



Grassroutes Journeys Private Limited

The Festival of a Million Fireflies 2017 -3rd June – 02nd July 2017

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What are Fireflies?**

Lampyridae, more commonly known as Fireflies or lightning bugs are a species winged beetles. They are called fireflies for their conspicuous use of bioluminescence during twilight to attract mates or prey.

- **What is the best time to see Fireflies?**

The best time to see the fireflies is post twilight, between the last weeks of May till the 1st week of July. The factors which are conducive for better sighting are,

a) A few showers b) Tree Cover c) Nature and weather patterns

- **Do you have a different pricing for week-ends and week-days?**

Yes we do. Weekdays (Sunday –Thursday) are generally more relaxed and not as booked up as the week ends. We also offer a discount for week day visits. Weekends (Friday - Saturday): A larger number of people visit on week-ends. Weekends have special fare and activities planned out. For further information on the pricing please check the pricing details on the main page.

- **Can I come for a Day trip or only night viewing, without a need for any booking?**

No we do not book Day trips or only night viewing trips. For smooth running of the program and coordination with the villagers, all bookings are for a minimum stay of one night or longer, and have to be strictly pre-booked and pre-paid before arrival at the village.

- **What are the accommodation facilities and what type of washroom facilities are available?**

We offer three different options- Tents, Homestays and Dormitories. Tents have functional English style shared toilets at the campsite. There are 6 toilets for 12 tents. Home stays have Indian style toilets outside the house. Dormitories too have a common Indian style toilets.

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- **How many tents, home stays and dormitories are available?**

Canvas/Camping Tents at Campsite and Camping Tents at Lakeside : 6 in each category Home stays : 3 in village Purushwadi and 5 in village Wanjulshet Dormitories : 2 in village Wanjulshet

- **What is included in the cost and what is not?**

Inclusions – Stay(Canvas/ camping tents and home stays) , first day lunch, Tea /biscuits and dinner and next day breakfast and lunch, Guided fireflies viewing, Guided village activities, A local village guide who speaks Hindi or Marathi, filtered drinking water and taxes. (Please also check the week-end itinerary for inclusions)

Exclusions --- Travel to and fro from the village,milk, coffee, bottled water, English speaking guide, cost of hire of torches, any other food or snacks, other than what is cooked.

- **What are the meals like?**

Meals are simple rural Maharashtrian style vegetarian meals cooked over a wood fire (chula). Tea is served black with an infusion of Lemon Grass. A typical breakfast is Poha (Indian cooked snack made up of thin rice flakes, and Indian spices) and black tea.

- **Any special provision for kids' meals?**

You can let us know in advance if you want the food to be less spicy. But we strongly recommend especially for babies, to carry food especially snacks that you think they would need.

- **Is travel/ transport included in the package? Is parking available?**

No, travel is not included in the package. You can drive there in your own vehicle. We offer FREE parking. Should you have a driver along, charges are applicable.

- **What kind of vehicles is preferred to drive to the village? What is the condition of the roads?**

All cars except those with a low clearance are best to commute here. The condition of the roads is fairly good, except for some stretches of up to 100 metres, where the road is bumpy.

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- **Can I get there using public transport?**

You can reach the village using public transport. You can get from Mumbai to Kasara or Igatpuri by train and then local jeeps can be hired at key points for minimum of 120 per seat (on sharing basis with local villagers) per way. For a private jeep from Rajur or Kasara, that can be booked by us. Cost for the same will be approximately Rs 300 to Rs 2500 per way, depending on pick up location.

From Pune -- You can come to Purushwadi from Pune via Rajur (Akole/Ahmednagar), alternatively we can pick you up from Sangamner also at approx. Rs 2000 per way.

- **Is it safe for women and children?**

What is the minimum age for a child to visit? Yes it is safe. We would not recommend it for infants below one and a half year. We are unable to provide the facility of sterilisation of baby bottles.

- **What do we bring along?**

Do come prepared for Sun and rain with suitable clothes, shoes, sun screen, caps, rain wear. Also be prepared for the colder evenings/nights. Personal toiletries, medicines, a torch, mosquito repellent/bug sprays, spare clothing, towels, snacks, milk tetra packs, coffee sachets or anything you may require. We do not allow mosquito coils or anything that needs to be lit inside the tent. We cannot provide for towels. Also if you are under any medication please carry the same.

- **Is there electricity available in the accommodation?**

There is no electricity in the tents, but you can get a lantern on a refundable deposit. It is also useful to carry a torch. Home stays and dormitories will have electricity subject to the availability of power in the village. In the absence of power, lanterns or torch may be used by the households.

- **How is the mobile network coverage within the village?**

Generally there is no network in the village. Some mobile services may have a very limited range of network in certain parts of the village.



- **Is water available for drinking and bathing purposes? Is hot water available?**

Filtered drinking water is provided. You can bring along your own packaged drinking water or you can buy it at the village @ Rs. 20 per bottle. We recommend that you use water sparingly for washing purposes. Hot water is not available for bathing.

- **Are there shops in the village?**

There are no shops close to the village, do bring along whatever snacks you may need for your stay.

- **Will there be a dedicated guide for us?**

Yes there will be a local guide (who speaks Hindi or Marathi) for one individual group, but a single person or two persons could sometimes be clubbed with a larger group. English Translator- If you need an English translator, that can be arranged for at an additional cost and a request has to be made before the commencement of your journey.

- **What is the terrain like?**

The terrain is hilly. Good comfortable walking/trekking shoes recommended. We do not recommend it for senior citizens/people with walking or climbing disabilities, spine problems, severe medical problems or those on wheelchair.

- **Is there availability of first aid?**

Yes, Basic first aid is available. Do check with your guide for the same. Kindly note, for any medical emergencies the nearest hospital is 12 kms. away in Rajur.

- **We are a corporate team and would like to come for a visit to see the Fireflies.**

Sure. For the Fireflies programme please call us on +91 887 947 7437 to discuss your requirement. For all other corporate programmes, including Rural immersions and team building exercises **please email us at connect@grassroutes.co.in** or call us at +91 900 498 4437



- **Since how many years is this event happening?**

Grassroutes has been doing this event for the past 7 years.

- **Are we allowed to bring along alcohol? What is your policy on smoking or drugs?**

We DO NOT encourage consumption of alcohol or smoking while in the village or in the tent. We strongly support and encourage responsible tourism. If there is any kind of misbehaviour, it will not be tolerated by us. Alcohol and smoking are avoidable. No, drugs are not allowed. If you are seen handling, consuming or appear under the influence of any illegal substances we have the right to deny you entry and ask you to leave the premises, any amount of money given to us will be forfeited. If there are any accidents or mishaps to the property or people around due to smoking any substance you will be solely held legally responsible for the same and will have to pay for the damages.