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## Bardia National Park

Bardia National Park is located in Mid-Western Nepal and stretches from the Karnali Flood Plain, the Babai River Valley to the Siwalki Range, with its highest peak (Sukarmala) at 1441 metres. Bardia is best known for its chances to spot the rare Bengal Tiger.

### Practical:

Size: 968 Km<sup>2</sup>

Established: 1988

Best Season: October - March

Park Main Entrance: Thakurdwara, Bardia

Location: South-West Nepal



### Climate

Bardia is located in the subtropical Terai region and one can distinguish three seasons: October till the start of April enjoy mild day temperatures and cool nights. The chance of rain is rare. From April to June the temperature soars to a maximum day time temperature of 45 degrees and the chance of rain increases. From June till September the Monsoon rains come in.

### Flora and Fauna

Bardia consists of three main forests, in the lowland we find the Sal forest, in the riverine zones the Khair-Sissoo and in the Siwaliks the Chir Pine-Oak. Of all 173 tree species the Sal is the dominant one.

In total there are 642 species living in the park. From those 59 species are mammals, 407 species are birds, 52 species are amphibians/reptiles and 124 species of fish. Examples of fauna to be found in Bardia: Bengal Tiger, One-Horned Rhinoceros, Black Buck, Gangetic Dolphins, Gharials, Pythons, Bengal Florican, Lesser Florican and the Sarus Crane.

During September, November, February and April, large groups of migratory birds visit Bardia, giving the perfect opportunity to enjoy the large amount of birds by birdwatchers.

Best chance to view wildlife in general is during January, when the annual grass-cutting season commences.

### Areas of Interest

One of the best known sections of the Park is the Karnali River and surroundings. The Karnali River is home to the critically endangered Gangetic Dolphin, Soft-Shelled Turtles and Mahseer Fish. A fantastic point to view the Karnali river is from the Chisapani suspension bridge, where the Karnali River comes out of the gorge and spreads in to the wide and calm flowing Karnali River inside Bardia National Park. The Karnali River is also popular for rafting.



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Another popular riverine part is the Babai Valley and the Babai River where cultivated land flows into wildlife habitats. The Babai River lends itself for fishing and rafting.

The main centre and head quarters of the park are located in Thakurdwara. In the head quarters one can visit the Information Centre, Wildlife Museum and Tharu Ethnographic museum. The headquarters also house an Elephant stable, where one can occasionally observe wild elephants approaching during feeding time. Another place of interest is the Turtle and Crocodile Breeding Centre.

The 328km<sup>2</sup> buffer zone surrounding the national park is an example of active community involvement. Local communities are involved in maintaining the forest, irrigation channel and biogas projects, school eco clubs and generate income from tourism through cultural performances and festivals.

To the south-east (15 kilometres) of Bardia National Park, one can find the Black Buck Sanctuary home to over 100 black bucks living in their natural environment.

### Activities

With assistance from your hotel or us, you can undertake many activities in Bardia. Filling up 3-4 days will not be a challenge at all. In Bardia you can take an Elephant or Jeep Safari, Enjoy Bird Watching, Make a jungle trekking, raft down the Karnali River, etc. Whatever your preferences, there will be an activity of choice available to you.



### Access

From Kathmandu there is a daily bus service to Nepalgunj. This challenging road trip will take up to 15 hours. From Nepalgunj there is a bus service to Thakurdwara, however the busses run just a couple of times per day. A quicker and easier way is to take a one hour flight from Kathmandu to Nepalgunj and take a jeep to Bardia from there. In this way you can reach Bardia in about three hours from Kathmandu.

### Facilities

There are several hotels and resorts, all located within the Bardia Eco-Village. The hotels cater different accommodation styles, from basic to luxury. The hotels also function as restaurants and activity organisers. They can help you to organise activities such as transport, nature walks, elephant and jeep safaris, bird watching, camping trek, etc. Around the park head quarters there are few shops and basic health care facilities. If you need any help organising your hotel or activities in Bardia, please contact us.

### Park Information

Bardia National Park Office  
Thakurdwara, Bardia  
Tel: +977 (84) 429712



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