

# **TRAINING HANDBOOK AND MANUAL ON PROMOTION OF ECO TOURISM IN SIRUMALAI HILLS**

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An aerial photograph of a lush green forested hillside. A paved road with a white boundary line runs diagonally across the lower part of the image. A stream flows through the forest on the right side. The top of the image is a solid green curved shape.

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# **TRAINING HANDBOOK AND MANUAL ON PROMOTION OF ECO TOURISM IN SIRUMALAI HILLS**

Now a day adventure tourism and trekking in hills have become the most attractive part of a tour programmes in Tamil Nadu. And Sirumalai is one of the magnificent summer retreats and an ecological paradise of Tamil Nadu. If a skilled trekking guide takes a tourist to the Sirumalai hills any one simply would lead a eco friendly life after their returns.

Hence here are some basic points to ponder for the guide :

## **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Safety and security mechanism**

- o Firefighting mechanism
- o Usage of tool kit
- o Knowing of hideout places during animal attacks
- o Security measures

### **Communication and documentation**

- o Documentation of every segment of trekking
- o Moral ethics of a guide during trekking
- o Dress code
- o Places of importance

### **Eco friendly approach to flora and fauna**

- o Species identification
- o Foot prints and animals usual paths
- o Bird watching
- o Animal movement and tracking system

### **Mapping and various routes**

- o Various routes, important water falls, water holes, sight seeing places and resting places

### **Sapling plantation**

- o Choosing of plants by the visitor
- o Planting a sapling for a visitor
- o Watering and protection methodologies

# FLORA AND FAUNA OF SIRUMALAI HILLS

## Sirumalai plant species

- o Identification of various herbs and shrubs in the Sirumalai region
- o Usage and collection methodologies of herbs by the tribal community
- o Various forms of traditional healing systems

## Sirumalai wild life animal species

- o Animal tracking system
- o Foot prints
- o Animal food habits
- o Animal usual paths

## Sirumalai wild life birds species

- o Hornbill, eagle and owls
- o Honey sparrow, Paradise fly catcher and weaver bird

## Important places of Sirumalai hills

- o Water holes and water falls
- o Big trees and important places
- o Sightseeing places (lord Meenatchi Amman Temple and Sathayar Dam)



## Usage of Bio Degradable Materials during Trekking

- o Non usages of plastics and polypropylene
- o Avoiding usages of any carry bags
- o Throwing of used batteries, used biscuits and chocolate covers

## Banning of Tobacco, Alcohol, other Flammable Materials during Trekking

- o Non usage of tobacco and alcohol during trekking
- o Throwing of used alcohol bottles and cigarettes boxes
- o Either a guide or a trekker should not litter fire during trekking

## Maintaining Tool Kit / First Aid Kit

- o Usage of torch, knife and sickle
- o Usage of camera / binocular / night vision spectacles
- o Maintaining and changing of expiry medicines
- o Usage of medical first aid kits
- o Maintaining potable water / food items
- o Importance of traditional rural food ( foods prepared by minor millets)

