

EXPERIENCE
THE WONDERS OF

POBITORA WILDLIFE S A N C T U A R Y



POBITORA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Pobitora, 35 km east of Guwahati, is a small wildlife sanctuary in Assam in India with the highest concentration of the Great One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world. The natural boundary of the sanctuary is the Garanga Beel on the South and the river Brahmaputra on the North. An hour-long drive from Guwahati along the river Brahmaputra, passing through the village of Mayong, is an exhilarating experience for visitors. Because of Pobitora's proximity, to Guwahati one can choose to make a day visit to and from Guwahati and explore the sanctuary on elephant back or stay overnight.

It is a mini replica of Kaziranga and is often referred to as the Kaziranga National Park's showroom. It is ideal for visitors who have little time to spare and may not be able to visit Kaziranga.

HISTORY

Pobitora was originally a grazing reserve of the erstwhile Nagaon district of Assam in the flood plains of the river Brahmaputra. It came into the limelight during the year 1961-62 when the one-horned rhino was first sighted in this area. Pobitora, comprising of the flat flood plains and the hillock of Raja Mayong, was thereafter declared a Reserved Forest in 1971 and a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1987. The transformation of this grazing reserve into an ideal rhino habitat is remarkable. It is now one of the major wildlife sanctuaries of Assam and is famous mainly for its great Indian one-horned rhinoceros.

FLORA AND FAUNA

Pobitora comprises of Assam alluvial grasslands with the hilly forests of the Raja Mayong Hill. The riverine composition of the forest with vast stretches of grassland is the ideal habitat for the Indian one-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros Unicornis*). However, though the total area of the sanctuary comprises of 38.81 square km, only 16 square km of this is suitable for rhino habitat. Yet Pobitora is known for having the world's largest concentration of rhinos (93 as per the 2012 census).

Pobitora is also home to other animals like the Asiatic buffalo, leopard, wild bear, wild boars, Chinese pangolins, civet cats, etc.

Pobitora is a bird-watchers' paradise, as both migratory and resident birds can be sighted here. A census done in January 2012 states that there are twenty-six species of birds at Pobitora. There are approximately 7000 resident birds and approximately 5000 migratory birds. The Sanctuary is home to two critically endangered, four endangered, eight vulnerable and three near vulnerable threatened bird species. The Marsh Babbler (*Pellomeum Palustre*), an endemic bird species of Assam, has been recorded in this Sanctuary. On the other hand, the 'beels' or water bodies attract a large number of water fowls. The perennial water bodies (beels) are the breeding places of different variety of fishes.

The Rajamayong Hill, which forms a part of this Sanctuary, also harbours various species of animals like leopards, Lesser cats, barking deer etc. This hill serves as a sheltering ground during the high floods which is common in the area during the monsoons.



SIGHTSEEING IN POBITORA

Tourists can enter the Sanctuary either on elephant back or in a jeep. The morning and evening elephant and jeep rides is the main attraction of the Sanctuary. The elephant safari is the centre of attraction. The elephant ride is preferred in the early morning hours and can be booked from the Range Office located in the Sanctuary. The safari lasts for about an hour. However, Prior reservation is advisable

The jeep safaris take the forest routes into the open fields.



OTHER ACTIVITIES AROUND POBITORA

- The Haduk Hanging Bridge. There is also a picnic spot and a children's park close to the Park.
- A visit to the Garanga Beel on the southern end of the Park.
- Enjoy the rural charm of Mayong. Lying adjacent to the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is the village of Mayong, famous for its tradition of black magic. Remnants of old temples on hillocks surrounding Mayong is an indicator to its tantric or black magic past. The four most important temples in the area are the Kechaikhaiti shrine of Burha Mayong, Narashinha Ashram of Hiloikhunda, Ganesh temple of Hatimuria and the Shiva shrine of Kachashila. Almost 120 wizards and witch doctors (oja or bej in the local language) reside in this occult village who claim to be able to cure every ailment or misfortune and to be able to beat the ghosts out of the possessed. The village houses a community museum showcasing ancient magic literature and relics and also an old rock with undeciphered writings..



HOW TO REACH

Pobitora can be accessed from Guwahati through NH 15 going towards Upper Assam. After crossing Sonapur, a State PWD road which turns left from a small village, Chamata, leads straight to Pobitora. Chamata can be accessed by all buses that travel from Guwahati to Upper Assam and vice versa. From Chamata public buses run up to the Range Head quarters.

A second option of reaching Pobitora is from Jagiroad on NH 15. While driving towards Upper Assam from Guwahati, one crosses Jagiroad, the commercial and industrial township of Morigaon. There is direct bus connection between Jagiroad Mayong, a distance of 34 km.

The third option of reaching Pobitora from Guwahati is to drive to Mayong via Chandrapur. This road is the shortest route between Guwahati and Pobitora. There are direct buses from Adabari bus station (Guwahati) to Mayong.

RAIL: While the nearest railhead is Jagiroad, for tourists traveling from outside the state by train, Guwahati station is the best option to alight for onward road journey to Pobitora.

AIR: The nearest airport is Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, which is located at a distance of 75 km from the range Headquarters.

WHEN TO VISIT: The best time to visit the Sanctuary is from November to April. The Sanctuary remains closed from May 1 to end of October due to the monsoon and rains.



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

1. Divisional Forest Officer, Kamrup East, Guwahati.
2. Range Officer, Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Pobitora,
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3. Assistant Tourist Information Officer, Probitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Mayong
Phone : +91-9707122492

Entry Fees

Indians: ₹ 50.00

Others: ₹ 500.00

Vehicle entry: ₹ 300.00

Guide Fees: ₹ 200.00

Elephant Fees

Indians: ₹ 500.00

Others ₹ 1000.00

Still Camera Fee

Indians: ₹ 50.00

Others : ₹ 500.00

Video Camera Fee

Indians: ₹ 500.00

Others : ₹ 1000.00

Accommodation

- a. Prashanti Tourist Lodge, Pobitora, Phone : +91-9854092192
- b. Zizina Resort, Pobitora, Phone : +91-9854030506
- c. Maibong Eco Resort, Pobitora- 9854612196

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