

ROCKING THE BOAT



Pages from the diary of Tejas

Evolve Back Kuruba Safari Lodge, Kabini, June 2010

Tejas visits our resorts in Coorg and Kabini and shares with you some of his uplifting experiences. Join him as he immerses himself in the activities at our two resorts, and enjoy them with him, virtually!

Tejas Joseph resides in Auroville near Puducherry and is part of a consulting group engaged in creating viable models of decentralised lighting (using solar energy) for off-grid Indian villages. Tejas travels a lot in the course of his work and feels a deep connection with the history and ethos of the places he visits. He is a keen observer of the winds of change that are now blowing across the physical, cultural and social landscapes of India and seeks to capture its effects in his articles, ever believing that the journey is as important as the destination, the travel as rewarding as the arrival!

Feel free to write to him at pjtejas@gmail.com if your interests or work coincide with his.

Activity Name	Coracle Ride
Duration	10-15 MINUTES
Timing	Between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM
Guided	Yes
Cost	None
Transfer	Not required
Prior Booking Required	Yes

Once upon a coracle

On any given evening after sunset, you can see local fishermen out on the waters of the Kabini with their nets and lines in their coracles. These were originally made from dried reeds and skin tied together with rope or hemp. Today, PVC, tar sheets and plastic substitute for wickerwork and other natural materials, which are now harder to obtain and need much maintenance.

Riding in a coracle is not like riding in a long boat. The coracle, being small and round, can disorient you while at the same time giving you a 360* view of the waterscape. It requires great tact to handle and to be seated stably in one. Balance is the key!

Wearing our life jackets, my son and I decided to sample a coracle ride on the last day of our stay at the resort. Manju, our pilot, elegantly pushed off from shore and paddled upstream for a few hundred meters before demonstrating how different paddling techniques – whether up-down or side-to-side – animated the coracle in different ways- from moving ahead, bobbing in place or spinning around. One can be fooled by its seeming simplicity (like I was), but you will soon see that it takes considerable skill (and practice) to get the “coracle rhythm”.

So those of you who are endowed with adventurous spirits and feel the need to subdue physical challenges, keeping a coracle on course without spilling its contents – you and your co-passengers - into the Kabini is a good place to start.

Good luck, and happy coracle riding!

