



Scheduled Tours

Explore Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR)

19 Maharani Chinnamba Road
Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018. India
e-mail: contact@ficuswildlife.net
www.ficuswildlife.net

When

Feb 16th to 23rd 2009 (Itinerary I - Mundanthurai & Sengaltheri)

Feb 18th to 23rd 2009 (Itinerary II - Sengaltheri only)

**Departures from Chennai, Tamil Nadu. We can arrange your travel connections to and from Chennai.*

PLEASE NOTE: TOUR COSTS WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON. PLEASE [CONTACT US](#) FOR PRE-RESERVATIONS AND OTHER ENQUIRIES

Highlights

An adventure filled exploration of the southern most Tiger Reserve in India. KMTR's scenic mountains, diverse habitat types and numerous rivers contain amazing biodiversity and lends the park an enigmatic quality. This is an ideal tour for those wanting to get an introduction to the natural history of the southern Western Ghats. An added allure of KMTR is that the park has very few tourist visitors - a pleasant change from the other overcrowded Tiger reserves of peninsular and north India.

KMTR is located among the southern most range of the Western Ghats and as such, it is the southern most range of some of India's megafauna, including the tiger and elephant. However, KMTR is better appreciated for its biodiversity rich, contiguous tracts of old-growth wet-evergreen forests and stunning, often mystical, mountain scenery. The park contains many biotic treasures including an amazing diversity of flora, herpetofauna, small vertebrates and invertebrates which are often unique to the Western Ghats. KMTR is also a well known centre for plant endemism. Bird diversity is excellent, as is typical for other Western Ghats locations with similar habitat diversity. Notably, the rare oriental bay owl, formerly known only from the northeast India, was recently photographed in the reserve. With us, you will visit a variety of habitat types that occur within KMTR, including the best rainforest locations, grasslands, deciduous forests and thorny scrub in pursuit of the reserve's impressive biological riches and stunning natural locations.

The tour will be led by experienced naturalists and the team will be ably guided and supported by the 'Kaani's', an indigenous forest hunter-gatherer tribe who have an intimate knowledge of the reserve's biodiversity and natural locations. An element of ecotourism is built into this tour - by employing the services of the local tribals as support staff we will contribute to their economic well being, consequently reducing their dependence on forest resources for sustenance and providing an economic incentive to conserve the local biodiversity. We will endeavor to work with the local government and the forest department to build a robust model of ecotourism for this reserve, both for our future tours and for other, similar, ventures.

Ficus Wildlife & Natural History Tours



Itineraries

Itinerary I (Feb 16th to 23rd 2009)

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Day 1: Depart Chennai by night train

Day 2: Arrive in Tirunelveli in the morning. Depart Tirunelveli by road after a relaxed breakfast and arrive in Mundanthurai by afternoon. Evening game drive on the main roads, exploring the plateau's dry thorny, deciduous and riverine forests, primarily for mammals. Notable sightings could include the Nilgiri Langur, a Western Ghats endemic primate. A post dinner nature walk around the tourist campus can reveal many of the plateau's interesting nocturnal fauna. Notable sightings can include the slender loris, a diminutive, nocturnal primate endemic to peninsular India, the small indian civet and mouse deer. The Indian porcupine and the sloth bear are sometimes seen around the campus.

Day 3: Leave after an early breakfast and trek to Kodamadi through riverine forests and teak plantations. We will spend the day exploring the moist deciduous/dry evergreen forests around this location. The Valayar river, dominates the landscape and provides an extremely scenic interlude to the forest and mountain scape of the location. We will specifically look for endemic birds and herpetofauna in this location. Leave in the late afternoon and arrive in Mundanthurai by night fall.

Day 4: Drive to Sengaltheri after an early breakfast. Arrive in the scenic location of Sengaltheri, with spectacular vistas of evergreen forests, grasslands and mountains from the forest resthouse. Evening exploration of the grasslands and moist-deciduous forests around Sengaltheri. We will look for large mammals, including elephants and gaur as well as Western Ghats endemic mammals, such as the brown mongoose. Sightings of leopards and Indian wild-dogs are possible. Birdlife and herpetofauna are excellent. Night strolls around the campus can reveal many interesting creatures, including civets (including the endemic brown palm civet), mouse deer, owls, flying squirrels, geckos and snakes.

Day 5: Morning exploration of the evergreen forests of the location. We will look for fauna associated with evergreen forests, primarily snakes, small mammals, birds and other small vertebrates and invertebrates. Great chances of encountering the endangered lion-tailed macaque as well as the Western Ghats flying lizard. Evening exploration of evergreen forests similar to morning.

Day 6: Morning exploration of the evergreen forests of the location similar to Day 5 Morning. Evening exploration of the grasslands and moist deciduous forests similar to Day 4 evening.

Day 7: Morning exploration of the grasslands and moist deciduous forests similar to Day 4 evening. Drive to Tirunelveli in the afternoon and board the night train to Chennai.

Day 8: Arrive in Chennai in the morning.



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Itinerary II (Feb 18th to 23rd 2009)

Day 1: Night train to Tirunelveli

Day 2: Depart Tirunelveli after relaxed breakfast and drive to Sengaltheri. Arrive in the scenic location of Sengaltheri, with spectacular vistas of evergreen forests, grasslands and mountains from the forest resthouse. Evening exploration of the grasslands and moist-deciduous forests around Sengaltheri. We will look for large mammals, including elephants and gaur as well as Western Ghats endemic mammals, such as the brown mongoose. Sightings of leopards and Indian wild-dogs are possible. Birdlife and herpetofauna are excellent. Night strolls around the campus can reveal many interesting creatures, including owls, flying squirrels, civets (including the endemic brown palm civet) geckos and snakes.

Day 3: Morning exploration of the evergreen forests of the location. We will look for fauna associated with evergreen forests, primarily snakes, small mammals, birds and other small vertebrates and invertebrates. Great chances of encountering the endangered lion-tailed macaque as well as the Western Ghats flying lizard. Evening exploration of evergreen forests similar to morning.

Day 4: Morning exploration of the evergreen forests of the location similar to Day 3 Morning. Evening exploration of the grasslands and moist deciduous forests similar to Day 3 evening.

Day 5: Morning exploration of the grasslands and moist deciduous forests similar to Day 4 evening. Drive to Tirunelveli in the afternoon and board the night train to Chennai.

Day 6: Arrive in Chennai in the morning



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FYI and Guidelines

1. Although KMTR is highly appreciated by serious wildlifers and naturalists, very few wildlife tourists visit the park. This is largely due to poor tourist infrastructure in the reserve and its relative isolation from the bigger cities of south India.
2. Accommodation will be very basic in both locations, with minimal furnishing and other creature comforts. Although we will be staying in forest department tourist rest houses, we recommend that you pack as though you were out camping, i.e. include your sleeping bags, towels etc into your backpack. We could arrange for your sleeping bags if you let us know in advance. We will charge you a nominal amount for the same.
3. Since we carry our own provisions to remote areas, food will be simple and largely Indian vegetarian (rice, lentils, locally available vegetables, fruits, chappathis and eggs).
4. The weather will be pleasant and largely dry. Nights could be nippy, especially in Sengaltheri, which is at an altitude of approx. 800m. A rain-shower or two is always a possibility, so please bring your raincoat along just in case.
5. Please bring your binoculars (at least 8x magnification, ideally 10x). While much of the biodiversity in the park can be enjoyed without a pair of binoculars, they would certainly come in handy for closer observations of fauna that do not allow close approach.
6. A considerable amount of walking around will be involved during this tour. Some of the terrain will be mountainous and uneven. It is essential that you wear a very comfortable pair of trekking shoes and full pants during our forays into the wild. We expect that all tour participants are in good to excellent physical condition. Do let us know if you have specific medical conditions - we will advise you if the tour is appropriate for you. Please be advised that we could be upto 3hrs away from the nearest medical facility.
7. A hat and sunblock are highly recommended. We also suggest that you carry insect repellents and anti-allergy creams/medication. Please bring essential medication with you.



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Terms and Conditions

1. Tour costs are based on twin sharing basis ex-Chennai and is all inclusive (transport, accommodation, food, personnel and all taxes and fees). Personnel includes two tour guides and resource persons from the local community. Please check with us on specific items to make sure if it is included in the published tour costs.
2. The last date to sign up for the tour is Jan 16th 2009. Bookings are confirmed only upon full payment of the tour cost by the last date.
3. We reserve the right to cancel the tour at anytime due to unforeseen circumstances. We will refund the entire booking amount under these circumstances.
4.
 - 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.
5. In case you want to cancel your booking:
 - a. A 100% refund before 16th Jan 2009
 - b. 30% of the tour cost after 16th Jan 2009

(PLEASE NOTE: TOUR COSTS WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON)

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 abide by the terms and conditions mentioned in the document.

Name of participant:

Signature and Date: