



Department of Tourism, J&K

# NATURE

Jammu & Kashmir

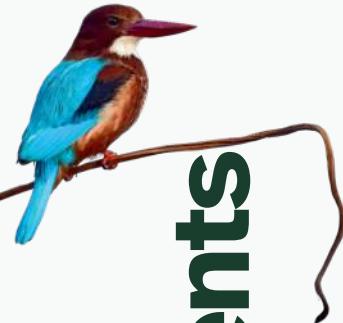
Diverse  
Terrains

Exotic  
Animals





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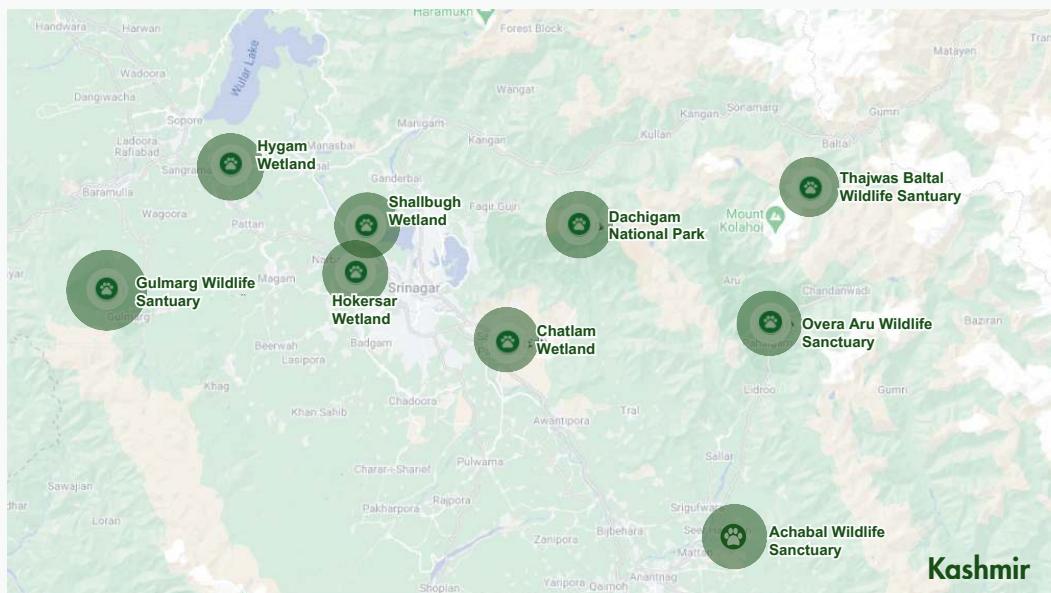
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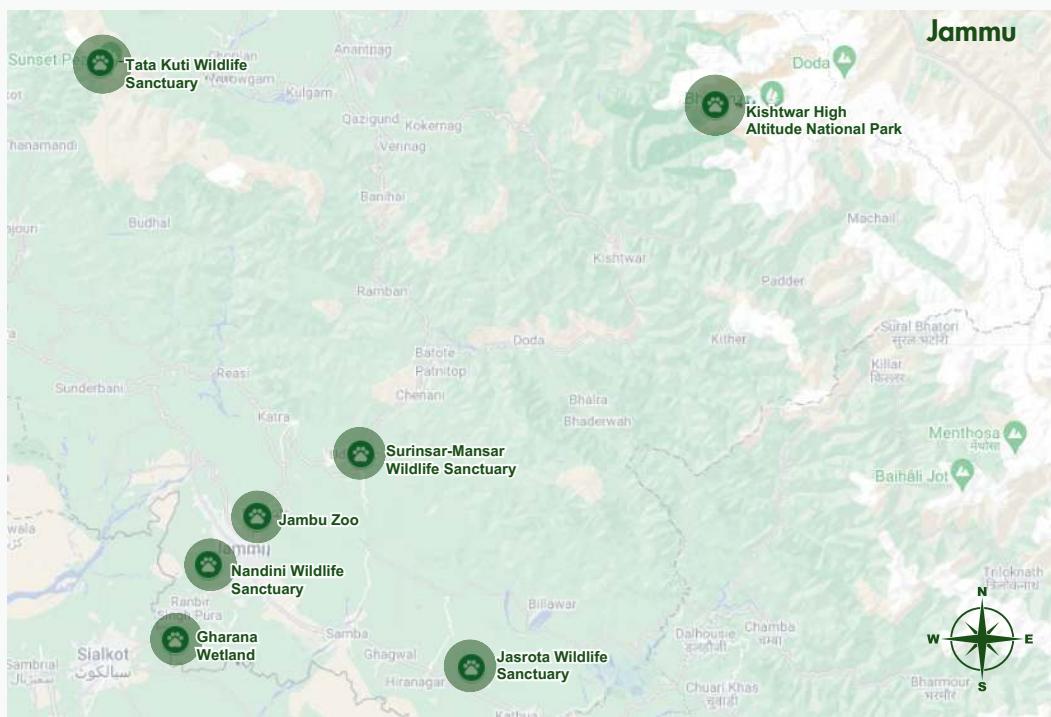




## Places of Wildlife in J&K



**Kashmir**



The Dachigam National Park, spanning across the Zabarwan Range, is famed for the Kashmiri Stag, Hangul. Its diverse terrain ranges from grasslands to rocky cliffs, offering spectacular views. The park is home to various fauna, including Musk Deer, Leopard, Himalayan Grey Langur, Leopard Cat, Himalayan Black Bear, Yellow-Throated Marten and more.

For bird enthusiasts, Dachigam is a paradise with species like the Himalayan Monal, Golden Oriole, And Kashmir Flycatcher.

# Dachigam National Park



Area  
**141 sq km**



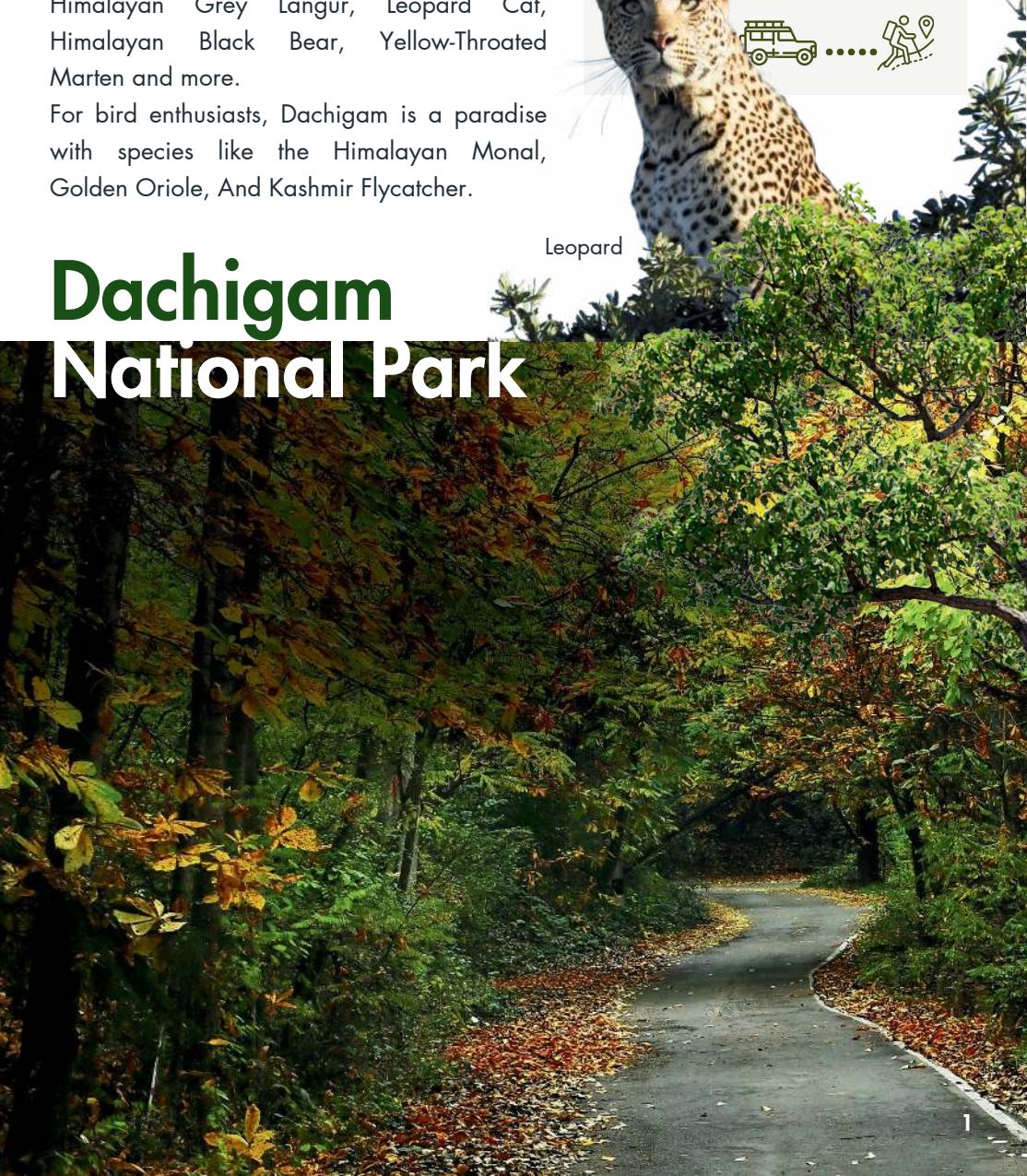
Distance from Srinagar  
**17 km**



How to reach



Leopard



# PHOTO GALLERY



Encountering a  
Leopard in the  
Wilds of Dachigam



Witnessing an Asiatic  
Black Bear's Fruit  
Feast in Dachigam  
National Park

# PHOTO GALLERY



Catching a Glimpse  
of the Elusive Hangul  
through the Lens



# PHOTO GALLERY



Himalayan Langur

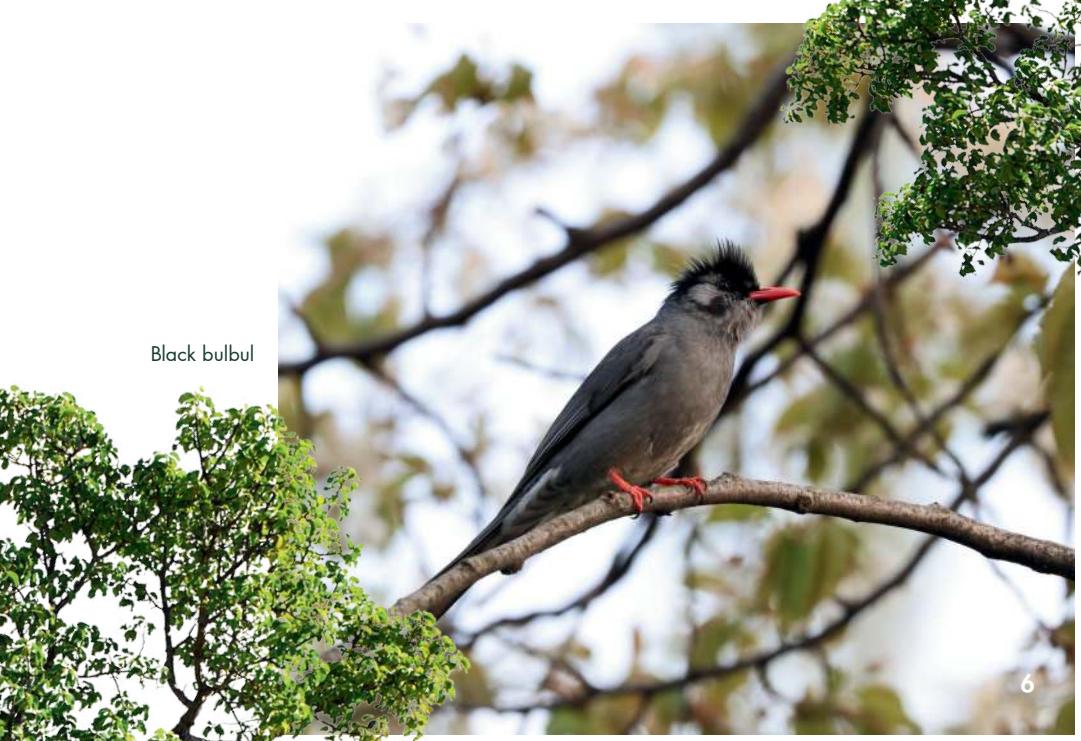


Wolf

# PHOTO GALLERY



Ferret



Black bulbul

# PHOTO GALLERY



Tawny Owl

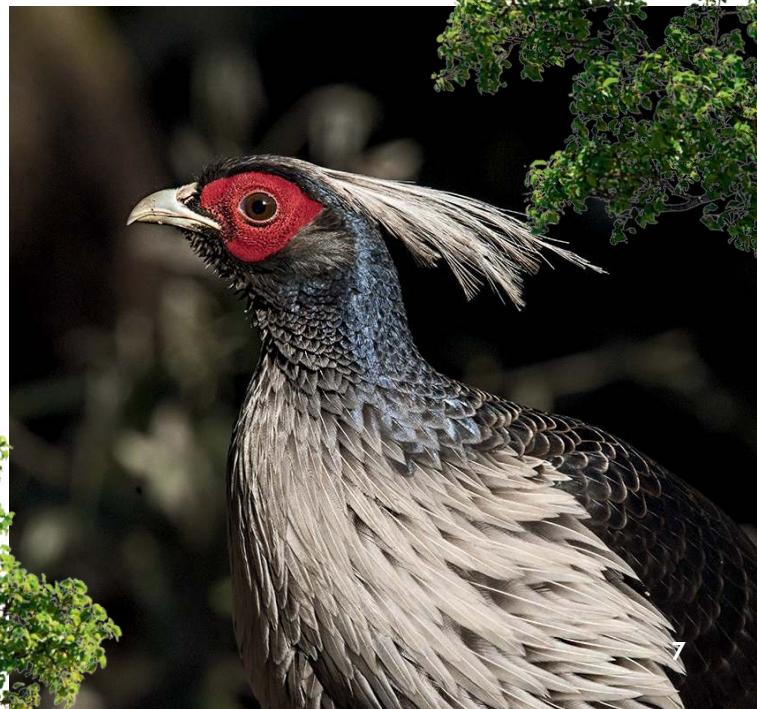


Blue whistling thrush

# PHOTO GALLERY

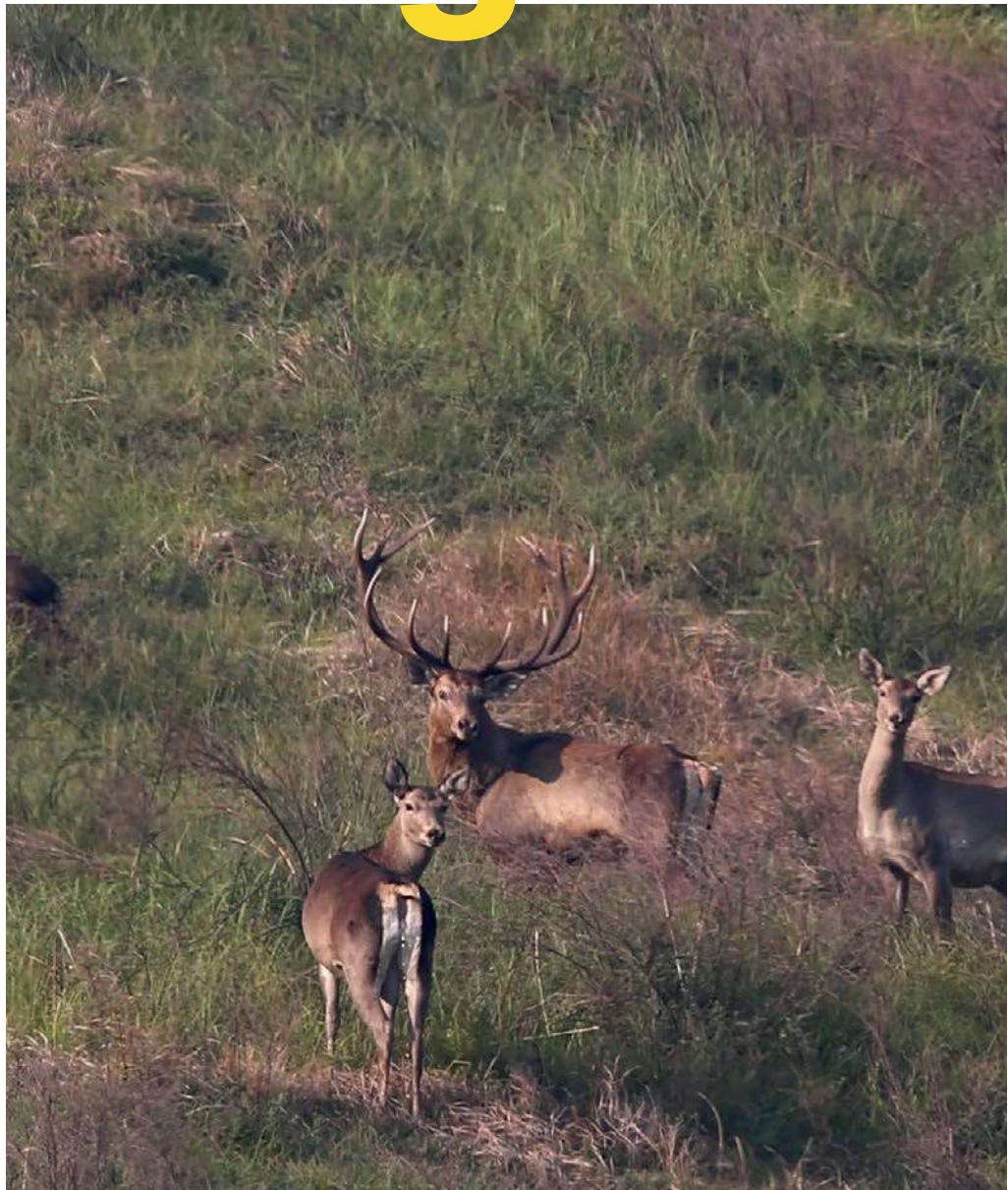


Blue Pansy Butterfly



Kalij Pheasant  
UT Bird

# Hangul



The Hangul, or Kashmir Stag, is a majestic inhabitant of Jammu and Kashmir, deriving its name from the local term "*han doon*," signifying its fondness for the Indian horse-chestnut. Adorned with a reddish-brown coat, impressive antlers, and a distinctive white rump patch, Hangul is listed as Critically Endangered in IUCN's Red Data Book and placed under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.





Snow Leopard

# Kishtwar High Altitude National Park



Area

**2191.50 Sq Km**



Distance from Jammu

**267 km**

How to reach



Located in the scenic Kishtwar district of the Jammu region, Kishtwar High Altitude National Park spans altitudes from 1,700 to 4,800 meters. This biodiverse haven is home to captivating fauna, including Hangul, Snow Leopard, and various bird species like the Bearded Vulture and Paradise Flycatcher. With 25 mammal species and over 200 bird species, the park is a must-visit for nature enthusiasts and wildlife lovers.

(Contd...)

Attributed as one of the seven Snow Leopard reserves, the park was established to conserve the Snow Leopard species, its prey population and its fragile mountain habitat.

With 25 mammal species and over 200 bird species, the park is a must-visit for nature enthusiasts and wildlife lovers. This biodiverse haven is home to captivating fauna, including Hangul, Snow Leopard, Musk Deer, Ibex, Himalayan Yellow Throated Marten, Himalayan Black Bear, Brown Bear, and various bird species like the Himalayan Golden Eagle, Black-eared Kite, Shikra, Himalayan Bearded Vulture, Himalayan Griffon Vulture and Monal Pheasant and more.

Due to varied topography, climate, and altitude, the National Park encompasses 13 forest types, including Moist Deodar Forest, Western Mixed Coniferous Forest, Moist Temperate Deciduous Forest, Low-level Blue Pine Forest, and others.



Golden eagle



# PHOTO GALLERY



Snow Leopard in  
Kishtwar

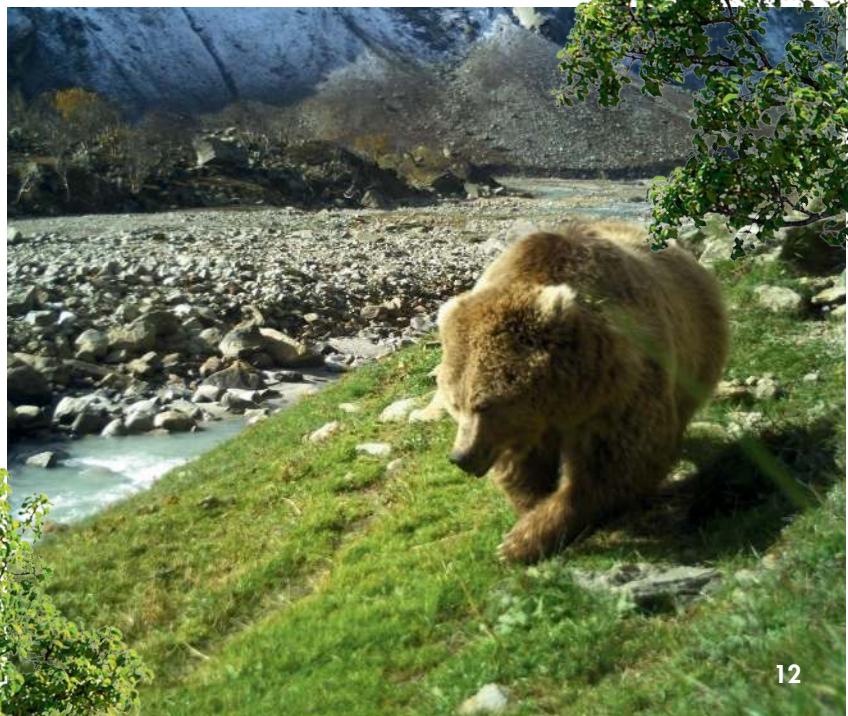


Western Himalayan  
Pit Viper basking  
in the sun

# PHOTO GALLERY



Himalayan Monal  
with its vibrant  
plumage in  
Kishtwar



Brown Bear  
photographed in  
Kishtwar

# PHOTO GALLERY



A protective brown bear sharing its kill with cubs in Kishtwar



Himalayan Ibex in the snow-clad Kishtwar

# PHOTO GALLERY



Rugged terrains of Kishtwar



Beautiful Kishtwar Valley photographed during Summer

Jammu and Kashmir's diverse geography makes it a haven for wildlife enthusiasts. The region offers rich opportunities for wildlife tourism, with Dal Lake being a prime destination for birdwatchers, featuring kingfishers perched on houseboats. The lake also attracts migratory birds like Greylag Goose, Mallard, Common Merganser, Northern Pintail, Brahminy Duck, Tufted Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, Common Teal and others. Dal Lake in Kashmir is famed for Houseboats, Shikaras, and birdwatching, particularly during winter.



Area  
**22 sq km**

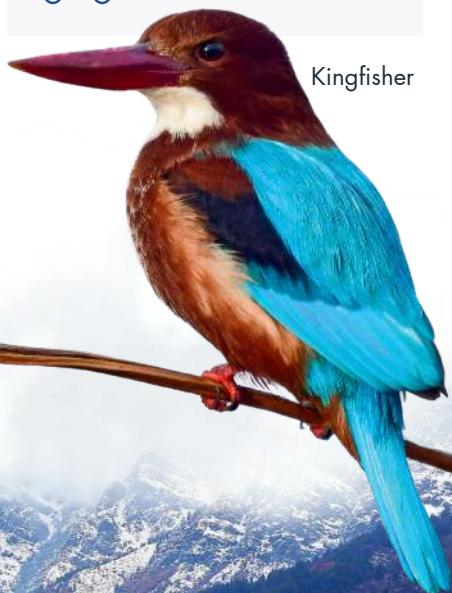


Distance from Srinagar  
**14 km**

How to reach



Kingfisher



# Dal Lake



# Kingfisher



Birdwatchers in Kashmir can spot three types of Kingfishers – Pied, Common, and White-throated. These colorful birds can be observed around Jhelum and Dal Lake, providing a delightful experience for bird enthusiasts.

Photo : Bilal Nasir Zargar



Jambu Zoo is situated in a naturally green landscape at Khanpur Nagrota in the foothills of Shivalik along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway on the outskirts of Jammu city.

Conceived to raise awareness about wildlife conservation and provide a habitat resembling the natural environment for birds and animals, Jambu Zoo serves as a unique destination for nature and wildlife enthusiasts.

Royal Bengal Tiger, White Tiger, Asiatic Lion, Leopard, Blackbuck and more showcase the rich diversity of wildlife with their distinct presence.

# Jambu Zoo



Area

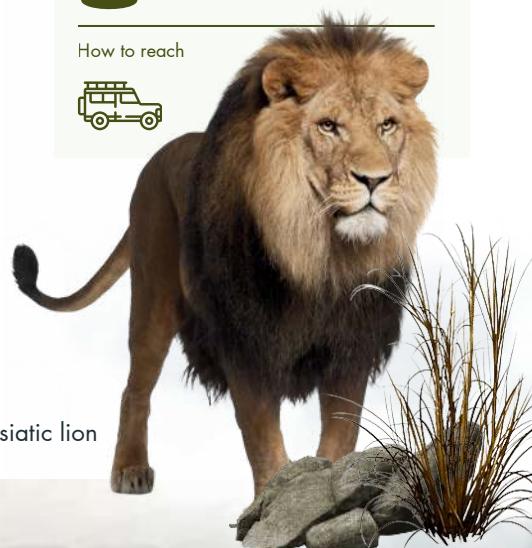
**2.29 sq km**



Distance from Jammu

**19 km**

How to reach



Asiatic lion





# Thaiwas - Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary



Area  
**219 Sq. Km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**98 km**

How to reach



Thaiwas Baltal Wildlife Sanctuary (est. 1990) boasts diverse fauna, including rare & threatened species. The Musk Deer is a key attraction. It's connected to other wildlife areas like Aru, Upper Dachigam & Sind forest. Notable species include: Musk Deer, Asiatic Black Bear, Snow Leopard, Asiatic Ibex, Common Leopard, Himalayan Yellow-throated Marten, Himalayan Marmot, Koklas, Monal, Serow, Himalayan Brown Bear, Leopard Cat, Red Fox.

# Surinsar-Mansar Wildlife Sanctuary



Goral



Area  
**98 sq km**



Distance from Jammu  
**34 km**

## How to reach



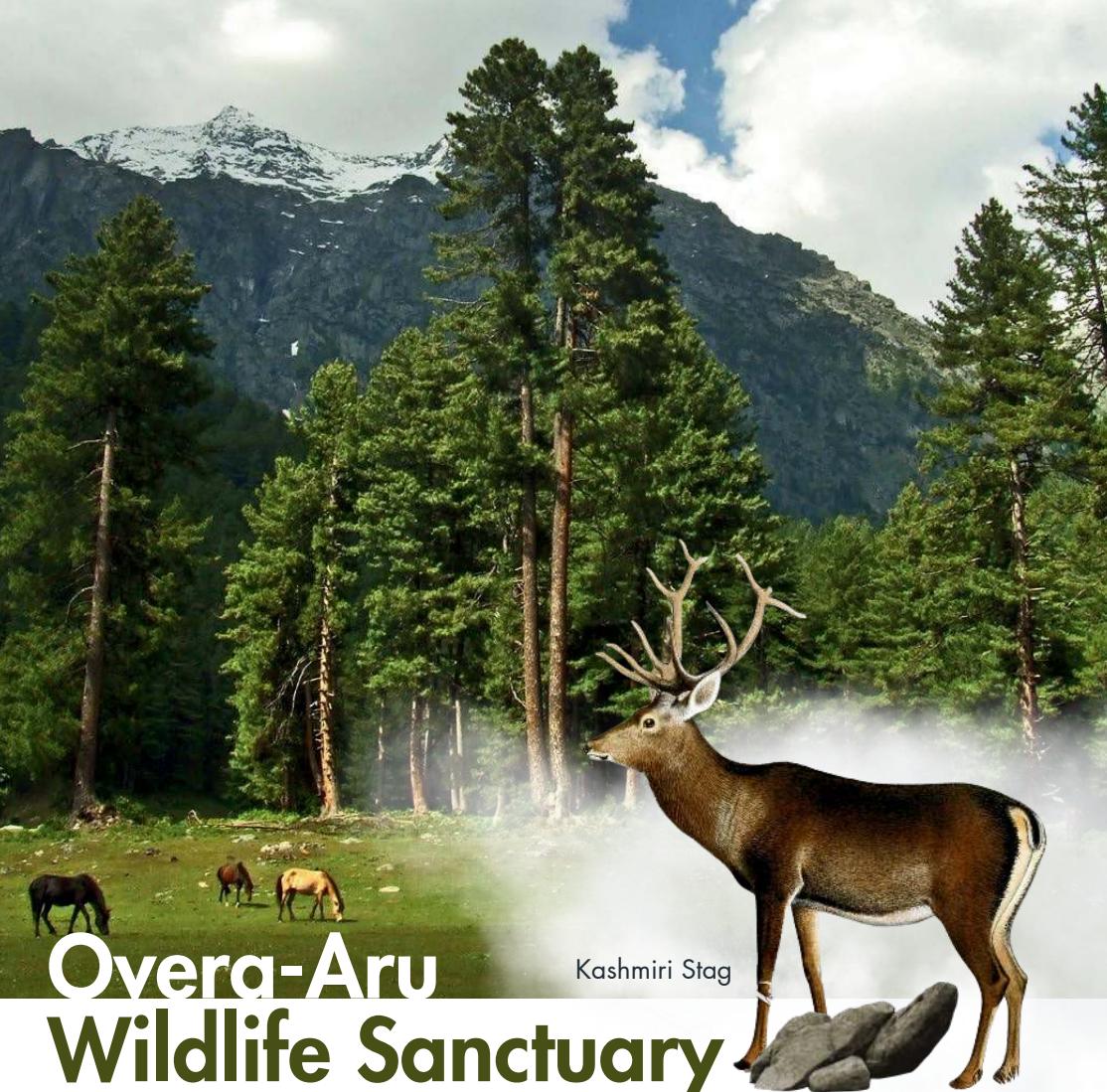
The Surinsar-Mansar Wildlife Sanctuary spans three districts—Jammu, Udhampur, and Samba. The Sanctuary hosts 8 mammal species, including Goral, Wild Boar, Barking Deer, And Leopard. Its diverse vegetation, a mix of broad-leaved species and *Pinus Gerardiana* stands, creates a rich habitat. Popular for winter treks, the sanctuary offers adventure enthusiasts a chance to experience both pristine wilderness and glimpses of historical heritage.

# Citrine Wagtail



The Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla Citreola*) is a small insectivorous songbird found in open areas near water, like wet meadows and bogs. It nests on the ground, laying 4–5 speckled eggs. During winter, it migrates to South Asia, favoring highland regions such as Kashmir.





# Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary

Kashmiri Stag



Area  
**511 sq km**

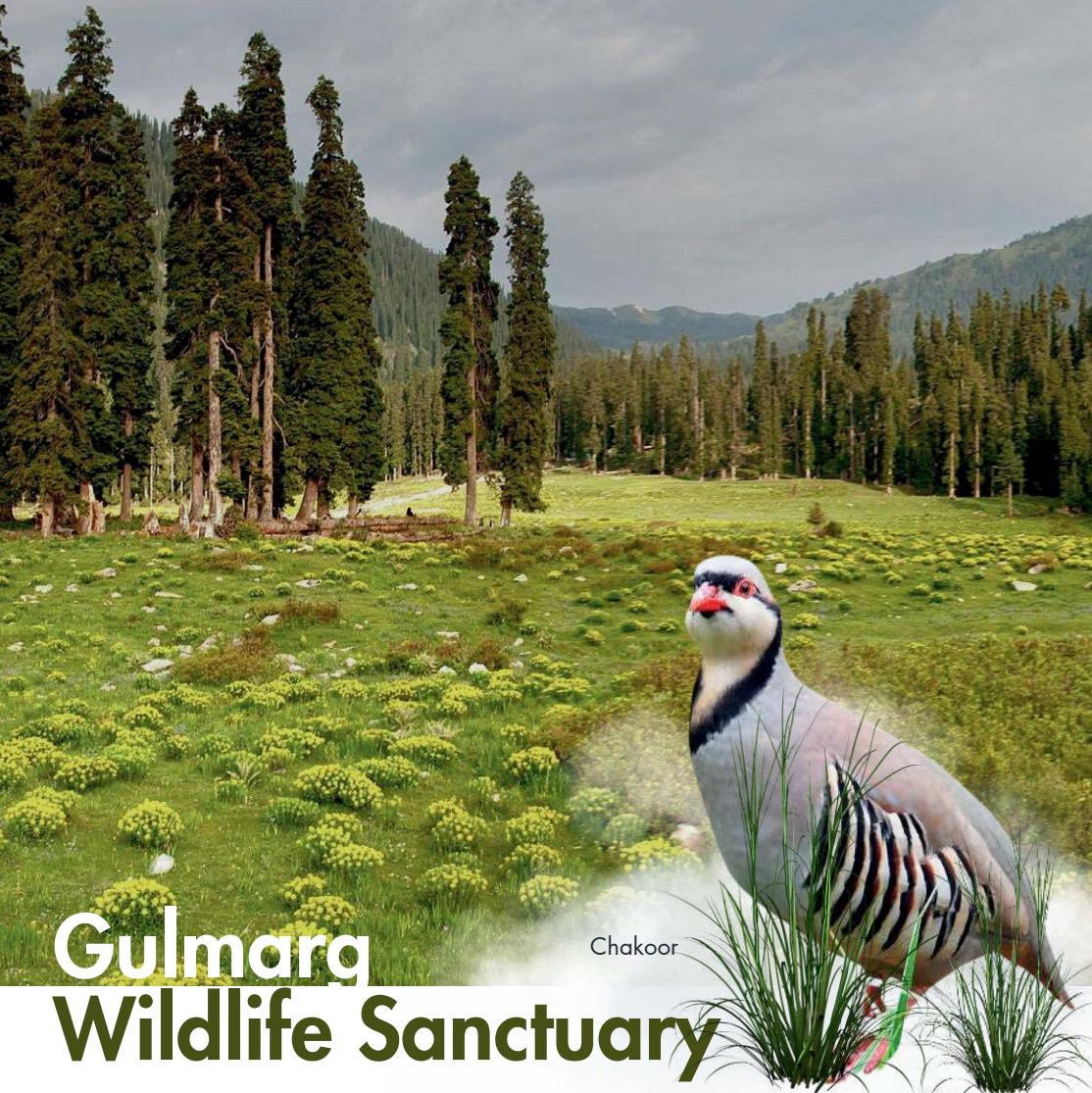


Distance from Srinagar  
**88 km**

How to reach



Proximate to Pahalgam, this sanctuary was once the game reserve of Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir. It is home to rare mammals like the Kashmiri Stag and Musk Deer, along with diverse bird species like Western Tragopans and the Himalayan Whistling Thrush. The River Lidder flows through it, while the vegetation is rich, with conifer trees covering most of the landscape.



# Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary



Area  
**180 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**59 km**

How to reach



The Gulmarg Wildlife Sanctuary, is a protected area in Gulmarg, situated on the North-eastern side of the Pir Panjal mountain range. This sanctuary harbors rich biodiversity, hosting a variety of species such as Musk Deer, Common Leopard, Barking Deer, Asiatic Black Bear, Himalayan Black Bear, Indian Wolf, Snow Cock, and Chakoor. Occasional sightings of wildlife species migrating from the lower plains, like the Barking Deer, contribute to the sanctuary's ecological dynamics.

The Tatakuti Wildlife Sanctuary in Jammu and Kashmir, India, is a consolidation of three former game reserves, incorporating additional forest compartments in the Bharam Galla, Marha, Gundi, and Mandi Blocks of Poonch Forest Division. Established in 2012, has a primary focus on safeguarding the endangered Pir Panjal Markhor. The sanctuary's creation underscores the imperative to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems in the region. The diverse wildlife at Tatakuti Wildlife Sanctuary, features species like Himalayan Monal, Golden Eagle, Himalayan Griffon Vulture, Pir Panjal Markhor, Himalayan Black Bear, Leopard and more.



Area  
**66.27 sq km**



Distance from Jammu  
**17 km**

How to reach



Pir Panjal Markhor

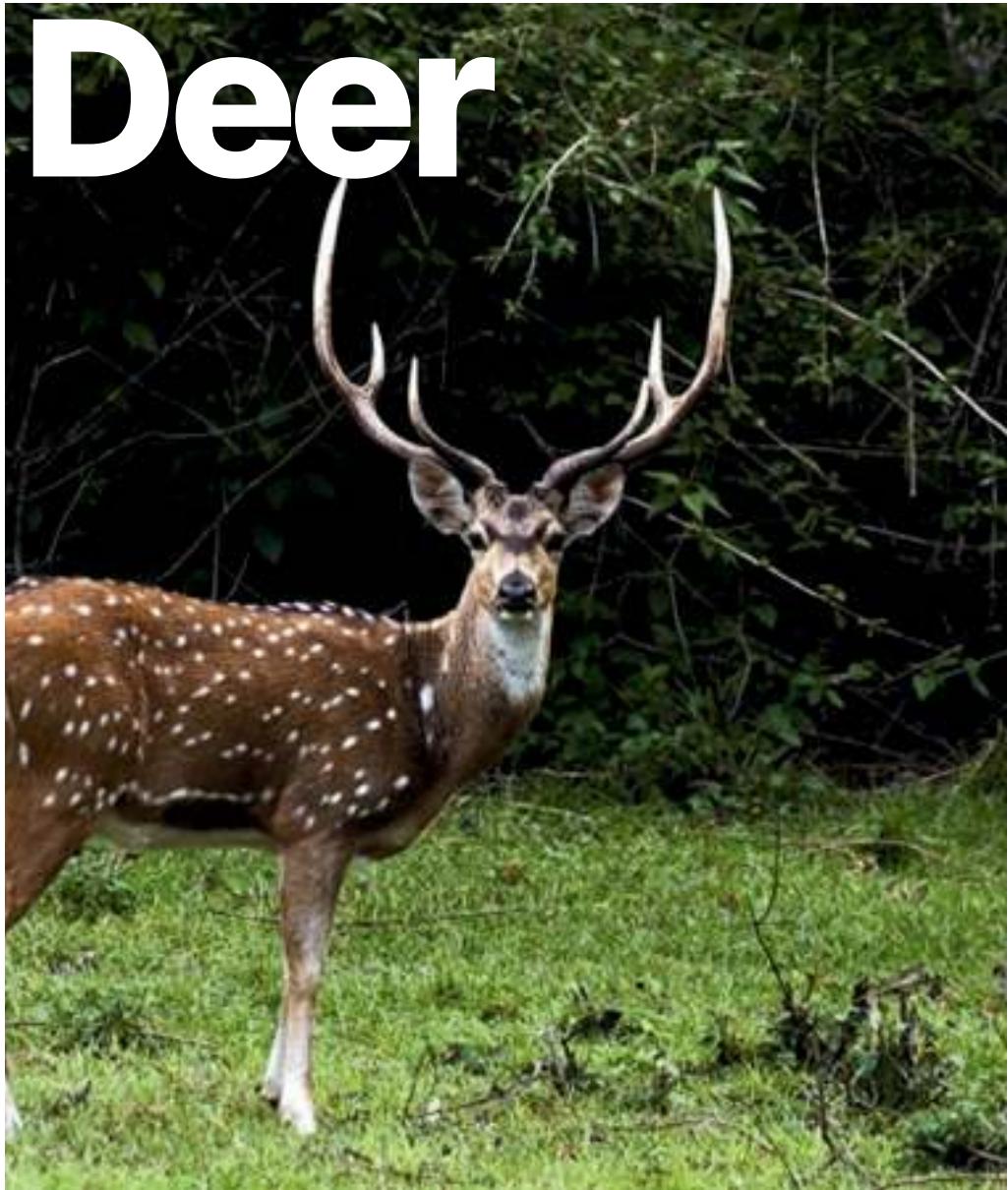


# Tata Kuti Wildlife Sanctuary



# Chital

# Deer



Chital Deer, also known as the Spotted Deer or Axis Deer (*Axis Axis*), is native to the Indian subcontinent, residing in herds of up to 100 in grasslands and forests. Identified by its reddish-brown spotted coat, it stands at 90–95 cm, with the male featuring branching antlers up to 100 cm long.

Photo : Dr Neeraj Sharma



Achabal Wildlife Sanctuary, or Achabal Conservation Reserve, is a well-known wildlife sanctuary in the Anantnag District of J&K. It is home to some of the most unique faunas – Snow Leopard, Barking Deer, Rhesus Macaque, Brown Bear, Jackal and Himalayan Marmot. The Kashmiri Stag, an endangered species and a few species of wild animals, is also found here.



Area  
**0.5 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**70 km**

How to reach



Himalayan Marmot

# Achabal Wildlife Sanctuary





# Chatlam-Fushkoori Wetland



Area  
**2.5 sq km**



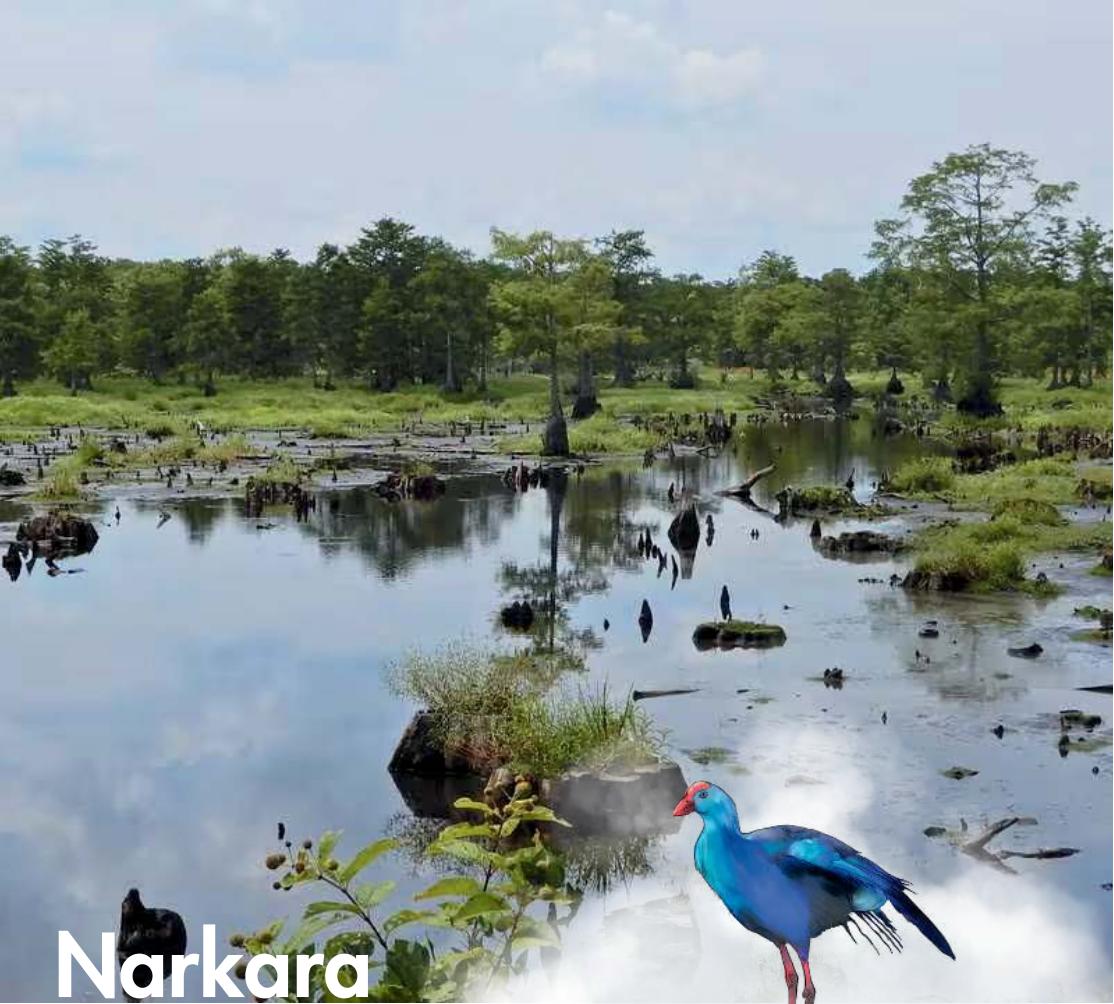
Distance from Srinagar  
**13 km**

How to reach



Mallard Duck

Situated in the Pampore area of the Kashmir Valley, Chatlam-Fushkoori wetland is a spring-fed wetland featuring elevated shores with deposits of fine-grained sand and loam. The area is a haven for migratory fowls, with breeding grounds for various water-birds such as Mallards, Common Pochards, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Common Coot, Common Moorhen, Little Grebe, Indian Pond Heron, and Grey Heron.



# Narkara Wetland



Area  
**3.25 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**12 km**

How to reach



Situated on the outer periphery of Srinagar, the Narkara wetland in Kashmir receives its water supply from the Doodhganga catchment, and is surrounded by paddy cultivation and willow plantation areas. Narkara wetland is the favorite habitat site for a number of Waterfowl species like Greylag Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Pintail, Common Teal, Mallard, Gadwal, Wigeon, Shoveller and Tufted Duck.



Swamphen



# Hokersar Wetland



Area  
**13.75 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**17 km**

How to reach



Greylag

Hokersar Wetland in Kashmir's Northwest Himalayan region, sits against the backdrop of the snow-clad Pir Panjal range at an altitude of 1,584 m. Fed by the Doodhganga River, it hosts 68 migratory bird species traveling from Leh to Siberia, including Geese, Shovelers, Pochards, Teals, Egrets, Wigeons, Coots, and Greylags.

Jammu and Kashmir's diverse geography makes it a haven for wildlife enthusiasts. The region offers rich opportunities for wildlife tourism, with Dal Lake being a prime destination for birdwatchers, featuring kingfishers perched on houseboats. The lake also attracts migratory birds like Greylag Goose, Mallard, Common Merganser, Northern Pintail, Brahminy Duck, Tufted Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, and common teal and others. Dal Lake in Kashmir is famed for Houseboats, Shikaras, and birdwatching, particularly during winter.



Area  
**4 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**22 km**

How to reach



Brahminy Duck

# Mirgund Wetland





Red-Crested Pochard

# Hygam Wetland



Area  
**14 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**46 km**

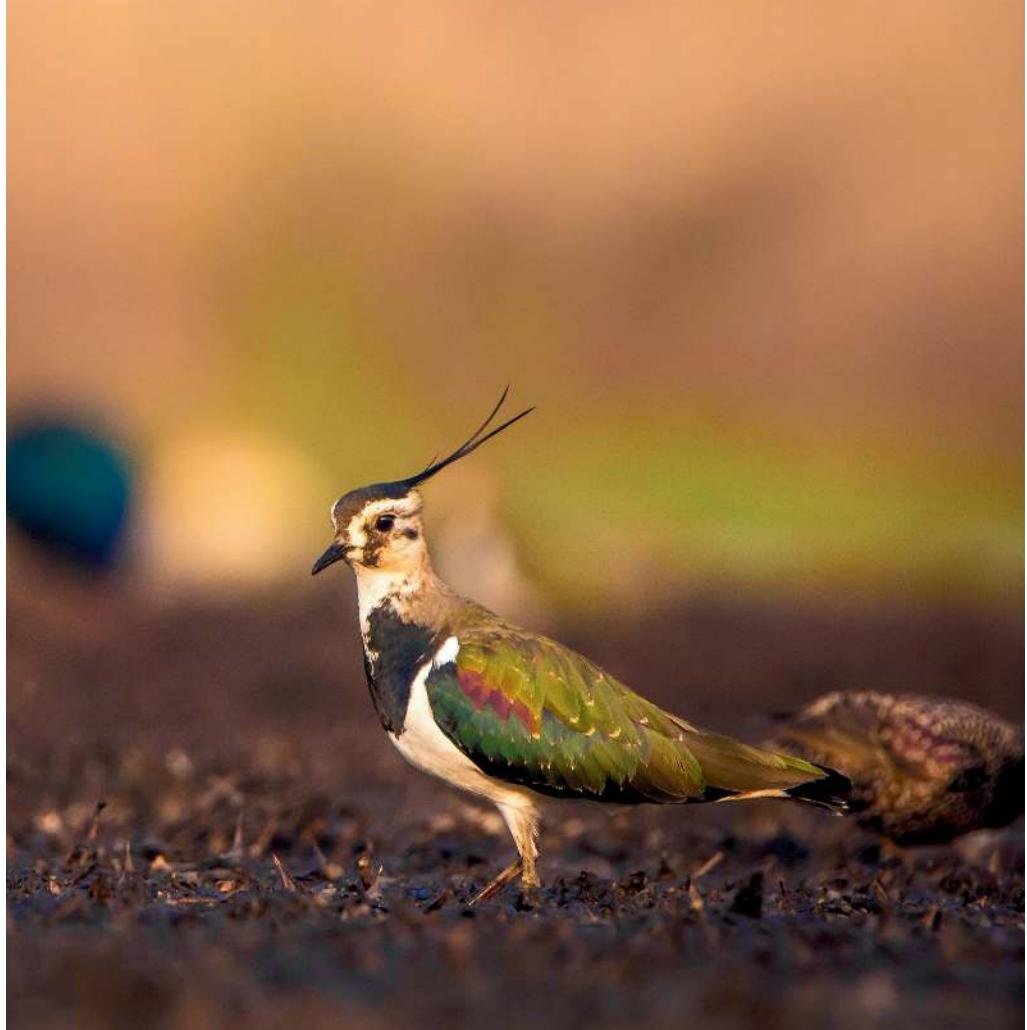
How to reach



The renowned Hygam wetland in Kashmir's Baramulla district is primarily fed by Ningle Nallah and Babakul, draining into Wular through Tarzoo.

Situated on the Jhelum River floodplains, it is a crucial habitat for Waterfowls: Geese, Shovelers, Red-Crested Pochards, White-Eyed Pochards, Common Teals, Egrets, Wigeons, Coots, And Greylags. This wetland serves as a significant wintering area for migratory ducks, especially Aincer species, with thousands recorded during migration.

# Northern Lapwing



The Northern Lapwing, a striking bird with its black and white plumage, is a winter visitor to Kashmir and is rarely sighted. Recognizable by their distinctive crests, these lapwing species are monotypic and can be found along Inner Dal Lake Road.



This expansive wetland, in the northwest of Srinagar, features riverine marshes and shallow freshwater areas along the Sind River floodplain. Fed by the Sindh River and local runoff, the wetland attracts game birds, especially during winter. With an average water depth ranging from 0.5 to 2.0 meters, it serves as a crucial staging and wintering area for migratory Amatidae, while also acting as a breeding ground for diverse Waterfowl species. It supports a vital local fishery and reed-harvesting industry, benefiting the surrounding fisherman community.



Area  
**1.50 sq km**



Distance from Srinagar  
**22 km**

How to reach



Vehicle

Bus

Train

Boat

Car

Bicycle

Foot

Bus

Train

Boat

Car

The Nandini Wildlife Sanctuary named after a nearby village was established in 1990. The wildlife park hosts numerous endangered animal and bird species seldom seen elsewhere. Some notable sightings include Porcupines, Leopards, Wild Boars, Rhesus Monkeys, Civet Cats (Two Species), and Five-striped Squirrels. The sanctuary also boasts a significant population of Pheasants, including Babblers, Indian Mynas, Great Jungle Fowls, Chakors, Indian Peafowls, and Kalij Pheasants. Observing these winged creatures in flight or perched in tree tops is a delightful treat.

# Nandini Wildlife Sanctuary



Area  
**34 sq km**

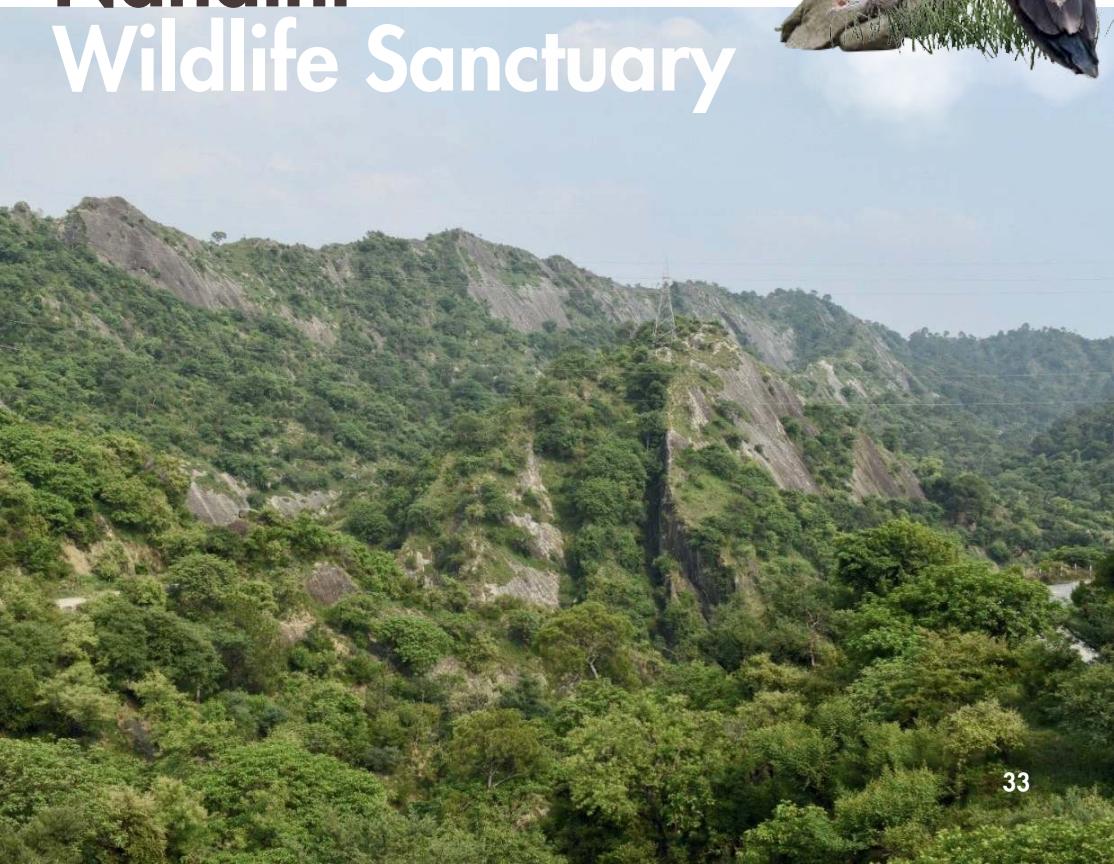


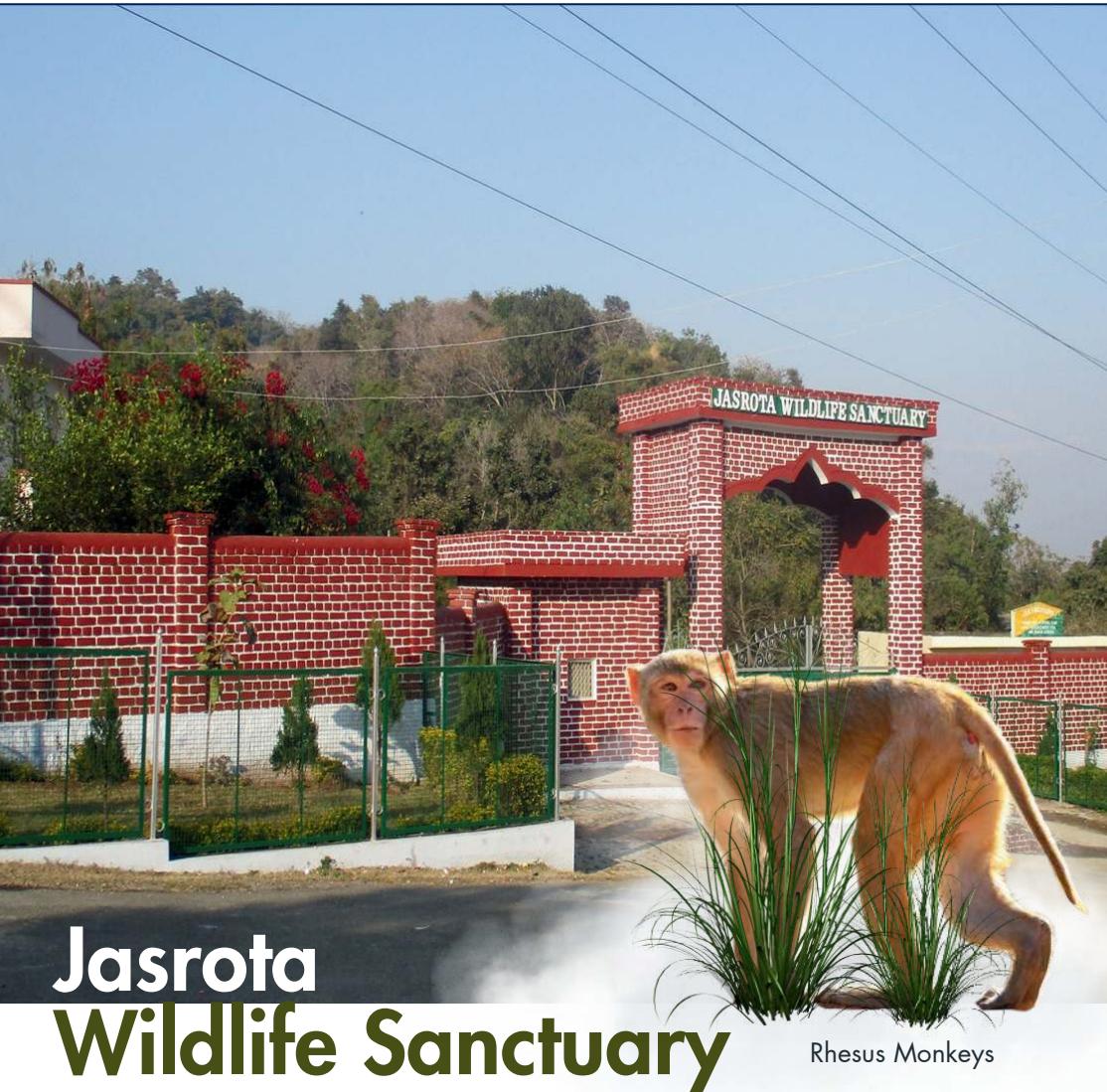
Distance from Jammu  
**28 km**

How to reach



Himalayan Vulture





# Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary

Rhesus Monkeys



Area  
**10 sq km**



Distance from Jammu  
**80 km**

## How to reach



Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary, situated along the River Ujh, derives its name from the famous Jasrota Fort, founded by Raja Jasdev of Jammu (1020-1053). Abundant in flora and fauna, the sanctuary serves as a natural habitat for diverse mammals, including Wild Boar, Rhesus Monkeys, with Chital Or Axis Deer as its focal point. It accommodates migratory birds such as Peafowl, Red Jungle Fowl, Jungle Bush Quail, Green Pigeon, And Blue Rock Pigeon.

Gharana wetland located just 500 meters from the India-Pakistan border in Jammu province, hosts around 50 species of wintering waterbirds. The Wetland was designated as a 'Conservation Reserve' by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir a decade ago and recognized as an 'Important Bird Area (IBA)' by international organizations.

# Gharana Wetland



Area  
**0.8 sq km**



Distance from Jammu  
**35 km**

How to reach



White-breasted Ibis



# Common lora



The Common lora (*Aegithina Tiphia*) is a small passerine bird characterized by a pointed and notched beak with a straight culmen. It is prevalent in the tropical Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia, including Jammu. Typically inhabiting scrub and forested areas, this species is easily recognizable by its vibrant colors and distinctive, loud whistles.





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JAMMU & KASHMIR**

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