On the trail of Nature at Matheran

Rare butterflies, birds and flowers — the hill station of Matheran offers plenty to the observant.

YOGEISH CHAVAN

Jolted off the beaten track

If hurtling down a mountain at breakneck speed is your idea of fun, then try downhill mountain biking. Regan Rodrigues (9870966910) organises rides.

Honeymoon Point, Echo Point and then heatmap to Charlotte Lake. The vast expanse of the lake surrounded by dense greenery is a soothing sight indeed, and the monkeys gave us company wherever we went. The vibrant colours dispensed by the setting sun as it seeped behind the Prabhala fort in the west, made for a fitting end to the day.

The next day, we woke early and set out for some bird watching. The white-breasted waterhen was a treat to watch and listened to, with its distinct, sweet singing tone. We also caught sight of a rare Nightjacket woodpecker and the high point — a couple of Asian paradise flycatchers. The female is a small brownish bird, but the male is a glowing white, with an almost four-feet-long tail, much like a flowing ribbon. It reminded me of the wedding gown that Kate Middleton wore recently.

A short stop for breakfast later, we undertook another nature trail, this time spotting some flowers, plants and butterflies. The Common Rose, Blue Mormon, Common Sailor and Blue Tiger were some of the pretty winged creatures we observed.

So it was time to leave, but not before I made a firm decision to visit Matheran again — and for leisure. Rainbow Adventures will conduct a camp for nature lovers from May 10 to 13. Call 9334761996 for registration.

The writer is a wildlife enthusiast.