

Wildlife

The varied wildlife habitats of the GHP support the full range of western Himalayan biodiversity, from subtropical to alpine. These include subtropical chir pine, coniferous, and mixed deciduous woods of the temperate zone with green and white oaks, horse chestnuts, and walnuts amidst tall deodar and blue pines. Around 3,000-3,500m, these forests gradually transform into smaller sized birches and rhododendrons with occasional grassy patches of the sub-alpine zone. Above this level are alpine meadows, splashed with a great variety of tiny flowers and medicinal herbs. Still higher is the realm of rock, ice, and strong winds.

The park supports diverse wildlife. Notable large mammals include: Serow, Himalayan Tahr, Goral, Blue Sheep, Indian Pika, Giant Indian Flying Squirrel, Himalayan Black Bear, Himalayan Brown Bear, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Red Fox, Himalayan Palm Civet, Yellow-throated Marten, and vulnerable Musk Deer.

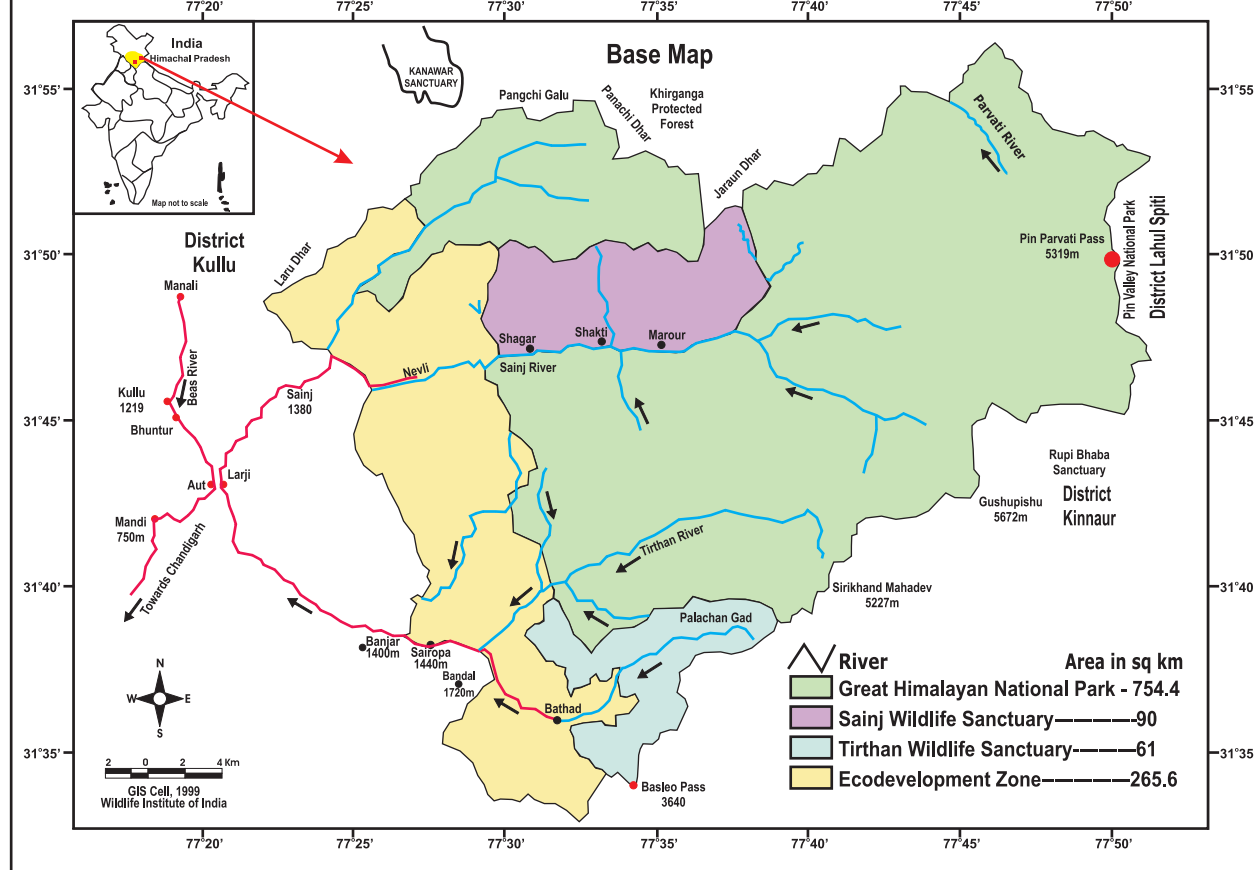
Two hundred and three birds species have been recorded from the Park: the spectacular pheasants are among the most important. GHP is one of the two National Parks in the world with a population of the endangered Western Tragopan, now adopted as the symbol of the Park.

EcoTourism

Celebrate Nature
Conserve Nature
Protect Nature
Respect Nature



Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (GHNPCA) Himachal Pradesh



Getting to GHP

The starting point for any visit to GHP is Kullu. This region is accessible by road and air. A pre-trek meeting at GHP headquarters in Shamshi (near Kullu) is recommended.

By Air: Daily flights from Delhi-Kullu (Bhuntar), weather permitting.

By Road: From Delhi: Approximately 500 km (14+hours).
General Route : Delhi to Chandigarh by National Highway 1, then to Aut in Mandi district by NH 21. Chandigarh and Swarghat are suitable overnight halting places. From the small town of Aut, a link road crosses the Beas River into the Banjar Valley, where the Park is located.

Approximate distances from GHP :

Air Port: Bhuntar (Kullu), 50 km;
Railhead : Joginder Nagar (Mandi), 100 km;
Town : Kullu (District HQ), 60 km.

Entrance Fees

Entry fee for Indian & Foreign Tourists is the same. Please refer to GHP office on site.

The Rest House rate is Rs. 300 per room per day.
Dormitory : Rs. 50 per bed per day



GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK

ग्रेट हिमालयन नैशनल पार्क

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Cover Photos : (From Top Left, Colckwise)

Khandedhar Camping Site, JiwaNal Valley
Amilie Fall, Khandedhar, JiwaNal Valley
Payson's Bear, Khandedhar, JiwaNal Valley
GB Hippo, Tirthan Valley

The Western Tragopan (on the cover), an endangered pheasant found in the Great Himalayan National Park, is the symbol of the Park.

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GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK

ग्रेट हिमालयन नैशनल पार्क

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK



Conserving the Western Himalayan Environment



GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK
ग्रेट हिमालयन नैशनल पार्क

The Park

The concept of environmental conservation in the Kullu Valley is very ancient. The names of many places in this valley commemorate saints who came here to meditate in the great sanctuary of Himalayas. Some of these sanctuaries are still preserved as sacred groves of trees.

Despite this history, it was not until the 1980s that efforts were made to create a national park in the area. This dream is now realized as the Great Himalayan National Park (1999).

At present, the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) comprises 750 sq km. It is naturally protected on the northern, eastern, and southern boundaries by areas under permanent snow or by impassable ridges. The western boundary of the Park has historically supported communities that have had economic dependence on the designated area of the Park.

Realizing the environmental pressures these villages would exert on the Park's bio-diversity, an area of over **250 Sq. kms.** was set up as a buffer. This Ecozone contains 160 small villages with a population of about 14,000 people. Almost 90% of the Ecozone is forest habitat which, when properly managed, can fulfil the forest-based needs of the local people.

In addition, there are two wildlife sanctuaries adjacent to the Park: Sainj (90 sq.km.) and Tirthan (61 sq.km.). The total area under the National Park administration is 1,171 sq. Km.

Community based EcoTourism

To address the economic impact of the Park's creation on their lives, the local villagers have organized themselves through an NGO, SAHARA (Society for Advancement of Hill and Rural Areas).

Working with the Park management, SAHARA members are developing innovative approaches and solutions, such as Community Based EcoTourism (CBET), to address many of the complex issues associated with nature conservation and village livelihoods. The CBET is ecologically sustainable, financially viable, acceptable and beneficial to the village communities and encourages nature conservation education.

Ecozone Tours

The Ecozone areas are adjacent to the park and provide a combination of natural and cultural experiences. The trails go through villages and are generally easy to moderate. The best time to visit is during the festival season (October). The treks offer an opportunity to interact with villagers and observe their daily activities, including weaving, basket-making, cooking, and farming. Some popular tour routes are : Neuli-Shangarh Loop, 24 km; Neuli-Manu Temple, 12 km (round trip); Gushaini-Tinder village, 12 km; Siund-Saran-Ghat Seri-Pashi villages, 10 km.



■ Ecologically Sustainable



■ Financially Viable



■ Beneficial to the Community



■ Promotes Nature Conservation Education

Trek within the Park

Sainj Valley: A five-day trek upto Dhel meadow (3,737m) through the Sainj valley. Total Distance: 56 km (round trip).

Sainj-Tirthan Valleys: An eight-day trek crossing two valleys. Moderate to strenuous. Experience the transitions between two magnificent valleys; about 85 km.

Gushaini to Shilt hut : Easy to moderate three-day hike from Ecozone into Park; 30 km.

Jiwa Nala to Parvati River Valley : A very strenuous, dramatic seven-day hike, crossing the mountain passes at Kandi Galu (3,627m), and Phangchi Galu (4,636m). Incredible vistas. Trekker needs to be in excellent physical condition; 110 km.

Up to Tirath in Tirthan Valley : Experience the origin of a river; seven days; 76 km.

Up to Raktisar in Sainj Valley : Trek within the Sainj Wildlife Sanctuary/GHNP; seven days; 92 km.

Crossing the Pin Parvati Pass: From Pulga to Pin Valley via the Pin Parvati pass (5,319m altitude). A very challenging hike; eight days; 90 km.

Please refer to the GHNP EcoTourism booklet for more detailed information and/or contact park officials for specific trek information.

Guidelines at a Glance

1. Promoting community based eco-tourism for sustainable livelihood through technical support.
2. Promoting institution building in support of livelihood generation through Eco-tourism. Restoration of cultural values and environment conservation.
3. Institutionalizing community partnerships with government and private sector for sustainable environment conservation and development.
4. Enhancing the capacity of Govt. officials, community based organizations, NGOs, etc. for Eco-Tourism based livelihood improvement, environment conservation, and cultural development.
5. Promoting participation of local communities as partners through the strengthening of traditional and modern management capabilities for improved Eco-Tourism management, community development and biodiversity protection.

