

ELLISON ROBERTS RECOMMENDED HOTELS IN KERALA

THE MALABAR COAST AND THE WESTERN GHATS

MARARI BEACH RESORT - This is a 5* resort set back from a palm fringed, white sand beach. Each day, in the late afternoon, the local fisherman will land their catch on the beach. You will probably be invited to help haul in the nets.

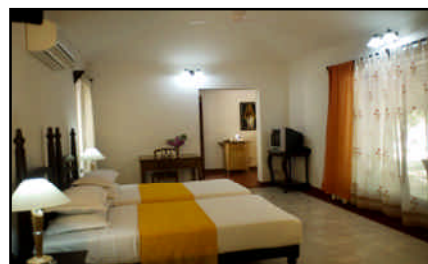
There is a large swimming pool with sun terrace near the main buffet restaurant, bar and an amphitheatre where cultural performances take places. The "beach-shack" set amongst the coconut palms fronting the beach serves delicious fish and seafood. The resort has its own Ayurvedic Centre and yoga sessions are free each sunrise and sunset. There is also a small shop selling crafted artefacts and clothing. Here you can have bespoke artides in silk and cotton made to measure in 48 hours.



POLLETHAI BEACH – Set behind a marvellous expanse of white sand beach this new [2006] resort offers a relaxing beach experience. The 5 cottages are tucked away under trees to give quiet privacy. Pollethai is just south of the larger Marari Beach Resort but unlike Marari, Pollethai is just a cluster of fisherman's houses renovated with style to give very comfortable rooms, large shower rooms and verandas catching the evening light.



Each cottage is different, but all are very spacious and have large twin or double beds. The rooms are minimally designed and rather stylish with local antique furniture in each. All rooms have air conditioning as well as a overhead fans. The dining room is open air with tables set beneath coconut palm leaf roof whilst the breakfast shack is by the beach so you can watch the fishermen return with the night's catch.



SURYA SAMUDRA – Surya Samudra began as a single octagonal stone house thirty miles from the tip of India and just a few minutes from Kovalam. Today, it has grown into an eco-friendly beach resort with 23 houses spread over nearly 20 acres of private space and each house comes with a luxuriant foliage of coconut, palm, bamboo,



banana, wild shrubs, flowers and the chirping of birds. There is a marvellous natural swimming pool carved out of the rock, a bar/restaurant and ayurvedic spa.

SPICE VILLAGE – in Thekkadey in the heart of the Cardamom Hills of Kerala, Spice Village lies just outside the Periyar Wildlife Reserve. Recreating the mood of a local tribal community, the resort architects have designed individual cottages amongst a landscaped spice garden. Each dwelling is thatched with elephant grass & offers simple luxury & privacy. Throughout the village, the atmosphere is relaxed and enchanting. The rooms are spacious and furnished with simple sophistication. At the centre of the village is a swimming pool, surrounded by tropical trees and lawns. Overlooking it is a buffet restaurant, which serves a wide range of traditional Indian and international cooking.



TEA COUNTY – overlooking the hill station of Munnar, high in the Western Ghats this KTDC [Kerala Tourism Development Corporation] flagship hotel offers excellent accommodation at reasonable prices. The cottages in Tea County are designed after the plantation bungalows of the hill country. 43 deluxe rooms, 24 hour room service, coffee shop, satellite television, restaurant and bar.



PARADISA PLANTATION RETREAT

Set in an organic coffee and spice plantation the stylish accommodation is in traditional cottages (tharawads) carefully placed in the jungle landscape. The architecture of the retreat is based on the traditional Kerala style wooden houses. These have been embellished with priceless antique columns and artefacts, all personally handpicked and placed, creating an ambience of quiet cultural richness. Paradisa is the perfect retreat for those who want a quiet time to reflect or meditate. A full programme of Ayurvedic treatments can be arranged along with yoga, acupuncture and astrology. Walks around the plantation and surrounding area are available. The wildlife reserve at Periyar is a one-hour drive away.

