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March 2020 A high-end monthly magazine

Top 20 Wildlife Destinations of NDA

Photo by Pranay Patel

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PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

March 2020

The Wild Side

A world of its own, which enjoys its days better away from the human presence, is the wildlife in India. In the deep wild settings of the nation are the homes of Royal Bengal Tigers, 2/3rd of Great Single-horned Rhinoceros, Indian elephants and Asiatic Lions. Choosing their own ecosystem, these animals along with other species have given the true meaning to wildlife of India.

The nation is a home to 89 national parks, over 400 wildlife sanctuaries and 13 bio-reserves in an effort to protect the exotic and endangered species, offering an opportunity to the tourist to go back to nature.

With this edition of Praveg's Tourism One, we present "Top-20 Wildlife Destinations of India" for your next wild trip. Read on!

PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

March 2020



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Go ahead and send us your ideas, valuable opinions or topics you would like to see more coverage on. FOR SUBSCRIPTION QUERIES, CONTACT: tourismone@praveg.com



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Incredible India

Top 20 Wildlife Destinations of



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Best Time to Visit October to May

Timing

Morning : 7:00 to 9:00am Evening : 3:00 to 6:00pm

What to See

here is a high diversity of animal life in the sanctuary with about 50 species of fishes, 21 species of amphibians, 34 species of reptiles, 227 species of birds and 55 species of mammals. Mammal diversity is higher in the dry deciduous and dry thorn forests than in the other habitats. Thirteen percent of all mammal species in India are present in Mudumalai wildlife sanctuary.

The Indian leopard, dhole, striped hyena, golden jackal, sloth bear, elephants, gray langur, bonnet macaque, gaur, sambar deer, chital deer, Indian muntjac, Indian spotted chevrotain, Moschiola indica, and the wild boar, Indian giant squirrel, red giant flying squirrel.

Some reptiles found here are the python, flying lizard, spectacled cobra, krait and Asian pit vipers. The monitor lizard is the most regularly observed species.

Eight percent of bird species in India belong to the Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary. Among the 227 bird species found in Mudumalai, 110 species are insectivores, 62 are carnivores, 23 species are fishivores, 12 species are omnivores and 20 species are granivores. These include the unique near-hreatened black-and-orange flycatcher. Regional endemics include Malabar trogon and Malabar grey hornbill. Some rare birds of prey like the rufous-bellied eagle can occasionally be seen in this sanctuary. Other predatory birds include crested serpent eagle, changeable hawk-eagle, black eagle, oriental honey-buzzard, jerdon's baza, bonelli's eagle, crested goshawk, besra, mottled wood owl and brown hawk owl, and several minivets.

There are also hornbill, golden oriole, chloropsis, paradise flycatcher, goldenbacked woodpecker, Malabar great black woodpecker, blue-winged parakeet, fairy bluebird, jungle fowl racket-tailed drongo, peafowl, red spurfowl, grey francolin, painted spurfowl, painted bush quail, white-bellied woodpecker, lesser vellownape, golden woodpecker, streakthroated woodpecker, chestnut-headed bee-eater, emerald dove, green imperial pigeon, grey-fronted green pigeon, greybellied cuckoo, Indian cuckoo, alpine swift, black-hooded oriole, greater racket-tailed drongo, black-headed cuckooshrike, grey-headed bulbul, forest wagtail, crimson-backed sunbird and Loten's sunbird. It also holds the isolated southern population of the striped titbabbler.

How to Reach

This wildlife sanctuary is well connected by the National Highway. All buses that come from Mysore to Ooty stop at the Reception Centre at Theppakadu. It can also be approached by road from Mysore 91 km away. The nearest railway station is Ooty (67 kms) and Mysore. (90 km) It can also be reached from Coimbatore and Bengaluru.

Attractions for Tourists

- Sightseeing
- Elephant Rides
- Jungle Safari
- Camping with the Elephants
- Nature as well as Wildlife Photography
- Waterhole Visit
- Trekking

Where to Stay

Forest Rest Houses available here are:

Abhayaranyam Annex I & II Abhayaranyam Rest House I & II Cuckoo Rest House Masinagudi Log House I, II, III & IV Masinagudi Rest House I, II & III Masinagudi Trekking Shed I & II Minivet Dormitory I & II Morgan Dormitory I & II Peacock Dormitory I, II & III Sylvan Dormitory, Sylvan Lodge I, II, III & IV

More than 100 nature resorts, nature camps and hotels available.





2 Periyar National Park Kerala

What to See

lephants, tigers, nilgiri tahrs, nilgiri langurs, birds, jungle cats, dhole, and the carmine mongoose. You will get to see the abode of the famous species called the Macaque, which has a long tail like the lion.

The River Pamba also flows through this wildlife sanctuary, making it a lush landscape and a treasure trove of flora and fauna all year around.

You can find over 300 species of birds here. The migratory birds that flock to these parts include the kingfisher, hornbill, darters and storks. A wide variety of reptiles like the king cobra and the python can also be found slithering in these parts. You will also find orchids, rosewood, teak wood, bamboo, eucalyptus and several ferns flourishing here.







The nearest airport is Kochi – (200 kms) and Madurai in Tamil Nadu – (140 kms.) The nearest railway station in Periyar national park. Taxis and buses are available from Ernakulam, Madurai and Kottayam, which is 114 km away.

Best Time to Visit

September to April

Timing

All days 6:00am to 7:00pm Guided nature walks 7:00 to 10:00am & 2:00 to 5:00pm Border hiking & bamboo rafting 8:00am to 5:00 pm

Attractions for Tourists

• Boating • Jungle Safari • Trekking • Bamboo Rafting • Jungle camping • Kadathanadan Kalari & Navarasa Kathakali (KKNK) and Mudra Cultural Centre • Periyar Tiger Trail • Elephant Rides • Spice Plantation Visit • Visit Tribal Heritage Museum inside the Mannam settlement • Connemara Tea Factory to learn Tea-Making process • the ancient Mangala Devi Temple complex view the valley from picturesque viewpoints like Ottakathalamedu • Parunthumppara • Mullaperiyar Dam and Chellarkovil Waterfalls • drive through Vandiperiyar town filled with the aroma of spices or take the off-road drive to Sathram.

Where to Stay

Aranya Nivas KTDC Forest Canopy Summit Hampton Hotel & Spa Cardamom County The Elephant Court Hills & Hues Hotel Holiday Vista Niraamaya Retreats Cardamom Club – Thekkady The Mountain Courtyard Chrissie's Hotel

Around 150 hotels and resorts available.







DCIC NCCIM Wildlife Sanctuary

April to October June to August

Best Time to Visit Srindgar

What to See

he main animal species that Dachigam is known for is the hangul, or the Kashmir stag. Other species include musk deer (roose kat), leopard, himalayan serow, kashmir grey langur, kashmir stag (hangul), leopard cat, himalayan black bear, himalayan brown bear, jackal, hill fox, himalayan weasel, yellow-throated marten, jungle cat, long-tailed marmot, otter, cinnamon sparrow, black bulbul, himalayan monal, golden oriole, minivet, pygmy owlet, woodpecker, babbler, redstart, wagtail, koklass pheasant, chough, orange bullfinch, kKashmir flycatcher, tytler's leaf warbler, streaked laughingthrush, himalayan rubythroat, wallcreeper, black-and-yellow grosbeak, himalayan griffon vulture, bearded vulture, redbilled blue magpie, titmouse.

Where to Stay

Vivanta Dal View Hotel EL Classics Houseboat Zaindari Palace Mascot Houseboats Batra Hotels and Residences Welcome Hotel at Dal Lake Solomon Heights Peacock Houseboats **Kings Houseboats** Hotel The Victory More than 100 hotels, resorts & boat houses available.

Timing

All days 6:00am to 6:30pm

By Air

Srinagar is the nearest airport, 22 km away. Cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Jammu, Bengaluru, Indore and Leh are connected to Srinagar by air....

By Train

Jammu is the nearest railhead about 327 km away. ...

By Road

Srinagar is well connected to Jammu and other towns by public and private buses

Attractions for Tourists

- Jeep safari,
- Elephant safari
- Trekking



Best Time to Visit

BGINGIOUIS NCHONCIPCIPS

What to See

Bandipur supports a good population of endangered and vulnerable species like Indian elephants, gaurs, tigers, sloth bears, muggers, Indian rock pythons, fourhorned antelopes, jackals and dholes. The commonly seen mammals along the public access roads in the park include chital, gray langurs, Indian giant squirrels and elephants.

Peafowl are among the most commonly seen birds in Bandipur along with grey junglefowl, crows and drongos. Bandipur is a home to over 200 species of birds including honey buzzards, redheaded vultures, Indian vultures, flowerpeckers, hoopoes, Indian rollers, brown fish owls, crested serpent eagles, changeable hawk-eagles, bee-eaters and a whole lot of kingfishers and ospreyss are a common sight in winter. Reptile species include spectacled cobra, Indian rock python, vipers, rat snake, muggers, monitor lizards, Indian chameleon, Indian pond terrapin, agamids and flying lizards.

Timing

Karnataka





The nearest airport is Bangalore, which 220 km from the national park. By road, it is 80 km from Ooty and Mysore respectively and is easily accessible by KSRTC buses or local taxis.

Attractions for Tourists

- Jeep Safari
- Van Safari
- Nature Walk
- Elephant Rides

Where to Stay

Presently the following accommodation facilities are available for visitors at Bandipur Campus.

a) VIP Guest Houses

There is a VIP guest house having 4 suits b) Cottages

There are 09 cottages having 19 suits c) Dormitories

There are 04 dormitories having 45 beds Around 100 resorts & hotels available.











Best Time to Visit November & February

Corbett National Park

Uttarakhand Timing

What to See

pans over an extent of 520 sq.km., its whole area comprises hills, marshy depressions, riverine belts, grasslands and large lake. It is among the few tiger reserves in India that allow overnight stays in the lap of the National Park. Nature watch and wildlife viewing in the park is done in an open 4-wheeler Jeep and on elephant back. Sheltering a healthy population of tigers and rare species like Otters and the endemic fish eating crocodile, the national park is one of the most sought after destinations for the wildlife buffs. Dhikala, situated on the border of the extensive Patil Dun valley, is the most popular destination in Corbett because of its superb location and sheer abundance of wildlife present.

If you love bird watching, Corbett is virtual haven for such tourists. Corbett and its adjoining area is a home to more than 650 species of residents and migratory birds. Particularly Dhikala is a fine place to look for birds of prey, over 50 species of raptors alone show the healthy biodiversity of the area. Their multiplex behavior is intriguing and their varied songs are very much pleasing to the ear. In a nutshell, this finest national park of India is well known for rich and varied wildlife including royal Bengal tiger, elephant, four to five species of deer and rich birdlife.

All days 6:30am to 10:00am (Jeep & Elephant Safari) 1:30pm to 5:30 pm (Jeep & Elephant Safari) 6:00am to 11:30am (Canter Safari)





The closest international airport is New Delhi and by road it is 300 km from Delhi and 400 km from Lucknow. The nearest railway station is Ramnagar which is 9 km away.

Attractions for Tourists

- Jungle safari
- elephant ride
- corbett waterfall
- River rafting
- Garjia temple
- Corbett museum
- Koshi River
- Fishing in corbett
- Durga mandir temple
- Sitabani temple
- Gyan yatra





Where to Stay

Corbett Tuskar Trail Manu Maharani IRIS LE Reserve Resort Tiger Camp Resort Atulya Resort De Coracao Country INN Maulik Mansion Samsara Resort







6

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Timing

12:00pm to 5:30pm (Canter Safari)

What to See

he park is a home to a viable breeding population of about 200 snow leopards, especially in the Rumbak catchment area. The prey base for the apex predator in the Central Asian Highlands is primarily supported in Hemis by Argali (Great Tibetan Sheep), Bharal (Blue Sheep), Shapu (Ladakhi Urial) and livestock. A small population of the Asiatic ibex is also present in Hemis. Hemis is the only refuge in India containing the Shapu. The Tibetan wolf, the Eurasian brown bear (endangered in India), and the red fox are also present in Hemis. Small mammals include the Himalayan marmot, mountain weasel and the Himalayan mouse hare.

Among birds of prey noted here are Himalayan and Trans-Himalayan birds of prey: the golden eagle, lammergeier vulture, and Himalayan griffon vulture. The Rumbak Valley offers opportunities for birdwatching, including several Tibetan species not common in other parts of India. Birds present here include brown accentor, robin accentor, Tickell's leaf warbler, streaked rosefinch, black-winged snowfinch, chukar, Blyth's swift, red-billed chough, Himalayan snowcock, and the firefronted serin.





The nearest airport is Leh and one can reach here by taking flights from Delhi, Jammu, Srinagar, or from Chandigarh. If road is your option, you can take taxis from Leh to reach the national park.

Attractions for Tourists

- Wildlife Safari
- The Markha Valley trekking
- Hemis Monastery Visit
- Gotsang Gompa Trek

1 an

 Visit to Stanka Gompa and Shang Gompa

Where to Stay

The Verda Driftwood Ladakh Chakshi Guest House Indus River Camp TIH Chomal Huts Hotel Ladakh Marvel Stok Palace Heritage Ratna Hotel Ladakh Global Family Resort - Saboo - Leh Also varios homestay options available









7 Valey of Flowers National Park Best Time to Visit

Best Time to Visit Mid-July to Mid-August

Timing

8:00am to 5:00pm

What to See

alley of Flowers National Park is a home to approximately 13 species of mammals, some of which include grey langur, flying squirrel, black bear, red fox, Himalayan Weasel, Himalayan yellow-throated marten, Himalaya n goral, Himalayan musk deer, Indian chevrotain, Himalayan thar, serow and many more. You can also have a sight of common leopards in the lower parts of national park, especially closer to villages. Moreover, in the recent surveys, a few snow leopards are also found in the national park. The park has a rich variety of birds and butterflies.

Flowers mostly orchids, poppies, primulas, marigold, daisies and anemones carpet the ground. Sub-alpine forests of birch and rhododendron cover parts of the park's area. The Valley of Flowers endows with 520 species of higher plants (angiosperms, gymnosperms and pteridophytes), of these 498 are flowering plants. The park has many species of medicinal plants including Dactylorhiza hatagirea, Picrorhiza kurrooa, Aconitum violaceum, Polygonatum multiflorum, Fritillaria roylei and Podophyllum hexandrum.

The nearest airport is in Jolly Grant, Dehradun, 295 km (183 miles) away, and the nearest railway station is in Rishikesh, 276 km (171 miles) away. The closest you can get to The Valley of Flowers by road is Govind Ghat

Attractions for Tourists

- Visit to Ghangaria & Hemkund Lake
- Trekking
- Wildlife Photography
- Numerous Waterfalls

Where to Stay

Hotel Himalayan Holidays Hotel Laxmi Palace Balwant Singh Homestay Mamta Home Stay Anjani Rawat Home Stay Sonam Devi Home Stay Parashar Resort Narendra Singh Home Stay Hotel Dabral Tourist Rest House Karanprayag Laxman Singh Home Stay Green Apple Home Stay









B Ranthanger Bart Time to Visit

Best Time to Visit

What to See

Ranthambore National park contains a huge variety of animals, birds and reptiles within it. Primarlily the population consists of...

Animals: Tigers, Leopards, Striped Hyenas, Sambar deer, Chital, Nilgai, Common or Hanuman langurs, Macaques, Jackals, Jungle cats, Caracals, Sloth bears, Black bucks, Rufoustailed Hare, Indian Wild Boar, Chinkara, Common Palm Civets or Toddy cat, Coomon Yellow Bats, Desert Cats, Fivestriped Palm Squirels, Indian False Vampires, Indian Flying Foxes, Indian Foxes, Indian Gerbilles, Indian Mole Rats, Indian Porcupines, Longeared Hedgehogs, Ratels, Small Indian Mongoose, Small Indian Civets and Common mongoose.

The amphibian species only consist of the Common India Toad and the Common Frog. The park is most famous for its diurnal tigers.

The park also has a large number of marsh crocs reptiles: Snub Nosed Marsh Crocodiles, Desert Monitor Lizards, Tortoise, Banded Kraits, Cobras, Common Kraits, Ganga Soft Shelled Turtles, Indian Pythons, North Indian Flap Shelled Turtles, Rat Snakes, Russel's Vipers, Sawscaled Vipers and the Indian Chamaeleon. Ranthambore, due to its varied terrain and abundance of water bodies, has an excellent population of birds, resident and migrant. In total, a list of 272 species have been documented. Some of the best locations to watch birds are Malik Talao, the Ranthambore Fort, Rajbagh Talao, Padam Talao and in the Jhalra area. The most important birds in Ranthambore include's Graylag Goose, Woodpeckers, Indian Gray Hornbills, Common Kingfishers, Bee Eaters, Cuckoos, Parakeets, Asian Palm Swift, Owl, Nightjars, Pigeon, Dove, Crakes, Snipes, Sandpipers, Gulls, Terns, Great Crested Grebe, Eagles, Darters, Cormorants, Egrets, Herons, Bitterns, Flamingos, Ibis, Pelicans, Storks, Pittas, Shrikes, Treepies, Crows, Orioles, Cuckoo-Shrikes, Minivets, Drongos, Flycatchers, Ioras, Wood Shrikes, Pipits, Bayas, Sparrows, Finches, Wagtails, Munias, Bulbul, Mynas, Falcons etc.



By Air: The nearest airport to reach Ranthambore National Park is Sanganer Airport in Jaipur. The distance between Jaipur and Ranthambore is about 180 km and there are regular flights for Jaipur from all the major cities including, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, etc. The tourists can take direct taxi or bus from Sanganer Airport to reach Ranthambore safely.

By Rail: The nearest railway station that connects Ranthambore National Park to other important cities is Sawai Madhopur Railway Station, which is located at a distance of 10 km from the park. The tourists can avail local bus, taxi, or cab to reach the Ranthambore park smoothly.

By Road: Ranthambore is well connected with all the major cities and town through state bus service and it can be reached through private buses and taxis. Jaipur, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Ajmer, and Jodhpur can be easily travelled from Ranthambore.

Where to Stay

Standard Resorts/Hotels:

Om Rudrapriya Holiday Resort Raj Palace Resort Ranthambhore Heritage Haveli Resort Vatika Resort Ranthambore Ankur Resort Ranthambore

Deluxe Resorts/Hotels:

WelcomHeritage Mount Valley Resort Tiger Den Resort Tiger Moon Resorts Regenta Resort Vanya Mahal Ranthambhore National Resort

Luxury Resorts/Hotels:

Puratan Qila Resort Dev Vilas The Tigress Resort Ranthambore Khem Vilas Nahargarh Resort High End Resorts/Hotels: Sher Bagh Oberoi Vanya Vilas Aman-I-Khas

Timing

1st October to 31st October 6:30am-10:00am & 2:30pm-6:00pm

1st November to 31st January 7:00am-10:30am, & 2:00pm-5:30pm

1st February to 31st March 6:30am-10:00am & 2:30pm-6:00pm

1st April to 15th May 6:00am-9:30am & 3:30pm-6:00pm

15th May to 30th June 6:am-9:30am & 3:30pm-7:00pm

Attractions for Tourists

- Wildlife Safari in Jeep & Van
- Special Tiger Trails
- Bird Watching Tours
- Wildlife Photography









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24

Gir National Park 9 Sasan Gir Sanctuary **Best Time to Visit** Gujarat

December to March

What to See

he count of 2,375 distinct fauna species of Gir includes about 38 species of mammals, around 300 species of birds, 37 species of reptiles and more than 2,000 species of insects

The carnivores group mainly comprises the Asiatic lion, Indian leopard, jungle cat, striped hyena, Golden jackal, Indian gray mongoose and Ruddy mongoose, and honey badger. Desert cats and rustyspotted cats occur but are rarely seen.

The main herbivores of Gir are chital, nilgai, sambar, four-horned antelope, chinkara and wild boar. Blackbucks from the surrounding area are sometimes seen in the sanctuary. Among the smaller mammals, porcupine and hare are common, but the pangolin is rare.

The reptiles are represented by the mugger crocodile, Indian cobra, tortoise and monitor lizard, which inhabit the sanctuary's bodies of water. Snakes are found in the bush and forest. Pythons are sighted at times along the stream banks.

The plentiful avifauna population has more than 300 species of birds, most of which are resident. The scavenger group of birds has 6 recorded species of vultures. Some of the typical species of Gir include crested serpent eagle, endangered Bonelli's eagle, changeable hawk-eagle, brown fish owl, Indian eagleowl, rock bush-quail, Indian peafowl, brown-capped pygmy woodpecker, blackheaded oriole, crested treeswift and Indian pitta.

How to Reach

If you are travelling by road, you can reach here from Ahmedabad (408 km). Rajkot (160 km), Junagadh (55 km) or Diu (110 km). The nearest railway station is Sasan (160 Km). The nearest airport is in Rajkot (160 Km).

Timing

6:00am to 5:00pm Safari Timings 6:45am to 9:45am 8:30am to 11:30am 3:00pm to 6:00pm (The Devalia Safari Park closed on every Wednesday)

Attractions for Tourists

- Jeep Safari
- Bird Watching
- Souvenir Shop in Gir National Park
- Crocodile Breeding Centre in Gir
- Nature Walk at Sanctuary Buffer Zone-Club Mahindra Resort
- Magic Workshop
- Aqua Zorbing & Thrill Zone at Club Mahindra Resort

Where to Stay

Gir Jungle Lodge Saavaj Resort in Gir Vanvaso Resort Anil Farm House Maneland Jungle Lodge Amidhara Resort Fern Gir Forest Resort Sukhsagar Gir Resort Gir Lion's Paw Resort Gir Birding Lodge The Gateway Hotel Hotel Umang in Gir Woods at Sasan





Best Time to Visit October to June

10 Bandhavgarh National Park

Timing

Madhya Pradesh

> 6:00am to 10:30pm 3.00pm to 5:30pm

What to See

andhavgarh is a home to white tigers, bengal tigers, leopards, sambar, barking deer, nilgai, wild boar, gaur, hausingha and chinkara, the Asiatic jackal, bengal fox, sloth bear, ratel, grey mongoose, striped hyena, jungle cat, leopard and tiger. The artiodactyls frequently sighted are wild pig, spotted deer, samber, chausingha, nilgai and chinkara with mammals like dhole, the small Indian civet, palm squirrel and lesser bandicoot rat and little grebe, egret, lesser adjutant, sarus crane, black kite, crested serpent eagle, black vulture, Egyptian vulture, common peafowl, red jungle fowl, dove, parakeet, Indian roller can also be found in abundance. Reptilian fauna include cobra, krait, viper, ratsnake, python, turtle and a number of lizard varieties, including varanus.

Apart from that the park also boasts variety of species of birds like grey hornbill, common teals, red jungle fowl and white breasted kingfisher, etc.

How to Reach

The park is easily accessible through the nearest airports of Jabalpur and Khajuraho. It can also be reached through a number of railway stations- Jabalpur (170 km), Katni (102 km), Satna (112 km) on the central railway and Umaria (35 km) on the southeastern railway.

Attractions for Tourists

Jeep Safari

- Elephant Safari
- Shopping in Bandhavgarh Market
- Trek to Bandhavgarh Fort
- Rural Tourism at Tala Village
- Spend Quality Time at Bamera Dam
- Seeking Blessings at Jwalamukhi Temple Khajuraho

Where to Stay

HIGH-END RESORTS: Mahua Kothi Syna Tiger Resort LUXURY RESORTS: Tree House Hideaway Resort

Kings Lodge Bandhav Vilas Infinity Bandhavgarh Wilderness Lemon Tree Wildlife Resort DELUXE RESORTS:

> Nature Heritage Resort Tiger Trails Resort Maharaja Royal Retreat Bandhavgarh Meadows Tiger Den Resort

BUDGET RESORTS:

Mogli Jungle Resort Salvan Resort Greenwoods Resorts Bagh Sarai Resort Jungle Inn Resort







Best Time to Visit Mid October to June

Kanha National Park Madhya Pradesh

What to See

ammals like Barasingha, Barking Deer (Muntjak), Chital, Gaur, Hyena, Jackal, ungle Cat, Langur, Leopard, Sambar, Indian Tree Shrew, Sloth Bear, Tiger, Wild Boar, Wild Dog, Small Indian Civet, Common Palm Civet, Ruddy Mongoose, Indian Wolf, Common Mongoose, Indian Fox, Flying Squirrel, Ratel, Indian Porcupine, Indian Hare, Nilgai, Chowsingha, Indian Pangolin, Indian Flying Fox, Fulvous Fruit Bat, Greater False Vampire, Indian Pipistrelle, etc can be spotted at Kanha National Park.

The reserve brings around 300 species of birds and the most commonly seen birds are the black ibis, bee-eaters, cattle egret, blossom-headed parakeets, pond herons, drongos, common teal, crested serpent eagle, grey hornbill, Indian roller, lesser adjutant, little grebes, lesser whistling teal, minivets, Malabar pied hornbill, woodpeckers, pigeon, paradise flycatchers, mynas, Indian peafowl, red junglefowl, red-wattled lapwing, steppe eagle, Tickell's blue flycatcher, whiteeyed buzzard, white-breasted kingfisher, white-browed fantail, wood shrikes, and warblers, vultures among many others Reptiles such as Indian pythons, Indian cobras, krait, rat snakes, vipers, keelbacks, and grass snakes are nocturnal animals, so rarely are seen. Many species of turtles and amphibians are found in or near the water bodies.

Timing

8:00am to 10:00pm



Attractions for Tourists

- Elephant Safari
- Wildlife Safari
- Kanha Museum
- Night Safari
- Nature Trails for Nature Lovers
- Trekking, Village Visit
- Camping
- Sight the Crimson Sunset from Bamni Dadar
- Local Craft Shopping
- Kawardha Palace
- Bird-Spotting
- Sightseeing Tour of Jabalpur
- Nature and Architecture at Mandla
- Rustic Beauty of Amarkantak

How to Reach

Nagpur (266 km) is the nearest airport and is connected by various domestic airline services from Mumbai. If you are travelling by train, Jabalpur at 169 km is the convenient rail head to visit Kanha. It is also connected by road with Jabalpur 175 km, Khajuraho 445 km, Nagpur 266 km, Mukki 25 km, Raipur 219 km. There are bus services available from Jabalpur to Kanha.



HIGH-END RESORTS:

Banjaar Tola Tuli Tiger Corridor Shergarh Tented Camp Singinawa Jungle Lodge LUXURY RESORTS:

The Baagh Resort Kanha Jungle Lodge Kanha Earth Lodge Satya Ashoka Resort Chitvan jungle Lodge

DELUXE RESORTS:

Tuli Tiger Resort Celebration Van Vilas Krishna Jungle Resort Wild Chalet Resort Bundela Safari Lodge STANDARD RESORTS:

Satya Ashoka Resort Kanha Meadows Retreat Grand Tiger Resort Kanha M K Resort Kanha Mogli Resort









12

Dudhada and a state of the stat

Mid-November to Mid-June

What to See

udhwa National Park is yet another destination in India, after Kaziranga National Park, where you can find one-horned rhinoceros. Apart from this, wild elephants, hispid hare, nilgai, wild boar, sloth bear, jackals, etc. can be witnessed during your visit to Dudhwa National Park. You can also get the sight of some of the most beautiful birds like the Tawny Fish Owl, storks, Great Horned Owl, the Brown Fish Owl, the Forest Eagle Owl, Brown Wood Owl, the Jungle Owlet, Dusky Horned Owl, the Collared Scops Owl can be seen easily. Apart from these, you can also find the incessant calls of Indian Nightjar and Franklin Nightjar on cold Dudhwa nights.

Timing

7:00am to 10:00am 3:00pm to 6:00pm

By Air:

The nearest airport to Dudhwa is located in Lucknow at a distance of 230 km (5 hours). The airport receives daily flights from cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, and Ahmedabad. Once at the airport, one can easily hire a cab and get to the park.

By Rail:

The nearest railheads are Dudhwa (4 km), Palia (10 km), and Mailani (37 km). In fact, the Dudhwa Railway Station is right in the heart of the park located 4 km from the main tourist complex at Dudhwa.

By Road:

Dudhwa National Park is located at a convenient distance from many cities like Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, and Lucknow. One can either take the state-run bus service, hire a cab to the park, or simply drive to it themselves over the well-maintained road network.

Attractions for Tourists

- Engage In Jungle Safari
- Go Elephant Riding
- Bird Watching Tours
- Feel the Thrill of Jungle Camping
- Shopping in Palia

Where to Stay

There are plenty of Dudhwa National Park hotels and resorts near the tiger reserve: Dudhwa National Park Forest Rest House Dudhwa TigeRhino Resort Hotel Sharda Dudhwa Jungle Lore Resort Jambolana Safari Camp Around 30-40 private hotels & resorts available











13

Best Time to Visit February to April

Pench National Park

What to See

he Bengal tiger is the main cat species of the park present in good numbers but since last one year due to 6 new born cubs their sightings have increased and being sighted almost everyday. As per latest Tiger Census, there are approx. 40 tigers in the park, 39 species of mammals, 13 species of reptiles, 3 species of amphibians. Commonly seen wildlife is chital, sambar, nilgai, wild boar, and jackal. Also Indian

leopard, sloth bear, indian wolf, wild dog, porcupine, monkey, jungle cat, fox, striped hyena, gaur, four-horned antelope and barking deer live in the park.

The park is rich in bird life too. According to an estimate of the wildlife authorities, the park harbours more than 210 species including several migratory ones. Some of them are peafowl, junglefowl, crow pheasant, crimson-breasted barbet, redvented bulbul, racket-tailed drongo, Indian roller, magpie robin, lesser whistling teal, pintail, shoveller, egret and herons, minivet, oriole, wagtail, munia, myna, waterfowl and common kingfisher.

Madhya Pradesh

Timing

5:30am to 6:00pm



By Air:

The Sonegaon Airport in Nagpur is 93 km from the Pench National park.

By Rail:

The Seoni Railway Station is about 30 km from the Pench National Park.

By Road:

Buses and jeeps can be taken to the Pench National Park from the bus stand, which is at Seoni.

Attractions for Tourists

- Camping with Jungle Safari
- Overnight Camping
- Runi Jhuni Walking Trail
- Rukhad Cycling Excursion
- Tribal Bazaar and Haat at
- Local Villages
- Night Trail
- Visit the Potter's Village at Pachdhar
- Go Boating Near The Pench Reservoir



Where to Stay

Best Places to Stay in Pench National Park:

Tuli Tiger Corridor Resort Pench Jungle Camp Baghvan Wildlife Resort Mahua Vann Resort Tiger Valley Resort Jungle Home Pench Village Resort Tiger N Wood Resort Nagzira Nature Camp Pench Tree Lodge









14

Kaziranga Kaziranga Kating Kat

November to April

What to See

he forest region of Kaziranga Park is a home to world's largest population of Indian Rhinoceros. Other animals that can be seen in the elephant grass, marshland and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests of Kaziranga are Hoolock Gibbon, Tiger, Leopard, Indian Elephant, Sloth Bear, Wild water buffalo, swamp deer, etc.

Also here one can find good number of migratory bird species from Central Asia. It is a home to a variety of migratory birds, water birds, predators, scavengers and game birds. Birds such as the lesser white-fronted goose, ferruginous duck, Baer's pochard duck and lesser adjutant, greater adjutant, black-necked stork, and Asian openbill stork migrate from Central Asia to the park during winter. Riverine birds include the Blyth's kingfisher, whitebellied heron, Dalmatian pelican, spotbilled pelican, Nordmann's greenshank, and black-bellied tern. Birds of prey include the rare eastern imperial, greater spotted, white-tailed, Pallas's fish eagle, grey-headed fish eagle, and the lesser kestrel.

Two of the largest snakes in the world, the reticulated python and rock python, as

well as the longest venomous snake in the world, the king cobra, inhabit the park. Other snakes found here include the Indian cobra, monocled cobra, Russell's viper, and the common krait. Monitor lizard species found in the park include the Bengal monitor and the Asian water monitor. Other reptiles include fifteen species of turtle, such as the endemic Assam roofed turtle and one species of tortoise, the brown tortoise. 42 species of fish are found in the area, including the Tetraodon.


By Air:

Jorhat Airport, 96 kilometers from Kaziranga National Park, is the closest airport. Else tourists can also deplane at Tezpur Airport, 59.9 kilometers from the Kaziranga National Park.

By Rail:

Furkating Junction railway station, hardly a two-hour drive from Kaziranga National Park, is the nearest railway station.

By Road:

To travel by road, firstly go to Jorhat or Guwahati (240 km) and then take (a cab or a bus to reach the park.

Where to Stay

HOTELS & RESORTS IN KAZIRANGA:

Jupuri Ghar Iora Resort Wild Grass Lodge Bonhabi Resort Landmark Woods Diphlu River Lodge Infinity Kaziranga Wilderness Dhanshree Resort Agoratoli Resort Kaziranga Kaziranga Resort United-21 Grassland

Attractions for Tourists

- Elephant Safari,
- Customary Jeep Safari,
- Bird Watching Tours,
- Visit the Kaziranga National Orchid Park, Bathe in Kakochang Waterfall,
- Day Out in Tribal Village,
- Boat Safari to Watch Endangered Gangetic Dolphins at River Brahmaputra
- Watch Cultural Show and Folk Dance at the park

Timing

Open 24 hours Morning Jeep Safari: 7:00am to 9:00am Afternoon Jeep Safari: 1:30pm to 3:30pm Elephant Safari Start Very early morning and continues for 1 – 1 & 1/2 hrs.













15 Sunderbans

West Bengal

Best Time to Visit November to March

Timing

8:00am to 5:00pm

What to See

Sundarban is also the only mangrove forest in the world having the tiger as its indigenous population. As per 2004 census, the tiger population in Indian Sundarban is around There are 58 species of mammals, 55 species of reptiles and around 248 bird species.

Sundarbans also harbors a good number of rare and globally threatened animals including Estuarine Crocodile (Crocodilus porosus), Fishing Cat (Felis viverrina), Common otter (Lutra lutra), Water Monitor lizard (Varanus salvator), Gangetic Dolphin (Platinista gangetica), Snubfin dolphin (Orcella brevirostris), River Terrapin (Batagur baska), marine turtles like Olive Ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea), Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia mydas), Hawksbill Turtle (Eritmochelys imbricata). Six species of Shark and Ray, which are found here, are included in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act. These indicate that Sundarban Reserved Forest is a natural biodiversity hot spot.

Other mammals comprise of Wild boars, Spotted deer, Porcupines and Rhesus macaque. Among the reptiles, the King cobra, the common cobra, Banded krait, Russells Viper comprise the community of venomous reptiles, while the Python, Chequered Kil-Back, Dhaman , Green Whip Snake and several other species constitute the non-venomous snakes. There are about 248 bird species found in Sunderban national park including a large number of migratory birds from higher latitudes that visits the park in winter months Herons, Egrets, Cormorants, Storks, Green Pigeons, Sand Pipers, Large and Small Spoonbills, Darters, Seagulls, Teal, Partridges, great variety of Wild Geese and Ducks.



By Train:

If you are travelling by train, get down at Sealdah Railway Station. Then, catch a local train to Canning (this should take you about 2 hours). After arriving at Canning, take a local shared van which will take you to Godhkhali Jetty. From here, you can take a boat ride to Sunderbans.

By Air:

The nearest airport to Sundarbans National Park is Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport at Kolkata. After landing at the airport, you can reach Canning by a local train or car. The distance between the two is 54 km and the drive should take you about 2 hours. After reaching Canning, catch a local shared van towards Godkhali Jetty. There, you will find boats waiting to take you to Sundarban National Park.

By Road:

Begin your drive to Godkhali from Kolkata, a drive which should take you about 3 hours 30 minutes. After arriving there, take a ferry towards Gosaba. Once you reach, hire a cycle rickshaw to take you to Pakhiralay Village, situated on the other side of the island. From here, take another boat to Sajnekhali. You also have the option of hiring a boat and going straight to Godhkhali (this ride should take you about 2 hours).

By Waterway: You can only reach Sunderbans by waterway after reaching Godhkhali. You can do that by hiring a car from Kolkata and driving all the way. Another way is to catch a local train to Canning from Sealdah Railway Station and then taking a local shared van to Godhkhali.

Attractions for Tourists

- Sajnekhali Watch Tower
- Sudhanyakhali Watch Tower
- Do Ban Ki Watch Tower
- Netidhopani Watch Tower
- Bhagatpur Crocodile Project
- Bird Watching, Tour of Local Villages
- Night Safari in Sunderbans
- Visit Netidhopani
- Mangrove Interpretation Center

Where to Stay

Sunderban Mangrove Retreat Sundarbans Jungle Camp Sunderban Chital Tourist Lodge Sundarbans Tiger Camp Tiger Safari Resort Tiger Roar Resort Sundarban Riverside Holiday



16 Kanchendzonga National Park

Best Time to Visit March to Mid-June and September to November

Timing

Sikkim

What to See

10:00am to 6:30pm

he park contains many mammal species including musk deer, snow leopard, Himalayan tahr, wild dog, sloth bear, civet, Himalayan black bear, red panda, Tibetan wild ass, Himalayan blue sheep, serow, goral and takin, as well as reptiles including rat snake and Russell's viper.

A recent study revealed, that the Asiatic wild dog has become very rare in the area. The wild dogs in the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve are believed to belong to the rare and genetically distinct subspecies. About 550 species of birds are found inside the park including blood pheasant, satyr tragopan, osprey, Himalayan griffon, lammergeier, Tragopan pheasant, green pigeon, Tibetan snowcock, snow pigeon, impeyan pheasant, Asian emerald cuckoo, sunbird and eagle.





By Air:

Nearest airport is Bagdogra Airport in Darjeeling, in West Bengal, which is about 122 km away from Gangtok - the capital of Sikkim. And distance from Gangtok to Khangchendzonga National Park is 45.9 km. You can also hit the road to directly reach the park from Bagdogra Airport and taking a taxi may cost you around INR 3500-4000.

By Rail:

Nearest railhead to Khangchendzonga National Park is in New Jalpaiguri, the Siliguri Junction which is about 120 km from Gangtok, and which is well connected with other main cities of the country like Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati. Distance between New Jalpaiguri to Yoksam is about 170 km. A bus journey from Siliguri to Yuksom would only take 5 hours.

By Road:

Nearest highway to Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim is the 92 km long National Highway 31A, which connects Sevok in Darjeeling to Gangtok. And d istance from Gangtok. And distance from Gangtok to Khangchendzonga National Park is only 45.9 km. The nearest town is Yuksom in the West and Chungthang in the North. The Nearest city to the Kanchenjunga National Park is Gangtok. There are regular bus services available from Gangtok to Bagdogra (4 hours ride).

country like Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati. Gangtok to Bagdogra (4 hours ride).

Attractions for Tourists

- Explore Goechala
- Buddhist Pagoda near the famous Khecheopalri Lake
- Visit Yuksom Valley

Where to Stay

Around 20-30 hotels, resorts & homestays available.







Bird Sanctuary 17 Rajasthan

Best Time to Visit

August to November

Timing

7:00am to 5:00pm

What to See

igratory birds at Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary include a few types of Cranes, Pelicans, Geese, Ducks, Eagles, Hawks, Shanks, Stints, Wagtails, Warblers, Wheatears, Flycatchers, Buntings, Larks and Pipits, and so forth.

By air:

The nearest airport is Agra at a distance of 56 km.

By train:

Bharatpur railway station is at a distance of 6 km from the park.

By road:

NH-11 connects Bharatpur with Agra (56 km, 5 hours). Delhi (176 km) and Jaipur (176 km) are the other two places from where tourists prefer to drive.

Where to Stay

Bharatpur Forest Lodge (By Rajasthan Tourism) More than 100 pvt. Hotels & resorts available

Attractions for Tourists

- Keoladeo National Park: For Bird Watching
- Government Museum Bharatpur: For Cultural Aspect of the City
- Bharatpur Palace and Museum: For Mughal Architecture
- Bankey Bihari Temple: For Paying Homage
- Lohagarh Fort: For Witnessing the Strongest Structure
- Laxman Mandir: For Intricate Work

- Ganga Mandir: Home To King Bhageeratha's Statue
- Deeg: The Water Palace
- Dholpur Palace: The Red Sandstone Structure
- Band Baretha: The Mughal Empire History
- Gopal Bhawan: For Souvenirs of the Town
- Chawad Devi Temple: For Solitude
- Seetharam Temple: For Serenity
- Kaman: For Lord Krishna's Blessings





Best Time to Visit

GCKOUCK

National Park

Timing

Velavadar, Gujarat

6:30am to 6:30pm

What to See

Blackbuck National Park or Velavadar National Park is situated in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat State. The park is renowned for the Blackbucks. Located nearby the coastal area of Gulf of Kambhat, the grasslands of the park are a major attraction of the park along with Blackbucks. It is a small park which covers an area of 34.08 sq.km. This brown and dry grassland consists of animals like antelopes wolves, hyenas, blue bulls and foxes along with a huge variety of Indian and migratory birds. Wildlife make its very sight a memorable experience for all

those who travel up to this place just to see them (animals & birds) in their natural majesty, glamour, ruggedness and sheer beauty.

The park is also a conservation center for Wolves and Lesser Floricans. Herds of blackbuck are found mostly in the grasslands on the northern side of the park. During the monsoon, the area often gets flooded and a small wetland in the southern part of the Park attracts many bird species especially flamingoes, pelicans, ducks, white storks, painted storks and sarus cranes, the rare Stolizca's Bushchat and many birds of prey, etc. The very rare Lesser Florican, one of the rarest birds in the world also breeds here.

Other than these species, the park also houses nilgai (another Indian antelope), jackal, wild pigs, hares, etc. Decent numbers of Sand grouses and Lark can be sighted in the park.



By road:

The nearest town, Valabhaipur, is 32 km away, and Ahmedabad 145 km away. If you come by private vehicle, the Black Buck National Park is entered from Valabhaipur on the old highway or Adhelai on the Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad highway. Otherwise, the park is accessed by bus from Bhavnagar (72 km away). Two buses travel daily between Bhavnagar and the park; leaving the city at 2 or 3:30 pm and returning from the park at 6 or 6:30 am the next morning. For a day trip, you will need your own vehicle; taxis can be hired in Bhavnagar.

By rail:

Bhavnagar is the nearest railhead, connected by trains from Mumbai.

Another railway station is at Dhala, which is 55 km away. However, there is no regular public transportation from there to the park.

By air:

Bhavnagar is the nearest airport. Mumbai is connected to Bhavnagar through domestic flights. Be sure to book in advance as not many flights are available.

Attractions for Tourists

- Jeep Safari
- Trekking
- Visit to Victoria Park
- Gandhi Smriti Memorial
- Takhteswar Temple
- Khodiar Temple
- Piram Bet island
- Ghogcha Beach
- Gaurishankar Lake

Where to Stay

Blackbuck Safari Lodge, Velavadar EFCEE Sarovar Portico, Bhavnagar Hotel City Pride GenX Bhavnagar 1589 OYO 27796 Hotel Jubilee The Fern Bhavnagar - Iscon Club and Resort Hotel Virgo Sumeru The Basil Park OYO 24028 Hotel Om Palace & Party Plot VITS Aradhana Auberge

Also lodging is available at the park headquarters, but reservations are necessary. Call Bahumali Bhavan, in Bhavnagar (Tel: 0278 242 6425, between 10:30am and 6pm), or call the park directly at Tel: 0278 288 0342.







19 Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary, Little Rann of Kutch Best Time to Visit

Best Time to Visit October to November

Timing 6:00am to 6:00pm

What to See

anctuary is a home to far more than just the wild ass. Among the 32 other species of mammals are the chinkara (Indian gazelle), two types of desert fox (Indian and White-footed), jackals, caracals (African lynx), nilgais (the largest antelope of Asia), Indian wolves, blackbucks, and striped hyenas. From the salty desert, periodically inundated during the monsoons, to wetlands where freshwater rivers draining through the Rann mix into the seawater of the Gulf of Kutch, and the scrub forests found on the beyts, the variety of vegetation types means a similar variety of animals inhabit the area.

Because of the Sanctuary's proximity to the Gulf of Kutch and its location on the migration routes of many bird species, it is a very important site for birds to feed and breed in. Every year, approximately 75,000 birds nest in the reserve. The ceraneous vulture comes from Egypt, the common and demoiselle cranes arrive from Siberia, the blue-tailed bee-eater visits from Europe, and the houbara bustard of Iran and Iraq stops over as well. All of these are commonly sighted in the sanctuary. Also present are sandgrouses, desert wheatears, ten species of lark, the white-browed bulbul, Indian coursers, stoneplovers, shrikes, ducks, geese, three types of ibis, spoonbills, godwits, stints, sandpipers, shanks, moorhens, saras cranes, both Indian flamingoes, and three species of pelican.

The Sanctuary also houses 93 species of invertebrates, including crustaceans, insects, molluscs, spiders, annelids and zooplanktons, as well as four species of frogs and toads, two species of turtles, twelve snakes, fourteen species of lizards and one kind of crocodile. The tidal wetlands along the edge of the Gulf of Kutch are a key breeding area for prawns.



By road:

The Wild Ass Sanctuary is 130 km from Ahmedabad, 45 km from Viramgam, 175 km from Rajkot and 265 km from Bhuj, accessible from all of these by ST buses.

By rail:

The Nearest Railway stations are: Dhrangadhra - 16 km, Ahmedabad - 130 km, Rajkot - 175 km. The Sanctuary has three main access points: Dhrangadhra, Range Bajana and Range Aadeshwar. Range Bajana is the best place to enter in the winter as the wetlands that house migratory birds are closest to it. Dhrandgadhra is the easiest place to find transportation and accommodation (there is a government guest house, as well as private ones).

By Air:

jThe nearest is Bhuj Airport, around 80km from desert.

Attractions for Tourists

- The salt is harvested by local salt farmers known as Agariyas
- 18th century palace and darbargarh
- some elegant colonial buildings at Dhrangadhra.

Where to Stay

At Dhrangadhra, if you want inexpensive but comfortable accommodations, don't pass up the opportunity to stay at the home of wildlife photographer and guide Devjibhai Dhamecha, and go on one of his exclusive safaris. He also offers stays in traditional kooba huts, as well as camping, on the edge of the Little Rann at Eco Tour Camp. Facilities are basic though.

Near Dasada, Rann Riders is popular. It's an ethnically designed eco-resort, set amidst wetlands and agricultural fields. All kinds of safaris are offered including horse, camel and jeep safaris. The resort also has a focus on sustainable tourism. It provides a place for local artisans, such as weavers, to sell their handicrafts and operates excursions to nearby villages.

Desert Coursers resort at Zainabad also accommodates guests in eco-friendly cottages by a lake. It's run by Dhanraj Malek, a scion of the royal family of Zainabad. Dhanraj is a passionate birder and knows the area, along with the local communities, intimately. Prices are reasonable and include room, jeep safari, and meals. Luxury camping trips are organized upon request, and you can go into the Little Rann on excursions lasting up to three days.

If you want to stay close to the Bajana entrance, The Royal Safari Camp is the place!







20 Nal Sarovar **Bird Sanctuary** Gujaat

Best Time to Visit October to March

Timing

What to See

ore than 200 types of birds mainly waterfowl inhabit this lake and come from as far as Siberia. Nalsarovar in Gujarat is a bird watcher's paradise, one can find rosy pelicans, lesser and greater flamingos, crakes, brahminy ducks, purple moorhen, herons, white storks, various species of bitterns, grebes etc in the lake.



6:00am to 5:30pm



Byy Road:

Ahmedabad is well connected to all the major cities of Gujarat and India.

By train:

Reach Viramgam, which is the nearest railway station from the sanctuary at a distance of 40 km or you can also go from Ahmedabad, which is at the distance of 64 km from the sanctuary.

By Air:

Ahmedabad Airport is the nearest one , around 60 km away.

Attractions for Tourists

- Bird Watching
- Boating
- Horse rides
- 1-Day picnic



Where to Stay

Aarohi Starz Club – Resort near Nalsarovar Pelican Perch- Resort near Nalsarovar Nal safari – Resort near Nalsarovar Green Mango Lake Resort & Club near Nalsarovar Club Kensville Golf Resort near Nalsarovar 100 Acres – Hotel near Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary





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