

NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE **SITES IN INDIA- UNESCO LIST**

GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK

- located in **Kullu region** in the state of Himachal Pradesh
- altitude of between **1500 and 6000 m**
- The Unesco World Heritage Site Committee granted the status to the park under the criteria of "**out standing significance for biodiversity conservation**".
- It is at the junction of world's two major faunal regions: the oriental to the south and palaeartic to the north.
- characterized by high alpine peaks, alpine meadows and riverine forests
- Animals- **blue sheep, snow leopard, Himalayan brown bear, Himalayan tahr, and musk deer**



Kaziranga National Park

- **Golaghat and Nagaon** districts of the state of Assam, India.
- hosts two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses
- rhino population- 2,413
- declared a **Tiger Reserve** in 2006
- elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer
- recognized as an **Important Bird Area** by BirdLife International
- Located on the edge of the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot
- criss-crossed by four major rivers, including the **Brahmaputra, Mora Diphlu, Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri.**
- Its a "**biodiversity hotspot**".
- **located in the Indomalaya ecozone**

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Keoladeo Ghana National Park

- formerly known as the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary in Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- famous avifauna sanctuary that hosts thousands of birds, especially during the winter season
- man-made** and man-managed wetland
- a mosaic of dry grasslands, woodlands, woodland swamps and wetlands
- The rare **Siberian cranes** used to winter in this park but this central population is now extinct
- it was a natural depression; and was flooded after the Ajan Bund was constructed by Maharaja Suraj Mal, then the ruler of the princely state of Bharatpur, between 1726–1763. The bund was created at the confluence of two rivers, the **Gambhir and Banganga**.
- **a Ramsar site under the Wetland Convention**



Manas Wildlife Sanctuary

- is a national park, UNESCO Natural World Heritage site, a Project Tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a biosphere reserve in Assam
- contiguous with the Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan
- rare and endangered endemic wildlife such as the Assam roofed turtle, hispid hare, golden langur and pygmy hog.
- famous for its population of the wild water buffalo
- The **Manas river** is a major tributary of Brahmaputra River, which passes through the heart of the national park.
- There are two major biomes present in Manas:

The grassland biomes : pygmy hog, Indian rhinoceros ,bengal florican, wild Asian buffalo, etc.

The forest biomes : slow loris, capped langur, wild pig, sambar, great hornbill, Malayan giant squirrel or black giant squirrel, Chinese pangolin etc

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Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks

-situated around the peak of Nanda Devi (7816 m) in the state of Uttarakhand in northern India. The entire park lies at an elevation of more than 3,500 m (11,500 ft) above mean sea level.

-**Nanda Devi Sanctuary**, a glacial basin surrounded by a ring of peaks between 6,000 metres and 7,500 m high, and drained by the Rishi Ganga through the Rishi Ganga Gorge, a steep, almost impassable defile.

-Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve

-Himalayan musk deer, mainland serow and Himalayan tahr

-snow leopard, Himalayan black bear and perhaps also brown bear, Langurs

-Fir, birch, rhododendron, and juniper are the main flora.

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Sundarbans National Park is a **National Park, Tiger Reserve, and a Biosphere Reserve** in West Bengal, India.

It is part of the Sundarbans on the Ganges Delta, and adjacent to the Sundarban Reserve Forest in Bangladesh.

- densely covered by **mangrove forests**-one of the largest reserves for the Bengal tiger, home to the salt-water crocodile.

- its name from the **Sundari Trees**-specialised roots called *pneumatophore* which emerge above ground and help in respiration.

- more than 400 tigers-The *royal Bengal tigers* have developed a unique characteristic of swimming in the saline waters, and are famous for their man-eating tendencies.

- Fishing cats, Leopard cats, Macaques, Wild boar, Indian grey mongoose, Fox, Jungle cat, Flying fox, Pangolin, Chital.*



Western Ghats also known as *Sahyadri* (Benevolent Mountains) is a mountain range that covers an area of 140,000 km² in a stretch of 1,600 km parallel to the western coast of the Indian peninsula, traverse the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

- one of the eight "**hottest hot-spots**" of biological diversity in the world
- called the **Great Escarpment of India**. Western Ghats are *older* than Himalayan mountains.
- At least 325 globally threatened species occur in the Western Ghats
- The Western Ghats form *one of the four watersheds* of India, feeding the perennial rivers of India
- critically endangered *Malabar large-spotted civet*, the endangered *lion-tailed macaque*, *Nilgiri tahr*, *Bengal tiger* and Indian elephants, the vulnerable Indian leopard, *Nilgiri langur* and *gaur*. IASNOVA.COM



Khangchendzonga National Park- The first "***Mixed Heritage***" site of India.

-National Park and a Biosphere reserve located in Sikkim, India

-***Lepcha*** tribal settlements inside the park.

- ***Tholung Monastery***, a gompa located in the park's buffer zone

- vegetation of the park -temperate broadleaf and mixed forests consisting of oaks, fir, birch, maple, willow etc.It also includes alpine grasses and shrubs at higher altitudes along with many medicinal plants and herbs.

-*musk deer, snow leopard, Himalayan tahr, wild dog, sloth bear, civet, Himalayan black bear, red panda, Tibetan wild ass, Himalayan blue sheep, serow, goral and takin*, as well as reptiles including *rat snake and Russell's viper*.

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