

PLAN YOUR DUBAI
VACATION TODAY
BOOK NOW



DUBAI



A guided jeep drive through coffee plantations. Photo: Plantation Trails

10 magical monsoon drives from Bengaluru

Anurag Mallick and Priya Ganapathy TRAVEL IDEAS | July 15, 2015

1718



Top getaways for wet weekends

Where do you go when you've run out of places to go? Pick from our list of offbeat destinations around Bengaluru.

Coonoor

[← previous](#)

1 2 3 4

[next →](#)


The ethnic Kurumba Village Resort, located in a spice plantation on the Coonoor-Mettupalayam Ghat road.

Take a drive up the hairpin bends of the Nilgiris for an endless view of tea plantations. Escape the bustle of Ooty to the quieter Coonoor for drives to stunning viewpoints such as Dolphin's Nose, Catherine Falls, Kodanad and Rangaswamy Pillar. For an offroad experience, drive to Red Hills and Avalanchi, or take a four-wheel jeep ride past Glendale and Nonsuch Estates to Pakkasuran Kote, with ruins of Tipu Sultan's fort. Stay in a plantation bungalow while trekking downhill past Toda hamlets and Hillgrove Railway station. For a lazy slideshow of the hills, hop on to the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, which covers the 26km uphill climb from Mettupalayam to Ooty in just under five hours, crossing 16 tunnels and 250 bridges.

Stay at: Tea Nest Coonoor on Singara Estate Road, a quiet nook overlooking tea plantations, with rooms named after tea varieties, along with a seven-course tea-themed menu and the odd gaur among the bushes. There's also a private two-room planter bungalow called Tea Nest Annexe 1km down the road, besides the ethnic **Kurumba Village Resort** in a spice plantation on the Coonoor-Mettupalayam Ghat road.

Distance: 285 km (7-8 hours)

Route: SH-17 till Mysuru, NH-212 till Gundlupet and NH-67 till Theppakadu. The route via Gudalur (right of the Y junction) is 30km longer, with less hairpin bends, though the left route via Masinagudi is more scenic with 36 hairpin bends

Pitstop: JLR's Bandipur Safari Lodge has decent buffet lunches, or try the South Indian fare at Indian Coffee House Hotel on NH-67 at Gudalur

En route: Wildlife at Mudumalai National Park, Bandipur Tiger Reserve or Kabini



The pool at Kurumba Village Resort.

Take a drive up the hairpin bends of the Nilgiris for an endless view of tea plantations. Escape the bustle of Ooty to the quieter Coonoor for drives to stunning viewpoints such as Dolphin's Nose, Catherine Falls, Kodanad and Rangaswamy Pillar. For an offroad experience, drive to Red Hills and Avalanchi, or take a four-wheel jeep ride past Glendale and Nonsuch Estates to Pakkasuran Kote, with ruins of Tipu Sultan's fort. Stay in a plantation bungalow while trekking downhill past Toda hamlets and Hillgrove Railway station. For a lazy slideshow of the hills, hop on to the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, which covers the 26km uphill climb from Mettupalayam to Ooty in just under five hours, crossing 16 tunnels and 250 bridges.

Stay at: Tea Nest Coonoor on Singara Estate Road, a quiet nook overlooking tea plantations, with rooms named after tea varieties, along with a seven-course tea-themed menu and the odd gaur among the bushes. There's also a private two-room planter bungalow called Tea Nest Annexe 1km down the road, besides the ethnic **Kurumba Village Resort** in a spice plantation on the Coonoor-Mettupalayam Ghat road.

Distance: 285 km (7-8 hours)

Route: SH-17 till Mysuru, NH-212 till Gundlupet and NH-67 till Theppakadu. The route via Gudalur (right of the Y junction) is 30km longer, with less hairpin bends, though the left route via Masinagudi is more scenic with 36 hairpin bends

Pitstop: JLR's Bandipur Safari Lodge has decent buffet lunches, or try the South Indian fare at Indian Coffee House Hotel on NH-67 at Gudalur

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

 E-mail Address

SIGN UP

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE



Flocking to Goa's flea markets



What's the best airline alliance for you?



PLAN YOUR
DUBAI VACATION
TODAY

BOOK NOW

DUBAI