**Bandipur National Park** established in 1974 as a tiger reserve under [Project Tiger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_Tiger), is a [national park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_park) located in the south Indian state of [Karnataka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka), which is the state with the highest tiger population in India. It is one of the premier Tiger Reserves in the country along with the adjoining Nagarhole national park. It was once a private hunting reserve for the [Maharaja](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maharaja) of the [Kingdom of Mysore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Mysore)but has now been upgraded to Bandipur Tiger Reserve. Bandipur is known for its wildlife and has many types of [biomes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biomes), but [dry deciduous forest](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropical_and_subtropical_dry_broadleaf_forests) is dominant. The park spans an area of 874 square kilometers (337 sq mi), protecting several species of [India's endangered wildlife](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_endangered_animals_in_India). Together with the adjoining [Nagarhole National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagarhole_National_Park" \o "Nagarhole National Park) (643 km2 (248 sq mi)), [Mudumalai National Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mudumalai_National_Park" \o "Mudumalai National Park) (320 km2 (120 sq mi)) and [Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wayanad_Wildlife_Sanctuary" \o "Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary) (344 km2 (133 sq mi)), it is part of the [Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nilgiri_Biosphere_Reserve" \o "Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve) totaling 2,183 km2 (843 sq mi) making it the largest protected area in southern India and largest habitat of wild elephants in south Asia.