CHAPTER - III
PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA AND ITS TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Kodaikanal was situated as a hill in the Palani hills. Palani hills were first surveyed by British lieutenant ward in 1821. In 1834, Madurai collector built a small bungalow at the head of Kodaikanal Adukkam pas near Shenbaganur. In 1845 the two bungalows “Sunny side” & “Shelton” built in town area by American mission.

The first Long distance visitor major partridge of Bombay Army who visited Kodaikanal in 1852, and planted the Australian eucalyptus trees in Kodaikanal in 1853, a group of American and British constructed a Anglican church of St. Peter. This is the first church in Kodaikanal. The famous Mary Church of “La Saleth” was constructed in 1860 by a catholic priest.

In 1883, Kodaikanal had 615 permanent residences. Kodai has more sun shine than any other Indian hill stations. Just a few minutes’ walk in any direction, one can reach the heart of Kodaikanal town.

Pillar Rock, Kodaikanal, Green Valley View, Silver Cascade, Coackers Walk, Devils Kitchen, Dolphin Nose, etc. are few of the magical locations that mesmerize everyone and one can experience the exquisite area of Kodaikanal.

Kodaikanal is presently one of the few remaining unspoiled hill resorts in the country. The researcher is very proud to introduce the great “Cold Gold” Kodaikanal. Kodaikanal is a famous chilled hill station among the world. This is situated in Tamilnadu. It is nesting on the southern most of the upper reaches of the Palani hills. The nature gives a lot of gifts to Kodai. So, the tourists called the Kodaikanal kindly
as “The Switcherland of the East”, “The Emerland Set of South” and “The Chilled Pradise among the Hills’.

3.2 GEOGRAPHY OF KODAIKANAL

Kodaikanal is a charming hill station situated amidst the wooded slopes and gentle jungle at the southern India. This hill station is still unspoiled by modern civilization unlike its poor Ooty which is called the “Queen of Hill Station”. Waterfalls and the beautiful lake of Kodaikanal will enhance or mesmerize any visitors. Housing more sunshine than other hill resorts is being accessible all round the year. Kodaikanal is one of the most popular health resorts in India. Abundance of natures and accessibility to greenery is this beautiful hill station.

Kodaikanal consists the area of 2,145 sq. meters situated at an altitude of 2,133 sq. meters above sea level. The highest place of Kodaikanal is observatory (2,343 meters).

The Princess of hill stations earns an inimitable place in the global map of tourist places. Known for its serenity and ravishing locales with enormous tourist potentials, Kodai stands 2,133 mtr above sea level. Kodai can be approached by road from Madurai, Dindugul, Palani and the drive via Ghat roads is unique experience.

Airports - Madurai 135 Km, Coimbatore 180Km.
Railway junctions - Dindugul100 Km, Kodairoad 80 Km.

Kodaikanal Lake is an artificial star shaped one which is at the heart of the town. It’s not just the Lake and the ride but also the entire stretch around the lake enthrall the tourists by providing horse riding, cycling and the winding path of 5 km displays lush locales while going on walk.
3.2.1 ETYMOLOGY

It is not known who first used this name or what they intended it to mean.

However the following explanation makes some sense. By pronouncing with long Tamil 'O' as \textit{kọ...dai} means \textit{the summer} and \textit{kanal} means \textit{to see}, which means a place to see in Summer. Kodaikanal is actually a summer forest.

The other interesting explanations are, the Tamil language, has four versions to define the name "Kodaikanal". The word Kodaikanal is classified into two words as Kodai and Kanal. Here "\textit{Kanal}" means in Tamil that the dense forest or the closed forest. Then "\textit{Kodai}" has four different meanings. With its meaning Kodaikanal meant in four ways. By pronouncing with long Tamil 'O' and \textit{KO...DI} means "the end". So, that \textit{KO...DI KANAL} means "The End of the Forest" in the bygone days, Kodaikanal is situated at the end part of the thick forest. Nowadays, it is developed but the beauty is still kept.

By pronouncing with short Tamil 'O' as \textit{KODI} means "The Creepers". So, Kodaikanal means "The Forest of Creepers". \textit{"The Forest of Creepers"} is also thought to be the English language meaning given in 1885 during the early western habitation of the place, and is still accepted. They called like this with its beauty.

By pronouncing with long Tamil 'O' as \textit{KO...DAI} means "The Summer". So \textit{KO...DAI KANAL} means "The Forest of the summer". Kodaikanal is actually a summer forest. By pronouncing with short Tamil 'O' as \textit{KODAI} means that "The Gift". So, "Kodaikanal" means "The Gift of the Forest" Kodaikanal was created by the forest and its surroundings. So, it may be called as the gift of forest.

Another Tamil word for creeper is Valli, the honey collecting daughter of the chief of the Veddas mountain tribe. The chief and his wife prayed to the Mountain God for a girl-child and their prayers were answered when the chief found a new-born
girl child during a hunting expedition. As she was found among creeper plants, they named the child Valli and she grew up as princess of the tribe in Kurinji and became the consort of lord Murugan. The romantic traditions of Murugan in Sangam literature are thus associated with the name Kodaikanal.

3.2.2 HISTORY

The earliest residents of Kodaikanal were the Palaiyar tribal people. The earliest specific references to Kodaikanal and the Palani Hills are found in Tamil Sangam literature of the early Common Era. Modern Kodaikanal was established by American Christian missionaries and British bureaucrats in 1845, as a refuge from the high temperatures and tropical diseases of the plains. In the 20th century, a few elite Indians came to realize the value of this enchanting hill station and started relocating here.

Tourism has been impacted by industrial pollution issues including the closure of a mercury factory owned by Unilever's Indian Subsidiary Hindustan Unilever after evidence of widespread mercury pollution, to date no proper clean-up operation has been mounted.

The town of Kodaikanal sits on a plateau above the southern escarpment of the upper Palani Hills at 2,133 meters (6,998 ft), between the Parappar and Gundar Valleys. These hills form the eastward spur of the Western Ghats on the Western side of South India. It has an irregular basin as its heartland, the centre of which is now Kodaikanal Lake, a 5 kilometres circumference manmade lake.

Meadows and grasslands cover the hillsides. Gigantic eucalyptus trees and shola forests flourish in the valleys. Mighty rocks and cascading streams, rise up from the valleys. There are many high waterfalls and ubiquitous gardens and flower beds in bloom.
Kodaikanal is known for its rich flora. Of the big trees, cypress, eucalyptus and acacia are the dominant varieties. Pear trees are numerous and the fruits are of high quality. Competing with the fruit trees are the flowering ones - mainly rhododendron and magnolia. Large dahlias of different hues are the main attraction of Bryant Park, situated close to the Kodai Lake. Water lilies in the park's pond are another pleasing sight. The town abounds in a kind of beautiful yellow wild flowers.

North of the town, high hills that slope down into the villages of Pallangi and Vilpatti stand guard. On the east, the hill slopes less abruptly into the lower Palani. A precipitous escarpment facing the Cumbum Valley is on the south. On the west is a plateau leading to Manjampatti Valley, Indira Gandhi National Park, the Anamalai Hills and the main body of the Western Ghats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pollachi</th>
<th>Palani</th>
<th>Perumalmalai</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Munnar</td>
<td>Kodaikanal</td>
<td>Dindugul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodinayakkanur</td>
<td>Theni</td>
<td>Periyakulam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.3 MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN KODAIKANAL

#### 3.3.1 CLIMATE

Kodaikanal has a monsoon-influenced subtropical highland climate ($Cfb/Cwb$, according to the Koppen climate classification). The temperatures are cool throughout the year due to the high elevation of the city.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>18.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>high °C (°F)</strong></td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>65.5</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>69.1</td>
<td>69.6</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>63.9</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>64.6</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>61.5</td>
<td>62.1</td>
<td>65.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>low °C (°F)</strong></td>
<td>46.6</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>50.2</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>54.7</td>
<td>53.6</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>52.2</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>47.7</td>
<td>50.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Precipitation</strong></td>
<td>59.1</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>52.6</td>
<td>136.0</td>
<td>146.1</td>
<td>97.7</td>
<td>122.1</td>
<td>153.1</td>
<td>185.6</td>
<td>253.9</td>
<td>235.0</td>
<td>141.4</td>
<td>1,617.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.3.2 ECONOMY

Kodaikanal is a city in the hills of the Taluk division of the Dindugul district in the state of Tamil Nadu, India. Its name in the Tamil language means "The Gift of the Forest". Kodaikanal is referred to as the "Princess of Hill stations" and has a long history as a retreat and popular tourist destination. Kodaikanal was established in 1845 as a refuge from the high temperatures and tropical diseases of the plains. Much of the local economy is based on the hospitality industry serving tourism.

The economy of Kodaikanal is predominantly run by tourism. The number of tourists increased from two million in 1999 to 3.2 million in 2009. The town's infrastructure changes every year in preparation for the peak tourist season. Major roads are converted into one-way lanes to regulate the constant inflow of traffic and special police are brought in for the safety of the tourists and protection of local businesses. Hotels are often fully booked during the high season, and remain virtually empty during the off-season. Due to the rapid development of nearby cities such as Madurai and Coimbatore, the town is starting to enjoy year-round tourism.

There are at least 50 hotels catering to all categories of tourists and over 30 South & North Indian, Continental, Western and Chinese restaurants, and many more small eateries and tea stalls.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Peak Season</td>
<td>April-June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Low Season</td>
<td>Feb-March; July-September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Second Season</td>
<td>October-January</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.2

SEASON IN KODAIKANAL
3.3.4 HEALTH

The major medical facilities are Van Allen Hospital and the Government Hospital. These hospitals treat patients with common ailments and injuries and perform child delivery and care, but are not equipped with modern medical equipment for complicated diagnoses and surgeries.

In April 1915, Dr. Van Allen raised funds to construct the first unit of the hospital at the entrance of Coaker's walk. It was named after him. Facilities got updated from time to time and now it has X-ray machine, well equipped pathological lab, and operation theatre with blood transfusion facilities.

Government Hospital is situated on the hillside near Rock cottage on lower shola road. It was a small municipal hospital until 1927. Now it has X-ray, Dental, Maternity ward and other facilities.

3.4 MERCURY POLLUTION

Air and water-borne mercury emissions have contaminated large areas of Kodaikanal and surrounding forests. A study conducted by the Department of Atomic Energy confirmed that Kodaikanal Lake has been contaminated by mercury emissions. Mercury pollution was reported in Kodaikanal which affected lakes in the area. The causes, originating from a Hindustan Lever thermometer factory nearby, were reported to be dispersal of elemental mercury to the atmosphere from improper storage and dispersal to water from surface effluents from the factory. Apart from tests conducted on Kodaikanal Lake, moss samples collected from trees surrounding the Berijam Lake, located 20 km from the factory were also tested. This showed mercury level in the range of 0.2 µg/kg, while in Kodaikanal Lake the lichen and moss levels were 7.9 µg/kg and 8.3 µg/kg, respectively. Fish samples tested from the
Kodaikanal Lake also showed high levels in the range of 120 to 290 mg/kg confirming that pollution of the lake had taken place due to mercury emissions from the factory.

The Hindustan Unilever thermometer factory caused widespread mercury pollution through improper disposal of broken thermometer waste containing large quantities of mercury. The factory sold much of this waste to a junkyard in Kodaikanal and also dumped large quantities in the forest behind the factory. The factory was eventually closed in 2001 after 18 years of operation. Hindustan Lever has used considerable legal maneuvering to avoid paying compensation the ex-workers and their families many of whom died or became physically handicapped as a result of mercury poisoning.

The ex-workers have joined to form the 559-strong Ex-Mercury Employees Welfare Association and in 2006 filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) suit in the Madras High Court. The association wants an economic rehabilitation scheme and a healthcare treatment and monitoring programme at the company's expense for everyone who ever worked in the factory. It also wants the company prosecuted. Hindustan Unilever denies that any of the health problems of the workers or their families was the result of mercury exposure in the factory. In 2010, the workers were still fighting for compensation.

In June 2007, the Madras High Court constituted a five-member expert committee to decide on the mercury workers health claims. The last court hearing was in June 2008. The committee later failed to find sufficient evidence to link the current clinical condition of the factory workers to past mercury exposure in the factory.

Additional site remediation studies are being undertaken by national institutions, as desired by the Tamil Nadu pollution Control Board (TNPCB) and the court's Scientific Experts Committee (SEC) during the project review meeting in
January 2010. IIT Delhi is revalidating the risk assessment study and sites specific clean-up standard; National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow is studying impact on trees and preservation of trees; and Centre for Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training Institute, Ooty is studying the impact on soil and soil erosion. Based on the above study findings, results of remediation trials and recommendation of SEC, the TNPCB will take a final decision on the clean-up standard. Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL) will commence soil remediation work at the factory site once decision on clean-up standard is taken and consent is given by TNPCB.

3.5 EDUCATION

The following schools are located at Kodaikanal: Bhavan's Gandhi Vidyashram, Brindavan Public School, Kodaikanal International School, Kodaikanal Public School, St. John's Girls Higher Secondary School, St. Joseph's Public School, St.Peter's Matriculation Higher Secondary School, St. Xavier's High School, Zion Matriculation High School.

The main colleges here are (American University of India (AUI) / Kodai International Business School (KIBS) www.auiedu.com) which is an elite Business school offering MBA & BBA programs in USA & India located in Ugarthenager, Kodaikanal Christian College, and Sacred Heart College. Mother Theresa University is distinctive as India's only university devoted to exclusively women's issues. In 2005, a new engineering college specializing in Information Technology, Kodaikanal Institute of Technology under Anna University, has been established 22 kilometres (14 mi) below Kodaikanal town.
3.6 RELIGIOUS MONUMENTS

Since Kodaikanal was founded by the American and European Missionaries, Christian churches are abundant in Kodaikanal. They include Church of South India - opposite to Bryant Park, St. Peters Church near Coakers Walk, Gorapur, Lake End, La Salette, Lutheran Mission, Sacred Heart - Munjikal, Saint Antony’s - Antonyar Kovil street, Saint Francis Xavier, Saint Joseph's, Saint Mary's and Saint Peter’s - Cocker Walk road. Amongst the most popular is Union Church with a large Tamil congregation and Margaret Eddy Memorial Chapel at Kodai International School with lively services in a typically American style and distinctive stone architecture.

There are many Hindu Temples in Kodaikanal including the Durgai Amman Kovil, Kurinji Andavar Kovil, Mariamman Kovil, Observatory Murugan Kovil and Vinayagar Kovil. The Muslim mosques are Ellis Villa and Munjikal. There is an active community of Tibetan Buddhist refugees.

3.7 CIVIL SOCIETY

3.7.1 KODAIKANAL GOLF CLUB

Kodaikanal has several clubs and civil society organizations operating for social, charitable and environmental goals. Established clubs in Kodaikanal are the Kodaikanal Lions Club (est. 1985) under the jurisdiction of Lions Clubs International (district 324B); Kodaikanal Boat Club (est. 1890) with nearly 650 permanent members; Kodaikanal Golf Club (est. 1895) with over 600 members and an 18 hole golf course, spread over 143 acres (0.58 km²); The Indian Club (est. 1915) on Poet Thyagarajar road and The Rotary Club of Kodaikanal.

In 1890, the Kodaikanal Missionary Union (KMU) was formed to enable missionaries of the various denominations to come together for recreation and to develop mission strategy and outreach in cooperation with each other. In 1923, it built
an Edwardian style clubhouse with large central hall for social events and afternoon teas, 6 tennis courts, a reading room, and other spaces for meetings. With the decline of missionary activity in India, the KMU was wound up in the 1980s, and the property was turned over to Kodaikanal International School. The KMU library with many valuable old books besides newer materials, is still functioning in one room, and provides something of a social venue. The valuable original KMU archives materials have been incorporated into the archives of the school, which has hired an archivist and is in process of converting the whole original KMU building into an archives and display center for the school and the community. (2008)

Kodaikanal lake View showing: Mount Perumal, Boat house, Carlton Hotel, Kodaikanal International School, Fish hatchery, Lake Road.

Kodaikanal has several social service societies which promote local trade and increase employment of rural villagers in the town's periphery by participating in its tourism fueled growth. These include the Kodaikanal People Development Group (KOPEDEG) which has been successful in providing employment for marginalized women and marketing their products. The Made-in-India tagged products from Kopedeg are unique to Kodaikanal and are targeted at foreign tourists who regularly buy them as souvenirs.

The Cottage Crafts Shop at Anna Salai, is run by the voluntary organisation, Coordinating Council for Social Concerns in Kodai (CORSOK). They sell goods crafted by development groups and use the commission charged to help the needy. In 1994, the "Potter's Shed" was inaugurated. This pottery and craft shop in Kodaikanal has made and sold thousands of fine pieces of locally made pottery. All profits from this business are contributed to the Bethania Kids, Center for Children with Disabilities.
The Kodaikanal Lake Protection Council and Vattakkanal Organization for Youth, Community and Environment (VOYCE) are active in preserving Kodaikanal's environment. Plastic bags are banned and almost all shops and roadside vendors heed the rule and use recycled paper bags in fear of a social reprisal. Local hotels have also participated in improving the environment by placing garbage cans all across the town, with their prominent donated by signs acting as silent salesmen.

3.8 PLACES OF INTEREST

3.8.1 KODAIKANAL LAKE

Kodaikanal has several scenic natural attractions which are enjoyed by its visitors and made it a popular romantic destination for newlyweds. These are described in order of distance from the bus-stand.

**Kodaikanal Lake**, 500 metres (1,600 ft) from the bus stand, is an artificial, roughly star-shaped 45 ha (60 acres) lake built in 1863. It is recognized as Kodaikanal's most popular geographic landmark and tourist attraction. Rowboats and pedales can be hired at the Kodaikanal Boat Club with its main entrance near the only five-star hotel in Kodaikanal, The Carlton. Horses and bicycles can be hired beside the lake for short periods. The 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) path that skirts the periphery of this lovely lake is a favourite walk for the locals and tourists alike.

3.8.2 GUNA CAVES

**Guna caves**, made popular by the Tamil movie Guna, previously called Devil's Kitchen, are deep bat-infested chambers between the three gigantic boulders that are the Pillar Rocks. The deep narrow ravines of the caves are now closed to public due to the tragic deaths of twelve youths there. These dangerous caves are highly protected now, and tourists can see the sections of the cave system from afar. In the late 1970s, the inside of the caves was well photographed.
3.8.3 BRYANT PARK

Bryant Park: Just east of the lake and 500 metres (1,600 ft) from the bus stand, is a wonderfully maintained 20.5 acres (8.3 ha) botanical garden. The park was planned and built in 1908 by a forest officer from Madurai, H.D.Bryant, and named after him. With 325 species of trees, shrubs and cactuses, the park is a rainbow of stunning flowers during the peak season. A large section is dedicated to nearly 740 varieties of roses. There are 1857 Eucalyptus trees and a Bodhi tree which adds a religious significance to the park. Ornamental plants are cultivated in a nursery for sale. The park organizes horticultural exhibits and flower shows every summer, to coincide with the peak season. Entrance fee to the park is nominal and it is open throughout the year.

Bryant park, near the lake, is the place where the tourists’ happiness experiences full bloom. Celebrating its centenary year in 2008, it provides a conglomeration of flowers and a long stretch (16.15 acres) of lawn. A poly green house is also established and 742 rose varieties are maintained in the Rosary.

3.8.4 COAKER'S WALK (1900)

Coaker's Walk, 500 metres (1,600 ft) from the bus-stand, constructed by Lt.Coaker in 1872, is a 1-kilometre (3,300 ft) paved pedestrian path running along the edge of steep slopes on the southern side of Kodai. The walk, winding around Mount Nebo, starts in front of the Van Allen hospital, running parallel to the Van Allen Hospital Road and joins the main road beside St. Peter's Church, providing a stunning panoramic view of the plains. On a clear day one can view as far as Dolphin's Nose in the south, the valley of the Pambar River in the southeast, Periyakulam town and even the city of Madurai. A fascinating rare phenomenon called Brocken spectre can be witnessed, when a person can see his shadow on the clouds with a rainbow halo. This
occurs when the sun is behind the viewer and clouds and mist are to the front. There is an observatory with a telescope halfway along the walk. Entrance fee to the walkway is nominal and it is throughout the year.

3.8.5 BEAR SHOLA FALLS

Bear Shola Falls, 3 kilometres (1.9 mi) from the bus-stand, is a tall waterfall in a Reserve forest. The final approach to this quiet area is a gently climbing footpath.

3.8.6 GREEN VALLEY VIEW

Green Valley View, (formerly called Suicide Point) 5.5 kilometres from the bus-stand and near the golf course, has an excellent panoramic view of the plains and a sheer drop of 1,500 metres (4,900 ft) overlooking the Vaigai Dam to the south. The stairway leading up to it is highly commercialized and lined with rows of shops to tempt tourists.

3.8.7 PINE FORESTS

Pine forests, in 1906, with a view to growing valuable timber, Mr. Bryant started the Kodaikanal pine plantations in the south-west of Kodaikanal.

3.8.8 SHEMBAGANUR MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Shembaganur Museum of Natural History, 6 kilometres from the bus-stand, founded in 1895, is open to the public (except Tuesdays) for viewing their outstanding taxidermy collection of more than 500 species of animals, birds and insects and a living collection of over 300 exotic orchid species. The museum is affiliated with Loyola College in Chennai and exhibits artifacts of the ancient Palaiyar tribe’s people whose descendants still live in these hills.
3.8.9  KODAIKANAL SOLAR OBSERVATORY

Kodaikanal Solar Observatory, 6 kilometres from the bus-stand on Observatory Road, at 2,343 metres (7,687 ft) is the highest location near Kodai. The first observations were commenced here in 1901. Former Director John Evershed, discovered the phenomenon of radial motion in sunspots, now known as the Evershed effect. The Kodaikanal Terrestrial Telescope scan view a grand panorama including: Sothupparai Dam, Vaigai Dam, Periyakula and Varaha river. This Indian Institute of Astrophysics facility has a comprehensive Astronomical Science museum with organized public tours, access to the astronomy library, and scheduled night-time telescopic sky viewing. It is open daily to the public during peak season, and a few hours each Friday in the rest of the year.

3.8.10  PILLAR ROCKS

Pillar Rocks, 8 kilometres ifrom the bus-stand, is a set of three giant rock pillars which stand 122 metres (400 ft) high. It is managed by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department. The viewpoint can be crowded but is not commercialized. There is an excellent public garden adjacent to the viewpoint.

Pillar rocks are a place depicting the intricacies of nature. A garden on the way pretends to give the outlandish structure of nature- two rocks in the shape of pillars. One needs a bit of luck to view them as fog often fondly envelops them.

3.8.11  DOLPHIN'S NOSE

Dolphin's Nose, 8 kilometres from the bus stand, is flat rock projecting over a breathtaking chasm 6,600 feet (2,000 m) deep. It is an undisturbed area 1 kilometre down a very steep rocky trail beginning soon after Pambar Bridge. Orange juice vendors along the trail offer a welcome rest stop. Beautiful views of steep rocky escarpments rising from the plains can be seen. The old village of Vellagavi can be
reached through a rugged bridle path here. A short paved walkway leads from the road here to Pambar falls (which is also locally addressed as 'Liril Falls' after the famous Liril Soap Advertisement filming in 1985).

3.8.12 UPPER LAKE VIEW

Upper Lake View, on the way to pillar rocks, is an advantage point for an awesome view of the star shaped lake.

3.8.13 SLIVER CASCADE

Sliver cascade provides a fitting welcome to the visitors who reach Kodaikanal. The very spectacle of the water falling in the tinge symbolizes the bliss of nature. Tourists never fail to stop over here to enjoy the marvel of nature.

Silver Cascade, 8 kilometres from Kodaikanal at a wide bend in the long and winding Laws Ghat Road, at altitude 1,800 metres (5,900 ft), is a 55-metre (180 ft) waterfall formed from the outflow of Kodaikanal Lake. The water quality is reportedly poor and not good enough for bathing. This impressive waterfall is a popular stop for first-time visitors. There are a few souvenir and fruit vendors and many monkeys here. There is also a smaller but more serene waterfall below the bridge which crosses the stream here.

3.8.14 KURUNJI ANDAVAR TEMPLE

While feeling ecstasy in the company of nature, one is reminded of God. Kurunji Andavar (Lord Muruga) Temple, known for Kurunji flower which blossoms once in 12 years, is meant for the people with a religious bent of mind.

One can get a wonderful view of the step cultivation, valleys on the slopes Palani from this temple. Visit to this ensures God’s blessing amidst nature’s bliss.

Kurinji Andavar Murugan temple, 4 kilometres from the bus-stand, is famous for its Kurinji flower which blossoms in the area only once every 12 years.
The deity here is called Sri Kurinji Easwaran, who is in fact Lord Murugan. This temple was built in 1936 by a European lady, who on coming to Celon, converted to Hinduism. She changed her name to Leelavathi and married Mr. Ponnambalam Ramanathan. She is also known as Lady Ramanathan. This temple was handed over to Arulmighu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Thiru Kovil, Palani by Devi Prasad Bhaskaran (also known as Padmini, niece and adopted daughter of S Natesan Pillai, son in-law of Lady Ramanathan) and her husband Dr R. Bhaskaran.

The Kurinji Andavar Temple is home to Lord Murugan, or Karthikeya, ‘Kurinji’ is also a rare species of flower which blooms here once every 12 years.

3.8.15 SILENT VALLEY VIEW

Silent valley view offers a breath taking view of the valley adding to the fearsome experience when one looks at the depth of it.

3.8.16 BERIJAM LAKE

Berijam Lake is situated about 21 kms away from Kodaikanal Lake and is a favourite spot with picnickers. Those who get the permission from the district forest officer, Kodaikanal will be allowed to enter Berijam Lake.

A calm serene lake surrounded by mesmerizing nature at a distance of around 20 km from Kodaikanal. Boating is prohibited as the lake is a source of water for villages. Forest department’s permission is required and limited numbers of vehicles are allowed to enter forest area where the lake is situated. Entry is restricted into the Berijam Lake area to between 9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Bison, deers, panthers and snakes are often spotted in this area. Fire tower, silent valley, medicine forest, lake view are other attractions around the lake. Psilocybin mushrooms which produce hallucinogenic effects when consumed and other poisonous mushrooms grow around
Berijam. Medicine forest has a certain species of trees whose fragrance is believed to have hallucinogenic effects.

3.8.17 BERIJAM LAKE VIEW

This place gives a panoramic view of Berijam Lake and is located before the lake. This is 19 kms from the Kodaikanal Lake. According to the history of Kodaikanal, this hill resort was discovered in the early nineteenth century during the colonial period it was, however, during the 1840s the people first started setting in this place. Besides the British, the other early setters of the place, having loving memories about Kodaikanal, were the American, French, Swedish, Irish and German missionaries.

A walking track up to Kodaikanal was made from the Kumbakarai falls, at the foothills near Periyakulam Town. Only palanguins could pass through this path. Later, in the early twentieth century, the law’s Ghat road was constructed. This road was opened for regular traffic during 1920s.

The star shaped Kodaikanal lake came into existence in 1863 and it still serves as the sources of water for the temple city of Palani. It was only during the 1960s, that Kodaikanal started gaining importance as a tourist spot. Rich and elite Indians started setting up resorts in this place.

The 1980s was the most important time in the history of Kodaikanal. Tourism started booming up in this changing scenario of the region.

In 1863, Kodaikanal lake was created by Sir Vere Hendry Levinge, who was then the Collector of Madurai, by damming three streams flowing into a valley. He stocked the Pambar House after his retirement. Pictures taken in Kodaikanal during the early years of its foundation show the area around the lake with very few trees and a marshy landscape the manmade lake had no bounds.
In 1890, the Kodaikanal Boat Club was formed. Today, three different boat clubs with a variety of boats are available for hire. There is now an excellent 9 kilometers (6 mi) lighted and paved sidewalk around the lake. There are strict municipal laws against construction near the lake.

3.8.18 SOLAR PHYSICAL OBSERVATORY – GETTING CLOSE TO THE STARS

The solar physical Observatory is situated at the highest point in Kodaikanal, at a height of 2,343 meters.

3.8.19 SHENBAGANUR MUSEUM – THE DRY LEAVES OF HISTORY

The museum has an impressive collection of ancient archaeological finds. There are also amazing specimens of butterflies and stuffed birds. In addition, the Museum houses an orchidarium where over 300 varieties of orchid are to be found.

3.8.20 TELESCOPE HOUSE

Visitors can have a panoramic view of the valley and nearby towns from the telescope house at Coaker’s Walk. A nominal entrance fee is collected at the telescope house.
FIGURE 3.1

MAP OF KODAIKANAL
FIGURE 3.2

IMPORTANT PLACES IN KODAIKANAL
FIGURE 3.3

TOURIST PLACES IN KODAIKANAL

Sources: http://www.mapsofkodai.com
3.8.21 TRANSPORT

Almost all distances from Kodaikanal are calculated with the lake as the central point of reference. The nearest airports are Madurai (135 kilometres or 84 miles), Coimbatore (170 kilometres or 110 miles) and Trichy (200 kilometres or 120 miles). The nearest Railway stations are Palani Railway Station (64 kilometres or 40 miles) north, Kodai Road Station (80 kilometres or 50 miles) south east and Dindugul Railway Junction (100 kilometres or 62 miles) east.

The 2 to 3 hours drive to Kodai via the steep and winding Ghat roads from Batlagundu or Palani is a memorable experience. Travelers may stop at turnouts on the road and enjoy the scenic beauty of the Palani hills. There is a 28 km shortcut from Periyakulam to Kodaikanal via Kumbakarai. Bicycle rentals, taxis, vans and limited city buses are available. Auto rickshaws are not available.

3.8.22 HANDICRAFTS

A handicraft, sometimes more precisely expressed as artisanal handicraft, is any of a wide variety of types of work where useful and decorative objects are made completely by hand or by using only simple tools. It is a traditional main sector of craft, and applies to a wide range of creative and design activities that are related to making things with one's hands and skill, including work with textiles, moldable and rigid materials, paper, plant fibers, etc. Usually the term is applied to traditional techniques of creating items (whether for personal use or as products) that are both practical and aesthetic.

3.8.23 BANKING FACILITIES OTHER SPECIALITIES IN KODAIKANAL

There are at least seven retail bank branches and five automated teller machines (ATM) in Kodaikanal. HDFC Bank has a branch and ATM at Seven Road.
junction, Anna Salai and The Bank of India has a branch and ATM at S.G.J Thangadurai Building, Anna Salai. The Canara Bank has a branch and ATM at CLS book shop complex, Anna Salai. The Central Bank of India branch is at M M Street, Law's Ghat Road, Perumalmalai. The Indian Bank has a branch and ATM at Anna Salai. The State Bank of India has a branch at Anna Salai and also has an ATM on Lake Road, outside Kodaikanal International School. The Union Bank of India has a branch at Naidupuram and also has an ATM on the 1st Floor of Municipal Shopping Complex opposite the Old Bus Stand, Anna Salai, ICICI Bank also has an ATM in Kodaikanal.

The Kodaikanal Co-operative Land Development Bank, the Kodaikanal Co-operative Urban Bank at Anna Salai and the Madurai District Central Co-operative Bank at Post Office Road offer only local commercial banking services. There is an excellent bazaar where residents, local villagers and tourists come to buy woollen clothing, flowers, fresh grocery, meat, handicrafts, hot snacks, inexpensive toys, medicinal herbs and oils, hardware, dry goods and cooking fuels. The cosmopolitan nature of Kodai is evident on Anna Salai, the main business street, where it is common to see local villagers, European and American students and backpackers, foreign retirees and families from other parts of India, all mixed together in their common activity of shopping.

Plums, pears, chile peppers, carrots, cauliflower, cabbage, garlic and onions are cultivated by terrace farmers in surrounding villages. Most are trucked to other parts of India and some are sold in the local market. Popular tourist souvenirs include handcrafts, home-made chocolates, postcards and eucalyptus oil.

Due to its relatively unpolluted image, various locations within Kodaikanal are used for movie shootings as well. Some examples being Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar
though depicted as Dehradun, the Tamil movie Guna, Manmadhan Ambu, Thenali etc.

3.8.24 HOTELS IN KODAIKANAL

123Kodaikanal.com is specializes in inbound tours and offers a host of tourism related services to inbound tourists exclusive for Kodaikanal Hill Station. Enjoy one-click access to the best luxury and budget hotels at Kodaikanal. It has been operating a variety of activity based tours for Groups and Individual tourists and has been able to mastermind them with great deal of efficiency.

It aims is to offer the widest choice and best Kodaikanal Package Tours at discount rates as well as a convenient, fast and secure way to make a reservation in Kodaikanal Hotels and Resorts.

The climate of Kodaikanal is pleasant throughout the year, but the best time to visit Kodaikanal is from April to June and from September to October. The most crowded tourist season in Kodaikanal is during the summer mid-April to mid-June. The temperature ranges between 12 and 20 degree Celsius in summer and between 8 and 18 degree Celsius in winter.

Table 3.3

Tariff in Hotels/Resorts during Season and Off-Season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resorts/Hotels</th>
<th>Hotel Level</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Off Season</th>
<th>Meeting Hall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Carlton</td>
<td>4 Star</td>
<td>Rs.8500</td>
<td>Rs.8500</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Kodai International</td>
<td>3 Star</td>
<td>Rs.3999</td>
<td>Rs.2955</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Name</td>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Base Rate</td>
<td>Off Season Rate</td>
<td>Deals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabari Resorts</td>
<td>3 Star</td>
<td>Rs.6000</td>
<td>Rs.5000</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yagappa Heritage Resort</td>
<td>Resorts</td>
<td>Rs.1200</td>
<td>Rs.1200</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raahat Inn</td>
<td>Resorts</td>
<td>Rs.3500</td>
<td>Rs.1800</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apple Valley</td>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>Rs.1999</td>
<td>Rs.1299</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Hotels</td>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>Rs.1500</td>
<td>Rs.1000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.V. International</td>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>Rs.1800</td>
<td>Rs.1200</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Parks Inn</td>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>Rs.2000</td>
<td>Rs.1600</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Grand Palace</td>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>Rs.2200</td>
<td>Rs.2000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kodai Resort Hotel</td>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>Rs.2500</td>
<td>Rs.2500</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. R. Residency</td>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>Rs.1800</td>
<td>Rs.990</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Migrations</td>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>Rs.2500</td>
<td>Rs.2000</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JC Residency</td>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>Rs.2200</td>
<td>Rs.1500</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Gurupriya</td>
<td>Luxury</td>
<td>Rs.1700</td>
<td>Rs.990</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kodai Gate Resort</td>
<td>Home Stay</td>
<td>Rs.2400</td>
<td>Rs.1200</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Room Type</td>
<td>Rate 1</td>
<td>Rate 2 (per person)</td>
<td>Free Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ganesh Guest House</td>
<td>Home Stay</td>
<td>Rs.350</td>
<td>Rs.250/person</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKR Guest House</td>
<td>Home Stay</td>
<td>Rs.2400</td>
<td>Rs.1200</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel RockFort</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>Rs.1250</td>
<td>Rs.800</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Spring Valley</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>Rs.450</td>
<td>Rs.450</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Ruby</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>Rs.1700</td>
<td>Rs.700</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Kasim Hotel (P) LTD</td>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>Rs.1700</td>
<td>Rs.700</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: www.kodaihotel.com

### 3.8.25 HOME MADE CHOCOLATES

Chocolates are loved by all right from kids to grownups. So, they become a perfect gifting solution for every occasion. Right from celebrating a special occasion to consolidate one’s friendship and from expressing one’s love for someone to simply celebrating one’s life one offers you homemade chocolates for all occasions.

### 3.8.26 VARIETIES OF CHOCOLATES

Spices Corner Kodaikanal manufactures variety of chocolates, such as Rum & Raisins, Cashew Rich, Roasted Almond, Pista Crunchy, Mixed Fruit, Strawberry Cream, Nut & Milk, Raisin Crumchy, Almond Crunchy, Butter Scotch, Chocolate Nougha, Walnut Delight, Fruit & Nut, Dark Chocolates, Milk Chocolates, Plain Chocolates, Whole Nut Chocolates, Wrapper Chocolates, Biscuit Chocolates and Dates Chocolates.