**Khunjerab National Park**

**📖 History:**

**Founded in 1975, Khunjerab National Park in Gilgit-Baltistan was established to safeguard rare and endangered high-altitude species such as the Snow Leopard, Marco Polo Sheep, Himalayan Ibex, and Blue Sheep. Spread across vast alpine meadows, rugged mountains, and glaciated valleys, the park is recognized as one of the highest-altitude protected areas in the world.**

**Situated along the famous Karakoram Highway near the Pakistan–China border, Khunjerab not only serves as a vital wildlife refuge but also as a symbol of ecological preservation in the harsh yet breathtaking landscapes of the Karakoram and Pamir ranges. Its unique alpine ecosystem supports a delicate balance of flora and fauna, including migratory birds, predators, and herbivores adapted to extreme conditions.**

**Beyond its ecological value, the park attracts nature lovers, wildlife photographers, and adventure travelers from around the globe. Visitors come to experience its pristine beauty, observe rare wildlife in their natural habitat, and witness one of the most spectacular high-mountain environments in Pakistan. By promoting eco-tourism and conservation, Khunjerab National Park continues to play a vital role in protecting biodiversity while highlighting the natural heritage of Gilgit-Baltistan.**

**📏 Area:**

**Covering about 2,269 square kilometers, Khunjerab National Park is one of the world’s highest-altitude protected areas. Its rugged mountains, alpine meadows, and rocky cliffs rise above 4,000 meters, creating a harsh but stunning habitat. The park shelters Himalayan Ibex, Blue Sheep, Pikas, and the rare Snow Leopard, along with Golden Eagles and Lammergeiers. Despite extreme cold, this unique alpine ecosystem thrives, making Khunjerab a vital sanctuary for high-altitude wildlife.**

**🏞 Facilities:**

**1. Viewpoints & Scenic Spots**– Specially designed areas along the Karakoram Highway for breathtaking mountain views.

**2. Wildlife Viewing Points**– Opportunities to spot Ibex, Blue Sheep, Marmots, and if lucky, the Snow Leopard.

**3. Information Signboards**– Educational boards about the park’s animals, birds, and ecosystem.

**4. Tourist Rest Areas**– Basic resting and refreshment points along the highway.

**5. Photography & Filming Spots**– Popular for capturing landscapes, glaciers, and wildlife.

**6. Security & Check Posts**– Ensuring safety for travelers near the Pak–China border.

**7. Eco-Tourism Support**– Promoting conservation awareness and sustainable tourism.

**🐆 Animals:**

**Snow Leopard: Elusive big cat with thick spotted fur and strong paws.**

**Marco Polo Sheep: Wild sheep with long spiraled horns of great length.**

**Himalayan Ibex: Mountain goat with long curved horns, skilled climber.**

**Blue Sheep: Stocky grazer with bluish-grey coat on rocky slopes.**

**Tibetan Wolf: Hardy predator of high plateaus, hunts in small packs.**

**Lynx: Medium wild cat with tufted ears and sharp eyesight.**

**Red Fox: Clever hunter with reddish fur and a long bushy tail.**

**Himalayan Marmot: Burrowing rodent with loud whistles in alpine meadows.**

**Pika: Tiny mountain mammal with round ears and sharp calls.**

**🐦 Birds:**

**Golden Eagle: Majestic raptor with keen vision and powerful wings.**

**Lammergeier: Bone-eating vulture, soars high over mountain cliffs.**

**Himalayan Griffon Vulture: Large scavenger with broad wings and pale plumage.**

**Snow Partridge: Hardy alpine bird with barred plumage and strong legs.**

**Tibetan Snowcock: Ground bird of high peaks, mottled for camouflage.**

**Chukar Partridge: Bold game bird with red beak and striped sides.**

**Rock Pigeon: Common city and mountain bird, skilled at flying.**

**Horned Lark: Small ground bird with tiny feather tufts like horns.**

**Alpine Chough: Mountain crow with yellow beak and acrobatic flight.**

**Red-billed Chough: Black mountain bird with curved red bill and agility.**

**Northern Raven: Large black bird, intelligent and strong in flight.**

**Wallcreeper: Cliff-dwelling bird with crimson wings and long bill.**

**White-winged Redstart: Small bird with contrasting black, white, and red plumage.**

**Robin Accentor: Songbird of alpine shrubs, brown with reddish tones.**

**Brown Accentor: Subtle-colored bird, thrives in rocky, shrubby slopes.**

**Black Redstart: Small bird with dark plumage and bright orange tail.**

**Fire-fronted Serin: Finch with fiery crown and streaked brownish body.**

**Great Rosefinch: Bright pink finch, striking against snowy backdrops.**

**Brandt’s Mountain Finch: Hardy highland bird with patterned wings and tail.**

**Plain Mountain Finch: Modest-colored finch, found in alpine grasslands.**

**Ducks: Water birds with broad bills and webbed swimming feet.**

**Contact Info:**

**📍 Location: Khunjerab Pass, Hunza District, Gilgit-Baltistan**

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