

## **IDUKKI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary which came into existence in 1976, An enchanting place marked with steep mountains and undulating hills and valleys. The world famous Idukki arch dam and the vast increase the importance of the area.

**Location and extent :** .It is located in the Thodupuzha (40 km away from Thodupuzha) and Udumbanchola taluks in Idukki district with an area of 105.364sq.km and extends to 76° 55' and 77° 4' 5' East Longitude and 9° 45' 30' and 9° 53' 30' North Latitude.

**Topography:** Altitude ranging from 450to 1272 m. Highest peak is Vanjur Medu (1272m)

**Temperature :** Temperature varies from 13°C to 29°C. Hottest period is March-April.

**Rainfall :** Average rainfall is 3800 mm.

**Drainage :** The major rivers flowing through the area at periyar and Cheruthoniar. The sanctuary consists of 33 sq.km of waterbody of Idukki reservoir.

**Flora :** Forest types include West Coast Tropical Evergreen forests, Semi Evergreen forests , Moist Deciduous Forests, Hill shoals and Grass Lands. Major tree species are *Depteocarpus indicus*, *Palanquium ellipticum*, *Calophyllum polyanthum*, *Vernonia arborea*, *Mesua Ferrea*, *Hopea parviflora*, *persea macrantha*, *Artocarpus hirsute*, *Lagerstroemia microcarpa*, *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*, *Tectona grandis*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Terminalia paniculata.*, *T. bellerica*, *Grewiatiliacfolia*, *Ptcrocarpus Marsupium* etc.

**Fauna :** The common animals found are Elephant, Sambar, Barking Deer, Mouse deer, Bonnet macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Malabar giant squirrel, Wild dog, Wild boar, porcupine, jackal, Indian Giant Squirrel etc.