

Simbalbara National Park, Background, Location, Flora, Fauna

July 6, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Simbalbara National Park is one of the five national parks of Himachal Pradesh and an important protected area in the Shivalik foothills. Known for its dense Sal forests, perennial streams and rich wildlife, the park forms an ecological link between the forests of Himachal Pradesh and the neighbouring states of Haryana and Uttarakhand.

Simbalbara National Park Historical Background

The forests of Simbalbara were once part of the hunting reserve of the rulers of the former Sirmaur princely state. Recognising their ecological importance, the area was **declared Simbalbara Wildlife Sanctuary in 1958** with an area of 19.03 sq km. **In 2010, an additional 8.85 sq km was added and the sanctuary was upgraded as Simbalbara National Park**, covering a total area of 27.88 sq km. The park is **also known as Colonel Sher Jung National Park**, in honour of Colonel Sher Jung, a noted conservationist from Himachal Pradesh.

Simbalbara National Park Location and Geographical Features

Simbalbara National Park is **located in the Kiyarda Dun (Paonta Valley) of Sirmaur district, close to the Haryana border.**

- It **lies in the Shivalik (Outer Himalayan) Range.**
- The park covers an area of 27.88 sq km.
- It **shares its southern and western boundaries with Kalesar National Park**, forming an important wildlife landscape.
- The terrain consists of low hills, dense forests, grassy glades and perennial streams.
- The park **lies close to the Yamuna River basin** and receives moderate to high rainfall, supporting lush vegetation.
- Geographically, it is **situated at the meeting point of the Himalayan, Gangetic Plain and Semi-Arid biogeographic regions**, resulting in rich biodiversity.

Simbalbara National Park Floral Diversity

The flora of Simbalbara National Park is dominated by **tropical moist deciduous forests**, which are uncommon in Himachal Pradesh.

- **Sal (Shorea robusta)** is the dominant tree species and forms the main forest canopy.
- Other important species include **Terminalia elliptica (Sain), Jamun, Khair, Shisham, Bahera, Harad and riverine vegetation.**
- **Bamboo, grasses and shrubs** occupy the forest floor and grassy glades.
- The dense forests provide suitable habitat and food for herbivores as well as shelter for carnivores and birds.

Simbalbara National Park Faunal Diversity

Simbalbara National Park supports diverse mammals, birds, reptiles and insects.

- **Leopard** is the apex predator of the park.
- **Herbivores** include Sambar, Chital, Barking Deer, Nilgai, Goral, Wild Boar and Indian Porcupine.
- **Primates** such as Rhesus Macaque and Hanuman Langur are commonly seen.
- The park **records nearly 140 species of birds**, including Hornbills, Kingfishers, Indian Roller, Dollarbird, Crested Serpent Eagle, Brahminy Kite and Long-billed Vulture.
- **Reptiles** include Indian Rock Python, Cobra, Monitor Lizard and several snake species.
- More than 120 species of **butterflies** have also been reported, reflecting the park's rich insect diversity.

Simbalbara National Park Ecological Significance

Simbalbara National Park plays an important role in conserving the biodiversity of the Shivalik landscape.

- It protects one of the finest **Sal forest ecosystems** in Himachal Pradesh.
- It serves as an **important ecological corridor** connecting the forests of Himachal Pradesh with Kalesar National Park.
- The park conserves wildlife found at the junction of three major biogeographic regions.

- Dense forests help conserve soil, regulate water flow and maintain ecological balance.
- It is an important destination for ecological research, bird watching and nature education.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/simbalbara-national-park/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.