**A memorable trip to Munnar**

Munnar is a hill station in Kerala known for its pleasant weather conditions throughout the year. The long winding roads, and the serene beauty of the untouched grasslands housisng many species of flora and fauna are a sight for sore eyes. The tea plantation and lush green hills add to the beauty of the place. It’s a place wherein many tourists frequent even several people across the country, find this place to be heaven on earth because of calmness and exuberant greenery in Munnar.

**Places to visit**

*Munnar top station*

Nestled atop the western ghats, the Munnar top station looks like a painting. A visitor will be able to take in the panoramic view of the luscious greenery and few human settlements around the area. You could also see the rare Neelakunji flowers, which blossom once every twelve years, giving the entire hilltop a blue hue.

*Lakkam waterfalls*

These twin waterfalls aren’t very steep but flow in cascades down a plateau. People from neighboring areas find this a beautiful place to have a picnic and stay back for a swim in the waters. You could capture some amazing pictures with luxuriant greenery in the background.

*Echo point*

You might have tried this in caves or huge buildings but have tried to get an echo of your voice in the open Well! This is the place where you could try and have fun. Many tourists throng this place to try out this phenomenon and view the valley below with breathtaking landscapes. You could see lush green hills all around, making it an awesome place to capture the beautiful sights.

*Tea estates of Munnar*

Munnar is known for its tea estates. The slopes of tea bushes for miles around are what you cannot forget when you reach this place. You could actually check out and take a detailed tour of how the tea leaves are picked, processed, and made into the tea you cherish every day. And if that’s not enough, there is a dedicated tea museum where you can check out how tea was first processed and now, with technology, the change in tea processing has taken place over the years.

*Eravikulam national park*

All those animal lovers can surely brace up and check out this amazing wildlife park. Being one of the pioneer parks in Kerala, it has stood the test of time and still houses the largest collection of the Nilgiri tahrs, an endangered species. The park is an amazing mix of landscapes with grasslands, huge mountains and streams flowing through from the river Pamba. You could also find colorful butterflies fluttering in the park.

*Attukad waterfalls*

Another beautiful waterfall that you must check out. Monsoon is the best time to visit the waterfall in full glory. Falling from the great height in the mountains, you see the spray mist rise in the air creating wonderful rainbows that you can capture and photo frame for life. You could actually hike near the waterfall and take out a picnic right there in full view of the Attukad.

*Blossom park*

An amazing floral park with buds and flowers blossoming everywhere your sight can take you. Those lovely flowers do attract mountain butterflies which actually gets every visitor captivated. This park is found on the banks of the river Muthirrappuzha. You will find your feather friends here. Some of the well-known migratory birds make this park their temporary home. You can opt for adventure trails, take up boating, nature walks around the park, do some bird watching. There is a rink for roller skating, play badminton and enjoy campfires as well.

*Mattupetty dam*

This mand-made marvel should be a must-visit on your travel list. It is a place when you just want to hear the water gushing and everything else around seems non-existent. The surroundings of the dam are covered with the thick green foliage of plantations. But the lovely atmosphere will take a lifetime to absorb. The place is an excellent stop for bird-watchers as you will unique bird species that inhabit that region. Now that you must see the waters, there is also a boating facility that you can hire to take a water journey around the dam.

*The Kundala Lake*

The peaceful and serene water body is where you can take a stroll on the banks or check out the scenery far across with plantations around. This can be your pitstop before you head to the Munnar Top station. The calmness of the water relieves one of stress and you could just relax and enjoy the peaceful moments. If you have a change of mind, there is a golf course nearby and take time off to tee some balls. There is an artificial Kundala dam that is built that can be checked out.

*Chinnar wildlife sanctuary*

A place that can be etched in your memories long after you have visited the place. Not only the place has beautiful terrains that showcase grasslands to exotic flora and fauna. You will encounter the great grizzled squirrel, a rare sight of some of the endangered species that will be found in this sanctuary. A casual run into a herd of elephants on a stroll near watering holes is a common sight.

*Mattupetty dairy farm*

Now going to dairy farms may not ring bells, but this is one of the rare farms wherein you get to see a huge variety of cattle specifically reared for dairy production. Since it’s a part of the Swiss Livestock project, you will use different techniques to extract milk and optimize production. The farm is a sprawling 191 acres of land wherein you can take a stroll and enjoy the clean unpolluted air.

**Delicacies of Munnar**

You could try some of the finest dishes in fine dining and street food as you travel across Munnar. Made with local ingredients, you cannot miss out on the breakfast, lunch and dinner delicacies that are authentic to the place.

*Appam with stew* is a pancake that is thick in the middle and lace-like on the sides. It’s eaten with coconut stew made from chicken or meat. The creamy gravy will give you the nice spicy punch to the appam.

*Puttu and kadala curry* is a great combo. The puttu is made by steaming coconut and semolina in bamboos and served with chickpea curry. It is one of the regular breakfast recipes, which is also done in cylindrical-shaped utensils to give the puttu a unique shape.

*Idiyappam with egg curry*

This rice noodles which are handmade or traditional noodle making machine. These fresh noodles are served with egg curry, which is an awesome pairing. Sometimes also served with coconut milk as well.

*Nadan kozhi varuthathu is* also known as spicy chicken fry. You would wonder why this is dish is unlike any chicken fry. The local pungent spices such as onion, garlic, vinegar, chili and coriander in which the chicken is marinated and fried lend all the flavor that the dish requires, making a mouthwatering plate of food.

*Kerala prawn curry* is one of the most known curries in the world after it got prepared in many MasterChef episodes. The spicy and tangy taste of the curry makes it unique from the other prawn curries made across India. Initially, salt, chili and pepper form the base of the curry, which is finally dipped in coconut milk to give the creamy texture and then tempered with curry leaves.

*Beef fry and Malabar parotta* are the unique dishes of the place. The Parrotta is specifically made to give it various layers. The spicy beef curry is cooked with mustard seeds and ground spices. A generous amount of curry leaves and garlic ginger paste form the base of this curry.

*Ari pathari and chicken curry,* the pathri is a rice flour roti made specifically with this side dish. The softness of the rice flour roti makes it an excellent combo with spicy chicken curry wherein the chicken is finn=nely chopped and so that you get chicken in every bite.

*Kerala style fish,* this style of preparation is only found in the locales of Kerala, the spices added to the fish are different an extra tinge of flavor is added by coconut and kokum for tartness. The fresh seafood made with ground spices and fried to perfection can beat any gourmet restaurant dish.

There is so much to see in Munnar that even a whole week’s stay won’t suffice. Every village or town in Munnar has an entire set of hidden gems, such as the Neolithic dolmens of Muniyara, which happen to be the burial chambers or Chithirapuram tea plantations. The list just goes on and on. Munnar not only has breathtaking views but gives the visitor an out worldly experience.