



Email: [contact@ficuswildlife.net](mailto:contact@ficuswildlife.net)

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## **Kerala Birds**

**(4 nights)**

### **Highlights**

A birding exploration of among the richest habitats and locations for avifauna in south India. Over 15 of the Western Ghats's endemic birds can be seen on this tour and the bird list includes over 300 species recorded from the tour locations. This trip is ideal for those wanting to enjoy the best of south India's birds within a limited time frame and in a safe, comfortable and friendly environment.

### **For Whom**

Bird-watching groups; Bird photographers; Enthusiasts

### **Costs**

INR 23,500 (500 USD)\*

*Please note: We can arrange your transfers to and from Cochin, Kerala for an additional cost as appropriate.*

### **Facilities**

Accommodation: 3 star hotels/comfortable home stays with modern amenities

Food: Largely local and pan-Indian

Transport: Road transfers in A/C vehicles.

Difficulty level: Easy to moderate, with a little hiking in mountainous terrain involved

### **Best time to visit**

October - March (ideal); April -May (good)

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\* Please see terms and conditions for details



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## Itinerary

**Day 1 & 2, Thattekad:** We leave Cochin, Kerala mid-morning and reach Thattekad (Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary) by noon on Day 1. We spend two days exploring the small sanctuary for a significant chunk of south Indian bird specialities.

The Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary is located on the banks of the Periyar River on the foothills of the Western Ghats of Kerala. The habitat matrix of the location, which includes riverine, low-land evergreen and plantation forests, contain an amazing density of birds and offers excellent photographic opportunities for several Western Ghats bird specialities among an impressive bird-list of over 250 species. The world famous ornithologist, the late Dr. Salim Ali, suggested that Thattekad contains among the highest species density of birds in India outside of northeast India. Some of the south Indian endemic birds found here include the **grey-headed bulbul, rufous babbler, Malabar grey hornbill, Malabar parakeet, white-bellied treepie, Wynaad laughing thrush, ruby-throated bulbul, white-bellied blue flycatcher, Malabar barbet** and **Malabar woodshrike**. Sightings of rarities such as the **black baza, crested goshawk, Red spurfowl, Malabar trogon, Ceylon bay owl** and the **Ceylon frogmouth** are not uncommon. Winter is interesting for several migrant flycatchers, warblers and wetland birds.

Elephants are regularly seen in and around the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, along with several other mammals including rare sightings of top predators such as Indian wild dogs and leopards. The wet, humid habitats of the location also contain an exciting diversity of plants, herpetofauna and invertebrates.

**Day 3 & 4, Munnar :** We reach Munnar in the afternoon on Day 3 and will spend two days exploring the landscape for mid and high altitude specialities of the Western Ghats.

Munnar is a small hill station town (1500m) nestled among tea plantations and wet montane forests (sholas) in the Western Ghats of Kerala. The shola forests surrounding Munnar and the montane forest-grassland ecosystem of the nearby higher reaches are excellent locations to encounter several of south India's high altitude endemic birds. Some of the Western Ghats endemics you are likely to encounter around Munnar include the **white-bellied blue robin, painted bushquail, black and orange, white-bellied blue** and **Nilgiri flycatchers, grey-breasted laughing thrush, white-cheeked barbet, broad-tailed grassbird, Malabar whistling thrush, crimson-backed sunbird and Nilgiri wood pigeon**. We will make a special effort to find the rare **yellow-throated bulbul** during our stay here. Winter reveals several **warblers** and rarities such as the **blue-capped rock thrush** and **Indian blue robin**.





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3. If you are paying in foreign currency, we might have apply a currency surcharge if the INR appreciates against the USD by the time you travel.
4. Bookings are confirmed only upon full payment of the tour cost and at least 1 month in advance from the proposed departure date
5. We reserve the right to cancel the tour at anytime due to unforeseen circumstances. We will refund the entire booking amount under these circumstances.
6.
  - a. We accept demand drafts in Indian Rupees and online credit card payments in US Dollars through Paypal.
  - b. We accept personal cheques in Indian Rupees, but your reservations will be confirmed only after your cheque is cleared by the bank.
  - c. Indian customers can also use a credit card to pay online through Paypal, but please be aware that you will be charged an additional currency conversion fee for the same.
  - d. Demand drafts/cheques are payable to "Ficus Wildlife and Natural History Tours" located in Chennai.
7. In case you want to cancel your booking:
  - a. A 100% refund if cancellation requested more than one month before the proposed date of departure
  - b. A 15% refund if cancellation requested less than one month from the proposed date of departure.

### Disclaimer

Participants should be aware of unlikely, but potential risks involved during wildlife tours and general travel. This may include, among other things, injuries or fatalities associated with general travel, snake bites, field activities and encounters with wildlife. We require that all tour participants sign this disclaimer that acknowledges the risks associated during our conducted tours and relieves us of any liabilities arising out of the same. This also acknowledges that you have read and accept the terms and conditions mentioned in the document.

Name of participant:

Signature and Date: