Ecotourism Places in Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh, the 26th state of the Indian Union, is located in the central part of India. The newly formed Indian state of Chhattisgarh is famous for its enchantingly beautiful natural landscapes, rich cultural heritage and unique tribal populations. With over 44% of its total area under forests, Chhattisgarh is also amongst the greenest states of India. The Chhattisgarh region is known as a great repository of biological diversity. The unique combination of rich cultural heritage and biological diversity makes Chhattisgarh an ideal eco-tourism destination with immense potentials for the growth eco-tourism the region. The Indian Govt. is actively collaborating with the local officials of the state to realize the full potential of eco tourism growth of the region in order to make Chhattisgarh as one of the most important eco-tourism destinations in India.

Chhattisgarh is one of the greenest states of India with over 44% of its total area under lush forests. The forests of Chhattisgarh are not only known for their diverse flora and fauna but also contain about 88 species of medicinal plants. In addition, Chhattisgarh has also formulated several ecological plans and working in the direction to become the country’s first bio-fuel self-reliant state by 2015. And to achieve this goal the green state has devised a plan to plant over 100 million saplings of Jatropha Carcus. Chhattisgarh is also unique in its wildlife population and has 3 National Parks and 11 Wildlife Sanctuaries, housing some of the rare wildlife and bird species. With so much of variety for eco tourism, Chhattisgarh promises to be an ideal holiday destination for nature lovers, wildlife enthusiasts and also for those who want to discover the unique tribal life of the region.

Chhattisgarh has identified some regions with a very high potentiality for eco-tourism. The green state has launched an eco-tourism project covering three potential tourist tracks - Raipur-Turturia, Bilaspur-Achanakmar and Jagdalpur-Kanger Valley National Park. In addition, a number of herbal gardens and natural health resorts have been created with increased local participation. The use of ethno-medicine, which has been practiced by aboriginal tribes since centuries, predating even Ayurveda, is also being promoted in Chhattisgarh. The major eco-tourism attractions, which are getting prime attention in Chhattisgarh, include the protection and development of the wildlife areas, camping grounds and trekking facilities. With so many initiatives, Chhattisgarh is destined to become the most favorite eco-tourism destination in India and few among best in the world.

Eco-tourism Circuits

Chhattisgarh offers a wide spectrum of opportunities for nature tourism. Realizing this, the Forest Department has launched three important nature tourism circuits. They are:

1. Raipur-Turturia
2. Bilaspur-Achanakmar
3. Jagdalpur-Kanger Valley

In these tour, tourists are taken to protected area, forests and cultural heritage sites on every weekend. The exercise of conducting nature tourism is more of community driven in nature. People from the Joint Forest Management (JFM) committees are conducting the nature tourism operation, with the active support of forest department.

The basic objective of this initiative is not only to enable the local people but also to motivate visitors to learn about the local environment and culture. This process will create employment, improve standards of living, through stimulating the local economy and provide incentive for conservation.

Rajiv Smriti Van: Showcasing nature conservation

Rajiv Smriti Van is an unique ex-situ conservation site 12 km from Raipur city. The center has been developed in memory of Late Rajeev Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India. It covers an area of 14 acres. Previously, it was a barren site, now the site has been developed as an ex-situ conservation center. The center shall cater to the visitors who are keen to understand the dynamics of tree, nature and environment. It will build public awareness towards the conservation of nature.

Nandan Van: A Nature Center

Nandan Van is a nature center located at 16 km away from the city of Raipur. It is spread in an area of about 10-hectare. It was established to provide shelter to stray wild animals. It is also a biological park which houses common forestry plants. It also consists of small zoo. The center has now proved to be a important tool to create awareness among the urbanites.

Barnawapara Sanctuary

Located in northern part of Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh, Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the finest and important wildlife sanctuaries in the region. Established in 1976 under Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, the sanctuary is relatively a small one covering an area of only 245 sq km. the topography of the region comprises of flat and hilly terrain with altitudes ranging between 265-400 mts. The Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary is known for its lush green vegetation and unique wildlife.

Flora and Fauna - Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary

The flora of Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary chiefly comprises of tropical dry deciduous forest with Teak, Sal, Bamboo and Terminalia being the prominent trees. Other major plants found in the sanctuary include Semal, Mahua, Ber and Tendu. The rich and lush vegetation cover supports a wide variety of wildlife in the sanctuary. The major wildlife of the Barnawapara Sanctuary include Tigers, Sloth Bear, Flying Squirrels, Jackals, Four-horned Antelopes, Leopards, Chinkara, Black Buck, Jungle Cat, Barking Deer, Porcupine, Monkey, Bison, Striped Hyena, Wild Dogs, Chital, Sambar, Nilgai, Gaur, Muntjac, Wild Boar, Cobra, Python to name a few. The sanctuary also has a sizable bird population with prominent being the Parrots, Bulbul, White-rumped Vultures, Green Avadavat, Lesser Kestrels, Peafowl, Wood Peckers, Racket-tailed Drongos, Egrets,
Sitanadi Sanctuary

Located in Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh, Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the most famous and important wildlife sanctuaries in central India. Established in 1974 under Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, the sanctuary covers an area of approximately 556 sq km, comprising of highly undulating and hilly terrain with altitudes ranging between 327-736 mts. The beautiful sanctuary derives its name from the Sitanadi River that originates in the middle of sanctuary and joins Mahanadi River near Deobhog. Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary is known for its lush green flora and rich and unique and diverse fauna and has great potential to emerge as one of the finest wildlife destinations in central India.

Flora and Fauna - Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary

The flora in Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary chiefly comprises of moist peninsular Sal, Teak and Bamboo forests. Other major plants in the sanctuary include Semal, Mahua, Harra, Ber and Tendu. The rich and lush vegetation cover supports a wide variety of wildlife in the sanctuary. The major wildlife found in Sitanadi Sanctuary include Tigers, Leopards, Flying Squirrels, JACKALS, Four-horned Antelopes, Chinkara, Black Buck, Jungle Cat, Barking Deer, Porcupine, Monkey, Bison, Striped Hyena, Sloth Bear, Wild Dogs, Chital, Sambar, Nilgai, Gaur, Muntjac, Wild Boar, Cobra, Python among many others. The sanctuary also has a sizable bird population with prominent being the Parrots, Bulbul, Peafowl, Pheasant, Crimson Breasted Barbet, Teeter, Tree Pie, Racket-tailed Drongos, Egrets, and Herons to name few. Sitanadi Sanctuary is also being prepared to develop it as an important tiger sanctuary in the region. A visit to Sitanadi sanctuary promises to be an exciting and unforgettable experience for all wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers.

Best Time to Visit - Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary

The best time to visit the Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary is November-June.

Udanti Sanctuary

Located in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh, Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary is a small but an important wildlife sanctuary in the region. Established in 1983 under Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, the sanctuary covers an area of approximately 232 sq km. The topography of the sanctuary comprises of broken mass of land traversed by innumerable hill ranges intercepted by stripes of plains. The beautiful sanctuary derives its name from the Udanti River flowing from the west to east covering major part of the sanctuary. Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary is famous for its population of the endangered Wild Buffalos. For their survival and growth many steps have been taken by the forest department officials. A large number of man-made tanks have been constructed all across the width and length of the sanctuary. On Udanti Wildlife Tour you can see this amazing animal among a wide variety of animals and birds.

Flora and Fauna - Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary

The flora in Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary chiefly comprises of Tropical Dry Peninsular Sal forests and Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Mixed Forests. Major flora in the sanctuary comprises of Teak, Sal, Salai, Bamboo, Mahul, Semal, Mahua, Anwoni, Tendu, Harra and Ber among others. The wildlife found in Udanti Sanctuary include Wild Buffalos, Panthers, Tigers, Chital, Four-horned Antelopes, Chinkara, Black Buck, Sambar, Nilgai, Jungle cat, Barking Deer, Sloth bear, Gaur, Wild dog, Porcupine, Monkey, Jackals, Bison, Striped Hyena, Fox, Cobras, Pythons etc. The sanctuary also has a sizable population of birds with prominent being the Parrots, Bulbul, Peafowl, Racket-tailed Drongos, Egrets, Heron, Meggie robin, Lesser whistling Teal, Pintail, Rollers and Herons to name few. A visit to Udanti sanctuary promises to be an exciting and unforgettable experience for all wildlife enthusiasts, bird watchers and nature lovers.

Best Time to Visit - Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary

The best time to visit the Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary is November-June.

Kanger Ghati National Park

Located amidst the 34 km long and scenic Kanger Valley, a Biosphere Reserve, Kanger Valley National Park is one of the most beautiful and picturesque national parks of India. The beautiful park is located on the banks of Kholoba River at a distance of about 27 km from Jagdalpur (headquarter of Bastar). Spread over an area of approximately 200 sq km comprising mainly of hilly terrain, the Park derives its name from the Kanger River, which flows throughout its length.

Known for its scenic beauty and the unique and rich biodiversity, Kanger Valley attained the status of a National Park in 1982. Besides wildlife and plants, there are many tourist attractions inside the park such as the Kutamsar Caves, Kailash Caves, Dandak Caves and Tirtagarh Waterfalls. Kanger Dhara and Baimisa Dhara (a Crocodile Park) are the two beautiful and exotic picnic resorts in the Park. The Park also has a sizable tribal population and can be an ideal destination for wildlife enthusiasts, nature lovers, researchers, anthropologists and for anyone who wants to discover the very best of Chhattisgarh wildlife and unique tribes of the region.

Flora and Fauna - Kanger Valley National Park

The flora in the park chiefly comprises of mixed moist deciduous type of forests with predominance of Sal, Teak and Bamboo trees. In fact, the Kanger Valley is the only region in the Peninsular India where one of the last pockets of virgin and untouched forests still left. Major Wildlife of the Kanger Valley National Park are the Tigers, Leopards, Mouse Deer, Wild Cat, Chital, Sambar, Barking Deer, Jackals, Langurs, Rhesus Macaque, Sloth Bear, Flying Squirrel, Wild Boar, Striped Hyena, Rabbits, Pythons, Cobra, Crocodiles, Monitor Lizards and Snakes to name a few. The avian fauna at the Park includes Hill Myna, Spotted Owlet, Red Jungle Fowl, Racket-tailed Drongos, Peacocks, Parrots, Steppe Eagles, Red Spur Fall, Pheakta, Bhura Teeter, Tree Pie and Heron among many others.

Best Season to Visit - Kanger Valley National Park

and Herons to name few. Barnawapara wildlife sanctuary tour promises to be an exciting and rewarding experience for all wildlife enthusiasts, bird lovers and nature lovers.

Best Time to Visit - Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary

The best time to visit the Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary is November-June.

How to Reach - Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary


Udanti Sanctuary

Located in Damtari district of Chhattisgarh, Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary is a small but an important wildlife sanctuary in the region. Established in 1983 under Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, the sanctuary covers an area of approximately 232 sq km. The topography of the sanctuary comprises of broken mass of land traversed by innumerable hill ranges intercepted by stripes of plains. The beautiful sanctuary derives its name from the Udanti River flowing from the west to east covering major part of the sanctuary. Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary is famous for its population of the endangered Wild Buffalos. For their survival and growth many steps have been taken by the forest department officials. A large number of man-made tanks have been constructed all across the width and length of the sanctuary. On Udanti Wildlife Tour you can see this amazing animal among a wide variety of animals and birds.

Flora and Fauna - Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary

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Best Time to Visit - Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary

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Flora and Fauna - Kanger Valley National Park

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Best Season to Visit - Kanger Valley National Park
The best season to visit the Kanger Valley is November - June

**How to Reach - Kanger Valley National Park**

Kanger Valley is well approachable from Jagdalpur, district head quarter of Bastar. It is at a distance of about 27 km from Jagdalpur on the Jagdalpur - Konta road. You can also approach the park via Jagdalpur - Sargipal - Jatam - Nianar - Bodal road. Raipur (330 km) is the nearest airport and Jagdalpur (27 km) is the nearest railhead and bus stand from the Kanger Valley National Park

**Indravati National Park**

Indravati National Park is the finest and most famous wildlife parks of Chhattisgarh. Also the only Tiger Reserve in the state, Indravati National Park is located in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh. The Park derives its name from the Indravati River, which flows from east to west and forms the northern boundary of the reserve with the Indian state of Maharashtra. With a total area of approximately 2799.08 sq km, Indravati attained the status of a National Park in 1981 and a Tiger Reserve in 1983 under the famous Project Tiger of India to become one of the most famous tiger reserves of India.

The topography of the Park mainly comprises of undulating hilly terrain with altitude ranging between 177 to 599 m above the sea level. The Park is famous for its unique and diverse wildlife and bird species including some of the most endangered species such as Wild Buffalos and Hill Mynas. A series of beautiful hill ranges with lush green vegetation and unique and varied wildlife make Indravati National Park a must visit for wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers.

**Flora and Fauna - Indravati National Park**

The flora in the Indravati National Park is mainly comprises of tropical moist and dry deciduous type with predominance of the Sal, Teak and Bamboo trees. There are also rich patches of excellent grasslands providing much required fodder to Wild buffalos, Chital, Barking Deer, Nilgai, Gaur and other herbivores of the park. The most commonly found trees in the park are Teak, Lendia, Salai, Mahua, Tendu, Semal, Haldu, Ber and Jamun. The major wildlife in Indravati National Park include the endangered Wild Buffalos, Barasinghas, Tigers, Leopards, Gours (Indian Bison), Nilgai, Sambar, Chausingha (four-horned Antelope), Sloth Bear, Dhole (Wild Dog), Striped Hyena, Muntjac, Wild Boar, Flying Squirrel, Porcupine, Pangolins, Monkeys and Langurs among many others. A series of beautiful hill ranges with lush green vegetation and unique and varied wildlife make Indravati National Park a must visit for wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers.

**Best Season to Visit - Indravati National Park**

The best season to visit the Park is from 15th December to 15th June.

**How to Reach - Indravati National Park**

Indravati National Park is easily approachable from Jagdalpur, the district head quarter of Bastar. The village Kutrue, the main entry point of the park, is situated at the distance of 22.4 km north of Jagdalpur - Bhopalpattanam road. The Kutrue link road is at the distance of 145.6 km from Jagdalpur. Raipur (486 km) is the nearest airport and Jagdalpur (168 km) is the nearest railhead from the Indravati National Park.

**Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary**

The Achanakmar wildlife sanctuary was constituted in the year 1975 it comprises of 557.55 Sq.km. North west forest block of Bilaspur forest division . forest vegetation mainly comprises of sal , saja, tinsa, bija, bamboo. the sanctuary is close to Amarkantak which is the origin of river Narmada and serves as an ideal habitat for a variety of wild animals like Tiger, panther, gaur, chital, barking deer, wild bou, bear etc.

**General Information**

Best time to visit : November – June

Accommodation : Forest cottages, Forest Rest Houses.

How to reach : Rail – Pandra Road (25 km), Bilaspur 40 km , Air Raipur (176 km)

**Bhoramdeo Sanctuary**

Bhoramdeo wild life sanctuary is one of the eleven wild life sanctuaries of Chhattisgarh state. It is located at kabirdham district. It is named after famous Bhoramdeo temples. The 163.80 sq. km. Bhoramdeo wildlife sanctuary encompasses mixed vegetation comprising normally of sal, saja, teina, kara, haldu species . Drained by river sakari which also serves as source of drinking water to wild animals . Its open forest serves as habitat of a number of wild animals like leopard, hyena, fox, bear, cheetal, wild buffalos, nilgai etc, Tigers are often seen here as it is very close to Kanha National Park.

**General Information**

Best time to visit : November to March.

Accommodation : Rest house at kawardha, Inspection hut at chilf

Nearest town : Kawardha

How to reach : By road Raipur (140 km), Air Raipur (140 km.)