



India

Wildlife Exploration – Jungle Trails

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



ITINERARY

India • Jungle Trails of South India

14 DAYS • 13 NIGHTS

Bangalore – Nagarhole National Park – Bandipur National Park –
Mudumalai National Park – Munnar – Eravikulam National Park –
Periyar National Park – Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary – Alappuzha –
Kochi

HIGHLIGHTS

- Bandipur and Periyar National Parks
- Elephants of Nagarhole
- Mudumalai, the Wildlife Corridor
- Kerala's tea city - Munnar
- Nilgiri Tahrs of Eravikulam

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Wildlife Exploration
Tour Start	Bangalore
Tour End	Bangalore
Accommodation	Hotel
Included Meals	13 Breakfasts, 12 lunches, 12 Dinners
Difficulty Level	Medium

JUNGLE TRAILS



Discover the unique beauty of South India! Explore Mudumalai and Bandipur, go boating in Periyar, look out for the rare Nilgiri Tahr in Eravikulam, see the Elephants of Nagarhole and marvel at the birds of Kumarakom. Round off your adventure with a Houseboat cruise down the scenic backwaters of Kerala!

This trip offers a complete wildlife experience not generally explored by the traveller to India. As well as the majestic tiger, India is also home to striped hyena, red panda, one horned rhino's as well as a huge offering of other animals, birds and flora.



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INDIA, AN OVERVIEW

Tourism in India has significant potential considering the rich cultural and historical heritage, variety in ecology, terrains and places of natural beauty spread across the country. The amount of tourists visiting India is increasing as India's economy is growing fast. India has the second largest population in the world, the capital of India is New Delhi. India is blessed with incredible mountains, deserts, coastal plains and central highlands.

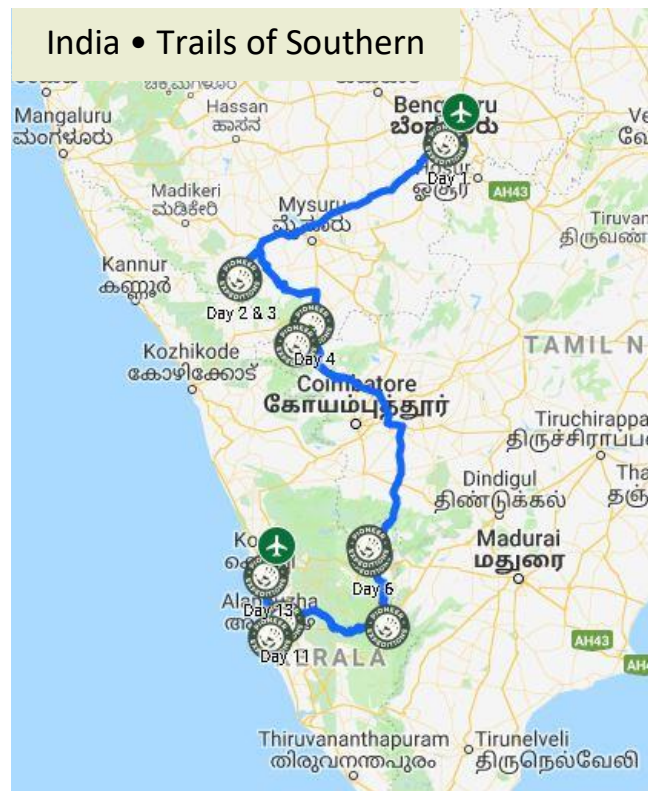
WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel.

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DAY 1: ARRIVE BANGALORE

After arriving in Bangalore, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. You have the option of a city tour, or just relax as tomorrow we have an exciting journey to the beautiful jungles of south India.



Overnight:
Le Meridian



Meals:
Nil



Distance:
Short airport transfer



Activities:
Travel

DAY 2: BANGALORE TO NAGARHOLE NATIONAL PARK

We leave Bangalore after breakfast and drive to Nagarhole National Park, which is about 5 hours away. Nagarhole is a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and is among India's best national parks. Its rich, varied wildlife includes the Tiger, Leopard, Indian Bison, Sloth Bear, Gaur, Sambar Deer, Chital, Common Muntjac and almost 250 species of birds. The park is best known for its large population of Elephants. We arrive at Nagarhole around noon, in time for lunch. After lunch, we set out for our first game drive into the park and will stay inside the park until dusk. We will be spending two nights at Nagarhole.



Overnight:
Orange County Resort



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 5 hours' drive



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 3: NAGARHOLE NATIONAL PARK

We begin the day with an early morning game drive into the Nagarhole forest. During the game drive, you will get a glimpse of the park's unspoiled beauty. Mornings are the best time to sight animals and you are likely to see herds of Elephants on the banks of the river.

After the game drive, we return to the lodge for breakfast. Once you finish breakfast, you can take a nature walk and explore the beautiful flora of the park. We return to the lodge for lunch and after lunch, we set out once again to explore Nagarhole.



Overnight:
Orange County Resort



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 5 hours' drive



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 4: NAGARHOLE NATIONAL PARK TO BANDIPUR NATIONAL PARK

After an early morning game safari and breakfast at Nagarhole, we head out to Bandipur National Park, which is about 3 hours drive from Nagarhole. Bandipur National Park is one of the best-known protected areas in India and is also a Project Tiger reserve. The park is famous for its Bengal Tigers, Asian Elephants and for the abundance of sandalwood trees. In addition, it is also home to Leopards, Sloth Bears, Panthers, Chevrotains, Dholes (Wild Dogs), Hyenas, Gaur, Wild Boar, Sambar Deer, Chital, Barking Deer and Mouse Deer. On arrival in Bandipur, we check in to our lodge and have lunch. This is followed by a game drive into the park. Bandipur National Park is one of the best-known protected areas in India and is also a Project Tiger reserve. The park is famous for its Bengal Tigers, Asian Elephants and for the abundance of sandalwood trees. In addition, it is also home to Leopards, Sloth Bears, Panthers, Chevrotains, Dholes (Wild Dogs), Hyenas, Gaur, Sambar (Deer), Chital, Wild Boar, Barking Deer and Mouse Deer.



Overnight:
The Windflower Resort



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 3 hour drive



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 5: BANDIPUR NATIONAL PARK TO MUDUMALAI NATIONAL PARK



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Today, we go on a morning game drive into Bandipur and return to the lodge for breakfast.

This is followed by a game drive into the park. Bandipur National Park is one of the best-known protected areas in India and is also a Project Tiger reserve. The park is famous for its Bengal Tigers, Asian Elephants and for the abundance of sandalwood trees. In addition, it is also home to Leopards, Sloth Bears, Panthers, Chevrotains, Dholes (Wild Dogs), Hyenas, Gaur, Sambar (Deer), Chital, Wild Boar, Barking Deer and Mouse Deer.



Overnight:
The Windflower Resort



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 3 hour drive



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 6: BANDIPUR NATIONAL PARK TO MUNNAR

Today is our last day at Bandipur and we go for a game drive in the morning and return to the lodge for breakfast. We then drive for about 8 hours to reach Munnar, stopping on the way for lunch. Munnar is a beautiful town up in the hills, best known for the tea grown here.

The tea, which has a delicate flavor of cardamom, can be used to brew the famous Indian 'Chai'! (Tea), Munnar also offers a splendid view of pristine valleys and mountains, exotic species of flora and fauna, and the aroma of cool, spice-scented air! You can spend the evening relaxing and enjoying the lovely weather and the spectacular view.



Overnight:
Devonshire Greens



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 8hour drive



Activities:
Wildlife and transfer

DAY 7: ERAVIKULAM NATIONAL PARK

Today we visit the Eravikulam National Park. We carry a picnic lunch with us. As vehicles are not allowed inside the park, we explore the area on foot. After a whole day at Eravikulam, we return to our hotel in the evening for dinner. Eravikulam was established to protect the Nilgiri Tahr, an endangered species of mountain goat. It is the only mountain goat species found south of the Himalayas. Sure-footed herds of Tahr are quite elusive, but you may be able to get a good view of them as they browse the hillside vegetation. Eravikulam is also home to a variety of mammals that include the Nilgiri Langur, Lion-tailed Macaque and several endemic bird species such as the streaky brown Nilgiri Pipit and Blackbird. The Blackbird in particular looks very different from the familiar songster of Europe and is regarded by some taxonomists as a possible separate species.

Note: Eravikulam National Park remains Closed from Mid of Jan – Mid of April



Overnight:
Devonshire Greens



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 8: ERAVIKULAM NATIONAL PARK TO PERIYAR NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, we embark on a three hour drive to reach the Aranya Niwas Hotel in Periyar. The hotel is located inside the Tiger Reserve in the Cardamom Hills.



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We visit the spice gardens for which the area is well known. Since the olden times, spices were traded like gold in India and you see why...the cardamom and the pepper grown here has a superb aroma! We return to the hotel at dusk and end the day with dinner.

Periyar is one of the Project Tiger Reserves of India. It is one of the most picturesque and beautiful wildlife reserves in the world. In addition to the Tiger, Periyar is also home to the Indian Elephant, Gaur, Sambar (Horse Deer), Barking Deer, Mouse Deer, Dhole (Indian Wild Dog), Fox, Leopard and the elusive Nilgiri Tahr.



Overnight:
**Cardamom
County**



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 3 hour drive



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 9: PERIYAR NATIONAL PARK

Start the day with a boat ride on the Periyar Lake. It is the best time to spot birds and do keep an eye out for the Flamingos! After the boat ride, we return to the lodge for breakfast. Walking is the best way to explore the Park and you get to see some of the smaller animals, insects and monkeys when you are on foot...we do precisely this and walk in the forest till lunch time. You have the rest of the day to yourself, you can either relax or spend the day exploring the serene surroundings (with optional activities including – bamboo rafting, border hiking.)



Overnight:
**Cardamom
County**



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 10: PERIYAR NATIONAL PARK

Optional activities available from the hotel: Boat ride, Walking Bamboo Rafting, Border Hiking



Overnight:
**Cardamom
County**



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 11: PERIYAR NATIONAL PARK TO KUMARAKOM BIRD SANCTUARY

After an early morning boat ride and breakfast in Periyar, we drive to Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, which is about 4 ½ hours by road. Situated in the backwaters of Kerala, Kumarakom Bird sanctuary is an ornithologist's paradise. The main attractions here are local birds like the Cuckoo, Owl, Cormorant, Moorhen, Darter, Brahminy Kite and Duck. There are many migratory birds, like the Siberian Crane, that can be spotted here. Parrot, Teal, Lark, Flycatcher, etc. are also often sighted here. Some of Kumarakom's migratory birds come from the Himalayas, and a few from as far away as Siberia.



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On reaching Kumarakom, we check-in to our resort and have lunch. After lunch, we take a five-minute boat ride and walk a short distance to enter the bird sanctuary. Birdwatchers are in for a treat here! In the afternoons, you are likely to see large numbers of Herons and Egrets fly in to roost here. We stay in the Sanctuary until dusk, and we then return to the lodge for dinner.



Overnight:
Aveda Resorts & Spa



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 4-5hr drive



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 12: KUMARAKOM BIRD SANCTUARY TO ALAPPUZHA

We cruise in the backwaters of Kerala on a houseboat, locally known as 'Kettuvalloms'. Located in the southwestern part of India, Kerala is one of the most beautiful parts of India. It is popularly known as 'God's Own Country' because of its exquisite beauty and greenery. The houseboat takes us to Alappuzha (also called Allepey). Savor the beauty of the landscape as we drift along the narrow canals and paddy fields of the scenic backwaters.



Overnight:
House Boat



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Varies



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 13: ALAPPUZHA TO KOCHI

At Alappuzha, we leave the houseboat in the morning after breakfast and we drive to Kochi (formerly known as Cochin). You have the day to yourself and can explore Kochi. Kochi is a pleasant market town surrounded by coconut plantations and built on the canals, which serve the area's coir industry. It is also one of India's principal seaports.



Overnight:
Holiday Inn



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Approx. 1-2hrs drive



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 14: HOME FLIGHT

This is the last day of the tour. You can either explore the town or stay in at the hotel to relax till it is time to go to the airport to board your flight.



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B, L, D



Distance:
Short airport transfer



Activities:
Travel

NB: This itinerary is subject to change – arrangements, routes and facilities are subject to variation depending on local conditions. We can also tailor itineraries to suit your exact requirements.



ACCOMMODATIONS

Le Meridien

Bangalore

<https://le-meridien.marriott.com/>



Orange County Resort

Kabini

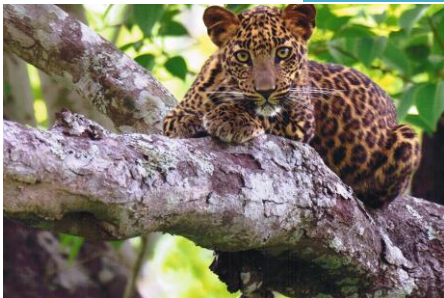
<https://www.evolveback.com/kabini/>



The Windflower Resort & Spa

Bandipur

<https://www.thewindflower.com/bandipur/>



Devonshire Greens

Munnar

<http://devonshiregreens.com/>



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Cardamom County

Periyar

<https://xandari.com/>



Aveda Resort and Spa

Kumarakom

<http://avedakumarakom.com/>



House Boat

Alleppey



Photo from TripAdvisor

Holiday Inn

Kochi

https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/cochin/coker/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=GoogleMaps-_-HI_-IN-_-COKER



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WHAT OUR CLIENTS HAVE SAID

"We had an absolutely fantastic holiday in South India. We saw a wild boar playing chasing with an elephant at the lakeside, leopards at close view, the nilgri mountain goats, and traditional and tribal dance. Thank you for arranging this for us and thanks to everyone involved"

-Pauline and Howard Barnes

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLUDED

- 13 hotels nights in India inclusive of all meals except at Bengaluru and Kochi where it is on breakfast basis.
- All transfers, sightseeing's & excursions by air conditioned vehicle except jungle safaris.
- Entrance fee at the monuments where ever applicable as per the program. Any hikes in entrance fees will be extra.
- Services of professional English-speaking local guide.
- Basic Porterage at the airport & hotels (not tips).
- Road taxes, parking fee, fuel charges, interstate taxes.
- Assistance on all arrival and departure transfers.
- All currently applicable taxes.

NOT INCLUDED

- Any expenses of personal nature such as table drinks, laundry, telephone calls, mineral water, soft drinks, tips, shopping etc. unless otherwise specified. It is more cost effective for us to bill you for all beverages based on actual consumption.
- Any camera fees at monuments and sites. This can be added in if desired.
- Any other meals / services not mentioned in the program.
- Air Fares & airport taxes.
- Visa fee for India.
- Any increase in Tax structure levied by the Govt. of India.
- Anything not mentioned in the included section.



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITY DURATION	2-5 hours
SEASON	January through December
BEST TIME TO GO	March to May
GROUP SIZE	2-8 pax
EXPEDITION SCHEDULE	Tailormade Departures to suit your dates
DIFFICULTY LEVEL	Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you are likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'Medium' level (2-5 hours per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness.

THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website www.pioneerexpeditions.com to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

