

Welcome to KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK / BHARATPUR BIRD SANCTUARY



About Keoladeo National Park:

The sanctuary was created 250 years ago and is named after a Keoladeo (Shiva) temple within its boundaries. Initially, it was a natural depression; and was flooded after the Ajan Bund was constructed by Maharaja Suraj Mal, the then ruler of the princely state of Bharatpur, between 1726-1763. The bund was created at the confluence of two rivers, the Gambhir and Banganga. The park was a hunting ground for the maharajas of Bharatpur, a tradition dating back to 1850, and duck shoots were organised yearly in honor of the British viceroys. In one shoot alone in 1938, over 4,273 birds such as mallards and teals were killed by Lord Linlithgow, the then Governor-General of India. The park was established as a national park on 10 March 1982. Previously the private duck shooting preserve of the Maharaja of Bharatpur since the 1850s, the area was designated as a bird sanctuary on 13 March 1976 and a Ramsar site under the Wetland Convention in October 1981. The last big shoot was held in 1964 but the Maharajah retained shooting rights until 1972. In 1985, the Park was declared a World Heritage Site under the world Heritage Convention. It is a reserve forest under the Rajasthan Forest Act, 1953 and therefore, is the property of the State of Rajasthan of the Indian Union. In 1982, grazing was banned in the park, leading to violent clashes between local farmers and the government. Keoladeo Ghana National Park has been declared as the World Heritage Site. It spreads across 28.7 square kms which is a mosaic of woodland, wetland, grasslands and scrubs. This land has been a home to almost 366 species of birds along with various species of flora, snakes, fish and diversified range of invertebrates.

Wildlife in Keoladeo National Park:

Keoladeo is famous as one of Asia's finest birding areas, with over 380 resident and migrant species, including the Common Demoiselle and the rare Siberian Cranes. It is also an excellent place to watch mammal like Golden Jackal, Striped Hyaena, Fishing Cat, Jungle Cat, Nilgai, Sambar, Blackbuck and wild Boar. The park derives its name from the temple of Keoladeo (Shiva) and 'Ghana' which locally means dense, implying the nature of the vegetation. During the cool winter months it is also possible to see large Indian Pythons sunning themselves.



Nearby Attractions

Government Museum

Nearby places of interest are the Government Museum, Bharatpur which gives a glimpse of past splendour. Not far from the museum is the Bharatpur Palace which is an excellent blend of Mughal and Rajput architecture.



Lohagarh Fort

Lohagarh Fort (Iron fort) is situated at Bharatpur in Rajasthan, India. It was constructed by Bharatpur Jat rulers. Maharaja Suraj Mal used all his power and wealth to a good cause, and built numerous forts and palaces across his kingdom, one of them being the Lohagarh Fort (Iron fort), which was one of the strongest ever built in Indian history. The inaccessible Lohagarh fort



could withstand repeated attacks of British forces led by Lord Lake in 1805 when they laid siege for over six weeks. Having lost over 3000 soldiers, the British forces won. Of the two gates in the fort, one in the north is known as Ashtdhaatu (eight metalled) gate while the one facing the south is called Chowburja (four-pillared) gate.

Park visits:

The Keoladeo National Park is not very large being just 29 sq. km. There are well-defined treks which can be easily covered on foot or on a cycle or you can hire a rickshaw (the best way). Rickshaw pullers have been trained by the park management in bird watching and are quite knowledgeable. Boats are also available on hire. A boat trip early in the morning or late evening is quite a rewarding experience. Do not forget to carry a binocular for watching the birds.



Day 1 Dehradun to Bharatpur KNP

6:00 AM: Board Coach from Dehradun to Bharatpur

Day 1 Arrival Bharatpur

6:00 PM: On way Stopping for refreshments enroute. Check into the hotel at Evening, Dinner and overnight stay at hotel.



Day 2 KNP

7:00 AM: After Breakfast proceeds to KNP Bharatpur Bird sanctuary and enjoy a rickshaw/Cycle ride through the sanctuary. The Major attractions of the park are numerous migratory birds which come from as far as Siberia and Central Asia and spend their winters in Bharatpur returning to their breeding grounds. Some of the popular ones are various species, of cranes, pelicanes, geese, ducks, eagles, hawks, shanks, warblers etc. Return to Hotel Leisure. Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel.



Day 3 KNP

7:00 AM: After Breakfast take a leisurely walk through KNP Bharatpur Bird sanctuary and enjoy the view of the birds in their natural habitat, feeding and tending to themselves. The Major attractions of the park are the migratory birds which come from as far as Siberia and Central Asia and spend their winters in Bharatpur returning to their breeding grounds. Return to Hotel Leisure. Post lunch leisure and activities. Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 3: Bharatpur KNP to Dehradun

7:00 AM: After Breakfast Checkout for return Journey

Activities

- *Bird Watching*
- *Boating*
- *Sack Race*
- *Musical Chair*
- *Form Groups and play Dumbcharade*
- *Singing & Acting Competition*
- *Form Groups-Quiz Competition*



