

# ▶ Western Ghat Cycling Expedition - 4



17 to 22 March, 2008  
600 Km

(Wayanad, Masinagudui, Ooty)

Starting all the trips from the same location limits the possibilities. Hence, this time I started off from Trichur. This way I could target new routes and destinations.

A second hand cycle, with mud guards removed, actually turned out to be a better idea than I had hoped for. Started off the usual route and soon reached the ascend to Wayanad district.



*Simplified second-hand bicycle*

The “Welcome to Wayanad” arch said it all. No other district receives tourists with such enthusiasm. The roads of Wayanad are exceptionally in good condition and traffic is regulated during nights. Summary, most suitable conditions for my expedition.



*Cool break near pookhote lake*



*Kerala-Karnataka border – mutanga & bandipur wildlife santuaries*

Past sulthan bathery and its end of civilisation. Mutanga wildlife sanctuary and Bandipur wildlife sanctuary merge at Kerala-Karnataka border.



*Tamilnadu border*

And within few hours it was “Welcome to Tamilnadu”. So I had effectively cycled into three states on the same day!

Later I realized that these parts were actually Tri-Junction of all three southern states – Kerala, Karnataka & Tamilnadu.

Best part of my trips has always been destinations off popular tourist spots. Same applies to Masinagudi. A Detour at Mudumalai took me to this beautiful yet un-crowded spot. I spent a day at Masinagudi exploring dead-end roads and forest trails.



*In-and-around Masinagudi and en-route to Ooty*



Best part of mountain bicycling comes when you have to roll back all the way down. However, this trip I could not enjoy it as heavy rains made the return leg of the journey very difficult.

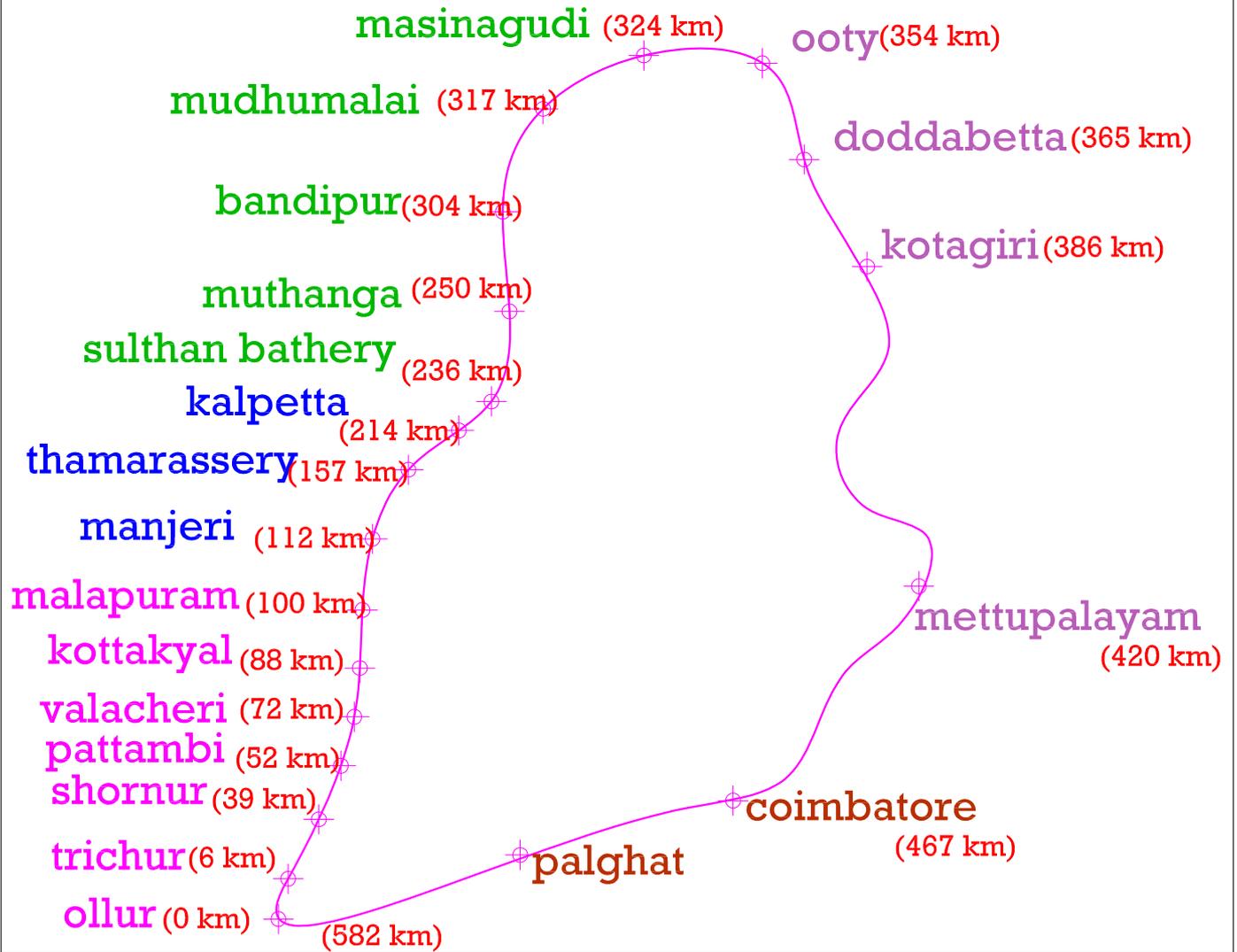


*Dodabetta at 2637 meters!*

Reached Dodabetta amidst heavy rains. I was frozen and wet but considered it as a training ground for my on-coming himalayan trip.

This is the last you will see me wearing rain coats during bicycling as I realized that I am better off without it. A fallen tree had blocked the Kotagiri – Metupalayam road completely and I had the road all to myself.

Western Ghat Cyclic Expedition - 4 - Distances and Time Map



<u>day</u>	<u>destination</u>	<u>km</u>
1	malapuram	100
2	kalpetta	114
3	masinagudi	110
4	coimbatore	143
5	ollur	115