

“WESTERN GHATS WALKING TOUR”



Duration

05 Nights / 06 Days

TOUR OVERVIEW

Munnar is a tea town with altitudes varying from 1400 m to 2680 m. The eco-system is primarily shola-grassland type. (Sholas are high altitude montane forests & typical to the Western Ghats and a hub of endemism, enabling these areas to be included as one of the 35 bio-diversity hot spots of the world.) The indigenous people are the Muduvans and the Malapulayas who inhabit the higher reaches of mountains. The wildlife includes the endangered and endemic Nilgiri Tahrs, Asiatic elephants, gaurs (Indian Bison), leopards, tigers and bears besides sambar and wild dogs. The endemism extends to birds as well & one should sight the Nilgiri Pipit, Painted Bush Quail, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Black & Orange Flycatcher, Nilgiri Flycatcher, White bellied Shortwing and the Broad Tailed Grass bird. It is common to sight wildlife during the walks through the wilderness. The trek from Munnar towards Periyar passes through highly mountainous terrain.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Passing through wilderness with sighting of wildlife like elephants, Nilgiri Tahrs, Nilgiri langurs and Malabar Giant Squirrel and endemic birds
- High Altitude rain forests & grasslands holding great bio-diversity
- Lakes & butterfly forests
- Tribal villages
- Mathikettan Shola National Park Trek

AT A GLANCE

Day 1: Cochin
Day 2: Suryanelli
Day 3: Butterfly Forest Trek & Tribal Village Visit
Day 4: Mathikettan Shola Trek
Day 5: Chaturangapara Trek
Day 6: Short Trek and departure

MAP



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE COCHIN

God's own country welcomes you!! On your arrival at Cochin airport you will be meet and received by our representative. He will then introduce you to your driver who will be with you throughout your trip. Proceed to the hotel and relax. Later visit The Jewish Synagogue (closed on Friday/Saturday) was built in 1568 AD. The Dutch Palace (closed on Friday), the main attractions have the outstanding collection of mural paintings found inside. St. Francis Church, the first European church that was built in India. In the evening visit The Chinese fishing nets, here you can enjoy watching the beautiful sunset by the seashore. Night stay at hotel.

Overnight: Time Square

Meal Plan: Breakfast

DAY 2: COCHIN – SURYANELLI

After breakfast check out from hotel and transferred to Suryanelli.

Set against a large shola forest - high altitude cloud forest - and against the backdrop of the peak they call 'Phantom's Head'. In the evening nature walk in the hills of Suryanelli. Night stay at camp.

Overnight: Camp (Tented Accommodation)

Meal Plan: Breakfast and Dinner

Activity: Warm up trek to Suryanelli

DAY 3: BUTTERFLY FOREST TREK

From your camp start trek to Papathy Shola ('Butterfly Forest'), so named due to the spectacular annual migration of butterflies every October. The thick high altitude cloud forests here provide an ideal home not only for the butterflies but large numbers of birds & wildlife including the endemic Malabar Giant Squirrels. You trek

through vast swathes of forests and grasslands will amaze you with its natural beauty & endemic flora & fauna. As you come down after the walk, the vast Anaerangal Lake is a salve for tired limbs. Anaerangal, meaning “The lake Where the Elephants Come Down”- a vast expanse of water is a draw for elephants to come down for grazing and water. Snaking across a large area, this lake is placid and beautiful and a source of water for farmers downstream. Many tribal colonies have sprung up around it to farm for spices and cardamom which grow abundantly in the salubrious climate here.

Indeed, this place is a paradise for those seeking refuge from the hustle & bustle of city life! The food cooked at the camp's own kitchen provides scrumptious local delicacies served at the Gazebo. The camp staff is made up entirely from members of the local communities. The ready smiles and local knowledge are some of the memories you will take back with you.

Overnight: B L Ram Camp (Tented Accommodation)

Meal Plan: Full Board

Activity: Butterfly forest trek and Tribal village visit.



DAY 4: MATHIKETTAN SHOLA TREK

Today's trek is through the Mathikettan Shola National Park. A treasure trove of biodiversity, this national park is home to endemic flora and fauna and to wildlife like the Asiatic Elephants and Nilgiri Langurs. Your destination is Santhanpara, set amidst luxuriant vegetation and cardamom spice plantations that give the surrounding area the name 'Cardamom Hills'. This is the capital of the spice cultivating areas that have made Kerala famous through the ages and attracted multitudes of traders from all parts of the world. Night stay at the camp.

Overnight: Shantanpara Camp (Tented Accommodation) – this camp is located between Munnar and Periyar, overlooking the Mathikettan Shola National Park. Located atop a hill, the camp offers magnificent views of the National Park and is an ideal place to relax after a day long trek along these mountains through the National Park.

Meal Plan: Full Board

Activity: Mathikettan Shola Trek

DAY 5: CHATURANGAPARA PEAK TREK

This is challenging trek takes you through sholas and cardamom forests that abound here. The trek through from Shantanpara through thick forests and grasslands through the spine of the mountain range, you get fascinating views of the great plains of Tamil Nadu. This area constitutes the world-famed 'Cardamom Hills' – the capital of the spice growing areas that have made Kerala famous through millennia. The highlight today is the climb atop the Chaturangapara peak with spectacular views of the plains of Tamil Nadu thousands of feet below. After coming down the peak, you will be transferred to the atmospheric camp. Here there will be a sumptuous meal and retire for the night.

Overnight: Chaturangapara Camp (Tented Accommodation) – this camp is located between Munnar and Periyar, within a thickly forested cardamom plantation. The famed Chaturangapara peak is just a stone's throw away & has magnificent views of the Tamilnadu plains. The camp is self-contained and a great experience to camp under the canopy of trees. In addition, fishing in the local pond is a great past time for the campers.

Meal Plan: Full Board

Activity: Cardamom Forest Trek

DAY 6: CHATURANGPARA – COCHIN (DEPARTURE)

Wake up early in the morning. Today you will enjoy short morning trek to Pashpakandam. After refreshing trek return back to camp. You will depart after lunch, taking with you the memories of the challenge and the sheer natural beauty of your rainforest trek at Munnar.

Meal Plan: Full Board

Activity: Pashpakandam Trek

Price: USD 640 per person

INCLUSIONS:

- Tented accommodation based on twin share basis
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- All treks as mentioned
- Refreshment & Water
- Trekking guide
- Transfers in jeep (CASEVAC jeep)
- Entry to forest/national park
- Pick up from and drop to Cochin
- All applicable taxes

EXCLUSIONS:

- Any expenses of personal nature such as telephone calls, laundry, aerated drinks etc.
- Camera fees to be paid extra directly in monuments/ park
- Tips to the guide & driver

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- As of now no accommodation is on hold and rooms are purely subject to availability at the time of confirmation of the tour.
- The tour cost does not include medical insurance.
- Early check in and late checkout are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed.
- Check in and Check Out Time in India is 1200 Noon.
- The company shall not accept any liability or responsibility for any damages, loss, injury, accident, delay, breakdown or irregularity, which may occur due to "force majeure"
- Proof of Identity "- As per the directive given by the Government and Department of Tourism, all Indian Nationals are required to produce proper proof of identification upon check-in. Valid Identification documents include: Voter identity card/Passport/ Pan card/Driving license/Photo ID card of Central/State Government issued to their employees; the document must include a photograph. All the foreign nationals should produce valid passport and visa, in original".