

UNFOLDING OF MYSTERY

VISIT TO KAS PLATEAU NEAR SATARA



Kas Plateau

The Kas plateau near Satara has always been a paradise for nature lovers. The wide open plateau that looks barren and bare during the summers, metamorphoses into an unbelievable carpet of entire colour spectrum after the rains.

Typically blooming during the month of August, the extravaganza lasts for a short crisp period of 3-4 weeks, before the colours start turning into green and yellows again.

Unfortunately, over last 3 years, the monsoon patterns are somewhat erratic and the flowering season on Kas is also

getting random.

The drive to Kas is most enjoyable. Lush green surroundings, hills surrounding the area bring forth full glory of the monsoon. The countless shades of green leave one in an awe. Curving and bending along cliffs and valleys, the 22 km road from Satara to Kas is a drive to remember.



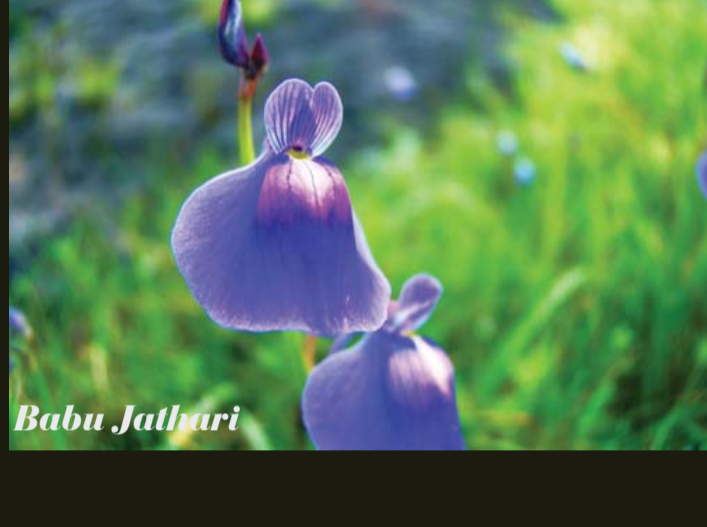
I traveled to Kas two days back. As I had mentioned earlier, the weather is behaving little funny these days and I did not want to miss the unfolding of the carpet. I reached a shade too early !! Not too many flowers as yet, but the process has begun.

Beautiful white Panda flowers (Pinda concanensis) mark the starting of the blossoming season. The Jathari (Utricularia) varieties present lovely shades of blue and purple.



Panda

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Babu Jathari



Malabari Jathari

Babu Jathari (Utricularia babui), Malabari Jathari (Utricularia malabarica) and Nili Jathari (Utricularia caerulea) were the varieties I observed.



Malabari Jathari



Malabari Jathari

Glimpses of what the unleashed beauty would be can be seen even at this early stage of the season.

Luckily, I also managed to see a rather uncommon variety in Kas area, Gulabi Pantura (Aponogeton brugenii) near a small water logging.

Lush green moss decorating trees and branches is seen every where.

Among the other varieties I observed were Acanthaceae, Sontara (Hypoxis aurea) and Taraguchha (Neanotis lancifolia).



Gulabi Pantura



Polinating Moss



Acanthaceae



Rain drops in moss



Rain drop on leaf



Jathari



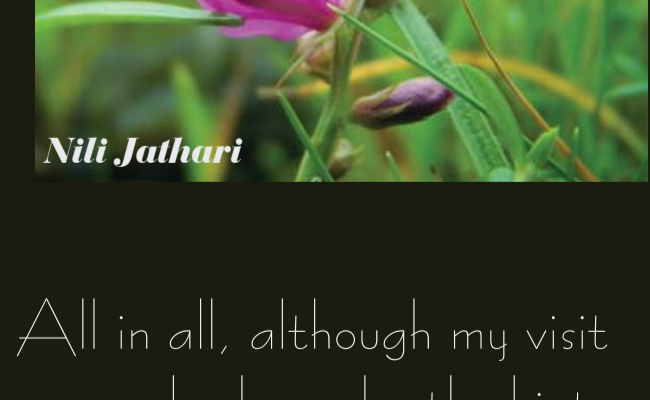
Malabari Jathari



Nili Jathari



Sontara



Tara Guchha

All in all, although my visit was a shade early, the hints of the coming glory were very clearly seen. It would be a matter of another 2 weeks before the entire plateau will be seen in all its glory.

All nature lovers, do not miss this opportunity. Visit Kas plateau sometime in the first or second week of September.

Like all the good things in life, this wonder too lasts only for a few weeks.

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