

Jiwaji University, Gwalior
School of studies in Travel & Tourism Management

MBA (Tourism Management)

4th Semester

Subject : Adventure Tourism (401)

Topic : National Parks of India

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National Parks

- India is famous for its natural heritage such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Few of them had secured their places in UNESCO natural heritage sites such as :
- Kaziranga National Park (1985)
- Manas Wildlife Sanctuaries (1985)
- Keoladeo National Park (1985)
- Sundarbans National Park (1987)
- Great Himalayan National Park (2014)
- Kangchendzonga National Park (2016)

The Indian peninsula is continent in itself with huge geographical diversity which encourage a big range of wildlife species to survive and exist here. India's forest land nurture approximately 500 species of mammals and 2000+ species of birds . Every region of India has something special to offer but among all the most popular are tigers. Even IUCN and WWF have sanctioned long operation for tigers in India . There are presently 104 national parks and 543 wildlife sanctuaries between 1936 -2016

Among these there are 50 Tiger reserves which are governed by project tiger and are of special significance for the conservation of Bengal tiger.

National Parks in Northern India

Jim Corbett National Parks

This is the first national park of India initially established as Hailey national park on August 1936, which later changed to Ramganga national park in 1952 and finally it was named as Corbett national park in 1957 in honor & memory of the late Jim Corbett, the legendry hunter, naturalist, author & photographer who helped in setting up the park.

Main attraction: the lake inside the park adds to the scenic beauty to the park, One can find 580 species of birds ,25 species of reptiles & 50 species of mammals . It is also known as heaven for tigers. Other animal which adds to its attraction are : leopard, jungle cat, Himalayan black bear, porcupines, elephants , barking deer etc . Some of the birds commonly seen here are: golden oriole, crested serpent eagle, grey hornbill, common myna, spotted dove, kingfisher, pond heron etc.



Himalayan National Park

The Great Himalayan National Parks was established in 1984 and is located in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh. It is protected under Wildlife protection Act 1972.

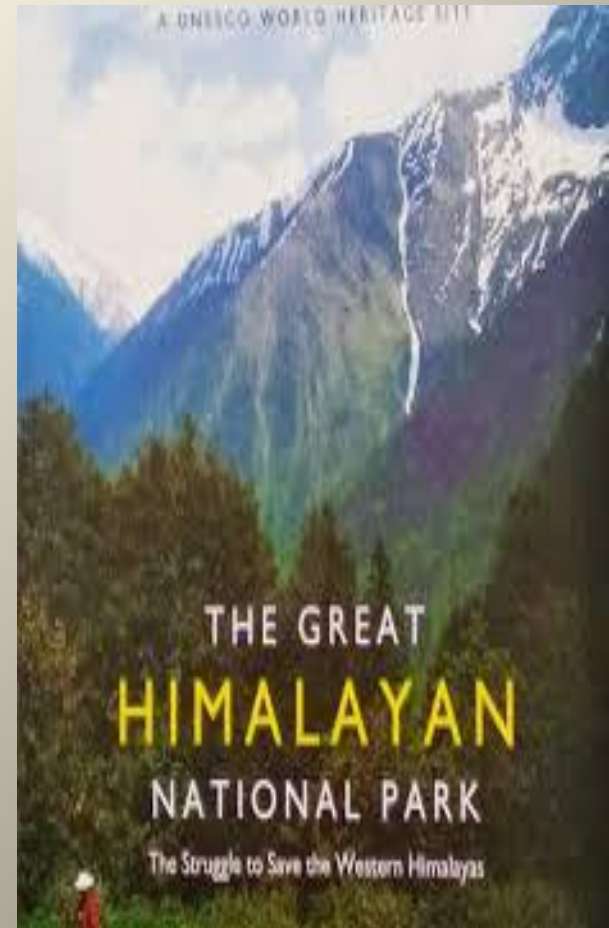
In June 2014 it was enlisted in UNESCO world heritage site it was granted the status under the criteria of “Outstanding significance for biodiversity conservation “ by UNESCO world heritage site committee.

Attractions:

It is home for approximately 31 species of mammals, 181 species of birds, 3 species of reptile, 9 species of amphibians, 11 species of annelids etc. One can easily see blue sheep, snow leopard, Himalayan brown bear, Himalayan tahr and musk deer. Best time to visit is autumn i.e September to November.

Other national parks in northern region are:

Dudhwa national park, Bandhavgarh national park, Kanha national park etc.



National Parks in Eastern India

Kaziranga National Park

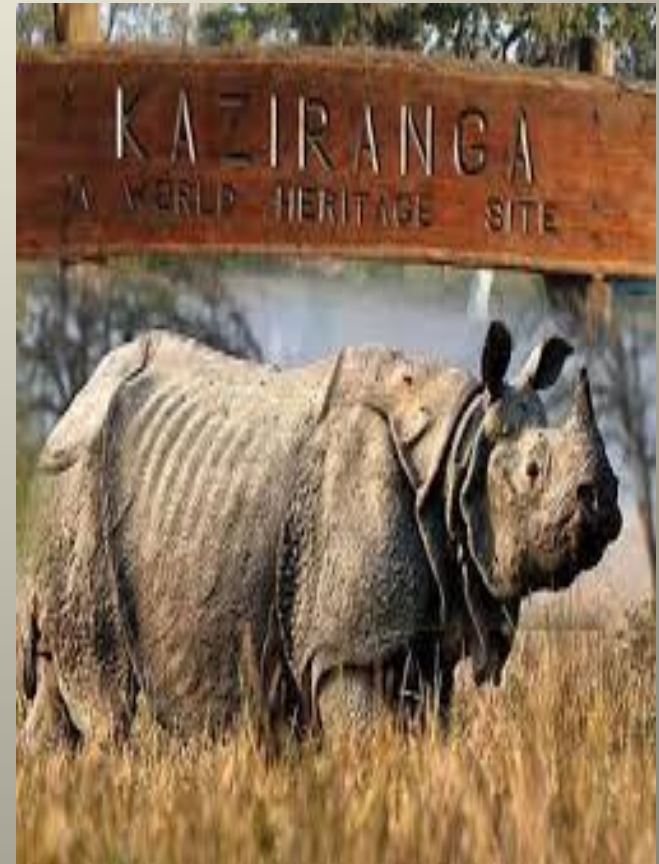
It was initially established in 1905 as Kaziranga Proposed Reserve Forest . In 1908 it was designated as Reserve Forest then in 1916 it was redesignated as Kaziranga Game Sanctuary and finally in 1950 it was renamed as Kaziranga wildlife sanctuary by P.D.Stracey (the forest conservationist) It is located in Nagaon district of the state Assam.

Attractions:

Main attraction here is the Great One horned rhinoceros, world's 2/3rd population of one horned rhinoceros is found here. Tigers are also one of the main attraction here and has a great population of tigers here due to this it was declared tiger reserve in 2006. One can also see elephants, wild water buffalo, swamp deer, Indian muntjac, wild boar, jungle cat, Indian gray mongoose, Bengal fox and many more.

It is also home for many migratory birds such as scavengers, white-fronted goose, ferruginous duck, black-necked stork, Asian open bill stork can be seen during winters.

One can enjoy elephant safari here, the best time to visit is from November to April.



Manas National Park

It is located in the foothills of Himalaya, It is named after the name of river Manas which flows through the heart of the national park. It was declared as sanctuary in 1928 and secured its place in UNESCO world heritage site in 1985. Kahitama R.F, The Kokilabari R.F and the Panbari R.F were added to form the Manas National park in 1990. A part of it also continue in Bhutan where it is known as Royal Manas National Park.

Attraction :

It is mainly famous for rare and endangered species which can be seen here such as Assam roofed turtle, hispid hare, golden langur, pygmy hog etc. two major biomes found here are

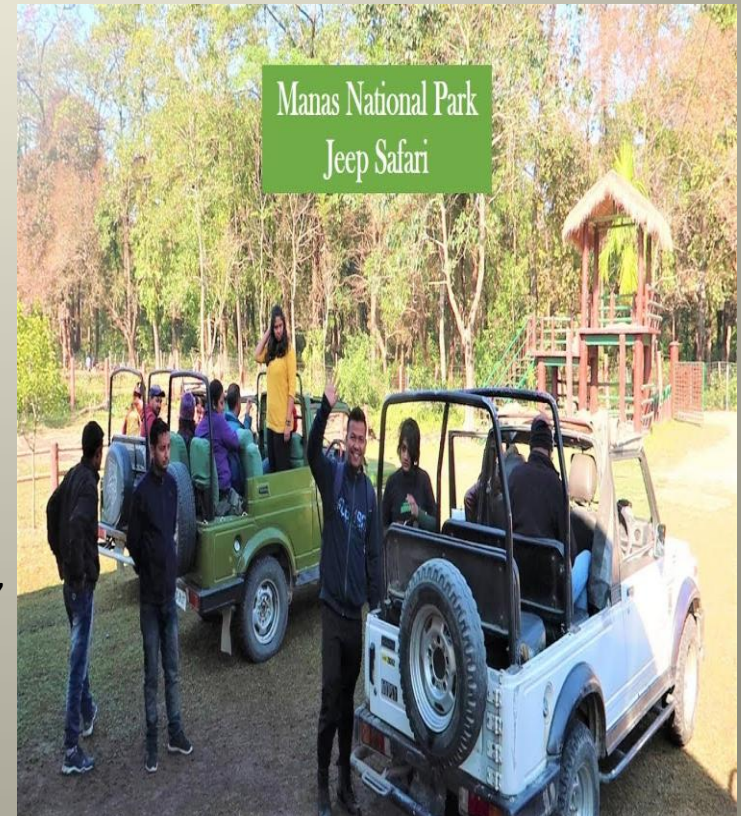
Grassland biomes: Indian rhinoceros, wild Asian buffalo, Bengal florican etc.

Forest biome: Capped langur, black giant squirrel, Chinese pangolin, slow loris etc.

Tourists can enjoy jeep safari, elephant safari & river rafting within the premises of park.

Best time to visit is from November to April.

Other national parks in Eastern India are: Sundarbans National Parks, Namdapha National Park, Nameri National Parks etc.



National Parks in Southern India

Periyar National Park

It was founded as Nellikampatty Game Reserve. In 1950 it was declared as Wildlife sanctuary and later in 1982 it was renamed as Periyar National Park . The main purpose of establishing it was to reserve tigers and elephant. It is located in the district of Idukki and Pathanamthitta of Kerala.

Attractions:

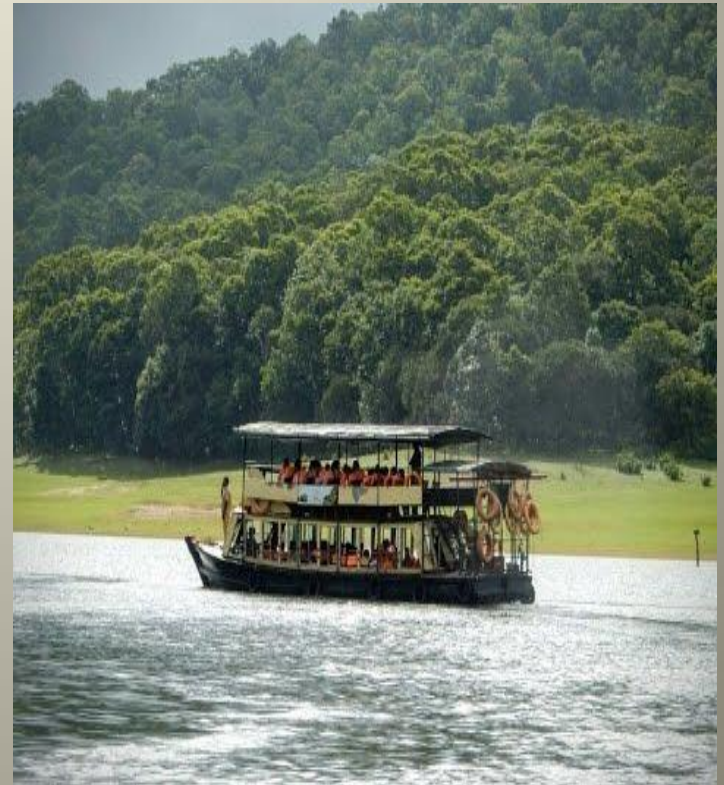
One can find around 35 species of mammals such as Travancore flying squirrel, Sloth bear, Nilgiri langur, stripe necked mongoose, Gaur, wild pig, sambar and so on. Apart from this around 266 species of birds can be seen here such as black baza, blue-winged paraket, crimson-backed sunbird, hawk-eagle, great hornbill etc.

Till 2017 it has count of 35 Bengal tigers preserved in this national park.

Best time to visit is from December to March.

Tourist can enjoy wildlife safari inform of elephant safari, jeep safari and boat cruises on Periyar lake.

Periyar Boat Cruise



Bannerghatta National Park

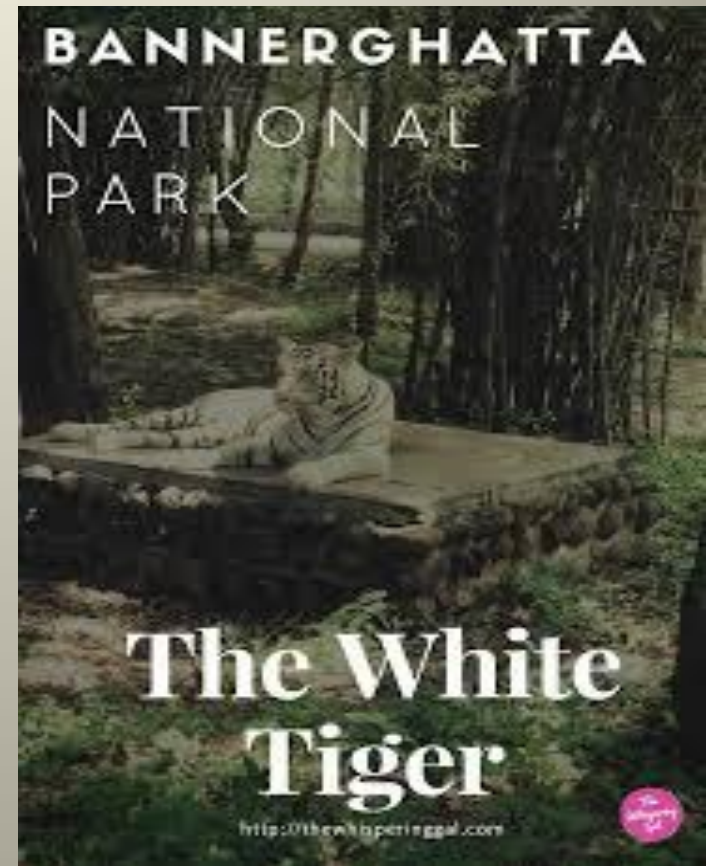
It was founded in 1970 but declared as National Park in 1974 . Further 2002 some portion of the park was turned as Biological Park. It is located near Bangalore, Karnataka. The park has a hilly terrain of granite sheets. Its beauty get enhanced by stream Suvarnamukhi flowing through the park. It is the home for Asian elephants.

Attractions: One can find variety of species of mammals while their journey through the park , species which one can easily see are tigers, sambar, slender loris , Zebras, Hippopotamus, Jackals, black bucks, bears, barking g deer etc.

Other attractions here are butterfly park (48 different species of butterfly) and snake habitat .

Tourist can enjoy Grand elephant safari and adventure activities like trekking and hiking.

Other national parks in Southern India are Bandipur national park, Kudremukh national Park, Silent Valley national park, Eravikulam national park, Indra Gandhi national park and many more.



National Parks in Western India

Tadoba National Park

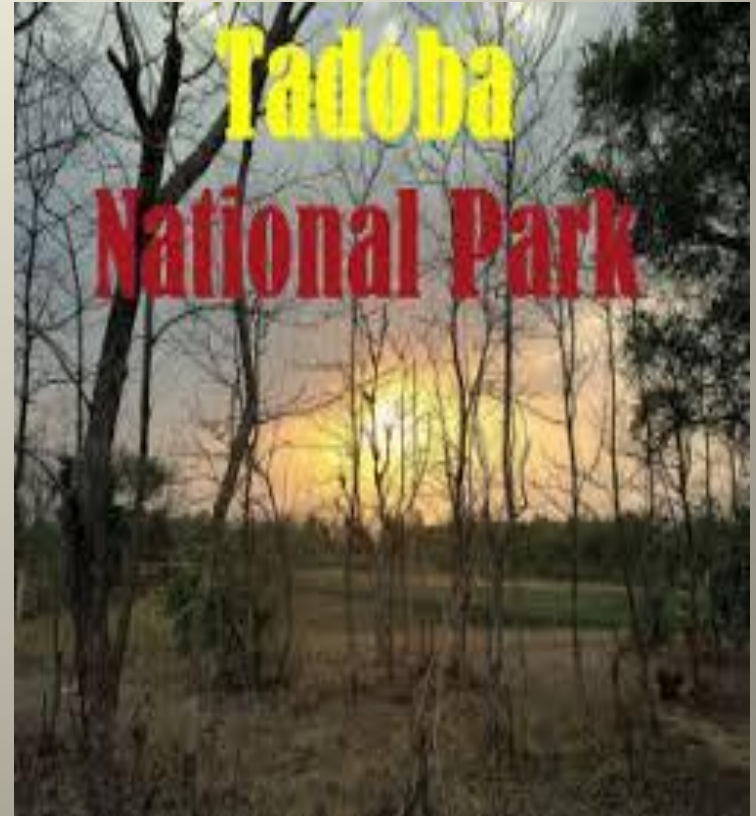
It was established in 1955 as Tadoba national park later in 1986 Andhari Wildlife sanctuary was established adjacent to it which was in 1995 merged with national park and renamed as Tadoba Andhari National Park. It is located in district Chandrapur of Maharashtra state.

Attractions: As per the count made in 2016 there were 88 tigers in the reserve and 58 tigers in the forest. Apart from tigers one can also enjoy watching other species of mammals like nilgai, sambar, striped hyena, sloth bear, barking deer, gaur, chital etc

Bird species found in the park are paradise flycatcher, Indian pitta, lesser golden backed woodpecker etc. It has also recorded 74 species of butterflies.

The main attraction here is jungle or tiger safari in an open top gypsy.

The national park is open from 15th October to 30th June but best time to visit is from December to February.



Gir National Park

Gir national park was established in 1965 near Talala Gir in Gujrat state. It covers a big area of Kathiawar Gir forest. Gir national park is perfect habitat for Asiatic lions. It is also known for the Chowsingha (four horned antelope). In 2015 the Cat Women of Gir forest counted 523 lions in the park, these women are van rakshak sahayak, who seek only to protect animals in the park.

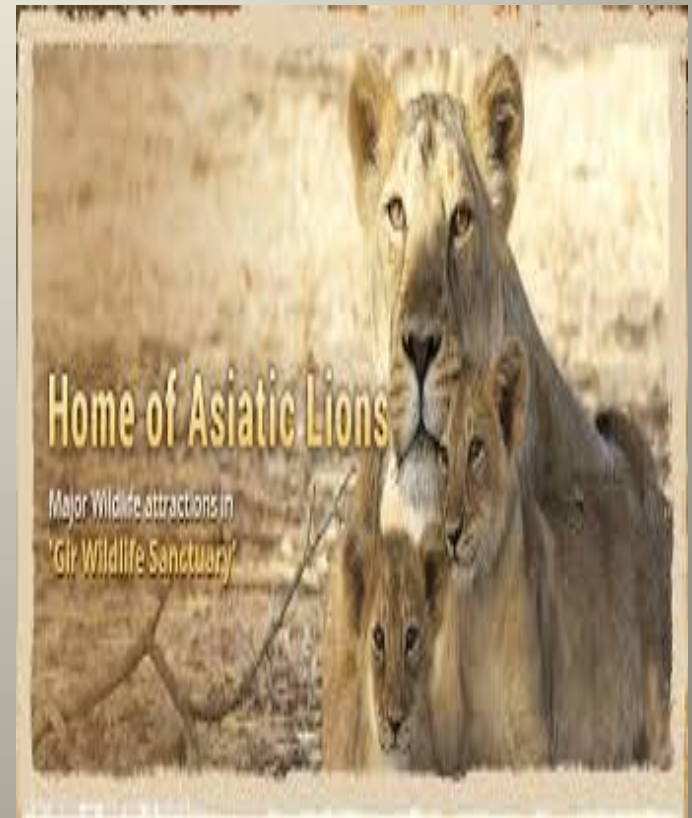
Attractions: One can enjoy watching different species of mammals such as Asiatic lions (main attraction), leopard, sambar, jackal, Indian fox, striped hyena etc.

The ecosystem of Gir national park give shelter to approximately 300 species of birds such as crested serpent, hawk-eagle, brown fish owl, black headed oriole, Indian horn bill etc.

Tourists can enjoy jeep safari, visiting Maldharis tribe, siddis tribe which reside with in the park.

Best time to visit is from December to March.

Other national parks in Western India are: Velvadar national park, Sanjay Gandhi national park, Navegaon national park, Ranthambore national park, Gugamal national park and many more



THANK YOU