

BAGLESS DAY STD VII A, VIIB, VII C

Class 7A, 7B and 7C started the trip by 9.00 – 9.30Am in the morning (19.8.2023), accompanied by Mrs. Thilaka, Mrs. Supriya, Mrs. Anuradha and Mr. Ganesh Murthy. Matrons Mrs Rosaline and Mrs Enviolet,

Sub staff Mrs.Padma.

We reached Cairn Hill by 10.35 am.

Cairn Hill came into existence in the 1860s when it was developed as an eco-tourism site by the British. The name 'Cairn Hill' has been derived from the English word 'cairn' which means 'a mound of rough stones built as a memorial or landmark, typically on a hilltop'. Originally, the hillock was a prehistoric burial site of the tribes and had a pile of stone accumulated at the top for the same. It is one of the oldest converted forests in the Upper Nilgiris Plateau. This eco-center has an interpretation center and an orchidarium. The highlight of the spot is a trekking trail that is at the center was enjoyed by our students. Undertaking this soulful trek is one of the prime things to do at Cairn Hill. Cairn Hill has a hanging bridge within the premises and taking a walk atop the bridge is one amongst the most thrilling and entertaining activities available at the site. In addition to that, it has a watchtower which can let you enjoy beautiful views of the surrounding hills and valleys. Known to be a haven for birdwatchers, Cairn Hill also has bird watching facilities.

We were served with refreshments and snacks

We then proceeded to the Government museum Ooty. This building is also called the Stone House and was lived in by a prominent British person. There's an ancient tree in the courtyard testimony to the age of the building. The entry tickets are ridiculously low in price. Before you enter the house, you may see a few stone and wooden statues out on the display - these are in a deplorable condition. Upon entering, you see about 2 large rooms of taxidermy artifacts. So impressive! Then there are rooms dedicated to geological items, musical instruments, ancient statues adorning the walls etc. Only some of these items have signage. On the floor above are exhibits educating the visitor about the 3-4 indigenous tribes of the Nilgiris - their clothing style, dances, houses, jewellery, farming implements etc.

We then visited the tea factory and the Chocolate factory

Ooty Tea Factory, a place where tea dust is prepared. It had speed stainless steel rollers Machines that run in opposite directions where the tea leaf are passed through for the cutting, twisting and curling process. The tea leaves are then spread over a fermenting floor in beds. During fermentation process, the tea leaf reacts with the oxygen in the air that causes the change in colour from green to copper red. It is during this process, when at a particular point; the tea leaf emits a fruity fragrance which indicates that it is ready for drying. Then they are packed for sale. Once you are done with tea factory go to Chocolate factory which is just next building to it. there you will be able to see how they prepare chocolates and you can buy Fresh Homemade Chocolates of different flavours.

We stopped by to have our lunch at RJ hotel after lunch we proceeded over to the Tea park.

Tea Park is a park situated near Doddabetta in Ooty. The Tea Park at Doddabetta was developed by the Department of Horticulture and Plantation Crops to increase the awareness of the process of tea making amongst the tourists, and also to promote TEA as a healthy drink. There is a Tea trekking path inside the Tea garden with a display of tea history and its origin, entry to China, India, and to the Nilgiris by providing display materials engraved in granite stones at regular intervals with musical arrangements on the path. There are two gazebos- one at the top view the entire tea garden and the other near Kotagiri road end to view the Karnataka state sceneries as well as the mountain views of the Nilgiris. There is also a small ornamental garden to entertain the visiting tourists without disturbing the natural undulations and landscapes with play materials for children.

The children were given evening refreshments. We boarded on the cab and reached schoolboy 6.15 pm safe and sound.