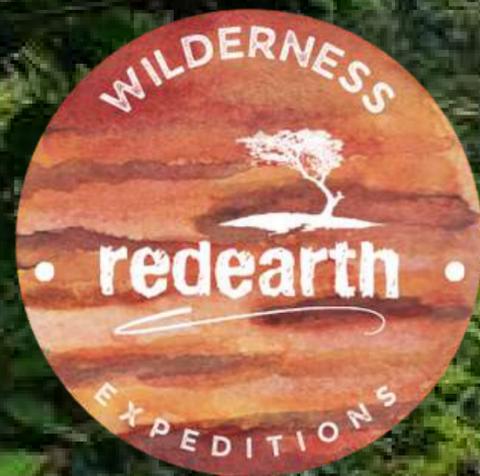


AN EIGHT DAY EXPLORATION OF  
INDIA'S MOST BIODIVERSE LANDSCAPE

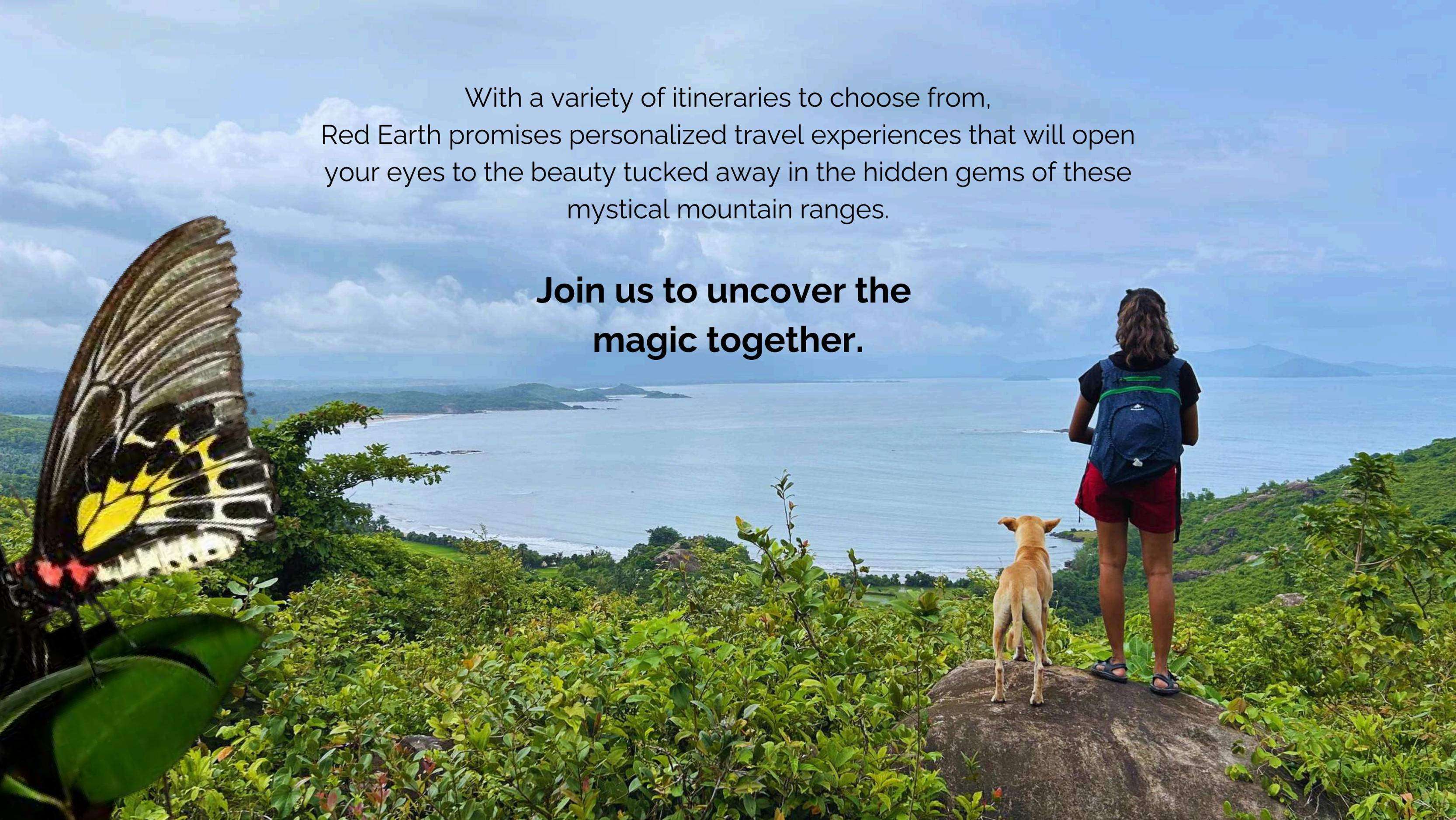
# WESTERN GHAT

## EXPEDITION



With a variety of itineraries to choose from, Red Earth promises personalized travel experiences that will open your eyes to the beauty tucked away in the hidden gems of these mystical mountain ranges.

**Join us to uncover the magic together.**

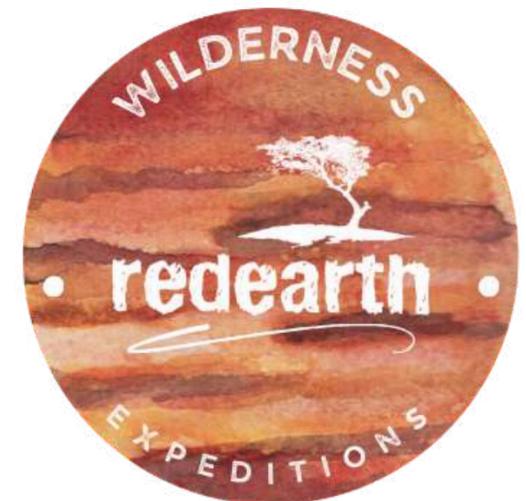


# INTRODUCTION

## ABOUT RED EARTH EXPEDITIONS

Red Earth Expeditions invites you on a curated journey where adventure, wilderness and cultural immersion meet breathtaking landscapes.

Our expeditions blend wildlife encounters, spiritual explorations, and culinary delights, creating unforgettable experiences. Join us for a personalized adventure, forging connections amidst the diverse tapestry of cultures and natural wonders.



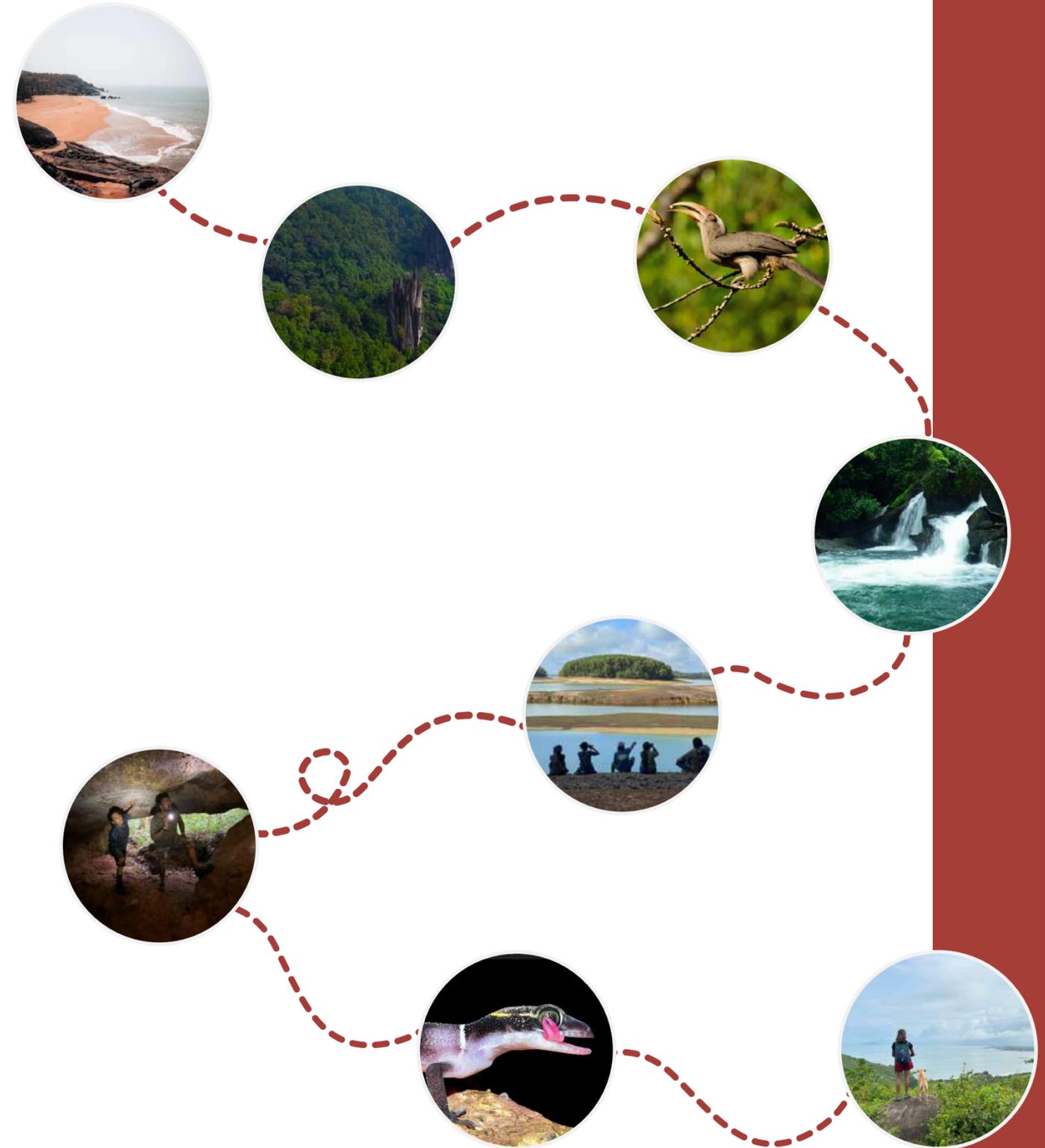
## WESTERN GHATS

# THE EXPERIENCE

Serene beaches, open seas, dense rainforests, mangroves and estuaries teeming with life. Join us as we explore the rich and diverse landscapes of the Western ghats in a way that has never been done before.

Our unique 7 night itinerary will take you on a magical adventure, that promises unforgettable experiences. Be it crossing through rainforest streams to reach the hidden Myristica swamp, hiking past forest valleys with orchestras of birdsong, exploring various species of reptiles and amphibians like the infamous Dancing frog, and if we're in luck, swimming in a bioluminescent sea.

This expedition has it all.



# WESTERN GHATS

## THE SPECIES



### **Malabar gliding frog (*Rhacophorus malabaricus*):**

This gorgeously bright green frog has beautiful pink webbings between the toes which enable it to glide between the trees of high canopy. Eggs are laid in a thick foam nest hanging over stagnant water. This foam released by the females provides moisture as well as nutrition to the tadpoles till they slip-off into the water.



### **Lion-tailed macaque (*Macaca silenus*):**

Found only in moist evergreen forests of the Western Ghats this is an endangered species with less than 3500 individuals left due to habitat loss. With impressively large canines and white long mane, the males appear ferocious. However, they are docile and often dominated by the smaller aggressive species like bonnet macaques.

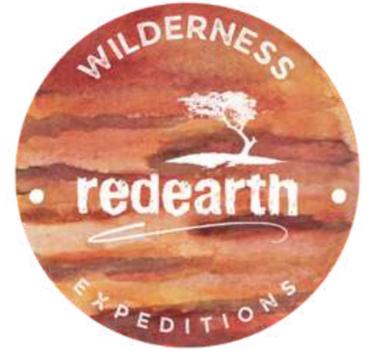


### **Malabar Slender Loris (*Loris lydekkerianus malabaricus*):**

Weighing just between 250 to 275 gm, this cute primate is the smallest in India. It is nocturnal and completely arboreal, sleeping peacefully in tree hollows and dense thickets during the day. It moves slowly and cannot jump from tree to tree however, it can disappear in no time when threatened.

# WESTERN GHATS

## THE SPECIES



**Western Ghats flying lizard (*Draco dussumieri*):**  
This miniature dragon is extremely camouflaged and difficult to spot unless one patiently waits to notice the flashing of bright greenish yellow dewlap. Living in the tall canopy, this lizard has evolved with a patagium between limbs, to be able to glide from tree to tree. Watching it glide gracefully is as exciting as the wait is excruciating.



**Dancing frog (*Micrixalus saxicola*):**  
This frog lives in the rocky parts of forest streams but rarely goes into water. Living in the noisy torrential streams makes it difficult to communicate vocally; hence this frog has evolved to communicate through visual signals. Males perform a dance on rock stage which includes thigh tapping, lateral moves and foot flagging to impress the female.



**Malabar pit viper (*Craspedocephalus malabaricus*):**  
Jewel of the Western Ghats this beautiful ambush hunter is found in numerous colour morphs varying from shades of green, shades of brown, shades of yellow as well as blue and pink. One of the most common snakes spotted on night walks during monsoon, this peaceful creature can be easily missed as it stays still and blends in perfectly with the surrounding.

# WESTERN GHATS

## THE SPECIES



### **Sri Lanka frogmouth (*Batrachostomus moniliger*):**

This strange looking bird found in the Western Ghats of India and Sri Lanka is an extremely elusive nocturnal creature. This insectivorous bird catches insects mid-air in the dark of night and hence has wide beak and light sensitive eyes. In the day it sleeps on secluded branches under the canopy and to even well-trained eyes appears just like part of the tree.



**Water drop bush frog (*Raorchestes nerostagona*)**



**White-banded ground gecko (*Cyrtodactylus albofasciatus*)**



**Olive forest snake (*Rhabdops olivaceus*)**



**White-bellied treepie (*Dendrocitta leucogastra*)**



**Crimson-backed sunbird (*Leptocoma minima*)**



**Nilgiri forest lizard (*Calotes nemoricola*)**



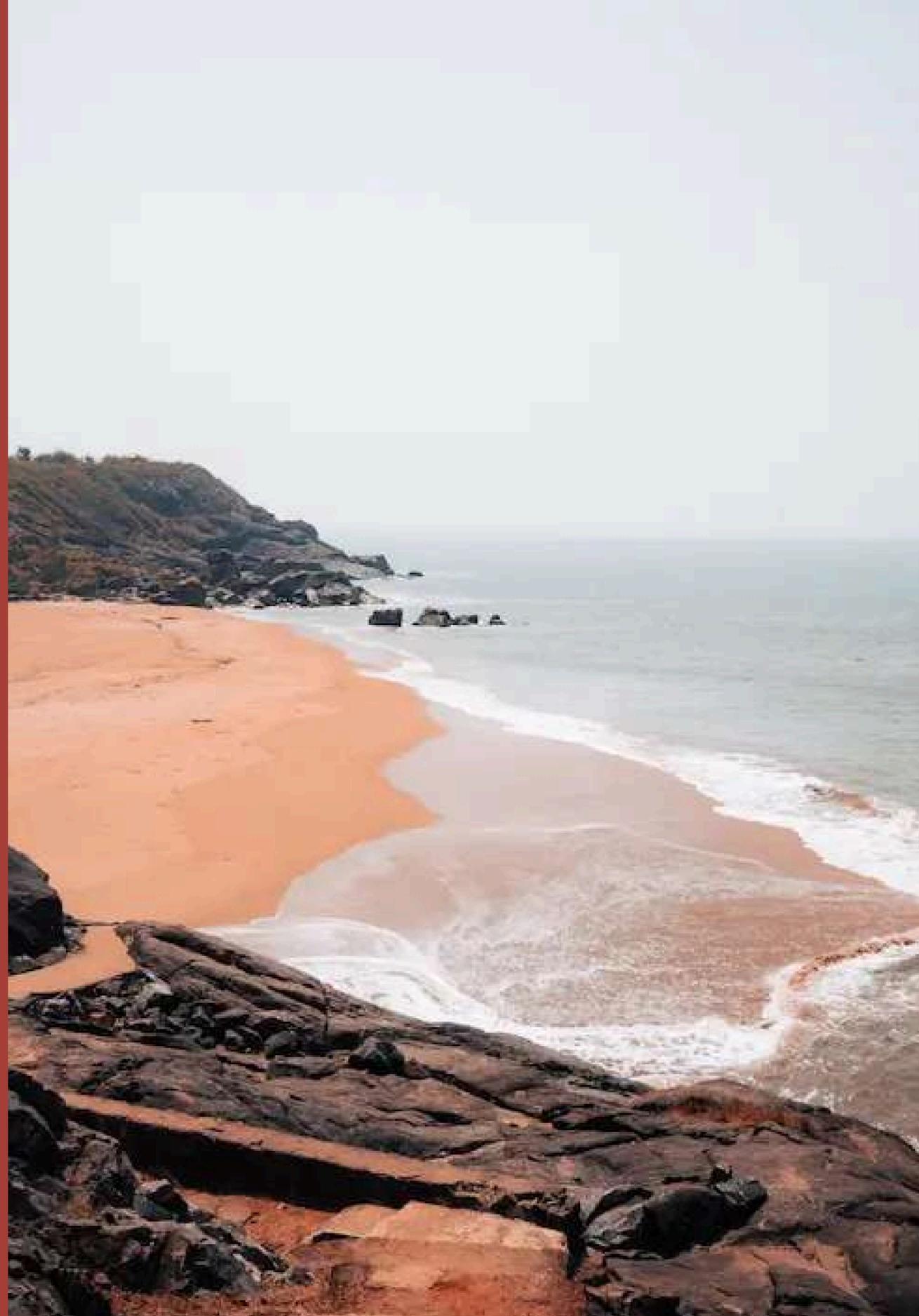
DAY 1

# ARRIVE IN GOKARNA

Arrival at Red Earth Gokarna.  
Unwind with the peace and calm at our seafacing resort.

Evening: Hike on a forested hillock, exploring birds and curious critters and enjoy tea/coffee with sunset overlooking the Arabian sea.

Walk back after dark to explore the unique marine night life on our private Honey beach.





DAY 2

# YANA CAVES

Early morning drive to Yana Caves

These fascinating black limestone formations stand out against the lush evergreen forests surrounding them, transporting you to a scene straight from ancient legends.

These relics from the carboniferous era with their stalactites and stalagmites are a geological marvel. And its jungle trail is home to over a 100 species of birds and flora.





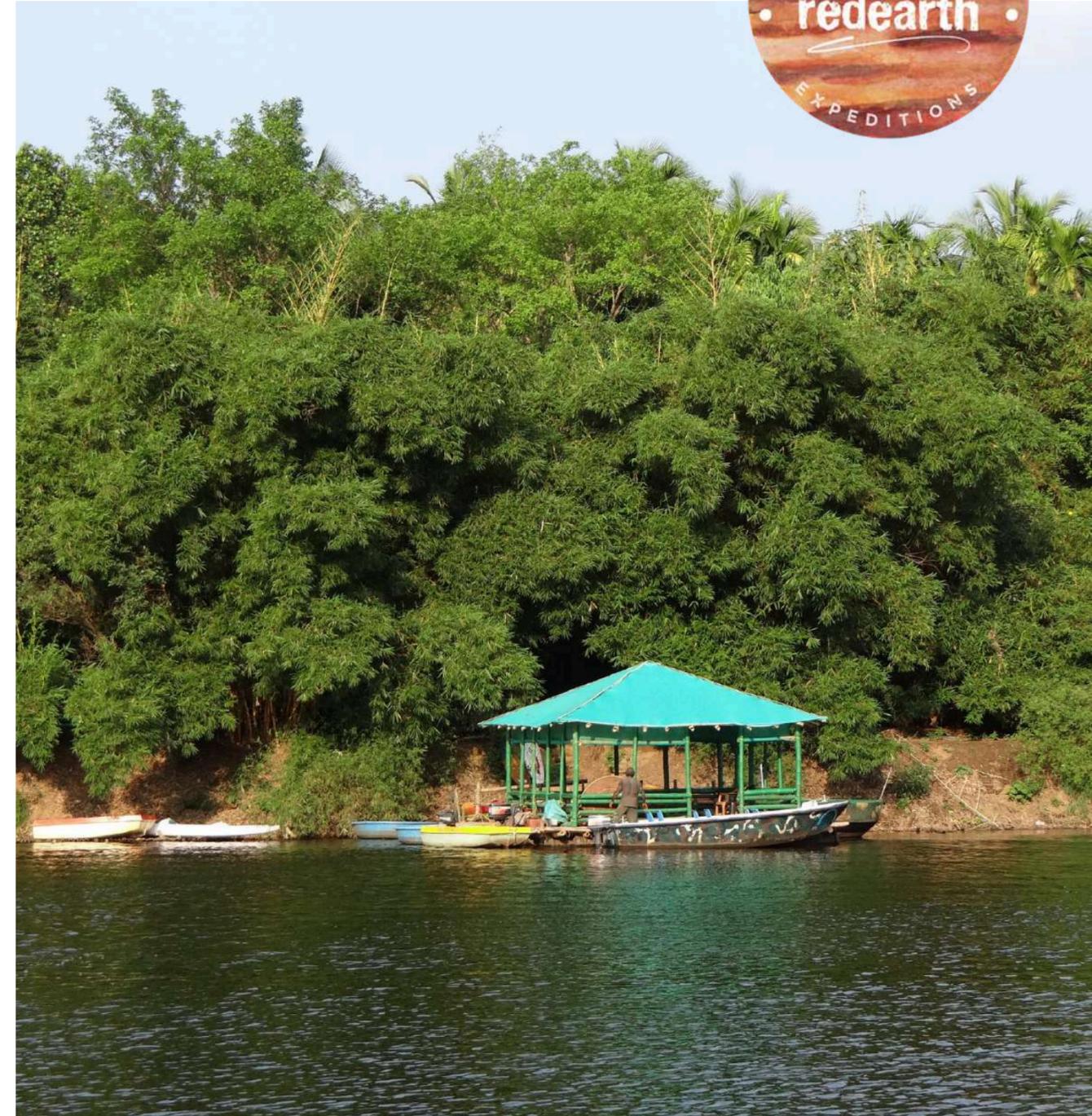
DAY 2

# BEDTHI CONSERVATION RESERVE

Afternoon drive to Bedthi Conservation Reserve.

Located adjacent to the Kali tiger reserve, Bedthi is where the origin of the Gangavali river forms, gifting the forest many perennial streams and waterfalls. An ideal landscape to study the deciduous forest habitat, this reserve protects the Royal Bengal Tiger, The Great Indian Hornbills and critically endangered plants like *Coscinium fenestratum* (yellow vine).

The day ends with a relaxing walk to enjoy the transition from dusk to dark.





DAY 3

# MOOKAMBIKA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- Morning birding and stream walk
- Afternoon drive to Mookambika
- Explore Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary
- Evening bonfire to end the day with
- a delightful recollection of the trip



# MOOKAMBIKA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Land of the popular Kannada movie, Kantara, this sanctuary has breathtaking views of the lush green rainforest from the Kodachadri peak with cotton clouds spread over the canopy below you.

The Ancient temple of devi Mookambika at Kollur is pilgrim spot within the sanctuary and even a walk in the surroundings of this temple offers ample wildlife sightings. This is the best region to experience the typical Malnaad lifestyle and be enchanted by folklores of forest gods and goddesses.



DAY 4

# SUNRISE, SUNSET & MORE

- Early start of the day for sunrise at Kodachadri peak.
- Relaxing day at the camp post delicious Malnaad breakfast.
- Evening bird walk to Chakra reservoir for sunset with tea/coffee by the backwaters.
- Walk back to the camp after dark to explore night life.



DAY 5

# SHARAVATI VALLEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- Arrival at Sharavati valley followed by a trek through the forest.
- Enjoy lunch near Jog falls
- Birding by the backwaters of Lingamakki reservoir en route to the next stop- Agumbe



# SHARAVATI VALLEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Rediscover peace and serenity at the scenic backwaters of this expansive reserve forest.

Explore the forest's biodiversity on foot and you may come across some wonderful sightings up close.

This is one of the best places to see and photograph Malabar giant squirrels along with over 230 species of birds.





DAY 5

# AGUMBE RAINFOREST

- Arrival at Agumbe by evening.
- Night walk post-dinner to explore the forest's vibrant nightlife.





# AGUMBE RAINFOREST

The true experience of the rainforest is incomplete without a trip to Agumbe, the Cherrapunji of South India, with a high average rainfall of 7000 mm.

Also known as the Land of King cobras, this Malgudi Days famed rustic village, is among the most sought after biodiversity hotspots of the world. and one of the best places in all of Western Ghats for reptile and amphibian lovers.

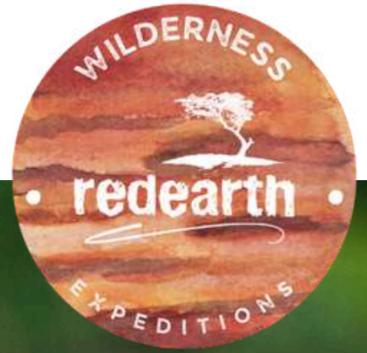
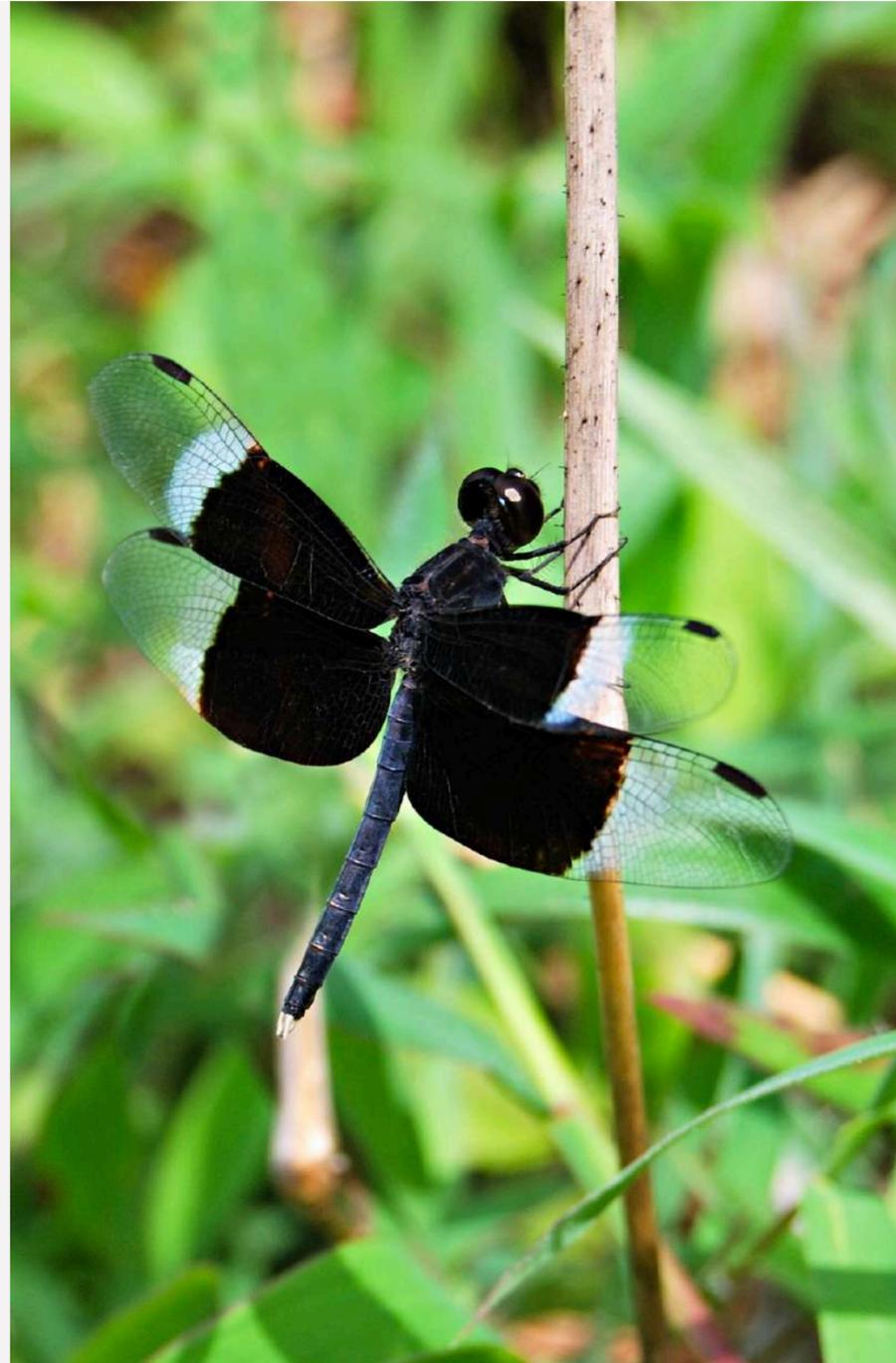
It also offers opportunities to see several endemic beauties like the Lion-tailed macaque, Slender loris, Sri Lankan frog-mouth, Western Ghats flying lizard and the list goes on with over 220 species of birds, 115 species of butterflies, 34 species of amphibians and 56 species of reptiles.



## DAY 6

# SCALING AGUMBE

- Leisurely morning with late breakfast.
- Walk through the rainforest to explore riparian habitat.
- Presentation and discussion over evening snacks and tea/coffee.
- Night walk post dinner to find the target species.





DAY 7

# SLOW TRAVEL IN THE FOREST

Slow day to take in the serenity of the forest, the song of the birds and to rest & recharge for the day ahead. This could be an opportunity to explore some other interesting areas of the rainforest like birding spots, caves, cascades or more.



DAY 8

# ESTUARIES

- Drive to Panchagangavali estuary post breakfast
- Drive to Aghnashini estuary post lunch via Marvanthe beach and Murdeshwar
- Birding at wetlands of estuary at sunset with tea/coffee.
- Drive to Red Earth Gokarna after evening



# PANCHAGANGAVALI ESTUARY

Convergence of five rivers namely Souparnika, Varahi, Kedaka, Chakra and Kubja forms this beautiful estuary which during the low-tide becomes a vast wetland, rich in food for numerous marine birds feasting in huge numbers. One of the best places in India for birding. Over 160 species of birds documented here along with rare migratory species like Eurasian oystercatchers which visit here every year for winter.



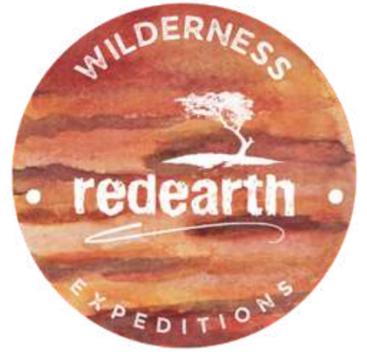
# AGHNASHINI ESTUARY

Originating in the Western Ghats, this beautiful river meets the Arabian sea near Gokarna.

Flowing through the forests, this river brings nutrient rich soil, held by the mangroves at the estuary. The region has a unique cultivation of the salt-tolerant rice named Kagga and the rice-fields create amazing wetland habitat for birds. Spread over nearly 5000 hectares the estuary is home to more than 160 species of birds and a perfect breeding ground for several species of marine creatures.



DAY 9



# REJUVENATE BY THE SEA

- Leisurely morning at Red Earth Gokarna with complimentary full body massage
- Enjoy some warm breakfast by the sea



DAY 10

# DEPART

With memories to cherish from this adventurous  
700 km journey over 7 nights

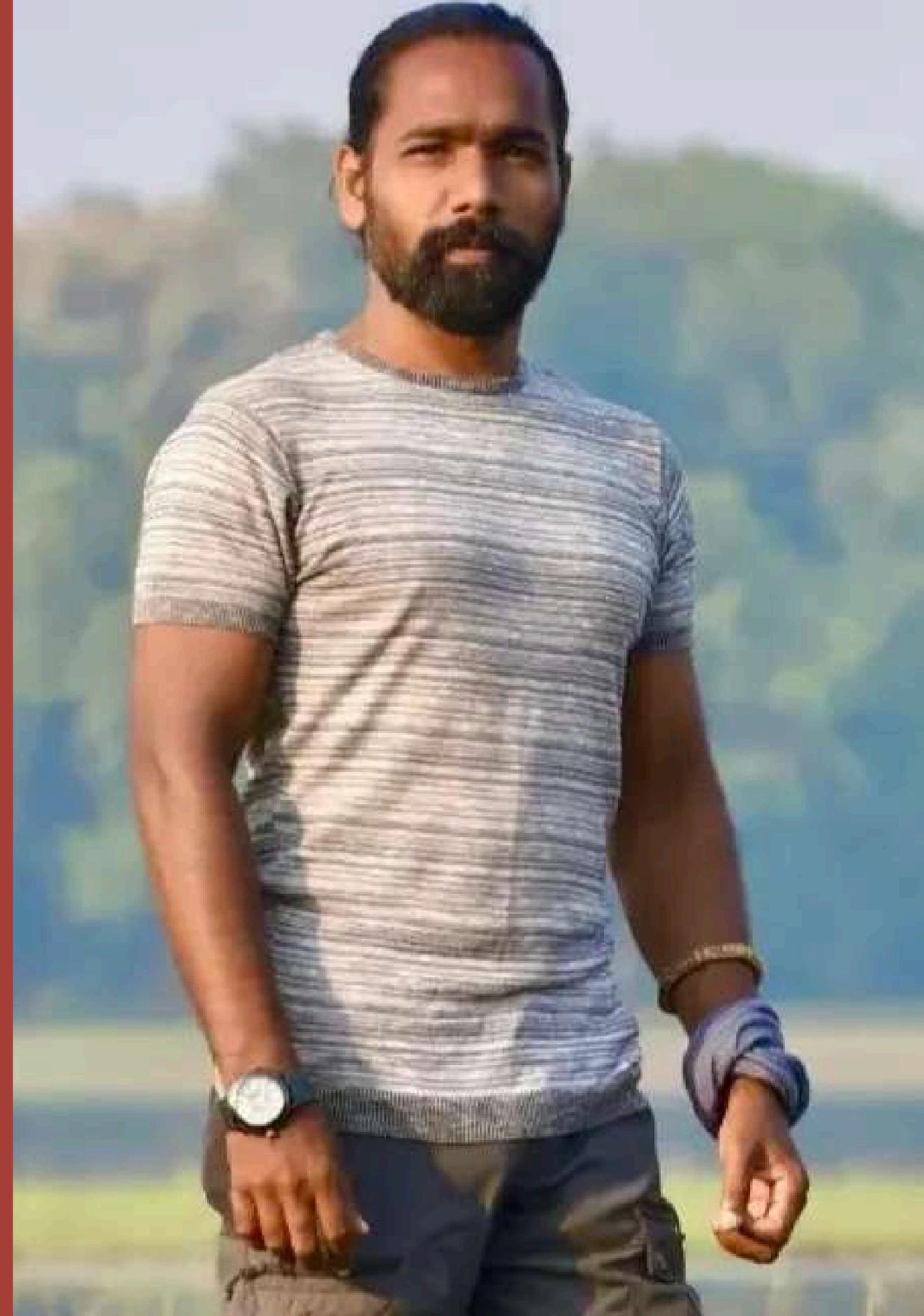


# RED EARTH

## GOKARNA

Above & Beyond offers a unique and comfortable experience in the prime habitat for wildlife in western Ladakh. Unlike typical experiences of searching for the snow leopard, this lodge provides a comfortable stay, ideal for wildlife enthusiasts who appreciate comfort while being out in the wild.

**Most wildlife sightings occur around the lodge itself, as it is situated at a higher altitude compared to other homestays in the village.**



# DHIRAJ

## EXPEDITIONS EXPERT

Dhiraj is a passionate wildlife biologist and herpetologist specialising in King cobras and rainforest ecology. For over 14 years, he has dedicated himself to field-based research on reptiles and amphibians in the Western Ghats rainforests. He worked extensively with Whitaker, honing his skills. Later, as a senior Naturalist at Jamtara Wilderness Camp, he became intimately conversant with the great wilderness of Central India.

Dhiraj was honoured as a Disney conservation hero in 2011 for his outstanding education and outreach efforts. Dhiraj firmly believes in inspiring the younger generation to develop a love for nature and wildlife, fostering their contribution to conservation. Since his teenage years, he has organised captivating workshops and awareness programs for schools and colleges. He excels at simplifying the intricate world of behavioural ecology, allowing him to engage with guests and effectively communicate the wonders of wildlife.



# JESWIN

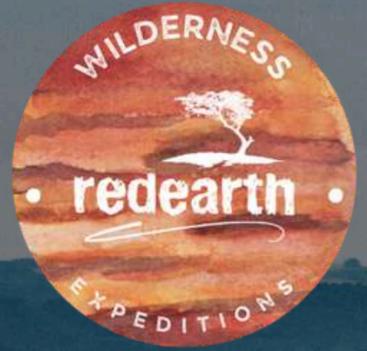
## EXPEDITIONS EXPERT

Jeswin Kingsly's journey from Marine Engineering to Wildlife Conservation is inspiring. Despite a hunting background, he became a dedicated Naturalist in Central India, starting with WWF's Tiger Project and later working on Elephant Conflict Mitigation in the Nilgiris Biosphere. Raised in the Western Ghats, his love for nature, particularly snakes and butterflies, led him to co-found "Wildlife Wranglers" for conservation education.

His work with the forest department and the award-winning film 'Kaliru' underscores his commitment. Mentored by Belinda Wright at Kipling Camp, Jeswin continues to advance conservation, using photography to raise awareness about nature's beauty and importance.

SCALING THE

# WESTERN GHATS



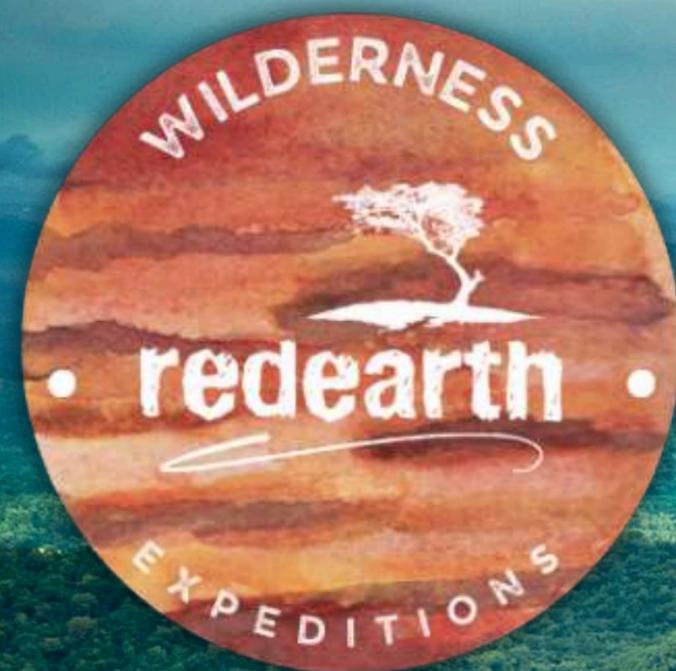
The mighty Sahyadri mountain range is popularly known as the Western Ghats. According to expert geologists, this colossal escarpment seems to be an eroded edge of the Deccan Plateau that runs almost parallel to the west coast of India.

Spread over approximately 160,000 square km, The Western Ghat forms the catchment area for numerous rivers that have carved our countries landscapes.

Its diverse habitats, glow with an abundance of lifeforms, that includes

- 7,402 species of flowering plants,
- 1,814 species of non-flowering plants,
- 139 species of mammals,
- 508 species of birds,
- 227 species of reptiles,
- 179 species of amphibians
- and 290 species of freshwater fish.

Its species richness and high endemism has earned it the title of UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site and one of the world's ten hottest biodiversity hotspots.



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