

## Location

The former kingdom of Cochin lay between 9°48' and 10°50' Latitude and 76°5' and 76°58'E Longitude. For administrative purposes, it was divided into five taluks, viz., Kanayannur-Cochin, Mukundapuram, Trichur (Thrissur), Talapilli, and Chittur along with the tiny principality of Cranganore (Kodungallur).

Cochin City is in the Ernakulam District of Kerala, the State formed by the merger of the former kingdoms of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar (which was a part of the Madras Presidency under the British). Ernakulam District is bounded on the north by Thrissur District, on the east by Idukki District and on the south by

Kottayam and Alappuzha (Aleppey) districts. The Arabian Sea envelops the city all along the western boundary. It lies almost

The geographical peculiarities of Cochin and its surrounding areas have contributed to the uniqueness of the culture of the city and the region. The geography of the region mainly consists of lowland along the seaboard and the city lies barely 2 meters above the sea level.

## Plains

Much of the area is 'plain' land having natural facilities of drainage via backwaters, canals and rivers. Cochin Taluk is divided into two blocks by the Cochin Azhi (backwaters), viz. Vypeen Kara on the northern and Fort Cochin to Chellanam on the southern sides.

## Sea Coast, Estuaries, Lakes, Islands etc.

The seacoast, about 30 miles in length, falls entirely in the Cochin Taluk. The Cochin Harbour, a major natural harbour, is also situated in this Taluk. The backwaters in the Cochin and anayannur Taluks are dotted with small islands, the main ones being Willingdon, Vypeen, Ramanthuruthu, Ponjikkara (Bolghatty Island), Vallarpadom, Kumbalam, Cheranelloor etc. Most of these islands are very small, varying in extent from 4 square miles to less than a square mile and are favourably fertile for the luxuriant growth of coconut palms.

## Rivers

The main rivers in this area are the Periyar and Muvattupuzha. The Periyar flows through all the taluks except Cochin. In the rainy season the water level in the Muvattupuzha river rises 25-30 feet in certain areas, but in the summer season there is barely a foot of water in some places.

## Lakes

A portion of the Vembanad Lake falls within Cochin Taluk. On the northern side of the North Paravur Taluk lies the Kodungallur Kayal and on the southern side, the Varapuzha Kayal.

## Geology

The geological succession is as follows:

- Recent sediments (Alluvium, Teri's, Brown sands etc.), Mud banks, Laterite.
- Archaean-Basic Dykes, Charnockites, Gneisses.
- The entire western part is covered by recent sediments.