



Redefining The Wildlife Experiences

The Hidden Crawl

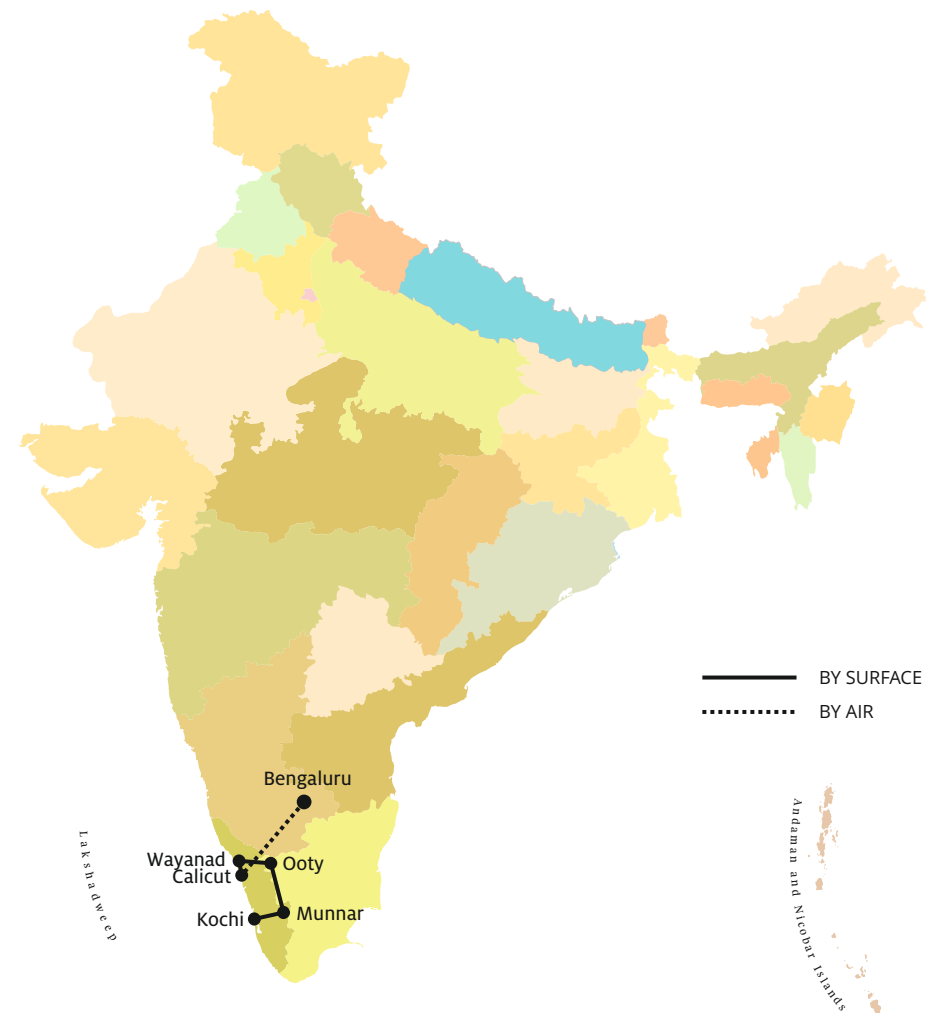
with Sebinster Francis | 16th - 26th August, 2026



Sebinster Francis

Sebinster Francis, better known as Sebin, is a wildlife photographer and naturalist from the misty hills of Munnar, Kerala. Once an electrical engineer, he traded circuits for camera lenses to pursue his lifelong passion for the wild. His artistry lies in revealing the hidden wonders of India's biodiversity, with a special focus on amphibians and reptiles. Sebin's striking macro images have brought rare species into the spotlight - most memorably the Galaxy Frog, whose star-speckled skin he captured in photographs that drew international attention. His work has been showcased by Kerala Tourism and featured on National Geographic India, cementing his reputation as a rising voice in wildlife photography. A certified snake handler and licensed guide, Sebin blends ecological expertise with ethical photography, creating experiences that inspire awe while promoting conservation. Whether tracking reptiles in dense forests or highlighting the fragile beauty of amphibians, Sebin's mission is to connect people with the unseen magic of nature.

Map



Trip Highlight

- Expert-led herping sessions in Munnar, Ooty and Wayanad
- Knowledge of reptiles and amphibians from the diverse species to their behavior and adaptations
- Encounters Resplendent bush frog, Malabar pit viper, Large scaled Pit viper, Anamalai pit viper, shield tails and some amazing lizards and frogs from the region
- Specialized assistance for macro photography - tips and techniques from a celebrity mentor accompanying you throughout the journey.
- Sharpen your photography skills in a pre-departure session with the mentor with optional gear rentals available.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Kochi

Welcome to India!

Our executive will meet you on arrival hall at Kochi airport after you clear all immigration and custom formalities. You will then be chauffeured to your hotel

Meet your accompanying photographer over high tea at the hotel, followed by a quick introduction to the adventure ahead.

Overnight: Port Muziris (Deluxe Room/Breakfast)

Day 2: Kochi to Munnar

This morning, we travel by road to the picturesque hill station of Munnar, a journey of around four hours. Upon arrival, check into your eco-friendly hotel nestled amidst the lush greenery of the Western Ghats.

Spend the afternoon at leisure, soaking in the cool mountain air and tranquil surroundings.

In the early evening, your tour leader will host an engaging introductory session on herping in Munnar, along with essential tips on macro photography and camera settings. As dusk settles, we head into the field for an exciting exploration, with chances to encounter pit vipers, bush frogs, tree frogs, lizards, spiders and other fascinating nocturnal wildlife.

After an exhilarating four hours of herping through Munnar's vibrant wilderness, return to the comfort of your hotel to unwind and recharge for the night. Let the serenity of the hills and the cool mountain breeze soothe your senses after an evening of thrilling discoveries.

Overnight: Windermere Estate (Deluxe Room/Breakfast)



Day 03: Munnar – Resplendent tour

Begin your day with a scenic drive through Munnar's tea gardens enroute to Meeshapulimala, a breathtaking high-altitude shola grassland perched 2,000 meters above sea level.

After the two-hour journey, a short 20–30-minute walk leads you to prime herping grounds, where you may encounter remarkable species like the Resplendent bush frog, Gunter's vine snake, and Kodaikanal bush frog.

Return to the hotel by late afternoon to relax and refresh before heading out again for a thrilling night herping session.

Overnight: Windermere Estate (Deluxe Room/Breakfast)

Day 4: Explore Munnar for reptiles and amphibians

Spend the day immersed in the natural beauty of Eravikulam National Park, where the cool climate and distinctive shola-grassland ecosystem support a variety of endemic wildlife. Keep your camera ready for a chance to photograph the majestic Nilgiri Tahr and explore habitats rich in reptiles and amphibians.

As evening approaches, gear up for your final night herping session - an exciting opportunity to encounter Munnar's nocturnal wonders one last time. Return to the hotel late at night, filled with memories of the wild.

Overnight: Windermere Estate (Deluxe Room/Breakfast)



Day 05: Drive to Ooty

Today, we embark on a five–six hour drive to picturesque hill station of Ooty, where you will spend two nights immersed in its cool climate and rich biodiversity. This charming destination is home to a unique array of local endemic species, offering fresh opportunities for exploration and discovery.

Overnight: Red Hill Nature Resort (Standard Room/Breakfast)

Day 06: In Ooty

We will spend a full day exploring the forest surrounding the lodge, with the elusive horseshoe pit viper as our primary daytime target. As night falls, the forest comes alive with even more herping opportunities. Among the reptiles, we hope to encounter the Horseshoe pit viper(subjected to weather) Nilgiri shieldtail, Nilgiri wood snake, bronze-headed vine snake, and black-spotted kukri snake. Amphibian highlights include the variable frog, Nilgiri and star-eyed bush frogs, triangle-spotted globular frog, and the striking pink-thighed dancing frog.

Overnight: Red Hill Nature Resort (Standard Room/Breakfast)

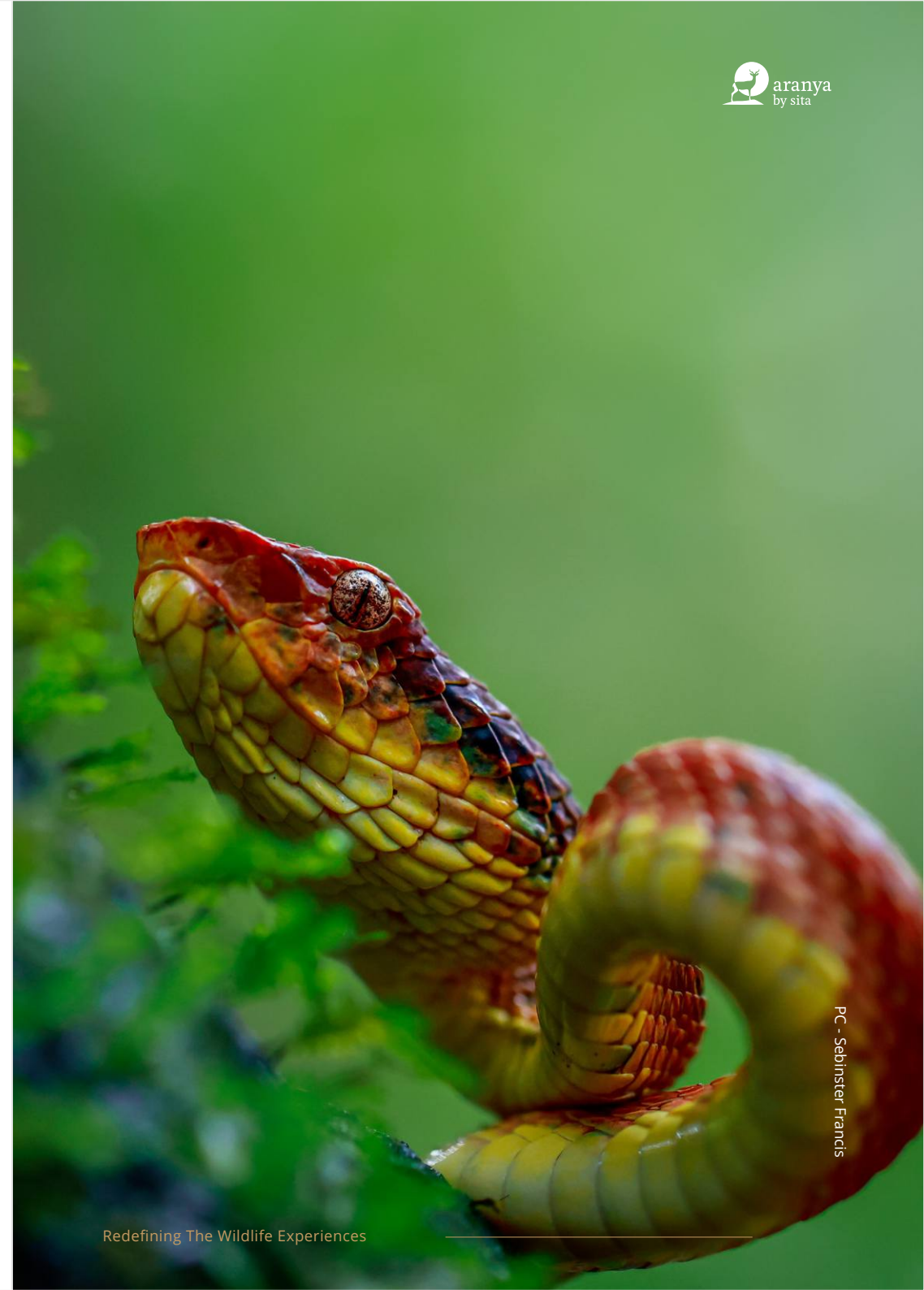
Day 07: Drive to Wayanad

Today, embark on a scenic four-hour drive to Wayanad - a place nestled deep within the heart of the rainforest. After checking in, spend the evening at your leisure, acclimating to the refreshing climate and soaking in the serene surroundings.

In the evening, the field session begins, providing an exciting opportunity to encounter the diverse herpetofauna of the region.

After a successful evening of herping, enjoy dinner at the property and rest for the night, ready for the adventures ahead.

Overnight: Wayanad Wild (Superior Room/Breakfast)



PC - Sebinster Francis

Day 08: In Wayanad

Start your morning with a peaceful birding walk through the rainforest. You'll hear the songs of various birds and have the chance to photograph them, experiencing the rich birdlife of Wayanad. Before lunch, we'll have a discussion session where you can ask questions and learn photo editing techniques. This interactive session will help improve your skills.

In the afternoon, we'll focus on spotting and photographing the rare birds/ butterflies of Wayanad. As the sun sets around 6 PM, we'll begin another herping session, exploring the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians again.

Overnight: Wayanad Wild (Superior Room/Breakfast)

Day 09: In Wayanad

Enjoy a leisurely morning at your own pace. The property offers a variety of activities for you to choose from, allowing you to make the most of your time in this enchanting setting.

The daytime will be devoted to photographing the subjects we spotted the previous night, along with engaging in activities of your choice. As night falls, we will focus on ticking off the species from our herping bucket list, ensuring a memorable and fulfilling experience.

Overnight: Wayanad Wild (Superior Room/Breakfast)

Day 10: Wayanad to Bangalore

After an early breakfast, you will be met by your driver for a scenic three-hour journey to Calicut airport to board your flight to Bangalore and say goodbye to your accompanying naturalist.

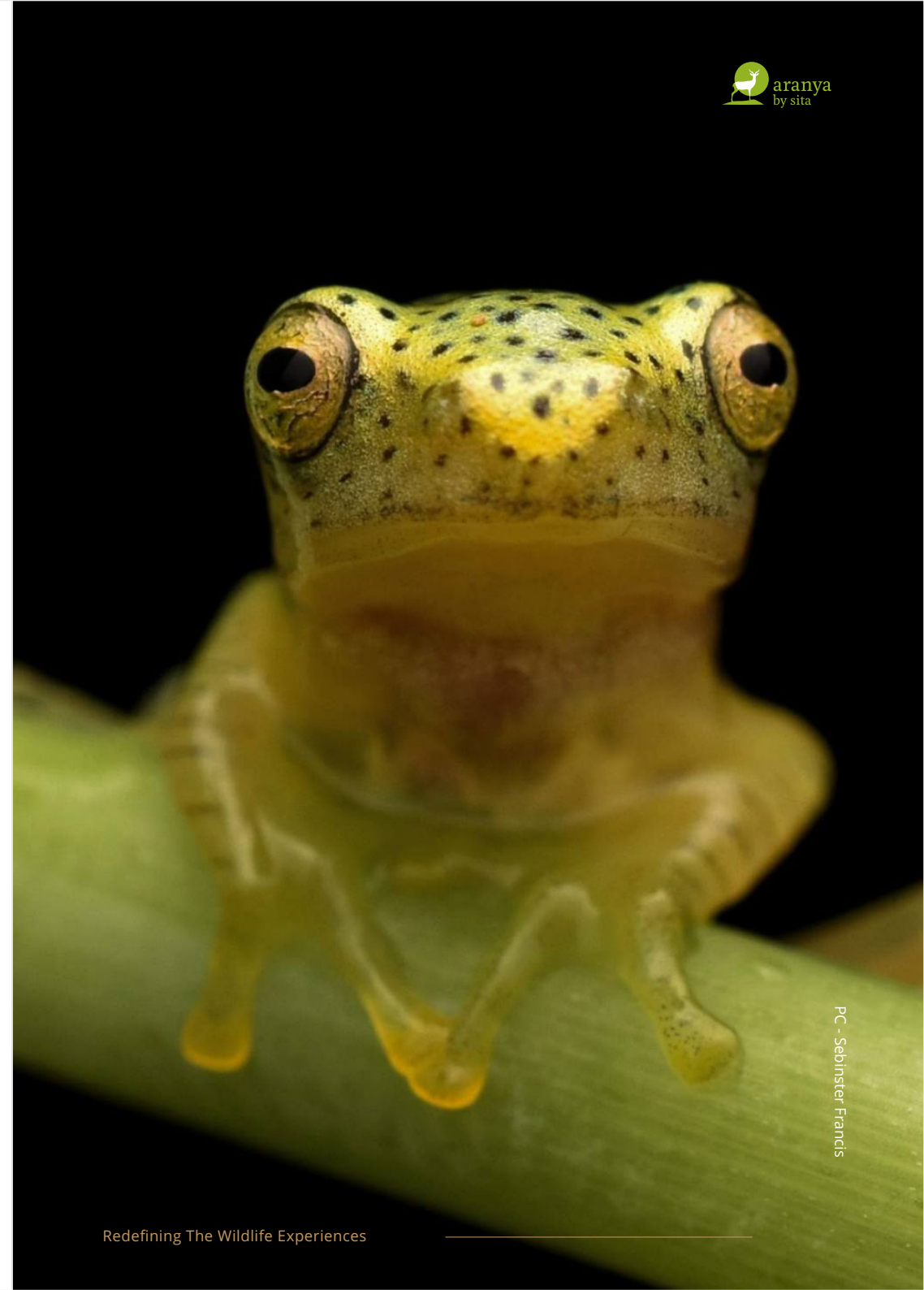
Flight from Calicut to Bangalore / Indigo 6E-7006 [1500 /1640 hours]
nonstop / Economy/Baggage Allowance –20 kgs per person]

Check in to the Bangalore.

Overnight: Taj Bangalore (Deluxe Room/Breakfast)

Day 11: Departure

In-time, transfer to your flight to fly back home.



Hotels



Port Muziris Kochi

Enjoy luxury, delightful dining, and unforgettable memories at our boutique hotel this holiday season. Port Muziris a Tribute Portfolio Hotel, Kochi puts a new spin on hospitality in Kerala .Located just 300 m from Cochin International Airport with free shuttles, our boutique hotel features unique indoor & outdoor event venues with catering and planning services.



Windermere Estate

Munnar

Everything at the Windermere Estate is geared towards a different time, a different pace – inspired by the magic of plantation life. The property is intimate, with just 18 lovingly handcrafted rooms arranged around the original Planter's Bungalow which still serves as the owner's residence. We've embraced our little cliff, building around the existing rock formations and trees to create a space that's refreshingly close to nature.



Red Hill Ooty

Red Hill Nature Resort has sweeping, dramatic 30-mile views of the majestic Avalanche mountains and lakes. The experience blends the comforts of home with the quality you would expect from a top-rated exclusive estate resort. Privacy and seclusion are complemented by as much – or as little – contact as you choose to have with the area's charming historical sites and activities; surrounded by tea plantations, enjoy fine cuisine from the traditional hospitality of the Badaga community.



Wayanad Wild

Wayanad

Set deep in nature's backyard, is CGH Earth's experience of the wild and the natural in the hills of the Western Ghats.

Wayanad Wild is indeed a rare holiday where you get to meet nature in an unseen, unsullied and untamed manner! The forest is your constant companion, peeping in through your windows or assigning a pretty butterfly to eavesdrop on your lively chatter upon the balcony.





Taj Bangalore Bengaluru

A few hundred metres from the airport and a short drive away from the city centre, Taj Bangalore, Bengaluru is a beautifully constructed hotel near Bangalore airport that is defined by its contemporary architecture and inspiring use of space. We have designed our premier luxury hotel in Bangalore to cater to both business and leisure travellers. Glazed sheets and grey granite cubes surge skywards to distinctive glass crenelations – creating art as much as a hotel.



Travel Information

EXPECTED SPECIES:

MUNNAR FAUNA HIGHLIGHTS

Amphibians:

- Jayaram's bush frog
- Green-eyed bush frog
- Resplendent bush frog
- Beddome's bush frog
- Yellow-bellied bush frog
- Ochlandrae reed frog
- Kodaikanal bush frog
- Kadalar bush frog
- Sushi's bush frog
- Griet bush frog
- Kalakad gliding frog
- Anaimalai gliding frog
- Kadalar swamp frog
- Large ghat frog
- Star-eyed ghat frog
- Beautiful dancing frog
- Night frog
- Cricket frog

Reptiles:

- Large-scaled Pit Viper
- Gunther's Vine Snake
- Pied-belly sheildtail



- Red-bellied Shieldtail Snakes
- Elliot's forest lizard
- Anaimalai Spiny Lizard
- Wallace's forest gecko
- Large-scaled Forest Lizard

WAYANAD FAUNA HIGHLIGHTS

Amphibians

- Wayanad Bush Frog
- Glandular Bush Frog
- Variable Bush Frog
- Anil's Bush Frog
- Water Drop Frog
- Ochlandrae Reed Frog
- Ponmudi Bush Frog
- Kudremukh Bush Frog
- Small Gliding Frog
- Malabar Gliding Frog
- False Hourglass Tree Frog
- Wayanad Dancing Frog
- Golden-backed Frog
- Fungoid Frog
- Night Frog
- Malabar Balloon Frog
- Jerdon's Narrow-mouthed Frog
- Fejervarya species
- Malabar Tree Toad

Reptiles:

- Malabar Pit Viper - various morphs
- Hump-nosed Pit Viper
- Thackeray's Cat Snake

- Green Vine Snake
- Trinket Snake
- Travancore Wolf Snake
- Wayanad Shieldtail Snake
- Elliot's Forest Lizard
- Nilgiri Forest Lizard
- Variable Forest Snail

Things to Carry:

- Camera, Marco lenses, Flash, Diffuser
- Tripod (optional)
- Warm Clothes
- Gum boots/sports shoes/leech socks
- Rain gear, Umbrella
- Flashlight, torch and headlamp

Important Notes:

- Always respect wildlife and their habitats
- Follow the guidance of local experts and guides
- Ensure minimal disturbance to the natural environment
- Stay hydrated and carry snacks if needed for the night excursions
- Encountering specific species is often a matter of chance
- Please carry **all your personal medications**, including any required for ongoing treatments
- Kindly **inform us in advance about any allergies** (food, environmental, medical) so we can support you during your stay

Why Early Monsoon Is Prime for Herping

- **Amphibian Breeding Season:** Frogs become highly active, calling and mating, making them easier to locate and observe.

- **Snake Activity Peaks:** Many snakes emerge to prey on breeding frogs, increasing chances of sightings.
- **Humidity & Rainfall:** Moist conditions bring out a wide range of reptiles and amphibians, especially nocturnal species.
- **Photographic Opportunities:** Dewy foliage, vibrant colors, and active fauna make for stunning macro photography.

Best Time of Day

- **Evenings & Nights:** Most herpetofauna are nocturnal, so dusk to midnight is prime for field sessions.
- **Early Mornings:** Good for spotting diurnal species like lizards and certain snakes basking or hunting.



24 Hour Assistance

Neena Malhotra
M : +91 8588 815 182
E : neena.malhotra@sita.in