



**Tranquil waters:** A placid view of the Cauvery river in Doddamakali

**T**hink of a place that is rugged, remote, filled with foliage, has the River Cauvery flowing by it and is situated amidst the Western Ghats. Doddamakali Fishing and Nature camp, situated six kilometres upstream from another known fishing camp, Bheemeshwari, is about all this and more.

Hugging the river, the camp, run by Jungle Lodges & Resorts, is completely protected and riparian. Peaceful to the senses, sylvan in solitude and serene in its surroundings, the river here is rough and ravishing, with immense current in its waters. And such is the rise in water levels during the nights that it seemed like the waters would fill our tents.

The last stretch of road leading to Doddamakali is interesting with winding roads through arid forests and sloping hillsides, descending steeply through a series of switchbacks to reach the campsite by the river. We got down mid-way and walked it, as that seemed less intimidating, before the camp

unfolded itself beautifully.

The adventurous can let their hair down at this wilderness camp offering a host of activities. And a coracle ride on the wild waters of the Cauvery to watch the sunset or negotiating the rough jagged rocks in the *ghats* are a must. Sitting in a coracle was an experience, requiring a coordinated effort at balancing our weights. But, if you want to go easy, just take a nature walk. Star gazing at night is a must, as the skies are so clear that one can see millions of silver-lined stars at night.

But Doddamakali did not end at just that, as we realised next morning. With more than 200 species of birds, it is a bird watchers' paradise too. A jungle safari could have you spotting a leopard or the endangered grizzled giant squirrel. Angling here is big, with many serious anglers coming in pursuit of the Mahaseers.

After a day full of thrills, we finally settled down for a campfire, by the river, recollecting fond memories of our two-day tryst with the wild. **E**

## SOUTH

# Thrills of the wild

RUGGED AND REMOTE, DODDAMAKALI IS VERY APPEALING IN ITS COMBINATION OF SYLVAN SURROUNDINGS AND ADVENTURE TRAILS, SAYS **HEMA NARAYANAN**

## Navigator

### GETTING THERE

By air: Bangalore, 132 km away, is the nearest airport

Bt rail: Bangalore is the nearest railhead and is well-connected by trains to all other parts of India

By road: Doddamakali falls on the Bangalore-Kanakapura road, past Halagur. It is best to arrange for a rugged vehicle like a jeep from Bangalore

### WHERE TO STAY

The Jungle Lodges & Resorts is the best place to stay at as it offers tented cottages alongside a host of activities, Tariff: Rs 2,150 onwards, Tel: 080 25597021, [info@junglelodges.com](mailto:info@junglelodges.com)

BANGALORE TO  
DODDAMAKALI  
132 km