

Wild Life Sanctuaries

⚡ **Trending**

# Mhadei Sanctuary Directions, Timings, Wildtrails & More



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Goa, well known for its nightlife, has a lot more in store than [beaches](#). Right from panthers to Indian venomous snakes, Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary manages to safe haven nearly every common and rare species. One of the unexplored sights of India, this location is set up to protect and preserve wildlife.

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This sanctuary is known for the recent spotting of Bengal tigers within its grounds. There is a proposal to make it into 'Project Tiger', a tiger reserve. It is one of the best places to try and spot tigers in the State.

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In addition to the vast number of animals and plants that it houses, other activities are popular here, especially during the monsoon season. These include hiking and white water rafting.



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### How to Go To Mhadei Sanctuary

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## When to Go To Mhadei Sanctuary

Like most of the other sanctuaries in Goa, the Mhadei sanctuary too is equipped to deal with overnight visitors, with rest houses and private resorts nearby. One can arrange guided tours, treks and hikes within the sanctuary. Although it is most visited from October till March, the monsoons are also a great time of year to visit.

## History of Mhadei Sanctuary

This sanctuary was formed very recently. Its official declaration as a wildlife reserve came in 1999. The formation of this sanctuary has made Goa the only state in all of India that has completely protected the Western Ghats located within its boundaries. The Western Ghats are known for their extremely high level of biodiversity both in terms of flora and fauna.



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## Flora

The area of the sanctuary is thickly forested with moist

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There are also over a thousand species of flowering plants that are found here including rare and endemic orchids.

### **Fauna**

A number of animals can be seen within the sanctuary. Some of these rarely, whilst others are commonly seen. The animals that you can commonly expect to see especially if you have a guide who can show you the best places, are; Indian gaur, Barking deer, Sambar deer, Asian palm civet, small Indian civet, Wild boar, Indian hare, Ruddy mongoose, Black-faced langur and Bonnet macaque.

The residents of the sanctuary that are seen more rarely include the Black Panther, Sloth bear, Leopard, Tiger, Dhole, Jungle cat, Mouse deer, Giant squirrel, Flying squirrel, Indian pangolin and the Slender loris which is an endangered species. The camp is also home to more than 255 species of birds; 53 of which show direct signs of breeding here. It has been declared an International Bird Area because of the presence of the Nilgiri wood-pigeon, Malabar parakeet, Malabar grey hornbill, Grey-headed bulbul, Rufous babbler, White-bellied blue-flycatcher and Crimson-backed sunbird.

The sanctuary is a huge attraction for herpetologists since it contains a large variety of snakes including all of the 'big four' of Indian venomous snakes which are Indian krait, Russell's viper, Saw-scaled viper and Spectacled cobra. Additionally keen observers might encounter the Banded kukri snake, Banded racer, Beddome's keelback, Black

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snake, Indian rock python, King cobra, Malabar pit viper, Monocled cobra, Ocellated shield tail, Ornate flying snake, Red sand boa, Sri Lankan cat snake, Streaked Kukri snake, Striped keelback, Travancore wolf snake, Tree snake, Whitaker's sand boa and the Yellow-spotted wolf snake. The Mhadei wildlife sanctuary is also home to a number of amphibians including the endangered Marbled ramanella, the vulnerable Maharashtra bush frog, Beddome's leaping frog (Beddome's Indian frog) and Malabar gliding frog. There are also a number of endangered caecilians (legless amphibians) most notably Nadkarni's caecilian, the Mhadei caecilian and the Goa caecilian.

There have also been sightings of a record number of butterfly species within the wildlife park. Of the 330 known to reside in the Western Ghats, 257 have been spotted within the sanctuary. Amongst these are the Southern birdwing which is the largest butterfly in South India, the Striped tiger, Common jezebel, Common Indian crow, Blue Mormon and the Blue tiger butterfly which can be seen till the end of summer.



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part in on a visit to the Mhadei sanctuary. The most popular amongst these are:

Vagheri Hills and Chorla Ghat – These are some of the highest mountains in Goa. They are very popular with hikers and rock climbers and trekking tours are organized so that enthusiasts can scale their lofty peaks.

Waterfalls – There are several picturesque waterfalls within the sanctuary boundaries. The most prominent are the Vazra Sakla Falls and the Viridi Falls. The cliff face near the Vazra falls is notable for being the nesting grounds of the critically endangered Long-billed vultures.

White Water Rafting – the Mhadei River for which the sanctuary is named, is a spectacular place to indulge in this adventure sport. The rapids on the river are class 2 and 3 rapids and are suitable for both beginner and veteran rafters. This sport is mainly available during the monsoon season and usually starts at the beginning of July.

Hiking and Trekking – Besides the rock and mountain climbing trails in the hilly regions of the sanctuary there are also several hiking trails within the wildlife park. These trails vary in length and roughness of terrain so it is advisable to book the services of an experienced guide.

A large and diverse population of plants and animals makes this place a haven for eco-tourists, nature lovers and

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