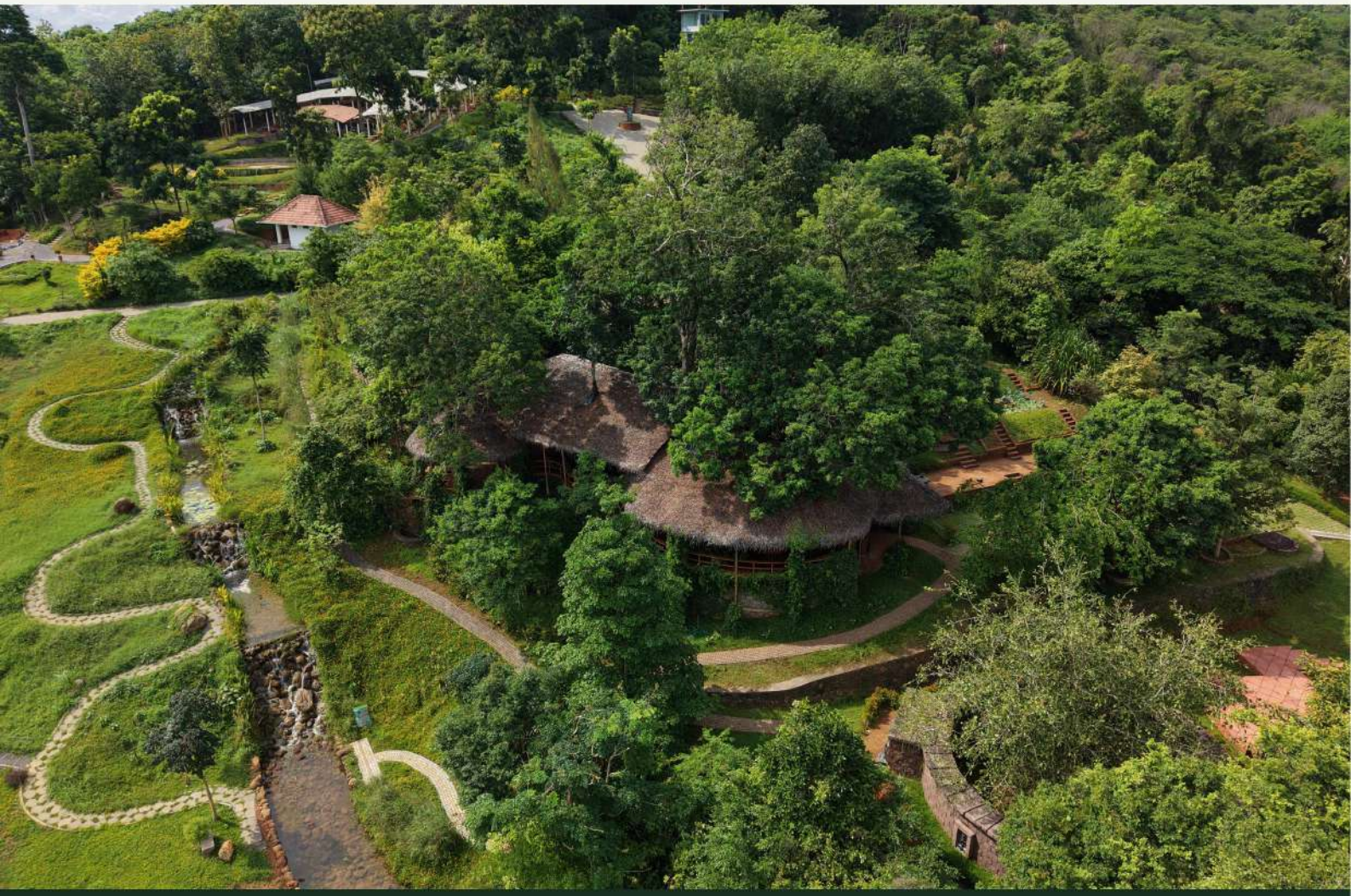
HORTUS MALABARICUS
BOTANICAL GARDEN

A plant conservation project by the SciGenom Research Foundation

In partnership with
EduBrisk



RESIDENTIAL NATURE CAMPS FOR SCHOOLS

Hortus Explorers

Learn like a naturalist in a 28-acre botanical garden inspired by *Hortus Malabaricus*, the 17th-century Dutch magnum opus in Latin whose name means “Garden of Malabar”.

Discoverer
2 days · 1 night

Young Naturalist
3 days · 2 nights

Hortus Malabaricus Botanical Garden, Cheruthuruthy (Near Shoranur), Thrissur, Kerala-679 531

THE GARDEN

A living classroom close to the banks of the Bharathappuzha

Hortus Malabaricus Botanical Garden in Cheruthuruthy, Thrissur, is a 28-acre plant conservation project of the SciGenom Research Foundation, a public charitable trust established in 2010. The garden conserves, documents and studies the plants of Kerala and the Western Ghats, including those recorded in Hendrik van Rheede's 17th-century book *Hortus Malabaricus*. Just down the road from Kerala Kalamandalam, it is a place where students see plants, ecosystems and Kerala's traditional knowledge side by side.

28
acres of garden

2,000
plant species

100+
bird species

100+
butterfly species


Aquatic Plant Centre


Medicinal plants sector


Natural forest reserve

Why Hortus Explorers?

Students step out of the classroom and into real fieldwork: observing, recording, questioning and presenting what they find. The camps build curiosity, scientific thinking, creativity and teamwork, and support NEP 2020's focus on experiential learning, art-integrated learning and Indian Knowledge Systems.

About EduBrisk

EduBrisk is an education partner that designs learning experiences to complement classroom teaching, through experiential, interdisciplinary and activity-based learning. Hortus Explorers camps are run by the garden's own team of botanists and naturalists, with EduBrisk as a supporting partner.

WHAT STUDENTS DO

Three themes, one garden

Every camp weaves together field biology, hands-on science and Kerala's culture and traditional knowledge. Schools choose the activities that suit them.

1 Nature: exploring biodiversity

Discover the living world by day and by night.

- Biodiversity Treasure Hunt
- Dawn birding
- Butterfly Trail
- Night Walk
- The Forest in a Garden
- Wetland Explorers
- The Hidden Green World

2 Science: learning through investigation

Observe, identify, record and present findings like real field scientists.

- Plant Detective Challenge
- Pollinator Mission
- Who Eats Whom? Food web
- Young Ecologist Challenge
- Young Naturalist Field Project
- The Great Biodiversity Quiz
- Citizen science tools

3 Art, culture & traditional knowledge

Connect nature with Ayurveda, art and Kerala's heritage.

- Plants & People: Ayurveda in nature
- Scientific illustration
- Nature sound mapping
- Nature photography & reels
- Campfire & nature stories

Add to your camp

Herbarium making · Eco-printing and natural dyes · Seed dispersal workshop · Low-waste camp and carbon footprint challenge · Visit to Kerala Kalamandalam. Ask us about adding these to either package.

FOR STUDENTS

What students take home

Knowledge

How plants are classified and adapted to where they grow

How ecosystems, food webs and pollination work

Medicinal plants and Kerala's Ayurvedic heritage

Why conservation matters

Skills

Observing and recording field data

Asking questions and testing ideas

Identifying plants, birds and butterflies

Scientific drawing, mapping and photography

Teamwork and presenting findings

Beyond the classroom

A real break from screens

Confidence outdoors, day and night

Learning with all five senses

Empathy and care for living things

FOR SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

Why schools choose Hortus Explorers

Curriculum links	Activities connect to CBSE, ICSE, IB and IGCSE science, EVS and art-integrated learning. Students return with field notes, sketches and maps that teachers can use for project work.
NEP 2020 in practice	Experiential, inquiry-based and art-integrated learning, with Indian Knowledge Systems built in.
Green school goals	Students run a low-waste camp and estimate its carbon footprint: a hands-on start to your school's own sustainability work.
Certificates	A Hortus Explorers certificate for every student, and a participation certificate for accompanying teachers.

Your camp, your garden



1 · Main Gate
2 · Star of David
3 · Sleeping Lady
4 · Parking
5 · Office & Reception
6 · Cottage Area
7 · Birdwing Villa (Restaurant)
8 · Rheed Villa (Spa)
9 · Balsam Conservatory
10 · Sahyadri House
11 · Ayur Udhyan
12 · Malabar Garden
13 · Green Man Pavilion
14 · Kadalivanam
15 · Cycads & Palms
16 · Black Pepper Garden
17 · Tamarind House
18 · Sacred Grove
19 · Solar Pavilion
20 · Stream
21 · Wooden Deck
22 · Yogini Temple
23 · Red Pathway
24 · Seasonal Plants
25 · Xerophytes
26 · Aquatic Plant Centre
27 · Butterfly Garden
28 · Sarpa Kavu
29 · Bamboo Grove
30 · Rheedianum Nature Reserve

LOOK OUT FOR THESE ON YOUR CAMP

11 · Ayur Udhyan
Plants & People: Ayurveda in nature

18 · Sacred Grove
Plants in India's sacred traditions

27 · Butterfly Garden
Butterfly Trail

30 · Rheedianum Nature Reserve
Biodiversity exploration in a natural forest ecosystem

PACKAGE 1

Discoverer

A first adventure into nature: two days of exploring, one night in the garden.

2 days
1 night

A sample programme: each school chooses the activities it prefers, and we share a detailed timetable before the camp.

Day 1 · Discover

01 **Welcome to the World of Plants.** Meet the garden and its living collections.

02 **Biodiversity Treasure Hunt.** Team-based exploration and challenges.

03 **Plant Detective Challenge.** Learn basic field identification and observation.

04 **Birding & Butterflying.** How to identify birds and butterflies, and where they live.

05 **Nature Photography & Reel Challenge.** Teams capture their discoveries in photos and short videos.

06 **Night Walk: The Garden After Dark.** Night-blooming plants, insects, frogs, geckos and other creatures of the night.

07 **Campfire & Nature Stories.** Stories, games and conversations to end the day.

Day 2 · Investigate

08 **Dawn Birding.** Wake up with nature and identify birds by sight and sound.

09 **Butterfly Trail.** Butterfly diversity, behaviour, life cycles and host plants.

10 **The Forest in a Garden.** How plants, insects, birds and fungi depend on each other.

11 **Pollinator Mission.** Find out who visits flowers, and why.

12 **Young Ecologist Challenge.** Survey a small patch of garden and record every form of life you find.

13 **The Great Biodiversity Quiz.** A team challenge on everything discovered over the two days.





PACKAGE 2

Young Naturalist

Explore nature like a scientist, and finish with a field project of your own.

3 days
2 nights

A sample programme: each school chooses the activities it prefers, and we share a detailed timetable before the camp.

Day 1 · Discover

01 Welcome to Hortus Malabaricus: the living laboratory

02 Biodiversity Treasure Hunt

03 Plant Detective Challenge

04 Birding & Butterflying

05 Citizen Science Tools: hands-on with iNaturalist, Merlin Bird ID, eBird and SeasonWatch

06 Nature Photography Challenge

07 Create Your Nature Reel

08 Night Walk: Life After Dark

09 Campfire & Nature Stories

Day 2 · Explore

10 Dawn Birding: birds by sight, call and behaviour

11 Butterfly Trail: life cycles and host plants

12 The Forest in a Garden: habitats and food webs

13 Pollinator Mission: plants and animals working together

14 The Hidden Green World: ferns, mosses and liverworts

15 Wetland Explorers: aquatic plants and why wetlands matter

16 Biodiversity Quiz & Team Challenge

Day 3 · Become a Naturalist

ONLY IN THIS PACKAGE

17 **Who Eats Whom?** Build a food web from the organisms you observed.

18 **Plants & People.** Medicinal plants, traditional knowledge and Ayurveda.

19 **Nature Sound Mapping.** Listen, identify and map the sounds of the garden.

20 **Scientific Illustration.** Observe a plant closely and draw it like a botanist.

21 **Young Naturalist Field Project.** Teams pick a topic (birds, butterflies, plants, pollinators or aquatic life), collect observations and present findings.

22 **Graduation.** Team presentations, a final challenge and the Young Naturalist certificate.

PLANNING YOUR CAMP

Good to know

WHO IT'S FOR
Students of classes 6 to 12, with their teachers

GROUP SIZE
24–40 students per batch; one facilitator for every 10 students

INCLUDED
Stay at the garden, all meals, guided sessions, field materials and certificates

GETTING HERE
5 km from Shoranur railway station
80 km from Kochi International Airport
100 km from Kozhikode International Airport



Location map, not to scale

Safety comes first

- Trained facilitators with every group
- First aid on site
- Night walks only on marked paths, with guides
- Separate supervision for boys and girls overnight
- Parent consent and medical details collected before the camp

What to bring

- Comfortable clothes and closed walking shoes
- Cap, water bottle and a light rain jacket
- Torch for the night walk
- Notebook and pencils
- Insect repellent and any personal medicines

Book a camp

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