

Kanger Valley National Park, Location, Flora, Fauna, Conservation

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Kanger Valley National Park is one of India's most biologically diverse protected areas, located in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. Established in **1982**, the park covers approximately **200 square kilometres** and is named after the **Kanger River**, which flows through its dense forests. It is renowned for its rich biodiversity, limestone caves, underground streams, waterfalls, and evergreen forest patches. The park forms part of the **Deccan Peninsula Biogeographic Zone** and is home to numerous rare plant and animal species, making it an ecologically significant landscape.

Kanger Valley National Park Location

Kanger Valley National Park is situated in the **Bastar district** of **Chhattisgarh**, around **27 km southeast of Jagdalpur**. Nestled within the **Eastern Ghats**, the park is characterized by rugged hills, deep valleys, limestone caves, perennial streams, and dense tropical forests.

Kanger Valley National Park Climate & Vegetation

Kanger Valley National Park experiences a **tropical monsoon climate** and supports dense **tropical moist deciduous forests** with rare evergreen patches, creating ideal conditions for rich biodiversity.

- **Summer (March-June):** Temperatures range from **20°C to 42°C**.
- **Monsoon (June-September):** Receives heavy rainfall that sustains rivers, caves, and waterfalls.
- **Winter (November-February):** Pleasant temperatures between **10°C and 25°C**.
- Dominated by **tropical moist deciduous forests** with patches of **semi-evergreen and evergreen vegetation**.
- Major tree species include **Sal, Teak, Saja, Bija, Haldu, and Dhaora**.
- Dense **bamboo forests**, shrubs, climbers, and grasses cover large areas.
- The **Kanger River** and limestone caves create a moist microclimate that supports diverse plant life throughout the year.

Kanger Valley National Park Flora

Kanger Valley National Park is known for its rich floral diversity, with dense **tropical moist deciduous forests**, bamboo groves, and rare evergreen patches that support a wide variety of wildlife.

- Dominated by **Sal (Shorea robusta), Teak, Saja, Bija, Dhaora, Haldu, Mahua, and Tendu trees**.
- Extensive **bamboo forests** provide habitat and food for several animal species.
- Features rare **evergreen forest patches**, a unique characteristic in central India.
- Rich in **medicinal plants**, herbs, shrubs, climbers, and grasses.
- Moist valleys and riverbanks support diverse moisture-loving vegetation.
- Seasonal flowering plants attract **butterflies, bees, and other pollinators**.
- Forests provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects.
- The vegetation helps **conserve soil, regulate water flow, and maintain ecological balance** in the park.

Kanger Valley National Park Fauna

Kanger Valley National Park is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including several endangered mammals, reptiles, birds, and cave-dwelling species, making it one of the richest biodiversity hotspots in central India.

- Major mammals include **Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Wild Dog (Dhole), Striped Hyena, Jackal, and Indian Wolf**.
- Herbivores found in the park include **Sambar, Spotted Deer (Chital), Barking Deer, Mouse Deer, Nilgai, and Wild Boar**.
- Primates such as **Hanuman Langur** and **Rhesus Macaque** are commonly seen.
- The park supports over **200 species of birds**, including the **Hill Myna** (State Bird of Chhattisgarh), **Crested Serpent Eagle, Peafowl, Hornbills, and Woodpeckers**.
- Reptiles include the **King Cobra, Indian Rock Python, Monitor Lizard**, and several other snake species.
- The limestone caves are home to **bats, blind cave fish**, and other cave-adapted organisms.
- Rivers and streams support a variety of **fish, amphibians**, and aquatic reptiles.

Kanger Valley National Park Conservation Efforts

Kanger Valley National Park is protected through habitat conservation, wildlife monitoring, community participation, and sustainable tourism to preserve its unique forests, caves, and rich biodiversity.

- Strengthens **anti-poaching patrols** and regular wildlife monitoring across the park.
- Conserves **tropical forests, limestone caves, rivers, and waterfalls** that support diverse ecosystems.
- Protects endangered and vulnerable species such as the **Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear**, and **Hill Myna**.
- Promotes **habitat restoration** through afforestation and forest regeneration programmes.
- Regulates tourism to minimize disturbance to wildlife and fragile cave ecosystems.
- Involves **local tribal communities** in forest protection and **biodiversity** conservation.
- Conducts awareness programmes to encourage environmental education and responsible tourism.
- Supports long-term **biodiversity research** and ecological monitoring for effective conservation management.

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

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