

Nandankanan Zoological Park: A Unique Wildlife Experience in India

Category: Travel

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[Nandankanan Zoological Park](#), located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, is a must-visit destination for wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers. With its diverse range of animal species and unique safari experiences, Nandankanan offers a one-of-a-kind adventure that will leave visitors in awe.

Established in 1960, Nandankanan Zoological Park covers a sprawling 437 hectares of land, which includes a botanical garden and a sanctuary. It became the first zoo in India to join the prestigious World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) in 2009, a testament to its commitment to wildlife conservation and education.

One of the highlights of Nandankanan is its white tiger safari, making it the first zoo in India to offer this thrilling experience. Visitors have the opportunity to witness these majestic creatures in their natural habitat, while

safely confined in a vehicle. As the animals roam freely in the open jungle, guests can observe them up close, creating a truly immersive experience.

Another exciting safari option is the lion safari, where visitors can embark on a twenty-minute drive through the meandering roads of the park, surrounded by the lush greenery of the natural forest. This unique safari allows guests to get a glimpse of the pride of lions in their natural habitat, a sight that is both awe-inspiring and humbling.

For those who want to witness sloth bears in their natural habitat, Nandankanan offers a safari bus service. This allows visitors to explore the park and catch a glimpse of these fascinating creatures as they go about their daily activities. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about these animals and appreciate their beauty and importance in the ecosystem.

Nandankanan, which translates to "The Garden of Heaven," is situated near the capital city of Bhubaneswar, amidst the enchanting Chandaka forest. The park also features the picturesque Kanjia Lake, spanning 134 acres, adding to the natural beauty and serenity of the surroundings.

In addition to its safari experiences, Nandankanan Zoological Park is home to a wide variety of animal species, including spotted deer, barking deer, black buck, leopard cats, flying squirrels, hornbills, parrots, mynahs, peacocks, and more. These animals were initially captured and exhibited at the Odisha pavilion during the World Agricultural Fair in Delhi. However, due to objections raised by the State Finance Department, plans for a zoo were put on hold. Nevertheless, the animals found temporary shelter in Khandagiri, thanks to the efforts of the forest department and the support of the local community.

Today, Nandankanan attracts over 2.6 million visitors each year, who come to witness the incredible diversity of wildlife

and experience the unique safari adventures. The park underwent a major upgrade in 2000, following the devastation caused by the super-cyclone in 1999, ensuring that visitors can enjoy a safe and enjoyable visit.

Nandankanan Zoological Park is not only a place for entertainment but also plays a vital role in wildlife conservation and education. It serves as a platform for raising awareness about the importance of preserving our natural heritage and the need to protect endangered species. The park actively participates in breeding programs and research initiatives to ensure the survival of various animal species.

A visit to Nandankanan Zoological Park is an opportunity to connect with nature, appreciate the beauty of wildlife, and learn about the importance of conservation. Whether you choose to embark on a safari adventure or explore the diverse animal exhibits, Nandankanan promises an unforgettable experience for visitors of all ages. Plan your visit today and immerse yourself in the wonders of this remarkable zoological park.