

## **OOTY, THE QUEEN OF HILL STATIONS IN TAMIL NADU, INDIA**

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Ooty or Udhagamandalam known as ‘the queen of hill stations’ is a capital town of district Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu, India. It was originally occupied by Todas, and ruled by East India Company before Independence of India. Ooty is the most popular hill station in South India, located in Western Ghats at the height of 2240 meters. Ooty is said to be one of the most beautiful places in South India. This place is well known for coffee and tea plantations, tree species like Conifers, Eucalyptus, Pine and Wattle etc. The temperature rarely reaches to 25° in summer and in winter it will decrease to around 5°. Previous to British, the Udhagamandalam was the place of Todas, later on it was modernised by the British people. Not only modernising, British constructed the first railway line in this hill station and made Ooty as Summer Capital of Madras Presidency.

This hill station has been declared as one of the hotspots among the 35 in world, since it is the home for unique variety of animals and plants. In this regard it is said to be rich in biodiversity. The economy of this region is dependent majorly on tourism and agriculture. Many types of fruits from the English countries being grown locally and they have its huge importance among the localities. Number of people from many countries visits Ooty in order to enjoy nature’s beauty.

There are several Dairy farming are there in Ooty and known well in the production of many dairy products such as cheese, skimmed milk powder and milk chocolates. And hence, we can find many local agriculture industries and several and certain research institutes like Live Stock farm and Potato research farm. Local crops with floriculture and sericulture being cultivated; in addition, the cultivation of mushrooms is also being practiced.

### **Symposium Venue**

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Fortune Hotel Sullivan Court is a modern-day tribute to John Sullivan, who founded the scenic town of Ooty in 1821. The symposium venue can be reached at the following address:

Fortune Resort Sullivan Court, Ooty  
123, Selbourne Road, Ooty, 643001, Tamil Nadu, India  
[http://www.fortunehotels.in/resort/Ooty\\_Fortune\\_Resort\\_Sullivan\\_Court.aspx](http://www.fortunehotels.in/resort/Ooty_Fortune_Resort_Sullivan_Court.aspx)

## Travel information to Ooty

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### By Flight

Ooty is 88 kilometres apart from nearest domestic airport at Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), and this city is well-connected with most of Indian cities. And one more airport at Bangalore, Karnataka which is 295 kilometres away from Ooty and Bangalore international airport is connected with most of cities across the globe. There are regular flights from Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai connecting Bangalore and Coimbatore. Once you reach the airport, you can take a taxi or a bus from there to reach Ooty.

### By Bus

To reach Ooty, there are several government and luxury buses from Bangalore, Mysore and Chennai. These are overnight buses and the journey is quite comfortable. A special government bus leaves daily at 5pm and 7pm from Calicut and it takes just 6 hours to reach Ooty.

### By Train

There is a railhead at Mettupalyam, and it is 40 kilometres away from Ooty. Many trains are there to Mettupalyam from Chennai, Coimbatore, Mysore and Bangalore. Some of the trains that connects Ooty to Mettupalyam includes Ooty/Udagamandalam Passenger train, Mettupalyam Udagamandalam Passenger train, Mangalore Mail and Mangalore Express and heritage train known as the Nilgiri Mountain train which takes you uphill on an exciting journey.

## Tourism Attraction

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Ooty, founded as a British Raj summer resort retains a working steam railway line. Stone House, a 19th-century residence, and the circa-1829 St. Stephen's Church are the reminders of colonial past. Ooty has a 55-acre Botanical Garden (1847), one of the best tourist attraction places which attract tourist from all over the world; lies on the slopes of Doddabetta Peak.

The famous Ooty Lake stretches, in an irregular 'L' shape, for about 2.75 kms in length and varying distances in width(100m – 140m) was artificially formed by John Sullivan, the founder of Ooty, in 1823-25 by damming the mountain streams flowing down Ooty valley.

Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary (one of the best in India) is an ideal adventurous place, located in Nilgiri Hills, where the offshoot of the Western Ghats meets the Eastern Ghats. Along side the sanctuary, we can find a varied mixture of flat land, open grassland, swamp, valley and nullas at this place. As well, we can spot langur, bonnet macaque, tiger, leopard, wild dog, hyena, jackal, sloth bear, elephants, gaur, sambar, spotted deer, Indian muntjac, mouse deer, wild boar, rodent and flying squirrel sanctuary.

The other places of tourism attractions in Ooty are Rose Garden, Doddabetta Peak (stands at an altitude of 2,623 meters), Pykara Lake/Pykara Boat House, Avalanche (for mountain trekking), Emerald Lake (part of the silent valley, with chirping birds and ducks and other swimming creatures that add beauty to the place and the sun set/sun rise is also spectacular), 6th Mile (green and lengthy shooting spot which is surrounded by forest), 9th Mile (green and lengthy shooting spot which is surrounded by mountains), Glenmorgan (beautiful countryside with tea and eucalyptus plantations), HPF (Hindustan Photo Film; was inaugurated by Mrs. Indra Gandhi, Prime Minister, in January, 1967); Kalhatty water falls (picturesque waterfalls come down a 36 m drop, a popular spot for picnics and treks with many water falls and rivulets), Ketti Valley (second largest valley in the world), The Mukkurthi Peak and National Park, Sims park at Coonoor (exhibits over 1000 species of plants), Kodanad View Point-Kotagiri (panoramic view of the tea estates and the river Moyar), Dolphin Nose, and, St. Catherine Water Falls.

## UDAGAMANDALAM (Ooty) Location Map



Ooty (Udhagamandalam) Location Map





Ooty Lakes





Ooty in typical winter and summer seasons

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Ooty, the Queen of hill stations

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Nilgiris Mountain Railway

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Pristine Lakes in Nilgiris

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Eye-catching verdant Nilgiri hills

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Ooty mountains

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Ooty Botanical Garden

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Tea and Coffee Plantations at Ooty

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