



# Munnar

## Travel Guide

**FREE**  
**TRAVEL EBOOK**

A close-up photograph of a tea plant branch with several bright green, serrated leaves. The background is a soft-focus field of similar tea plants under bright, natural light.

# INTRODUCTION

**Munnar**, the stunning and world famous hill station in Idukki district, offers magnificent views of the misty mountains and luscious green rolling carpet-like tea estates. Munnar got its name from the three mountain streams - Mudrapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala. The best thing about Munnar is that it is located only 136 kilometers from Kochi, making it easily accessible from Cochin International Airport. People are attracted to this destination all year through and you can see a heavy influx of tourists during the November to March season. They come here to see the forest and its greenery, the mesmerizing waterfalls, enticing hills and to get up, close and personal with nature.

Munnar is thus a dream destination that has evolved to be the perfect spot for people who enjoy trekking, hiking, wildlife, silence, peace and greenery. Munnar and its iconic greenery will always remain attractive to people who keep coming here again and again. Munnar always enjoys a heavy throng of visitors most of the time, but there are various places in the hill station where you can enjoy absolute peace and be one with nature.



# History of Munnar

It would be interesting to note how this glorious land of Munnar came to be so popular among people today. The beauty of Munnar was not discovered by the people of India, but rather the Europeans who first recognized the untapped potential of the forest lands that surrounded the Munnar area. You could say that it was British who expanded Munnar, cut down the trees in the forest to build tea estates and made it as popular as it is today. The English, impressed by the cool climate of Munnar and came here to off during the hot summer months.

Now let's examine how British discovered Munnar started coming here with the aim of making profit.



During the early 19th century, the land of Munnar was under the possession of Poonjar royal family. Unfortunately, a border dispute emanated between Travancore (the Poonjar family) and Madras. It was John Daniel Munro, the British Resident of the then Travancore kingdom who arrived at the place to settle the dispute. When Munro came here, he fell head over heels in love with Munnar. After helping in settling the dispute, Munro visited the Poonjar family and talked them into leasing 1,36,600 acres of Kannan Devan Hills to him for Rs. 3000 a year. He developed the land and in 1879 formed the North Travancore Land Planting and Agricultural Society. Munro was responsible for officially starting cultivation in the area and he started planting cardamom, coffee, sisal and cinchona. The harvest was okay, but failed to deliver the desired yield. Later, it was discovered that Munnar, with its cool climate and excellent soil was perfect for cultivating tea and this was how the saga of tea cultivation started.



It was A. H. Sharp, a European planter who discovered that tea would bring more success and profit and under his guidance, the cultivation of tea started in full swing. The first tea plantation that was started in the area now lies under the jurisdiction of Sevenmullar estate; it was this area that was later owned by James Finlay and Co. Ltd. Finlay Muir & Company bought 33 independent estates in the area and formed Kannan Devan Hills Company to look after the affairs of these estates. This continued from 1997 to 1964, when Tata Group entered the scene and collaborated with the Finlay. They formed a new partnership and called it the Tata-Finlay Group. Eventually, Tata Tea Ltd came into existence in 1983, where the employees also had stake in the company.



# The Growth of Tourism in Munnar

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It is not a wonder why Munnar, with its pleasant and cool climate attracts people like a magnet every single month of the year. Even if other parts of Kerala experience sweltering heat, at Munnar you are always good. The tourism boom in Munnar started around the second half of the 20th century when people came flocking by the dozens to see the lovely hills and misty waterfalls, exotic flora and fauna, the sprawling tea gardens and indigenous wildlife. Visitors to Munnar couldn't get enough of its beauty and its cool and refreshing climate and they began to bring friends and relatives. The popularity of Munnar grew no bounds and it soon became a portal that people considered as a wholesome vacation destination.

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# Facts about Munnar

Here are some well-known and little-known facts about Munnar:

- Munnar is the most popular hill station in India, mainly for tourism and also for tea and coffee plantations
- Munnar was once the summer resort of the British Raj elite
- Spread over an area of 557 square kilometers, Munnar is well-endowed with tropical and semi-tropical trees, not to speak of the rich and sprawling vegetation
- Munnar provides the perfect setting for people interested in wild life trekking and hiking expeditions
- You can observe the process of making tea; visiting the tea museum would give you opportunity to learn about the history or tea making



# Where to go

## *Places in Munnar:*

Let us examine the interesting places in Munnar:



Pallivasal is not only noted for its breathtaking scenic beauty, but is also famous for being the first Hydro electric Project in Kerala. Attukal, where you can indulge in the panoramic beauty of rolling hills and waterfalls is near Pallivasal.

## Pallivasal



Image by Rajesh T via Flickr

## Nyayamakad

Located 10 kilometers from Munnar, Nyayamakad treats you to breathtaking waterfalls. This serves as a good picnic spot and trekking trail as well.



## Devikulam

Visitors to Munnar do not leave without visiting Devikulam with its lovely velvety lawns, exotic flora and fauna and misty mountains in the background. There are picnic and fishing spots as well.



Image by Manoj CB via Flickr





## Mattupetty

Mattupetty is credited for its Indo Swiss Livestock Project - a sophisticated dairy farm. It is said that more than 100 high-yielding cattle are housed at different sheds in the farms. There is a lake and dam at Mattupetty that are equally famous. You can go boating as well and even hire motor boats and speed boats.



Image by Abhijit Bhatwadekar via Flickr

## Kundala

On the way to Top Station, you can get down and enjoy the beauty of Kundala, a lovely, picturesque town.

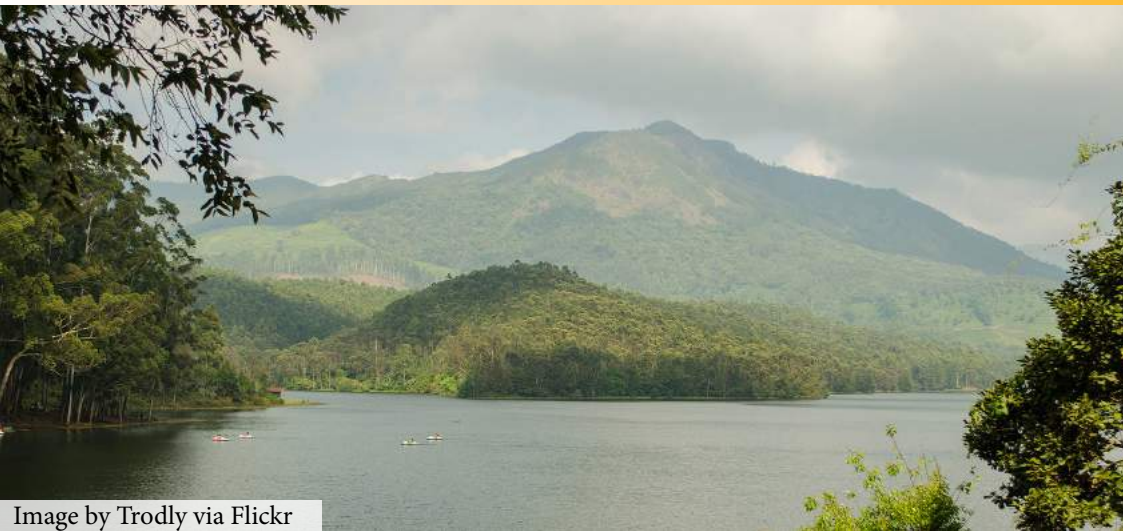


Image by Trodly via Flickr

## Marayoor

Marayoor fame and popularity grew when it became the only natural sandalwood forest in Kerala. You can also see some of the Stone Age caves and relics at Muniyaras. Thoovanam waterfalls and Rajiv Gandhi National Park are other attractions in Marayoor.



Image by Bino Joseph via Flickr



Apart from scenic views, you can watch the elephants as they come down to the lake to drink water. If you are lucky, you can even watch them bathing and frolicking in the waters. Anayirangal literally means “elephants getting down”. A noted fact about Aniyirangal is that the dam built there was the first commissioned hydro-electric project in the state. Chinnakanal is only 7 kilometres from Anayirangal and provides exclusive views of dams and tea plantations. Cascading waterfalls from a rock lying 2000 meters above sea-level is another attraction of this place.

## Chinnakanal and Anayirangal



Image by Augustus Binu via Wikipedia



Image by Jean-Pierre Dalbéra via Flickr

## Tata Tea Museum

The fascinating process of tea making can be observed at the Tata Tea Museum. Additionally, you can also visit the tea factories (that are more than a 100 centuries old) and marvel at the indigenous process that goes behind each cup of heavenly blend.

It may be the smallest national park in Kerala, but there is nothing small about its unique and rich flora and fauna, several of them, rare and endangered. You can go hiking or trekking into the forests to enjoy the magnificent wildlife including gaur, leopard, elephant, nilgiri marten, sambhar and of course, common langur.

## Pambadum Shola National Park



Image by Varkey Parakkal via Wikipedia



# Eravikulam National Park

The rare Nilgiri Tahr is the main attraction of Eravikulam National Park and is found in huge herds in Rajamalai area. They are beautiful, extremely tame and sheltered; would even pose with you for pictures. At Eravikulam National Park you can see some of the prettiest and rarest butterflies in the area. You can also treat yourself to Neelakurinji - the flower that blooms every 12 years. This fascinating phenomenon attracts people from all over the world without fail. The whole park takes on a calming bluish hue, and the flowers in full bloom are definitely a sight you mustn't miss. In order to protect Neelakurinji, the government of Kerala has come forward and has declared the areas of Kottakamboor and Vattavada villages, where they mostly grow as protected areas. The next blooming of Neelakurinji would be in 2018.

The area where you view Neelakurinji is near Top Station, located at a height of about 1700 meters above sea level.



Image by Sakeeb Sabakka via Flickr

# Where to Eat

## Restaurants in Munnar

### Pizza Max

If you want to eat pizza while at Munnar, this is where you head to. You get both vegetarian and non-vegetarian pizza with a variety of toppings at Pizza Max, Moolakadai, Old Munnar.

### Saravana Bhavan

A nice vegetarian restaurant at Munnar market, if you want to try typical South-Indian food.

### Rapsy Restaurant

This restaurant is packed at lunchtime, so that is evidence enough of the quality. The most demanded food here are the parathas and biriyani. The restaurant is located at Mosque Road, Main Bazaar, Munnar.

### Eastend

This restaurant in Munnar is famous for Chinese, North Indian and South Indian delicacies. A brightly lit smart place that you must visit

### Guru's Restaurant

You get good Kerala food at Guru's Restaurant, Ikka Nagar, Munnar. The service is good and prices are reasonable.

### Maya Bazaar

A movie-themed restaurant at Old Munnar where you get excellent North Indian food.

### Hotel SN

Hotel SN at Moolakadai is popular among visitors, and well known for its excellent service and cleanliness. You can savor Indian, Chinese and Continental dishes here.

### KTDC Tea County Restaurant

KTDC Tea County Restaurant near the Tea Museum is a fine place to dine. Apart from scenic views, you get to enjoy excellent cuisine at economical rates.



# Where to stay

Your stay at a destination can be perfect only when you stay at a good place. Munnar has several excellent places to stay depending on your budget. You can choose budget hotels/resorts, cheap hotels/resorts or luxury/resorts hotels. Here are some suggestions to help you with this.



# Hotels in Munnar

## Standard

If you are for accommodation that would be easy on your wallet, then book your rooms at any of the economical-ly priced hotels in Munnar. Normally, cheap hotels do not provide impeccable service, nor do they give you decent food. But the story is different in most of the wallet-friendly hotels in Munnar. They would give you the best facilities and even guide you by providing tips to make your vacation memorable. These hotels would be ideal for staying during a family vacation - entirely safe with quick access to the main attractions of Munnar.

## Budget

Munnar has a wide assortment of quality hotels even if you are on a budget. Apart from providing access to excellent sights and scenic surroundings, you get to enjoy peace and quiet as well. The food is always great, the hotels have good recreational facilities and the staff service is excellent.

## Luxury

If you are looking for deluxe accommodation at Munnar, there are quite a few hotels where you can enjoy a luxurious stay. Apart from excellent views of the tea plantations and scenic mountains, you can indulge in several recreational activities within the hotel as well.



# Resorts in Munnar

## Standard

Munnar has some excellent resorts as well, for whatever price range you are looking for. If you are looking for a resort where the stay would be standard, yet cheap, you can pick from a number of low-priced resorts. Staying at these resorts would give you lovely memories to last a lifetime.

## Budget

Munnar also has excellent inexpensive holiday resorts for people on a budget. You can get the best deals in economical resorts if you book well in advance. These resorts are located in idyllic settings, in the most breathtakingly beautiful areas of Munnar; you would definitely come back for more.

## Luxury

If you are looking for a luxury resort stay at Munnar, then your search would end as soon as it begins. Munnar is home to many resorts that provide opulent accommodations where you can enjoy the true beauty of the hill station, and then some more. The resorts provide excellent recreational activities and games for kids and adults alike, including swimming pool, carrom, pool, table football, and more.



For more Hotels & Resorts in Munnar [Click Here](#)



# Munnar climate

Munnar maintains a pleasant climate all year round. The winter months are the coldest months, of course and the temperatures can even reach as low as  $-4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Even during the summer, the weather is pleasant and cool. You will have to be careful during the rainy months because even though the climate is cool enough, you will have to be wary of leeches.

To Know more, Read our article  
[\*\*“The Best Time to Visit Munnar”\*\*](#)





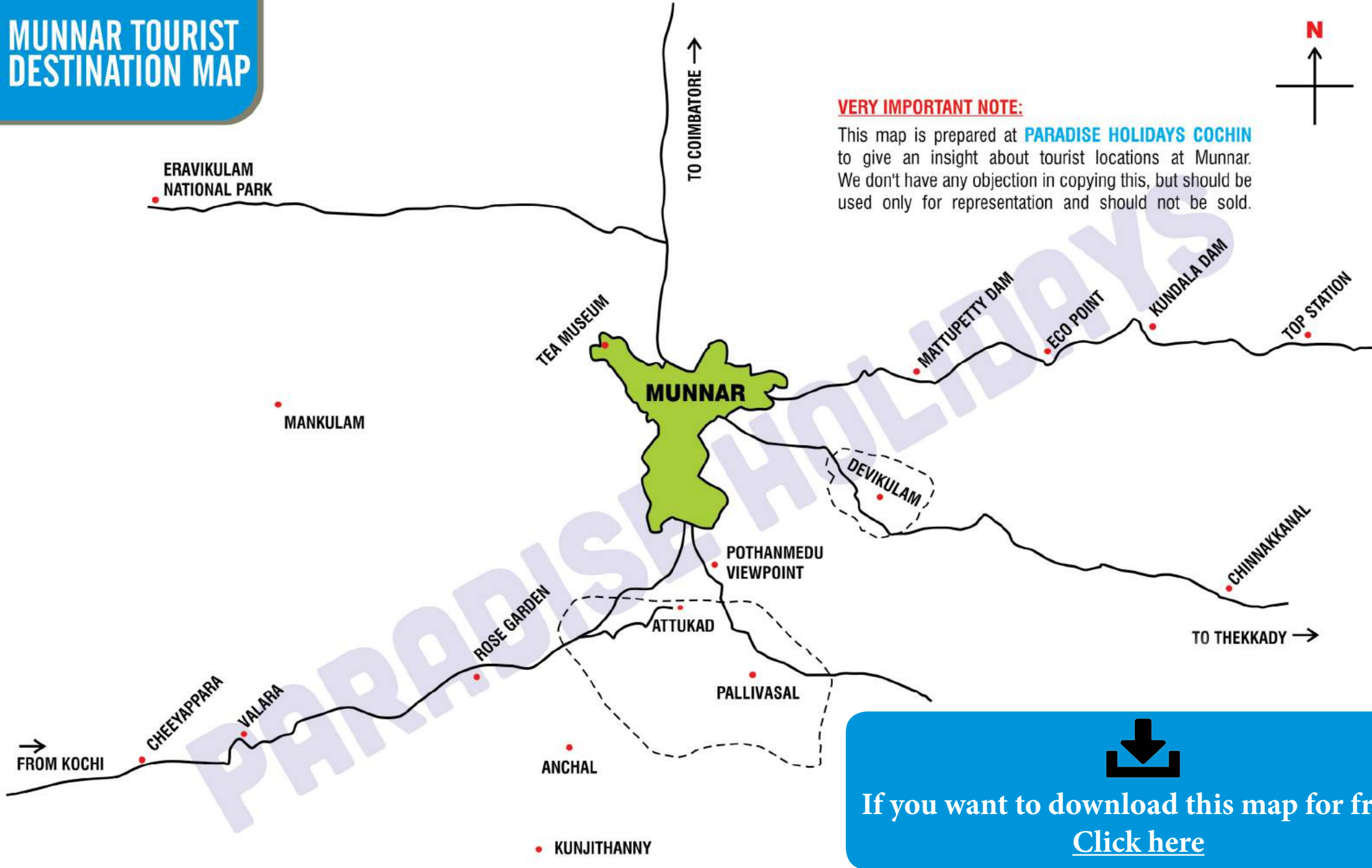
# Insider tips:

Some insider tips to make your visit and stay memorable

- ✓ You can hire a bike and go through the town to get the true feel of this beautiful destination and enjoy lush green of the sprawling tea gardens
- ✓ If you are planning to trek through the forests during the rainy season, smear salt all over your feet and legs; these would deter the leeches from latching on to your skin
- ✓ Reserve your rooms well in advance, especially during the peak season, or else, it would be highly unlikely that you would get a room anywhere

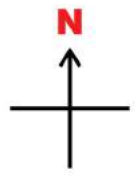


# MUNNAR TOURIST DESTINATION MAP



### VERY IMPORTANT NOTE:

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