

# Beat the heat with the perfect summer getaways in India

The ultimate rescue at this point of time is a holiday to some place unharmed by the golden ball of fire. Instead of racking your brains on the geographical conditions and hunting for a country that's enjoying winters while you suffer in summers, explore those lucky parts of India that aren't so damaged by the fierce hot rays hitting planet earth.

To name a few of them, you could pack up and have a sweet escape to:

## 1) Coorg - (Kodagu) India's Scotland



Looking at the beauty of Coorg Britishers coined it as 'Scotland of India'. Coorg is region with dozens of activities to do, the main source of coffee and also has most unique culture. Even though Coorg or Kodagu is part of Karnataka, the culture is very different and experiencing its culture should be on the bucket list of yours. Do try out the famous Kadumbuttu and pandi curry (steamed rice balls and pork curry). There is a region

reserved for the Buddhist monks known as Bylakuppe and the Golden Temple is a place where you will certainly find peace with the praying monks.

This place also holds a religious importance and is also the starting point of the river Kaveri. You can visit the Talakaveri, starting point of Kaveri, and have a panoramic view of the whole region, where there is also a Ganesha temple and the region also has Omkareshwar temple (1 of the 12 Shivalings). You can take a hike to the beautiful Abbe falls or just sip at the local home grown coffee in the estates!

## **2) Sikkim - The Heat Doesn't Matter Anymore**



With the breathtaking Himalayas outlining the majestic state, and the mirror-like Teesta River gliding its way through the land of Sikkim, the state becomes a magnificent icon of beauty to explore this summer. Sikkim is replete with tourist attractions to unleash and learn about like; the Buddhist Monasteries, dancing waterfalls, concealed caves, trekking trails, dense green valleys, sparkling lakes and rivers and a lot more.

The pulchritude of the state is that it stands solitude leaving the traveler to admire its beauty and explore the hidden gems it never divulged on its own. Sikkim also passes for



a lavish honeymoon destination with the bliss of nature and the soothing voices of the water, greenery and birds that are part of the state. After a summer in Sikkim you'd probably start loving the season magically.

### **3) Manali - Where Nature and Adventure Unite**



Manali is undoubtedly the most visited destination in India especially during summers. If you see tourists in Himachal Pradesh, chances are, most of them are there to explore the gorgeousness of Manali. A summer vacation in this town would be an exciting combination of adventurous activities amidst the beauty of nature. Sports like white water rafting, paragliding, trekking and zorbing are common activities enjoyed in this part of Himachal Pradesh.

The irony of this town is almost anyone can enjoy it. All it takes is perception. To the honeymooners, it is a romantic getaway while to the 'family tourist' it looks like a serene town blessed by nature. Backpackers find the town more like a hippie destination on the outskirts of the city. However, none can argue about how well the town serves as an ideal summer getaway.

#### 4) Ooty - The Weather Is Taken Care Of



Ooty was used as shelter from the heat by the British once upon a time. Since then hasn't lost its luster in serving as a great retreat from the scorching summer heat. The gorgeous town is a mark of elegance with its well-maintained botanical gardens, old fashioned cottages, flowery gardens and a lot more.

Ooty is well connected by Road, the closest airport is Coimbatore, which is approximately 90 kilometers away and if you wish to choose the Rail, the closest Railway station is Mettupalayam. (40 KMs away) One can take the UNESCO world heritage route from Mettupalayam to Ooty.

Toy train ride through the heart of Nilgiris is one of the best things to do in Ooty. You can use this toy train as a mode of commute to visit the tea plantations of Coonoor. This is a must do activity and you can either book your tickets on Indian Railway Online Booking well in advance or get a general ticket at the booking counter.

Overlooking the Sathyamangalam forests and the Nilgiri range there is a huge lake in the heart of Ooty. Where, you can spend hours. Take a pedal boat and go around the lake. You can binge on to some hot delicacies around the lake and also indulge in some fun activities. There are a huge number of stalls and a fair. You can also pickoff-road trails on Bicycles or take a horse ride around the lake.

## 5) Kashmir - Heavenly Beauty



It would be sin to keep Kashmir off the summer vacation list. How can someone not think of this pristine beauty? The state flaunts its commendable infrastructure and is home to luxurious resorts and hotels. The mesmerizing dal lake and stupendous houseboats brightened with amiable sunrays makes the state look like a beautiful bride decked in gold. The gorgeousness of the magnificent state is often reiterated in the movies. Summers are mild here and hence the summer getaway would make complete sense in this state of India.



## 6) Shimla - The Ultimate Escape



Being more of a honeymoon destination, it's an open secret that Shimla is home to the serene beauty of nature with an unmatched climate and beautiful surroundings. The winter season is showered with snow while the summers get mild sun shine enjoying a pleasant climate.

It is a lovely destination to run to if you're escaping the sweltering heat of the summers. Especially if you want to beat the Delhi heat, when the capital feels like an oven ready to bake, Shimla would might as well be your answer.

## 7) Mahabaleshwar - Strawberries with A Pat of Fog



Let your skin glow with the yummy, healthy strawberries while you wipe that ugly tan off on a visit to Mahabaleshwar. The city is strategically located 1372 meters above sea level, positioned so well to overlook the deep lush valleys and enjoy panoramic views of the surroundings. When it is all hot around the country, in Mahabaleshwar it is foggy. There are plenty of points in the city with interesting stories behind them. The gorgeous lakes and lush valleys in the city shape the beauty of this exquisite summer getaway. Book a hill resort to live the calm and tranquility at the sumptuous destination.

## 8) Darjeeling - Let Have Some Tea



I bet you'd replace that cup of piping hot tea with a big glass of cold drink of beer. In Darjeeling, you can still enjoy that cup of tea this summer. Of course the town is famous for its lavish tea plantations but even otherwise the climate is cool enough to still sip on a cup of hot tea.

The hill station also hosts the Tibetan fare and is home to Buddhist temples, Hindu temples, verdant gardens, artistic shops, souvenir outlets and a lot more. There's no doubt, a lot to explore and enjoy here while simultaneously you elude to irritating summers back home.



## 9) Wayanad, Kerala - Nature, The Prized Possession



In Kerala another ideal getaway from the city's hustle bustle is Wayanad. 270 kms from Bangalore, Wayanad is a scenic hill station. From the pre historic Edakkal caves to the Chembra peak's hike to heart shaped lake, Wayand will keep you on your toes for exploration. Wayanad is a perfect place for a short weekend getaway. You have unique eco-friendly resorts and most unique tree houses to stay. Added to it, you have the pocket friendly homestays too. If you are physically fit, do hike through the lush jungles of Chembra peak all the way to Heart Lake. You can take a dip in Soochippara waterfalls and do not miss the sunset at Banasura dam.

## 10) Mussoorie - Snow Isn't Unnatural Here



Referred to as the queen of hills, Mussoorie defines gorgeousness amid nature's bliss and the proud Himalayan trenches. Where most of India is so unfortunate to even get a glimpse of the sparkling white snowflakes, Mussoorie flaunts its snowcapped mountains and the snow covered Himalayan trenches. Summers in the district are hardly felt and hence this beautiful part of India becomes a glorious stop during the same season. Think no further, you've just found your twin. You can't take the summer heat, so can't Mussoorie.



## 11) Matheran - Where The Chills Set In



A ride to Matheran is like moving from a sunbath into an air-conditioned room. You can literally feel it in the air when you approach this peony town. With a carpet of red mud, Matheran is a little hill with a heap of exciting activities and luxurious resorts. Take the train to get to the core of the little town and explore the beauty of the place while you throw yourself miles away from the city and the sweltering heat.

The good news is India still has ample of getaways to beat the heat. Unfortunately, just about two decades ago there'd be many more cities to add to this list, however the bad news is that global warming is really taking us down leaving us with horrendous climatic conditions. You could still find solace at these exquisite places that shower their pleasant weather on their visitors. Summer is just another reason to travel.



## 12) Andaman Islands: Romance & Adventure



Renowned as one of the most popular honeymoon destinations in India, Andaman group of Island consists of 52 islands out of which 36 are inhabited. Apart from the relaxed tropical ambiance, amazing diversity of corals and marine life what draws the tourist to Andaman is existence of the remnants of Stone Age culture and the colonial inheritance.

Not long ago before India got independence, the freedom fighters were kept here in isolation in the Cellular Jail, now a museum and the place was notoriously referred to as "Kaala Pani" literally meaning black waters.

Today this deep green tropical paradise is frequented by tourists from around the globe for this archipelago's rich and diverse wildlife, snorkeling and scuba diving opportunities and other water sports.

### 13) Shillong, Meghalaya: Culture



The capital city of the north-eastern state of Meghalaya, Shillong is the only station in India which is accessible from all the sides. Bounded by East Khasi Hills, this pristine holiday retreat offers retreat from the daily hustle-bustle of the city. Lying at an elevation of 1491 meters above the sea level, Shillong derives its name from U-Shyllong, the worshiped deity.

This nature's paradise has been blessed with an amazing setting of rolling hills with pine trees with waterfalls, superb climate and more. When in Shillong, visit Bishop Falls, Umiam Lake, Police Bazar, Beadon Falls, Don Bosco Museum, Spread Eagle Falls, Lady Hydari Park, Golf Course, Mawsynram, Elephant Falls, Sweet Falls and Shillong Peak are major crowd pullers. The educational hub of the north-east is a must-visit because of its serene ambiance.