



Email: contact@ficuswildlife.net

Web: www.ficuswildlife.net

Rajamalai & Rhodo Valley

3 nights

Summary

Rajamalai, located in the high hills around Munnar, is located in the tourism zone of the Eravikulam National Park - south India's most extensive protected area of high altitude 'shola-grasslands' along with the adjacent Grasshills of the Indira Gandhi Tiger Reserve. The park protects, among a wide variety of high altitude flora & fauna, a significant population of Nilgiri Tahr - a mountain goat endemic to the south India's Western Ghats. Rajamalai is probably the best place to observe and photograph these unique animals. High altitude endemic birds, including the White-bellied Shortwing, Grey-headed Laughing Thrush and Nilgiri Pipit are easily seen here and the rarer Broad-tailed grassbirds are often active in the early hours of the morning. Endemic Nilgiri & Black and Orange Flycatcher, and migrant Blue rock Thrush, Blue-capped rock Thrush and Tickell's Leaf Warbler are other significant bird species that are seen here. Other fauna of interest include the Salea lizard and the Gunther's Vine Snake, both species endemic to the montane habitats of the Western Ghats.

Rhodo Valley (2400m) is a high altitude camp site, set within the shola-grasslands in the vicinity of the Eravikulam National Park and as such reflects biota of the Park. While similar birdlife can be expected, the Nilgiri Tahr here are far more skittish and sensitive to human presence. The hills around here are incredibly beautiful, and the vistas of high hills - among the tallest in south India - and forested valleys, can be appreciated from atop Misapulimala (2600+m), south India's second highest peak.

We spend one evening in Munnar to explore the natural habitats around here, as well as Rajamalai and two nights at Rhodo Valley, for the unique experience of camping the high altitude natural habitats of south India.

Dates

Please email us: contact@ficuswildlife.net for latest schedule

Please note that we can customise schedule for independent travel

Costs

From INR 11500/person, ex-Cochin



WILDLIFE & NATURAL HISTORY TOURS

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Itinerary Outline

Day 1: Depart Cochin at 7:30 AM and reach Munnar at noon. PM drive to/and trek in Anaimudi or Pampadum Shola NP

Day 2: AM visit to Rajamalai (Eravikulam NP) and PM transfer to Rhodo Valley camp site. Trek along the way

Day 3: AM trek to Misapulimala and PM short trek

Day 4: AM short trek and PM transfer to Cochin. Late evening in Cochin.

Facilities

Accommodation: In simple tents (camping style in Rhodo Valley) and comfortable hotel in Munnar (for Rajamalai)

Food: Simple variety of vegetarian or non-vegetarian options

Transport: Road transfers in Toyota Qualis or similar

Difficulty level: Moderate to difficult, for hikes in mountainous, uneven terrain and cold nights.

Best Time to Visit

October - Jan & April-May

For Whom

Bird and Wildlife enthusiasts/photographers; naturalists, trek enthusiasts

FYI and Guidelines

1. Weather: Updates based on dates of travel
2. Since we will explore the location 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.



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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. We can work out a costing for smaller groups, once we have details from you. Maximum group size for this tour is 6.
2. Tour costs are per person based on a 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 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.
3. Bookings are confirmed only upon full payment of the tour cost and at least 1 month in advance from the proposed departure date
4. Our preferred mode of payment is through electronic transfers into our bank account. Relevant details will be provided to you once you are ready to make the payment. Alternatively we accept demand drafts/cheques in the currency of your choice.
5. If you are paying in foreign currency, we might have apply a currency surcharge on the published rates, if the INR appreciates against your currency at the time of payment.
6. In the unlikely event in which we are forced to cancel the tour we will refund you the entire booking amount. In case we are unable to conduct the tour due to circumstances beyond our control (for e.g. forces of nature, political conditions), we will make every effort to refund as much of the booking amount as possible.
7. In case you to cancel your booking more than one month in advance from the tour date, we will refund *at least* 50% of the tour cost (assuming tour costs are fully paid). The precise refund beyond this will be dependent on the refund policies of our travel partners that we use on tour. In case you cancel your booking less than 1 month from the start of the tour, we will refund 10% of your booking amount

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:



Email: contact@ficuswildlife.net

Web: www.ficuswildlife.net

Age:

Emergency contact person:

Relationship:

Tel no:

Email:

Signature and Date: