

A Report on one day Staff tour

Sreepathy Institute and management and technology organized a one day staff tour to Silent Valley National Park on 2nd January, 2020. Tour was being planned and coordinated through College Staff club. Around 25 Teachers were a part of this tour and the bus started from Vavanoor at 07.00 am. Most of the staff members boarded the bus from Vavanoor while rest from Pattambi. After an hour, bus stopped at Sreekrishnapuram where the tour operators had arranged breakfast for all. After breakfast at around 08.30 am, our bus headed towards Silent Valley National Park. We reached Mukkali at 10.30 am.

Silent Valley National Park

Silent Valley National Park is a beautiful representation of the last remaining rain forest of Kerala. Historically it's a paradigm of people's movement to protect the forest. Silent Valley was declared as National Park in 1984 and formally inaugurated in the year 1985. Initially there was only 89.52 sq.km. area under the Division which forms the core zone of the National Park. In 2007, an area of 148 sq.km. was added to this Division as buffer zone. In 1914, Silent Valley forests were declared as Reserved Forest. Till 1921, Silent Valley was part of South Malabar Forest Division with headquarters at Nilambur. During 1921, it came under control of Palakkad Forest Division and managed so until 1988.

It was an out of the world experience. A five hour excursion where one gets away from the noise, dust, and disturbances of our everyday lives. A group of 5 were given a Jeep with the driver as our forest guide. The journey was from the Silent Valley National Park office at Mannarkad to the Sairandhri watchtower - 3 hours of driving up and down a narrow forest path. The driver narrated tree species of Silent Valley tropical rain forests. We saw a giant Malabar Squirrel and the Lion Tailed Macaques on the way. These apart, thick green tree cover, colorful butterflies and flowers and streams made us ignore the bumpy ride.

We reached Sairandhri watchtower at 12.15 pm and climbed the 100 feet watchtower. The view of the forest and the Kunti river from up there were great. We opted out of the two hour, 3 km trek to the Kunti river due to time constraints. The drivers guided us to visitor's rest place located in the midst of dense forest. We shared the snacks that we bought near forest office. The return Journey to Mukkali started at 2.00 pm. We had a sumptuous lunch from one of the best hotels near Mannarkkad. Bus reached Vavanoor at 07.00 pm.



A fabulous time was it for the entire team as the journey exchanged the feeling of togetherness which is often forgotten in the busy line of works.

For more photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/eTjcVVUzWMHMvXLV6>

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