



ANISH ANDHHERIA SANCTUARY

Situated in the Agasthyamalai hills of the south Western Ghats, Kalakad-Mundanthurai is bound by forests in west, north and south and by villages in the east. The Western Ghats is among the 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world and a catchment area for 14 rivers. It rains here for eight months of the year... making it ideal for innumerable species to thrive. Tigers, elephants, dholes, crocs, frogs, butterflies, flowers... are all found here.

Flora and fauna

In this wet, tropical evergreen forest with patches of southern dry mixed deciduous forests, biodiversity abounds. Tigers are no doubt the apex predator, cannot be seen easily. Waterholes are frequented by herds of elephants throughout the day. Calves taking their first steps are seen faltering and then quickly learning to stand still... And spotted deer can be seen treading daintily and cautiously, always alert for danger. Far away, langurs shrieking their dominion over these regions to which they are endemic. A lucky few may even spot gaur, mouse deer, malabar giant squirrels and mongoose. If you remain watchful, you could be treated to glimpses of the shy slender loris or even the Nilgiri marten. Mammals and birds vie for superiority here... the Ceylon Mouth Frogs, Grey-headed Bulbuls, Great Pied Hornbills,

Great Hornbills, Malabar Grey Hornbills, Oriental Bay Owls and Broad-tailed Grass Warblers are all found here. Kalakad is also home to a number of reptiles – the king cobra, python, monitor lizards basking in the sun, flying lizards... and an equal number of amphibians to compete with!

Best season

Summers can get really hot; winters are a good time to visit – anytime between November and March.

Accommodation

Rest houses and luxury hotels are also available around the tiger reserve. It is advisable to make prior bookings.

How to get there

By Air: Trivandrum airport (200 km.)

By Rail: Thirunelveli (50 km.) is the closest railway station.

By Road: Buses ply in the Mundanthurai and Upper Kodayar ranges, through the Reserve.

The rich, tropical forests of Kalakad-Mundanthurai are home to innumerable species, many of which are endemic to the region.