

Forest dept to resume trekking in Kappatagudda

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Gadag: After a gap of one year, the forest department is now all set to resume trekking activities for tourists this weekend at Kappatagudda Hill, Gadag district.

The department started trekking in the Kappatagudda hill range last year and received an overwhelming response from tourists. However, it had to be stopped due to lack of rain last year.

As the region has been receiving good rains for the last couple of weeks, the forest department has made all preparations to restart the trekking activities this weekend.

Veerendra Maribasannavar, RFO, Kappatagudda, told TOI: “Last year, when we started the trekking, we got a very good response. Hundreds of tourists from all over the state would come here to enjoy trekking, but we had to stop it at the end of July due to a lack of rain. There have been good rains across the hill now. Kappatagudda is now teeming with lush greenery everywhere and the fog cover in the early hours of the day is really attractive.”

“Heavy to moderate rains in the last couple of weeks have encouraged us to restart the trekking activities for tourists so that they can enjoy the magnificent greenery across Kappatagudda. We have already started online booking, and we will take at least 10 persons in one batch for trekking,” he said.

He stated, “We will start the trekking at 6 am from Kadakol Deva Vana point to Chikkavadahatti and Galigundi point, covering a 7 km-long trek. We are also offering short treks up to 3 km from Kadakol village to Kadakol viewpoint for those who cannot undertake the 7 km-long trek.”

“We have taken all precautionary measures to ensure the safety of tourists who are going to be part of the trekking activities, and we have also deputed 4-5 guides to assist with the trekking activities. We arrange treks only during weekends (on Saturdays and Sundays) and on other holidays, depending on the response from tourists. Rs 350 is charged per person for each trek,” he informed.

There is also a demand from tourists to introduce bus facilities from Gadag to Kadakol village, which is around 21 km from Gadag, but we have not yet taken any decision on this issue. Now, local vehicles and other transport facilities are available from Gadag to reach Kadakol, and there will be no issue for those who are coming in their vehicles, he said. “We are also planning to provide dormitory facilities in the Kadakol campus so that tourists can stay overnight and trek the next morning,” he said.

Kappatagudda is spread over 35,000 hectares and is home to several medicinal plants and 21 different species of animals, including leopards, jackals, wolves, and wild boars.