

Difference Between Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats

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The Western and Eastern Ghats are prominent mountain ranges flanking the western and eastern coasts of India, respectively. The Difference Between Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats lies in the features that the Western Ghats are geologically older and more continuous in structure compared to the Eastern Ghats. In contrast, the Eastern Ghats are fragmented and less elevated, primarily due to prolonged erosion by rivers such as the Godavari, Mahanadi, and Krishna, which have carved through the range over time. Both ranges play a crucial role in shaping India's climate, biodiversity, and watershed systems.

Physiographic Divisions of India

To understand the Difference Between Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats, it is crucial to know the physiographic divisions of India. The Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats are part of the Peninsular Plateau region, forming the major mountain systems along India's western and eastern coasts respectively. India can be broadly divided into the following physiographic divisions:

- The Northern and Northeastern Mountains
- The Northern Plains
- The **Peninsular Plateau**

- The Indian Desert
- The Coastal Plains
- The Islands

Difference Between Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats

The table below includes the Difference Between Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats:

Difference Between Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats		
Feature	Western Ghats	Eastern Ghats
Location	Run parallel to the western coast of India	Run parallel to the eastern coast of India
Extent	From Gujarat to Kerala (through Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu)	From Odisha to Tamil Nadu (via Andhra Pradesh)
Continuity	Continuous mountain chain with few passes	Discontinuous, broken by rivers like Mahanadi , Godavari , Krishna , and Cauvery
Average Elevation	Higher (900–1600 meters)	Lower (600–900 meters)
Highest Peak	Anamudi (2,695 m) in Kerala	Arma Konda (1,680 m) in Andhra Pradesh
Drainage	Source of west-flowing rivers like Mandovi, Zuari, and Periyar	Rivers cut through and drain into the Bay of Bengal
Rainfall	Heavy rainfall due to southwest monsoon	Less rainfall due to distance from monsoon winds
Ecological Importance	Rich biodiversity; UNESCO World Heritage Site	Comparatively less biodiversity
Climatic Impact	Blocks monsoon winds, causing heavy rainfall on windward side	Allows monsoon winds to pass; hence less rainfall
Soil Type	Laterite and red soils	Red and alluvial soils

Agriculture	Plantation crops like tea, coffee , spices	Rice , millets, pulses
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What are Western Ghats?

The **Western Ghats**, also known as the Sahyadri Hills, stretch along the western edge of the Deccan Plateau. They are well-known for their biodiversity and serve as the origin point for several important rivers. Due to their steep slopes, they are less suitable for large-scale settlements but ideal for plantation farming. The region is also home to several **national parks** and **wildlife sanctuaries**.

What are Eastern Ghats?

The **Eastern Ghats** are older and more eroded compared to the Western Ghats. They are not continuous and have been dissected by major rivers that drain into the Bay of Bengal. These hills are rich in minerals and support agriculture, particularly rice cultivation. While their biodiversity is lower than that of the Western Ghats, they still host several **endemic species** and **protected areas**.

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