



ENDEMIC WILDLIFE EXPEDITION · 12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS

THE LOST WORLDS OF *The Western Ghats* SOUTHERN INDIA

Endemic Bird Watching, Advanced Herping & Macro Photography across a UNESCO Biodiversity Hotspot

12

DAYS / 11 NIGHTS

3

ECOSYSTEMS

4

NIGHT HERPING TRAILS

REGIONS

Cochin · Thattekad · Munnar · Eravikulam · Periyar Tiger Reserve

Small-group specialist expeditions — limited departures each season

THE ROUTE

Three altitudinal zones from lowland evergreen to high Shola forest to Periyar



Twelve days / eleven nights from Thattekad's lowland forest to Periyar's cardamom hills

DAY 1

Arrival in Cochin & Transfer to Thattekad

Arrive at Cochin International Airport. Meet your dedicated Western Ghats naturalist guide and transfer 1.5 hours inland to the lowland evergreen forests of Thattekad. Check into an eco-lodge perched along the Periyar River.

ARRIVAL

DAY 2

Lowland Avian Exploration — Thattekad

Morning foot safari through the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary — slow walks through bamboo thickets for the perfectly camouflaged Sri Lanka Frogmouth and the vibrant Malabar Trogon. Afternoon in a specialist photography hide for the Indian Pitta and endemic Rufous Babbler.

SALIM ALI SANCTUARY

DAY 3

Riverine Birding & First Night Herping

Morning: silent paddled country boat scanning river margins for Malabar Grey Hornbill, Dollarbird and nesting storks. Night (8–11 PM): first nocturnal stream walk with macro gear along wet leaves and low branches for the neon-green Malabar Pit Viper and Malabar Gliding Frog.

NIGHT HERPING — TRAIL 1

DAY 4

Macro Hide Sessions & Canopy Scanning

Morning tracking of elusive forest raptors — Black Baza and Jerdon's Baza — through tall canopies. Afternoon macro focus on the Southern Flying Lizard (Draco) gliding between tree trunks.

DRACO — FLYING LIZARD

DAY 5

Ascent to the Munnar Highlands

Scenic 3-hour winding drive up into the Western Ghats to Munnar — a landscape of rolling tea estates and high-altitude montane forest. Check into a boutique highland estate lodge.

HIGHLAND ASCENT

DAY 6

Shola Forest Endemics — Munnar

Trek through dense pockets of Shola stunted montane forest for high-altitude endemics: Kerala Laughingthrush, Nilgiri Flycatcher, Black-and-Orange Flycatcher. Afternoon ridge walking for the large purple-hued Nilgiri Wood Pigeon feeding on wild berries.

HIGH-ALTITUDE BIRDING

DAY 7

Eravikulam National Park Endemic

Travel to the high-altitude grasslands of Eravikulam National Park. Walk cliff-side paths to photograph the endemic Nilgiri Tahr grazing along dramatic drops. Afternoon scanning of deep misty valleys for Asian Elephant herds migrating through tall grass corridors.

NILGIRI TAHR

DAY 8

Highland Herping — Lockhart Gap

Relaxed morning landscape photography over the tea estates. Night (7:30–10:30 PM): specialist highland herping around Lockhart Gap for the jewel-like Anamalai Gliding Frog and the rare Ghats Coral Snake.

NIGHT HERPING — TRAIL 2

DAY 9

Drive South to Periyar Tiger Reserve

3-hour drive south along mountain ridges to the cardamom hills of Thekkady. Afternoon guided forest walk along the evergreen reserve boundaries.

CARDAMOM HILLS

DAY 10

Bamboo Rafting & Canopy Primate Tracking

Full day of active trekking and bamboo rafting deep into Periyar's core. Scan the canopy for the endangered Lion-tailed Macaque with its striking silver mane, the Nilgiri Langur and the massive Malabar Giant Squirrel.

LION-TAILED MACAQUE

DAY 11

Return Circuit to Cochin

Final morning walk for any missed bird or butterfly species. Drive 4 hours down the mountains to the historic coastal port of Cochin. Final group dinner together.

FAREWELL

DAY 12

Flight Back Home

Transfer to Cochin International Airport for your international flight back home.

DEPARTURE



Kauntei India Tours

NATURE EXPEDITIONS · HIDDEN SANCTUARIES

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Sri Lanka Frogmouth — lowland forest
- Malabar Pit Viper — night herping
- Nilgiri Tahr — endemic mountain goat
- Lion-tailed Macaque — Periyar core
- Kerala Laughingthrush — Shola forest
- Malabar Trogon & Indian Pitta
- Malabar Gliding Frog
- Ghats Coral Snake — highland herping
- Southern Flying Lizard (Draco)
- Anamalai Gliding Frog — Lockhart Gap

www.kaunteitours.com

*For expedition dates and specialist enquiries,
we would love to hear from you.*

*The Western Ghats are older than the Himalayas — they formed over 150 million years ago
and contain more than 5,000 species of flowering plants, 139 of which are found nowhere else on Earth.*