



Vembanad Lake: Kerala

Why in News

Kerala houseboats in Vembanad Lake are about to begin soon amid a robust vaccination drive.

- This is the **largest lake in Kerala and the longest Lake in India.**





Key Points

- Vembanad Lake is **also known as** Vembanad Kayal, Vembanad Kol, Punnamada Lake (in Kuttanad) and Kochi Lake (in Kochi).
- Spanning several districts of Kerala and covering a territory of more than 2033.02 km².
- The lake has its **source in four rivers**, Meenachil, Achankovil, Pampa and Manimala
- It is **separated from the Arabian Sea by a narrow barrier island** and is a **popular backwater stretch** in Kerala.
- **Vallam Kali (i.e Nehru Trophy Boat Race) is a Snake Boat Race** held every year in the

month of August in Vembanad Lake.

- In 2002, it was **included in the list of wetlands of international importance**, as defined by the [Ramsar Convention](#).
 - It is the **second-largest Ramsar site in India** only after the [Sundarbans](#) in West Bengal.
- The Government of India has identified the Vembanad wetland under the [National Wetlands Conservation Programme](#).
- The **Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary** is located on the east coast of the lake.
- In 2019, **Willingdon Island**, a seaport located in the city of Kochi, was carved out of Vembanad Lake.
- One of the most outstanding features of this lake is the 1252 m long **saltwater barrier, Thanneermukkom**, which was built to stop saltwater intrusion into Kuttanad.

[Source: TH](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/vembanad-lake-kerala>

