

SAYR 2K26: Education through Exploration

“Paradise was always over there, a day’s sail away.” - J. Maarten Troost

It is often said that we should travel as much as we can, go as far as we can, and explore every corner of the world possible. The true value of such a journey lies in the realisation it brings: that despite our different backgrounds, languages, or traditions, we are all essentially the same. **Sayr 2k26: Education through Exploration** was built upon this very foundation. In alignment with the core objectives of the B.Ed. programme, a comprehensive study tour was organised for the 2024-2026 batch to transform theoretical pedagogical concepts into practical lived experiences. This endeavour was meticulously planned and executed under the expert guidance of our Principal, Prof. Dr. T. C. Thankachan, whose vision for holistic education remains our driving force. We were further supported by the valuable leadership of our Vice Principal, Dr. Lavina Dominic, and the dedicated supervision of our Teacher-in-Charge, Dr. Alex George, who ensured that every moment of the tour was both safe and intellectually enriching.

PLANNING

On November 3, 2025, a planning meeting was held in the Seminar Hall under the aegis of the Principal, Vice Principal, and Teacher-in-Charge. Taking student suggestions into account, **Coorg, Belur, and Malpe** were chosen as the tour destinations due to their rich historical and cultural significance. Following this meeting, various committees including a core committee were established to oversee essential aspects such as accommodation, water supply, finance, prayer, ticket booking, shopping, and entertainment. On November 20, 2025, the tour was officially titled Sayr 2k26: Education through Exploration, inspired by the Arabic word Sayr, meaning “course” or “progress.” The final instructions and guidelines for the journey were then solidified on November 26, 2025. The collective efforts of the committees, the dedicated involvement of the students, and the guidance of the teachers laid a strong foundation for the forthcoming educational tour.





EXECUTION

Day 1 (20/01/2026)

On January 20, 2026, students reported to the college at 4:00 pm to begin our journey. A prayer session was held in the college chapel at 4:40 pm, followed by an inspiring message from the PTA President Sri. Mathew M. Kuriakose. We were accompanied by Dr. Lavina Dominic, Dr. Sunil Thomas, Dr. Alex George, and Ms. Neelima George, who provided constant support and supervision throughout the entire journey. We officially set off at 5:00 pm and reached the Sri Sankaracharya Sthoopam Temple in Kalady by 6:45 pm. The temple was hosting a fair, and we were captivated by the beautiful lights and mystical ambience of the celebration. After enjoying a delicious dinner at 8:30 pm, the atmosphere turned lively with various entertainment programmes conducted inside the bus. By 11:00 pm, we settled in for the night as the journey continued.



Day 2 (21/01/2026)

We arrived in Coorg at 7:00 am, immediately greeted by the cool highland air carrying the faint, earthy fragrance of spices and wild blooms. Nestled along the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats, the region revealed a breathtaking landscape of undulating hills cloaked in emerald-green coffee plantations and ancient, mist-laden forests, validating its title as the Scotland of India. After checking into the hotel at 7:30 am and enjoying breakfast an hour later, we headed to the **Namdroling Monastery**, popularly known as the Golden Temple. This architectural marvel, with its ornate gold-plated statues and vibrant Tibetan murals, stands as a serene sanctuary of peace and a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the Tibetan settlement. Following lunch at 12:30 pm, we visited the **Nisargadhama Bamboo Forest**, where we spent a delightful afternoon walking through the towering bamboo groves, and exploring the local shops. By 5:00 pm, we reached the **Harangi Dam**, a magnificent structure where the reservoir waters reflect the surrounding greenery, creating a tranquil backdrop for our group. Under the shade of the trees, we enjoyed playing dumb charades and chatting before witnessing a spectacular musical fountain show at 7:00 pm. The day concluded with a delicious dinner at 8:30 pm, and by 10:00 pm, we settled in for sleep.



Day 3 (22/01/2026)

The next morning, we checked out of the hotel at 6:15 am and began our journey toward Belur, stopping for a refreshing breakfast at 8:00 am along the way. At 10:00 am, we visited the **Chennakeshava Temple**, a breathtaking masterpiece of Hoysala architecture that left us in awe of its incredibly intricate stone carvings, celestial sculptures, and grand pillars that seem to narrate ancient legends. This UNESCO World Heritage site served as a living classroom, allowing us to appreciate the zenith of medieval craftsmanship and the historical depth of our culture. By 11:45 am, we shifted from historical exploration to high-energy

adventure at the **Belur backwaters**, where we indulged in a variety of thrilling water activities including exhilarating speedboat rides, kayaking, rafting, and the laughter-filled banana boat rides. After a lunch at 2:00 pm, we set off for Udupi, transforming our transit time into a celebration of camaraderie with singing, dancing, and lively entertainment sessions on the bus. We finally arrived in Udupi at 9:00 pm, checked into our hotel, and shared a hearty dinner at 9:30 pm before retiring for the night at 10:30 pm, energised for the days ahead.



Day 4 (23/01/2026)

On the fourth day, we rose at 6:00 am and had breakfast at 7:30 am before checking out of the hotel to embrace our last day of adventure. By 11:00 am, we reached the shores of **St. Mary's Island**, a geological marvel famous for its distinctive hexagonal basaltic rock formations, which are said to have been formed by sub-aqueous volcanic activity millions of years ago and were reportedly named by Vasco da Gama during his historic voyage. After taking in the rugged beauty of the island, we spent time at the sun-drenched **Malpe Beach** before pausing for lunch at 1:00 pm. Our journey then took an academic and spiritual turn as we arrived at **St. Aloysius University** in Mangalore around 5:00 pm. We were mesmerised by the college chapel, a stunning masterpiece of art and architecture modeled after the Sistine Chapel in Rome, featuring breathtaking frescoes that cover every inch of its interior. A significant highlight of our visit was the opportunity to interact with the Vice Chancellor, Rev. Dr. Praveen Martis SJ, whose insights added immense value to our educational journey. As we began our return to Kerala, we stopped for a hearty dinner in Kannur at 8:00 pm. The final hours of our trip were a vibrant celebration of the bonds we had formed, filled with

laughter, singing, and dancing on the bus, until we finally settled into a peaceful sleep around midnight, carrying with us the cherished memories of Sayr 2k26.



Day 5 (24/01/2026)

Around 8:00 am the following morning, we arrived back at the college, bringing our incredible journey to a close. We gathered one last time to offer a heartfelt prayer, thanking the Almighty for His divine protection and for blessing us with a safe, successful, and deeply enriching experience.

EVALUATION

This journey was far more than a mere excursion; it was a transformative chapter that bridged the gap between the classroom and the world by breathing life into our pedagogical training through lived experience. By stepping beyond the confines of textbooks, we witnessed firsthand the educational power of exploration and realised that a study tour is a vital instrument for holistic learning and cultural empathy. These shared moments, stretching from the misty heights of Coorg to the historic halls of Mangalore, deepened our mutual understanding and forged an unbreakable bond within the 2024 2026 batch that turned classmates into a lifelong community. Ultimately, Sayr 2k26 widened our horizons and enriched our spirits, leaving us with the realisation that travel is the ultimate teacher which shapes us into more insightful, empathetic, and grounded educators.

Best tourists of the year 2026

Male: Amal George

Female: Aisha Basheer