

**My City
My Heritage**

**Ko
zhi
ko
de**

 **TRAIL**

Kozhikode's Colonial Era Landmarks

 **7.2 KM**

 **NEAR NEAR PAZHASSIRAJA MUSEUM**

The arrival of the Portuguese in Kozhikode towards the end of the fifteenth century shifted local politics, and the city went through conflicts and attacks in the centuries that followed. It was invaded by the Mysore rulers in the mid-eighteenth century, and later administered by the British as the headquarters of the Malabar District.

The Basel Evangelical Mission, a Christian missionary organization from Switzerland and Germany, was very active in Malabar and the neighbouring district of South Canara during the period 1834 to 1914.

The Basel Mission established educational institutions, as well as tile and weaving factories—aimed to educate and employ without discrimination. All of these events shaped Kozhikode's distinct cultural heritage.

While the Kozhikode of today is very different from the Calicut of the Colonial era, several remnants of its legacy still exist, embraced and adapted by its people for the modern times. This trail takes you through these landmarks that tell many stories.

1 Pazhassiraja Museum and Art Gallery

Built in 1812, the building now housing the museum was originally known as the East

Hill Bungalow, serving as the office of the British District Collectors. The adjacent building, now the Art Gallery, was once the Collector's residence. It was renamed the Pazhassi Raja Archaeological Museum in 1980, honoring the revolutionary who resisted British rule. The museum displays a variety of artefacts including burial urns, a model umbrella stone, Roman and



other coins, granite and wooden sculptures, swords, and measuring instruments. The Art Gallery features original paintings by Raja Ravi Varma.

2 St Mary's Church

The British built this Anglican Church in the early 1860s and it was mainly used as a Cantonment Church by the British military and administrative officers. A main attraction of the church is the altar-piece, a replica of 'Madonna del Granduca', a painting by the Italian



renaissance artist, Raphael. The tombs found adjacent to the church date back to 1717. The Church stands between two arterial roads (Wayanad Road and Kannur Road) and has been renovated several times over the years. Presently it is under the Church of South India.

3 The Malabar Christian College Complex

Calicut became an educational hub during the



British era. The sprawling campus housing the Malabar Christian College and High School is a testament to this. The college was started in 1909 as the Basel German Mission College and the school much earlier—both established by the Basel Mission. Their motto of ‘Education without discrimination’ led to the inclusion of all castes and religious groups as students; this was when caste discrimination was strong in Malabar. The Rev. W. Mueller was the first Principal and the first batch of the college had fifteen students of whom four were women.

4 CSI Church

Built by the Basel Mission in 1842, the majestic church building—the biggest Basel Mission church in Malabar—is a testament to the dedication of the missionaries who worked tirelessly for their cause. The structure is designed in a combination of European and regional architectural styles.

Installed at the cathedral is a pipe organ gifted by St Aidan's Church in Cheltenham, England—the only pipe organ in Kerala. Located near the Mananchira Square, a Parish hall, a shopping complex and a few houses surround the Church.



5 B.E.M Girls' School

The Basel Evangelical Mission (B.E.M) school is Malabar's first school for girls, founded in 1848 by the Basel



Mission. Supported by the Zamorin rulers, the school was a pioneering idea in a time when girls were not sent to school. Similar to other institutions set up by the mission, it welcomed students from all castes and stratas of society.

6 Mananchira Square

Mananchira Square, the most recognizable landmark in Kozhikode, is centered around a fourteenth-century man-made lake, surrounded by iconic buildings and open



spaces that have long served as a hub for recreation and relaxation. Among the notable colonial structures in the area are the Town Hall and the Commonwealth Trust Office. The Town Hall was built in 1891 to commemorate the jubilee anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign.



7 The Flag Mast

At Mananchira Maidan stands an old British-era flagstaff, with a height of about 20 meters and constructed from riveted steel angle iron. At the top of the structure is an additional 3-meter-long steel pole, equipped with a wheel mechanism to raise and lower the flag using a rope. Just before Indian independence, two brave men defied colonial

rule by climbing the flagstaff to hoist the Indian flag. As they descended, they greased the pole, making it impossible for anyone to remove the flag. In a desperate attempt, the British resorted to firing gunshots at the mast by the next afternoon, subsequently reinstating the British flag.

8 The Beach and Lighthouse

The beach has been a central attraction of the city for centuries. Although it no longer serves as a port for the movement of goods, remnants of the old port and a functioning light-house, built in 1847, still stand as reminders of its past. The development of spaces like Freedom Square has further enhanced the appeal of the beach, which now hosts significant events, including the Kerala Literature Festival (KLF), strengthening its place in the city's cultural life.



Please note:

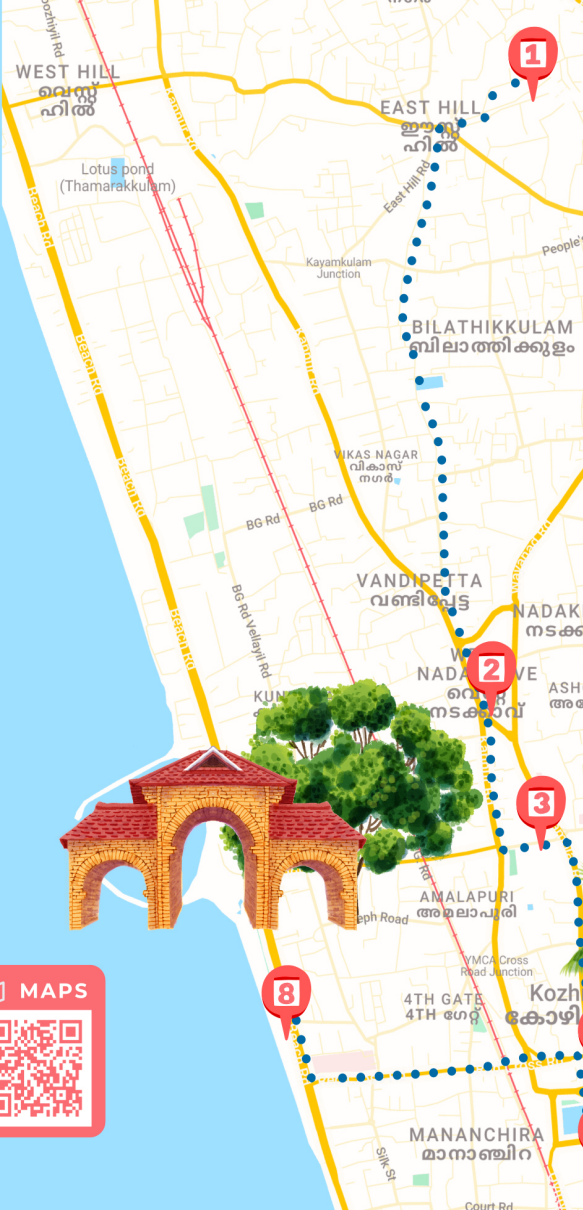
- Certain places in the trail are at a distance from each other and cannot be covered on foot alone. Please plan your day and transportation accordingly.
- The Pazhassiraja Museum has an entry fee, and is closed on Mondays. Timings are 9 am-1 pm, and 2 pm-4:00 pm.

Heritage Experience/ Walk Leader:

K Mohan
(Veteran Heritage Tour
Leader)

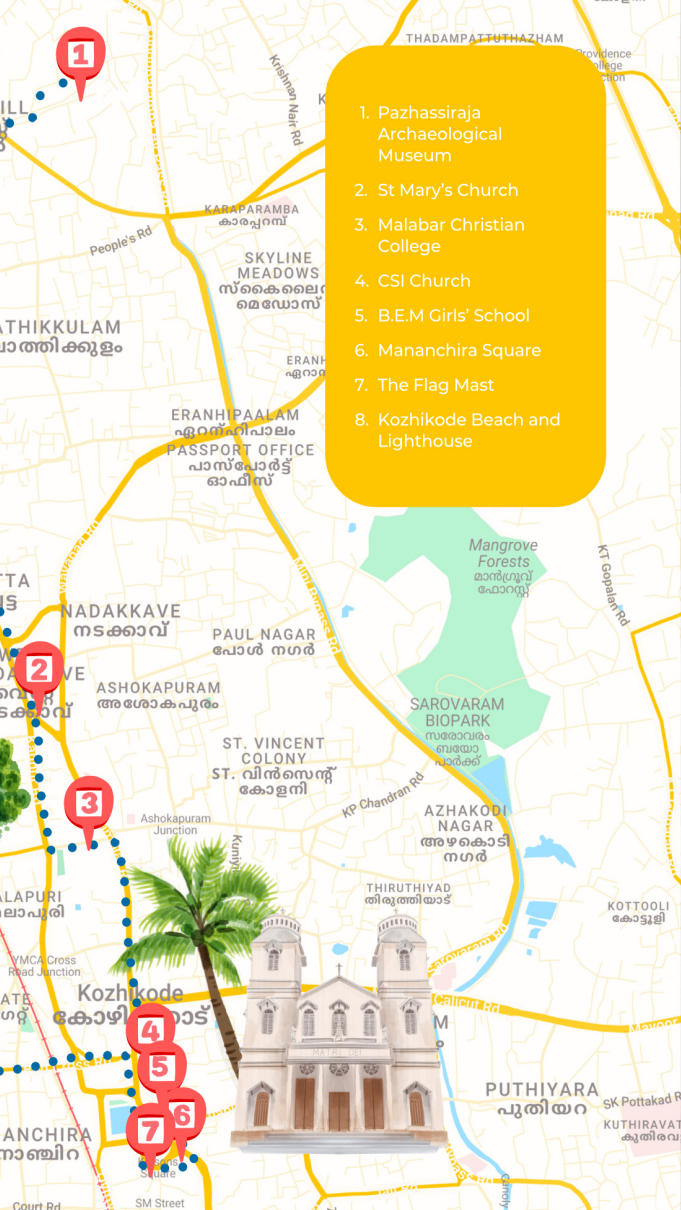
Contact: +91 94460 78996

Photo Credits: Joseph Rahul



MAPS





1. Pazhassiraja Archaeological Museum
2. St Mary's Church
3. Malabar Christian College
4. CSI Church
5. B.E.M Girls' School
6. Mananchira Square
7. The Flag Mast
8. Kozhikode Beach and Lighthouse

