

## Fauna

The presence of diverse animal groups with as many as 66 species of mammals, 330 species of birds, 68 species of reptiles, 64 species of amphibians, 45 species of fishes and 262 species of butterflies make this part of the world extremely rich in faunal diversity. Tiger, Asian Elephant, Gaur, Leopard, Sambar Deer, Barking Deer, Wild Boar, Sloth Bear, Nilgiri Langur, Lion tailed Macaque, Malabar Giant Squirrel and Wild Dog are the major mammals. Western Ghats endemic species of birds have been reported from Periyar Tiger Reserve including the Malabar Grey Hornbill (*Tockus griseus*), Nilgiri Wood Pigeon (*Columba alphinstoni*), Crimson Throated Barbet (*Megalaima rubricapilla*) and White-breasted Laughing Thrush (*Garrulus cachinnas*). PTR is the only home for eight fresh water fishes namely *Nemacheilus mononii*, *Nemacheilus periyarensis*, *Puntius ophicephalus*, *Hypselebarbus periyarensis*, *Lepidopygopsis typus*, *Crossocheilus periyarensis* and *Garra periyarensis*.



## Habitat Improvement and Wildlife Management Practices

Regular monitoring of wildlife population is essential for assessing trends, identifying threats, and informing management decisions. Wildlife management practices encompass a broad range of strategies and techniques aimed at conserving and managing wildlife populations and their habitats. To ensure viable and healthy population of tiger and co-predators, habitat improvement practices are carried out in the reserve. Maintenance of Water holes (64 no.), Vayals (100nos.) Check dams (11) are the vital and inevitable components in the wildlife management. Activities such as eco-restoration, soil conservation measures, invasive species removal and their timely systematic monitoring are being carried out under research wing of Periyar Tiger Reserve.

## People

The tribal communities of the Reserve include Mannans, Paliyans, Uralis, Ulladons, Malampondarams and Mala Arayans. Around 58 villages are situated on the fringes of the Tiger Reserve. It is estimated that around 2.25 lakh of people live within the 2 Km radius from the Tiger Reserve including the labourers of estates sharing boundary with PTR. These communities have partial or complete dependency on the forests. To empower these communities and to reduce the dependencies on forests, various Ecodevelopment activities were launched in the mid 1990s which were highly successful and was noted at national and international levels as an exemplary model of participatory conservation.



## Visitor Facilities

An Information Centre at the Boat landing (Thekkady) and an Ecotourism Information Centre (near Ambadi Junction)

provide visitors with all necessary details regarding various Ecotourism Programmes of PTR.



Best season to visit: Throughout the year

Special attractions: Boating in Periyar Lake and Community Based Ecotourism Programmes

Programme	Rate* per head	Min. Charge
Bamboo Rafting (Full Day)	Rs. 2900/-	Rs. 5800/-
Bamboo Rafting (Half Day)	Rs. 2200/-	Rs. 2200/-
Border Hiking	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 4000/-
Jungle Scout	Rs. 1500/-	Rs. 3000/-
Tiger Trail (1 night)	Rs. 7200/-	Rs. 10000/-
Tiger Trail (2 nights)	Rs. 10000/-	Rs. 15000/-
Nature Walk	Rs. 400/-	Rs. 1600/-
Green Walk	Rs. 400/-	Rs. 1600/-
<b>Bamboo Grove</b>		
(with package, for two pax)	Rs. 4800/-	
(without package, for two pax)	Rs. 1800/-	
<b>Jungle Camp</b>		
(with package, for two pax)	Rs. 5500/-	Rs. 11000/-
(with Safari, for two pax)	Rs. 3300/-	
(without package, for two pax)	Rs. 1800/-	
Edappalayam Watch Tower	Rs. 9600/-	
Tribal Art Performance	Rs. 300/-	
Pugmark Trail (Adult)	Rs. 120/-	
Pugmark Trail (Children)	Rs. 25/-	

\*Rates may be revised

### Other Tourism Destinations near PTR

Panchalimedu, Valanjanganam Waterfalls, Kuttikkanam, Peeru Hills, Amrithamedu, Kokkad Hills, Vagamon, Granby, Gavi, Chellarcovilmedu, Anakkara, Ramakkalmedu, Suruli Falls (TN).

Approach		
By Road:	Kumily	- 4 Km (Boat landing)
	Kottayam	-114Km
	Kochi	- 179 Km
	Madurai	- 145 Km
	Thiruvananthapuram	- 240 Km
Nearest Rail way Station:	Kottayam	- 114 Km
	Theni	- 64 Km
	Cochin	- 179 Km
Nearest Airport:	Cochin	- 179 Km
	Madurai	- 145 Km

For more Information

The Ecotourism Information Centre  
Ambadi Junction  
Thekkady- 685509, Kerala, India  
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**PERIYAR  
TIGER RESERVE**  
Thekkady Kerala India

Explore Periyar...

Wild Thoughts 0481-2566859

## Periyar Tiger Reserve

Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) with an area of 925 Km<sup>2</sup> is a representative of the Western Ghats. It has all the elements of tropical biodiversity with high species richness and endemism. It is the oldest and largest Protected Area (PA) in Kerala. Originally constituted as a Game Sanctuary (Nellikampetty Game Sanctuary) in 1934, the Sanctuary was rechristened as Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary in 1950 and as Periyar Tiger Reserve in 1978. Through the implementation of India Ecodevelopment Project from 1996 to 2004, PTR has emerged as a national role model for participatory conservation.



## Physiography

PTR is located between 9015'N and 9037'N latitudes and 76055'E and 76023'E longitudes and falls in the Idukki, Pathanamthitta and Kottayam Revenue districts of Kerala State. PTR has an undulating terrain with a chain of rolling hills and forested valleys. The highest peak is Kottamala (2019 MSL) and the lowest elevation is 100 MSL at Pambavalley. Most of the area lies between 750-1500-MSL. Rocks are crystalline and of plutonic origin. The underlying rock formation consists mainly of granite and gneisses. Numerous boulders are found in the ground particularly in the stream beds and banks. Laterite occurs at the lower reaches of the Reserve. At higher altitudes the soil is coarse with large amount of quartz gravel formed from crystalline rock.



## Significance

PTR is one of the single largest compact forest blocks in the Southern Western Ghats and plays a key role in maintaining regional connectivity with other forest tracts. It forms one of the richest assemblages of evergreen forests in the entire Western Ghats which is rich in biodiversity with a high degree of endemism. Rivers originating from the forested tracts of PTR, namely the Periyar, Mullayar Pamba and Azhutha form the lifeline for millions of people of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The unique manmade Periyar Lake (26 Km<sup>2</sup>) is an important water source for Tamil Nadu for irrigation, drinking and power generation. Periyar Tiger Reserve serving as a significant Carbon sink also helps in the mitigation of Climate Change, a serious challenge for humanity, in these days of global warming. PTR is a globally renowned tourism destination. Chances of sighting wild animals from close quarters being in the safety of boats offers a memorable experience for tourists. Apart from providing sizeable revenue to the State Government, the livelihood of thousands of people are also dependent upon tourism in Periyar. The Lord Ayyappa Shrine at Sabarimala and the archaeological site of Mangalodevi are located in PTR.



## Climate

PTR mostly has a cool and humid climate with high rainfall. The area receives both the South-Western and North-Eastern monsoons with maximum rainfall in July and minimum in January. The average rainfall is 2500 mm annually and the temperature varies between 12°C - 31°C with April - May being the hottest and December - January the coolest. The average humidity varies between 60 - 85% round the year with the lowest humidity prevailing during the months of February to May and an average wind velocity of 5 Km/hr.



## Forest Types

Seven types of vegetation have been identified from Periyar Tiger Reserve, of which evergreen and semi evergreen forests form the major portion. Besides these, marshy grasslands & montane grassland sholas form extremely valuable micro ecosystems. The major vegetation types in PTR are: Tropical evergreen and semi evergreen forests (74.6%), moist deciduous forests (12.7%), grasslands (1.5%) eucalyptus plantations (7.1%) and the rest are water bodies.



## Biodiversity Flora

PTR is quite unique in floral diversity with the presence of more than 41% of the entire flowering plants (angiosperms) of Kerala, which include 149 species listed under various threat categories. Out of the 1985 species of angiosperms, 1441 species of Dicotyledons, 525 species of Monocotyledons, 168 species of grasses, 155 species of legumes, 145 species of orchids, 10 species of palms, four species of bamboos and one species of reed are seen in PTR. Three Gymnosperm species are found here viz. *Gnetum ula*, *Cycas circinalis* and *Nagea wallichiana* (*Podocarpus wallichianus*) are found in PTR. The Reserve is the only known home for several endemic species such as *Habenaria periyarensis* (a ground orchid), *Mucuna pruriens thekkadansis* (a leguminous climber) and *Syzygium periyarensis* (a tree). *Crotalaria penduncularis* and *Smithia cenkabarajii*, formerly considered extinct, have been reported from PTR. The family Balsaminaceae is well represented in the Tiger Reserve with 28 species under a single genus *Impatiens* of which 26 is endemic to South India. *Impatiens verecunda* is a critically endangered species where as *Impatiens parasitica* is a rare epiphyte. Apart from these, 170 species of Pteridophytes are also recorded from PTR.