



Email: contact@ficuswildlife.net

Web: www.ficuswildlife.net

Rajamalai & Rhodo Valley

When

Nov 26th to 29th 2010

Costs

INR 13500 (USD 300) per-person (Ex-Cochin, for 4 persons traveling)

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.

For Whom

Bird and Wildlife enthusiasts/photographers; naturalists, trek enthusiasts

Highlights

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



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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 the Misapuli-mala (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.

FYI and Guidelines

1. Weather: Expect sunny, cool days. The sun can be quite sharp, considering the height, so please bring along sunblock and hat. Nights at Rhodo Valley will be cold at this time of the year, with temperatures, dropping close to freezing at night (negative with wind chill). Please bring warm clothing as appropriate and a rain coat..
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.
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.



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3. Bookings are confirmed only upon full payment of the tour cost and at least 15 days in advance from the proposed departure date
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/GBP through Paypal.
 - b. Customers can also transfer funds electronically into our bank accounts (details provided on request) - our preferred mode of payment.
 - 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.
6. In case you want to cancel your booking:
 - a. A 90% refund if cancellation requested more than 30 days before the proposed date of departure
 - b. A 15% refund if cancellation requested less than 30 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:



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Web: www.ficuswildlife.net

Signature and Date: