

South India Wildlife Tour

Birds | Mammals | Landscapes

Thattekkad | Munnar | Chinnar | Ooty | Masangudi | Nagarhole | Mysure

13 Dyas



South India, particularly the forests on both slopes of the western ghats, is home to its own big five. The South Indian big five consists of the tiger, leopard, wild dog, Asian elephant, and gaur (Indian bison). In addition to these animals, you will have the opportunity to see bears, various species of deer, and monkeys during our 13-day south India birds and wildlife tour. The Western Ghats are also home to approximately 28 endemic bird species and highly sought-after species such as Indian Hornbill, Indian Pitta, Black Baza, Sri Lankan Frogmouth, and others.

DAY 1: COCHIN - THATTEKKAD (47 km /1.30 hrs)

Arrive in Kochi and take a taxi to Thattekkad.

We'll spend the afternoon at our bird hide looking for Asian Fairy BlueBird, Indian Pitta, Orange-headed Thrush, Malabar starling, White-cheeked barbet, Flame throated bulbul, White-bellied treepie, Greater Racket-tailed drongo, Yellow-browed bulbul, Black-naped monarch, Blue-throated flycatcher, Emerald dove, and other birds. We will also go night birding in Kalappara Forest in search of Spotted Bellied Eagle Owls, Jerdon's Nightjars, Jungle Nightjars, and other species.

DAY 2: THATTEKKAD

We'll return to our bird hide and spend the afternoon looking for White-bellied blue flycatchers, Rusty-tailed flycatchers, Brown-breasted flycatchers, Indian Paradise flycatchers, Little spiderhunters, Crimson-backed sunbirds, Asian fairy bluebirds, and so on. Look for Sri Lanka bay owl, Indian scops owl, Jungle owlet, Nightjar, Jerdon's oriental scops owl, Brown Hawk owl, and other night birds in Charupara Forest.

DAY3: THATTEKKAD

Today we will take a trip to Cheekod in search of Black Baza, White-bellied treepie, Asian fairy bluebird, Brown Hawk Owl, Jungle Owlet, and other birds. Afternoon at the bird hide to photograph missed species, if any exist, and Night birding in the Kalappara area for any remaining species.

DAY 4: THATTEKKAD - MUNNAR (72 kilometres / 2 hours)

Following the morning birding in Thattekkad, we will travel to Munnar (1500 MSL). We will set out to explore Munnar's rolling tea gardens and shola forests in search of, Black and Orange flycatcher, White bellied Sholakili, Nilgiri wood pigeon, Nilgiri Flycatcher, Nilgiri Flowerpecker, Crimson backed sunbird, Indian yellow tit, Velvet fronted nuthatch, Yellow-browed bulbul, Malabar barbet, Malabar parakeet etc.



DAY 5: MUNNAR

Today we will bird around Eravikulam National Park (the park is closed between February and April) for Palani Laughingthrush, Nilgiri pipit, Indian blackbird, Malabar whistling thrush, Hill swallow, Painted bush quail, Indian blue robin, Indian white eye, Nilgiri thrush, Plain Prinia, and other species.

We will spend the afternoon at our bird hide photographing Southern hill mynas, Golden-fronted leaf birds, White-bellied treepies, Vernal hanging parakeets, Indian scimitar babblers, Crimson backed sunbirds, Purple rumped sunbirds, and other species.

DAY 6: MUNNAR-OOTY (241 km / 6 hours and 30 minutes)

We will check out of our hotel in the morning and drive to Chinnar (dry scrub forest) in time for morning birding. White-bellied drongo, Blue faced malkoha, White-naped woodpecker, Yellow throated bulbul, Green imperial pigeon, Indian robin, White-browed bulbul, and other species have been observed in Chinnar. After a relaxing round of birding here, we'll board our vehicle and begin our long road trip to Ooty, another colonial hill station on the western ghats' eastern slope.



DAY 7: OOTY

Morning birding at Doddabetta Peak (2,637 metres), looking for Nilgiri Blue Robin, Nilgiri Laughingthrush, Nilgiri Flycatcher, Black and orange flycatcher, Indian Blackbird, Blue-capped Rock thrush, Brown breasted flycatcher, Nilgiri wood pigeon, and so on.

Afternoon birding around the hotel for any remaining species

DAY 8: MASANAGUDI (1 Hour)

Today we will bird until noon in Ooty for any remaining species before heading to Masinagudi. Afternoon birding in the Bokkapuram forest at the foothills of the Western Ghats in search of Malabar Lark, Bush Jerdon's lark, Jungle nightjar, Brahmani starling, Yellow fronted woodpecker, Indian Nuthatch, Blyth's pipit, Paddy-field pipit, Spotted owlet, Small minivet,

Orange minivet, White-naped woodpecker etc. Night birding in Masinagudi, searching for Jerdon's nightjar, Indian nightjar, Oriental scops owl, Spot bellied eagle owl, Brown fish owl, and other species.

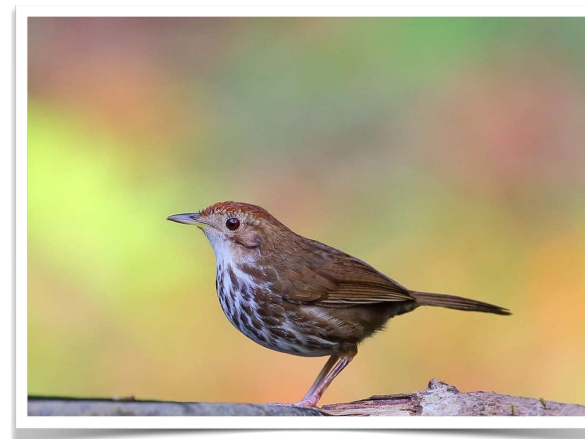
DAY 9: MASANAGUDI

Morning birding in Masinagudi for White-bellied minivet, Blue faced malkoha, Jungle bush quail, Barred button quail, Grey francolin, Indian Nuthatch, leaf Jerdon's leafbird, Plum-headed parakeet, Malabar parakeet, Brown wood owl, White-rumped shama, Asian paradise flycatcher, Tickell's blue flycatcher,
Afternoon birding on Maya Road, looking for any remaining species.

DAY 10: MASINAGUDI - NAGARHOLE NATIONAL PARK (101 kilometres / 2 hours and 30 minutes)

Today we will visit Nagarhole National Park.

The Nagarhole National Park covers an area of 247 miles and is home to a variety of large mammals, including the Tiger, Asian Elephants, Leopard, Indian Gaur, Dhole, Sambar Deer, Black Panther, Stripe-necked Mongoose, and others. In the afternoon, we'll go on our first safari.



DAY 11: NAGARHOLE NATIONAL PARK

Jeep Safari in the morning and afternoon in Nagarhole National Park.

DAY 12: NAGARHOLE - MYSORE (81 km / 2 hours and 30 minutes)

After an early breakfast, we'll depart for Mysore. We'll make a few stops for birding. After checking into our hotel, we will head to Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary (Boating), where we will look for Painted Stork, Spot-billed Pelican, Great Thick Knee, Eurasian Spoonbill, River Tern, Asian open-bill, Pied Kingfisher, Indian Grey Hornbill, White-spotted fantail, Baya weaver, Thick Billed Flowerpecker, and other birds.

DAY 13: MYSORE – BANGALORE (141 km / 3 hours / 16 minutes)

We will visit Bannur (Grassland, Mysore) in the morning and then return to the hotel for lunch and check out. We will drive to Bangalore International Airport after lunch. Sky's lark, Ashy crowned sparrow lark, Indian bush lark, Red Avadavat, Indian silverbill, Singing bush lark, Indian Eagle-owl, White-eyed buzzard, Richard's pipit, Yellow wattled lapwing, and others can be found at Bannur.

Tour Ends

We can easily adjust this itinerary to include more locations and or longer stays.

