

ECOTOURISM ACTIVITIES

All the Ecotourism activities are organized jointly by the Forest Department (Under Anamudi Forest Development Agency) and the Eco-development committees (EDC) of the local tribal communities. The activities are designed to offer a wide spectrum of wilderness opportunities to the visitors and provide means of sustainable livelihood for local communities.

Ecotourism facilities

- . Riverside trekking.
- . Trekking to the cultural sites (dolmens & Cave Paintings).
- . Nature trail to the watch tower.
- . Trek to Thoovanam falls.
- . Trek to Chinnathoovanam Falls
- . Trek to Vaayumala Rock painting cliffs
- . Trek & Stay at log houses at Churulipetty, Koottar, Pambar, Thoovanam & Jallimala.
- . Trek & Stay at Tree top hut Karakad.
- . Group Camping at 'Squirrel house'- Alampetty
- . Group Camping at 'Night jar' - Chinnar
- . Group camping at 'Star tortoise hall'- Chinnar
- . Trekking & camping at Vashyappara Mud house
- . Chinnar wild safari
- . Ethnic Restaurant at Alampetty
- . Vanajolsna Restaurant at Amenity centre - Chinnar
- . Interpretation programmes at Chinnar & Karimutty
- . Eco shops at Karimutty and Alampetty.

APPROACH

Chinnar is accessible from Kochi (178 Km) and Coimbatore airport (115 Km) along main roads. The Munnar-Udumalpet road passes through the sanctuary up to Karumutty, Marayoor. Munnar, the major tourist centre, is 80 Km away from Chinnar. The nearest town is Marayoor (16 Km).

For enquiries & reservation

FOREST INFORMATION CENTRE

Office Of The Wildlife Warden
Munnar P.O - 685612
Tel/Fax: 04865 231587
Mob: 08301024187, 8547603299
E-mail: cpmunnar@gmail.com
Visit: www.wildlifedivisionmunnar.org

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT WILDLIFE WARDEN

Chinnar, Marayoor P.O
Tel: 04865 252039
E-mail: chinnar.wls@gmail.com

ECO-DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OFFICES

At Chinnar check post & Alampetty,
Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary
Marayoor P.O - 685620



chinnar
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY



LOCATION

The 90.442 Sq.km Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the eastern part of the High ranges of Southern Western Ghats of Kerala State. It is considered as one of the unique protected areas in the whole of the Western Ghats due to its ecological, floral, geomorphologic and cultural significance. The habitat types range from high altitude shola-grassland to dry thorny scrub jungle. The sanctuary is also contiguous to Eravikulam National Park, Kuninjimala Sanctuary, Anaimudi Shola National Park and Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary of Tamil Nadu.

FLORA AND FAUNA

Due to the significant variation in altitude and rainfall, Chinnar has a wide array of habitat types like deciduous forests, sholas and grasslands. It has about 1000 species of flowering plants and is a well known repository of medicinal plants. There are 114 endemic flora present in this Sanctuary and *Albizia lathamii*, a critically endangered tree has been recently reported from the dry forests. Chinnar has recorded the largest number of reptilian fauna in Kerala including the Mugger Crocodile. With 225 recorded species of birds, it is one of the richest areas of south India in avian diversity. There are 235 Butterfly species reported so far in this protected area. The reverine forests support a healthy population of the endangered Grizzled Giant Squirrel – the pride of Chinnar. The sanctuary is well known for its natural habitats of Star tortoises. The famous and extremely rare White Gaur has also been reported here. Other important mammals found here are Elephant, Tiger, Leopard, Gaur, Sambar, Spotted deer, Nilgiri Tahr, Tufted grey Langur, Bonnet Macaque etc. The phenomenon of butterfly migration occurs in between the monsoons.

LANDSCAPE AND CLIMATE

The terrain is highly undulating with altitudes ranging from 500 m at Chinnar to over 2300 m at Njandalamalai. The area is drained by two perennial rivers namely Pambar and Chinnar. The sanctuary is situated in the rain shadow region of the Southern Western Ghats, getting rains mostly during the North-East monsoons (October-December). The plains are generally hot but the higher altitudes are cool.

FORESTS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Two groups of tribes, namely Muthuvans and Hill Pulayas, inhabit the sanctuary in 11 hamlets / kudies. The sanctuary provides the livelihood options for the tribes and helps in maintaining their cultural heritage. Archaeologically significant megalithic burial sites consisting of dolmens and cysts are found near some settlements. Ancient cave paintings are also seen at Alampetty-Jellimala hillocks of the Sanctuary. Being inside the sanctuary, these 11 settlements have significant impact on the forests around them and vice versa. With the launching of the Eco-development programmes, successful efforts have been made for evolving a model of biodiversity conservation in a human dominated landscape. The focus of the programme is to minimize the impact of local tribal communities on the sanctuary by involving them in its management and providing alternate means of income generation.

