

an Elephant. If lucky, one might also get a glimpse of the elusive Royal Bengal Tiger.

Jeep Safari: Driving in a four-wheel jeep through the jungle is another way of encountering wild animals and birds.

Canoeing: You can enjoy fabulous canoeing trip on Rapti and Narayani rivers, which is a chance to see up-close the Gharial, Marsh Muger Crocodile, Dolphin and a variety of water birds.

Bird watching: A walk through the jungle is an opportunity to watch colorful birds.

Village tour: A stroll or ride through the Tharu villages provides a glimpse of the traditional farming practices as well as the culture of the indigenous Tharu people.

Cultural night: After spending the day viewing wildlife, it's time for the traditional Tharu stick dance around a campfire in the evening.

Other things to do:

The Elephant Breeding Center at Khorsor, Sauraha gives you information on domesticated and baby Elephants being raised there. A short walk (about 1km) from the park headquarters will take you to the Gharial Breeding Center.

The Visitor Center at Sauraha provides information on the wildlife and conservation programs. The museum at Kasara, the park headquarter, has informative displays. The women's user group souvenir shop at Sauraha offers a variety of handicrafts and other local products to take back home as gifts and souvenirs.

Use of Entry Fee

30-50 percent of the park's entry fee goes directly to the Buffer Zone Communities for:

- Natural Resource Conservation and Management
- Infrastructure Development
- Community Conservation Education
- Income Generation and Skill Development

How to get the Park ?

1. Chitwan is linked by air with Kathmandu. There are also public buses, rented vehicles and tourist coaches from Kathmandu and other cities of Nepal.
2. There are 12 entrance gates to the park.
 - a. Ghatgain via Patihani
 - b. Bhimle via Meghauri
 - c. Khagendramalli via Bhandara
 - d. Sauraha via Tandi (Ratna Nagar)
 - e. Laukhani via Pragatinagar
 - f. Amaltari via Danda
 - g. Sunachuri
 - h. Bankatta via Madi
 - i. Kasara via Jagatpur
 - j. Kujauli via Rajahar
 - k. Nandabhauju
 - l. Bagai

Safety precautions

- First aid kit is recommended to carry by the visitors for their own safety.
- Visitors should be alert from the wildlife inside the core area.

Stop Pollution

- Carry out what you carry in.
- Buy only what won't pollute, or carry it out.
- Take only photographs, leave only footprints.
- Do not use the polythene/ plastic materials.

Park Regulations to follow or things to remember

- An entry fee of Rs. 2,000 (Foreigners), Rs. 1,000 (SAARC Nationals) and Rs. 150 (Nepali) visitor should be paid at designated ticket counter per person per day.
- Valid entry permits are available from the National Parks ticket counter at the Nepal Tourism Board, Bhrikuti Mandap, Kathmandu or park entrance gate at Chitwan National Park.
- The entry permit is non-refundable, non-transferable and is for a single entry only.
- Entering the park without a permit is illegal. Park personnel may ask for the permit, so visitors are requested to keep the permit with them.
- Get special permit for documentary/filming from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC).
- Documentary/filming fee of US\$ 1500 (Foreigners), Rs. 50,000 (SAARC Nationals) and Rs. 10000 (Nepali) should be paid at DNPWC. Additional 25% should be paid while using drone for documentary/filming.
- Drone (UAV) fee is same as documentary/filming fee while using it for other purposes.
- One has to pay additional fees for Elephant ride, jeep drive, camping, boating, rafting etc.
- Don't remove or damage plants and animals. All flora and fauna are fully protected and must not be disturbed.
- Rubbish must be placed out, buried or disposed off in designated areas.
- No one should walk within the park between sunset and sunrise.
- Do respect the cultural and religious sites.
- Carry out non biodegradable items such as batteries, plastic bags and bottles.
- A guide is most for jungle walk.

Wish you a very happy and memorable experience

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Background

Chitwan National Park (CNP) is situated in South-central Nepal, covering an area of 952.63 km², in the subtropical lowlands of inner Terai. In 1957, the area between Tikauli and the Mahabharat range was declared a "rhino sanctuary", which was the first step towards formal wildlife management in the country. Due to heavy deforestation and rampant poaching, there was a sharp drop in the number of wild animals during the 1950s. Given this alarming situation, a National Park to the north of Rapti River and a rhino sanctuary to the south were proposed. In 1963, the area to the south of Rapti was declared a rhino sanctuary and by April 1971, borders of the National Park was fixed by a survey team. In 1973, the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act was enacted, and Chitwan National Park was declared as the first National Park of Nepal. In 1977, the promulgated boundaries were increased from 540 km² to 932sq.km. Recognizing its outstanding universal value of unique ecosystems of international significance, UNESCO declared the park a World Heritage Site in 1984.

In 1996, an area of 750 km² surrounding the park was declared as a buffer zone, consisting of forests and private lands. According to 17 October 2016 Gazette of Nepal, the area of Chitwan National Park and its Buffer zone has become 952.63 km² and 729.37 km² respectively. The park and the local people jointly initiate community development and conservation activities and manage the natural resources in the buffer zone. National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973 has made a provision of ploughing back 30-50 % of the park's revenue into community development and conservation of the buffer zone. Bishajari and associated lakes in the buffer zone of the CNP were declared as a wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention in 2003.

CNP is situated in the southern part of Chitwan district, and it shares eastern boundary with Parsa National Park and southern boundary with Balmiki Tiger Reserve of India. The park has a variety of ecosystems, including the Churia hills, ox-bow lakes and the flood plains of Rapti, Reu and Narayani rivers. The Churia hills rise slowly towards the east from 150m to more than 800m. The western portion of the park comprises lower but more rugged Shomeshwor hills. Following the river systems, the park has a unique relations between upstream forest conservation and downstream wildlife conservation.

Major Flora and Fauna

The Chitwan Valley consists of tropical and subtropical forests with mostly Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forests covering about 80% of the area while grasslands cover about 12%. There are more than 68 different types of grasses, including the Elephant grass (*Saccharum spp.*), which grows upto a height of 8m. The park is home to more than 68 species of mammals, 55 species of amphibians and reptiles, 546 species of birds and



120 species of fish. The endangered fauna found in the park include One-horned Rhinoceros, Gaur Bison, Royal Bengal Tiger, Asian Wild Elephant, Four-horned Antelope, Pangolin, Golden Monitor Lizard, Python, Bengal Florican, Lesser Florican, Gaint Hornbill, Black Stork and White Stork.

Fact Sheet

Chitwan National Park and Buffer Zone	
National park declared year	1973 A D
National park area	952.63 km ²
Location	Central Nepal (Chitwan, Bardaghat/Susta purba Nawalparasi, Makwanpur and Parsa districts), Province 2,3 & 4
World Heritage Site listed	1984 (Natural Site)
Ramsar site declaration	2003 (Bishajari and associated lakes)
Bioclimatic zone	Sub-tropical
Elevation	140-800m from msl
Major geophysical characteristics	Churia, Bhabar, Chitwan Valley
Major Lakes	Tamor Tal, Lami Tal and Devi Tal
Major Rivers	Narayani, Rapti and Reu
Main mammals	Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, Royal Bengal Tiger, Gaur Bison, Sloth Bear, Asian Wild Elephant
Main birds	Bengal Florican, Lesser Florican, Giant Hornbill
Main reptiles	Asian Rock Python, Gharial Crocodile, Golden Monitor Lizard
Major tourist destinations	Sauraha, Madi Valley, Kasara, Laukhani, Khagendramalli, Padampur, Amaltari, Balmiki Ashram, Sunachuri, Meghauri
Buffer zone declared	1996 A D
Buffer zone area	729.37 km ²
Districts	Chitwan, Bardaghat/Susta purba Nawalparasi, Makwanpur and Parsa (Province 2,3 & 4)
Metropolitan	1 (Bharatpur)
Municipalities	8 (Rapti, Khairhani, Ratnanagar, Madi, Gaidakot, Devichuli, Kawasoti and Madhyabindu
Rural Municipalities	Nirmal-Thori, Binaya-Triveni and Manahari
Population	223,260
Major caste groups	Tharu, Brahmin, Chhetri, Kumal, Gurung, Bote, Tamang
Economy	Agriculture, Poultry farming, Animal husbandry, Tourism, Service, Foreign employment, Micro-enterprises/business.

Wildlife Species in Figures: Number and Status

Species	Nepal	CNP
Fishes	232	120
Amphibians	117	55
Birds	886	546
Mammals	212	68
Greater One-horned Rhinoceros	645	605
Royal bengal Tiger	235	93
Gaur Bison	349	321
Gharial Crocodile	198	166

Major attractions

- World Heritage site (Natural site).
- Second largest population of Greater One-horned Rhinoceros in the world.
- One of the National Parks in the world having more than 93 tigers in the same habitat
- Home to Gaur Bison, Gharial Crocodile, more than 6% of the world's bird species.
- Ramsar site (Bishajari Lake), Wetlands of international importance.
- Elephant, Gharial Crocodile and Vulture Breeding Center.
- Churia Hills and Madi Valley
- Tharu culture



Best Season

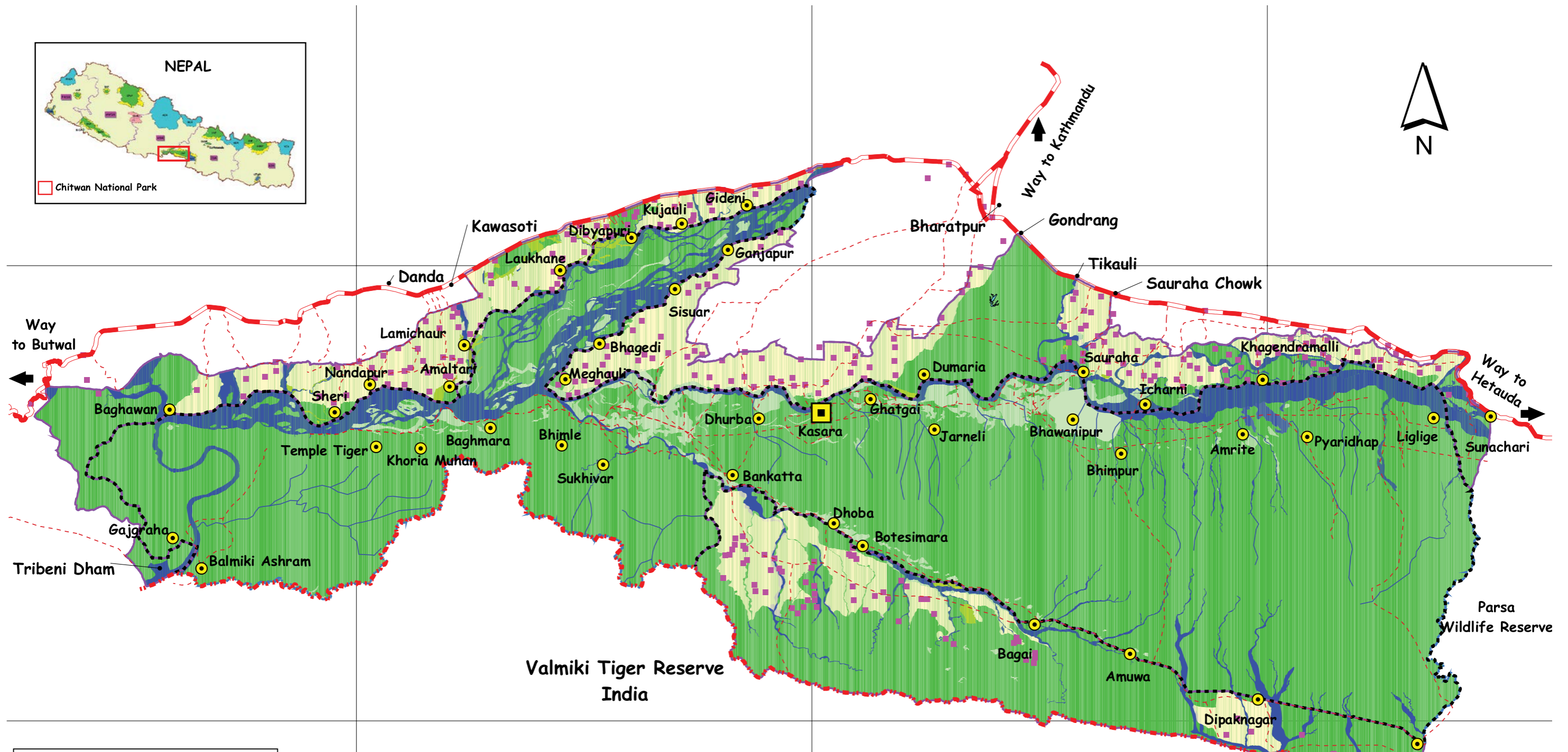
There is good visibility after the winter season for wildlife sighting. Between September & November and February & April, migratory birds join the residential ones and create spectacular bird watching opportunities. While the monsoon rains bring lush vegetation, most trees flower in late winter. The palash tree, known as the "flame of the forest", and silk cotton tree have spectacular crimson flowers, which are visible miles away.

Accommodation and other facilities

There are resorts, hotels and lodges outside the park that offer modern amenities.

Elephant Safari: An Elephant safari is a perfect opportunity to get a closer view of the endangered One-horned Rhinoceros from the top of

CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK (CNP) AND BUFFER ZONE



LEGEND

Park Headquarter	Road Network
Other Posts	Highway
Settlements	Other Roads
International Boundary	Landuse Class
Park Boundary	Forest Land
Buffer Zone Boundary	Bush/Shrub Land
River System	Grass Land
	Cultivated Land
	Pond/Lake
	Sandy Area
	Waterbodies

