



Crocodile Breeding Centre

Pipli Zoo

Nestled along National Highway 44, just 10 km from the holy city of Kurukshetra, Pipli Zoo is a compact yet significant wildlife park managed by the Haryana Forest & Wildlife Department. Easily accessible from Chandigarh (90 km) and Delhi (160 km), it serves as an ideal destination for families, tourists, and wildlife enthusiasts.

Pipli Zoo plays an important role in wildlife education, awareness, and conservation. Spread over a modest area, the zoo houses a variety of animal species including Asiatic lion, leopard, black buck, nilgai, hyena, porcupine, and various birds, offering visitors a chance to observe India's native wildlife up close. It also serves as a green lung for the region and contributes to ecological balance by promoting biodiversity.

With its strategic location near the historic and cultural attractions of Kurukshetra, Pipli Zoo is not just a recreational site—it's a gateway to nature and a center for learning about wildlife conservation.

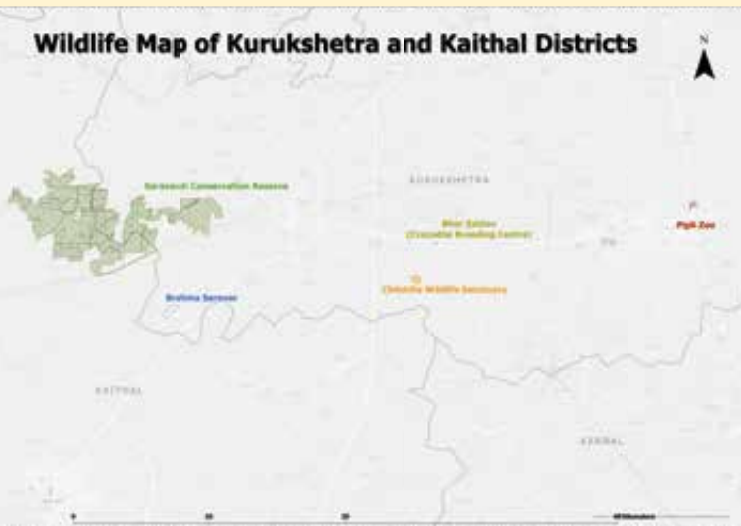


WILDLIFE IN KURUSHETRA, HARYANA - AT A GLANCE



KURUKSHETRA

A region steeped in history and mythology, is also home to a number of important wildlife habitats and reserves that showcase a surprising diversity of flora and fauna. These sites play a crucial role in conservation efforts and offer unique opportunities for nature lovers and birdwatchers.



Chhilchhila Wildlife Sanctuary

Located in the Kurukshetra district, the Chhilchhila Wildlife Sanctuary, also known as Chhilchhila Lake, is a vital haven for both resident and migratory birds. Notified as a wildlife sanctuary in 1986, this 22-hectare wetland serves as a critical stopover for a variety of threatened and near-threatened species. It is located at a distance of 22 km from Kurukshetra city and 14 km from Pehowa city.

The sanctuary's diverse habitats—a lake, marshy areas, and surrounding vegetation—support a rich tapestry of flora and fauna. During the winter months, it becomes a bustling hub for migratory ducks, geese, and waders like the Northern Shoveler and Common Coot. It also provides a crucial breeding ground for local birds, including the increasingly rare Painted Stork and Sarus Crane. With its serene environment and abundance of trees like Peepal, Banyan, and Kikar, Chhilchhila is an ideal destination for birdwatchers and nature lovers, offering a glimpse into the region's vibrant biodiversity.



Saraswati Conservation Reserve

The Saraswati Conservation Reserve, also known as Seonsar Forest, is a sprawling 4,452.85-hectare sanctuary in the Kaithal district of Haryana. As the third-largest forest in the state, it holds immense ecological and cultural importance. Officially declared a Conservation Reserve in 2007, the area is dedicated to both wildlife preservation and the sustainable management of its natural resources.

This reserve is a haven for diverse flora and fauna, serving as a critical habitat for species like hog deer, spotted deer, wild boar, nilgai, owls, monkeys, and snakes. Birdwatchers will be delighted by the wide variety of avian species, including owls and other resident birds. The sanctuary's significance is heightened by its association with the mythical Saraswati River and possible archaeological remains, and plays a key role in environmental education and research. It's an ideal destination for nature enthusiasts seeking to explore Haryana's rich biodiversity and historical heritage.



Braham Sarovar Community Reserve

Declared a Community Reserve on 19 July 2017, Brahma Sarovar Community Reserve spans 89.368 acres in Thana village, Pehowa, Kurukshetra. Known for its ecological, cultural, and religious significance, the reserve is an

important sanctuary for tortoises and a winter haven for over 120 species of migratory birds, including Common Shelduck, Red-crested Pochard, Woolly-necked Stork, and Lesser Whistling Duck.

Part of the sacred 48 Kos circuit of Kurukshetra, this is the very site where Lord Krishna delivered the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. Archaeological findings affirm its status as the original Brahma Sarovar mentioned in ancient texts.

The site is also rich in flora, including rare Khejari and Jal trees, and holds deep spiritual value for locals who believe the waters have healing properties. Combining biodiversity, heritage, and faith, Brahma Sarovar Community Reserve is a unique destination for pilgrims, bird watchers, and nature lovers alike.



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Situated just 22 km from Kurukshetra, the Bhor Saidan Crocodile Farm in the Bhor Saidan village that sits on an ancient archaeological mound once believed to be on the banks of the mythical Saraswati River. The presence of crocodiles in this area is believed to be long-standing, with a popular belief that a local priest of the nearby Bhureeshwar Temple brought a pair of crocodile hatchlings and released them into the temple pond in the 1930s. This act cemented the link between the sacred waters, the temple, and the presence of the crocodiles, which led to the establishment of the modern crocodile breeding center in 1982 by the Haryana Forest Department. Since then, the center has successfully implemented a breeding program, increasing the population to 43 crocodiles. Visitors can witness these incredible reptiles in a near-natural environment.