

Mukurthi National Park

July 11, 2023 • vajiramandravi.com



About Mukurthi National Park:

- **Location:**

- It lies in the **western corner of Nilgiris Plateau** in the state of **Tamil Nadu**.
- The park is a **part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve**. It is **sandwiched between** the **Mudumalai National Park** and the **Silent Valley National Park**.
- The area was declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 1982 and **upgraded to a National Park in 1990**.
- It was established with the **prime motive of conserving its keystone species - the Nilgiri Tahr**.
- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and was **formerly known as Nilgiri Tahr National Park**.
- It is also **home to Mukurthi Peak (2,554m)**, the fourth highest peak in the Nilgiri Hills.

- **Rivers: Pykara and Kundah rivers** flow through the park along with several perennial streams that originate in the park and drain into the Bhavani Puzha.
 - **Vegetation:**
 - The majority of the landscape in the reserve is **covered with shrubs and mountainous grasslands.**
 - **The area** in the National Park which are **at an elevation** and experience high rainfall **are covered with sholas and lush green tropical grasslands.**
 - **Flora:**
 - **Along sholas, shrubs like Gaultheria fragrantissima, Helichrysum** and *Berberis tinctoria* are found.
 - Other plants which can be seen here are **Rhododendrons, Cinamon, Mahonia, Satyrium,** Raspberries etc.
 - **Fauna:** The park houses some of the **endangered wild species like Nilgiri tahr, Indian elephants, Nilgiri Langur,** Bengal tiger and bonnet macaque.
-

Q1) What are Keystone species?

A keystone species—which can be any organism, from animals and plants to bacteria and fungi—is the glue that holds a habitat together. It may not be the largest or most plentiful species in an ecological community, but if a keystone is removed, it sets off a chain of events that turns the structure and biodiversity of its habitat into something very different.

Source: [T.N. Forest Department steps up vigil around Mukurthi National Park in Nilgiris to curb poaching](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/mukurthi-national-park/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.