

Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary

Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary spreading over an area of 2600 hect. is situated at 1 Km. in the North-East of Sukhna Lake. It forms the part of Sukhna Lake catchment area falling in Shivalik hills. Shivalik hills are ecologically sensitive and geologically unstable and thus are highly prone to soil erosion during rains. The soil in the Shivaliks is sandy, embedded with pockets of clay which is highly susceptible to erosion by surface run off.

Sukhna lake was constructed in 1958 and in sixties & early seventies, the rate of siltation of the lake was very high due to high rate of soil erosion from its catchment area. Upto 1988, 66% of the original water holding capacity of the lake was lost due to siltation. In order to minimize & control soil erosion from hilly catchment area, various vegetative and engineering methods were adopted by Forest Department. These soil & water conservation measures under-taken on sustained basis yielded very good results and the rate of siltation of the lake has reduced drastically. Soil conservation measures supplemented with massive afforestation led to the development of very good forest in hilly catchment area which is now an ideal habitat for wide variety of fauna. Consequently, this area had been notified as "Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary" on 6th March, 1998.

Permits are issued on first come first basis to the nature lovers to visit 'Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary' for all days of the week except on **public holidays i.e. Independence Day, Republic Day and on the day of 'Diwali', 'Dushera' and 'Holi'**, on the following conditions :-

- No shooting, hunting & teasing of wild animals will be carried out.
- Carrying of Arms/ammunition is prohibited.
- The permit excludes the use of Kansal Log hut/Nepli Inspection Hut.
- No littering will be allowed in the Inspection Hut / Rest House, its surrounding grass lawn and other parts of the Sanctuary.
- Smoking/Lighting campfires is prohibited.
- No Loudspeaker/ Music system is allowed.
- Carrying of Polythene/Plastic Bags and containers in the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary are prohibited.
- Cooking / Non Vegetarian food.
- Consumption of Alcohol is prohibited.
- Parking fee for Buses in the Sanctuary shall be deposited in this office.
- Visit is at permit holder's risk.
- The permit is non-transferable.
- Beware of leopard.
- Do not leave children alone.
- **In case of Leopard sighting inform the forests officials.**

Don'ts in Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary

- Please do not put on your car stereo or transistor. The quieter you are, more is the possibility of wildlife sighting.
- Do not carry gun or pistol .Feel free to shot snaps with a camera.
- Don't light campfires or smoke in the forest.
- Consumption of non-vegetarian food and alcohol is strictly prohibited inside the sanctuary.
- Do not smoke.
- Any type of Group Meeting is allowed in the Sanctuary area.
- Don't honk vehicle horn.
- Does not litter the wildlife sanctuary. Please dispose the garbage in the dustbins only. Animals eat wrappers cans and bottles caps which damages them to a great extent. Further eating human food can cause among other things tooth decay, gum infection and ulcers in the animals.
- Cooking of food is prohibited.
- Keep safe distance from animals. Do not attempt to approach too close to an animal. Even seemingly harmless animals can be dangerous, if disturbed.
- Do not leave children alone. Always keep them in immediate sight. They are of the size of the Leopard prey.
- Do not feed animals. Feeding attracts animals to roadside areas where they could be in danger.

Do's in Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary

- Please enter the Sukhna wildlife Sanctuary after taking necessary permit from the Office of the Chief Wildlife Warden, Chandigarh, Paryavaran Bhawan Building (2nd Floor), Sector -19B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh, Phone No.0172-2700284, 2700217.
- Drive slowly in the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Wear less bright clothes, as the bright clothes distract the animals.
- Avoid wearing perfumes, it attracts animals.
- Feel free to shot snaps with a camera.
- Listen to the silence and the symphony of the forests. Talk only if necessary.
- Avoid using flash while photographing the wildlife. Use natural light. Animal's eyes are very sensitive and you startle them with a burst of blinding light.
- While walking on the natural trail, avoid stepping off the track. By doing so you are damaging the vegetation specially saplings.
- Carry Binoculars, Cameras, books and other reading material to study and enjoy the flora and fauna of the wildlife sanctuary.



