

Masinagudi is just right for walking, trekking and birding

MASINAGUDI

Located within the Nilgiri Biosphere, Masinagudi is where you can enjoy nature uninterrupted. Being next to the famed Mudumalai Wildlife sanctuary, Masinagudi with its moist deciduous forests is perfect to walk, trek and indulge in bird watching. Bird lovers can spot several species here including the crested hawk eagle, crested serpent eagle, woodpeckers, mynas, owls, barbets and parakeets. This is also home to varied wildlife including elephants, gaurs, deer, langurs and the Malabar giant squirrel. The best way to see this up-close is to hop on to a jeep safari that will take you on a two hours wilderness ride. This is ticketed and happens early morning and late evening. Also visit the Maravakandy Dam that was built in 1951 and also has an animal watching tower. Being a place where animals come to quench their thirst, this is where you can spot several wild animals too. It is adjacent to the Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary so make

time to go on a wildlife safari that is home to Bengal tigers, leopards and several other species. A visit to the beautiful Moyar River that separates the Bandipur and Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuaries is a good idea as well. Apart from enjoying fishing and boating activities, this is also a spot for wild animal sightings as it is a large water body. Again being very scenic this place also happens to be a photographer's delight. Camping in Masinagudi is a popular way to explore the natural vistas as well. Do make time to visit the Theppakadu Elephant Camp that is home to a large number of rescued elephants.

Best known for: Madhumalai Wildlife Sanctuary and an elephant habitat.

When established: 1940.

What to shop for: Spices, tea dust, coffee powder, eucalyptus oil and jackfruit.

Must-try food dishes: Badaga Chicken Curry, masala fried fish fillets and Gaasu Dotti, a local bread.

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