



Email: contact@ficuswildlife.net

Web: www.ficuswildlife.net

Point Calimere

When

Jan 7th to 10th 2010

(Depart Chennai by train on 6th night and return on 11th morning)

Cost

INR 12500 (Ex-Chennai, for minimum 4 persons traveling)

Facilities

Accommodation: Simple forest accommodation or simple hotel rooms

Food: Simple local vegetarian

Transport: Train transfers in upper class A/C coaches. Road Transfers in Toyota Qualis or Tempo Traveller (dependent on group size)

Difficulty: Easy

Highlights

A birding expedition to a globally recognized wetland (RAMSAR site) during the peak wintering season of birds in the wetlands of South Asia. This is an ideal tour for bird-watchers keen on recording several sub-continental wetland rarities among 250 plus species of birds recorded from the location. This is also among the less explored, but highly noteworthy, birding locations in India.

Located on the southeast coast of India, in the state of Tamil Nadu, Point Calimere is a globally significant wintering ground and stopover for migratory wetland waders and wildfowl on their southward journey to wintering sites in Sri Lanka. The delta of the Cauvery river, the south Indian 'Ganges' enriches Point Calimere's habitat diversity which includes, freshwater and salt marshes, brackish lagoons, mud-flats, salt-pans, coastal beaches, mangroves and terrestrial habitats including grasslands and dry evergreen vegetation unique to southeast India.

Notably, the endangered spoon-billed sandpiper and Asian Dowitcher have been recorded from Point Calimere. Winter records from the wetlands also include both flamingos among



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numerous waders, terns, gulls, ducks, herons and birds of prey. There are several sub-continental endemics among the land-birds of Point Calimere, including the Indian bushlark, white-browed bulbul and plaintive cuckoo. Intriguing records of the Kashmir flycatcher and broad-tailed grassbird also exist from the terrestrial habitats of Point Calimere.

Other wildlife that you are likely to encounter in the location includes a thriving population of the patchily distributed blackbuck - an antelope, Indian pangolin, giant flying foxes and several species smaller mammals. Notably, dolphins can sometimes be sighted near the fishing jetty of the Kodikarai village and the threatened dugongs, a large sea mammal, are known to occur in the shallow bays around Point Calimere.

FYI and Guidelines

1. Point Calimere and its surrounding areas offer minimal tourist infrastructure. Accommodation will be basic and food will be local and largely vegetarian (rice, lentils, vegetables and fruits).
2. Weather will be pleasant, and sunny, with temperatures rarely exceeding 30 Celsius and rarely dipping below 20 Celsius. However, cyclonic storms, associated with the winter monsoons are a potential, albeit unlikely occurrence. Please bring rain-gear just in case.
3. Please bring binoculars or a spotting scope. Wetland birds are typically distant and close approach is often difficult.
4. Most birding will be on foot and sometimes in marshy areas. We recommend that you wear comfortable river sandals while birding.
5. A hat and sunblock are highly recommended.
6. Please bring essential medication with you.

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 an expert birding guide, a tour leader and resource persons from the local fishing community. Maximum group size for this tour is 6.
2. Bookings are confirmed only upon full payment of the tour cost by the last date (Dec 25th 2009)
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.



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- 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 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

Participants should be aware of unlikely, but potential risks involved during wildlife tours and general travel. This may include, among other things, accidents during travel, snake bites, injuries associated with 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: