



TOURISM CLUB

Report 2014 - 15

2014-15 was a fruitful year for the Tourism Club of Baselius College. The club has played a vital role in cultivating interest among the members in preserving our culture, traditions and nature. The activities of the club were conducted smoothly under the coordination of Prof. Vipin K Varughese, the teacher in charge and Greena Susan Thomas, Secretary.

Inauguration

The functioning of the club was officially commenced on 16th September 2014. The formal inauguration was done by Ms. Sini K Thomas, Assistant Editor, I & PRD, Govt. of Kerala. She gave a talk on ‘New Trends in Tourism’, which was thought provoking. She also inaugurated the E Library of Tourism Magazines. World famous tourism magazines viz. Travel & Tour World, TTW Asia, TTW Europe, TTW America, TTW India & MICE are available in the library.

World Tourism Day Celebration

The World Tourism Day was celebrated on 27th September 2014. On this day a hand written magazine “*My Kottayam*” was released by Sri. Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Minister of Forest, Transport, Sports, Environment, and Cinema. It contains various types of Tourism in Kottayam viz. Pilgrim, Art Forms, Cuisine, Natural beauty etc.

After this a seminar on *Cultural Heritage of Kerala* was conducted. Sri. Raja SreekumarVarma, General Council Member, Kerala State Film Academy & Governing Board Member, State Institute of Languages, Kerala led the seminar.

In the afternoon session a study tour was held to Thazhathangady Heritage Siites, which includes Juma Masjid, Kottayam Valiyapally (famous for Persian Crosses) & Kottayam Cheriypally (famous for the mural paintings).

Awareness Magic Show

On 16th October, Magician Nath, & Magician Bhagyanath, Limca Book of World Records winner were conducted an awareness magic show against the social evils of Liquor, Tobacco, Fast Food, Junk food etc and its after effects.

ChakyarKooth Performance and Seminar on Koodiyattam

As a part of encouraging our cultural & heritage art forms, a seminar on *ChakyarKooth and Koodiyattam* (art form which is officially recognized by UNSECO as a master piece of oral and intangible Heritage of Humanity) & *ChakyarKooth Performance* was arranged. Sri. PothiyilNarayanaChakyar (Kerala SangeethaNadaka Academy Award Winner) perform the kooth& led the seminar on 4th February 2015.

Tour

With the aim of improving knowledge and travel experience, a tour was conducted for the club members on 14thApril 2015 to Ernakulam. We were able to visit and understand the historical and religious significance of the places:

i. Thrikkakara Temple

Thrikkakara Temple is one of the few temples in India dedicated to Lord Vamana. The temple complex, which is enclosed in a large area in picturesque surroundings, holds the main sanctum dedicated to Lord Vamana. The sanctum sanctorum of the main shrine houses the idol of Maha Vishnu. The Temple festival is during Onam season, which falls on the month of August or September. The Onasadya or the Onam feast is held in a grand manner in the temple with a large number of people cutting across religious barriers participating in it. Communal harmony continues to be the hallmark of the celebrations, with people belonging to different faiths and religions turning out in large numbers for the Sadya in keeping with the spirit of the festival.

ii. Uliyannor Mahadeva Temple

It is believed that the legendary Perumthachan constructed this temple. The main sanctum is majestic vattasreekovil said to be supported by 64 wooden beams. The nandi idol in front is covered with copper. Lord Siva faces East while ParvathiDavi in consecrated here facing west.

iii. Museum of Kerala History

MadhavanNayar Foundation was established in 1984, under the aegis of which grew several sub-establishments such as the *Museum of Kerala History* and the *Gallery of Contemporary Art* which remain the core of the Foundation, and also the *Visual Arts Gallery*, the *Gallery of Miniature Art and the Dolls Museum*.

iv. Kerala Folklore Museum

It is the only architectural museum in Kerala with the essence of the life and culture of the common man over the past 1000 years. It is also a cultural hub which contains:- ‘Face Art Gallery’ – for art & antiques and ‘Folklore Theatre’- live performances of traditional art forms & cultural activities.

v. Maritime Heritage Museum

The Cochin Port Trust has set up a Maritime Heritage Museum in Willington Island where a good collection of unique and rare navigational equipments and photographs connected with the saga of construction of Cochin Port during 1920-40 period are on display.

vi. Fort Kochi beach

A stroll along the beach, particularly at sunset with the Chinese fishing nets and sailing ships in the background, is a memorable experience.

vii. Fort Kochi-VypeenJankar service

Fort Kochi-VypeenJankar service, which ferries hundreds of passengers and vehicles every day.

viii. Vallarpadam Basilica

The *Basilica of Our Lady of Ransom, Vallarpadam-Ernakulam* is a famous centre of pilgrimage. People from all parts of Kerala and outside, irrespective of caste or creed go to the church to seek the blessings of Mary, the mother of Jesus, popularly known as "Vallarpadathamma".

ix. Marine Drive

Marine Drive is a picturesque promenade in Kochi, Kerala, India. It is built facing the backwaters

Conclusion

Coming to the end of the academic year, we extend our sincere gratitude to God Almighty, the Principal, Teachers and Tourism Club members for their priceless support and cooperation.

Prof. Vipin K Varughese
(**Teacher in charge**)

Greena Susan Thomas
(**Secretary**)