

Eco-tourism activities:

All the Eco-tourism activities are organized jointly by the Forest Department and the Eco-development Committees (EDCs) of the local tribal communities. The activities are designed to offer a wide spectrum of wilderness opportunities to the visitors and to provide means of sustainable livelihood for local communities.

Eco-tourism facilities include:

1. Nature trail to the Kurinji land
2. Trek to clifly rocks
3. Stay at Kadavari
4. Stay at Narco point



Kurinjimala Sanctuary



For enquiries & reservation:

1. FOREST INFORMATION CENTRE

Wildlife Warden's Office

Munnar P.O. - 685 612.

Tel/Fax: 04865 231587

E-mail: enpmunnar@sify.com

2. OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT WILDLIFE WARDEN

Shola National Parks Range,
Top station, Yellappetty P.O.,
Vattavada.

Kurinjimala Sanctuary





KURINJIMALA SANCTUARY

Kurinjimala Sanctuary is located on the eastern part of Southern Western Ghats of Kerala. The sanctuary is near Vattavada, about 42 Kms from Munnar town. Government of Kerala declared Kurinjimala Sanctuary on 6th October 2006. The area has great ecological, faunal, floral, geographical and zoological significance. The vegetation consists mostly of Shola and grasslands. Evergreen and deciduous forests are also found in the lower altitudes of the sanctuary, spread over Vattavada and Kottakkamboor villages having an extent of 32 Sq. Km. The area is the natural habitat of



Neela Kurinji (*Strobilanthus kunthiana*) which blooms once in 12 years. The sanctuary also connects Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Anamudi Shola National Park and Pampadum Shola National Park. The sanctuary is accessible from Kochi (170 Km) and Coimbatore (160 Km) airports along main roads. The nearest railway station in Kerala is Aluva (180 Km) and in Tamil Nadu, Udumalpettu (110 Km). The nearest town is Munnar. The sanctuary also covers Kambakkallu and Kadavary, formerly infamous for the cultivation of Ganja and narcotic trafficking. The area was handed over to the Forest Department and by conducting frequent raids, all the illicit activities are now curbed.

Kurinjimala Sanctuary protects approximately 32 Sq. Km core habitat of the endangered Neelakurinji plant in Kottakamboor and Vattavada villages in Devikulam Taluk, Idukki district of Kerala State in South India.

The sanctuary ensures the long-term protection of the unique bio-diversity of the area, especially *Strobilanthes kunthiana* and its habitat. The sanctuary is home to threatened species of Elephant, Gaur, Nilgiri Tahr and Deer. Private land holdings having legal titles are excluded from the sanctuary area.

The new sanctuary is contiguous to the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary to the northwest, Manjampatti Valley in Amaravati reserve forest of Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary to the northeast, Anamudi Shola National Park to the west, Pampadum Shola National Park to the south and the proposed Palani Hills National Park to the east.

