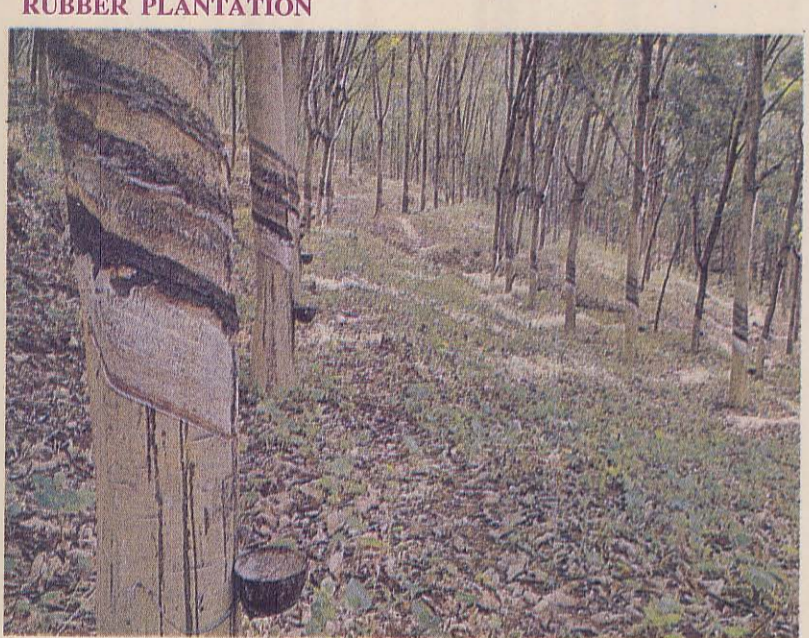


**DISTRICT PLANNING MAP SERIES**  
**KOTTAYAM**

**KOTTAYAM KERALA**



**SURVEY OF INDIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**KOTTAYAM DISTRICT**

The objective of this 'Map series' is to provide users and planners with topographic and thematic information related to the district.

**KOTTAYAM** - the name of this land of letters, latex and lakes, is the distorted form of Malayalam word 'kottayakam' meaning the interior of fort.

During the sangam age Kottayam was part of the Kuttanad and from 9th to 12th century it was under the rule of Kulasekharas of Vempolind which got later split into Thekkumkur and Vadakkumkur Rajas. During 1749-54 Raja Marthanda Varma annexed these Kingdoms with Travancore. Consequently the 'State Integration' of July 1949 'United State of Travancore-Cochin' was formed with three revenue divisions as Kottayam, Quilon and Trivandrum.

The present Kottayam district has an area of 2204 sq.kms, divided into 5 taluks, 9 developmental blocks and 73 panchayats comprising of 101 villages. The region is naturally divided into highlands having rich plantations, mid-lands of undulating country and the low lands bordering the west. A small area of the district is covered with natural forests having rare flora and fauna and the man-made forests abound in extensive plantations of rubber, eucalyptus, teak-wood, softwood and cashew. The rivers Minachil, Muvattupuzha, Manimala flow through the district and empty their waters into the Vembanad Lake.

The district has a population of 18,28,271 as per 1991 census comprising of Hindus, Christians, Muslims and few Tribals. Paddy is the mainstay of the people and Tapioca is another major food crop. The major cash crops - rubber, coconut, pepper, tea, coffee are grown on a large scale. Climate is tropical and plain areas receive plenty of rains. The district is having many rubber-based industries like latex, crepe rubber and the increasing output in the processing of rubber has made Kottayam the headquarters of the Rubber Board. Wood based industries provide jobs to a large number of people in the district.

Kottayam had an important role in the freedom struggle and other political agitations. The famous Vaikam Satyagraha of 1924-25 was an epic struggle for the eradication of untouchability, attracted the attention of the whole nation. The venture was blessed by the 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi and other national leaders. In the history of Journalism, Kottayam has a prominent role. The daily 'Malayala Manorama' published from the capital, started in 1890, has the largest circulation in India. The place of the first newspaper, English School, printing press, travelogue, autobiography and the oldest library, the highest literacy rate etc., keep Kottayam in a place of honour in the cultural map of Kerala.

The capital, Kottayam town, a prominent commercial centre, is on the foothills of Western Ghats and readily accessible by roads, railways and backwaters. Remarkably fertile and brilliantly green throughout the district has panoramic landscapes, hill ranges, backwaters, lush green fields and stretches of plantations. Kumaragam - well known for its Birds' Sanctuary, the much venerated Tirunakkara Mahadevar Kshetram, the ancient royal temple at Talikotta, the Siva Temple at Vaikam, the mosques at Tazhantagudi and Enumeli, St. Mary's Church at Ezharamangalam, St. Joseph's Monastery at Mannanam and the boat races of Chundan in the Minachil River etc. are some of the tourist attractions of the district.

**REFERENCES**

Boundary, international	-----
Boundary, state, demarcated/undemarcated	-----
Boundary, district, subdivision, taluk or taluk, forest	-----
Boundary, block	-----
Boundary, pillars: surveyed/unlocated	-----
Roads, metalled: according to importance/distance	-----
Roads, unmetalled: according to importance; bridge	-----
Canals, track and pass, Footpath with bridge	-----
Bridges, with piers/without; Causeway, Ford or Ferry	-----
Railways, broad gauge: double/single with station/under constn	-----
Railways, other gauges: double/single with distance/under constn	-----
Mineral line or tramway, Main power line, Cutting with tunnel	-----
Streams with track in bed, undefined, Canal	-----
Dams: masonry, rock, filled, earthwork, Weir	-----
River banks, shelving, steep, 2 to 3 metres, over 6 metres	-----
River, dry with water channel, with island & rocks, tidal river	-----
Submerged rocks, Shoal, Swamp, Reeds	-----
Wells: lined/unlined, Tube-well, Spring, Tanks: perennial/dry	-----
Embankments: road or rail; tank, Broken ground	-----
Settlements: urban/rural; fort	-----
Mats: permanent, temporary, Tower, Antiquities	-----
Temple, Chhatri, Church, Mosque, Kishan, Tomb, Cross	-----
Lighthouse, Lightship, Buoys: lighted/unlighted, Anchorage	-----
Mine, Cultivation: Grass & Scrubland	-----
Orchard & Plantation: Jungle areas	-----
Post office, Telegraph office, Post & Telegraph office, Police station	-----
Bungalows: for travellers/inspection, Rest house	-----
Circuit house, Camping ground, Forest reserved/protected	-----
Hospital, Dispensary, Veterinary Hospital	-----
Places of tourists' interest	-----

Names: other places of interest

Names: settlements

Names: taluk

Names: taluk headquarters

Names: headquarter, district

**VAIKAM**  
**KAYYUR**  
**VAIKAM**  
**KOTTAYAM**

