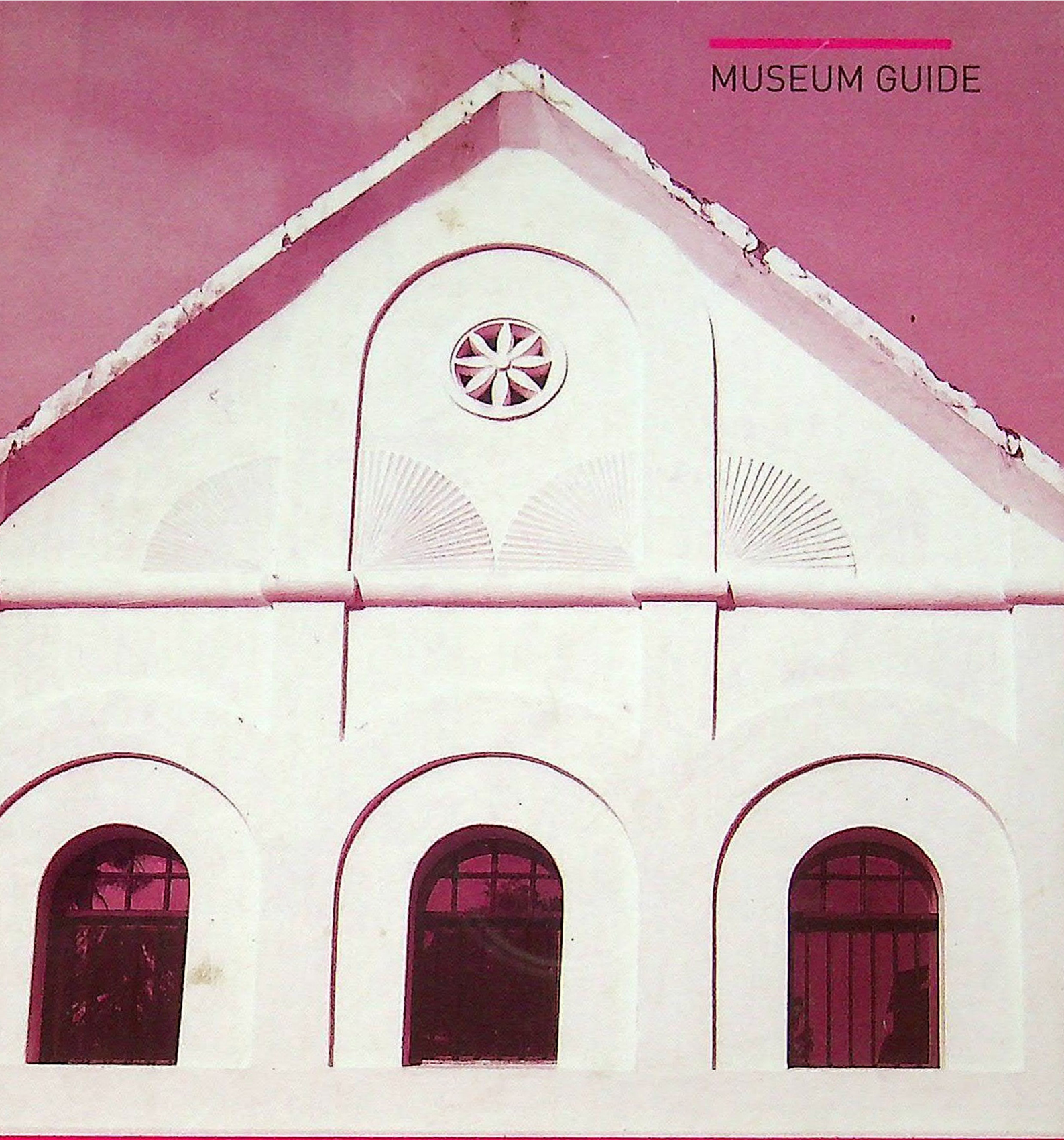
MUSEUM GUIDE



Kerala Jewish Lifestyle Museum

Chendamangalam Synagogue

MUZIRIS HERITAGE PROJECT – OTHER MUSEUMS

Paliyam Kovilakam



The transformation of Cochin Kingdom and life of Nobles after Swarupa period

Paliyam Nalukettu



An exploration into the life of noble families of Kerala under the joint family system

Paravur Synagogue



The history of Jews in Kerala, their migration, rituals and beliefs



Muziris Heritage Project

In ancient times, Muziris was a renowned trading centre. Later it grew into a melting pot of civilizations. Arabs, Jews, Romans, Greeks and Chinese came here.

The famed 'Muchiri' mentioned in ancient Tamil epics later became Muyirikode, Kodumkoloor, Kodungallur and Mahodayapuram. It was the Yavanas (Foreigners) who gave the name 'Muziris' to Muchiri, the illustrious port town which was situated somewhere along the coast of Periyar river. In the torrent of time, all the insignias of the glorious days of Muziris port were washed away!

The objective of Muziris Heritage Project is to showcase the significance of Muziris to the present generation. Some of the remnants of the great past have been preserved as History Museums. Chendamangalam Synagogue Museum is one among them.





Sara, Israel's Daughter

In front of Chendamangalam synagogue there is a rock with an inscription 'Sara bath Israel', written in Hebrew. It is the memorial stone for Sara, a jewish woman who died in 1269. This inscription may have been brought by the Jews to Chendamangalam when they migrated there during 13th century. Archeologist P Anujan Achan, opines that the first jewish synagogue in Chendamangalam was built around this time.

Ark
This ark, used to keep Torah scrolls, was carved out of teak wood that was available in plenty. It is carved with Jewish images and is painted with red, green and golden colours.

Pidyon

A ritual conducted within 30 days of the birth of the first born son. The concerned kohen (priest) will place his hand upon the child's forehead and bless it. Then, he will quote a price for the silver waistband that the mother presents. The mother should pay that price and take the child back. Pidyon is observed following the commandment in Torah: "Every firstborn of man among your sons, you shall redeem.



Brit Milah

On the 8th day after birth, circumcision of the male child is performed. It is done by very experienced moilyar (priestly assistant). Herbs are applied to heal the wound. According to rules, it is mandatary for Jews to perform circumcision. It is believed that brit milah is observed following the agreemen Abraham made with God.

1420

First synagogue in Chendamangalam built

1614

Chendamangalam synagogue renovated

Sabbath Dishes

On Sabbath day, cooking is not allowed. So, food is prepared in advance. Wheat cake, Kubba, Kallappam, black gram cake etc are the main dishes.



Wine
Wine has to be made following kosher laws. Wine forms an essential item in all special occasions. Four cups of wine is the prescribed measure.



Kubba
A dish made of rice paste filled with minced meat or fish; it is cooked in a curry mixed with ladies finger or churakka (gourd). It is served with rice cooked in coconut milk and turmeric

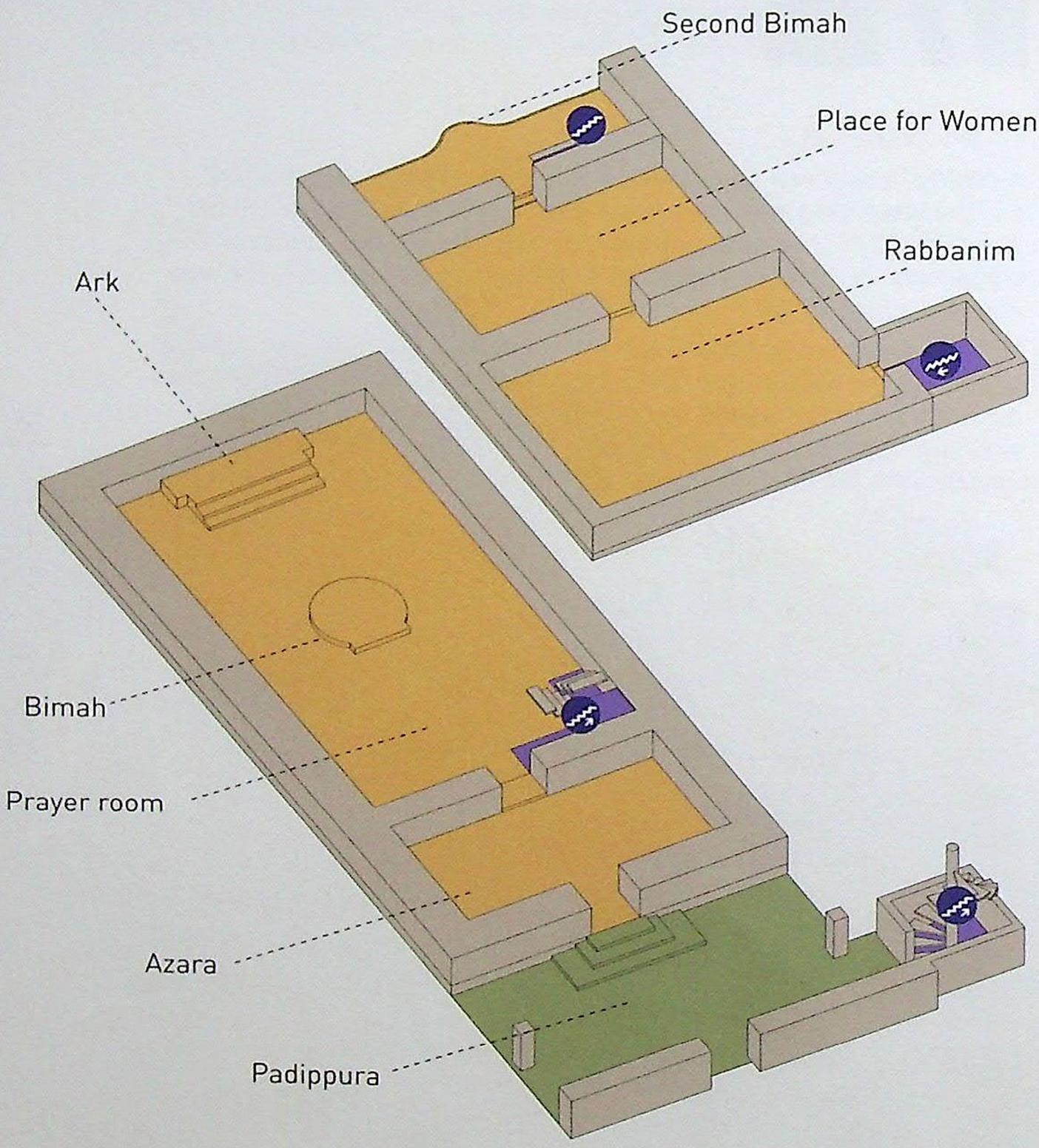


Pastel
A dish made with wheat flour dough filled with meat; fillings usually include beef, fish, egg or potato which are fried in oil.



Uzhunnappam (Black gram cake)
A delicacy made by mixing rice and black gram powder and fried in oil.

Chendamangalam Synagogue
3D view





MUSEUM GUIDE

KERALA JEWISH LIFE STYLE MUSEUM- CHENDAMANGALAM SYNAGOGUE

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