

Uttar Pradesh Wildlife

Set in the famous Gangetic plain, Uttar Pradesh has been an abode to a variety of wildlife, including some of the endangered and rare species of the world. Also, its wild areas comprise vegetation like Saal, Sheesham, Teek, Mahua, Jamun, Siddha, Salai, Koraiya, Jheengar, Amaltas, Tendu, Ber etc.

The famous wildlife sanctuaries and national parks of the state are Dudhwa National Park, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, Kaimoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Kishanpur Sanctuary, Mahavir Swami Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandra Prabha Wildlife Sanctuary and Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary.

All these important wildlife sanctuaries and national parks of Uttar Pradesh are very well managed. And within these protected wildlife areas, you can spot an exciting range of wild animals and a huge array of birds as well. Popular wild animals which you can watch here include Tiger, Leopard, Elephants, Chinkara, Sambar, Chital, Hyena, Jackal, Wolf, Antelope, Blue bull, Wild Cat, Rare Gangetic Dolphin, Crocodiles, Alligators, Karakal, Neelgai, Wild Boar etc.

Besides, you can see a variety of local as well as migratory birds such as Parakeets, Peafowl, Spur-fowl, Jungle fowl, Pochard, Woodpeckers, Coot, Shoveller, Purple Moorhen, Common Teal and Printed Partridge.



Dudhwa National Park

Factfile

Location : Lakhimpur Kheri District, Uttar Pradesh.

Area : 668 sq kms.

Major Attractions : Tigers, Swamp Deer, Hog Deer, Chital, Sambar, Rhinoceros etc.

Best Time to Visit : November to May.

Timings : 7.30 am to 10.00 am & 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Entry Fee : Indians Rs - 50, Foreigners - Rs.100. Extra charges for Cameras.

Guide Fee : Rs. 100

Vehicle Entry : Rs.50 to Rs.150.

Introducing Dudhwa National Park

Sprawling over an extensive area of around 880 sq. kms, with a core area of around 680 sq.kms, Dudhwa National Park attracts large number of visitors from far and wide. Set in the foothills of the Himalayas amidst the warm, tropical forests of the Terai region, Dudhwa National Park provides natural habitat to a variety of wild life.



Way back in 1861, around 300 sq. miles of the today's park area was brought under the government control for conservation. In the year 1937, the area was declared a reserve forest. Later in 1958, a sanctuary stretching over 15 sq. kms, called Sonaripur was formed to protect the Swamp Deer (Barasingha). In 1968, a major portion of the area was included to constitute the Dudhwa Sanctuary. Dudhwa was declared a National Park in 1977 and brought under the Project Tiger in 1988.

Dudhwa is essentially made of sal forests, vast grasslands and wet marshes which harbour a wide range of wildlife. Apart from the major rivers Suheli and Mohana, the park has several minor streams, nalas and

rain-fed taals. Although there are several Tigers in Dudhwa, but sightings them are rare due to thick forest cover. Besides Tigers, Dudhwa boasts of five deer species, of these, the Swamp Deer are special attraction. Other four deer species which you can spot here include Spotted Deer (Cheetal), Barking Deer (Kaakad), Sambar and Hog Deer (Paada).

Flora of the National Park

Major vegetation types found in the park are tropical moist-deciduous forest, tropical semi-evergreen forest, swamp forest, dry deciduous forest and riparian. In addition to various types of forests, the park is covered with wide stretches of mesophyllous grasslands, locally known as the phantas. Here, you will find tree species like *Adina cordifolia*, *Bombax malabaricum*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Eugenia jambolana*, *Shorea robusta*, *Terminalia belerica* and *Terminalis tomentosa*.



Fauna of the National Park

Although the park is known for its Tiger population, but it is also home to around 37 species of mammals and 16 species of reptiles. Apart from 101 Tigers and four Leopards, the park has large number of Swamp Deers. Other wild animals which you can spot here are Chital, Hispid, Hog Deer, Sambar, Rhinoceros, Jackals, Sloth Bear, Jungle Cat, Civet, Fishing Cat etc.

Dudhwa is birdwatcher's paradise, here you can see above hundreds of bird species. With its marshlands, Dudhwa invites around 400 species of resident as well as migratory birds. Popular avian species found in the park include Great Slaty Woodpecker, Woodpeckers, Swamp Partridge, Bengal Florican, Minivets Painted Storks, Owls, Barbets, Sarus Cranes etc. Most of Dudhwa's bird species are aquatic in nature, so you can found avian species around the park's lakes especially the Banke Tal.