Title: Happiness is a way of travel to

 “Gift of the forests - Kodaikanal “ .

The picturesque beauty and pleasant weather of the stunning hill station of Kodai has earned it the title ‘princesses of hill stations ‘.

Do you feel better if you miss a sunshine ? The very day begins with beautiful sunrays which wakes us up , birds chirping and a fresh breeze. The winters seem worse as we miss the sun , find very messy drying clothes , unbearable smell of undried garments and no natural vitamin D consumption .just imagine a place where you always find very cool breeze , chilling , misty most of the day all throughout the year.We rarely find sun rays here.It is quiet intresting to know. isn't?This place is a hill station situated in southern state of Tamil Nadu .The word "kodaikanal " mean forest the tamil translation is " Gift of the forests " . It is princess of hill stations . The nearby city / place is Palani.

One should know that this a place with spectacular rocks, tranquil woods , beautiful lakes ,lush green trees ,stupendous waterfalls and atmosphere covered with mist and fog most of the day .This kodai hill station is an ideal hill resort for tourists from all over the world. One can rarely see the Sun rise in this place . Kodaikanal is the most colourful in summers and most picturesque in monsoons. The ideal months to visit this place is October to June. I visited this place in the month of December 2009 and revisited in July 2023.Experienced a pure magic and love in the land of" gift of forests " .

On the kodai hill station the temperature oscillates between single and double digits.

Here room heaters ,the geysers are on all day, split-toe socks become a regular affair and everybody is up for a cup of tea…all the time.

The day becomes darker at evening 4pm itself , and the whirl winds begin spreading cool breeze all over there. People has to protect themselves with Jerkins , socks and jackets. The staple food here is Aloo paranthas smeared with butter , served hot with a cup of curd too.

Day 1

I went to chennai central metro station in the month of July got down and got into passenger train to palani . Reached palani the following day .

After reaching Palani ,I made arrangements to get ready and had a darshan of kaartekeya or subhramayam swamy . I went along with family members ,we didn't stand in long queue , we arranged privately for a quick darshan. The Winch and cable cars will carry you on to the hill where temple is located. Had a peaceful darsan and returned to room in Palani . We arranged a taxi to Kodaikanal via road ,within 2 hrs we reached kodai hill station. It is a ghat area .we need to climb hill via ghats and reach hill station . During this time, just make sure to take proper medication, inorder to avoid ,vomiting, headaches, giddiness etc which is quite common while climbing the hill .

Taxi to kodai started at 2.pm just within 2 hrs time reached kodai hill station. I found the surroundings to be very calm , covered with fog , soothing winds and eye catching greenery valleys .

The valleys are great and good to watch. While traveling up to kodai hill in-between can stop and capture pictures, and see deep valley.

All greenary , very tall trees and basically it is a thick forest with monkeys welcoming you to the place. The road infront was fully covered with fog . Finally reached and checked in to pre booked hotel named western valley . The climate was so calm with heavy clouds massing in the sky. The grey-black heavy watery loaded clouds appears to touch the hills from far .

Around 4.30 we reached kodaikanal .

We had tiffin and went to room and took rest.

The hotel or room we booked had a good ambience and had a great feeling of sophisticated , creative and expressive wall designs and decorative pieces in each floor.

The otherside ,visitors had an excellent decorative front sitting floral place, to click pics and be best at your privacy and soul.

Next day we visited local temples balakaartekeyan and mahalaxmi, waterfalls ,suicide point.

Day 2 :

cloakers walk ,

This is a watch point in kodaikanal hill. I enjoyed the walk ,beauty and tranquility of the surrounding secenaries from here . Since kodaikanal is at an altitude of 2000ft high we can get spectacular views if you look down.

 While traveling in the car , before reaching to this cloakers walk ,you can find a amazing foamy waterfalls ,cool breeze brushing your face .

 Botanical garden: It is wide and a great garden area covering all varieties of plants. It is a good place to take pictures with a beautiful &colourful flowers background.

In village tour ie a sheep farm , rabbit shed small lake etc are located nearby to visit.

Pine tree forest: we can find very tall trees with benches placed in between for tourists to click pics of their own.

Guna caves is closed ,so I couldn't visit that place.

Golf club : people over there would play golf as the green land /area is good to conduct golf games entry fee 1000. The remaining places are upper lake view and

Shopping chocolates ie dark , white and milk varieties, medicine oils , regional herbal powders and cosmetics etc

Trip cost : A 3 days travel total trip cost for a couple was 30,000 including taxi charges ,room rent ,Food and

train transportation to and fro.