



Weekend
getaways

DANDELI

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(Top) Rafting in Kall is a real pleasure

(Right) The why Malabar giant squirrel



(Left) The exhilarating day-long trek

(Bottom) The Kall Nature camp



Adventure calling

Summer was just around the corner. As for me, last afternoon weekend for the season prompted us to pack off to Dandeli. Weekends are more exciting when there is a certain amount of travel involved, so travel of transport is a very critical part to any holiday plan. Given that Dandeli is roughly 400 kms from Bangalore and since our weekend was going to be filled with adventure and a lot of physical exertion, we opted for a train journey. In East Channarayana Express that stops at Alwarpet, which is around 40 kms from our destination. So we set off to Dandeli from the Rajahmundry station at around 8 pm on a Friday evening. To reach Alwarpet station at around 3.30 am the next morning. Post which, we hired a Tempo Van. Outside the Kall Nature Camp, our campsite. We spent the morning, there and quite a variety of birds, it was indeed a great time. There are also some birds like the Malabar giant squirrel and birds like the Monal, Emerald, Blue Jay, Red-Eyed, Kingfisher and other common ones.

After freshening up, a good heavy breakfast and packed lunch, with rest of the necessary stuff in our backpacks, we set off on a day-long trek, accompanied by a guide provided by the forest department. The route we choose was to end at Arakkalage on the regional highway approximately about 13 kms. We trekked through the amazing forest trails, along the banks of a stream, up the hills and the waterfalls, we could not get enough of it. We took a quick lunch break, with all the essential things had never tasted better. As the morning passed by it

fast within no time.

Early morning is the right time to spot wildlife, so we stepped onto the path for a walk of around 6 am. Our search for the spotted and leopards was not fruitful in the wild, it did not deter our enthusiasm to give it a try. Though spotting an leopard or a wild cat would have been an ultimate thrill, we were happy to see the deer, a lion and several species of birds. The jeep track took us deeper into the jungle, where the forest cover got thicker and darker. We went ahead, hoping to spot the wild cat that could make our day.

After that desperate attempt to see more wildlife we got back to the camp to grab some breakfast and ready to splash some water in their fall. We reached jungle lodges and from there were driven to jeep with the willing guide team to Cavelghat, the starting point for our activity. Rafting in Kall is a real pleasure, and as the name suggests the water appears to be black due to the coloration of the rock surface. The comparison of rafting in Kall is to rafting in the Amazon and the peaks of the rapids but never. Waters Kall has its own charm, thrill and is a fun.

The area has made has been to come rapids between one and three grades, the rapids depend on the season of the water from the dam.

Kall being a perennial river has water throughout the year, but the best time to raft is between October and February. The route has forest cover on both sides, which gives it a calm and serene look. You could also get to water, but should never miss the Blue Bill and the Kingfisher along the route.

After all the splashing and swimming in the river we were on our way to explore Dandeli forest and begin our search - a magnificent heron in one of the local restaurants. We just had a little time to walk around the forest and reach the camp and pack-up. As we drove to the