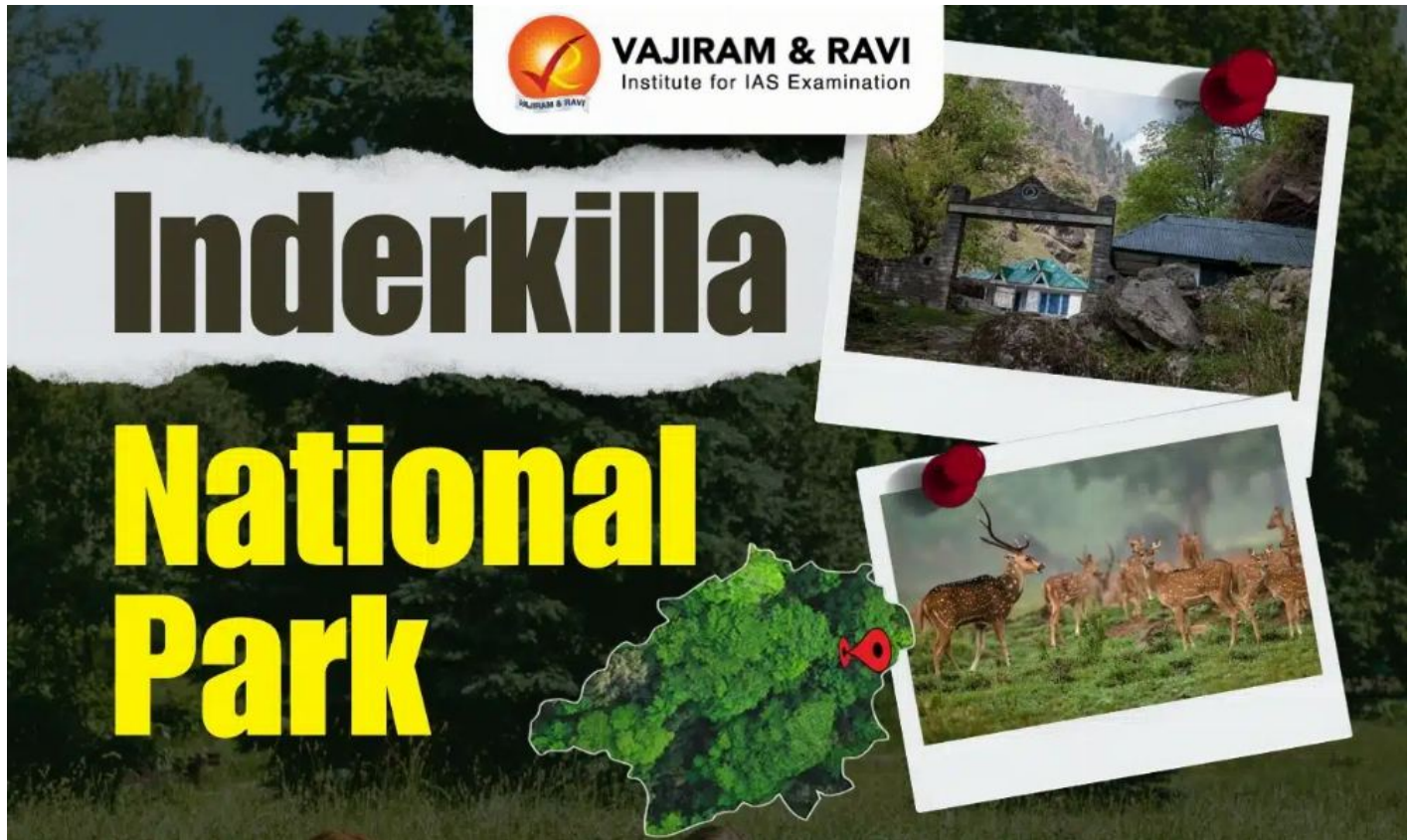


Inderkilla National Park, Location, Geography, River, Flora & Fauna

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Inderkilla National Park is a **protected natural area** located in the mountainous region of **northern India**. It is known for its **beautiful landscapes, dense forests, and rich biodiversity**. The park includes a mix of **hills, valleys, and alpine environments**, which provide suitable habitats for various plant and animal species. It plays an important role in **wildlife conservation** and maintaining the **ecological balance** of the region.

Inderkilla National Park Location

- Inderkilla National Park is located in the **Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh**, in the beautiful **Kullu Valley**, which is known for its scenic mountains and pleasant climate.
- The park was **established in 2010** and covers an area of about **104 square kilometres**, making it a moderately sized protected area in the Himalayan region.
- It is situated very close to **Manali**, one of the most popular hill stations in India.
- The park lies along the route to **Hampta Valley**, and nearby villages like **Prini, Sethan, and Hamtagarh** fall within its surrounding region.

- Due to its location in the **Western Himalayas**, the park has a mix of different landscapes including forests, hills, and alpine areas.
- An **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** of about **47.2 sq. km** has been declared in 2018 around the park to protect its fragile environment from harmful human activities.

Also Read : National Parks in Himachal Pradesh

Inderkilla National Park Geography

- The park is mainly covered with **hilly terrain, deep valleys, and dense forests**, which create a rich and varied natural environment.
- The landscape changes with altitude, starting from **lower forested areas** and gradually moving towards **high-altitude alpine zones**.
- It includes a variety of ecosystems such as **coniferous forests, alpine meadows, and subalpine regions**, each supporting different types of life. The terrain is rugged and uneven.
- Landslides and soil erosion may occur in some parts due to the fragile mountain structure.
- The variation in altitude leads to **different climatic conditions within the park**, influencing vegetation and wildlife.
- The park's landscape plays a key role in supporting **water sources and natural drainage systems**.

Inderkilla National Park River System

- The **Beas River** flows near the park and serves as a major **water source for wildlife and vegetation**.
- It originates from **Beas Kund near Rohtang Pass** and flows through the Kullu Valley.
- The river supports **agriculture, forests, and local communities**, especially in nearby villages.
- It plays a crucial role in maintaining the **ecological balance and hydrological cycle** of the region.
- Seasonal variations in water flow affect **animal movement and plant growth**.
- The riverbanks often have **denser vegetation**, which attracts herbivores and other wildlife.
- The river contributes to **soil fertility in surrounding areas**, supporting plant life.
- Smaller streams and tributaries connected to the Beas River further enhance water availability in the park.

Inderkilla National Park Vegetation (Flora)

- Inderkilla National Park has a **rich variety of vegetation**, ranging from dense forests to alpine meadows.
- The forests include **western mixed coniferous forests**, with trees like **deodar, pine, fir, and spruce**.
- It also has **moist temperate forests** with species such as **oak, maple, and rhododendron**, which add to the greenery.
- At higher altitudes, **subalpine and alpine vegetation** is found, including grasses, shrubs, and seasonal wildflowers.
- Plants like **juniper and birch** grow in colder regions, showing adaptation to harsh climatic conditions.
- The park is also rich in **medicinal plants**, which are important for traditional healing practices.
- Vegetation changes seasonally, with **lush greenery in summer and snow-covered landscapes in winter**.

- Forests provide **food and shelter for wildlife**, making them essential for ecological balance.
- Over time, human activities like grazing can affect **plant diversity and forest health**.
- The diversity of flora also supports **pollinators, insects, and small organisms**, maintaining the ecosystem.
- The diversity of plant life supports a wide range of animals and helps maintain ecological balance.

Inderkilla National Park Wildlife (Fauna)

- The park is home to a wide variety of **wild animals**, including **leopard, Himalayan black bear, brown bear, and snow leopard**.
- Herbivores such as **musk deer, barking deer, ibex, goral, and mountain goats** are commonly found in different habitats.
- Smaller mammals like **civets, martens, porcupines, flying squirrels, and jungle cats** also contribute to biodiversity.
- The park supports many **bird species (over 250)**, including **Himalayan monal, western tragopan, and other migratory birds**, making it a paradise for birdwatchers.
- Reptiles and insects are also present, though they are less visible due to the cooler climate.
- Many animals here are **rare or endangered**, and the park plays an important role in their protection.

Ecological and Conservation Importance

- Inderkilla National Park plays an important role in **protecting Himalayan biodiversity** and maintaining ecological balance.
- It serves as a habitat for many **endangered and rare species**, especially large mammals like the snow leopard.
- The **Eco-Sensitive Zone** helps in reducing human pressure and preserving the natural environment.
- Forests in the park help in **soil conservation, climate regulation, and water management**.
- Conservation efforts focus on balancing **tourism and environmental protection**.
- The park is also important for **research and environmental education**, helping people understand mountain ecosystems.

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

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