

Beach Tourism in Kanyakumari District

Dr. D. Lekha

Associate professor of History, Sree Ayyappa College for Women, Chunkankadai

Abstract

The District was part of Travancore Princely state during the pre-independence period, after the independence it remained a part of Travancore-Cochin state until the realignment of linguistic basis was achieved. Kanyakumari District has breathtaking beautiful beaches. The swaying coconut palms and the sand add to the holiday mood. Take a plunge into swimming the most relaxing water activity that can be pursued here. The sun bathing is also another attraction for the sun starved tourists. Kanyakumari Beach by its very location, occupies a unique place among the tourist centers of India. It has a fine beach landscape with sands of myriad colour.² From the beautiful beach, one can simultaneously witness the glorious sight of the moon rising up in the east and sun setting in the west, on a full moon day. Vatakottai, a granite fort six kilometers north-east of Kanyakumari forms the terminal of a line of ramparts known as the South Travancore line, built by Marthanda Varma to serve as defense for Nanjil Nadu. Chotthavilai Beach is about 10 kms from Kanyakumari and one of the best natural beaches of the district. Sanguthurai is a beautiful beach resort and is very convenient for the local population of Nagercoil. Colachel, the sea coast town is situated about 22 kms west of Nagercoil. It was a port of call for European Merchants during the 16-18th Centuries. The famous beach at Muttom is located about 32 kms from Kanyakumari. Muttom is delightful place on the coast of Kalkulam taluk, attracting people desirous of having a seaside holiday. Thikkurichi Beach: It is located near Rajakkamangalam Thurai. Thengapattinam Beach is another beautiful beach of Kanyakumari district. It is 35 kms from Nagercoil. As coconuts are abundant in this place this might have derived this name. The major tourist generating countries to Kanyakumari district are U.K, U.S.A, Sri Lanka, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Malaysia, Canada, Australia and Singapore. Coastal and beach tourism remains as the major motivator to Kanyakumari District.

Keywords : beach tourism, natural beaches