**Enjoying the landscapes of Coorg**

Coorg is also known as the land of coffee. You will find the entire place dotted with coffee estates. Coorg has so many fascinating aspects, with a distinct taste and culture, being part of Karnataka, yet different in so many ways. Many people from this part have fought valiantly for their country and served high in the army ranks. They have a high spirit of patriotism, and many families have sent their sons to fight for the motherland. Just as the landscape is beguiling, so are the people who are warm and friendly.

**Places to visit in Coorg**

*Abbey falls*

It is a wonderful place to during monsoons, as the river basin is filling up and you can see the falls in full glory. You will have to walk through a coffee estate to reach the falls. There is a special bridge to stand and view the waterfalls gushing down. These waterfalls in the middle of the plantations are indeed a nature’s marvel—the water collecting in pools over rocks. The waterfalls gushing sounds can be from quite afar. You will find plenty of visitors enjoying themselves when they get there.

*Dubare elephant camp*

For those who love to see a lovely family of elephants, this is your opportunity wherein you could check out herds of elephants. The camp allows you to interact with elephants and engage in various activities related to them. It’s your chance to be close to the wild and understand them in their natural settings. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that you can’t miss out on and take to visiting this amazing Dubar elephant camp.

*Harangi Dam*

One of the must-see places when the rainy season has become one of the must-see places, you will find it filled to the brim surrounded by lush greenery on either side. It is built on one of Cauvery’s tributaries and the first dam across the Cauvery river. It happens to be one of the favorite picnic spots for visitors and locals alike.

*Honamma kere*

Kere in Kannada, the local language means lake. It is the largest lake found in Coorg and hence a beloved sport for many to check out this big water body. Since it is named after the goddess Honnamma, many people visit this lake for religious purposes as well.

*Omkareshwar temple*

This temple is known for its architectural elegance. Omkareshwar temple has a distinct look due to the influence of Islamic and Gothic styles. The blending had added to the uniqueness of this structure, making it a masterpiece for the visitors to admire. A pool has been constructed in front of the temple, which is equally alluring. The temple has four minarets around a dome.

*Kottebetta peak*

Betta in Kannada means mountain and Kottebetta happens to be the third-highest mountain found in Coorg. It loosely translates to fort hill because the mountain appears to resemble a fort. At the very peak, you will find a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. Several visitors have endured the trek and reached the very top to have a panoramic view of the place.

*Madikeri Fort*

The fort was initially built in the 17th century and further renovated by Tipu Sultan with bricks and stones. The fort was renamed Jaffarabad. The rich history of the place is the true beckoning for visitors to check out this place, which has a clock tower placed by the British and a portico to park the commissioner’s car. The entrance boasts of life-sized statues of elephants made of mortar. The fort housed a Virabhadra temple that the British removed and built an Anglican church, equally an architectural marvel.

*Mallalli falls*

During the monsoons, you will find several falls, small and big, but some of the major ones are so devastatingly beautiful because of the foliage and vegetation. The roar of the waterfalls is of such a high intensity that it can be heard from afar. The drop is from the Pushpagiri peak. It’s a good place to trek and have a good view of the waterfall. July to December is the best season to see the waterfalls.

*Nalknad armane*

The location was ideal for the local ruler who got defeated at the hands of the Tipu Sultan. He found this place to be a hideout and keep a watch for enemy attach as this palace was built on a hillock. Other rulers have sought refuge in this place. The last ruler has to hideaway from the British. The impressive palace has more to it than meets the eye, as the kings believed in style and grandeur even in the time of crisis. There are ancient paintings that adorn the walls of the palace. The carvings on every paneling and pillar are earmarked with intricate detailing.

But first, you will notice a gigantic gateway that will take you to the marriage hall, where marriages are ceremonies. The place wherein the king held court is equally impressive. It is a place wherein the king made strategic decisions or would watch artists’ performances from far and wide. The place has a basement with two dark rooms considered the king’s hideout in times of crisis.

*Padi iggutappa temple*

This temple is found on a mountain top and dedicated to the lord Iguthappa also known as Lord Subramanya. It is one of the most important temples for the region’s people as it is part of their culture and tradition to worship the deity with utmost reverence. They consider the deity to have magical powers and grant wishes, making the place more special. During festivals, processions and special prayers are also offered to the deity. The architectural design resembles the temple designs of Kerala. Offerings are made to the deity uniquely, with devotees weighing themselves with the things they offer. The exact bodyweight of the things such as fruits, grains, ornaments, coconuts, sarees etc., are given away.

*Raja’s seat*

It means the seat of the kings. Several kings used to come down to enjoy the weather of this hill station. You could enjoy the beautiful sunset from this high perched place with luscious greenery all around, making it magnificent to spend quiet evenings in the company of nature. The park also has a special place wherein the remains of Gandhiji are stored, known as Gandhi Mantap. A toy train is a great attraction for kids and adults who want to share the fun.

*Tadiandamol trek*

Being the second highest peak in Karnataka, hikers have a fascination for this peak. Early winter is the best time to take up a trekking expedition and enjoy the cool breeze blowing. The chill in the air adds a bit of fun. The scenic beauty atop the peak is the best part of the climb because the captivating view is worth the sweat you worked up for the climb. You could workplaces for your pitstop and get base camps ready till you make it right to the top and have the glorious view.

*Talakaveri temple and waterfalls*

The Talakaveri is where the river Kaveri or Cauvery originated. It’s a small pond-like structure built around the small spring calling it thirtha Kundike or Brahma Kundike for people to worship and offer their obeisance to the goddess Cauvery. Even if you look hard, you won’t see the source, as the water is said to flow underground a short distance and you can see it emerge later at the main river. A shrine is near the Kundike, wherein people offer prayers. There is a separate tank wherein people take bathe before offering the ritualistic prayers to the deities in the shrine. An Ashwathama tree is considered very holy because several saints have reincarnated here and meditated under this tree.

*Dargah sharif of yemmemadu*

It is one of the most known shrines and holds prominence for the Islamic faith, built in the memories of Sufi saints Saheed and Sayyed Hasan Sakaf Halramir. Both saints had arrived from Persia three centuries ago and dedicated life to piety. An annual festival known as Urs is celebrated for eight days wherein more than three lakh people assembled to pray and seek blessings during this auspicious time. Food is arranged for the people on the last day of the celebration.

*Gaddige/ Raja’s tomb*

You could visit these tombs wherein the two royals are laid to rest. There are smaller tombs dedicated to loyal soldiers. These were built in the 18th century in the northern part of the town. When climbing a top to check out these tombs of yore, you will surely have a spectacular view of the town.

**The best foods in Coorg**

*Kadambuttu* is a popular rice ball that is steamed and served with pickles. These are made of broken rice mixed with cardamom powder to give a distinct flavor. This delicacy is not only made in every home but is common street food.

*Bamboo shoot curry* is prominently eaten delicacy during monsoon as the abundance of these shoots is more so. These shoots have a unique taste and it is cooked into a curry made of red chilies, cumin and coriander seeds ground with raw rice to give body to the stew-like curry. It goes well with steaming hot rice.

*Pandi curry* is made from pork and service with rice rotis, a wonderful accompaniment to this spicy and tasty dish. It is made in most Kodava/ Coorgi homes and is also part of the growing street food culture.

**Places to shop**

*Friday market* is the local shopping place wherein vendors with their wares congregate on a large open ground and sell their wares to people who come and throng to get their weekly veggies, fruits and other daily needs. Apart from that, you get all sorts of stuff such as clay pots, pans, dolls, utensils etc. it’s a great place to shop for trinkets and get a good bargain in this place.

*Kushal Nagar market* is a street full of shops wherein you will get every item you want to buy from clothes, footwear, utensils, makeup, etc. There are big and small shops selling all kinds of wares, both locals and tourists find this an interesting place to indulge in shopping.

*The flea market* is a great place to buy unique and exciting stuff and at affordable prices. You could haggle here and get a good bargain for the item that you want to buy.

*Coffee stores,* all across Coorg, will come across such stores because it’s the coffee hub of India. So you can pick different varieties of coffee and take them home. You will get some authentic coffee beans or freshly ground coffee. Buy as you please, and taste the tantalizing aroma when you make your brew.

The weather is pleasant and evenings seem a little chilly. The region’s vibrant culture and enthusiastic crowd are great places to enjoy and have fun. There are so many places to see and eat the best food and enjoy the hospitality of the Kodava people.