

Chitral National Park

Chitral Gol National Park is one of the National Parks of Pakistan. It is located in Chitral District in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan beside the Chitral River, at a distance of two hours' drive from Chitral town. The park is also known as **Chitral National Park**.

Parameters

The way leading to the park is quite narrow and dangerous, yet more risky during the rainy days. It is located between 1450 meter and about 5000 meter above sea level. It has an area of 7750 hectares.

Fauna

This park includes three valleys. Several glaciers also lie in the park through which several springs make their way and ultimately form a stream which runs 18 kilometers. The cold water of this stream flows towards the east, into the river Chitral. The park is rich in trees particularly cedar trees. The park also serves to provide shelter to a vast bio-diversity, especially markhor, an endangered wild goat species. Some of the larger mammals found in the park include:

- Markhor, *C.f.cashmirensis*
- Siberian ibex, *C.s.sakeen*
- Urial, *O.o.vignei*
- Himalayan musk deer, *M.leucogaster*
- Persian leopard, *P.p.saxicolor*
- Snow leopard, *P.uncia*
- Himalayan lynx, *L.l.isabellinus*
- Pallas's cat, *O.manul*
- Himalayan brown bear, *U.a.isabellinus*
- Himalayan black bear, *U.t.laniger*

Weather

The annual rainfall in its region is estimated to be 462 ml. In September, it rains more on the spectacular peaks surrounding the park. However, in November, the rainfall is more in the valleys and on the lower peaks. There is also snowfall during the winter season. The snow-covered white peaks enhance the beauty till June. The general weather is cold and dry. The temperature ranges from -12.2 to 43.3 °C.

Birmoghlasht

Further information: Birmoghlasht Summer Fort

The Birmoghlasht part of the park is where the former Mehtar's Summer Fort is located. At the time of existence of the Chitral State, the Mehtar and his family use to move here in the summer and hold court. The fort was constructed in such a way that it overlooked the entire city. It stands at an elevation of over 2800 meters above sea level. Besides the fort Birmoghlasht also houses a wildlife hut and is a great tourist spot in a few kilometers drive from Chitral town.

Rock formations

The University of Geneva and the University of Tehran conducted a joint study on the attractive features of this coastal strip of Iran and Balochistan, in which 36 rock formations were observed. According to this research, the effective process of erosion and sedimentation has played an important role in the erosion of rocks here for centuries in which the waves of the sea carry with them a lot of soil and other substances to the shore. Layers of soil 1 to 10 meters and in many places even thicker were observed on these rocks of different heights, which gradually increased from the beach. The tidal waves of the sea and the strong stormy winds have scratched the Makrani coastal strip and the adjoining mountain cliffs in such a way that at first glance it looks like an archaeological complex of an ancient civilization. The most famous of these rocks are the

Princess of Hope

Princess of Hope and the Sphinx. Princess of Hope One of the hallmarks of Hangul National Park is a rock called the Princess of Hope. Seen from afar, it looks like a statue of a tall woman looking for something in the distant horizon.

When the famous Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie came to Pakistan on a UN goodwill mission in 2004, this rock became the center of her attention and she named her 'Princess of Hope' or Princess of Hope. It is said that it was not created by man but by ocean winds and erosion. Balochistan Sphinx Balochistan Sphinx. The Balochistan Sphinx, also known as the "Lion of Balochistan" or Abul-Hol, is a natural rock structure that bears resemblance to a sphinx and is visible from the Buzi Pass section of the Makran Coastal Highway. Mud volcanoes Hingol mud volcano ranging in height from 800 to 1500 feet are abundant in Hangul National Park, mostly in the Mid-Hor area. According to Muhammad Hanif Bhatti, a well-known traveler from Karachi, when he first saw the Chandra Gupta mudflat in Hangul National Park in 2010, he was amazed by the beauty and uniqueness of this natural process. At the time, the volcano was difficult to reach, but since the completion of the highway visitors to the mud volcanoes have increased significantly. Wildlife Hangul

National Park

National Park is a natural sanctuary for endangered wildlife in Pakistan. It is home to about 257 plant and 289 animal species, including 35 mammals, aquatic animals, amphibians, reptiles and migratory birds, including hundreds of rare species. Marsh crocodiles are regularly spotted on the coastline adjacent to Hangul National Park, and there are an estimated 60 crocodiles in various places. The Hangul Bay is home to a large number of other aquatic life including Indo-Pacific dolphins and green & olive turtles, and various rare species of fish and turtles live in the coastal areas adjacent to Hangul National Park. These turtles come to the beach every night in August to lay their eggs at night. Increasing plastic pollution on the shores made it difficult for them to dig, so the female turtles left without laying eggs. Since then, the number of these turtles on the shores of Sindh and Balochistan has dropped significantly. Hingol National Park is known to support at least 35 species of mammals, 65 species of amphibians and reptiles, and 185 species of birds. The park forms an excellent habitat to wild Sindh ibex, Baluchistan urial, and Chinkara. Ibex is found in all steep mountain ranges and are numerous in the Hinglaj and Rodani Kacho Mountain areas. The population is estimated over 3000