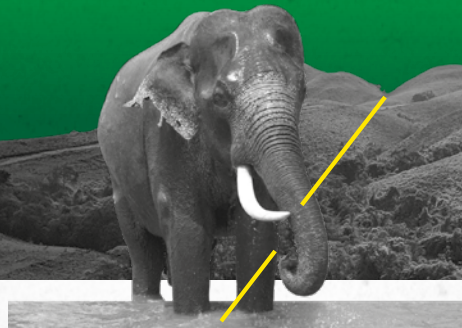
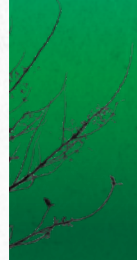
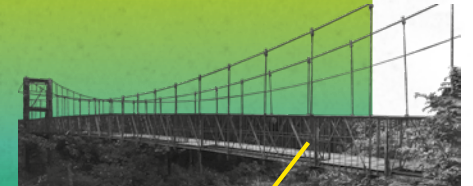


COORG

A Green Paradise



COORG_

COORG IS LITERALLY HEAVEN ON EARTH. NESTLED ON THE SLOPES OF THE WESTERN GHATS, COORG WOOS YOU WITH ITS UNDULATING HILLS, LUSH GREEN FORESTS AND A SPECTACULAR LANDSCAPE DOTTED WITH COFFEE PLANTATIONS, VAST TEA GARDENS AND ORANGE GROVES. APTLY DUBBED AS 'THE SCOTLAND OF INDIA', COORG OR KODAGU OFFERS A SPELLBINDING VISUAL TREAT WITH ITS CLOUD-COVERED PEAKS, CHIRPING OF BIRDS AND SPARKLING STREAMS, NOT TO MENTION THE UNIQUE, MOUTH-WATERING FLAVOURS OF KODAGU CUISINE. EXPERIENCE COORG, DISCOVER NATURE AT ITS BEST!



COORG: THE LAND OF COFFEE AND SPICES —

Coorg or Kodagu is famed for its misty mountains, highland meadows and lush forests.

The steep hillsides, with natural forest cover, are ideal for growing coffee. In fact, the district produces nearly 30% of India's coffee. One of the largest producers of honey in Asia, Kodagu is

renowned for its pepper and cardamom too, producing large quantities of both for domestic use as well as export. Yet another produce grown in abundant quantities is the Coorg orange,

making it a land that suffuses sweetness with spiciness, even as the heady

aroma of coffee wafts through the air.



THE UNIQUE CULTURE OF THE KODAVAS _

The Kodavas, a warrior race that calls Coorg their home, have given the region a distinct culture. A community that worships weapons and reveres ancestors, the Kodava traditions are unique; be it the festivals they celebrate, their cuisine or their weddings.



MADIKERI _

A quaint hill town in Karnataka with sprawling coffee plantations, lush forests and mist-laden hills, Madikeri epitomizes Coorg's bounteous natural charm as well as the rich history of the region. The capital from which Kodagu kings ruled, Madikeri is known for its majestic Fort, renovated and strengthened by various kings including Tipu Sultan, before becoming a British bastion. Other major attractions include a museum highlighting Kodava history, Rajas' Seat which offers a breathtaking view of the sun setting on the distant hills, the Omkareshwar Temple —built in the Islamic architectural style — which houses a Shiva linga brought from Kashi, and the Gaddige, the royal tombs with ornate domes, minarets as well as exquisitely carved Hindu deities. By the way, do not miss the 18- hole golf course, yet another highlight of this beautiful town.



TALACAUVERY —

Located 44 km from Madikeri, on the slopes of the Brahmagiri Hill, is Talacauvery or the 'Head of the Cauvery'; the place where the mighty Cauvery is born. Here, the river originates as a small spring. A small rectangular pond and a shrine mark this spot. In mid-October, on Tula Sankramana day, the spring miraculously wells up and the water gushes over. According to legends, this is the time when Goddess Ganga visits her sister Goddess Cauvery. Thousands of devotees from across the country throng the place to take a dip in the waters on this auspicious day.



BHAGMANDALA _

Situated on the foothills of Talcauvery, Bhagamandala is the meeting point of the three sacred rivers, the Cauvery, Kannike and the subterranean Sujyoti. An important pilgrimage centre that draws thousands of devotees every year, Bhagamandala has three temples dedicated to Bhagandeshwara, Brahma /Subramanya and Mahavishnu. It is customary for devotees to take a dip and worship here before journeying to Talacauvery.

The spot also offers a splendid panoramic view of the Brahmagiri Peak.



ABBEY FALLS _

Tucked away amidst the lush green environs, the Abbey Falls is a mesmerizing sight. Make your way through the beautiful cardamom and coffee plantations to reach the waterfalls. Soak in the serene ambience and watch the spectacular cascade as it plunges down 70 ft to form a pool below. A hanging bridge offers a vantage point from where you get a splendid view of gushing water leaping off the rocks.



NAGARAHOLE (RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL PARK) —

Located between the Mysuru plateau in Karnataka and the Nilgiri mountains of Tamil Nadu, Nagarahole is a 640 sq. km. sanctuary that hosts an abundant variety of wildlife. A prominent hub of conservation under Project Tiger and Project Elephant, the sanctuary is home to the largest herd of Asiatic elephants and numerous species of birds, flora and fauna including large predators, reptiles, gaur, deer, bears and smaller animals. Take a jeep or boat safari, and gear up for an encounter with the wild. The state-run Jungle Lodges & Resorts operates the Kabini River Lodge, located at the edge of the park, which is rated as one of the finest wildlife resorts in the country.



DUBARE ELEPHANT CAMP _

If you are an elephant lover, Dubare Elephant Camp is simply the right place for you! Nestled between the Cauvery and the reserve forests, the Dubare Elephant Camp - once the training camp of the Mysore Dasara elephants - is a treat for wildlife enthusiasts as well as travelers. A unique eco-tourism destination founded by Jungle Lodges & Resorts, the Camp aims to protect and conserve these gentle pachyderms. Observe the elephants in action, learn about their habits and take part in various activities of the Camp such as feeding and bathing the elephant. A trained naturalist is at hand to explain the different aspects of elephant history, ecology and biology.



IRUPPU FALLS —

Surrounded by lush greenery, the Iruppu Falls is at its splendid best during the monsoons.

Originating in the lofty Brahmagiri peaks, the magnificent falls plunge 170 ft in two different phases.

It becomes a part of the Lakshmana Teertha River tumbling over 150 ft. down the rocks. Another major attraction is the Iruppu Rameshwara Temple, which draws a throng of devotees every year.

Take a 6.5 km trek to the top of Brahmagiri Peak and enjoy the scenic view.



VIRAJPET —

Virajpet, the second biggest town in Coorg, is acclaimed as the largest producer of honey in Asia. The Sri Rameshwara Temple, located adjacent to the Lakshmana Theertha River, is believed to have been dedicated to Lord Shiva by Lord Rama himself. A prominent pilgrim destination, Virajpet is a favourite haunt of picnickers and pilgrims, especially during the Shivaratri festival.



TADIYENDAMOL _

The highest peak in the Coorg region and the second highest in Karnataka, Tadiyendamol is a trekker's paradise. Located at an elevation of 1,748 m, the gentle slopes and grassy terrain lures you with their scenic charm and serene ambience.

A major attraction here is the Eshwara Iguthappa Temple, where the deity Subramanya is worshipped as the 'Giver of Grain'.



CAUVERY NISARGADHAMA _

A breathtakingly picturesque riverine island carved by the Cauvery River, Nisargadhama is located 2 km from Kushal Nagar and can be accessed by travelling over a hanging bridge. The sprawling 64 acre island –developed into an eco-park–attracts visitors with its rich scenic beauty. You have plenty of things to see and do here; visit the deer park and orchidarium, go for a boat ride or an elephant ride. Cottages and a restaurant run by the Forest Department enable visitors to unwind and refresh in the lap of nature.



BYLEKUPPE

One of the largest Tibetan settlements in South India, Bylekuppe is a fascinating blend of monasteries, prayer wheels and fluttering flags. A refugee settlement that has transformed into a township, Bylekuppe stands out for its splendid monasteries, handicrafts, carpet factories, and incense factory. The Tibetan culture thrives in the well-constructed and beautifully maintained Sakya Monastery, Golden Temple and Kagyur Monastery. Do visit the Tashi Lhumpo Monastery, the holy seat of the Panchem Lama and home to over 250 monks. Sara Jey and Sara Mey, the two schools in Bylekuppe, have over 5000 Buddhists studying to be monks.



NALKNAD PALACE _

Nalknad Palace, the summer home of the Kodagu kings, is situated close to Tadiyendamol, Coorg's highest point. With its interiors replete with ornately carved pillars and friezes, the 200-year-old palace is an architectural gem. Yet another attraction is the sculpted pavilion, which has four bulls facing the cardinal directions. The Nalknad Palace, also called Naalnaad Aremane, was used by King Veerarajendra as a base to carry out operations against Tipu Sultan after Madikeri, the Kodagu capital, was captured.



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