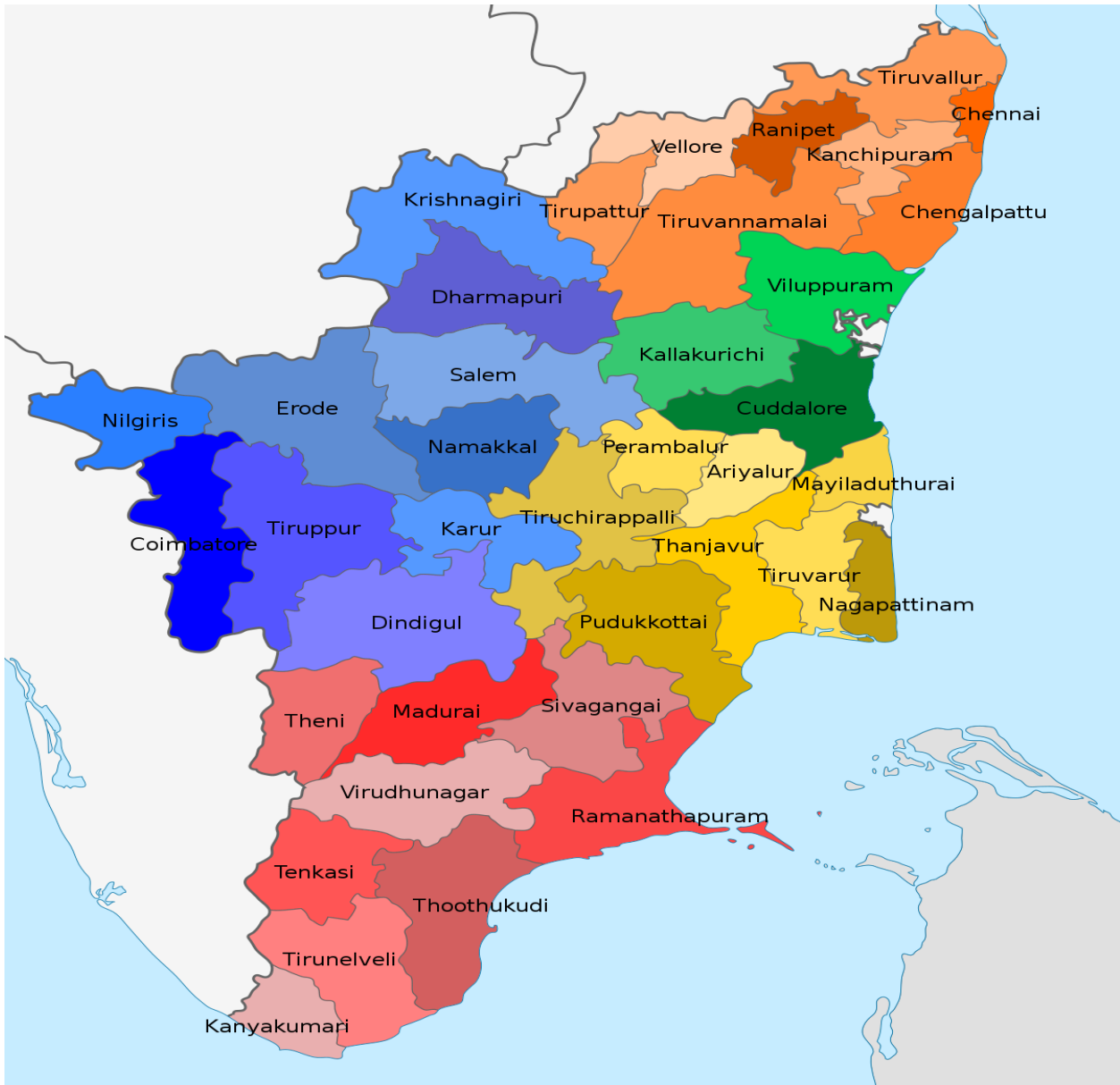




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TAMIL NADU WILDLIFE

Natural parks & Reserves in Tamil Nadu ...



1. Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary (Near Ooty)



At a distance of 12 km from Bandipur National Park, 37 km from Ooty, and 92 km from Mysore, Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary or Mudumalai National Park is located at the foothills of the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. It is one of the famous wildlife sanctuaries in Tamilnadu, and among the must include places in Ooty tour.

Mudumalai is a part of Niligiri Biosphere Reserve which includes the Bandipur National Park, Rajiv Gandhi National Park (Nagarhole) in Karnataka, and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala. The sanctuary is divided into 5 ranges - Masinagudi, Theppakadu, Mudumalai, Kargudi, and Nellakota. There is a high diversity of animal life in the park with about 50 species of fishes, 21 species of amphibians, 34 species of reptiles, 200 species of birds, and 50 species ...

2. Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary (Near Thanjavur)



At a distance of 115 Kms from Thanjavur, 56 Kms from Nagapattinam (which is 85 Kms from Thanjavur) & 354 Kms from Chennai, Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary (also known as Kodikkarai Wildlife Sanctuary) is a coastal island sanctuary situated at a distance of 11 Kms from Vedaranyam in Nagapattinam district towards Bay of Bengal.

Stretching across an area of 21.47 sq. kms, it is surrounded by the sea and mesmerizing beaches. This sanctuary is famous for the migratory birds like flamingos, water fowl, etc, which arrive here every winter. The park is also home for Wildlife like chital, wild boar, bonnet macaque, Painted stork, black buck, terns, plovers and stilts. Dolphins and turtles can also be observed near the shore.

The best time to visit is November to January. The Forest Department Rest House at Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary provides accommodation.

Timings: 6 AM to 5 PM on all days

3. Avalanche Lake / Sanctuary (Near Ooty)



At a distance of 5 km from Emerald Lake, 23 km from Ooty & 33 km from Coonoor, Avalanche Lake is beautiful lake situated at Avalanche village in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu. It is a popular eco- tourism spot and also one of the best places to visit in Ooty.

Avalanche Lake is a mesmerizing lake formed naturally in the year 1823 AD due to a massive landslide (Avalanche). Surrounded by a rolling landscape with blooming flowers and rhododendrons, the lake is a heaven for nature lovers, as small waterfalls falling down from the encircling mountains creates a picture perfect ambience. The journey from Ooty to Avalanche takes one to a picturesque spot centered on a lake. This lake is mostly visited after monsoons as the high water level offers great opportunity for trout fishing. It is considered as one of the star attractions of Ooty tourism. Fishing rods and other equipment can be taken from a trout hatchery located near the lake. Other activities like trekking and camping are also popular among tourists.

The surroundings of the dam are considered as a sanctuary with variety of wildlife and offers beautiful experience to visitors in the lap of nature. Avalanche is a habitat of Wild animals ...

4. Arignar Anna Zoological Park (Near Chennai)



At a distance of 38 Kms from Chennai Central Railway Station (located in Vandalur, Kanchipuram district), Arignar Anna Zoological Park is one of the finest zoos in India. This is also one of the popular tourist places near Chennai and said to be one of the biggest in South East Asia.

Established in 1855 and shifted to the current location of Vandalur reserved forests in the year 1979. This park is officially opened to public in 1985, the park covers 510 hectares of land. The park shelters more than 170 species of animals. The dry forests surrounding the Vandalur region is the ideal breeding ground for these animals. It is home for Tigers, Jaguars, Lions, Panther, Elephants, Sambar, Giraffes and many more. The Park has a library with good collection of wildlife related books and information. Elephant safari is also available in the park.

Timings 9 AM to 8 PM. Tuesday Holiday. But all the animals are back in their cages after 5 PM.

5. Topslip (Near Pollachi)



At a distance of 35 km from Pollachi and 76 km from Coimbatore, 5 km from Parambikulam, Topslip is a protected tiger reserve located in the Annamalai mountain range of the Western Ghats in Tamilnadu. It is one of the must include places in Pollachi Tour Packages.

It is the best gateway for a wonderful wildlife experience of the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary. The unique teak forests, Bamboo forests, rich exotic species of plants, and wild animals are the major attractions of Topslip. It is also a wonderful destination for bird watching as it is home to 250 species of birds. MT Stuart block is another attraction which is located 3 km from Topslip. It has an ancient forest bungalow along with the grave of Hugo Wood, a British officer with an environmental conscience who emphasized that ...

6. Annamalai Tiger Reserve (Near Pollachi)



At a distance of 38 km from Pollachi and 76 km from Coimbatore, Annamalai Tiger Reserve is a protected area located in the Annamalai mountain range of the Western Ghats in Tamilnadu. It is one of the popular tiger reserves in India and among the must include places in Pollachi Tour Packages.

The Anamalai wildlife sanctuary has various kinds of wild animals like panthers, elephants, deer, gaur, civets, tigers, sloth bears, wild bears, wild dogs, porcupines, flying squirrels, jackals, and pangolins. The park is home to birds like the red treepie, whiskered bulbul, ...

7. Mukurthi National Park (Near Ooty)



At a distance of 40 km from Ooty, Mukurthi National Park is a protected area located in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu state. It is one of the most attractive wildlife sanctuaries in South India and among the best places to visit as part of Ooty Tour Packages.

Covering over an area of 78.46 sq. km, the park is characterized by montane grasslands and shrublands interspersed with sholas in high altitude areas. It is sandwiched between the Mudumalai National Park and the Silent Valley National Park. This wildlife sanctuary is also home to Mukurthi Peak, the fourth highest peak in the Nilgiri Hills. And at an altitude of 2,554m (8,379ft), the peak attracts many trekkers to visit these forests. Three rivers - Pykara, Billithadahalla, and Kundah - flow through the park because of its inclination towards the east and south.

Mukurthi National Park is home to several endangered mammal species including Nilgiri tahr, Indian elephant, Bengal ...

8. Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary (Near Mahabalipuram)



At a distance of 53 kms from Mahabalipuram and 89 Kms from Chennai, Vedanthangal has the reputation of being one of the oldest water bird sanctuaries in India. It is said that almost 100,000 avian species visit this sanctuary between October and March. This is one of the popular tourist places near Chennai. Records reveal that this sanctuary has been in existence for more than 200 years. This area was the favorite hunting spot for the local landlords some 300 years ago. This region seems to have attracted birds because it has a number of small lakes that became convenient feeding grounds for the birds. Two watch towers are available here that provide a clear view of the birds from the binoculars stationed there. There is also a viewing platform that provides a vantage point.

9. Koonthakulam Bird Sanctuary (Near Tirunelveli)



At a distance of 31 km from Tirunelveli, Koonthankulam or Kunthankulam Bird Sanctuary is a protected area located in Koonthankulam village in Nanguneri Taluk of Tirunelveli district. This is the largest reserve for breeding water birds in South India and also one of the popular places to visit in Tirunelveli for bird lovers.

The Babul plantation in Koonthankulam is the main breeding ground for several birds. The sanctuary is visited by more than 43 types of water birds both resident and migratory every year especially in the months of January and February. They vacate their nests in the months of July and August after nesting, hatching and nurturing the young chicks. Painted Stork, the major attraction of this village, flies here from north

India and east European countries. Another prominent species of migratory birds that visits this village are Barheaded Goose, Pintail, Spotted Sand Piper, Green Sand Piper, Green Shank, Coot, White stork, large flamingo, Common Sand Piper, Common Teal and Pallavan. ...

10. Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (Near Tirunelveli)



At a distance of 12 km from Papanasam, 58 km from Kalakkad, and 60 km from Tirunelveli, Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve is located in the Southern Western Ghats in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts of Tamil Nadu. This is the second largest protected area in Tamil Nadu and among the best places to visit as part of your India wildlife tour.

The Reserve is home to a wide variety of animals and plants. The fauna includes around 150 endemic plants, 33 fish, 37 amphibian, 81 reptile, 273 bird and 77 mammal species. One can spot Elephant, Gaur, Bonnet, Macaque, Common langur, Tigers and

Leopards, Chital, Dhole Panther, Sloth Bear, Python, Barking deer, Four-Horned-Antelope, Otter, Crocodiles (mugger), giant flying squirrel, Sambar, Hyena, Wild Dog, Wild Boar, Mouse Deer, Spotted Deer, Jackal, Hare, Porcupine and Mongoose.

11. Amirthi Zoological Park (Near Vellore)



At a distance of 27 km from Vellore Town Railway Station, Amirthi Zoological Park is situated under the Javadu hills of Tellai across Amirthi River. Established in 1967, the zoo park occupies an area of 25 hectares. It is named after the Amirthi River which flows next to the park.

This park is popular for its waterfalls, swing and animal habitats. Half of this jungle is cleared to serve as a tourist spot while the other half is developed as a wildlife sanctuary. One km trek in the park leads to a full view of Amirthi falls, a small cascading seasonal fall. Visitors can play and swim in the pool formed by the falls here in monsoons.

Animals in the park include spotted deer, mongoose, hedgehog, foxes, reason monkeys, red headed parrots, love birds, tortoises, peacock, crocodiles, wild cats, eagles, ducks, pigeons, wild parrots, rabbits and pythons. Many herbal and medicinal plants can be seen growing in the Park. A meditation hall and rest houses for stay are available at the Park premises. The Park is especially delightful for kids with children plays area.

This zoological park has been recognized recently and so the state Government has taken initiative to develop it. Amirthi Zoo can be reached from Vaniyambadi via Kanikkaniyan & Melmoil.

The best time to visit the park is from October to March.

Timings: 8 AM to 5 PM