

Gorumara National Park

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Gorumara National Park Latest News

The population of one-horned rhinos has risen at the Gorumara National Park in Jalpaiguri with the birth of two rhinos recently.

About Gorumara National Park

- It is located in the Jalpaiguri district of **West Bengal**.
- It was declared a national park in 1992 and covers an area of approx 79.45 sq.km.
- It is situated on the **bank of the Murti and Raidak rivers** in the **Terai region of Dooars on the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas**.
- The park is known for its rich diversity of flora and fauna and is home to many endangered species, especially the **one-horned rhinoceros**.
- **Flora:**
 - Typical flora include: **Sal forests with Common Teak, Rain Tree** (Shirish or Albizia lebbeck), and **Silk Cotton** (Shimul or Bombax malabaricum) trees, **Bamboo groves**, Terai grassland vegetation,

and tropical riverine reeds

- It is also home to numerous tropical orchids.

- **Fauna:** It is home to many animals such as **Indian rhinoceros, Asian elephant, Indian bison**, leopard, sambar deer, barking deer, spotted deer, wild boar, and many species of birds, including peafowl, red jungle fowl, and the Indian hornbill.

Key Facts about Greater One-Horned Rhino

- The greater one-horned rhino, also known as the Indian rhinoceros, is the **largest of the three Asian rhinos** and, **together with African white rhinos, is the largest of all rhino species.**
- Scientific Name: *Rhinoceros unicornis*
- **Distribution:**
 - It can be found in **India and Nepal**, particularly in the **foothills of the Himalayas.**
 - In the past, Greater one-horned rhinos roamed freely in the floodplains and forests alongside the Brahmaputra, Ganges, and Indus River valley.
 - **Kaziranga National Park in Assam, India, contains the largest population (2,401).**
- **Habitat:** Greater one-horned rhinos are **semi-aquatic** and often take up residence in **swamps, forests, riversides**, and anywhere that is near nutritious mineral licks.
- **Features:**
 - The largest of the Asian rhinos, male Indian rhinos weigh approximately 2,200 kg (nearly 4,840 pounds) and range in height from 170 to 186 cm (67 to 73 inches) and are 368 to 380 cm (145 to 150 inches) long.
 - It is identified by a **single black horn** about 8-25 inches **long and a grey-brown hide with skin folds**, which gives it an **armor-plated appearance.**
 - The species is **solitary, except for females with small calves. Males maintain loosely defended territories.**
 - The rhino is **primarily a grazer.** Its **diet** consists almost **entirely of grasses**, but it also eats leaves, branches, fruit, and aquatic plants.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable.**

Source: **TELE**

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