

WILD LIFE
SANCTUARIES IN INDIA



Mother and baby rhino in Kaziranga

WILD LIFE SANCTUARIES IN INDIA



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The factual information included in this book is liable to change from time to time. Tourists are, therefore, advised to consult travel agents or the nearest Government of India Tourist Office for up-to-date information.

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PREFACE

This publication is not a comprehensive treatise on the wild life sanctuaries of India. Rather it is a brief introduction to some of the more important and better developed sanctuaries. It seeks to give information to tourists from abroad as well as people within this country on where to go, how to get there and what to see when they get there.

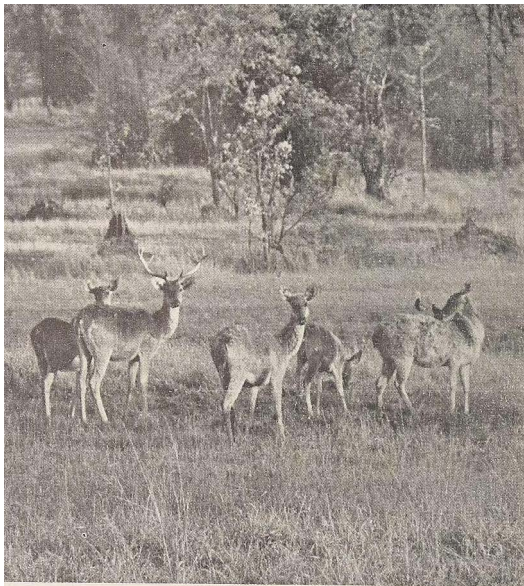
Tabulated information is given for each sanctuary, and a comprehensive table indicates the best time to visit these places. Thus the prospective tourist can assess the relative merits of the sanctuaries at a glance, and can plan a tour of the places of his choice at the right time of the year.

This booklet contains information available up to January 1960. However, as the wild life sanctuaries are continually being developed and improved, intending visitors may write to the Forest Officers concerned for the latest information.

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Master stag and hinds of Indian swamp deer in Kanha Park

INTRODUCTION

Salient Features of Sanctuaries

The visitor to India's wild life sanctuaries—national parks are included in this category—will find much that is new and strange, much that is interesting and delightful.

In wild life conservation, India follows the internationally accepted principles, adapted to local conditions. Because of these conditions, India's wild life sanctuaries differ in some respects from those in other countries.

Firstly, the sanctuaries, even national parks where they exist, are under the jurisdiction of State Governments and not under that of the Union Government. It is not surprising, therefore, that uniformity has still to be achieved in the nomenclature of parks and sanctuaries. In some States a few 'national parks' have been established, while in others such places are still known as 'wild life sanctuaries'. A sanctuary in one State may not be inferior in value to a 'national park' in another.

Secondly, the sanctuaries are mostly under the control of the Forest Departments of the States, for they are mainly situated in or near Reserved Forests. Though Wild Life Departments have also been set up in a few States, they function in close association with, if not as part of, the Forest Departments.

Thirdly, some sanctuaries provide total protection only to wild life and not to the vegetation. This is because the Forest Department must utilise the timber and other

forest produce to meet the pressing economic needs of the country.

Fourthly, most of the sanctuaries are comparatively small in size. Even though India is a vast country, because of the pressure of population on land, large areas of wilderness are not available for use as sanctuaries.

In addition, there are other ways in which India's wild life differs from that of other countries. For instance, India's wild animals are largely nocturnal, and during day-time almost all of them are shy and retiring.

Most of India's forests have a thick cover of trees, shrub and ground vegetation. The animals, therefore, are not easily seen. The lion (in the Gir Forest) can be found fairly easily, like the African lion, but the tiger comes out but very rarely in the open in daylight. In fact, the tiger and the leopard usually have to be driven out in a 'beat' or enticed to a 'kill' or live bait, in order to be seen.

Even so, it is a fact that India possesses sanctuaries of very great charm—a delightful combination of wild life in enchanting and varied environment of forests, mountains and rivers. The number and variety of animals in India are larger than in Europe and many parts of America. Much of the wild life is exclusive to this country. For example, the chital or spotted deer, perhaps the most beautiful of all deer, is to be found in India. The black-buck is another handsome creature not found elsewhere; so also is the bizarre, 'armour-plated', great one-horned Indian rhinoceros.

In India, there is such a great diversity of climate (the wettest in the world to the driest) and elevation (lowest to the highest) that at any time of the year some sanctuary or other is always available at its best for a visit. This is an advantage that probably few countries can offer.

Administration of Sanctuaries

As stated earlier, sanctuaries in India are administered by the Forest Departments of the respective States. The head of the Forest Department in each State is the Chief Conservator of Forests, who is responsible to the Forest Minister. Under the Chief Conservator are Conservators, Divisional Forest Officers, Range Officers, Beat Officers, Foresters, and, at the lowest rung of the hierarchy, Forest Guards. In the Union Government, Forests come within the purview of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, with the Inspector-General of Forests as Technical Adviser to the Ministry.

On problems of wild life, the Forest Departments in most States are advised by State Wild Life Boards. Similarly, the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture is advised by the Indian Board for Wild Life on problems of national import.

Wild Life Societies and Publications

At present, India has one non-official wild life society—the Wild Life Preservation Society of India. It publishes a half-yearly magazine, *The Cheetal*.^{*} Wild life associations, mainly to regulate sport, exist in Kerala, the Palni Hills and the Nilgiris in Madras State, in north

^{*} 5A Astley Hall, Dehra Dun, U.P.

Bengal and in Assam. The premier natural history organisation which has a country-wide membership and enjoys world-wide repute is the Bombay Natural History Society.* This society has a large membership and publishes a journal thrice a year. Among its outstanding publications are:

1. *The Book of Indian Animals* by S. H. Prater.
2. *The Book of Indian Birds* by Salim Ali.
3. *Indian Hill Birds* by Salim Ali.

Advance Arrangements for Visiting Sanctuaries

Intending visitors to wild life sanctuaries should write in advance to the Forest Officer concerned for reservation of accommodation and other facilities. The addresses of these officers are given in this booklet in the sections describing the different sanctuaries. As much notice as possible should be given in order to ensure that reservations for accommodation and transport can be made for the required dates.

Alternatively, booking can be arranged through a recognised travel agency. A list of these agencies is given on page 92.

Best Time for Visiting

The best time for visiting the different sanctuaries is indicated in the tables that follow the description of each. There is also a comprehensive table to indicate the best time for visiting all the sanctuaries. The relative suitability of different months for visiting the sanctuaries

* 91 Walkeshwar Road, Bombay-6.

has been indicated with the help of figures. Explanation of the figures is given below :

- 5 Best time of all.
- 4 Very good.
- 3 All right, but not very good.
- 2 Possible, but not fully recommended.
- 1 Just possible at times, but not recommended.
- 0 Impossible, or not allowed, or closed.

Other Useful Hints

The type of clothing required for use in a sanctuary can be readily known by studying the maximum and minimum temperatures given for each. As a general rule, some kind of inconspicuous *khaki*, green or grey clothing will be found suitable. White or bright colours are too conspicuous and tend to scare wild animals. Long trousers are usually worn, especially when riding an elephant.

When riding an elephant, it is best not to remain rigid, as this can be tiring. It is necessary to relax and sway with the movement of the elephant to be able to go on for hours without discomfort.

Trips on elephant-back, in a motor vehicle or by boat (or on foot in places where this is allowed) are usually undertaken in the early hours of the morning and in the hours before sunset, especially during the hot weather, as these are the times when wild life moves about in search of food and can best be seen.

If possible, one should approach wild life up-wind. A good idea is to remain motionless or hidden, letting the wild animal approach you.

When watching wild animals and birds, sudden movements should be avoided. Visitors (also local guides and *mahouts*) should refrain from suddenly pointing to them. It is believed that even staring at wild animals frightens them. When the camera must be moved, this should be done slowly.

Conversation should be avoided when a wild animal has been sighted. If unavoidable it should be confined to whispers.

Photographers of wild life may note that the use of flash-light is not allowed in some sanctuaries. In fact, flash-light is not really necessary at all, for wild life can usually be photographed during day-time.

WESTERN INDIA

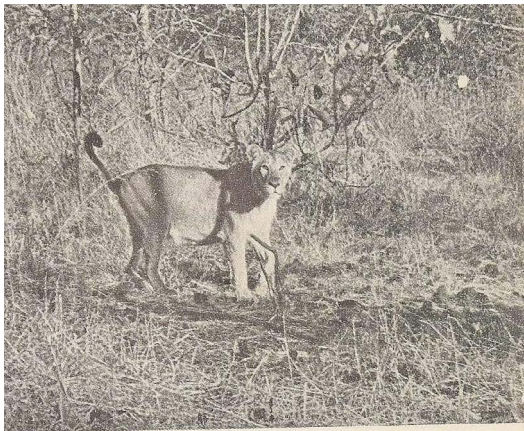
GIR FOREST

THIS place in Gujarat State is famous as the last stronghold of the Indian lion, which was once found in most parts of western, northern and central India. About the year 1880, the lion became almost extinct in India, except in a 5,180 sq. km. (2,000-sq. mile) area of the Kathiawar peninsula, north-west of Bombay. Since then the habitat of the lion has further shrunk to about 1,295 sq. km. (500 sq. miles) of dry, stunted forest. In 1900, there were probably about 100 lions left here. Subsequently, their number increased to about 240 in 1950 and 290 in 1955.

There are in the forest a fairly large number of wild pigs (favourite food of the lion), also nilgai, chinkara, sambar, chital and four-horned antelope. Peafowl are numerous for the bird enjoys protection on account of religious sentiment. Other birds are also plentiful. Lions are fully protected and compare favourably with the African lion in size and build, even though the habitat of the Indian lion is lower in elevation and warmer than that of the African species. The beautiful tree, 'Flame of the Forest', is in full bloom in January and February.

Location and Route

The Gir Forest is 61 km. (38 miles) from Junagadh via Mendarda. It is connected by rail and road to the



Lioness in Gir Forest

adjacent cities and to Bombay. The railhead is Sasan on the metre-gauge line of the Western Railway. It is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour's flying time from Bombay airport to Keshod by a scheduled air service. Keshod is about 67 km. (42 miles) from Sasan which is the headquarters and focal centre of the lion area. Taxis are available, but it is advisable to make prior arrangements for transport through the Forest Department.

Enquiries for reservations (with at least 15 days' notice) and information about changes in rules should be

addressed to:

The Divisional Forest Officer,
Gir Division,
Junagadh, (Gujarat).

Accommodation and other Facilities

There is a good Forest Rest House at Sasan. The charges* are:

Upper main-building	Rs. 2.50 per bed (Rs. 5.00 for 2 beds in one room).
Lower building	Rs. 2.00 per bed (Rs. 4.00 for 2 beds in one room).
Light and water	Small extra charge is recovered.
Catering	Rs. 11.00 per day, non-vegetarian; Rs. 8.00 per day, vegetarian.
Conveyance	Rs. 0.75 per mile, per jeep (not more than 4 passengers). Re. 1.00 per mile for station-wagon (not more than 5 passengers).

Arrangements for viewing lions (including locating, supplying trackers and *mazdoors*, etc.) are made by the Forest Department for a party not exceeding 20 members (in which boys and girls below 14 will be restricted to 5), but there is no guarantee that lions will be seen. The charges for the arrangements are Rs. 150.

* Special concessions are allowed to students on application to the Conservator of Forests.

For photographing the lion, prior permission is necessary from the Conservator. The charges are:

Amateurs (still cameras)	...	...	Rs.	1·00
Amateurs (cine cameras)	...	...	Rs.	5·00
Professionals (still cameras)	...	...	Rs.	10·00
Professionals (cine cameras)	...	...	Rs.	500·00

Best Time for Visiting

The best time to view the Indian lion is during the period from January to May. In June the weather conditions are rather uncertain. From July to October, the monsoon rains prevent motoring along the fair-weather forest roads. The months of March, April and May are rather warm.

ALTITUDE: 61—122 m. (200—400 ft.) above sea level.

RAINFALL: 889 mm. (35 in.) per annum.

GIR FOREST

Month	Index	Weather	Temperature				Remarks
			Max.		Min.		
			°C	°F	°C	°F	
January ..	5	Fine, cool	21·1	70	12·8	55	Undergrowth and grass drying up. Good time.
February ..	5	-do-	26·7	80	12·8	55	Undergrowth and grass dried up. Best time.
March ..	5	Rather warm	35·0	95	18·3	65	Best time. Warm.
April ..	5	-do-	37·8	100	26·7	80	Best time. Warmer.
May ..	5	-do-	40·6	105	26·7	80	Good time. Warmer.
June ..	3	Showers start	40·6	105	26·7	80	Conditions uncertain. If fine, first half of the month is all right.
July ..	1	Rains	37·8	100	26·7	80	Monsoon conditions.
August ..	1	-do-	32·2	90	26·7	80	Monsoon conditions.
September	1	-do-	32·2	90	26·7	80	Monsoon conditions.
October ..	2	Showers	32·2	90	26·7	80	Monsoon receding.
November	3	Fine, cool	29·4	85	21·1	70	Undergrowth and grass thick. Fair time
December	4	-do-	29·4	85	12·8	55	Undergrowth and grass starting to dry up. Fair time.

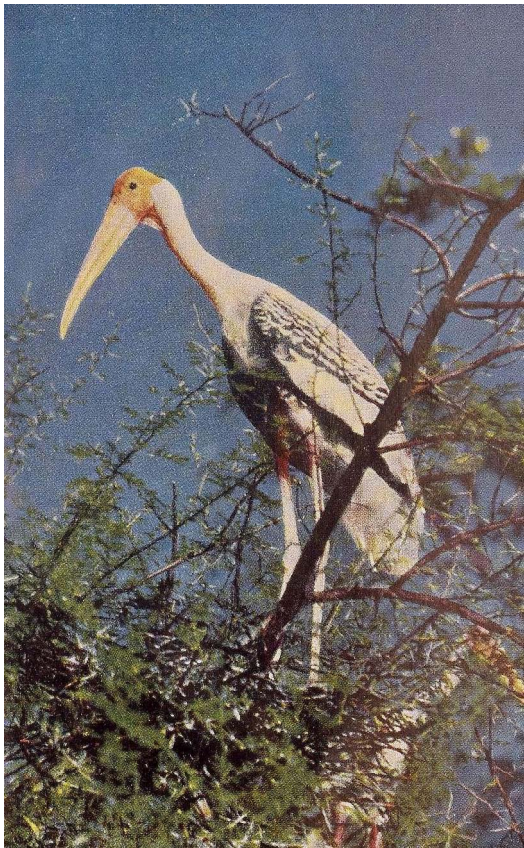
NORTH INDIA

KEOLADEO GHANA SANCTUARY

THE Ghana* Sanctuary used to be the far-famed duck shooting preserve of the rulers of the former princely State of Bharatpur. Migratory ducks and geese frequent the swampy areas in the winter from November to February and shooting is permitted during these months. But during the summer months from July to October it is a sanctuary for numerous indigenous breeding water-birds. Keoladeo Ghana consists of a natural depression, sparsely covered with medium-sized trees and shrubs. During the monsoon months this becomes a shallow lake with the water level artificially raised by water sluiced in from outside.

Among bird sanctuaries in India, it is one of the best breeding places for water-birds, particularly when the amount of water let into it from the adjacent irrigation channel is enough to attract the breeding birds. They assemble in large numbers during the months of July and August, and breeding takes place until October when the young birds are usually big enough to fly away. Prominent among these birds are the open-bill stork, painted stork, egret (3 species), darter or snake-bird, white ibis, spoonbill and grey heron. Many other species are found

* A well-illustrated booklet on the sanctuary has been published by the Bombay Natural History Society for the Government of Rajasthan.



in smaller numbers. Spectacular sarus cranes breed in the marshy environs of the sanctuary.

Small herds of blackbuck, chital and other animals roam about the drier parts of the sanctuary and enhance its charm.

Location and Route

This 2,883-ha. (7,000-acre) sanctuary is situated about 161 km. (100 miles) south of Delhi and 48 km. (30 miles) west of Agra. It is well-connected by good roads and is located on a main rail-route (Western Railway). The railway station is Bharatpur, from where the sanctuary is only about 3 km. (2 miles). Taxis are available in the town.

Enquiries regarding the sanctuary and whether the season for breeding birds is a good one or not should be addressed to:

The Divisional Forest Officer,
Bharatpur, (Rajasthan.)

Accommodation and other Facilities

Inside the sanctuary there is a comfortable and well-appointed Rest House called Shanti Kutir. It is a gift to the sanctuary by the Maharaja of Bharatpur. The services of a cook are available, but provisions have to be arranged by visitors themselves if a stay is envisaged. Enquiries regarding reservations and charges should be addressed beforehand to the Divisional Forest Officer, Bharatpur.

Most of the bird-watching can be done on foot from the many roads and *bunds* which criss-cross the sanctuary.



Sarus crane at nest

Small boats are available by arrangement with the Forest Department staff.

Best Time for Visiting

As already mentioned, July to October is the breeding season, and of these months, probably August and September are the best. Visits would be but of little avail at other times of the year, unless one is interested in observing the migratory duck (15 or more species), geese (2 species), pelicans or Siberian cranes which can be seen here during the other months.

ALTITUDE: 366 m. (1,200 ft.) above sea level.

RAINFALL: 711 mm. (29 in.) per annum.

KEOLADEO GHANA

Month	Index	Weather	Temperature				Remarks
			Max.		Min.		
			°C	°F	°C	°F	
January ..	2	Fine, cold	15·6	60	4·4	40	Wintry conditions. Migratory birds can be seen.
February ..	2	-do-	23·9	75	10·0	50	-do-
March ..	1	Warmer	32·2	90	12·8	55	Spring conditions. Only a few local birds can be seen. Good time for seeing animals.
April ..	1	Rather warm	37·8	100	12·8	65	-do-
May ..	1	-do-	40·6	105	23·9	75	-do-
June ..	1	-do-	40·6	105	26·7	80	-do-
July ..	4	Warm. Rain starts.	37·8	100	26·7	80	Breeding birds begin to assemble. Good time.
August ..	5	Warm. Rain	32·2	90	23·9	75	Breeding in full swing. Best time.
September	5	-do-	32·2	90	23·9	75	-do-
October ..	5	Fine, cooler	29·4	85	21·1	70	Young birds leaving nests. Good time.
November	2	Fine, cool	23·9	75	12·8	55	Winter conditions start. Migratory birds arrive.
December	2	Fine, cold	15·6	60	4·4	40	Winter conditions. Migratory birds arrive.

DACHIGAM SANCTUARY

This sanctuary, the old game preserve of the former rulers of Kashmir, is particularly noted for hangul or Kashmir stag. It is situated in Kashmir, and it is unnecessary to say that it is an exceedingly lovely place, with mountains up to about 3,660 m. (12,000 ft.) and a boulder-strewn river flowing at 1,830 m. (6,000 ft.). Actually it consists of Lower Dachigam, which is the winter refuge of the hangul, and Upper Dachigam which is, in part, the summer range of this deer. Himalayan black bear and wild pig are also found in Lower Dachigam. There is also a fine heronry. Numerous other birds are also to be seen. In Upper Dachigam, during summer time, brown bear and musk deer can be viewed as also the Kashmir stag.

Location and Route

The entrance to Lower Dachigam is 21 km. (13 miles) from Srinagar city along a metalled road. There are several routes to Upper Dachigam, including the track which leads from the lower part of the sanctuary. Local enquiries are necessary to find out which ones are open at any given time of the year.

Further information can be obtained from:

The Game Warden,
Jammu and Kashmir State,
Srinagar, (Kashmir).

Accommodation and other Facilities

Besides the famed house-boats, first-class hotels are available in and near Srinagar. There is a Rest House in



Heronry in Lower Dachigam

the sanctuary, particulars about which can be obtained from the Game Warden. Taxis are available in Srinagar at Re. 0.75 (small taxi) and Re. 1.00 (big) per mile. There is no entrance fee for the sanctuary, but permission has to be taken from the Game Warden.

Best Time for Visiting

If the visitor's purpose is only to see the scenery and bird life, the best periods to visit Lower Dachigam are the spring, summer and autumn. The Kashmir stag can be seen with antlers only from November onwards. In early



Kashmir stag in Lower Dachigam

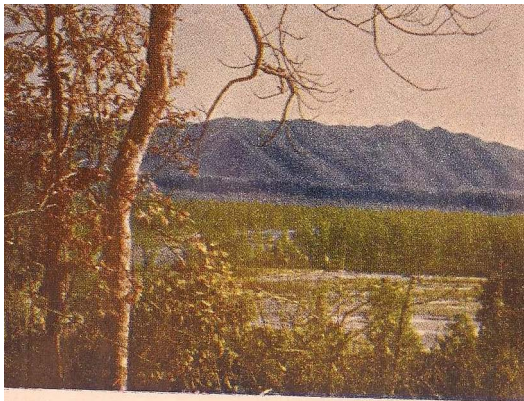
April the hinds are still there, but the stags have mostly shed their antlers and migrated to the high mountains. In Upper Dachigam it is possible to camp and trek from June to September, and there are chances of seeing the deer at that time.

ALTITUDE: 1,829—3,658 m. (6,000—12,000 ft.) above sea level.

RAINFALL: 1,016 mm. (40 in.) per annum.

DACHIGAM SANCTUARY

Month	Index	Weather	Temperature				Remarks
			Max.		Min.		
			°C	°F	°C	°F	
January ..	1	Cold	4.4	40	-6.7	20	Wintry conditions. Deer in Lower Dachigam.
February ..	1	Cold	10.0	50	-6.7	20	-do-
March ..	3	Less cold	12.8	55	-3.9	25	-do-
April ..	4	Cool	18.3	65	-1.1	30	Stags shed antlers, and start migrating. Early spring conditions. Deer all migrate to higher altitude later in month.
May ..	5	Warm	21.1	70	7.2	45	Spring conditions. Few, if any, deer left in Lower Dachigam.
June ..	5	-do-	26.7	80	10.0	50	Summer conditions. Deer in Upper Dachigam. Bear in Lower Dachigam.
July ..	5	-do-	29.4	85	12.8	55	-do-
August ..	5	-do-	29.4	85	12.8	55	-do-
September ..	5	Cool	26.7	80	7.2	45	-do-
October ..	5	Cooler	18.3	65	-1.1	30	Autumn conditions. Deer start returning to Lower Dachigam.
November	3	Cold	10.0	50	-3.9	25	Autumn conditions. Deer mostly in Lower Dachigam. Winter starts.
December	1	Cold	4.4	40	-6.7	20	Wintry conditions. Deer in Lower Dachigam.



A view of the Corbett Park at Dhikala

CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

This fine park was established in 1935 and was then known as the Hailey National Park. It was re-named as the Corbett National Park in 1957, in memory of the well-known sportsman and writer, Jim Corbett. Situated in the foothills of the Himalayas, in *dun* country, it has lovely scenic views with fine forests of *sal* (*Shorea robusta*). Although the *sal* timber is felled and extracted in certain parts, the natural beauty of the place has remained unimpaired. The *duns*, or flat valleys amid the hills, are particularly beautiful, especially when the flowering trees are in bloom. The spectacular 'Flame of the Forest'

blooms here from mid-February to the end of March. These *duns* are also the home of many deer.

This park is the home of the tiger, and the locale of Jim Corbett's books. Most of F. W. Champion's tiger photographs were also taken here in the twenties of this century. In addition to the tiger the park has leopards, hyenas, jackals and wild dogs. There are also a number of wild elephants, sambar, chital, hog deer, barking deer, etc. Bears, both sloth and Himalayan, are occasionally

The gorge of the Ramganga river in Corbett Park





Concealment and cunning have enabled the leopard to survive

found. Birds of many species can be seen. Both kinds of crocodile, *gharial* (long-snouted) and *mugger*, are found in the gorge of the river Ramganga, below Boxar. The Ramganga river is known for *mahseer* fishing during the spring and early summer.

The fair-weather roads in the park are all rendered impassable by the many streams and rivers during the monsoon months from June to October. The park is, therefore, seasonal and remains open only from November till the end of May.

Location and Route

This park is 324 sq. km. (125 sq. miles) in extent, and is situated 245 km. (152 miles) north-east of Delhi. It is approachable both by road and rail—the railheads being Ramnagar and Haldwani. From Ramnagar (the nearer of the two stations), the distance by road is 47 km. (29 miles) to Dhikala, where the main Rest House of the park is situated. Information about the park can be obtained from:

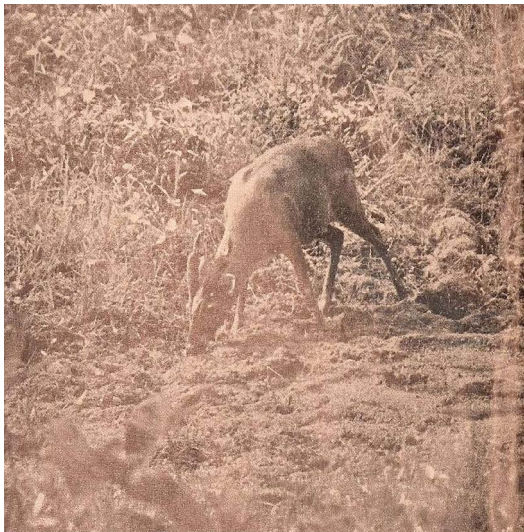
The Chief Wild Life Warden, U.P.,
Wazir Hasan Road,
Lucknow, (Uttar Pradesh).

An illustrated booklet and a folder on this park can also be obtained from him.

Accommodation and other Facilities

The Forest Rest House and Tourist Hutment at Dhikala are fully furnished and equipped in every way. The services of a cook are also available, but provisions have to be brought by visitors who intend to stay there. There are Forest Rest Houses with basic furniture at Sultan, Sarapduli, Boxar, Paterpani, Gaujpani and Jamunagwar. There is also a students' dormitory at Dhikala.

There are 8 watch towers in the park, and two riding elephants are stationed at Dhikala. A jeep (with trailer) is available at Ramnagar. About 113 km. (70 miles) of fair-weather roads connect all the Forest Rest Houses inside the park. An officer guides and helps tourists.



Barking deer buck

Fishing permits (for the Ramganga river) can be obtained from the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalagarh Division, Lansdowne, U.P. The fee for a permit, which is valid for 15 days, is Re. 1.00.



The tiger is rarely seen in day-time

CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

Month	Index	Weather	Temperature				Remarks
			Max.		Min.		
			°C	°F	°C	°F	
January ..	4	Fine, cold at night	10·0	50	-1·1	30	Undergrowth drying. Roads open. Mist in early morning.
February ..	5	Fine, cold at night	23·9	75	4·4	40	Undergrowth and grass decreasing. Becoming warmer. Grass being burnt. Good time.
March ..	5	Fine, warm	29·4	85	12·8	55	Grass burnt. Best time. Good time for fishing, etc.
April ..	5	Fine, warm	32·2	90	21·1	70	Best time. Best time for fishing, etc.
May ..	4	-do-	35·0	95	23·9	75	All right for visiting, but rather warm during day-time.
June ..	0	Rains	35·0	95	23·9	75	Park closed because of monsoon.
July ..	0	-do-	32·2	90	23·9	75	-do-
August ..	0	-do-	32·2	90	23·9	75	-do-
September	0	-do-	32·2	90	21·1	70	-do-
October ..	0	Cooler	21·1	70	18·3	65	-do-
November	1	Fine, cold	15·6	60	7·2	45	Forest and undergrowth thick. Roads not yet ready.
December	2	-do-	12·8	55	-1·1	30	Undergrowth thick. Roads open by middle of month. Mist in early morning.

The charges for accommodation and other services are:

Forest Rest House	Rs. 2·00 per day, per party.
Tourist Hutment	Rs. 3·00 per day, per person, per room (Rs. 5·00 for 2 persons).
Crockery and cutlery	Rs. 2·50 per day.
Light	Re. 1·00 per day
Elephant ride	Rs. 5·00 per trip (for not more than 4 persons).

Best Time for Visiting

The park is open from November, and the roads are usually motorable by the middle of December. The park is closed from June 1 to October 31. The best months for a visit are March and April; May and February are also good.

ALTITUDE : 457—914 km. (1,500—3,000 ft.) above sea level.

RAINFALL: 2,540 mm. (100 in.) per annum.

CHANDRAPRABHA SANCTUARY

This place recently came into prominence as the forests elected by the Uttar Pradesh Government as an alternative home for the Indian lion. Three lions from the Gir Forest were released here early in 1957. The sanctuary has nilgai (blue bull) and wild pig. The Indian gazelle (chinkara), sambar, chital, sloth bear and leopard are also found. Among the birds there are the peafowl, grey partridge, quail, green pigeon besides many others.

Location and Route

This 78-sq. km. (30-sq. mile) sanctuary is situated at the eastern end of the Vindhya Range of mountains and is 69 km. (43 miles) from Varanasi (Banaras) with which it is connected by a good road. Taxis are available at Varanasi at Government-approved rates. Further information can be obtained from:

- (1) The Chief Wild Life Warden, U.P.,
Wazir Hasan Road,
Lucknow, (Uttar Pradesh).
- (2) The Divisional Forest Officer,
Varanasi Forest Division,
Ramnagar P.O., (Uttar Pradesh).

Accommodation and other Facilities

There are good hotels in Varanasi. There is a fully-furnished and equipped Tourist Hutment at site where a cook is also provided. Provisions should, however, be taken along by visitors. There are also a students' dormitory and watch towers. Elephants for riding are available at Rs. 5.00. per trip.

Best Time for Visiting

Although this sanctuary is accessible all the year round, the best time for visiting and photography is the months from December to April.

CENTRAL INDIA

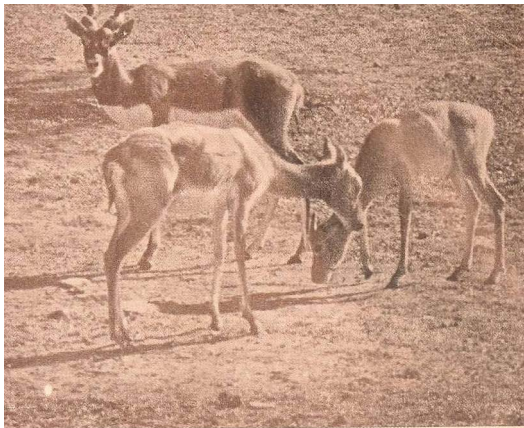
KANHA NATIONAL PARK

THIS park is undoubtedly one of the best places for wild life in India. It was formerly known as the Banjar Valley Reserve. Probably nowhere else in India can so many heads of animals be seen out in the open, at certain times of the year. The *maidan* (open grassy area) in the centre of the park is known for its beauty. It resembles undulating English parkland with majestic *sal* trees here and there. The Indian swamp deer or barasingha is the stately animal for which Kanha is famous. The black-buck and fine herds of chital can be seen here. The gaur (Indian 'bison'), sambar, barking deer, tiger, leopard, sloth bear, wild dog, hyena, fox and other animals are also found.

Peafowl and jungle-fowl are among the 90 species of birds found here. Although the Forest Department works the forest for timber, the natural beauty of the place has remained unspoilt.

Location and Route

The Park extends over 251 sq. km. (97 sq. miles) and is situated in the heart of the *sal* forests of the central highlands of India. From Mandla, the district headquarters, Kanha is 55 km. (34 miles) to the south-east. Jabalpur is only 97 km. (60 miles) to the north, and the park is easily reached by road from there. It can also be reached by road from Balaghat to the south.



Blackbuck in Kanha Park

Enquiries should be addressed to:

The Divisional Forest Officer,
West Mandla Division,
Mandla, (Madhya Pradesh).

Accommodation and other Facilities

There are two well-furnished Rest Houses at Kanha and Kisli inside the park. There is a network of fair-weather roads connecting all important parts. Watch towers and observation posts have also been erected at strategic places. Two elephants are kept at Kanha for

KANHA NATIONAL PARK

Month	Index	Weather	Temperature				Remarks
			Max.		Min.		
			°C	°F	°C	°F	
January ..	3	Fine, cold	23·9	75	-1·1	30	Grass dying or being burnt. Some winter showers. Fairly good time.
February ..	4	Fine, cool	26·7	80	7·2	45	Good time.
March ..	4	Fine, cool	29·4	85	15·6	60	Grass dead or burnt. Good time.
April ..	5	Fine, warm	32·2	90	18·3	65	New grass growing up. Best time.
May ..	5	Fine, warmer	37·8	100	21·1	70	Best time.
June ..	4	Fine, hot	40·6	105	23·9	75	Best time. Rains start at end of month.
July ..	1	Rains	37·8	100	23·9	75	Uncertain. All right, if dry.
August ..	0	Rains	35·0	95	23·9	75	Sanctuary unapproachable, except on foot.
September	0	-do-	32·2	90	23·9	75	-do-
October ..	0	-do-	29·4	85	15·6	60	-do-
November	1	Fine, cool	26·7	80	7·2	45	Grass high, roads under repair.
December	3	Fine, cool	21·1	70	1·7	35	Grass dying or being burnt. A few winter showers late in the month. Fairly good time.

the use of visitors. Information about the rates, charges for accommodation, etc., can be obtained from the Divisional Forest Officer, Mandla.

Best Time for Visiting

The Park is not accessible from the middle of July to the middle of November owing to monsoon rains. November, December and January are pleasant but the undergrowth and grass are still thick. The best time for a visit is April to June, when the grass and undergrowth has died or has been burnt. At this time animals come out to graze on the grassy *maidan*.

ALTITUDE: 610—914 m. (2,000—3,000 ft.) above sea level.

RAINFALL: 1,524 mm. (60 in.) per annum.

SHIVPURI NATIONAL PARK

This place in Madhya Pradesh was once the game preserve of the rulers of the former princely State of Gwalior. Between 1947 and 1953 the number of wild animals in this park declined greatly. Since its establishment by the State Government as a national park in 1956, the wild life here has been increasing steadily in numbers. The park consists mainly of mixed deciduous forest, with grassy slopes here and there.

The Indian gazelle or chinkara is found in this park in good numbers, besides the sambar, chital, nilgai, wild pig, sloth bear, hyena, etc. The tiger and leopard are also seen here. In fact, this area offers good facilities for

photographing the tiger. Bird life is plentiful near the lakes and in the forest.

Location and Route

Located on the main Agra-Bombay road, 116 km. (72 miles) south of Gwalior, this 158-sq. km. (61sq.- mile) park is ideally situated for a visit while motoring between Delhi and Bombay. A narrow-gauge railway connects it with Gwalior.

Accommodation and other Facilities

There is a Circuit House and a Dak Bungalow of the Public Works Department in Shivpuri, which can be reserved in advance by applying to the Executive Engineer or to the Collector, Shivpuri, M.P. There is also a small hotel in the town. A good network of 113 km. (70 miles) of motorable roads makes motoring inside the park a pleasure. There are many watch towers and picnic shelters, and also jetties for boats on the lake.

For further information enquiries should be addressed to:

The Conservator of Forests or the Divisional Forest Officer, **Shivpuri**, (Madhya Pradesh).

Best Time for Visiting

This park is accessible all the year round, and the table on the following page gives an idea of the conditions prevailing at different times of the year.

ALTITUDE: 396—488 m. (1,300—1,600 ft.) above sea level.

RAINFALL: 813 mm. (32 in.) per annum.

SHIVPURI NATIONAL PARK

Month	Index	Weather	Temperature				Remarks
			Max.		Min.		
			°C	°F	°C	°F	
January ..	4	Fine, cool	29·4	85	8·9	48	Grass and undergrowth decreasing.
February ..	5	-do-	32·2	90	11·1	52	-do-
March ..	4	Fine, warm	35·6	96	15·6	60	Grass and undergrowth dead or burnt.
April ..	4	Fine, hot	40·0	104	21·7	71	Grass and undergrowth dead or burnt. Good time for seeing animals.
May ..	4	-do-	42·8	109	23·3	74	-do-
June ..	4	Hot, some rain	43·3	110	23·3	74	Trees in leaf. Good time for seeing animals.
July ..	5	Rains	35·6	96	24·4	76	Grass growing.
August ..	4	-do-	34·4	94	24·4	76	Grass and undergrowth growing.
September	4	-do-	23·9	93	24·4	76	Grass and undergrowth high.
October ..	4	Fine, warm	34·4	94	16·7	62	-do-
November	4	Fine, cool	31·1	88	12·2	54	Grass and undergrowth dying.
December	4	-do-	28·9	84	11·1	52	-do-

EASTERN INDIA

HAZARIBAGH NATIONAL PARK

THIS park was set up recently and is still in the process of development. Wild life here is now steadily on the increase, after having become greatly reduced earlier. The park comprises former private forest-land, and is mostly undulating terrain covered with dense forests of *sal* trees. Most of the animals and birds indigenous to India are to be found here.

Location and Route

This park of 194 sq. km. (75 sq. miles) lies on the main Patna-Ranchi road, 18 km. (11 miles) from Hazaribagh town. It is easily accessible by road from Barhi on the Grand Trunk Road, from Begodar *via* Hazaribagh, and from Ranchi. The nearest airport is Patna, 201 km. (125 miles) away (Rs. 150 by taxi and Rs. 7 by bus). The nearest railway station is Kodarma which is 39 km. (24 miles). The bus fare from Kodarma to the park is Re. 1.00 per head. Taxis are not available. For further information, and for reservations in the Rest Houses, applications should be addressed to:

The Divisional Forest Officer,
Hazaribagh Division, (Bihar).

Accommodation and other Facilities

The Forest Rest House at Rajderwa is fully furnished. The cook will provide food. The rent is

HAZARIBAGH NATIONAL PARK

Month	Index	Weather	Temperature				Remarks
			Max.		Min.		
			°C	°F	°C	°F	
January ..	4	Fine, cool	18.3	65	8.9	48	Early mornings cold. Vegetation still thick.
February ..	5	-do-	23.9	75	10.0	50	Vegetation becoming less thick. Better time for visiting.
March ..	5	-do-	26.7	80	12.8	55	Grass drying up and being burnt. Good time for visiting.
April ..	5	Fine, warm	29.4	85	15.6	60	Best time for visiting.
May ..	5	-do-	35.0	95	18.3	65	-do-
June ..	3	Rains	37.8	100	18.3	65	Monsoon conditions.
July ..	2	-do-	35.0	95	15.6	60	-do-
August ..	2	-do-	32.2	90	15.6	60	-do-
September	2	-do-	29.4	85	15.6	60	-do-
October ..	2	Less rain	23.9	75	12.8	55	Conditions uncertain.
November	3	Fine, warm	21.1	70	10.0	50	-do-
December	4	Fine, cool	18.3	65	10.0	50	Conditions improving. Vegetation still thick.

Rs. 4·00 per day with extra charges for water and light. The charges for meals are about Rs. 9 per day. There is also a Tourist Lodge at Rajderwa. Another Forest Rest House is located at Harhad, for which the rent is Rs. 2·00 per day with extra charges for water and light. The 10 observation towers in the park are connected by all-weather roads. Entrance to the park by the Pokharia and Bahimar gates is free for pedestrians, but vehicles are charged as follows:

Bus or Truck	Rs. 3·00
Car	Re. 1·00
Cycle	Re. 0·25

Best Time for Visiting

Though accessible all the year round, this park is best visited during the period from December to May.

ALTITUDE: 610 m. (2,000 ft.) above sea level.

RAINFALL: 1,016 mm. (40 in.) per annum.

JALDAPARA SANCTUARY

This sanctuary was constituted in 1941 for the protection of the Indian rhino, and consists of riverain forest along the River Torsa in northern Bengal, not far south of the Bhutan border. In addition to some fifty to sixty rhinos, there are the sambar, swamp deer, hog deer, barking deer and wild pig. An occasional wild elephant may also be found as also a few tigers and bears. Peafowl and jungle-fowl are found among the many species of birds in this sanctuary.

Location and Route

This 93 sq.-km. (36 sq.-mile) sanctuary lies just south of the railway line which connects northern Bengal and Assam with the rest of India. The nearest railway station is Hashimara, which is only 2 km. ($1\frac{1}{4}$ mile) away from the Barodabri Tourist Bungalow. One can also go by air on bi-weekly or thrice-weekly non-scheduled flights from Calcutta to Hashimara airfield, which is 4.8 km. (3 miles) from the sanctuary. It is also possible to motor there from Cooch Behar at any time, and from elsewhere during the dry weather. A Forest Department jeep is available on application. For further information and for reservations one should apply to:

The Divisional Forest Officer,
Cooch Behar Division,
Cooch Behar P.O., (West Bengal.)

Accommodation and other Facilities

The Tourists Bungalow at Barodabri has three furnished bedrooms with attached baths, a lounge and a dining room. At present there are no arrangements for catering. Riding elephants are available on hire.

Best Time for Visiting

November to April is the best time to visit the sanctuary, particularly March and April when new grass is growing.

ALTITUDE: 61 m. (200 ft.) above sea level.

RAINFALL: 4,191 mm. (165 in.) per annum.

JALDAPARA SANCTUARY

Month	Index	Weather	Temperature				Remarks
			Max.		Min.		
			°C	°F	°C	°F	
January ..	4	Fine, cool	21·1	70	10·0	50	Heavy dew. Undergrowth and grass drying. Fairly good time.
February ..	5	-do-	21·1	70	15·6	60	Undergrowth and grass being burnt. Good time.
March ..	5	Fine, warm	26·7	80	23·9	75	Grass burnt. Best time.
April ..	5	Rather warm, showers	26·7	80	23·9	75	New grass growing. Good time.
May ..	4	Rain	32·2	90	26·7	80	Conditions uncertain. All right if dry.
June ..	2	-do-	32·2	90	26·7	80	-do-
July ..	1	-do-	32·2	90	26·7	80	Grass high. Rains.
August ..	1	-do-	32·2	90	26·7	80	-do-
September	1	-do-	32·2	90	26·7	80	-do-
October ..	2	Less rain	26·7	80	23·9	75	Conditions improving.
November	3	Fine, cool	21·1	70	15·6	60	Conditions improved. Heavy dew.
December	4	Fine, cool	21·1	70	12·8	55	Undergrowth and grass thick. Heavy dew. Fairly good time.