

Barehipani Falls, Location, Formation, Geographical Features, Significance

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Barehipani Falls is the **highest waterfall in Odisha** and is widely regarded as the **second-highest waterfall in India by total height, after Kunchikal Falls**. It is **located within the Similipal National Park and Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district, Odisha**. Formed by the **Budhabalanga River**, the waterfall descends about 399 metres (1,309 feet) in two distinct tiers.

Barehipani Falls Location

- Barehipani Falls is **located in Similipal National Park and Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district, Odisha**.
- It lies in the **Similipal Hills**, which form part of the **Eastern Ghats**.
- The waterfall can be viewed from designated viewpoints inside the protected area and is accessible through forest safari routes.
- It is located **close to Joranda Falls**, another prominent waterfall of Similipal.

Barehipani Falls Formation

Barehipani Falls is formed where the **Budhabalanga River** descends over the steep slopes of the Meghasani (Meghasuni) massif in the Similipal Hills. Flowing across the elevated terrain of the Eastern Ghats, the river encounters a sharp change in elevation and drops in two distinct tiers, forming a tiered waterfall. Over time, continuous river erosion has shaped the valley and cliff face, giving the waterfall its present landform.

Barehipani Falls Geographical Features

- The Barehipani waterfall has a **total height of about 399 metres** and descends in two distinct tiers.
- It is classified as a **tiered waterfall**, where water flows in successive stages rather than as a single uninterrupted plunge.
- The surrounding landscape consists of **steep valleys, rocky cliffs and dense tropical forests** of the Similipal landscape.
- It represents the erosional action of a river flowing across the elevated terrain of the Eastern Ghats.
- Water discharge reaches its maximum during the Southwest Monsoon (June-September).

Barehipani Falls Ecological Significance

- The Barehipani waterfall lies within the Similipal Tiger Reserve, which is also a National Park and part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
- Similipal is one of India's important biodiversity hotspots and is known for the Royal Bengal Tiger, Asian Elephant, and the rare melanistic (black) tiger population.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/barehipani-falls/>

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