

National Parks in West Bengal For The Wildlife Enthusiasts

1. Sundarban National Park



Spread over an area of 2,585 square kilometers including 54 small islands and crisscrossed by several tributaries of the Ganges, the [Sundarban National Park](#) is home to a variety of birds, reptiles and invertebrate species, including the salt water crocodile. Influenced by the innumerable watercourses and located in close proximity to the Bay of Bengal, the ecogeography of the Sundarban National Park is totally dependent on tidal effects that result in the creation of new islands and creeks by silt deposits. Mudflats, which are a unique feature on these deltaic islands, are the right environment for mangroves. The Sunderban National Park is famed for its vast area of mangrove forest and the Chargheri Char area, which is a mudflat region and open for tourists during low tide, is an ideal place to explore the wilderness. It is also the best place to sight some aqua fauna species like Sea Anemones, Horseshoe Crabs and small Octopuses. Meanwhile, the Royal Bengal Tiger is usually spotted on the river banks, especially between November and February.

2. Jaldapara National Park



Home to the Indian one-horned rhino and elephants, the Jaldapara National Park in the foothills of the Eastern Himalaya and on the bank of the Torsa River is one of the newly built national parks in India. The forest spreads across an area of 217 square kilometers and is dotted with tall elephant grasses and reverine forests. The Jaldapara National Park is a haven for bird watchers with the rare Bengal Florican being the major attraction amongst the bird species. Some other bird species that are spotted in the park are Crested Eagles, Pallas's Fish Eagles, Finn's Weavers, Peafowls and Partridges. The Pied Hornbill is yet another rare bird species that you might spot here, but only if you are lucky enough. Nonetheless, reptiles like Pythons, Monitor Lizards, Kraits, and Cobras are some common sights. Some of the common animals found in Jaldapara National Park are Sambar Deer, Barking Deer, Spotted Deer, Hog Deer, Wild Boars, and Bisons.

3. Gorumara National Park



With the influence of the Jaldhaka River, Murti River, and Raidak River, the Gorumara National Park forms a major watershed between the Ganges and Brahmaputra River systems. Located in the Dooars region in North Bengal and spreading across 80 square kilometers, the park mostly comprises rolling forests and riverine grasslands housing different species of mammals, birds, reptiles, turtles, fish and other macro and micro fauna. The common animal species that can be sighted are Gaurs, Asian Elephants, Sloth Bears, Chital, Sambar Deer, Barking Deer, Hog Deer, and Wild Boars. The Indian Rhinoceros, Pygmy Hog and Haspid Hare are some of the endangered species found in Gorumara National Park. Amongst the bird species, Brahminy Duck and Indian Hornbill remain the major attraction. The Gorumara National Park is also home to a large number of snakes, including Pythons and the King Cobra. The best way to watch wildlife at the park is from the numerous watch towers – Jatraprasad Watch Tower, Rhino Observation Point, Chandrachur Watch Tower, and Chuchuki Bird Watching Point. One can even pay a visit to the nearby Budhram Forest Village for a live show of the ethnic tribal dance and music.

4. Neora Valley National Park



A paradise for nature lovers and trekkers, the Neora Valley National Park in [Kalimpong](#) comprises a rich ecosystem that consists of a wealth of flora and fauna, lush green valley, meandering rivers with snow clad mountains in the backdrop. Spread across 88 square kilometers with elevations ranging from 1,500 meters to 3,000 meters and fed by the Neora River, the park is home to several endangered species like Leopards, Red Pandas, and Musk Deer. Other animal species include the Black Bear, Sloth Bear, Golden Cat, Leopard Cat, Goral, Barking Deer, Sambar and Himalayan Flying Squirrel. As the park has a varied topography, one can spot several bird species at different altitude levels including Rufous-throated Partridge, Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, Golden-throated Barbet, Brown Wood Owl, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Chestnut Headed Tesia, Babblers, Dark-breasted Rosefinch and many more. Amongst the reptiles the King Cobra, Green Pit Viper and Lizards are quite common. The Neora Valley National Park also comprises other tourist attractions like Tiffin Dara and Red Panda Camp.

5. Singalila National Park



One of the popular national parks in the Indian Himalayan region and located in [Darjeeling district of West Bengal](#), Singalila National Park is well known for the trekking route to Sandakphu- Phalut that runs through it. The Park covers a vast area that stretches from an altitude of 1,800 meters to 4,000 meters (approximately) and falls in the Indo-Malaya eco-zone housing thick bamboo, oak, magnolia and rhododendron forests. It is also an abode of several wild orchids including the poisonous Himalayan Cobra Lilies. The forest trail starts after crossing Meghma and goes through Tonglu, Giribas, Kala Pokhri, Sandakphu and Phalut. The Singalila National Park has a large concentration of mammals, birds and reptiles. The most commonly sighted mammals include the Leopard Cat, Barking Deer and Pangolin. Endangered animal species like Red Panda, Himalayan Black Bear and Leopards are also found in the national park. The Scarlet Minivet, Kalij Pheasant, Blood Pheasant, Satyr Tragopan, Rufous-vented Tit and Golden-breasted Fulvetta are some of the bird species that are spotted throughout the forest trail. The best time to visit the Singalila National park is during the summer and winter.