



Explore the Wildlife Sanctuaries of West Bengal

Preparing for the **WBP Constable Exam** involves not just mastering law enforcement but also understanding the rich and diverse ecosystem of West Bengal. Exploring the state's **Wildlife Sanctuaries** becomes more than just an academic exercise; it becomes a journey into the heart of nature. West Bengal is home to a remarkable array of wildlife sanctuaries, each with its unique biodiversity and significance. From the dense forests of the Buxa Tiger Reserve to the marshy wetlands of the Sundarbans, these sanctuaries not only house diverse flora and fauna but also play a crucial role in conserving and protecting the region's natural heritage.

In this comprehensive guide, we will take you on a virtual tour of these sanctuaries, providing in-depth insights into the ecosystems, the wildlife they shelter, and the conservation efforts in place. This knowledge will not only enrich your understanding of West Bengal's natural beauty but also contribute to your success in the WBP Constable Exam by enhancing your overall awareness.

This is the second blog of the 'Exploring West Bengal' Series. In our first blog, we have discussed the [National Parks of West Bengal](#). If you haven't read that blog, click on the embedded link and read it first. Now, Let's explore the wildlife sanctuaries.

Wildlife Sanctuaries

A wildlife sanctuary is a protected area where wild animals and their habitats are protected from human interference and exploitation. The main purpose of wildlife sanctuaries is to protect and conserve biodiversity, and to provide a safe haven for wild animals.

Wildlife sanctuaries are typically managed by government agencies or non-profit organizations. They are often located in areas that are important for wildlife conservation, such as forests, grasslands, and wetlands.

There are many different types of wildlife sanctuaries, but they all share the same goal of protecting wildlife and their habitats. Some common types of wildlife sanctuaries include:

- **Bird sanctuaries:** These sanctuaries are specifically designed to protect birds and their habitats.
- **Animal sanctuaries:** These sanctuaries provide a safe haven for animals that have been injured, orphaned, or rescued.
- **Marine sanctuaries:** These sanctuaries protect marine ecosystems and the wildlife that live there.
- **Wetland sanctuaries:** These sanctuaries protect wetlands and the wildlife that live there.

According to the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), there are 11,786 wildlife sanctuaries worldwide. These sanctuaries are located in 193 countries and territories.

The number of wildlife sanctuaries has increased significantly in recent years. In 1990, there were only 3,500 wildlife sanctuaries worldwide. This increase is due to a growing awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and the need to protect wild animals and their habitats.

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[Source: Travel Triangle]

India has 567 wildlife sanctuaries, which is the highest number in the world. China (376) and Tanzania (190) are placed on second and third position respectively.

Wildlife sanctuaries play an important role in protecting biodiversity and providing a safe haven for wild animals. They also help to educate the public about the importance of wildlife conservation and generate revenue from tourism.

Wildlife sanctuaries are an important part of conservation efforts around the world. They help to protect our planet's precious wildlife and natural heritage.

But have you ever wondered that what is the difference between National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries? Of course, you're thinking about this because we've discussed Buxa Tiger Reserve and Sundarbans in the National Parks blog so what are they doing here. So let's first discuss the difference between National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Difference Between National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries

National parks and wildlife sanctuaries are both protected areas, but there are some key differences between the two.

National parks are typically larger and more strictly protected than wildlife sanctuaries. They are designed to protect entire ecosystems, including the plants, animals, and landscapes within them. National parks are typically owned and managed by the government, and they are generally closed to human development and activity.

Wildlife sanctuaries are designed to protect specific species of animals or their habitats. They may be smaller than national parks, and they may allow for some human activity, such as tourism and limited resource use. Wildlife sanctuaries can be owned and managed by either the government or private organizations.

Here is a table summarizing the key differences between national parks and wildlife sanctuaries:

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Feature	National Parks	Wildlife Sanctuaries
Purpose	To protect entire ecosystems	To protect specific species of animals or their habitats
Size	Typically larger	Typically smaller
Protection level	More strictly protected	Less strictly protected
Ownership and management	Typically owned and managed by the government	Can be owned and managed by either the government or private organizations
Human activity	Generally closed to human development and activity	May allow for some human activity, such as tourism and limited resource use



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[Source: Medium]

Examples:

- **National parks:** Yellowstone National Park (USA), Serengeti National Park (Tanzania), Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Australia)
- **Wildlife sanctuaries:** Kaziranga National Park (India), Sundarbans National Park (India), Periyar Tiger Reserve (India)

So, you can say that National parks can be wildlife sanctuaries if they are falling in the characteristics of wildlife sanctuaries. Also, it is important to note that the specific differences between national parks and wildlife sanctuaries may vary from country to country.

Wildlife Sanctuaries of West Bengal

West Bengal is home to a variety of wildlife sanctuaries, each with its own unique ecosystem and biodiversity. These sanctuaries play an important role in protecting the state's wildlife and natural heritage, and they also offer visitors a chance to see some of India's most iconic wildlife up close.

These sanctuaries are home to a variety of wildlife, including tigers, leopards, elephants, rhinos, gaur, red pandas, snow leopards, golden langurs, crocodiles, dolphins, and birds.

Wildlife sanctuaries in West Bengal play an important role in protecting the state's wildlife and natural heritage. They also offer visitors a chance to see some of India's most iconic wildlife up close.

We will discuss some of the major wildlife sanctuaries of West Bengal that we haven't discussed yet in National Parks Blog. So, let's start.

Ballabhpur Wildlife Sanctuary

Ballabhpur Wildlife Sanctuary (also known as Deer Park) is a wildlife sanctuary located near Bolpur in Santiniketan, West Bengal, India. It is a popular tourist destination, known for its population of spotted deer, blackbucks, and other wildlife. The sanctuary is spread over an area of 200 hectares and is home to a variety of trees and shrubs, including sal, mango, and bamboo. It also has a number of water bodies, which attract a variety of birds.

Ballabhpur Wildlife Sanctuary is a great place to see wildlife up close. The deer and blackbucks are especially easy to spot, as they often graze in the open meadows. Other animals that can be seen in the sanctuary include jackals, foxes, and a variety of birds.

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[Source: Hindustan Times]

Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary

Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary located in the Nadia district of West Bengal, India. It is a popular tourist destination, known for its population of spotted deer, nilgai, and other wildlife. The sanctuary is spread over an area of 67 hectares and is home to a variety of trees and shrubs, including sal, teak, arjun, Indian rosewood, and bamboo. It also has a number of water bodies, which attract a variety of birds.

Bethuadahari Wildlife Sanctuary is a great place to see wildlife up close. The deer and nilgai are especially easy to spot, as they often graze in the open meadows. Other animals that can be seen in the sanctuary include jungle cats, civet cats, jackals, mongoose, porcupines, langurs, monitor lizards, pythons, cobras, and kraits. The sanctuary is also home to a variety of birds, including peacocks, kingfishers, and woodpeckers.

Bibhutibhushan Wildlife Sanctuary

Bibhutibhushan Wildlife Sanctuary, also known as Parmadan Forest, is a wildlife sanctuary located in the North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, India. It is a popular tourist destination, known for its population of spotted deer, as well as its scenic beauty. The sanctuary is spread over an area of 68 hectares and is home to a variety of trees and shrubs, including sal, mango, and bamboo. It also has a number of water bodies, including the Ichhamati River, which flows through the sanctuary.

Bibhutibhushan Wildlife Sanctuary is a great place to see wildlife up close. The deer are especially easy to spot, as they often graze in the open meadows. Other animals that can be seen in the sanctuary include jackals, foxes, rabbits, and a variety of birds.

The sanctuary is also home to a variety of flora and fauna, including medicinal plants, orchids, and butterflies.

Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary

Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Dooars region of West Bengal, India. It is a small sanctuary, covering an area of just 960 hectares, but it is home to a variety of wildlife, including Indian elephants, Indian bison, clouded leopards, and Royal Bengal tigers. The sanctuary is also known for its beautiful scenery, with rolling hills, lush forests, and clear rivers. Chapramari is a great place to visit for nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts alike.



[Source: Dooars Trip]

Chilapata Forest

Chilapata Forest is a forest located in the Dooars region of West Bengal, India. It is a part of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot and is home to a variety of wildlife, including Indian elephants, Indian bison, clouded leopards, and Royal Bengal tigers. The forest is spread over an area of approximately 2,000 square kilometers and is a mix of sal, bamboo, and mixed forests. It is also home to a number of rivers and streams, which provide a habitat for a variety of aquatic life.

Here are some of the specific wildlife that can be found in Chilapata Forest:

- **Mammals:** Indian elephant, Indian bison, clouded leopard, Royal Bengal tiger, leopard, sambar deer, spotted deer, hog deer, barking deer, wild boar, rhesus macaque, common langur, and Himalayan tahr.
- **Birds:** Greater spotted eagle, black eagle, Himalayan griffon vulture, king vulture, white-backed vulture, oriental honey buzzard, crested serpent eagle, eastern imperial eagle, red junglefowl, and great hornbill.
- **Reptiles:** Python, cobra, krait, monitor lizard, and water monitor.
- **Amphibians:** Spotted frog, Indian tree frog, and common frog.

Chilapata Forest is a valuable ecosystem and plays an important role in the conservation of wildlife in the Eastern Himalayas. It is a popular tourist destination, but it is important to be respectful of the forest and its inhabitants.

Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary

Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary is a bird sanctuary located in the Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal, India. It is named after Chintamani Kar, a local philanthropist who donated the land for the sanctuary. The sanctuary is spread over an area of 270 hectares and is home to a variety of birds, including migratory birds, resident birds, and birds of prey. The sanctuary is also home to a number of other animals, including deer, monkeys, and reptiles.



[Source: Wikipedia]

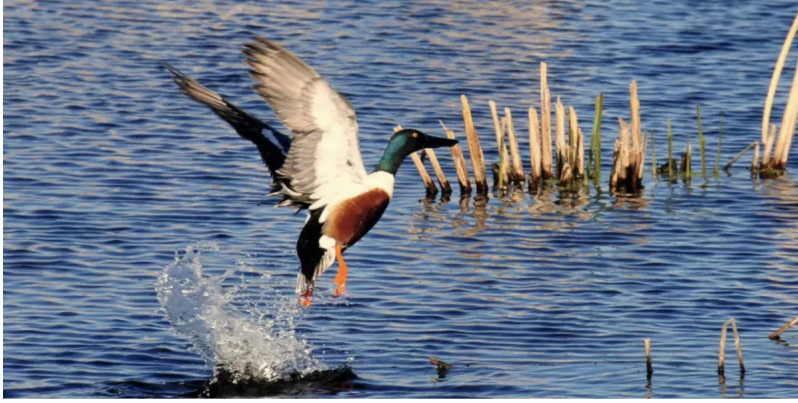
List of Other Wildlife Sanctuaries of West Bengal



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Wildlife Sanctuary	Area (sq. km)	Place
Haliday Island Wildlife Sanctuary	0.25	South 24 Parganas district
Jore Pokhri Wildlife Sanctuary	250	Darjeeling district
Lothian Island Wildlife Sanctuary	0.27	South 24 Parganas district
Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary	159.55	Darjeeling district
Narendrapur Wildlife Sanctuary	7.13	Nadia district
Pakhi Bitan Wildlife Sanctuary	8.28	South 24 Parganas district
Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary	50	Uttar Dinajpur district
Ramnabagan Wildlife Sanctuary	127.73	South 24 Parganas district
Rasikbil Bird Sanctuary	1.45	Nadia district
Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary	36.23	South 24 Parganas district
Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary	39	Darjeeling district

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[Source: Times of India]

In our exploration of West Bengal's wildlife sanctuaries, we've ventured into the heart of nature's sanctuary, witnessing the diverse tapestry of life that thrives within. These sanctuaries stand as guardians of precious ecosystems, providing a safe haven for a myriad of species. They play a vital role in maintaining the state's ecological equilibrium and offer an opportunity for both enthusiasts and conservationists to connect with the wild.

As we conclude this journey, let us carry with us a deeper appreciation for the sanctuaries' importance, a greater understanding of their diverse inhabitants, and a commitment to safeguarding these natural treasures for generations to come. In our upcoming blogs, we will discuss some other facts about West Bengal. Till then, stay tuned!