

## Wildlife Sanctuaries of India

Wildlife Sanctuaries of India in 2026 include 573 protected areas preserving biodiversity, endangered species, natural habitats, and indigenous cultures.

**Wildlife Sanctuaries of India** are special places where animals can live safely without human interference. These protected areas are designed to keep the natural habitats of animals safe, where activities like hunting, poaching, and trapping are strictly forbidden. India is home to a wide variety of these protected spaces, from lush forests and dense jungles to riverbanks and majestic mountains. Each sanctuary reflects the country's commitment to preserving its incredible wildlife and diverse landscapes.

### Wildlife Sanctuaries of India

Wildlife Sanctuaries of India is a specially protected area dedicated to the preservation of both flora and fauna. These sanctuaries are established as natural habitats where tourism is typically restricted, focusing on undisturbed conservation. The inception of these protected zones began with the Wildlife Protection Act of 1947, with further reinforcements introduced through the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972, which empowered state governments to officially designate ecologically significant regions as sanctuaries.

India now boasts approximately 553 wildlife sanctuaries that collectively cover around 119,776 square kilometers. Among these, 51 are designated as tiger reserves, primarily serving as safe places for Bengal tigers. Classified under IUCN Category IV, these sanctuaries aim to safeguard ecosystems with high ecological, geomorphologic, and natural significance, reinforcing India's commitment to wildlife preservation.

### Wildlife Sanctuaries of India Provisions

- Wildlife Sanctuaries are notified by State Governments under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** to conserve wild animals, habitats, and biodiversity.
- Constitutional backing is provided through Article 48A and Article 51A(g), making wildlife protection a State duty and citizen responsibility.
- Entry, hunting, exploitation of wildlife, forest produce removal, and setting fires are strictly regulated or prohibited.
- Certain traditional rights of local communities may continue, and relocation is not compulsory.
- Sanctuaries are managed by State Forest Departments under the Chief Wildlife Warden.

- **Eco-Sensitive Zones** may be declared around sanctuaries to control developmental activities.
- Violations attract penalties including imprisonment and fines, with stricter punishment for offences involving endangered species.

## List of Wildlife Sanctuaries of India

- The following table provides an updated List of Wildlife Sanctuaries of India, specifying their respective states and union territories along with the area they cover.

List of Wildlife Sanctuaries of India					
S.No.	State & UT	State Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	No. of Wildlife Sanctuary	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	% of State Area
1.	Andhra Pradesh	160229	13	6771.40	4.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	83743	13	7614.56	9.09
3.	Assam	78438	17	1728.95	2.20
4.	Bihar	94163	12	2851.67	3.03
5.	Chhattisgarh	135191	11	3760.28	2.78
6.	Goa	3702	6	647.91	17.50
7.	Gujarat	196022	23	16618.42	8.48
8.	Haryana	44212	7	118.21	0.27
9.	Himachal Pradesh	55673	28	6115.97	10.99
10.	Jharkhand	79714	11	1955.82	2.45
11.	Karnataka	191791	38	8216.69	4.28

12.	Kerala	38863	18	2156.21	5.55
13.	Madhya Pradesh	308245	24	7046.19	2.29
14.	Maharashtra	307713	49	7861.70	2.55
15.	Manipur	22327	7	708.14	3.17
16.	Meghalaya	22429	4	94.11	0.42
17.	Mizoram	21081	9	1359.75	6.45
18.	Nagaland	16579	4	43.91	0.26
19.	Odisha	155707	19	7094.65	4.56
20.	Punjab	50362	13	326.60	0.65
21.	Rajasthan	342239	25	5592.38	1.63
22.	Sikkim	7096	7	399.10	5.62
23.	Tamil Nadu	130058	33	7096.54	5.46
24.	Telangana	114840	9	5672.70	4.94
25.	Tripura	10486	4	603.64	5.76
26.	Uttar Pradesh	240928	26	5822.20	2.42
27.	Uttarakhand	53483	7	2690.12	5.03
28.	West Bengal	88752	16	1440.18	1.62
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	8249	97	395.60	4.80
30.	Chandigarh	114	2	26.01	22.82
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	1	92.17	18.77

32.	Daman & Diu	112	1	2.19	1.96
33.	Delhi	1483	1	19.61	1.32
34.	Jammu & Kashmir	163090	14	1815.04	1.11
35.	Ladakh	59146	2	9000.00	15.22
36.	Lakshadweep	32	1	0.01	0.03
37.	Puducherry	480	1	3.90	0.81
	TOTAL	3287263	573	123762.56	3.76

## 10 Largest Wildlife Sanctuaries in India

- The 10 Largest Wildlife Sanctuaries in India cover vast and diverse ecosystems, ranging from arid deserts to dense forests and mangrove wetlands. These sanctuaries play a crucial role in conserving endangered species, maintaining ecological balance, and protecting India's rich biodiversity.

Rank	Wildlife Sanctuary	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Location
1	Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary	7,506.22	Gujarat
2	Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary	4,954	Gujarat
3	Desert National Park	3,162	Rajasthan
4	Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary	1,222	Maharashtra
5	Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary	914.02	Chhattisgarh
6	Manas Wildlife Sanctuary	950	Assam
7	Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary	423.55	Maharashtra
8	Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary	492.46	Karnataka

9	Nagarjunsagar–Srisaillam Wildlife Sanctuary	3,568	Andhra Pradesh
10	Sundarbans Wildlife Sanctuary	362.4	West Bengal

## 10 Smallest Wildlife Sanctuaries in India

- The 10 Smallest Wildlife Sanctuaries in India occupy limited geographical areas but play a vital role in protecting region-specific flora and fauna. Despite their small size, they significantly contribute to biodiversity conservation, bird protection, and local ecological balance.

Rank	Wildlife Sanctuary	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Location
1	Mayureshwar Wildlife Sanctuary	5.14	Maharashtra
2	Bor Wildlife Sanctuary	61.1	Maharashtra
3	Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary	15.53	Odisha
4	Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary	7.98	Goa
5	Mahavir Swami Wildlife Sanctuary	5.4	Uttar Pradesh
6	Kinnerasani Wildlife Sanctuary	635.4	Telangana
7	Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary	38.8	Assam
8	Kutch Bustard Sanctuary	2	Gujarat
9	Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary	3	Punjab
10	Thol Wildlife Sanctuary	7	Gujarat

## Wildlife Sanctuaries of India State Wise List

- Below is the complete List of Wildlife Sanctuaries in India according to the states.

## Wildlife Sanctuaries of India State Wise List

S No.	States	Wildlife Sanctuaries
1.	Assam	Nambor Wildlife Sanctuary
		Dihing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary
		East Karbi Anglong Wildlife Sanctuary
		Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary
		Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary
2.	Bihar	Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary
		Gautam Budha Wildlife Sanctuary
		Pant (Rajgir) Wildlife Sanctuary
		Valmiki Wildlife Sanctuary
3.	Chhatisgarh	Bhairamgarh Wildlife Sanctuary
		Badalkhol Wildlife Sanctuary
		Bhoramdev Wildlife Sanctuary
		Udanti Wild Buffalo Wildlife Sanctuary
4.	Goa	Bondla Wildlife Sanctuary
		Madei Wildlife Sanctuary
5.	Gujarat	Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary
		Porbandar Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
		Jambugodha Wildlife Sanctuary
		Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary

		Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary
		Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
		Sasan Gir Sanctuary
		Mitiyala Wildlife Sanctuary
6.	Haryana	Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary
		N Khaparwas Wildlife Sanctuary
		Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Bandli Wildlife Sanctuary
		Daranghati Wildlife Sanctuary
		Dhauladhar Wildlife Sanctuary
		Talra Wildlife Sanctuary
		Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
		Nargu Wildlife Sanctuary
9.	Jharkhand	Lawalong Wildlife Sanctuary
		Parasnath Wildlife Sanctuary
		Palkot Wildlife Sanctuary
10.	Karnataka	Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary
		Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary
		Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary
		Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary
		Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary

		Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary
		Sharavathi Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
11.	Kerala	Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary
		Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary
		Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary
		Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary
		Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary
		Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Bori Wildlife Sanctuary
		Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary
		Ken Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary
		National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary
		Orcha Wildlife Sanctuary
13.	Maharashtra	Koyana Wildlife Sanctuary
		Painganga Wildlife Sanctuary
		Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary
		Tungareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary
		Great Indian Bustard Wildlife Sanctuary
14.	Manipur	Yangoupokpi-Lokchao Wildlife Sanctuary
15.	Meghalaya	—
16.	Mizoram	Dampa Wildlife Sanctuary (TR)

		Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary
		Baghmara Pitcher Plant Wildlife Sanctuary
17.	Nagaland	Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary
		Rangapahar Wildlife Sanctuary
18.	Odisha	Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary
		Chilika (Nalaban) Wildlife Sanctuary
		Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary
		Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary
19.	Punjab	Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary
		Harike Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
		Jhajjar Bacholi Wildlife Sanctuary
20.	Rajasthan	Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary
		Jawahar Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary
		Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary
		Ramsagar Wildlife Sanctuary
		Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary
21.	Sikkim	Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary
		Kitam Wildlife Sanctuary (Bird)
		Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary
22.	Tamil Nadu	Indira Gandhi (Annamalai) Wildlife Sanctuary
		Karaivetti Wildlife Sanctuary

		Pulicat Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
		Vedanthangal Wildlife Sanctuary
		Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary
<b>23.</b>	Tripura	Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary
		Rowa Wildlife Sanctuary
		Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary
<b>24.</b>	Uttarakhand	Askot Musk Deer Wildlife Sanctuary
		Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary
		Govind Pashu Vihar Wildlife Sanctuary
		Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary
		Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary
<b>25.</b>	Uttar Pradesh	Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary
		Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary
		Sohagibarwa Wildlife Sanctuary
		Sur Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary
		Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary
		National Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary
<b>26.</b>	West Bengal	Sunderbans Wildlife Sanctuary
		Chintamani Kar Bird Sanctuary
		Haliday Island Wildlife Sanctuary
		Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary

	Lothian Island Wildlife Sanctuary
	Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary

## Wildlife Sanctuaries of India Union Territory List

- Below is the complete List of Wildlife Sanctuaries in India according to the Union Territory.

Wildlife Sanctuaries of India Union Territory List		
S No.	UTs	Wildlife Sanctuary
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Bamboo Island Wildlife Sanctuary
		Barren Island Wildlife Sanctuary
		Chanel Island Wildlife Sanctuary
		Peacock Island Wildlife Sanctuary
		Turtle Islands Wildlife Sanctuary
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary
		Limber Wildlife Sanctuary
		Nandini Wildlife Sanctuary
3.	Lakshadweep	Pitti Wildlife Sanctuary (Bird)
4.	Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	Dadra & Nagar Haveli Wildlife Sanctuary
		Fudam Wildlife Sanctuary

## Wildlife Sanctuaries of India Importance

- Wildlife Sanctuaries of India serve as indispensable sanctuaries not only for animals but also for entire ecosystems. Acting as protected areas, these

sanctuaries shield endangered species, natural landscapes, and even indigenous cultures from external threats. As vital resources for both nature and humanity, their conservation is crucial.

## Protecting Endangered Species

- Relocating endangered species is both costly and challenging, which is why preserving them in their natural habitat is essential. Sanctuaries enable these species to survive in an environment free from the risks of poaching and habitat destruction. Here, under the careful watch of sanctuary staff, species can breed, adapt, and grow their populations naturally. For researchers and biologists, sanctuaries provide a unique opportunity to study animal behaviors in a natural setting without disrupting their way of life.

## Safeguarding Landscapes and Ecosystems

- With urban expansion on the rise, natural forests are increasingly under threat. Wildlife Sanctuaries in India combat this trend by protecting forested areas and allowing natural landscapes to flourish. From dense forests to serene rivers, valleys, and waterfalls, these protected zones maintain essential features of our environment.

## Preserving Indigenous Cultures

- For many indigenous tribes, sanctuaries represent both home and heritage. Certain tribes, such as Odisha's Saara Adivasis, have coexisted with nature for centuries, sustaining forest ecosystems through traditional practices. Sanctuaries not only protect the biodiversity within them but also help preserve these communities' cultures and ways of life. Free from the pressures of urban development, these tribes can continue their customs, which, in turn, support forest conservation.

## Conserving Biodiversity

- Human activity has posed significant threats to global biodiversity. Sanctuaries offer a haven where ecosystems can exist without interference. Often described as in-situ conservation, sanctuaries maintain the natural balance, supporting ecosystems in their original configuration, thereby aiding species diversity and ecological health.

## Promoting Ecotourism

- Ecotourism has grown as more people seek meaningful travel experiences that support environmental conservation. Wildlife Sanctuaries in India provide a setting where people can observe animals in their natural, cage-free surroundings, often with their young, unhindered by the limitations of captivity. The revenue generated from ecotourism supports conservation efforts and aids in sanctuary development, creating a cycle where tourism funds the very habitats tourists come to appreciate.