

# Nelliampathy Field Trip - A student's perspective

## Grades 6-7

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Nelliampathy is a hill station located 60 km away from Palakkad, Kerala. Hills and tea plantations dot the landscape. Grade 6 and 7 visited Nelliampathy for their field trip from February 1 to February 4.

### **February 1, Day One:**

Everybody gathered at school. There was much chatting about the field trip. Would it be worth it? Would everybody regret it? Or would they enjoy the Kerala excursion? Finally everybody arrived. We boarded onto the bus and departed the school. The bus finally reached the unknown train station. We boarded the train and left Bangalore. It smelled like urine. The train left at 5:30 pm Sunday evening.

### **February 2, Day 2:**

We reached Nelliampathy at 1:30 am. We were all sleepy because we could not sleep in the train. We boarded a bus and went wondering how our hotel would be like. It was still early so some of us decided to sleep. Our bus kept on breaking down and we stopped 3 times. Finally we reached the hotel at 4:00 am. We were given our rooms.. We had our breakfast and went tracking on a jeep.

### Jeep Tracking:

In jeep tracking we went up a hill in a jeep. The scenery was beautiful and the road was bumpy. When we reached the top of the hill, we could see much of the surrounding areas. The hill was very steep and it was a long fall down. After standing up there for ten minutes we rode back in the jeeps.

When we got back to the resort we all agreed on an hour rest. There was a small shop in the resort so everybody could buy water and candy and ice cream. After an hour we had lunch. When we had finished lunch we played some 'Teamwork building' games.

### Games

In the first game we had to move a marble down a line of half pipes. Each student held one half-pipe and once the marble passed them, they would run to the end of the line. This game was very frustrating and ended with much shouting and many tears. The second game was better, and ended happily. The third game was the best. It was River-crossing. We had to cross a rope ten feet in the air, attached to it with a harness. It was very tiring but fun.

After everybody finished river-crossing we went to a 'not-so-tribal-tribal-village'. We were told by the teachers that this was a Tribal Village, but it was not what we expected.

The 'Tribal' villagers were just normal villagers in jeans and shirts. We soon left back to the resort.

### Bonfire

When we got back we had a bonfire. We had a lot of fun starting the fire. When everybody had come down to the bonfire we danced to some music. After a while we had our dinner. I went to my room at this time, even though everybody else stayed.

### **February 3, Day 3:**

We woke up and got ready for breakfast. Afterwards we went Trekking.

### Trekking

We took a long jeep ride up to a large hill. When we reached the top of the hill we got out and began to climb up one of the surrounding hills. We walked up and down quite a lot and had to take a few stops to rest. We finally reached the top of a very large hill and enjoyed the scenery. We could see the surrounding forests. We had to walk all the way back to the jeeps and then finally return to the resort.

When we got back we were told to pack our bags and put them in the bus. After an hour and a half we FINALLY left the resort. We went to an organic farm.



### Organic Farm

We went to a government controlled organic farm. We walked through a bit of the farm for five minutes and then returned to the bus. We were told that they were selling organic guava jam and organic passion fruit juice. Some people, including me, bought some. As we were leaving we figured out that the jam and the juice wasn't quite as organic as we were told...

We left the organic farm to a dam. Near the dam was an elephant being washed. We went down to the lake where it was being washed and watched the elephant being washed. Afterwards we went shopping near the train station. We bought food and drinks. After about ten minutes we boarded the overnight train and left.

### **February 4, Day 4:**

We awoke in the train and packed our bags. Everybody was excited to get back home. We left the train station and got onto a bus. We took a long bus ride to school where our parents were awaiting. We finally reached the school and our parents drove us back home.