

# Ditch the City!

Weekend escapes, journeys of discovery, chill-out breaks. Take your pick!



## Be one with nature in **Chikmagalur**, Karnataka

Glistening paddy fields, endless plantations of tea, coffee, teak and pepper, hills almost always shrouded in mist, green, placid lakes and the opaque Bhadra River – with its untamed and utterly green landscape, Chikmagalur offers the right kind of refuge from city life. From picnicking in **Ambutheertha** – a little hideaway beyond Horanad Town – and going kayaking on the **Bhadra River**, to driving through **Muthodi Forest**, with the cacophony of birds and insects ringing joyfully in your ears, the essence of Chikmagalur lies in its simpler joys and its green, unspoilt environs. Visitors can even stop by one of the many popular temples in the area – at Horanad, Sringeri, Belur or Halebidu. If you want to avoid the crowds however, stop by the **Veeranarayana Temple** in Belvady, one of the biggest constructions of the Hoysala Empire, located 30km away. Evenings in Chikmagalur are best spent in the hills. Trek the popular but steep ‘Sarpadhari’ route – there’s a temple atop the hill that can be reached by climbing the 400-odd steps; the views are breath-taking, to say the least.

STAY: **Primrose Villas** ([www.primrosevillas.com](http://www.primrosevillas.com)), **Hill View Resorts** ([www.hillviewresorts.com](http://www.hillviewresorts.com))  
 Temple of Hindu Deities ([www.templeofhindudeities.com](http://www.templeofhindudeities.com))