



Pre-tour plan for ATOAI members ahead of 2017 convention

Duration : 3N/3D
Stay : Included at Vistara Resort/Hill District Club (<http://www.vistararesort.com/>, <http://hilldistrictclub.com/>)
Transport : Pickup from Calicut airport, local transport, train until Cherthala railway station (near Kumarakom)
Program Description: Introduction to Wayanad and outdoor activities

15/9 Arrive in Calicut. Transfer to Wayanad (~2.5hrs). Check into resort. Enroute stop at Lakkidi viewpoint



Evening briefing on the plan for the coming days, do's and don'ts, safety instructions etc.

16/9 After breakfast, drive about an hour to a little tea town at the foothills of the Sugandhagiri mountains. We will start the day with a hike to a mountain stream – the trail starts off through tea estate with beautiful views across the fields, before plunging in to the forest. We will follow the stream, clambering over the rocks and indulge in a spot of river tracing. (*The river tracing is optional*)



We will return to the start point for a packed lunch (typically chapatti rolls with veg/non-veg filling) Following this, the group will ride Kerala's longest zipline – all 300 meters of it.



Cycles will be waiting at the zipline end point, and we will set off on a beautiful ride through the tea estates

Following this, we will go for a bamboo rafting experience on the gently flowing Vythiri river. Life jackets are mandatory.



We will head back to the resort by 5PM after some tea/snacks.

17/9

After breakfast, we will drive a short distance to a tea estate, where there is a lovely walk through jungle bordering tea estate. The walk is very easy and is only intended to give you a feel of the location. We will arrive at a small natural rock shelter, with engravings on the rocks by ancient man – the “petroglyphs” date back to the late Neolithic Age, about 3000 years back. These are yet to be deciphered, but are considered an important relic of man’s presence here dating back several thousand years.



We will drive out after the walk for lunch, and then for a drive around Wayanad. This is organized like a mini-FAM tour, so you get an opportunity to see the potential that Wayanad offers for outdoor activities

18/9 Breakfast at hotel, checkout and drive to Calicut railway station. We will take the Ernad Express (16605) to Cherthala, which departs Calicut at 11:10AM.

Notes

- On treks and cycling tours, guests are expected to be dressed appropriately (Cotton or wicking T-shirt, light jacket, cap, cotton/wicking slacks are recommended). Please avoid loud colours. Shoes compulsory. Please also respect local sensibilities and dress modestly.
- Expect leeches on treks and hikes. Leech socks and leech repellent oil will be provided, but these are only deterrents
- Expect it to be fairly hot from late Feb to mid-May and sunscreen is advised during this time
- Expect to get wet while rafting

Inclusions

- 3 nights at resort or club, as per availability
- D on day 1; B+L+D on Days 2 – 3; B on Day 4 (B:Breakfast; L:Lunch; D:Dinner).
- ***In an effort to reduce plastic waste, we prefer to provide 20litre bottles of water which guests can refill from, rather than individual 500ml/1L bottles. All guests should therefore carry their own water bottles***
- Activities as listed above
- Guides and support staff as required

Everything else is excluded unless stated specifically as an inclusion

Medical Facilities and Evacuation

The tour is through well-populated countryside. Clinics and primary health centres are typically available within a 30-minute driving radius, while hospitals are usually available within a 2-hour driving radius. Large towns on or close to the tour route are Kalpetta, Mananthavady and Sulthan Bathery. All of these towns have good medical facilities. The guide will carry contact details of hospitals in these towns.

Jeeps and taxis are normally available close to hand throughout the route, if a land evacuation is required and the tour vehicles cannot be used. These can be procured by the accompanying guides. Air evacuation facilities are rare, poorly organised and very expensive in India. For this tour, the closest such facilities are in Bangalore, Mysore and Calicut.

Price for ATOAI members

Rs.7500 per person



Notes

- The above prices are valid only for the 2017 ATOAI annual conference pre-tour.
- 100% Payment is due 15 days in advance of the date of arrival
- All activities will be supported by staff trained in first-aid, who can deal with emergencies. Contact details for the nearest medical facilities, typically <1hr away, will also be available to hand. If necessary, transport (usually jeeps) for emergency evacuation can be arranged at short notice. Safety equipment such as cycling helmets, rope harnesses and life jackets are mandatory.
- Any trail can be cancelled or modified based on weather conditions and upon risk assessments by our staff. All participants must fill up the Muddy Boots application form and Accident Waiver and Release of Liability form before inclusion in any activity.