



Rainforest Rendezvous - A Photography Tour of Agumbe

Time 24 June at 07:00 - 26 June at 19:00

Location: Agumbe Rainforest Research Station, Agumbe, Karnataka, India
Created by: [Darter](#)

This monsoon, Darter Photography is taking you to the pristine rainforests of the Western Ghats – Agumbe. Experience the place which gets the highest rainfall in South India, get up-close with diverse endemic species of the region and interact with researchers studying these forests. And possibly see and photograph the king of these forests, the aptly named King Cobra.

Tour Details

The rainforests of Agumbe come alive in the peak monsoons. The sound of water droplets falling from high up in the canopy to puddles on the ground, the croaks of frogs as they look for mates, and the multitude of insects buzzing form a natural orchestra that quickly becomes addictive. Little streams flow through the forest, tumbling down as beautiful waterfalls in many places. Fungi of all shapes, sizes and colors are everywhere. Snakes, in their myriad colours and sizes, eagerly wait and lookout for prey. Praying Mantises blend into their environments, perfectly camouflaging themselves.

A brief break from the rains brings the sun peeking out from the clouds. And along with it, the most colourful butterflies like the Blue Mormon, Southern Birdwing, Red Helen and Cruiser dance amongst the flowers. Western Ghat endemic birds like Malabar Trogon, Yellow-throated Bulbuls and even Sri Lankan Frogmouths are seen here.

This forest is also a great place to view the longest venomous snake in the world – the King Cobra. The researchers in Agumbe Rainforest Research Station have thrown so much light into the snake's ecology. We will not only photograph this diversity of the rainforest, but also understand and experience the tracking techniques used to follow King Cobras and listen to the experts on the insights they've gathered on this elusive giant.

Rainforest Rendezvous is a great opportunity to photograph these less photographed creatures. Under the guidance of renowned herpetologist, researcher and conservationist Gowri Shankar, learn a great deal about the elusive wildlife in the depths of the Western Ghats. He would share his extensive knowledge about the rainforests and their conservation and lead us on the trail to discover the myriad forms of life. If there's a rescue call from a nearby village, we'll even accompany him on the mission to relocate the snake to its natural habitat.

The tour includes:

- Sessions and on-field guidance on rainforest ecology, conservation and environmental issues by renowned herpetologist Gowri Shankar
- Sessions on photographing rainforest wildlife – technical, aesthetic and ways to approach the subjects
- Expert assistance on field in getting best images
- Rainforest walks at day and night to experience and capture the richness of the forests up-close
- Jeep drives to places of interest around ARRS
- Camping in the rainforest
- Daily image reviews and feedback at the end of every day's shoot
- On field assistance in identifying wildlife and in understanding the rainforest ecology

Please refer to the Detailed Itinerary at the end of this document for more details.

Is this tour for you?

This tour is for you if:

1. You have a keen interest in diverse forms of wildlife and wish to learn more about the rich biodiversity in the rainforests,
AND/OR
2. You are excited to photograph every fascinating life form, be it big tigers or little frogs and butterflies

Accommodation

We will be staying at the Agumbe Rainforest Research Station. The accommodation at the research station will be in twin-sharing tents pitched on platforms in the rainforest. Campsite is equipped with clean showers and toilets.

Please note the the electricity supply at the camp is limited as ARRS is run on alternate energy (solar and micro hydel) to minimize their carbon footprint on the planet.

Important Note

- Smoking and alcohol is restricted in the premises of the research station.
- Bonfire and loud music is prohibited at the research station to avoid any disturbance to animals.
- Avoid carrying plastics to the research station. If it is unavoidable, please carry back plastic waste with you. Eg. Pet bottles, plastic bags etc.
- No provision for room service is made available at the research station.

Tour Cost

The tour cost is Rs.10,500/- per person. Book early, before June 5th, to get an early bird price of Rs.9,500.

The cost includes

- Accommodation at Agumbe Rainforest Research Station in tents on twin-sharing basis
- All meals during the stay (starting with breakfast on Day 1 and ending with dinner on Day 3)
- Escorted trips and sessions by a renowned herpetologist
- Sessions on wildlife photography, rainforest ecology, on-field assistance and image reviews

The cost does not include

- Transport to Agumbe and back
- Additional food and beverages

- Laundry, telephone and internet access from ARRS
- Tips and anything else that is not part of the includes list above

Book this tour

Contact us to book the tour. Like all our tours, Rainforest Rendezvous will have a limited number of participants.

Email: register@darter.in

Ph: 97400 83260 (Shreeram) / 9880006460 (Arun)

Accompanying Herpetologist and Rainforest Expert

Gowri Shankar

What started as curiosity and love for reptiles became the forte of this herpetologist. Gowri Shankar started handling snakes at the age of 13 and now uses this skill to explore the undiscovered grounds of the reptilian world. His stint as an animal inspector, education officer, researcher, has molded him well to suit the current profile as a Conservation Officer at Agumbe Rainforest Research Station (ARRS). Based at Agumbe and focusing primarily on studying and conserving king cobras he has become the first in the world to observe and document the nesting, male combat, courtship, mating and cannibalistic behaviors of king cobras in the wild.

He has been featured in several wildlife documentaries like the 'King and I', 'Secrets of the King Cobra' by BBC and the National Geographic Channel respectively. He has also served as a consultant to these channels. He has rescued over 120 King cobras from distress situations and through various educational programs has reached out far and wide to ensure that the last remaining habitat of this magnificent creature is conserved.

Accompanying Darter Photography Expert

Shreeram M V

Shreeram is a passionate naturalist and a professional wildlife photographer with an experience of working as a naturalist with Jungle Lodges. His wildlife images are widely acclaimed have found place in glossy desktop calendars, publications and wall hangings. He has the experience of photographing wildlife across multiple habitats across India – from the rainforests to the high-altitude deserts to grasslands to coasts. He comes with vast expertise in wildlife photography, having photographed hundreds of species of birds and mammals from places as far as mountains of Ladakh to seashores of South India. See some of his works at <http://www.visualquotient.net/>

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 – June 24: Arrive at Agumbe Rainforest Research Station (ARRS) after an overnight bus journey from Bangalore. After breakfast and a brief introduction to ARRS, we'll pitch tents where we'll stay for the next 3 days. An introduction on the rainforest would be followed by lunch. In the afternoon, we trek to a cave close-by to look for bats and porcupines. We then head back to Agumbe town to get nostalgic at Doddamane – the "Malgudi Days house". At night, we walk into the rainforests close to ARRS to find and photograph interesting nocturnal animals like Frogs, Snakes, Civets, Slender Loris and, if we are lucky, a Leopard too!

Day 2 – June 25: After breakfast, we head out on a long trek through dense forest under thick canopy. We'll photograph the beauty of the rainforest, along with the rich biodiversity that it holds. In the afternoon, we head out to Kundadri Hills where we photograph the Jain Temple atop a monolithic rock formation. The sunsets there are breathtaking too! At night, we have a session on conservation and

environmental issues before heading out for another walk into the rainforest.

Day 3 – June 26: After an early breakfast, we accompany researchers on field for radio tracking King Cobras in the wild. We learn about how to use research equipments such as GPS, Kestrels, Telonics receiver & antenna, and collecting field data. In the afternoon, we head to Jogi Gundi to watch a splendid waterfall. Swimming is an option here, so carry your swimwear along. After an early dinner, we catch the bus back to Bangalore, with our cameras carrying back memories for a lifetime.

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