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# Kodagu – Scotland of India



**K**odagu (Coorg) is rated as one of the top hill station destinations in India. Some of the most popular tourist attractions in Kodagu, the thickly wooded grandeur on the Western Ghats, are: Talakaveri, Bhagamandala, Nisargadhama, Abbey Falls, Dubare, Nagarahole National Park, Iruppu Falls, and the Tibetan Buddhist Golden Temple.

Talakaveri is the place where the River Kaveri originates. The temple on the riverbanks here is dedicated to lord Brahma, and is one of only two temples dedicated to Brahma in India and Southeast Asia. Bhagamandala is situated at the Sangam (confluence) of two rivers, the Kaveri and the Kanika. A third river, the Sujothi, is said to join from underground, and hence this spot is called the Triveni Sangam. Iruppu Falls is a sacred Kodava Hindu spot in South Kodagu in the Brahmagiri hill range. The Lakshmana Tirtha River, with the waterfalls, flows nearby and has a Rameshwara temple on its banks.

Omkareshwara Temple is a beautiful temple built in the Indo-Sarcenic style in Coorg. A legend is associated with the temple, built by Lingrajendra II in 1820 CE. The king put to death a pious Brahmin who dared to protest against his misdeeds. The spirit of the dead man began to plague the king day and night. On the advice of wise men, the king built this temple and installed a shivlinga procured from Kashi, North India.

Dubare is mainly an elephant-capturing and training camp of the Forest Department at the edge of Dubare forest; on the bank of the river Kaveri along the Kushalanagara - Siddapura road. Nagarahole is a national park and wildlife resort. Nisargadhama is a man-made island and picnic spot near Kushalanagara, formed by the river Kaveri.

Abbey Falls is a scenic waterfall 5 km from Madikeri. Mallali falls is 25 km from Somwarpet, downhill of the Pushpagiri hills. Mandalapatti is 28 km from Madikeri.

The Tibetan Buddhist Golden Temple is at Bylakuppe near Kushalnagar of Kodagu district, in the Tibetan refugee settlement.

Kodagu is located on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats.

In July and August, rainfall is intense, and there are often showers into November. The principal town, and district capital, is Madikeri, or Mercara, with a population of around 30,000. Other significant towns include Virajpet (Virarajendrapet), Kushalanagara, Somwarpet and Gonikoppal.

The misty hills, lush teakwood and sandalwood forests, and acres of tea and coffee plantations of Kodagu are, in a word, stunning. Dubbed "The Scotland of India," Kodagu is a postcard-perfect region of scattered villages and hamlets, which are the epitome of old-world charm. Kodagu is ideal for outdoor activities such as trekking, angling and white-water rafting, and major festivals like Kell Poldu (worship of weapons), Cauvery Shankaramana (return of the river goddess) and the Huttari (harvest) are a huge draw.

Orange County Resorts and Hotels Ltd., a Public Limited Company incorporated under the Company's Act 1956, opened its first resort at Coorg in 1994. Orange County Resorts is an experiential holiday company that owns luxury resorts affiliated to 'Small Luxury Hotels of the World', at Coorg & Kabini, Karnataka. The Orange County Experience enshrines a simple philosophy: 'Provide exquisite holiday experiences while preserving the purity of nature and culture of the land.'

## Orange County

Orange County, Coorg, Set amidst a 300-acre working coffee and spice plantation, Orange County, Coorg is flanked by the holy river Cauvery on one side and by the 50,000-acre Dubare Reserve Forest on the other. As if the location wasn't enough, the accommodation

does its bit to pamper the senses too. The exquisitely designed 29 Private Pool Villas, built using rust-red, hand cut, laterite bricks, are inspired by the unique architecture of the local Kodavas - the legendary natives of Coorg who trace their provenance to the Macedonian armies of Alexander the Great.

In January 2013, Orange County, Coorg changed the face of luxury holiday experiences in India, by turning itself into an all-suite resort with a private pool attached to every accommodation. Inspired in design by the thatched workers houses within plantations, the newly launched Lily Pool Series of Villas were specially created to give you the ultimate in plantation experience. These elegantly appointed Bungalows, Villas and Cottages come with a tranquil Lily Pond as their singular motif and theme. These villas with their own living rooms, bedrooms and ensuite bathrooms reflect a new standard in space, elegance and luxury.

Enclosed courtyards, gazebos and your own personal pool, themed around the tranquility of lily ponds, provide privacy and a sensual ambience to a truly personalized holiday experience that will appeal to couples and families alike. The resort encourages you to get out and explore the sprawling plantations and the surrounding coffee and spice-scented hills. Guests are also invited to visit the neighboring Karadigodu village for a glimpse into a way of life that has changed little over generations. Orange County Resorts & Hotels Ltd. opened its second resort at Kabini in 2007. Steeped in local lore and culture, and inspired in design by the 'Kadu Kuruba Hadis' (local tribal villages), this picturesque resort of sweeping panoramic vistas is bordered on two sides by the Kabini river. While the interiors of the intimate Pool and Jacuzzi huts are a celebration of the vernacular, with ethnic furniture, tribal furnishing and bottle gourd lamp shades, the exteriors capture the splendour and richness of the landscape and culture in its authentic colour and texture.

The Kabini region, surrounded by the Bandipur, Nagarahole and Wayanad wildlife sanctuaries, is one of the richest wildlife habitats in India. It is home to the Gaur, Sambar and the Sloth Bear among others, and is also home to the largest congregation of Asian Elephants. The high density of herbivores turns this region into one of the few places in Asia where three large predators i.e., the Tiger, Leopard and the Wild Dog, coexist in large numbers. Earning accolades and awards reaffirms what we believe in: that we are a company that bases its accomplishments on values as much as great business visions.