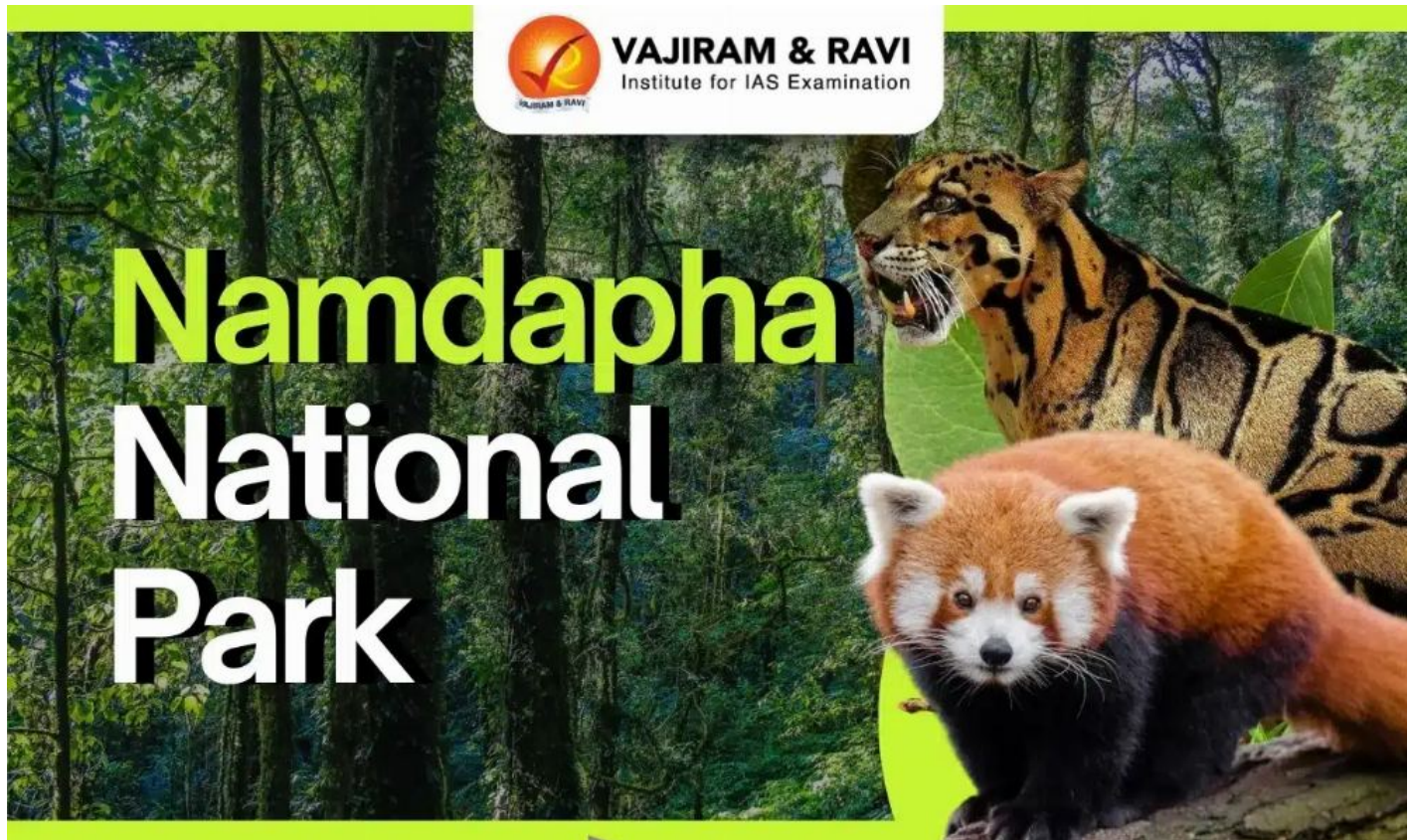


Namdapha National Park, Location, Wildlife, Climate, Biodiversity

July 23, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Namdapha National Park is a vast and biologically rich protected area located in the state of **Arunachal Pradesh** in **northeast India**. It is known for its **dense forests**, **diverse wildlife**, and its **unique location near the India-Myanmar border**. The park is one of the **largest national parks in India** and is famous for its **wide range of habitats**, from **tropical rainforests** to **alpine meadows**. Because of this variation, Namdapha supports an **incredible variety of flora and fauna**, including many **rare and endangered species**. It is considered an **important region for biodiversity conservation** and is also a part of the **Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot**.

Namdapha National Park

- **Namdapha National Park** is one of the largest and most important protected areas in India, located in the **Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh** near the **India-Myanmar border**.
- It is both a **National Park** and a **Tiger Reserve**, declared in **1983**, and is known for its **vast, dense forests** and **rich biodiversity**.

- The park lies close to the town of **Miao** and is surrounded by **misty hills, deep valleys, and tropical rainforests**, making it a true wilderness area.
- Due to its **remote location and difficult terrain**, large parts of the park are still **unexplored**, which has helped preserve its **natural and untouched ecosystem**.

Namdapha National Park Location and Geographical Features

- The park is situated near the **Indo-Myanmar-China trijunction**, giving it both **ecological and strategic importance**.
- It covers an area of about **1,985 sq. km**, making it the **fourth largest national park in India**.
- Geographically, it lies between the **Dapha Bum range of the Mishmi Hills** and the **Patkai Hills**, forming a complex mountainous landscape.
- The altitude ranges from **200 meters to 4,571 meters**, with **Dapha Bum** being the highest point, which results in a wide variety of climatic and ecological conditions.
- The terrain is mostly **steep, rugged, and heavily forested**, with very limited human access, especially in the interior regions.

Namdapha National Park River System and Landscape

- The **Noa-Dihing River**, an important tributary of the **Brahmaputra**, flows through the park in a **north-south direction**, dividing it into different ecological zones.
- The park derives its name from the **Namdapha River**, which originates within the park and joins the Noa-Dihing River.
- Numerous **streams, rivulets, and perennial water sources** are found throughout the park, supporting its rich biodiversity.
- The presence of **forest pools and natural salt licks** provides essential resources for wildlife.
- Overall, the park forms the **catchment area of the Noa-Dihing River**, making it hydrologically significant.

Namdapha National Park Climate

- Namdapha experiences a **sub-tropical climate**, but due to its large altitudinal variation, different parts of the park have different climatic conditions.
- The **lowland areas and valleys** have a **tropical, warm, and humid climate**, supporting dense rainforest vegetation.
- The **higher mountainous regions** experience a **cooler, temperate to alpine climate**, with lower temperatures.
- This variation in climate plays a key role in supporting **diverse habitats and species distribution**.

Namdapha National Park Vegetation and Flora

- The vegetation of the park is mainly **tropical evergreen rainforest**, with very dense and multi-layered forest structure.

- The forests include thick growth of **bamboo, cane, wild banana, and other undergrowth**, making them almost impenetrable in some areas.
- The park is home to more than **1000 plant species** and over **150 valuable timber species**, indicating high floral diversity.
- Rare plant species such as **Pinus merkusii** and **Abies delavayi** are found here, which are not commonly seen elsewhere in India.
- It is also famous for the rare **Blue Vanda Orchid**, which is considered one of the most beautiful and endangered orchids.
- A well-known medicinal plant, **Mishmi Teeta (Coptis teeta)**, is found here and is traditionally used by local tribes, though its trade is now restricted for conservation.
- Due to its immense plant diversity, the park is often referred to as a **“botanist’s paradise”**, and it may take decades to fully document its flora.

Namdapha National Park Wildlife and Biodiversity

- Namdapha National Park is extremely rich in wildlife, with more than **1400 species of animals**, making it one of the most biodiverse regions in India.
- It is the **only park in the world** where all four major big cat species are found together:
 - **Tiger (Panthera tigris)**
 - **Leopard (Panthera pardus)**
 - **Snow Leopard (Panthera uncia)**
 - **Clouded Leopard (Neofelis nebulosa)**
- The park also supports several **rare and endangered species**, including the **Namdapha Flying Squirrel**, which is critically endangered and rarely seen.
- It is home to the **Hoolock Gibbon**, which is the **only ape species found in India**, highlighting its ecological uniqueness.
- Other important animals include **elephants, black bears, Indian bison (gaur), various species of deer, and reptiles**.
- A large number of **arboreal (tree-dwelling) animals** are found due to the dense forest canopy.

Namdapha National Park Bird Diversity

- The park has a rich variety of bird species, including rare and endangered ones.
- The **White-winged Wood Duck**, one of the rarest waterfowl species, is found here.
- Other important birds include the **Great Indian Hornbill, jungle fowl, and pheasants**, along with many colorful forest birds.
- The dense forests provide an ideal environment for **breeding and nesting**, making the park important for bird conservation.

Legal Status and Conservation Importance

- Namdapha was officially declared a **National Park and Tiger Reserve in 1983**, recognizing its ecological importance.

- It has been included in the **Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, indicating its global significance.
- The park is part of the **Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot**, one of the richest biodiversity regions in the world.
- Its **inaccessibility and rugged terrain** have helped protect it from large-scale human disturbance, keeping much of it in a **natural and pristine state**.

Namdapha National Park Significance

- Namdapha National Park represents one of the **last remaining large wilderness areas in Asia**, with minimal human interference.
- It plays a vital role in **conserving biodiversity, protecting endangered species, and maintaining ecological balance**.
- The park's wide range of ecosystems, from **tropical forests to alpine zones**, makes it highly valuable for **scientific research and ecological studies**.
- It also contributes to **climate regulation and water conservation**, as it forms an important river catchment area.
- Overall, Namdapha highlights the importance of **preserving natural ecosystems** and ensuring sustainable conservation for future generations.

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

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