

Bhitarkanika National Park

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Bhitarkanika National Park Latest News

Bhitarkanika National Park saw a marginal increase in winged guests as compared to the previous year, according to the latest census report released by the forest department recently.

About Bhitarkanika National Park

- It is located in the Kendrapara district of **Odisha**.
- Spread across an area of 672 sq.km. of the **mangrove swamp situated on the delta formed by the three rivers**, namely **Brahmani, Baitarani, and Dhamra**, the park houses an array of **creeks, backwaters, estuaries, deltas**, and mudhuts.
- The national park is **surrounded by the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary. Gahirmatha Beach and Marine Sanctuary lie to the east**, and separates a swamp region covered with a canopy of mangroves from the Bay of Bengal.
- It is India's **second largest mangrove ecosystem after the Sunderbans**.
- **Proximity to the Bay of Bengal** makes the **soil** of the area **enriched with salt**.

- The **vegetation** and species of the sanctuary are **those** that are **mainly found in the tropical and subtropical intertidal regions.**
- It is also designated as a **Ramsar site.**
- **Flora: Mangrove** species, **casuarinas**, and grasses like the indigo bush.
- **Fauna:**
 - It is home to the **largest congregation of the endangered saltwater crocodile** in the country.
 - The **Gahirmatha Beach** is the largest colony of the **Olive Ridley Sea Turtles.**
 - It is also home to numerous animals like **hyenas, wild boar, Chitals, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Wild Boar, Jungle cat, Wild Pigs, etc.,** and **migratory birds**, which make it their home during the winter season, lending a vibrant hue to the ecosystem.
 - It is also home to eight varieties of **Kingfisher birds**, which is also a rarity.

Source: TP

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

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