

Location & Accessibility:

The Park falls in Idukki district in Udumbanchola Taluk of Poopara village with an extent of 1281.7419 hectares. The Park is the abode of several endemic species of flora and fauna. The National Park is accessible from Kochi (110 Km) and Madurai (120 Km) airports along main roads. The nearest railway station in Kerala is Aluva (120 Km) and in Tamil Nadu is Theni. The nearest towns are Munnar and Nedumkandam. N.H. 49 is near to the National Park and hence the accessibility is good. Three streams namely Uchilikuthipuzha, Mathikettan puzha and Njandar, being the tributaries of Panniyar originate from these hill ranges.

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. Border walk
2. Trekking to the Shola forests
3. Stay at log houses at Aduvilanthankudi, Surveykalppara and Pethotty.



For enquiries & reservation:

1. FOREST INFORMATION CENTRE

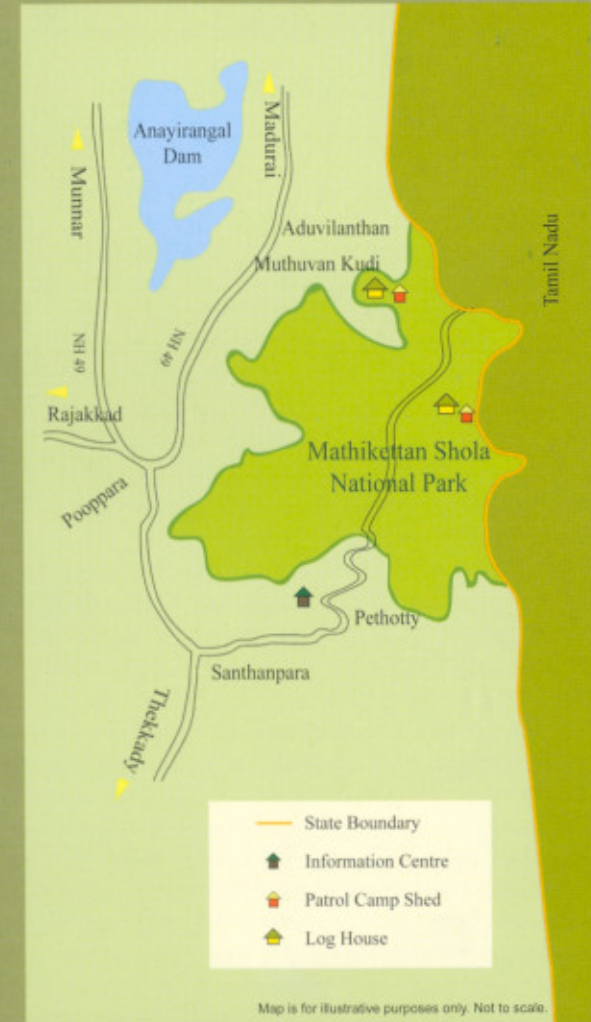
Wildlife Warden's Office
Munnar P.O. - 685 612.
Tel/Fax: 04865 231587
E-mail: engmunnar@sify.com

2. OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT WILDLIFE WARDEN

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

3. ECO-DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OFFICE

Information Centre, Pethotty
Santham Para P.O.





MATHIKETTAN SHOLA NATIONAL PARK

Mathikettan is part of the Cardamom Hill Reserve (CHR), notified in the Travancore Government Gazette dated the 24th August 1897, wherein the area was constituted as a Reserve Forest under section 18 of Regulation II of 1068. Subsequently various Government orders/rules were issued for assigning the Cardamom Hill Reserve area for cardamom cultivation, as well as regarding the control over the land and trees.

The provisions contained in G.O. (MS) 84/58/Rev dated the 9th August 1958 were being followed for the management of the Cardamom Hill Reserve area, there by control over the land rested with the Revenue Department, and control over the tree growth with the Forest Department. Hence there was a dual control over the Cardamom Hill Reserve areas. Subsequently, vide GO (MS) No: 328/2002/RD dated the 17th October, 2002, Government have transferred 1281.7419 hectares of the said land to the administrative control of the Forest Department. Considering the unique nature of the Shola forests in Mathikettan and its importance as an elephant

corridor, the State Wildlife Advisory Board had recommended to declare the area as a National Park.

Government found it necessary to declare the area as a National Park for protecting its ecological, faunal, floral and geomorphological wealth. Therefore, the Government decided to declare its intention to constitute the said area as a National Park.

Flora & Fauna:

The dominant trees are *Bhesa indica*, *Calophyllum austro-indicum*, *Syzygium gardneri*, *Chionanthus ramiflorus*, *Litsea wightiana*, etc. The National Park provides an excellent habitat for a wide variety of mammals, butterflies, reptiles and birds. The important mammals found in the Park are elephant, gaur, wild boar, sambar, common langur, wild dog and jungle cat. The park is situated about 2 Km from the Kochi-Madurai National Highway and 10 Km away from Munnar-Kumily State Highway. There is a Muthuvan tribal colony at 'Aduvilanthankudy' situated along the northeastern borders of Mathikettan Shola. The terrain is undulating with hillocks of varying heights. The altitude ranges between 1200-1984 m.

The elevation increases from west to east and the highest point is Kattumala, which is located in the eastern border of the Park adjoining Tamil Nadu. The forest is seen as a continuous patch from 1200 up to 1500 m above which it is seen as small patches dispersed among the grasslands. The area is drained by Panniyar River. Southwest monsoon and North East monsoons are very rich in Mathikettan Shola National Park. The coldest months are December and January when the minimum temperature inside forests fall up to 9° C even at lower elevations.



The temperature varies within a minimum of 9°C (December) to a maximum of 30°C (April). There are 4-5 dry months, spanning between December and March. The clear blue sky, clean air, stretch of green meadows and the thick foliage teeming with flora and fauna makes it a dream destination for tourists whether they come for a holiday, for an adventure or just to be with nature.

