

Sunderbans – West Bengal

The Sunderbans, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a Biosphere Reserve is the land of boundless beauty, stunning scenery and splendid landscapes. It gets its name from the Sundari or mangrove trees that grow there in abundance.

A natural region part in Southern Bangladesh and part in West Bengal, the Sunderbans is the largest mangrove ecosystem in the world and also the largest reserve for one of India's most iconic wildlife species – the majestic and elusive Royal Bengal tiger.

It is also part of the world's largest delta formed by the confluence of the three prominent rivers – the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. The interconnected network of waterways makes almost every part of the forest accessible by boat or rafts, making this one of the most attractive and alluring places on earth, an undiscovered paradise and also a contender in the top 10 finalists for the "new7wonders of the world".

The nearest airport is Kolkata airport and Howrah is the nearest railway station.



ACTIVITIES



- Game cruises:** Spot the rare species of animals and birds in their natural habitat. Unlike other Safaris in India and elsewhere in the world, the Sunderbans gaming experience is unique in that here you spot the fauna while cruising through tiny creeks and estuaries instead of in jeeps or elephant back. As you enter the wilderness of the Sunderbans, you will most likely see crocodiles, spotted deer, gigantic dolphins, wild bear, water monitors, marine turtles, red hermit crabs and if you are lucky – the prime attraction – the Royal Bengal tiger.
- Bird Watching:** Sunderbans is a bird watchers paradise. Unlike conventional bird watching, here you observe the birds from the water. The dark depths of the mangroves hide some of the most sought after birds in the world – Swamp Partridge, Brown-winged Kingfisher, Grey Headed Lapwing, Pallas's Fish Eagle and Mangrove Whistler, among others.
- Bhagabatpur Crocodile Breeding Centre is famous for having a hatchery of the largest estuarine crocodiles in the world that are artificially hatched and reared here.
- Catch an aerial glimpse of the wildlife in all its glory from one of the watchtowers - Sajnekhali Watch Tower, Sudhanyakhali Watch Tower, the Watch Tower at Dobanki, Netidhopani, Burirdabri, Bonie Camp and Jhingakhali
- Enjoy the Mudflats, a unique attraction to experience outside the national park. The mudflat at Chargheri Char resembles a beach during low tide, where you can frolic in the water and even take a mud bath. If you are fortunate enough, you may encounter a small octopus, sea anemone, the endangered horse shoe crab and other fish species.
- River Cruises: The rivers are the lifeline of the entire delta area and the main way to get around and spot life across the region. The river cruise is one of the key attractions which navigates through lush green forests, diverse wildlife and the culture of the local people. In addition, a manually oared country boat ride through the creeks and canals is also a unique experience to enjoy.
- Enjoy the infotainment by the local villagers and partake in a walking tour across the villages to visit houses and learn about the culture, food and livelihood.



ACCOMMODATION



TORA Eco Resort is a unique village tourism project and eco resort that offers charming ethnic cottages amidst lush green paddy fields and a fishing pond overlooking the sanctuary. Another option is Tiger Camp Resort that is designed with a focus on comfort, art and relevance to the local culture and history.

