

## Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu

The lesser known part of the Nilgiris compared to its cousins Ooty and Coonoor, Kotagiri stands tall close to 6000 feet above sea level and has a quiet charm of its own. It makes for a great monsoon getaway for the very same reason and is tucked in the majestic Nilgiris biosphere, Kotagiri was a British summer getaway and has distinct colonial undertones amidst its verdant green tea estates. John Sullivan, who was the collector of Coimbatore, visited Kotagiri and built a home here making him the first European to reside in Kotas well as batted for the cause of the tribes. One of the important sights here is the beautiful Catherine Falls – a double cascade waterfall that you can see at a distance via a short trek amidst a tea plantation. The sacred Rangaswamy Pillar is a view point from where you can see the beauty of the majestic Nilgiris. For an experience like no other head to Kodanad estate a beautiful tea estate that is owned by late Chief Minister Jayalathitha. Usually shrouded with mist this place is very cold and great for couples to enjoy the varied vistas over a hot cup of tea. Apart from the panoramic views of the hills you can spot the Pied Bushchat that frequents the environs here. The Nilgiris is inhabited by several tribes including the Todas and a visit to the Woman's Cooperative of Kotagiri is the best place to pick souvenirs made by them.

### NAVIGATOR

#### Getting There

The nearest airport is at Coimbatore (100 km away). Kotagiri is well connected by road to other places in Tamil Nadu through road transport. The Mettupalayam Ooty heritage toy train is a great way to reach Coonoor or Ooty and access Kotagiri.

#### Stay

Kotagiri has several options for accommodation and the charming Tea Nest Nightingale (<https://www.natureresorts.in/teanest-nightingale/>) tucked away amidst lush tea gardens is a good choice to stay here. Tariff starts Rs. 4195 per night.

#### Best time to visit

The North West monsoons appear between June to September.

#### Must See

Check out the Longwood Shola a picturesque trekking path where you can see the local Shola Forestry in all its glory.