

Marine National Parks in India

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What are Marine national parks?

- A marine park is a protected sea or a lake area which consists of many species of marine life. Such marine parks are usually found in the coastal areas. There are 6 established marine national parks in India. These are the protected reserves and are the breeding grounds of several aquatic animals.
- A marine park is a type of marine protected area (MPA). An MPA is a section of the ocean where a government has placed limits on human activity. Marine parks are multiple-use MPAs, meaning they have different zones allowing different types of activities.

Marine parks usually allow recreational activities, such as boating, snorkeling, and sport fishing. Most marine parks also include zones for commercial fishing, sometimes called open zones. They may also include no-take zones, which prohibit extractive activities, such as fishing, mining, and drilling.

Marine National Park

- Marine parks are very similar to local parks on land. They are used by the community and often have facilities to encourage their use. They also face many of the same problems as parks on land: overuse and pollution.
- The Department of Environment and Science (DES) **manages** state **marine parks** as a multi-use **marine** protected area.

Marine National Parks in India

- India boasts of several marine national parks which are hotspots of bio-diversity and home to number of marine creatures including Olive Ridley sea turtles , saltwater crocodile and a medium-sized marine mammal known as Dugong. Water Sanctuaries of India includes Bhitarkanika National Park, Sundarbans National Park and Rani Jhansi Marine National Park, These are swamp or large mangroves forest in India.
- Rani Jhansi Marine National Park is located in Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal.

Dugong also known as
Marine mammal



First Marine National Park

Gulf of Kutch

- Marine National Park in **Gulf of Kutch** is situated on the southern shore of the Gulf in the Jamnagar of Gujarat. It is the first national marine park of India with 42 islands on the Jamnagar coast in the Marine National Park.
- In 1980, an area of 270 **Okha** to **Jodiya** was declared Marine Sanctuary. Later, in 1982, a core area of 110 km² was declared Marine National Park under the provisions of the **Wildlife Protection Act 1972 of India**.

Marine National Park

- **Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park** is a national park of India on the Andaman Islands, Situated 29 km from Port Blair. Most of the coral reefs in the park are fringing reefs (these are the reefs which grow directly from a shore) and the park is an important breeding ground for turtles.



Marine National Park

Gahirmatha is the first and the only Marine Sanctuary of Orissa, number of marvelous creatures including Olive Ridley sea turtles migrate in huge numbers. Gahirmatha Beach separates the Bhitarkanika mangroves from the Bay of Bengal is the world's most important nesting beach for Olive Ridley Sea Turtles. It extends from Dhamra River mouth in the north to Brahmani river mouth in the south.



Olive Turtle Sanctuary in Gahirmatha Beach

Marine National Park

- **Malvan Marine Sanctuary** is the only marine sanctuary located in Malvan Taluka of Sindhudurg district in Konkan region of Maharashtra. The Malvan Wildlife Sanctuary includes Padamged island and other submerged rocky structures. The main flora of the sanctuary includes mangrove vegetation. The marine flora and fauna of the place comprise seaweed, coral Pearl oyster, egret, black headed gulls. More than 30 species and sub species of fishes are found in water bodies. It was declared as a wildlife sanctuary on 13th April 1987.

Malvan Marine Sanctuary



**Aquatic Life of Malvan Marine
Sanctuary**