.

Pro tip: Visit early morning or during the golden hour for soft, diffused light.

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## 2. The Backwaters of Alleppey

A trip to Kerala is incomplete without experiencing the tranquil backwaters of Alleppey (Alappuzha). These interconnected canals, lagoons, and lakes are a haven for capturing serene waterscapes.

Best spots:

- Houseboats: Frame a traditional kettuvallam (houseboat) gliding through the waters.

- Kumarakom Village: Ideal for capturing local life, with fishermen casting their nets and villagers going about their day.
- Pathiramanal Island: A secluded spot for capturing exotic flora and fauna.

Pro tip: Use reflections creatively to add depth to your photos.

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### 3. The Beaches of Varkala

Varkala's beaches, with their unique red cliffs and golden sands, are a photographer's delight. The dramatic cliffs overlooking the Arabian Sea make for stunning compositions.

Best spots:

- Varkala Cliff: Capture the panoramic views of the sea from atop the cliff.
- Papanasam Beach: Perfect for vibrant sunset shots.
- Black Sand Beach: Offers a unique contrast to the usual golden beaches.

Pro tip: Include the colorful parasols and shacks to add vibrancy to your photos.

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### 4. Athirapally Waterfalls

Known as the "Niagara of India," Athirapally Waterfalls is a majestic sight. The powerful cascade amidst dense greenery makes for a dramatic photograph.

Best spots:

- Capture the falls from the base to showcase their grandeur.
- Use the surrounding forest to create a natural frame.

Pro tip: Visit during the monsoon season (June to September) when the falls are at their most powerful.

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### 5. Thekkady and Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

Thekkady is a treasure trove for nature and wildlife photographers. The Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary offers opportunities to capture elephants, tigers, and exotic bird species in their natural habitat.

Best spots:

- Periyar Lake: Frame animals drinking at the water's edge.
- Spice Plantations: Add a pop of color with vibrant spices like cardamom and pepper.

Pro tip: Carry a zoom lens for wildlife shots and keep noise to a minimum.

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## 6. Fort Kochi

For a mix of history and vibrant culture, head to Fort Kochi. Its colonial architecture and bustling streets provide endless photo opportunities.

Best spots:

- Chinese Fishing Nets: Iconic structures that look stunning against the sunset.
- Jew Town: Capture the charm of antique shops and narrow lanes.
- St. Francis Church: One of the oldest European churches in India.

Pro tip: Explore during Kochi-Muziris Biennale for vibrant art installations.

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## 7. Wayanad

Wayanad's lush forests, waterfalls, and ancient caves make it a hidden gem for photographers.

Best spots:

- Edakkal Caves: Marvel at the ancient rock carvings.
- Meenmutty Waterfalls: A multi-tiered waterfall surrounded by dense jungle.
- Chembra Peak: Trek to the heart-shaped lake for an iconic shot.

Pro tip: Ensure you have sturdy footwear and a weatherproof camera for outdoor shoots.

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