



Exploring Kerala's Best Wildlife Sanctuaries: A Nature Lover's Guide

Kerala is famous for its lush greenery, backwaters, and hill stations. However, beyond its scenic landscapes, Kerala is also home to some of the most remarkable wildlife sanctuaries in India. The state's diverse ecosystems, ranging from tropical rainforests to dry deciduous forests, provide a habitat for a rich variety of flora and fauna. If you are a nature enthusiast or a wildlife lover, exploring these sanctuaries is a must. To make the most of your wildlife adventure, Gogeo Holidays offers the best [Kerala tourism packages](#), ensuring a seamless and memorable travel experience. Here are the top wildlife sanctuaries to visit in Kerala.

1. Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary (Thekkady)

Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the most well-known wildlife reserves in India. Located in Thekkady, it spans over 925 square kilometers, with a significant portion designated as a tiger reserve. This sanctuary is home to elephants, tigers, Indian gaurs, and numerous bird species. The picturesque Periyar Lake offers boat rides where visitors can spot wildlife along the shores. Trekking and bamboo rafting opportunities make this sanctuary an adventurous destination.

Best Time to Visit: October to June

2. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

Part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is a stunning expanse of forests that houses an incredible range of flora and fauna. Visitors can witness elephants, leopards, deer, and Indian bison roaming in their natural habitat. This sanctuary is also known for its rich avian life, making it a haven for birdwatchers. The scenic forested landscapes and nature trails provide a tranquil escape for nature lovers.

Best Time to Visit: October to May

3. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve

This sanctuary, located in the Palakkad district, is renowned for its efforts in tiger conservation. It is also known for its vast teak plantations, including the famous Kannimara Teak, one of the oldest and largest teak trees in the world. The reserve is home to Bengal tigers, sloth bears,

elephants, and Indian gaurs. Guided safaris and eco-tourism activities enhance the visitor experience, along with trekking routes and camping opportunities.

Best Time to Visit: October to April

4. Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary

Located in the Idukki district, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary offers a unique dry deciduous forest landscape, setting it apart from Kerala's other sanctuaries. It is home to the endangered grizzled giant squirrel, Indian star tortoise, and mugger crocodiles. The sanctuary features scenic waterfalls and trekking trails, offering adventure and breathtaking natural beauty.

Visitors can also learn about medicinal plants and interact with indigenous tribal communities.

Best Time to Visit: December to April

5. Eravikulam National Park

Eravikulam National Park is famous for housing the endangered Nilgiri Tahr, a rare mountain goat species. The sanctuary's rolling hills and misty landscapes make it a favorite among travelers. Visitors can spot the Nilgiri Tahr grazing on the hillsides. The park is also known for the rare Neelakurinji flowers, which bloom once every 12 years. Stunning views of the Western Ghats and hiking trails add to the park's appeal.

Best Time to Visit: September to May (Closed during Nilgiri Tahr's calving season)

6. Silent Valley National Park

Silent Valley National Park is a pristine and untouched rainforest that remains one of the most ecologically significant areas in Kerala. It is home to the endangered lion-tailed macaques, leopards, and numerous endemic species. The park features dense tropical rainforests with towering trees and waterfalls. Eco-tourism activities and trekking opportunities make it an ideal destination for those seeking an immersive nature experience.

Best Time to Visit: December to April

7. Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary

Situated near Thiruvananthapuram, Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary is a perfect mix of adventure and wildlife. It features a crocodile rehabilitation center within the sanctuary and is home to sambar deer, Nilgiri langurs, and wild boars. Visitors can also explore the Lion Safari Park, offering a chance to see Asiatic lions up close. Neyyar Dam within the sanctuary is an excellent spot for relaxation and sightseeing.

Best Time to Visit: November to March

8. Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary

Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Western Ghats, is a paradise for wildlife lovers and trekkers. The sanctuary is home to a variety of animals, including elephants, leopards, and wild boars. The landscape features picturesque reservoirs and dense forests. Birdwatchers can enjoy spotting species such as the Malabar grey hornbill, adding to the sanctuary's charm.

Best Time to Visit: October to March

9. Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary

Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the least explored sanctuaries in Kerala, making it an ideal destination for those who love solitude and nature. It is home to sloth bears, elephants, and diverse butterfly species. The sanctuary's serene environment, with its lush greenery, offers a peaceful retreat. Trekking trails lead to scenic viewpoints, providing breathtaking views of the landscape.

Best Time to Visit: November to May

10. Thattekad Bird Sanctuary

Thattekad Bird Sanctuary, also known as Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, is a haven for bird lovers. It is home to over 300 species of birds, including the Malabar trogon, Sri Lanka frogmouth, and hornbills. The sanctuary features scenic riverbanks and tropical lowland forests. It is an ideal destination for birdwatching, nature walks, and photography.

Best Time to Visit: November to March

Conclusion



Kerala's wildlife sanctuaries offer a thrilling experience for nature enthusiasts, wildlife photographers, and adventure seekers. From spotting majestic elephants in Periyar to witnessing the rare Nilgiri Tahr in Eravikulam, these sanctuaries provide an immersive experience in nature. Whether you're looking for a quiet escape or an adventurous wildlife safari, Kerala has something to offer. Plan your trip with Gogeo Holidays, which offers the best [Kerala tourism packages](#), ensuring a memorable wildlife experience in 'God's Own Country'!