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Saying 'I Do' at Sterling Puri: The Ultimate Wedding Venue

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Situated at the confluence of the Dhaudia River and the sea, the 15-acre Sterling Puri is an ideal location for a destination wedding. The resort offers multiple venues, rooms adorned with local Pattachitra artwork, and breathtaking views of the Bay of Bengal, making it perfect for couples who want to create unforgettable memories on their special day.

Sterling has 45 destinations, including hill stations, beaches, waterfronts, heritage sites, and pilgrimage sites, offering a wide range of wedding locations. The larger resorts in locations such as Alleppey, Ooty, Kodaikanal, Munnar, Darjeeling, Mount Abu, and Puri, spread over multiple acres, are great for Grand Destination Weddings.



They feature numerous banquet halls of varying sizes and lush lawns for pre/post-wedding ceremonies. Boutique resorts like Anaikatti, Balicha, Kalimpong, Karwar, Godavari, Guruvayur, and others provide intimate wedding experiences for couples who want to celebrate with close friends and family, ensuring privacy and flexibility in utilizing the resort and its facilities.

The resorts offer fun games and activities for guests between the ceremonies and live streaming facilities so that guests can share the celebrations with extended family in real-time.

A dedicated wedding manager at the resort ensures that every detail, from the planning stage to the wedding day rituals, is meticulously taken care of, allowing families to enjoy the event stress-free. The resorts also provide services for couples, such as gourmet specials, thematic setups, transportation choices, and bridal services, including pre-wedding treatments at the Subuthi Spa.

"We are thrilled to receive the recognition for Sterling Puri. It's a testament to the trust of our many wedding guests and partners who choose to celebrate their special day with us and to the dedicated teams who help make their celebrations memorable events. Sterling caters to an entire range of events – from wedding proposals to pre-wedding shoots, wedding events from 'haldi' to 'bidai', to honeymoons and anniversaries!" said Harinath Mohanasundaram, Senior Vice President – Marketing, Sterling Holiday Resorts.

[#wedding](#) [#Resort](#) [#Sterling Holiday Resorts](#) [#Awards](#)

Preserving Hornbills



A pair of great hornbills Copyright: Esmail Samiwala

The Athirappilly-Vazhachal rainforest shelters four species of endangered hornbills, revealed Dinuj Viswanathan, the resort manager at the Sterling Athirappilly, a river-fronted resort where we were staying. The great hornbill, daubed in yellow and black hues with a large curved beak, is the state bird of Kerala. It is locally called “malamuzhakki” or “the bird with the deep call that echoes in the mountains.”

Its presence in the canopy of the rainforest is often signalled by a whooshing sound that has been compared to jets flying overhead. The other three hornbill species are the Malabar pied hornbill, the Malabar grey hornbill and the Indian grey hornbill. These long-beaked birds were once poached by villagers for their meat and eggs which were then added to medicinal herbal concoctions. Today, the Kadars—a tribal community who lives in and off these forests—no longer poach the birds but protect them, even study them, and channel their native wisdom and deep understanding of the forests under the World Wildlife Fund-India Ecological Monitoring Programme.

A bird takes flight



A bird takes flight Copyright: Gustasp Irani and Jeroo Irani

Thus, a 163MW hydroelectric power project on the Chalakudy had to be abandoned in the face of stiff resistance from environmentalists and tribal organisations, who averred that the project would sound a death knell not only for the hornbills whose habitat would be submerged but also for the entire riparian ecosystem.

Better Than A Bollywood Movie

After an hour of trudging across pristine terrain, we finally reached our resort. A few guests sat angling on the river bank, an arm's stretch away from the property. We retreated to our river view suite whose floor-to-ceiling glass windows invited the outdoors indoors for a party. The engaging vistas of the river and a deep mysterious forest lining it transfixed us.



The patio of the Sterling Athirappilly Copyright: Gustasp Irani and Jeroo Irani

Later, we sipped coffee at the patio of the restaurant and curled up with a book in the library lounge where views of the river gurgling past and emerald doves drying their wings on isolated rocks filled the viewfinder of our cameras. A sweet finale to our weekend getaway was a candlelit dinner on the terrace where an infinity pool seemed to slip into the vast nothingness of the river below. That night, the air was tinged with romance as a guitarist and the chortling river serenaded our senses.

The hushed landscape of the slate grey and green river framed by rearing forested mountains has featured in many Bollywood song-and-dance sequences. Ultimately, it is nature's handiwork, and not comely heroines gyrating by the falls, who is the showstopper and star of celluloid fantasies.

Getting There

Cochin International Airport (40km) is the nearest airport while Thrissur Railway Station (58km) and Chalakudy Railway Station (33km) are convenient railheads from where taxis and buses ply to Athirappilly. The town is well-connected by road to major cities in Kerala, the nearest of which are Kochi and Thrissur.

Best Time To Visit



The landscape of Athirappilly in April Copyright: Gustasp Irani and Jeroo Irani

While Athirappilly is a year-round destination, the waterfall is at its most picturesque in the monsoon months.

Where To Stay



The infinity pool at the Sterling Athirappilly Copyright: Gustasp Irani and Jeroo Irani

The Sterling Athirappilly is a top-of-the-line luxury resort. Visitors can consider other high-end stays at the Rainforest Resort, Niraamaya Retreats Samroha and Casa Rio Resorts. The Silver Storm Resort, Greenland Resort and Athirappilly Tourist Home are some budget options.

Itinerary



A water bird scans for its next meal Copyright: Gustasp Irani and Jeroo Irani

On Day 1, explore the Athirappilly Falls by hiking the path to the top and bottom of the cascade. On Day 2, explore the Charpa and Vazhachal Falls which are 5-6km away. On Day 3, visit the Thumboormozhi Dam and Butterfly Garden which has a colourful collection of butterflies.

Always follow the safety instructions while trekking, swimming or river rafting in Athirappilly.

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