

WILD ABOUT TRAVEL - INDIA

Endemic Birds (and Mammals) of South India

Best time to visit November - February



14 days Bangalore – Mysore – Nagarhole – Mudumalai – Ooty – Topslip – Munnar area – Thattekkad area – Cochin (Kochi)

Search for South Indian endemic birds with some great mammals guaranteed. Journey through the Western Ghat mountains, ending in calming Kerala. **200+ bird species likely depending on time spent in the field**

Endemic birds include: Black and Orange Flycatcher, White-bellied Treepie, Nilgiri & White-bellied Blue Flycatchers, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Nilgiri (Rufous-breasted) Laughingthrush, White-bellied Shortwing, Crimson-backed (Small) Sunbird, Malabar Parakeet, Crimson-fronted (Malabar) Barbet, Pompadour (Grey-fronted) Green Pigeon, Nilgiri Woodpigeon, Indian Rufous Babbler, Grey-headed Bulbul and Nilgiri Pipit. Other classic birds: Ceylon Frogmouth, Malabar Trogon, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, White-bellied Woodpecker, Mottled Wood Owl, Spot-bellied (Forest) Eagle Owl.

Mammals include: Nilgiri Langur, Nilgiri Tahr, Bonnet Macaque, Asian Elephant, Gaur (Indian Bison), Indian Giant Squirrel. Tiger and Leopard are both possible, but difficult.

Day 1: Flight (excluded, but easily booked via the internet)

Day 2: Bangalore – Mysore

You will be welcomed at Bangalore airport by your nature guide. If time permits take short boat trip at Ranganathittu Sanctuary for Spot-billed Pelican, Greater Stoneplover and close-up views of storks, egrets and crocodiles... Continue the drive to Mysore. Night at local hotel.

Day 3: Mysore – Nagarhole

After breakfast drive (2 hrs) to Nagarhole birding on the way. Enjoy an afternoon jeep safari in search of Grey Junglefowl, White-cheeked Barbet, Malabar Lark, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Asian Elephant and Gaur. Tiger and Leopard difficult. Night at safari lodge. (B) (L) (D).

Day 4: Nagarhole

Enjoy a full day inside the park with a morning safari and afternoon boat trip. In between, take a walk around lodge grounds for Mottled Wood Owl, Brown Fish Owl. Night at safari lodge. (B) (L) (D).

Day 5: Nagarhole – Mudumalai

Leave early for 2 hr. drive to Mudumalai area where Rufous-winged Bushlark, Malabar Parakeet and White-bellied Minivet are possible. Night at local hotel. (B) (L) (D).

Day 6: Mudumalai – Ooty

Spend the day looking for some classic endemic species of the Western Ghats including Black and Orange Flycatcher, Nilgiri Blue Robin, Nilgiri Laughingthrush. Check in to local hotel in Ooty. (B) (L) (D)

Days 7: Ooty

Further explore to see more of the endemics of the local area inc. Malabar Whistling Thrush, Crimson-fronted Barbet and Nilgiri Woodpigeon. Return to hotel. (B) (L) (D)

Day 8: Ooty – Topslip area

An early start is needed to drive the 4 - 5 hrs to Topslip area. Birding is diverse along the edge of

the sanctuary habitat. Species here might include Grey-headed Bulbul, Jerdon's Nightjar, Malabar Starling... Night at local lodge. (Packed B & L) (D).

Day 9: Topslip – Chinnar – Munnar

After some early morning birding we'll drive on to Munnar (4 hrs) with an option of stopping at Chinnar on the way if you would like to increase your chance of Spot-bellied Eagle Owl and the rare Grizzled Giant Squirrel. Habitat around Munnar is excellent, especially the shola forest and high grassland with scrub. Expect White-bellied Blue Robin, Nilgiri Pipit, Nilgiri Flycatcher, White-bellied Shortwing and Nilgiri Tahr is also present. Night at local hotel. (B) (L) (D)

Day 10: Munnar

Explore locally for Crimson-backed Sunbird, Yellow-browed Bulbul, Wynaad Laughing Thrush, Crimson-fronted Barbet, Blue-winged Leafbird. Broad-tailed Grassbird is possible. Night at local hotel. (B) (L) (D)

Day 11: Munnar – Thattekkad

Drive on to Thattekkad. Locally you can see Indian Pitta and Mottled Wood Owl. Night at birding lodge. (B) (L) (D).

Day 12 & 13: Thattekkad area

You will visit Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary (also known as the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary) and other sites locally. Species include Ceylon Frogmouth, Malabar Trogon, White-bellied Woodpecker, Grey-headed Bulbul, Wynaad Laughingthrush, Indian Pitta and Black Baza. Night at birding lodge. (B) (L) (D).

Day 14: Thattekkad – Cochin (Kochi)

You will be transferred to Cochin (2 hrs max.) to catch your flight home. (B) **Tour ends**

Note: Extensions available to Kerala Coast and the Backwaters and/or the Andaman Islands.



Black & Orange Flycatcher © C Francis



White-bellied Treepie © C Francis



Nilgiri Flycatcher © C Francis

Price per person (Valid till 1 October 2011) on twin-share basis for two travelling: £1490 / four travelling: £1323
Single room supplement: £469 (min. of two travelling). Please note that the booking of this itinerary is with Asian Adventures and their booking terms and conditions apply.

Price includes:

All land transport inc. jeep drives in National Parks. Accommodation and meals as specified (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Experienced nature guide.
2 jeep safaris and 1 boat trip at Nagarhole.
Bird and mammal checklist and pre-travel information.

Price excludes:

Flights, Tourist visa, travel insurance.
Some meals, National Park and Bird Sanctuary entrance fee except for Nagarhole. Camera or Camcorder fees if charged as extra.
Drinks inc. bottled water, tips, laundry, phone calls and anything of a personal nature

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