



WILDLIFE & NATURAL HISTORY TOURS

Email: contact@ficuswildlife.net

Web: www.ficuswildlife.net

Pampadum Shola National Park

When

April 30th to May 3 2010

Costs

INR 13500 (USD 325) per person (Ex-Cochin, for 4 persons traveling)

Facilities

Accommodation: Basic - tents or simple forest accommodation

Food: Local vegetarian with eggs (optional)

Transport: Road transfers in a/c vehicles (vehicle dependent on group size)

Difficulty level: Moderate, for hikes in mountainous, uneven terrain and through rain-forest

For Whom

Wildlife & bird enthusiasts/photographers; naturalists; adventurers

Highlights

Join us on this engrossing tour as we explore a fine patch of 'shola' - a rare and distinctive forest type in higher elevations of the Western Ghats of south India - in the Western Ghats of Kerala. The Pampadum Shola National Park (1800m - 2100m) is located in a landscape of 'shola' and plantation forests in the junction between the Palani and Cardamom Hills. The park protects a modest extent of montane evergreen forest (shola locally) that is loosely connected to the wildlife rich Eravikulam National Park, and shares some its amazing and unique montane biota.

The small park shows up surprisingly visible wildlife. We are likely to see Gaur, Sambhar, and Malabar giant squirrel reasonably regularly during our stay here. However, the main mammalian attraction here is the highly elusive and endangered, endemic small carnivore - the Nilgiri Marten. Leopards are sometimes sighted at dusk or dawn, Indian wild dogs during



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the day and with extreme luck we might come across a Tiger. The park is also excellent for birds restricted to montane locations of the Western Ghats, and some highlight species found here include the Nilgiri wood pigeon, white-bellied shortwing, scaly, blue rock & blue-capped rock thrush and Nilgiri & black and orange flycatchers. We will also come across a plethora of smaller animals - including several frogs, reptiles, smaller mammals and invertebrates, plants and fungi - several of them endemic to the Western Ghats montane forests.

We explore the park mostly on foot - the best way to, in the canopied, dark, wet forests of the Western Ghats. Not only will walking enable us to see the numerous smaller animals and plants, it will also give us an intimate 'feel' of the forest.

FYI and Guidelines

1. Weather: Since the park is at an altitude of 1800m and over, the temperatures will typically be verging on cold at nights. Days should be cool and pleasant through the year. Rain is always a possibility - especially in April, when pre-monsoon thunderstorms are a regular occurrence - so please bring appropriate rain-gear with you.
2. Since we will explore the park on foot and in mountainous terrain, we recommend you wear comfortable walking/trekking shoes for the trip.
3. Please bring your binoculars along - you will appreciate the sights of the forests much more with binoculars on hand. We will have a pair or two to share amongst us, but it is recommended that you carry your own.
4. Please bring essential medication with you, since the local outlets will not always carry what you are looking for. Do check with your doctor on medication and medical safety if you have any medical condition.

Terms and Conditions

1. Costs are calculated based on minimum 4 persons traveling and on twin/triple sharing. We can work out a costing for smaller groups, once we have details from you. Maximum group size for this tour is 5.
2. Tour costs are per person based on twin/triple sharing (dependent on group size) basis ex-Cochin and is all inclusive (transport, accommodation, food, personnel and all taxes and fees). Personnel includes a naturalist/tour leader, local guide and resource persons from the local community. Alcoholic beverages, porter charges, laundry and ala carte snacks are not included in this price. Please check with us on specific items to make sure if it is included in the published tour costs.
3. Bookings are confirmed only upon full payment of the tour cost and at least 15 days in advance from the proposed departure date



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4. We reserve the right to cancel the tour at anytime due to unforeseen circumstances. We will refund the entire booking amount under these circumstances.
5.
 - a. We accept demand drafts in Indian Rupees and online credit card payments in US Dollars through Paypal
 - b. Customers can also transfer funds electronically into our bank accounts (details provided on request). 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.
 - c. Demand drafts are payable to “Ficus Wildlife and Natural History Tours” located in Chennai.
6. In case you want to cancel your booking:
 - a. A 90% refund if cancellation requested more than 15 days before the proposed date of departure
 - b. A 15% refund if cancellation requested less than 15 days from the proposed date of departure.

Disclaimer and Emergency Contact

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:

Age:

Emergency contact person:

Relationship:

Tel no:

Email:

Signature and Date: