

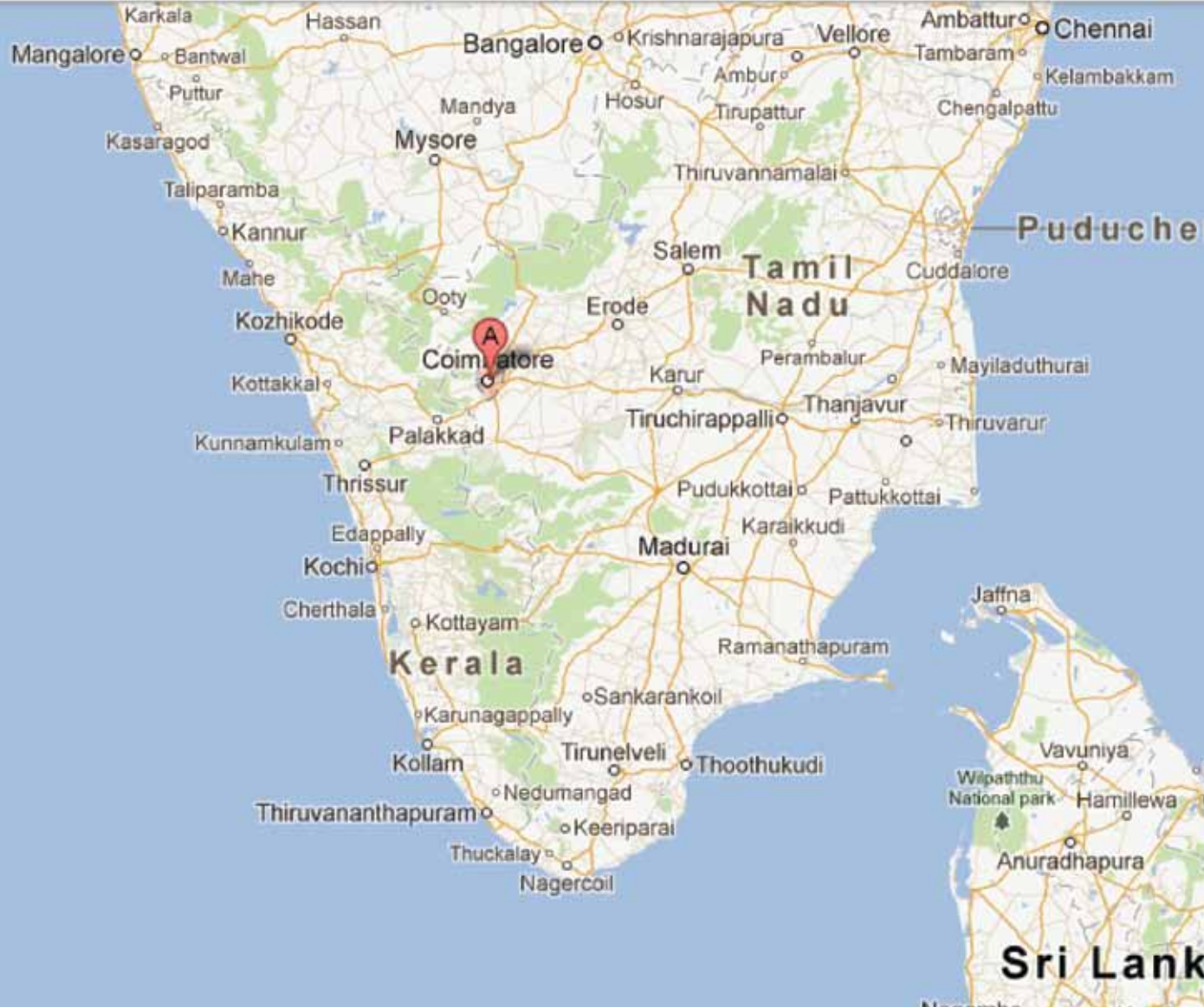


# COIMBATORE CALLING



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**COIMBATORE**



## Time & Place



Time Zone: GMT+5.5 Indian Standard Time (No Daylight Saving Time)

Weights Measures System: Metric

Electricity: 240V

Coordinates: 11°1'6"N 76°58'21"E

## Overview

Coimbatore, also known as Kovai, is the second largest city in the state of Tamil Nadu. It is part of the ancient Kongu Nadu region of the state. The city is surrounded by forests and the Western Ghats to the west. It is the administrative headquarters of the entire Coimbatore District and a major textile and engineering hub of India, especially southern India.

Including its sub-urban areas the population of Coimbatore is around 2 million and the city has strong health care facilities, educational institutions, and pleasant, moderate weather.

## Economy & Commercial Activity

Coimbatore lies at the foot of the Nilgiri Hills and is an important industrial city in Tamil Nadu. It is the state's highest revenue earning district. Situated on the banks of the Noyyal River, it is known for its factories, engineering firms, automobile parts manufacturers and wet grinders. It also houses India's largest hosiery and poultry industries.

The city is also called the "Manchester of South India", being such an important textile-manufacturing center in India, fed by the district's surrounding cotton fields. There are more than a hundred textile mills in and around Coimbatore.



# Major Hotels

Starwood hotels

Aloft Coimbatore Singanallur ([www.alofthotels.com](http://www.alofthotels.com))

Existing Competitor hotels

1) The Residency, Coimbatore ([www.theresidency.com](http://www.theresidency.com))

2) Heritage Inn ([www.heritageinn.net](http://www.heritageinn.net))

## Nearest airport & airline information

### Airport:

Coimbatore International Airport(IATA: CJB, ICAO: VOGB) is an international airport located in Peelamedu, serving Coimbatore. It is about 13 kms from the city centre and about 11 km to the north-west of Coimbatore Railway Station. The airport is under the operation of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and serves Coimbatore and adjacent districts. The airport is well connected with all the other Indian states as well as major international destinations.

For more information, go to

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/coimbatore\\_Airport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/coimbatore_Airport)

## Direct Flights to/from Destination

### Domestic Airlines

#### Destinations

#### Airlines

Chennai

Jet Airways; Kingfisher Airlines;  
Paramount Airways; SpiceJet

Mumbai

Indian Airlines; JetLite; Kingfisher Airlines;  
SpiceJet

<b>Mumbai</b>	Indian Airlines; JetLite; Kingfisher Airlines; SpiceJet
<b>Delhi</b>	Indian Airlines; JetLite; SpiceJet
<b>Ahmedabad</b>	Paramount Airways; SpiceJet
<b>Bangalore</b>	JetLite; Kingfisher Airlines
<b>Hyderabad</b>	Indian Airlines; SpiceJet
<b>Kochi</b>	Indian Airlines
<b>Kozhikode</b>	Indian Airlines

## **International Airlines:**

<b>Destinations</b>	<b>AirlinesSharjar</b>
<b>Sharjar</b>	Air Arabia
<b>Singapore</b>	Silkair

**For more information, go to**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/coimbatore\\_Airport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/coimbatore_Airport)

## **Other Transportation Options:**

### **Rail**

Trains first began serving Coimbatore in 1872, upon construction of the Podanur (Coimbatore South) -Madras line connecting Kerala and the west coast with the rest of India. Broad gauge trains connect Coimbatore to all parts of India and Tamil Nadu. The Coimbatore Junction is well connected to major Indian cities such as Chennai, Bangalore, New Delhi and Mumbai, besides the neighbouring State of Kerala. Coimbatore North Junction is another important railway junction in the city.



## Road

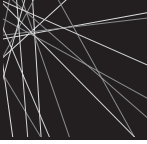
The city has six major arterial roads and three National Highways.

- NH-47 (cochin–Salem)
- NH-67 (Mysore–Nagappattinam) and
- NH 209 (Bangalore–Dindigul)

**A bypass highway built by Larsen and Toubro completed in 1998 has helped reduce truck traffic in the city. Coimbatore has 6 major bus stands.**

- Gandhipuram Bus Stand (Buses going to Erode, Tirupur, Mettupalayam, Ooty, Salem, Bangalore, Chennai and other distant places)
- Singanallur Bus Stand (Buses going to Madurai, Rajapalayam, Trichirapalli, Thanjavur, Kumbakonam and nearby towns)
- Town Bus Stand (Local Buses)
- Thiruvalluvar Bus Stand, Gandhipuram (SETC, Karnataka State RTC Buses, Kerala State RTC Buses and Pondicherry State Buses)
- Ukkadam Bus Stand (Buses to Palakkad, Pollachi, Udumalpet, Palani, Dindigul, Kodaikanal and other nearby places)
- Omni Bus Stand in Sathy Road, Gandhipuram (Luxury Buses to Bangalore, Chennai and Prominent Overnight Locations in Tamilnadu and Kerala)
- Mettupalayam Road Bustand - Under construction (being constructed by Bhuvana Constructions Limited,[12] Coimbatore)

**The city has a very high vehicle-to-population ratio. Town bus services serve most parts of the city, as well as other towns and villages in the district. Buses also connect the district with all towns in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, South and West Karnataka, Pondicherry and Tirupathi (Andhra Pradesh).**



## Weather/Seasons & Average Temp:

Coimbatore is located at an altitude of 409 m above sea level. The city mostly experiences mild winters and moderate summers. Coimbatore is said to be gifted with the best climate in South India, all year around.

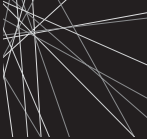
Most of the time there is a mild breeze flowing through the Palghat gap from Kerala.

Coimbatore gets maximum rainfall during southwest monsoon season followed by the northeast monsoon, though being situated in the rain shadow region of western ghats, it only gets a part of the southwest monsoon.

<b>Average</b>	<b>Top / Temp</b>	<b>low / Temp</b>	<b>Rain</b>
Jan	86°F / 30°C	64°F / 18°C	0.6 in. / 1.4cm.
Feb	90°F / 32°C	66°F / 19°C	0.5 in. / 1.2cm.
Mar	95°F / 35°C	70°F / 21°C	0.7 in. / 1.9cm.
Apr	95°F / 35°C	73°F / 23°C	2.1 in. / 5.3cm.
May	93°F / 34°C	73°F / 23°C	3 in. / 7.6cm.
Jun	88°F / 31°C	72°F / 22°C	1.5 in.. / 3.8cm.
Jul	86°F / 30°C	71°F / 22°C	2.2 in. / 5.7 cm.
Aug	88°F / 31°C	72°F / 22°C	1.7 in. / 4.2cm.
Sep	90°F / 32°C	71°F / 22°C	2.2 in. / 5.6cm.
Oct	88°F / 31°C	69°F / 21°C	6 in. / 15.3cm
Nov	84°F / 29°C	64°F / 18°C	04.8 in. / 12.3cm.
Dec	84°F / 29°C	66°F / 19°C	2 in. / 5cm.







# Passport & Visa requirements, Embassies & Consulates, Traveler Assistance, and other Safety & Security Info

Foreign Nationals desirous of coming into India are required to possess a valid passport of their country and a valid Indian Visa.

There is no provision of 'Visa on Arrival' in India and no fee is charged for immigration facilities at the airports. Foreign passengers should ensure that they are in possession of valid Indian Visa before they start their journey to India except nationals of Nepal and Bhutan who do not require visa to enter India and nationals of Maldives who do not require visa for entry in India for a period up to 90 days( a separate Visa regime exists for diplomatic/official passport holders). Visas can be applied for in person or by post at the High Commission of India based in the country from where the candidate intends to depart for India.

The Consular Passport and Visa(CPV) Division of the Ministry of External Affairs is responsible for issuance of Indian visas to the foreign nationals for their visit for various purposes. This facility is granted through various Indian missions abroad.

The High Commission reserves the right on granting and deciding type/duration of visa irrespective of the fees tendered at the time of making application. Granting of Visa does not confer the right of entry to India and is subject to the discretion of the Immigration Authorities.

Generally the following documents are required for obtaining Indian Visa. However, the requirement may vary from country to country.

- Original passport valid for at least 6 months
- Visa fee
- Two passport size photographs
- Supporting documents, where necessary
- Duly completed application form

Details on visa to India can be found in <http://www.visatoindia.com/>



## Embassies and Consulates in India

For all the information about Embassies/Consulates, please go to <http://www.embassiesabroad.com/embassies-in/India>

Visa extensions: Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO; 22620111 ext 266; Annexe Bldg No 2, CID, 3rd fl, Sayed Badruddin Rd, Mumbai) Does not officially issue extensions on six-month tourist visas – even in emergencies they will direct you to Delhi. However, some travellers have managed to procure an emergency extension here after a lot of waiting and persuasion.

### **Safety:**

The vast majority of visits to India, including Coimbatore are trouble-free, however in light of the on-going dispute with Pakistan most governments advise against all travel to the Jammu and Kashmir regions, all but essential travel to Srinagar, and anywhere near the border with Pakistan.

Visitors should be aware that there are tensions between the Muslim and Hindu populations, and there is a risk of terrorism throughout India, and they should remain particularly vigilant in public places, on public transport and at tourist sites, though especially around Mumbai and Delhi. Crime is an issue at major tourist spots and wherever traveling, visitors are advised to keep an eye of their valuables and, in particular, passports. Prospective visitors should monitor travel safety advices issued by their respective country before traveling.

### **Local Health Conditions:**

There are a number of health risks associated with travel to India, including malaria and dengue fever, and travelers should take medical advice on vaccinations at least three weeks before departure.



## Currency, Customs & Excise:

### Currency

The Indian rupee (Rs) is divided into 100 paise (p), but paise coins are increasingly rare. Coins come in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 paise, and Rs 1, 2 and 5; notes come in Rs 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1000 (this last bill can be hard to change outside banks). The Indian rupee is linked to a basket of currencies and its value is generally stable.

ATMs linked to international networks are common in most towns and cities in India. However, carry cash or travellers cheques as backup in case the power goes down, the ATM is out of order, or you lose or break your plastic.

Remember, you must present your passport whenever you change currency or travellers cheques. Commission for foreign exchange is becoming increasingly rare; if it is charged, the fee is nominal.

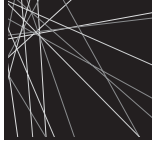
### Tip and Tax

Taxi drivers do not expect to be tipped, however all other services expect small tips, including porters, guides, hotel staff and waiters in small establishments. In tourist restaurants or hotels a 10% service charge is often added to bills. Baksheesh is common in India, it is more a bribe than a tip and will ensure better service; it is given before rather than after the service.

### Customs

India is generally a fairly tolerant society but visitors should be aware of religious and social customs; smoking in public has been banned since 2008. When visiting temples visitors will be required to remove their footwear and cover their heads.

In general women should dress conservatively both to respect local sensibilities and to avoid unwanted attention. Topless bathing is illegal. Indians do not like



to disappoint and instead of saying 'no' will come up with something positive, even if incorrect. Social order and status are very important in Indian culture.

## **Business:**

Business in India is conducted formally, with punctuality an important aspect. Suits and ties are appropriate, and women in particular should dress modestly. If it is very hot, jackets are usually not required and short sleeve shirts are deemed appropriate. It is customary to engage in small talk before getting down to business usually exchanged on initial introduction, using the right hand only. Handshakes are fairly common, though one should wait to see if greeted with a hand, or a 'Namaste' - a traditional Indian greeting of a small bow accompanied by hands clasped as if in prayer. Visitors should return the greeting. It is common for women to participate in business meetings, and hold high positions in companies, and foreign businesswomen are readily accepted. Business hours are usually from 9.30 to 5.30pm (weekdays) with a lunch break from 1pm to 2pm, and Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/india>

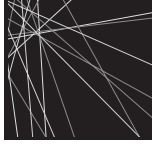
## **Historical and current facts (includes language, primary ethnicities, political, cultural, social, religion):**

### **History**

In the ancient period the region around Coimbatore was known as Kongu Nadu and was amongst the first few places in Tamil Nadu where the local Tamil speaking people set up territorial states. A large part of Kongu Nadu was ruled by the Cheras while the remaining areas were the possession of the Pandya Kings.

This region became a part of the great Vijayanagar Empire in the medieval period. After the disintegration of the Vijayanagar Empire the local Nayaka





rulers of Madurai ruled it. For a very short time this region came under the rule of the Mughal Empire during his famous Deccan campaign. The decline of the Mughal hold in this region led to a renewal of conflicts between different states. The British finally annexed this region in the 18th century, its name was changed to Coimbatore.

## **Cultural**

The Coimbatore city is a traditional, multi-cultural inclusive society. The people retain their roots to their native surrounding villages and its culture. The people of Coimbatore have a reputation for being well-cultured, honest and hospitable.

Coimbatore is also well known for numerous temples in the city including Marudamalai, Perur, Annur, Sidhapudur Ayyappan Kovvil, Karamadai, Kooniamman Temple, Bathrakali Amman Kovil and Arulmigu Vazhai Thottathu Ayyan Temple.


## **Politics**

The city has five Members of Legislative Assembly representing the Coimbatore East, Coimbatore West, Singanallur, Perur, Kaundampalayam constituencies, but about 20% of the city's territory is represented by the Nilgiris constituency which runs into the northern part of the city.

## **Ethnicity:**

Sikhs are present in small numbers, however the Kongu Vellalar Gounder are the major population in and around the city. The city has a significant number of Nayakars (Naidus) and Chettiars who migrated and settled during the Vijayanagar Empire. The city also has many Keralites mainly from Palakkad (once part of Kongu Nadu) and North Indians like Jains and Marwaris, who are engaged in trade and commerce.

Nowadays people from the North-Eastern states of India, like Manipur and Nagaland have also moved in to the Coimbatore district for jobs and studies.





## The Religion:

The city's population is predominantly Hindu, along with sizeable Muslim and Christian populations.

## Language:

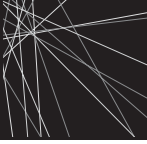
Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Hindi and English

## When to go

The geographical location and relief makes the climate of the Coimbatore city moderate and pleasant throughout the year. Coimbatore city does not witness much temperature fluctuations between summers and winters. During the summers, the average weather conditions are hot with mercury rising to as high as 39°C whereas the minimum temperature in summer is around 21°C. During the winters, the weather remains mild with the maximum temperature around 30°C and the minimum temperature remaining around 15°C.

Coimbatore and its surrounding areas experience rains during October-November by the retreating monsoons (the north-eastern monsoon). The best time to visit Coimbatore is between December and March, as the weather conditions during this period remain moderate. Light cotton clothes are suitable for summers whereas in winters you need to keep light woolen clothes.

Apart from the weather, the timing of certain festivals or special events may also influence when you wish to visit.



January is the most attractive festival season in Coimbatore. Makara Pongal is an important festival in this region and is observed with much celebration and is coinciding with the second week of January.

-In October, the locals celebrate Deepavali with much vigor and enthusiasm.

## National Public Holidays

### Jan

- 01 New Year's Day
- 26 Jan Republic Day.

### Apr

- 02 Good Friday.
- 05 Easter Monday.
- 14 B. R. Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary.  
Mahavir Jayanthi.
- 28 Buddha Purnima.

### Sep

- 10/11 End of Ramadan.  
Dussehra (Vijaya Dashami).

### Nov

- 2 Guru Nanak's Birthday.  
Deepavali or Diwali
- 16/17 Idu'l Zuha/Bakrid

### Feb/Mar

- Mahashivratri.

### Aug

- 15 Independence Day.  
Janmashtami

### Oct

- 02 Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday.  
Dussehra (Vijaya Dashami).

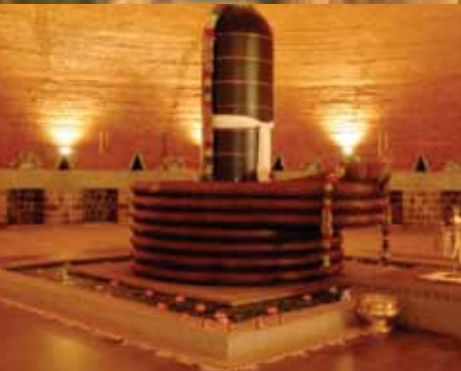
### Dec

- 07 Muharram
- 25 Christmas Day.
- 26 Boxing Day.



## Things to Do:

There are several sightseeing options that one can indulge in the city.  
The details are as mentioned below:







## Aanamalai Wildlife Sanctuary

This sanctuary is situated at an altitude of 1,400 metres in the Western Ghats near Pollachi. The sanctuary has various kinds of exotic fauna like elephant, gaur, tiger, panther, sloth bear, pangolin; black headed oriole, green pigeon and civet cat. The Amaravathy reservoir in the Aanamalai Sanctuary has a large number of crocodiles. Arrangements can be made to travel around the sanctuary on elephant back or by van



## Avinashi Temple

The Avinashi Lingeswarar temple is about 40 Kms from Coimbatore. Dating back to the 12th century AD this is the biggest temple in Coimbatore district built by the Cholas.

## Black Thunder – Theme park

Black Thunder Theme Park, one among the most popular amusement parks in India is situated by the side of the Ooty Main Road, at the Foothills of The Nilgiris and is 40 km away from Coimbatore city. Mettupalayam and Coimbatore are the nearest railway stations and the place is well connected by roads to all nearby places. Amidst a vast green land of 63 acres this amusement



park is among the most favorite tourist spots around Coimbatore. All the amusement facilities at Black Thunder Theme Park are illustrative of its byline, "Great Place, Great Fun." The park offers about 43 rides. Children will have the best of enjoyment at Kiddies Pool, Mini Surf Hill and Volcano. The Giant Wheel, Cable Car, Columbus and Tora Tora will be amazing experiences for them. The Wild River, Surf Hill, Cannon Ball and Wave Pool are of adventurous type. The additional facilities that will be offered shortly are Lake, Boat Ride, Floating Restaurant and Video Games. The young and old, all those who visit Black Thunder once will become customary visitors.



## Botanical Garden

Botanical Garden is one of the best tourist attraction places which attract the tourist from all over the world. This garden was laid out in 1847 by the Marquis of Tweedale and is spread over 22 hectares ascending the slopes on the hill at an elevation of 2,400 meters above Main Sea Level. A beautiful collection collection of flowering tress, beautiful shrubs, and rare colored lilies are seen.



## DHYANALINGA

37 Kms away from Coimbatore is the Kovai Kutralam is a beautiful picnic spot. It is a waterfalls of Siruvani River which is said to be the tastiest water of India. Siruvani is the water source of Coimbatore City. The falls is located amidst of thick forest which will give you a magnificent panoramic view. It is an excellent picnic spot near Coimbatore. Boarding and lodging facilities are not available. Few buses are available for conveyance.



## Doddabetta Peak

The Doddabetta Peak stands at an altitude of 2,623 meters. It is the highest point in the district, making it possibly the best vantage point around Ooty. It is merely 10kms from Ooty so you can simply grab your camera and head straight to the peak, and click amazing pictures of the valley below. On a clear day,

which is honestly not that often, one can see far off areas, even the plains of Coimbatore and the flat highlands of Mysore.

## Forest College Museum

One of the oldest institutions of the kind in the country. Spread over 66 hectares area in the heart of Coimbatore town, its main building, with a plinth area of 3705 sq. m. house up-to-date facilities of research, a well equipped library and the famous Fischer Herbarium. The other unique features developed over the years by the institute include, 'Grass Forest Museum of Natural History' and a Botanical Garden cum Arboretum of 4 hectares housing nearly 300 spe-



cies of rare and endangered plants. Apart from plants, the museum also has an interesting collection of different minerals, rocks, pests, snakes, insects and fungal diseases that afflict plants and trees. It also has a rare collection of dead specimen of plants and animals of different variety. The museum has one special advisory counter offering service to promote businesses related to plant husbandry. The Institute is responsible for attending to the overall forestry research needs of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshdweep and Pondichery.



## Jolly World

This is an educational theme park and family picnic centre located 20Km from Coimbatore and 10Kms from Mettupalayam. Jolly World is located in vast area of mountainous land with an eco friendly atmosphere and flora and fauna.



## Karamadai Ranganathar Temple

Dedicated to Lord Ranganatha, this is the second oldest temple in Coimbatore. It was built by the Vijayanagara Kings.



## Kongu Naadu Tirupati

Naina Hill is one of the unique holy lands in Kongu. This hill is proudly called Kongu-Tirupati. Every Saturday pilgrims visit this temple with thousands of people coming to chant and climb the hill.

## KOVAI KUTRALAM

37Kms away from Coimbatore is the Kovai Kutralam is a beautiful picnic spot. It is a waterfalls of Siruvani River which is said to be the tastiest water of India. Siruvani is the water source of Coimbatore City. The falls is located amidst of thick forest which will give you a magnificent panoramic view. It is an excellent picnic spot near Coimbatore. Boarding and lodging facilities are not available. Few buses are available for conveyance. dichery.



## Kottai Hidayathul Islam Safia Jamath Kottaimedu

A mosque located 1 km away from the railway station. It is known for its architectural structures and was the first Mosque to be built in Coimbatore. The Arabic College is also a part of the Mosque.



## Marudhamalai Temple

14 Kms from Coimbatore. this temple is dedicated to Lord Muruga and is set atop a hill. The presiding deity, Dhandayuthapani, is said to have performed a number of miracles to make his devotees happy.



## Monkey Falls

It is located 65 Kms from Coimbatore and 27 Kms from Pollachi on Coimbatore Pollachi-Valparai Highway.

## Ooty Lake

From just behind the central Bus Stand (also near the Railway station) the famous Ooty Lake stretches, in an irregular 'L' shape, for about 2.75 kms in length and varying distances in width(100m – 140m). For the curious, this lake was artificially formed by John Sullivan, the founder of Ooty, in 1823-25 by damming the mountain streams flowing down Ooty valley.



## Perur Patteeswarar Temple

The temple is at its colorful best in March, when the Panguni Uthiram festival is celebrated. The temple was built by Karikala Cholan over 1500 years ago. Situated 7 Kms from Coimbatore, the temple is by the River Noyyal. Daily



## Pykara Lake/ Pykara Boat House

The placid lake of Pykara, amid the lush green valleys is a lovely getaway from Ooty. Here, a calm lake is surrounded by forests. There is a forest rest House at Pykara. A boat house by the Pykara falls and Dam is added attractions to the tourists. The major attraction of this place is the boathouse, with restaurant and a rest house to provide you with ultimate comfort. It is a clean and scenic lake in between the hills. It is an isolated lake free from pollution and maddening crowd. Boating is conducted here. You will get a wonderful experiences over here.



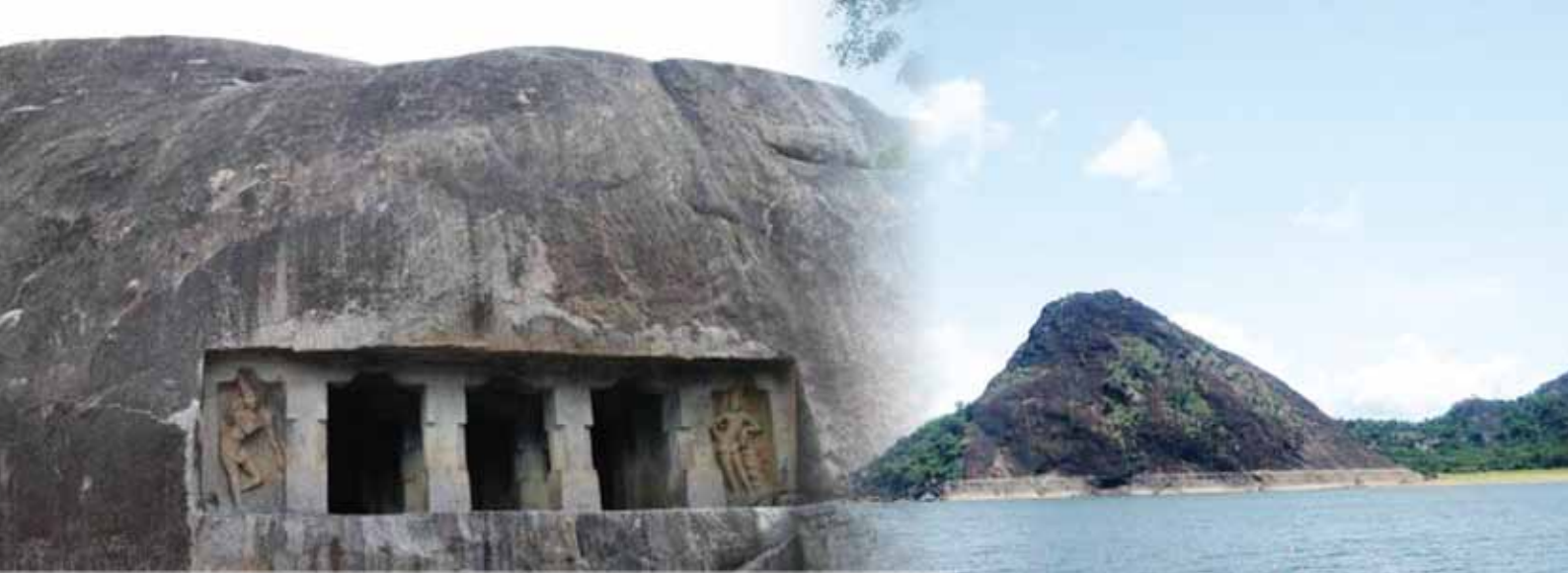
## Rose Garden

Rose Park is situated in the heart of Ooty town and it is located less than a km from Charring Cross at Vijayanagaram, the rose garden is laid on 10 acres of land. This garden has been beautifully laid out in terraces with rose tunnels, pergolas and bowers with rose creepers. Today this garden has the largest

collections of roses in the country, around 3600 varieties of roses like Hybrid Tea Roses, miniature rose, Floribunda, Ramblers, roses of unusual colors like black, green and many more varieties of roses that will captivate your senses.

## Sims Park - Coonoor

Sim's Park is a 12-hectare park in Coonoor, which exhibits over 1000 species of plants. The park is situated in a deep ravine on the Northern side of Coonoor Railway Station at an elevation of 1768 to 1798 mts.



## Thirumoorthy Temple

20 kms It is situated at the foot of Thirumoorthy Hills adjoining the Thirumoorthy Dam. A perennial stream flows by the side of the Sri Amalingeswarar temple and nearby there are waterfalls.





## Vaidehi Waterfalls

It is located 30 kms from Coimbatore via Narasipuram village. It is a fine picnic spot for trekkers with a perennial waterfall being a major attraction here.



## Valparai

Valparai is in the Western Ghats about 100 km from Coimbatore. It's scenery is like a green carpet, made of tea plantations covering a 3000 to 5000 feet high plateau that spreads over 217 sq.km. It is a paradise for nature lovers and pollution-free. Prior to the

beginning of plantations in the 1890s, it was a solid evergreen tropical forest. Even today, the hill is rich in flora and fauna. There is a huge population of elephants, panthers, tigers, lion tailed black monkeys, sambar, brown flying squirrels, bison, bears, wild boars, wild dogs, wild goats and porcupines. Rare birds like jungle fowls, partridges, pea fowls, green and blue pigeons can be sighted often. Horn bills are plentiful. The present day plantations mostly consist of tea, coffee and pepper mostly owned by big corporate houses providing employment opportunities to thousands.



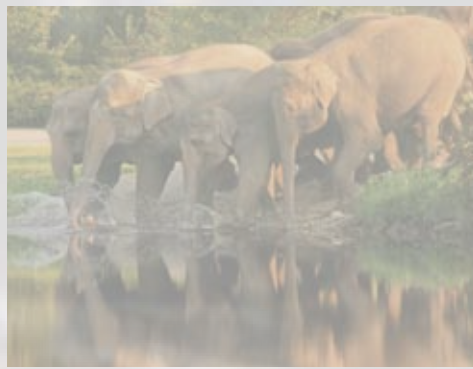
## Velliyangiri Andavar Temple

Located 20 kms from Coimbatore towards Siruvani, Velliyangiri is a beautiful temple situated on one of the five hills symbolically representing the five different faces of Lord Siva.



## Vishwanathadas Memorial House

1886- 1940. A great poet and drama artiste he was quite famous among the youth of those Days. He chose drama as his vehicle to fight the British and was a darling of the freedom fighters and leaders. His memorial is situated at 56, Viswanath Das Street, Thirumangalam.





*Le* **MERIDIEN**  
COIMBATORE

762, Avinashi Road, Coimbatore - 641062  
T + 91 422 236 4343