

# NATURE



*Exploring the  
Wildlife and Wetlands  
of Kashmir*

Diverse  
Terrains

Exotic  
Birds

Rich  
Flora &  
Fauna

Department of Tourism, J&K





Department of Tourism, J&K

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The Dachigam National Park, spanning across the Zabarwan Range, is famed for the endangered Hangul or the Kashmir Stag — the only species of Red Deer found in India. Situated in a mountainous area, Dachigam National Park spans altitudes from 1600m to 4200m above sea level, dividing it into upper and lower regions. Its diverse terrain ranges from grasslands to rocky cliffs, offering spectacular views.

Dachigam was declared a National Park in 1981 and is home to various fauna, including Musk Deer, Leopard, Himalayan Grey Langur, Himalayan Black Bear, Yellow-Throated Marten and more. For bird enthusiasts, Dachigam is a paradise with species like the Himalayan Monal, Black Bulbul, Golden Oriole, and Kashmir Flycatcher.

# Dachigam National Park

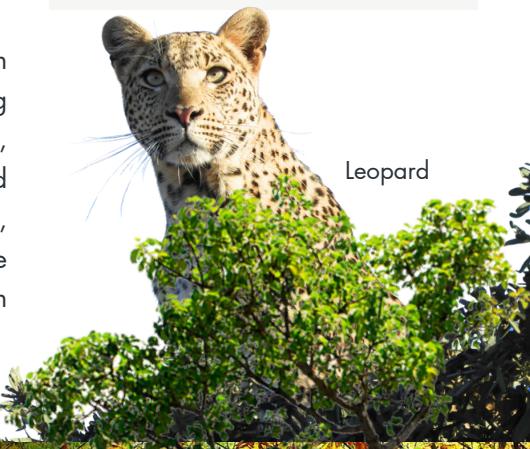


Area  
**141 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**17 km**

How to reach



Leopard



# PHOTO GALLERY



Encountering a  
Leopard in the  
Wilds of Dachigam

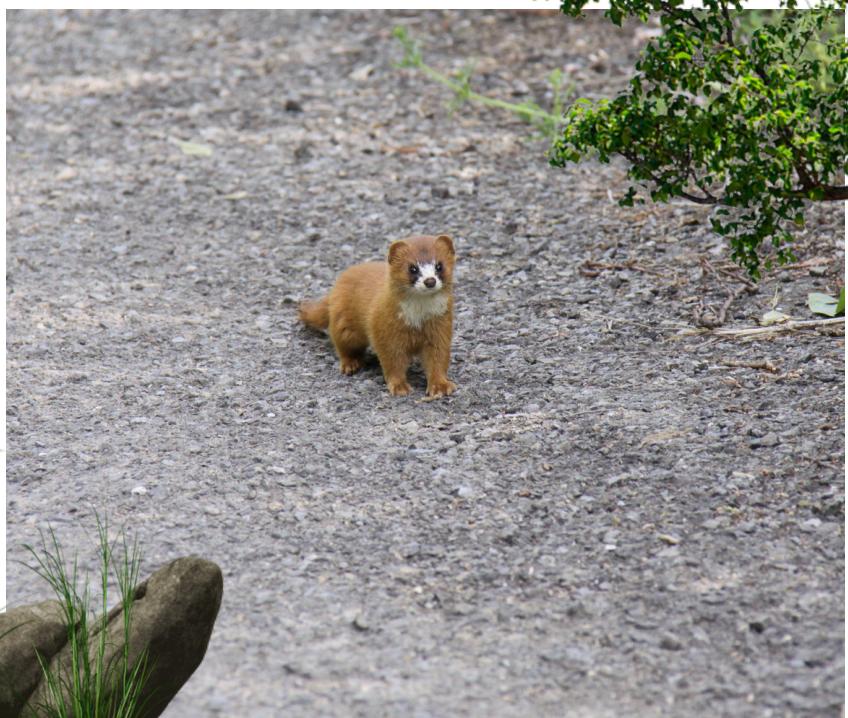


Witnessing an Asiatic  
Black Bear's Fruit  
Feast in Dachigam  
National Park

# PHOTO GALLERY



Catching a Glimpse  
of the Elusive Hangul  
through the Lens

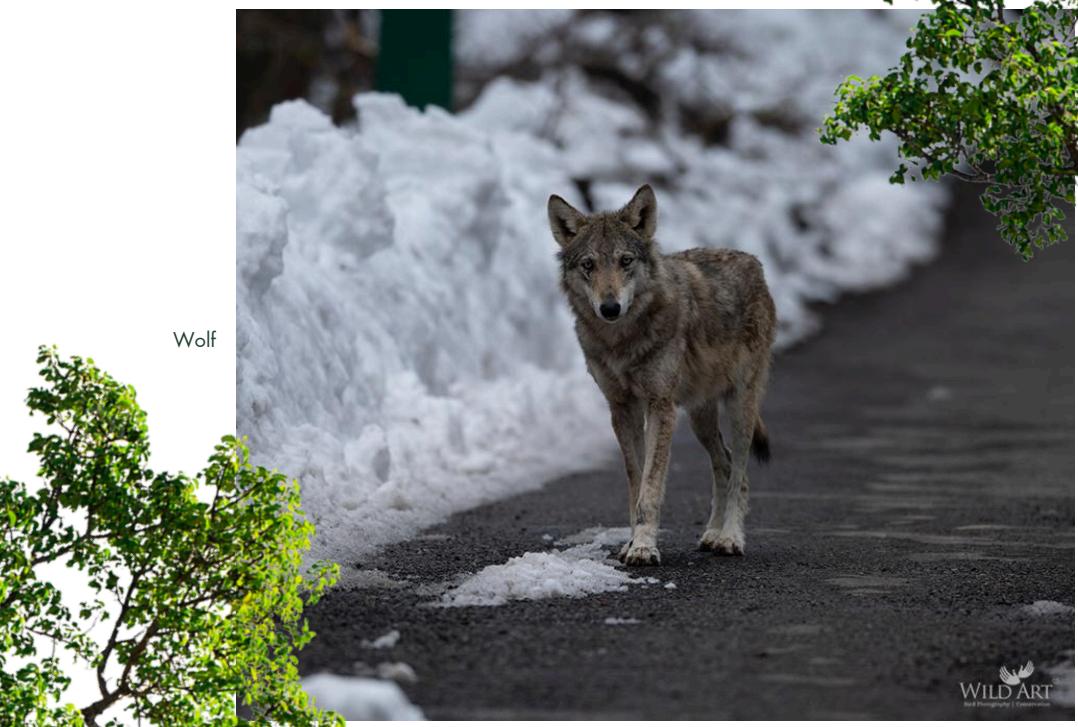


Ferret

# PHOTO GALLERY



HIMALAYAN  
LANGUR WITH ITS  
BABY



Wolf

# PHOTO GALLERY



Tawny Owl



Blue Whistling Thrush

# PHOTO GALLERY

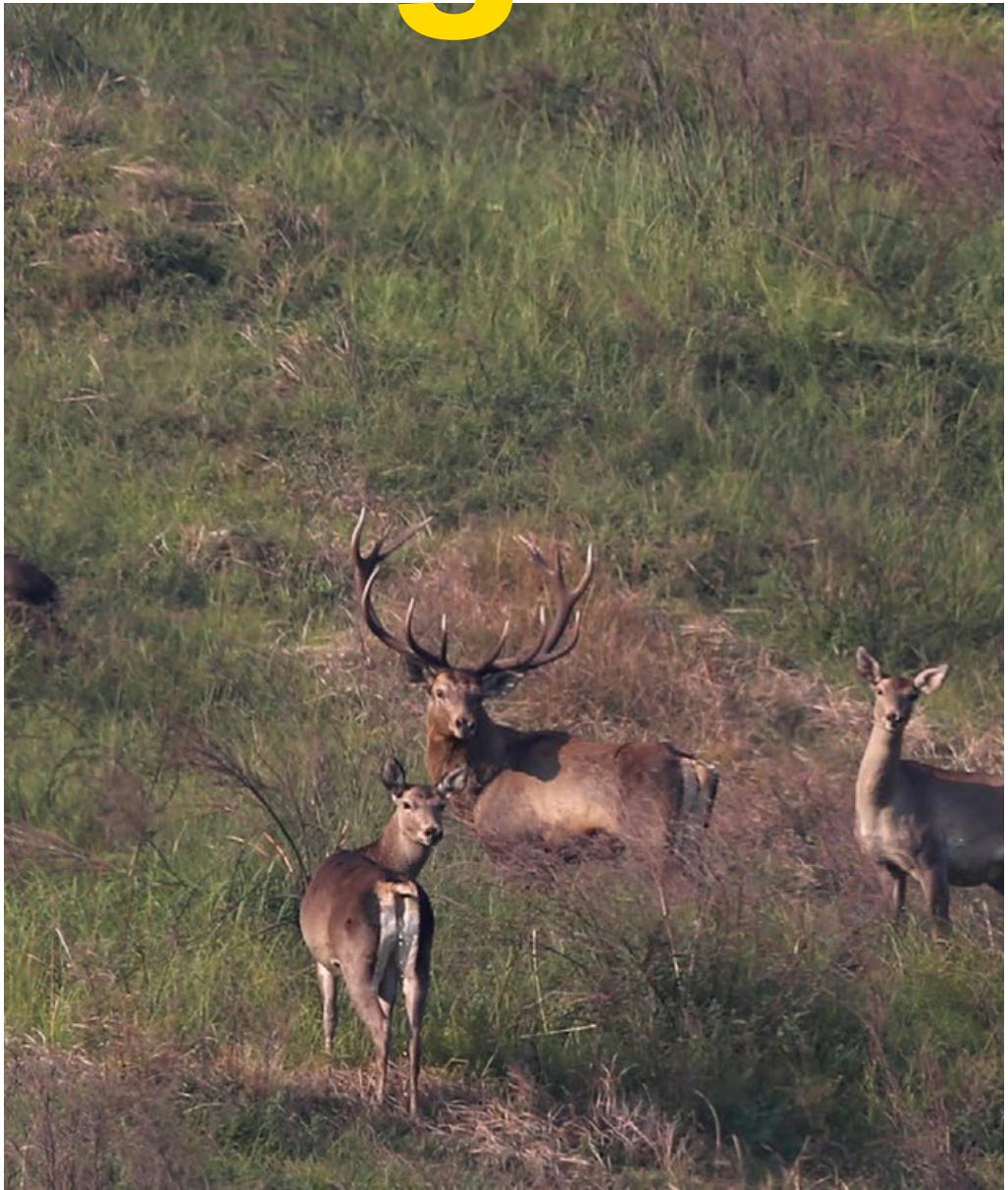


Brown-fronted  
Woodpecker



Black Bulbul

# Hangul



The Hangul, or Kashmir Stag, is a majestic inhabitant of Jammu and Kashmir, deriving its name from the local term "*han door*," signifying its fondness for the Indian horse-chestnut. Adorned with a reddish-brown coat, impressive antlers, and a distinctive white rump patch, Hangul is listed as Critically Endangered in IUCN's Red Data Book and placed under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



Jammu and Kashmir's diverse geography makes it a haven for wildlife enthusiasts. The region offers rich opportunities for wildlife tourism, with Dal Lake being a prime destination for birdwatchers, featuring kingfishers perched on houseboats. The lake also attracts migratory birds like Greylag Goose, Mallard, Common Merganser, Northern Pintail, Brahminy Duck, Tufted Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, Common Teal and others. Dal Lake in Kashmir is famed for Houseboats, Shikaras, and birdwatching, particularly during winter.



Area  
**22 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**14 km**

How to reach



Kingfisher



# Dal Lake



# Kingfisher



Birdwatchers in Kashmir can spot three types of Kingfishers – Pied, Common, and White-throated. These colorful birds can be observed around Jhelum and Dal Lake, providing a delightful experience for bird enthusiasts.

Photo : Bilal Nasir Zargar





# Thajwas - Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary



Area  
**219 Sq. Km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**98 km**

How to reach



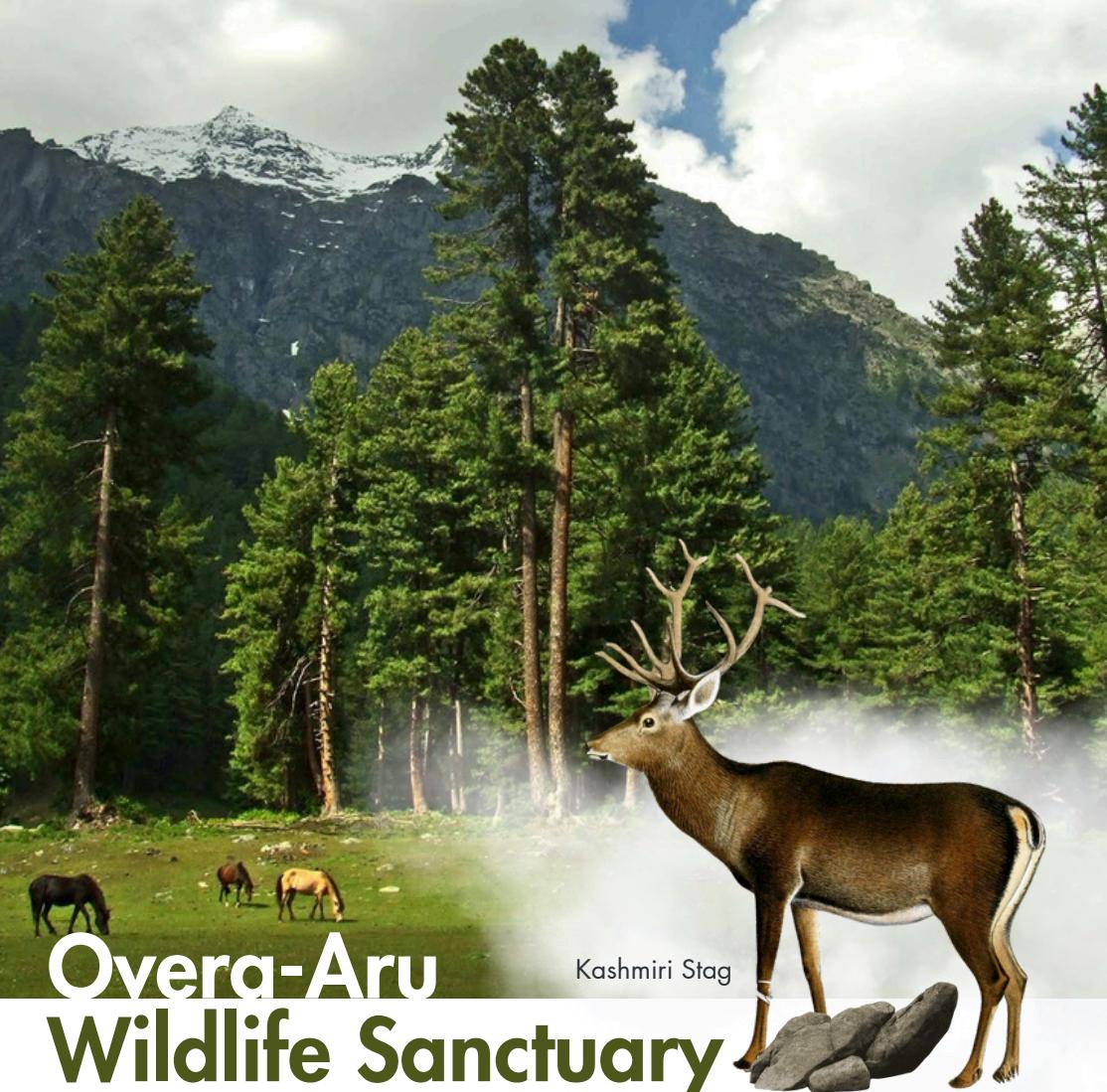
Thajwas Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary (est. 1990) boasts diverse fauna, including rare & threatened species. The Musk Deer is a key attraction. It's connected to other wildlife areas like Aru, Upper Dachigam & Sind forest. Notable species include: Musk Deer, Asiatic Black Bear, Snow Leopard, Asiatic Ibex, Common Leopard, Himalayan Yellow-throated Marten, Himalayan Marmot, Koklas, Monal, Serow, Himalayan Brown Bear, Leopard Cat, Red Fox.

# Citrine Wagtail



The Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla Citreola*) is a small insectivorous songbird found in open areas near water, like wet meadows and bogs. It nests on the ground, laying 4–5 speckled eggs. During winter, it migrates to South Asia, favoring highland regions such as Kashmir.





# Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary



Area  
**511 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**88 km**

How to reach



Proximate to Pahalgam, this sanctuary was once the game reserve of Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir. It is home to rare mammals like the Kashmiri Stag and Musk Deer, along with diverse bird species like Western Tragopans and the Himalayan Whistling Thrush. The River Lidder flows through it, while the vegetation is rich, with conifer trees covering most of the landscape.

Achabal Wildlife Sanctuary, or Achabal Conservation Reserve, is a well-known wildlife sanctuary in the Anantnag District of J&K. It is home to some of the most unique faunas – Snow Leopard, Barking Deer, Rhesus Macaque, Brown Bear, Jackal and Himalayan Marmot. The Kashmiri Stag, an endangered species and a few species of wild animals, is also found here.

# Achabal Wildlife Sanctuary



Area  
**0.5 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**70 km**

How to reach





# Chatlam-Fushkoori Wetland



Mallard Duck



Area  
**2.5 sq km**

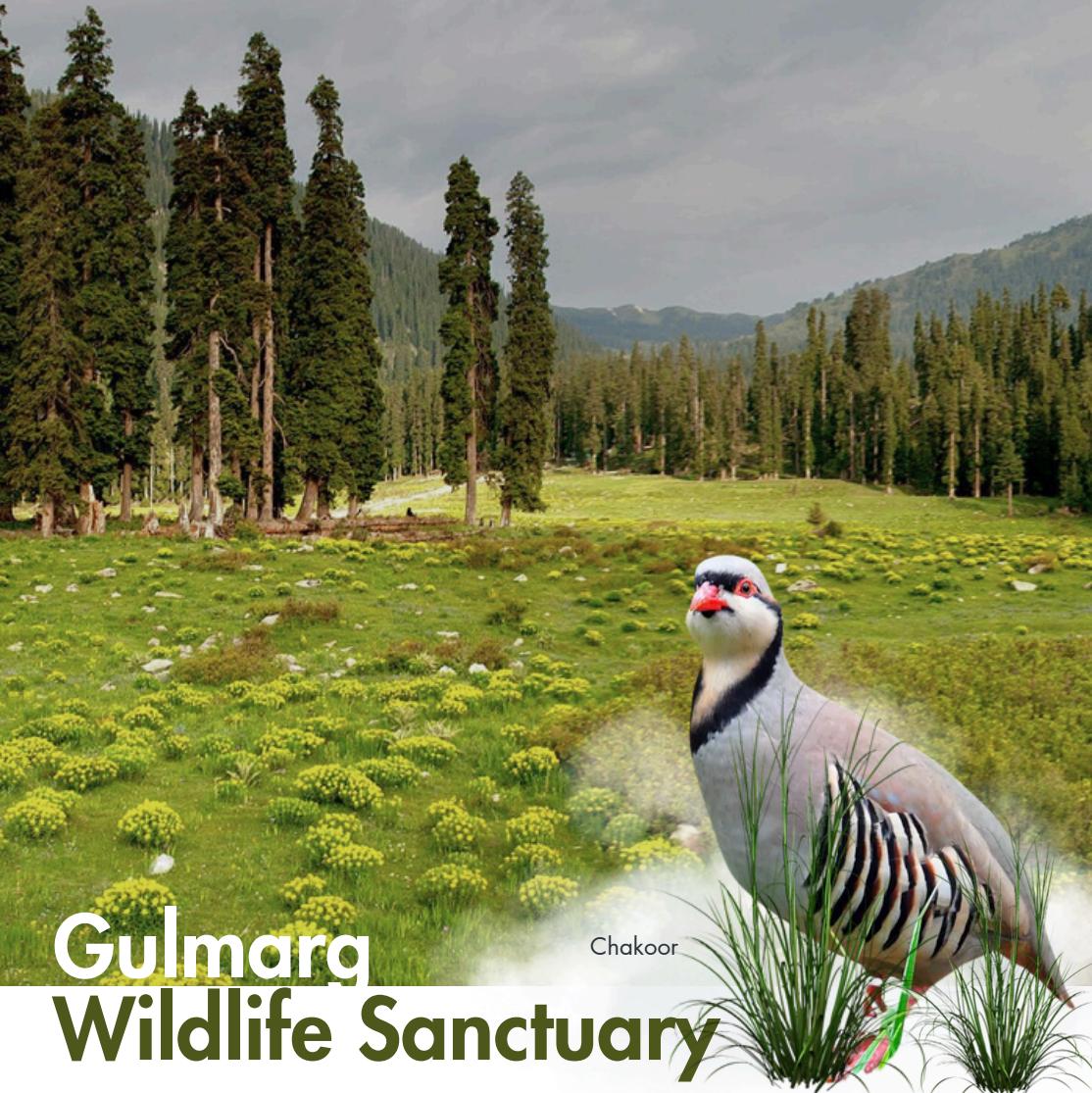


Distance from Srinagar  
**13 km**

How to reach



Situated in the Pampore area of the Kashmir Valley, Chatlam-Fushkoori wetland is a spring-fed wetland featuring elevated shores with deposits of fine-grained sand and loam. The area is a haven for migratory fowls, with breeding grounds for various water-birds such as Mallards, Common Pochards, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Common Coot, Common Moorhen, Little Grebe, Indian Pond Heron, and Grey Heron.



# Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary



Area  
**180 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**59 km**

How to reach



Chakoor

The Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, is a protected area in Gulmarg, situated on the North-eastern side of the Pir Panjal mountain range. This sanctuary harbors rich biodiversity, hosting a variety of species such as Musk Deer, Common Leopard, Barking Deer, Asiatic Black Bear, Himalayan Black Bear, Indian Wolf, Snow Cock, and Chakoor. Occasional sightings of wildlife species migrating from the lower plains, like the Barking Deer, contribute to the sanctuary's ecological dynamics.



# Narkara Wetland



Area  
**3.25 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**12 km**

How to reach



Situated on the outer periphery of Srinagar, the Narkara wetland in Kashmir receives its water supply from the Doodhganga catchment, and is surrounded by paddy cultivation and willow plantation areas. Narkara wetland is the favorite habitat site for a number of Waterfowl species like Greylag Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Pintail, Common Teal, Mallard, Gadwal, Wigeon, Shoveller and Tufted Duck.



# Hokersar Wetland



Area  
**13.75 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**17 km**

How to reach



Hokersar Wetland in Kashmir's Northwest Himalayan region, sits against the backdrop of the snow-clad Pir Panjal range at an altitude of 1,584 m. Fed by the Doodhganga River, it hosts 68 migratory bird species traveling from Leh to Siberia, including Geese, Shovelers, Pochards, Teals, Egrets, Wigeons, Coots, and Greylags.

Jammu and Kashmir's diverse geography makes it a haven for wildlife enthusiasts. The region offers rich opportunities for wildlife tourism, with Dal Lake being a prime destination for birdwatchers, featuring kingfishers perched on houseboats. The lake also attracts migratory birds like Greylag Goose, Mallard, Common Merganser, Northern Pintail, Brahminy Duck, Tufted Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, and common teal and others. Dal Lake in Kashmir is famed for Houseboats, Shikaras, and birdwatching, particularly during winter.

# Mirgund Wetland

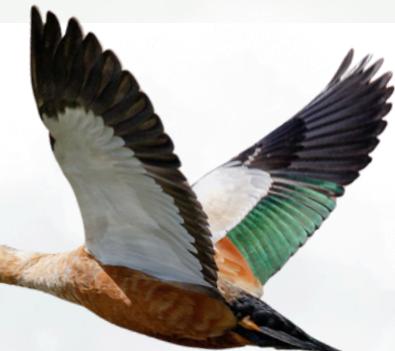


Area  
**4 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**22 km**

How to reach



Brahminy Duck





Red-Crested Pochard

# Hygam Wetland



Area  
**14 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**46 km**

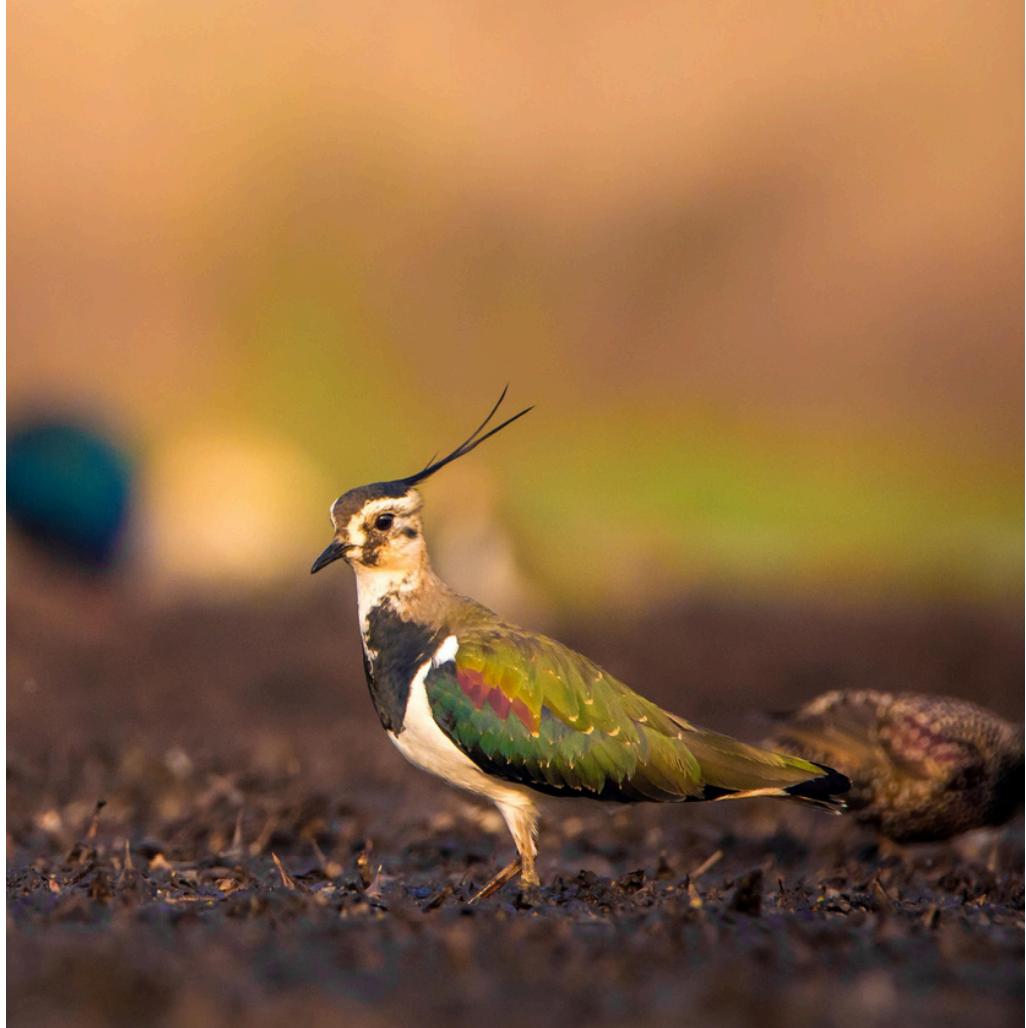
How to reach



The renowned Hygam wetland in Kashmir's Baramulla district is primarily fed by Ningle Nallah and Babakul, draining into Wular through Tarzoo.

Situated on the Jhelum River floodplains, it is a crucial habitat for Waterfowls: Geese, Shovelers, Red-Crested Pochards, White-Eyed Pochards, Common Teals, Egrets, Wigeons, Coots, And Greylags. This wetland serves as a significant wintering area for migratory ducks, especially Aincer species, with thousands recorded during migration.

# Northern Lapwing



The Northern Lapwing, a striking bird with its black and white plumage, is a winter visitor to Kashmir and is rarely sighted. Recognizable by their distinctive crests, these lapwing species are monotypic and can be found along Inner Dal Lake Road.



This expansive wetland, in the northwest of Srinagar, features riverine marshes and shallow freshwater areas along the Sind River floodplain. Fed by the Sindh River and local runoff, the wetland attracts game birds, especially during winter. With an average water depth ranging from 0.5 to 2.0 meters, it serves as a crucial staging and wintering area for migratory Amatidae, while also acting as a breeding ground for diverse Waterfowl species. It supports a vital local fishery and reed-harvesting industry, benefiting the surrounding fisherman community.



Area  
**1.50 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**22 km**

How to reach



# Shallabugh Wetland





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