



Things to do

During winter, many of the migratory birds can be seen on the Koshi Barrage and on the river channel. Migration usually peaks around mid-March. Much wildlife visits these areas during dusk and dawn. Visitors can arrange elephant ride from reserve headquarters. Boating, Rafting, fishing (only by using fishing rod) and elephant riding are the major recreational activities allowed in this reserve. Revenue charge for different recreational activities is as follows:

S.N.	Particulars	For Nepali (NRs.)	SAARC country (NRs.)	Foreigners (NRs.)
1.	Camping	300	750	1500/person/night
2.	Rafting	200	1600	4000/person/trip
3.	Boating	300	3000	4000/person/trip
4.	Fishing	300	1500	3000/person/day

How to get there

The reserve can be reached both by air and land routes. Visitors travelling by buses need to get off just before Laukahi at Jamuwa canal (marked by a signboard) of East-West Highway after passing the Koshi barrage and travel on foot or rickshaw 3.1 km north to reach the reserve headquarters. The nearest airport is located at Biratnagar where a number of domestic airlines operate several flights daily linking Kathmandu. From Biratnagar, the reserve headquarters is located 57 km west by road.

Access to the reserve is affected to a considerable extent by seasons. The western part of the reserve can be reached from eastern part either by boat on Koshi River or by crossing the Koshi Barrage on the East-West High Way. It is difficult to visit some areas of the Reserve during the monsoon period. The Trijuga and Mariyadhar rivers can be crossed by vehicle only 3-4 months in winter. Thus, some settlements of Buffer Zone located on the western side of the reserve are not easily accessible during the monsoon season.

Stop Pollution

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

Reserve regulations to follow or things to remember

- An entry fee of Rs. 1,500 (Foreigners), Rs. 750 (SAARC Nationals) and Rs. 100 (Nepali) visitor should be paid at designated ticket counter per person per day.
- Valid entry permits are available at reserve entrance gate of KTWR.
- 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\$ 1,500 (Foreigners), Rs. 50,000 (SAARC Nationals) and Rs. 10,000 (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 reserve 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 must for jungle walk.

Wish you a very happy and memorable experience

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KOSHI TAPPU WILDLIFE RESERVE

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Background

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR) was established in 1976 to conserve the last remaining population of Wild Water Buffalo (Bubalus arnee), locally known as Arna. It lies on the floodplain of Sapta Koshi river incorporating Sunsari, Saptari and Udayapur districts of eastern Terai region. It is the only wildlife reserve in Nepal covering an area of 175 km². The eastern and western afflux bunds of the Sapta Koshi River define the area of the reserve. Koshi Tappu was declared as first Ramsar site of Nepal in December 17, 1987 to achieve conservation and sustainable use of its wetlands.

In 2004, an area of 173 km² surrounding the reserve (4 municipalities and 1 rural municipalities of Sunsari, Saptari and Udaypur districts) was declared as buffer zone. The reserve management and local people jointly initiated community development, conservation activities and manage the natural resources in the buffer zone. The National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 has made a provision of allocating 30-50 percent of the reserve's revenue for the community development and conservation of the buffer zone.



Major Flora and Fauna

The existing vegetation consists of diverse physiognomic types such as submerged and floating aquatic plants, tall reed stands, seasonally flooded grassland/ savannah and structurally complex forest communities in various conditions of spatial arrangements. Among 514 species of plants, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Bombyx ceiba*, *Saccharum* spp, *Phragmites* spp., *Typha* spp., *Imperata* spp., *Valisneria* spp., *Eichornia* spp., *Hydrilla* spp., *Azolla* spp., *Nelumbo* spp. are common species found in the wetlands. Six species of plants found in this area, *Rauwolfia serpentina*, *Alstonia scholaris*, *Oroxylum indicum*, *Acacia catechu*, *Butea monosperma* and *Dalbergia latifolia*, are listed in the different threatened categories and appendices of IUCN and CITES respectively.

Bubalus Arnee (Wild Water Buffalo, locally called Arna), *Elephas maximus* (Asian Wild Elephant), and *Platanista gangetica* (Dolphin) are the main protected species of KTWR. The Wild Water Buffalo, prominent species of KTWR, has increased from 63 in 1976 to 441 in 2018. Among other mammals, the Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*),

Spotted Deer (*Axis axis*), Fishing Cat (*Felis viverrina*), Jungle Cat (*F. chaus*), Indian Fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*) and the Jackal (*Canis aureus*) are common. Among 527 species of birds, notable birds recorded in the site include *Gallicrex cinerea*, *Caprimulgus asiaticus*, *Bubo coromandus*, *Coracina melanoptera*, *Saxicola leucura* and *Megalurus palustris*. *Rufous vented prinia* (*Prinia burnesii nepalensis*) is the bird that is recorded only with in the boundry of KTWR. It is the area in Nepal where Water Cock, (*Gallicrex cinerea*) and Abbott's babbler are found. Out of these 526 species of birds, 12 species are globally threatened and 101 species are nationally threatened.

Fact Sheet

Koshi-Tappu Wildlife Reserve and its Buffer Zone	
Declared year	1976 AD
Wildlife reserve area	175 km ²
Location	86°55'15" – 87°05'02" E and 26°33'57" - 26°43'40 N (Sunsari, Saptari and Udayapur districts of Province No. 1&2)
Climate	Tropical monsoon climate
Physiographic region	Terai
Biogeographical realm	Indo-Malayan
Elevation	75m - 81m above mean sea level
Major Lakes	Sundaha, Pupaltal, Rudhratal
Major Rivers	Sapta-koshi
Buffer zone declared year	2004
Buffer zone area	173 km ²
Ramsar site declared	17 th December 1987 (First Ramsar site of Nepal)
Main Mammals	<i>Bubalus arnee</i> , <i>Elephas maximus</i> , <i>Platanista gangetica</i> <i>Sus scrofa</i> , <i>Axis porcinus</i> , <i>Axis axis</i> , <i>Felis viverrina</i> , <i>F. chaus</i> , <i>Vulpes bengalensis</i> and <i>Canis aureus</i>
Main birds	<i>Ciconia nigra</i> , <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> , <i>Houbaropsis bengalensis</i> , <i>Sypheotides indica</i> , <i>Gallicrex cinerea</i> , <i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i> , <i>Bubo coromandus</i> , <i>Coracina melanoptera</i> , <i>Saxicola leucura</i> <i>Megalurus palustris</i> and <i>Gallicrex cinerea</i> etc.
Major tree species	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> , <i>Bombax ceiba</i> , <i>Acacia catechu</i> , <i>Butea monosperma</i> and <i>Dalbergia latifolia</i> etc.
Municipalities	5 (Baraha Kshetra, Hanumannagar Kankalani, Kanchanpur, Saptakoshi and Belka)
Rural Munucipality	1 (Koshi)
Buffer Zone user committees	9 UCs
Population	84,423
Major castes	Tharu, Yadhav, Muslim, Shah, Malaha, Mushar, Brahman and Chhetri etc.
Economy	Agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery, labour and trade

Major Attractions

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve is one of the important tourist destinations in Nepal where migratory and resident birds can be seen at the barrage and on the main river channel and different ox-bow lakes. Several

Himalayan peaks including Mount Makalu (8,475 m) the world's fifth highest mountain, can be seen during the period of cooler clear weather. 'Barah Chhetra' the religious site of national importance, is located at the northern side of the Reserve and Chandra Nahar oldest canal of Nepal having historical importance located at Phattempur, west of Sapta Koshi River. Other tourist attractions include rafting and sightseeing of Gangetic River dolphins. The reserve is important for social and religious purposes, used for the holy bath during *Chhat* Festival (worship God in winter using Sun as a symbol) and also for cremation of dead bodies. It is a popular picnic spot.



Accommodation

Number of hotels with tented camps are available around the reserve headquarter and Madhuban area in Koshi Rural Municipality and Baraha Kshetra Municipality. Some other normal hotels are also available at Prakashpur and Rajabas area in Sunsari district, Kanchanpur area and Fattepur area in Saptari district and Bhagalpur in Udaypur district. Number of home stay services is available in Sunsari, Saptari and Udaypur districts.

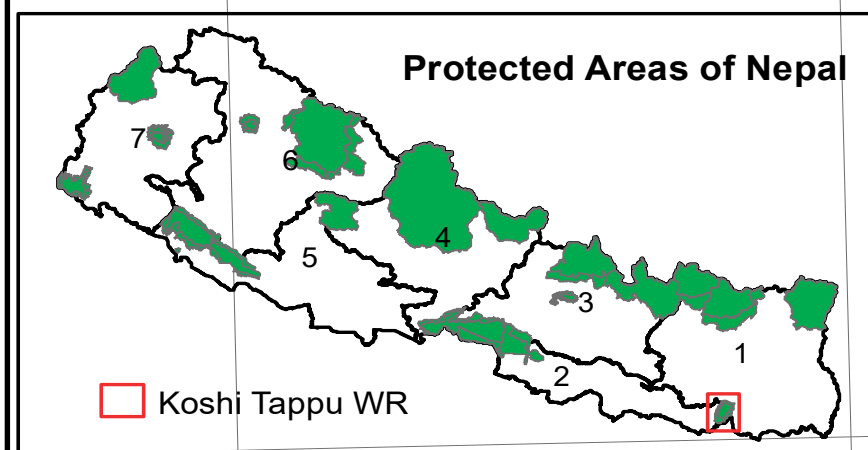
Best season

The reserve experiences three distinct seasons, summer (February-May) is intensely hot with minimum precipitation. Maximum temperature can reach up to 40°C. The monsoon starts in late May/early June and lasts until September bringing heavy frequent rainfalls. Heavy rainfall is mainly during July but high humidity and temperatures are experienced throughout the season. Winter (October-January) is characterized by clear skies and moderate temperatures, but can still get quite cold. During September to February national and international tourists visit to see migratory birds. Especially during this period, bird lovers can enjoy many migratory birds.

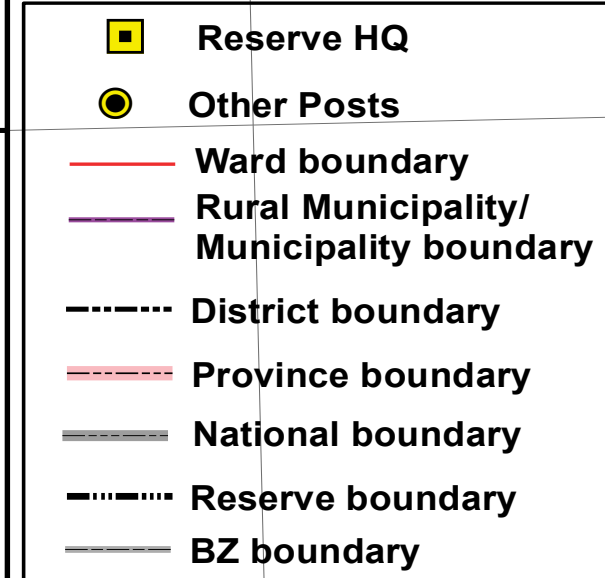


Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (KTWR) and its Buffer Zone

Location and Landcover



LEGEND



Landcover classes

