

# Ooty

The Queen of hill Stations!



### Udhagamandalam Vankam - Welcome to Ooty!

Ooty also called Udhagamandalam is situated in the state of Tamil Nadu, Ooty stands approximately 7300 feet above sea level. Being a part of Nilgiris mountain range, the landscape of the place is covered with thick vegetation, small rolling hills, plateaus, tea gardens and eucalyptus trees. This is to be part of Mysore state; even now Mysore Maharajas go there for summer vacation during April / May month and stay in their Palace - called Fern hill Royal Palace.

The subtropical highland climate in ooty usually has mild conditions throughout the year. During summers, the temperature remains in the range of 15oC-20oC which is the perfect temperature not too hot and not too cold attracts India and overseas tourists. Even during the winters, it gets only up to 5oC-12oC. The monsoons are cold, windy and humid. It is a paradise if you just want to chill in a perfect weather not doing anything but just admiring the beauty of nature and get fresh air and also smell of Nilgiris. Come and experience this Queen of Hill station with Royal City of Mysore.

#### Ooty Fact Sheet

District	: The Nilgiris
Headquarters	: Udhagamandalam
Population	: 7.35 Lakhs
Climate	: Subtropical Highland Climate
Temperature	: Min 12 °C Max 25 °C
Clothing	: Cotton & Woolen
Tourist Season	: 365 days
Main River	: Pykara River
Main Crops	: English Vegetables, Fruits, Tea Plantation
Average rainfall	: 1847 Mm
Sea Level	: 2240 m
International Dial Code	: 0423
Languages	: Badagas, Tamil, Kannada, English

#### How to reach Mysore Ooty

**AIR:** Coimbatore is nearest airport to which connects to all major cities in India by air. It takes around 3 hours to reach from Coimbatore airport to Ooty (100kms).

Mysore is next nearest airport to Ooty which also takes around 3 hours to reach (150kms).

#### Skyway - Complete Travel Care !

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#### History of Ooty

Ooty - earlier called Udagamandalam was originally a tribal land occupied by the Toda along with other hill tribes who coexisted through specialisation and trade. The major tribes of Nilgiris area are the Toda, Kota, Irula, Kurumba and the Badaga .

The Toda in the Nilgiris are first referenced in a record belonging to Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana and his general Punisa, dated 1117 CE. The Toda people were known for raising water buffalo. The people known for farming activities. Nilgiris was ruled by various dynasties like Satavahanas, Gangas, Kadambas, Rashtrakutas, Hoysalas, the Vijayanagara empire and the Rajas of Ummattur (on behalf of Wodeyars of Mysuru)

In 1818, J. C. Whish and N. W. Kindersley, assistants to John Sullivan, then Collector of Coimbatore, visited Ooty and submitted a report to him. Sullivan camped at Dimbhatti, north of Kotagiri in January 1819 and was enthralled by the beauty of the place. He wrote to Thomas Munro, "it resembles Switzerland, more than any country of Europe, the hills beautifully wooded and fine strong spring with running water in every valley. "The Toda ceded that part of the town to Sullivan and in May 1819, he began to build his bungalow at





Dimbhatti. He also started work on a road from Sirumugai to Dimbhatti that year. The road was completed in May 1823, and extended up to Coonoor by 1830–32.

Aranmore Palace in Ooty, served as the summer capital of the Madras Presidency, it was visited by British officials during the colonial days as a popular summer resort. Soldiers were sent to nearby Wellington to recuperate. Wellington is the home of the Madras Regiment of the Indian Army. After Independence, it developed into a popular hill resort now popular tourist destination in India.

### **Sightseeing Places in around Ooty**

#### **Doddabetta Peak**

Doddabetta is the highest mountain in the Nilgiri Mountains at 2,637 metres. The name derived from two Kannada words, Dodda means Big and betta means Hill, making it Doddabetta. There is a reserved forest area around the peak



#### **Government Botanical Garden**

The Government Botanical Garden, Udahgamandalm was established in 1848 by William Graham McIvor.] The Marquis of Tweeddale prepared the initial layout during the late 1840s. The gardens were established by a subscription of Rs 3 per month amongst the European residents for the purpose of supplying vegetables at a reasonable cost. During the time that Ootacamund was under British control, considerable cultivation of vegetables for the market was carried on by the European settlers and others. Captain Molyneux of the 2nd European Regiment managed the vegetable cultivation.

There were very few horticulturists at that time. Seeds and saplings were not available locally, but were available in nearby jungles. It was proposed to establish a public garden. For this purpose, a wood was selected between Lushington Hall (the Present Hebron School) and General Sewell's Property (the present Raj Bhavan). Shortly after the formation of the society, the committee requested state aid for providing a scientific and practical gardener and funds to meet his salary. This suggestion was accepted and Mr.W.G.McIvor from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew was sent to Ootacamund by the East India Company. He arrived in March 1848, converted the upper portion, which was a forest, and the lower portion, which was a swamp, into a beautiful garden. He submitted a report at the end of 1848 to the East India Company in London. He took ten years to complete the layout of the Garden.



#### **Rose Garden**

The Government Rose Garden located in the heart of Ooty is one of the largest rose gardens in India and also a popular tourist attraction. The beautiful garden is spread across 10 acres of land and houses some of the largest collections of roses in the country including miniature roses, hybrid tea roses, floribunda, ramblers, black and green roses and many other unique varieties. The Rose Garden is not only a delight for the eyes and the senses but also a must-visit for those interested in horticulture.

Initially, when the gardens were developed, 1,919 varieties of roses with 17,256 rose plants were planted. [Today there are more than 20,000 varieties of roses of 2,800 cultivars. It is one of the largest collections of roses in India.

The collection of roses includes Miniature Roses, Ramblers, Hybrid Tea Roses, Yakimou, Polyanthas, Papagen, Floribund and roses of unusual colours such as green and black.



#### **Ooty Boat House**

Ooty lake is an artificial lake constructed by John Sullivan, in 1824. The water flowing down mountain streams in the Ooty valley was dammed to form the lake. The lake became empty on three occasions when it breached its bund. The lake was originally intended to be used for fishing with ferries being used to travel across the lake. It gradually shrunk from its original size giving place to the current bus stand race course, and the lake park. The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation on behalf of the Tourism Department took the possession of the lake in 1973, for providing boating facilities as a tourist attraction

The lake is surrounded by groves of Eucalyptus trees with a railway line running





along one shore. [1] During the summer season in May, boat races and boat pageantry are organized for two days

### Coonoor

Coonoor is a hill station in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It's known for its tea estates in the surrounding Nilgiri hills. Sim's Park is a sprawling public garden with plants like rhododendrons, roses and eucalyptus trees. The steam Nilgiri Mountain Railway travels between the towns of Mettupalayam and Ooty via Coonoor. Dolphin's Nose is a vantage point with views of the cascading Catherine Falls.



### Sims Park, Collection of Beauty

This is a natural garden. Inside the park there are some beautiful terrace with colorful flower beds, lawns and rockeries also there are some naturally occurring trees, shrubs, creepers and many unusual species of plants that have been brought from a variety of places around the world. The garden as some rare economic trees like Rudraksh - bead tree, Cinnamomum, Queensland karry pine, a handsome ornamental tree and graceful trees like Araucaria, Quercus, Phoenix, Magnolia, Pine, Turpentine, Tree ferns, Camellia this is all are as many attractions in this park. There is a glass house housing different ornamental plants and flowers. On the other side of the park rose garden are maintained. This park has more than 1000 species of 255 generas belonging to 85 families widely covering different group of plants.

### Lamb's Rock

Lamb's Rock is a tourist spot in Coonoor, Tamil Nadu, India, on the slopes of the Nilgiri hill. It is located at a distance of 8 kilometers from Coonoor. It has a view of the Coimbatore plain, tea estates and coffee estates.

### Dolphin's Nose

Dolphin's Nose Viewpoint is a tourist spot in Coonoor, The Nilgiris District , Tamil Nadu. Dolphin's Nose is well over 1,550 Meter (5075 Feet) above sea level, 10 km from Coonoor and is a spectacular spot to visit. The tip of the peak resembles a dolphin's nose, hence the name Dolphin's Nose. It is an enormous rock formation that is entirely unique. There are gigantic ravines found both to the left and right of Dolphin's Nose and there is a view of inspiring Catherine Falls with its continuing stream several thousand metres below which is located a relatively short distance away opposite of the Dolphin's Nose. Best part of spot are the hairpin turns and tea plantations on the way.



### Nilgiri Mountain Railway

The Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) is a 1,000 mm (3 ft 3 3/8 in) metre gauge railway in Tamil, India, built by the British in 1908. The railway is operated by the Southern Railway and is the only rack Railway in India.

The railway relies on its fleet of steam locomotives. NMR switched to diesel locomotives on the section between Coonoor and Udthagamandalam. Local people and visitors led a campaign to return to steam locomotives in this section.

In July 2005, UNESCO added the Nilgiri Mountain Railway as an extension to the





World Heritage Site of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. The site then became known as Mountain Railways of India.

### Madras Regimental Centre

The Madras Regiment is one of the oldest infantry regiment of the Indian Army, originating in ... Regimental Centre, Wellington, Udhagamandalam (Ooty), Tamil Nadu ... The MRC band is regarded as one of the best military bands in the country, receiving awards in 1994, 1996 and 2001 for its performance in the Delhi ...

### Shopping in Ooty

When it comes to shopping in Ooty, there isn't very much the city has to offer, but there are a few things you can stock up on while you're in this hill station in the Nilgiri mountain ranges. The weather in Ooty is favourable for the growth of spices and tea-almost every shop you come across will be selling locally produced varieties of both-aside from which the locally made cheese and oil is also worth buying, as is the delicious home-made chocolate.



### Best Shopping Area

The main shopping hubs here are the Municipal Market and Co-operative Super Market. Besides, the Upper and Lower Bazaar Roads are also extremely popular among the shoppers here. The hill station is renowned for its antique Toda jewellery along with intricately embroidered Toda shawls. The Toda products can be easily purchased from the main bazaar of Ooty.

**Cuisine:** Ooty Momos, specially corn and cheese Momos, Avaray with gassu (Beans with potato curry,) Ooty spice chicken, Pongal, Idli, Vada and coconut chutney. Fruits - Strawberries, pears, peaches and naturally grown here are taste.



## Ooty Travel Plan

### Day 01:

Ooty sightseeing covering Botanical Garden, Doddabetta Peak, Ooty Boat House, Rose Garden, Pykara Boat House, Pykara Waterfalls, Shooting Place, Tree Park, Deer Park, Avalanche Eco Friendly (Jungle Ride) & Pine Forest.

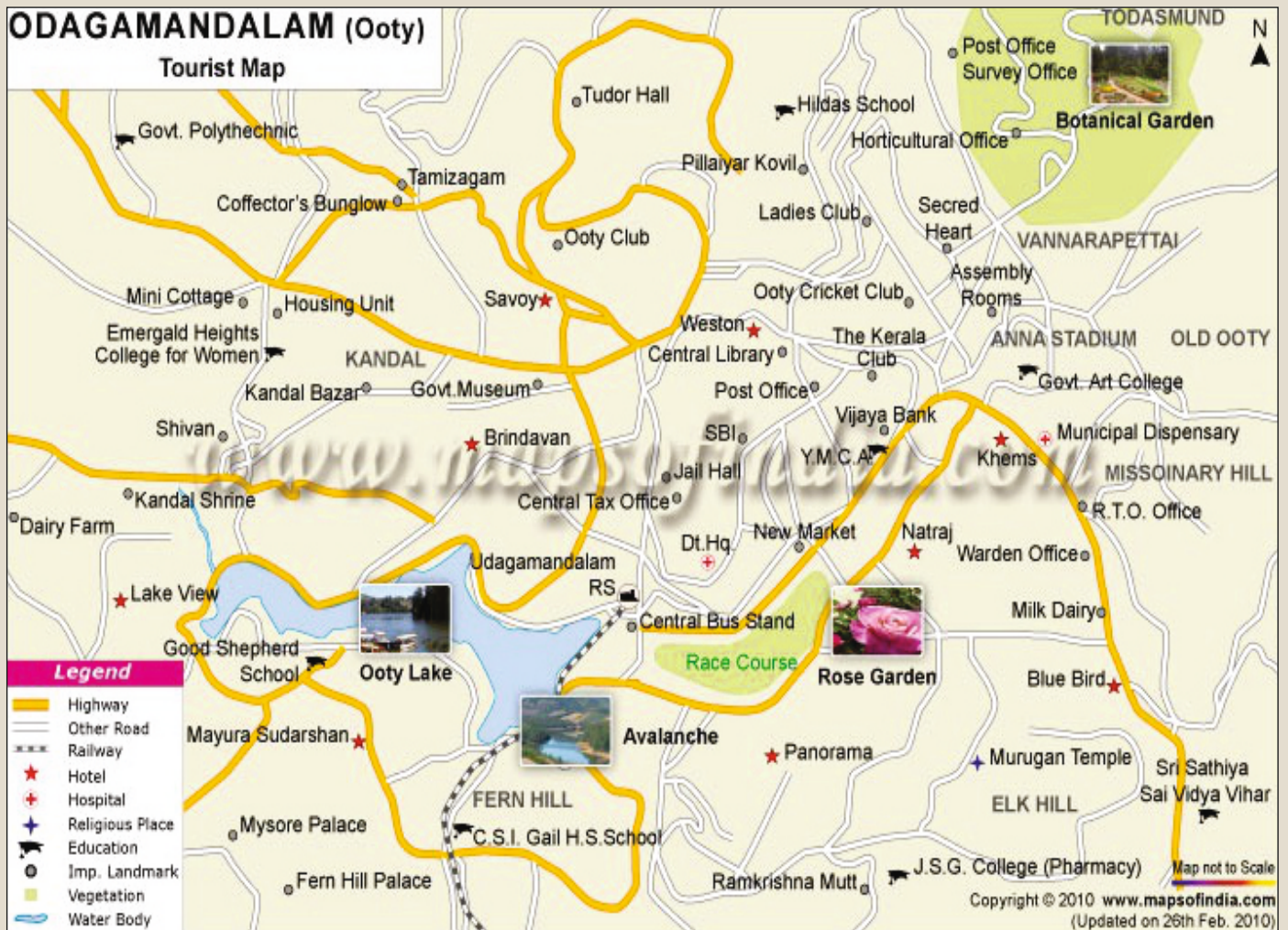
### Day 02:

Ooty to Coonoor sightseeing covering Sim's Park, MRC (Madras Regimental Center), Lamp's Rock View Point, Dolphin House, Catherine Waterfalls View Point, Tea Garden, Valley View Point, Golf Ground Wellington, Coonoor Brook Bond Tea Factory Visit, Toy Train Journey (Ooty to Coonoor is once in lifetime experience).

## Distance from Ooty

From Chennai via Mettupalayam & Salem	535 km
From Coimbatore	89 km
From Kozhikode via Gudalur	187 km
From Mysore via Gudalur	160 km
From Bangalore	290 km
From Kochhi via Coimbatore & Palakkad	281 km
From Trichy	302 km
From Kodaikanal via Coimbatore & Palani	265 km





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