

TOURISTS ATTRACTION IN KODAIKANAL

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INTRODUCTION

Tourism is travel for recreational leisure or business purposes. The world tourism organization defines to tourists as people who “travel to and stay in places outside their usual environment for more than twenty - four hours and not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.”

From the very inception of life travel has fascinated man travel and tourism have been important social activities of human beings from time immemorial. The urge to explore new places with in one’s own country or outside and seek a change of environment and experience has been experienced form ancient times. Tourism is one of the world’s most rapidly growing industries. Much of its growth is due higher disposable incomes, increased leisure time and falling costs of travel. As airports become more enjoyable places to pass through, as travel agency services become increasingly automated and as tourists find it easier to get information on places they want to visit, tourism grows. This new trend has made the tourism job very challenging. The holiday makers want a good rate of return on their investment They are to be lured with value additions and improved customer service.

Tourism today is much more than Just developing products It is more about quality, Insightful thinking and ability to have global information about technology, Partners, contacts and responding quickly to global and regional trends. The Fundamental task before Tourism promotion is to components in the tourism trade as active participates in the nation’s social and cultural life. There is a long road ahead.

TOURISM IN DINDIGUL DISTRICT

There are several places of interest in Dindigul District. Palani hills with the famous temple of lord Muruga Dhanayuthapani Temple, Begampur Mosque, Sirmalai Hills, Kodaikanal, Parappalar Dam, Varadhamanedhi Dem, Mariamman Temple and Nadupatti, Anjaneyar temple are places of tourist interest in the district. The famous Kodaikanal Hill station is also located in Dindigul District. An attraction of this hill station is the kurinji flowers that bloom once in twelve years.

TOURISTS ATTRACTION OF KOADIANAL

The Palani Hill has an area of 2068sq k.m It is one of the ancient hills in the world A part of the Palani hill is known as kodai hill. The term koadi hill refers to the hill resort, Kodaikanal and the city region in and around it. In 1899 the kodai hill area became a municipal Unit and in 1960 it became a separate municipality and the total area of the municipality now is 21.45 sqkm.

The kodai hill is a popular resort in South India. The Climate here attracts millions of tourists, all over the world, since many natural places of attraction are seen abundantly in kodaikanal. When Compared with other hill resorts in simila, Darjeeling Ooty and kodaikanal is still preserving its environs and natured beauty the process of Urbanization the development of tourism and falling kodaikanal is a hill station on the southern tip of the upper palani Hills, In Dindigul District of the State of Tamil Nadu in Southern India, Kodai is also a major tourist attraction and many of the local make their living through tourist services. Kodaikanal is sometimes referred to as “Princess of Hill station.”

KODAIKANAL CLIMATE

Its temperature is never too hot or cold, though night temperatures drop to freezing, point in January and thin layer of ice is seen on the edges of the road. In summer (March to May) the temperatures range is from ^{20.c} to ^{11.c} and in winter (Dec-Feb) ^{17.3.c} to ^{8.3.c}. An average of 165 cm s of rain falls every year. Mostly. When north east monsoon occurs from June to September.

TOURIST PLACES OF KODAIKANAL

- **SILVER FALLS**

Silver Cascade Falls, one of the most famous waterfalls, is the first attraction that unfolds to tourist, located on the Madurai - Kodaikanal road, on way to Kodaikanal. This waterfall is the result of excess water in the Kodai Lake, which comes down as a fall. Silver Cascade Falls is located at a distance of around 8 km from Kodaikanal.

- **KODAIKANAL LAKE**

Kodaikanal Lake is a man-made water body that covers an expanse of 60 acres. Visited and re-visited by countless tourists every year, this star-shaped lake lies in the Dindigul

district of Tamil Nadu. The north-western Palani Hills in the surroundings complement the beauty of the lake. By far the most iconic geographical landmark of the hill station- Kodaikanal Lake was created in the year 1863 by Sir Vere Henry Levinge, The lake is fed by the waters that roll down from the Palani Hills, which receive an annual rainfall of 1650 mm. The surface elevation of the lake is 6911 feet above sea level, and boasts of a shore length of 9 km. The maximum and average depth of this water body is 35.6 feet and 9.7 feet, respectively. The outflow from this lake forms a beautiful waterfall called Silver Cascade. Measuring 180 feet in height, The aqua fauna of this lake is unique and worth-mentioning. Macophytes of many types can be found in the lake. In addition to these, there are aquatic insects, *Danio aequipinnatus*, *Rasbora daniconius* and *Gambusia affinis*. Among the fishes, rainbow trout and common carp are widely found.

- **BOAT CLUB**

Boating in the Kodai Lake is one of the important parts of every Kodaikanal tour. Boat Club in Kodaikanal offers boats of various kinds on rent, making the experience of boating a lot easier. Enjoy boating at the serene Kodai Lake, with pristine water around you and an enchanting view to admire while the cool weather soothes you. It will be an experience worth remembering.

- **BEAR SHOLA FALLS**

Kodaikanal, a popular tourist spots is one of the best places to spend few relaxed days of your lives. The hill station has varied kinds of options to keep its tourist engaged. One of the best examples of the same is Bear Shola Falls. Located at a distance of 2 km from the Kodaikanal Lake, the falls are 3 kilometres away from the bus-stand. Located in the Reserve forest, Bear Shola Falls is a perfect picnic spot offering a setting to just relax with your loved ones amidst lush greenery

- **BRYANT PARK**

Kodaikanal, a hill station in the state of Tamil Nadu in the Palani Hills is a place worth visiting at least once in life time. Kodaikanal tour offers you with many tourist spots. One of the most popular ones is Bryant Park. Situated on the eastern side of Kodaikanal Lake, Bryant Park is a botanical park and a blessing on the hill station for those interested in botany. The park is known for many kinds of flowers, hybrids and grafts. Cut flowers from the park are also used for exporting because of their good quality and wide range of variety. The park also has a glass house with many fine varieties of flowers which adds on to the overall charm of the place.

In the month of May, a flower show also conducted in the park which is a part of the summer festival attracting many tourists and not just for those interested in botany. The show is organised by the department of Horticulture and showcases many kinds of vegetables and flowers which are brought from neighbouring villages and compete for various prizes.

- **COKER'S WALK**

One of the popular tourist spots in Kodaikanal, Coaker's Walk is something worth visiting during your Kodaikanal tour. Constructed by Lt. Coaker in 1872 on whom it has been named, Coaker's Walk is a narrow pedestrian path which is approximately one km in length. This mountain road is just half kilometre away from the Kodaikanal Lake. Running along the slope edges on the southern of the Kodai Road, the Coaker's Walk starts near the van Allen hospital and joins the main road above St. Peter's Church. The places offer tourists with a refreshing setting along with breath taking view of the plains.

One can have the opportunity to have clear view of the Dolphin's nose which is located in the south, valley of the Pambar River in South East. You also get a distant view of the Periyakulam along with a view of Madurai city. However, if you happen to visit on a cloudy day, you might not get a clear picture of these.

- **TELESCOPE HOUSE**

A refreshing break from the pressure of hectic day to day life is something we all look forward to. The hill station of Kodaikanal presents its tourists with mesmerising natural settings, refreshing and soothing environment, adventurous activities, luxurious accommodation facilities and umpteen numbers of tourist spots. One of the best examples of tourist spots in Kodaikanal is **Telescope House**. The **Telescope** is located at the northern tip of the Coaker's Walk. It was constructed so as to make it easier for tourists to have amazing view of the valley. An entrance fee is collected per head. Visitors get mesmerising view of the surrounding areas especially of Sothupparai Dam, Vaigai Dam, Periyakulam and Varaha River. The Kodaikanal Terrestrial Telescope has been constructed at an appropriate place and attracts hordes of tourists.

- **KURUNJI ANDAVAR TEMPLE**

Located at a distance of 3 km from the Kodaikanal Lake, Kurinji Andavar Temple is the place worth visiting not just for religious tourists. Dedicated to Lord Muruga, the temple holds an important position amongst Hindu devotes. Lord Muruga is referred as 'God of hill'. In Tamil

language, the word Kurinji means ‘hill region’ and Andavar means ‘God’. Thus the name itself symbolises its connection with the hill and the God of the hill. The temple has also connection with the Kurinji flower which blooms on the hill once in 12 years. It is said that the flower bloomed last in the year of 2004. According some, the honey from this place during the year when the Kurinji flower booms has medicinal value.

- **CHETTIYAR PARK**

Kodaikanal, one of the most beautiful hill stations in the country is often called the “Princess of Hill Stations”, Kodaikanal present its tourists with amazing holidaying options. From trekking to sightseeing to relaxing to photography, Kodaikanal tour has something for each and every one. One of the important tourist spots in Kodaikanal is Chettiar Park. Located at a distance of 3.2 km from the Bus Stand and on the north east corner of Kodaikanal, the park is on the way to popular Kurunji Temple.

- **SHENBAGANUR MUSEUM**

One of the popular tourist spots in Kodaikanal, Shenbaganur Museum is a place that makes for an interesting visit. Located at a distance of 5.6 Km from the Kodaikanal Lake, the museum is one of the best orchidariums in the country. It is now maintained by the Sacred Heart College – Theological Seminary which was founded in year of 1895. The Museum came into its present being because of the efforts of a Spanish Father E. Ugarthe. He took control in 1951 from its creator A. Anglade. A compilation of past collections along with of butterflies, moths and birds by teams of students was initiated. A brief description of the museum’s assets was given by Ugarthe in the year of 1963 which has been published as ‘A Museum of the Palanis’. Before this, there was a record called ‘The Botanical inventory in the Museum’ which was by Father KM Mathew in 1954.

- **SOLAR ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY**

The Kodaikanal Solar Observatory is a solar observatory owned and operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics. It is on the southern tip of the Palani Hills 4 km from Kodaikanal town, Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu state, South India. The Evershed effect was first detected at this observatory in January 1909. Solar data collected by the lab is the oldest continuous series of its kind in India. Precise observations of the equatorial electrojet are made here due to the unique geography of Kodaikanal. Ionospheric soundings, geomagnetic,

F region vertical drift and surface observations are made here regularly. Summaries of the data obtained are sent to national (India Meteorological Department) and global (World Meteorological Organization, Global Atmosphere Watch) data centers.^[1]

- **GOLF CLUB**

A private membership club with a history of more than 100 years behind it, Kodaikanal Golf Club is another popular place to visit in Kodaikanal. This golf club, located around 6 km away from the center of hill station is perfect example of recreation amid the best of natural setting. It is located near to other popular sightseeing places in Kodaikanal such as Suicide Point/Green Valley View and Pillar Rocks.

Kodaikanal Golf club boasts of 18 holes par 71 golf course. Presenting an ideal location for golf lovers, it is surrounded by breathtaking beauty and pleasant weather that makes the game even more exciting.

- **PILLAR ROCK**

Located 8 Kms away from the lake, Pillar rocks constitutes of three granite boulders and each of a height of 400 feet standing shoulder to shoulder. It also makes for an interesting picnic spot. The chamber between the two pillars is called Devil's kitchen.

- **GREEN VALLEY VIEW**

No matter where are we travelling, we all look forward to visiting popular tourist spots on the places we are visiting. The hill station of Kodaikanal presents tourists with amazing places to go for sightseeing. One of the best examples for the same is **Green Valley View**. As the name suggest, it offers tourists with amazing view of the plains, valleys and hills. Breath taking view of the Vaigai dam makes for an experience worth remembering. The green valley View is formerly called as Suicide Point. It received its name because of the dangerous valley which is deep and dense. The valley below the point is more than 5000 feet drop. The best time to visit the Valley View is between 10 am and 3 pm as the valley gets covered by mist as the day advances making it difficult to have a clear view.

Tourist arrival Statistics from July-2015 to January 2016 (Kodaikanal)

S.No	Month	Domestic	Foreigners	Total
1	July-2015	259907	3627	263534
2	August-2015	263436	2619	266055
3	September-2015	236715	2116	238831
4	October-2015	206172	2438	208610
5	November-2015	142736	948	143684
6	December-2015	280898	2325	283223
7	January-2016	218369	2035	220404

Sources : Tourism Department, Kodaikanal

Kodaikanal has Several Scenic natural attraction which are enjoyed by its visitors and made it a popular romantic destination for newlyweds. Kodaikanal means the gift of the forests. It stands true to its name as the place is blessed with different varieties of green, luscious trees, the enormous, beautiful rocks formation and enchanting waterfalls. Beautiful Spraralling Ghats overlooking the greenery of this hill station is perfect for finding peace and Tranquillity while relishing the beauty of nature.

The name Kodaikanal means gift of the forest and the dense forest with many varieties of trees the huge rocks in the wilderness and the enchanting waterfalls, make it a real gift for the tourists visiting this place An area blessed by its location in the Palani hills in the western Ghats, it creates landscapes and natural beauty that one doesn't want to miss. To make the most of the enchanting Surroundings one can undertake various activities such as trekking, boating, horse, riding etc...

RESTAURANTS AND LOCAL FOOD IN KODAIKANAL

Hotel Tamilnadu was located inside of the city and easy to locate. Appearance of the hotel was excellent from interior and exterior. Garden facility available all amenities were available in

the hotel and functioning properly food taken from the hotel was excellent in quantity and quality breakfast services were good overall super to stay

Chocolates, Sandwiches, Brownies, Cheeses and some hot ‘chai’ are the most sought after eateries of Kodaikanal. Other than these, there is a lot that stands out in this town such as locally produced organic foods, a rich and spicy dash of Punjabi cuisine, popular items of Tibetan cuisine, an absolutely lip-smacking variety of Biriyanis, as well as elaborate Gujarati Platter, Find local and traditional Platters here too, with essentials like Dosa, idly, Upma, Parota, Sambar, Rasam, Payasam, Kesari, Sweet Pongal and lots more.

IMPACT OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AT KODAIKANAL

Kodaikanal situated in Tamilnadu state is one of the hill stations in India. The increase in the tourist arrival has made Kodaikanal to be always crowded to attract more number of foreign tourists. The tourist products must be improved accordingly to the necessity. There is a healthy awareness in the world

NEGATIVE IMPACT

Tourists get a lot of limitation from the street vendors and their business activities on the roadside and other areas

CONCLUSION

Abundant in natural beauty, Kodaikanal is an ideal spot for the family trips, honeymooners, adventure freaks and also for those who love to explore the untouched places. Kodaikanal is a place to be for every kind of traveler.

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