

**JHALANA
LEOPARD RESERVE**



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INTRODUCTION

Jhalana lies at the South-Eastern part of the capital city of Jaipur. It lies between latitudes 26.54'02N to 26.50'09N and longitudes 75.49'25E to 75.52'01E. The total area of Jhalana is about 20 SqKms. The Aravali ranges run from top to bottom in the forest. The Northern part of Jhalana is divided from Amargarh by the NH11 and human settlements running across it. The western and the southern boundary touch the heavily populated Jawahar Nagar, Malviya Nagar and Jagatpura areas of Jaipur. The eastern boundary has villages and new settlements that are slowly coming up.

Jhalana is nestled between two hill ranges of the Aravali that run from the North to the south. Another hill range in the centre of Jhalana divides it into two distinct parts.

Even though Jhalana is an isolated and fragmented piece of forest in an urban environment, a lot of plant, animal and bird species have survived here till now despite of the various pressures from rapid urbanization and also population growth.

FLORA AND FAUNA

Jhalana is a dry deciduous forest and the trees mostly shed their leaves in dry season and get green during monsoons. The valley floor mostly has Tortilis (Acacia tortilis) and also Khejri (Prosopis cineraria). The hill slopes have more varieties of trees which are native to the region like Dhonk (Anogeissus pendula), Salar (Boswellia serrata), Kumta (Acacia senegal) and Goya Kher (Dichrostachys cineria). There is also juliflora present which is slowly being removed from the jungle so that grasslands can be developed for ungulates.

The leopard being on top of the food chain is the apex and an opportunist predator. Apart from the leopard, striped hyenas also call Jhalana home. Ungulates like blue bulls, spotted deer and some sambhar deer are also present. Desert fox, jackals, rusty spotted cat, desert cat and jungle cats can also be seen. Porcupines, monitor lizards, mongoose and lots of varieties of snakes are in abundance here.

Over the period of time with the ecosystem getting better Jhalana has started to boast about a lot of bird varieties including resident and migratory. Indian pitta, Asian paradise fly catchers, Eurasian and Indian

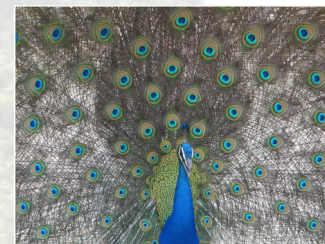


rollar birds apart from raptors like serpent eagle, sparrow hawk, honey buzzards, short toed eagle are a few that visit Jhalana every year. Apart from these migratory birds, Jhalana has lots of resident bird species also and that include wide variety of owls like spotted, scops, rock eagle and also woodpeckers, hoes, pigeons, robins, buntings etc. Peacocks are also in abundance here and form a major part of the leopards' diet.



Following are the number of species that have been recorded at Jhalana.

Avifauna Checklist	132 species
Mammal Checklist	33 species
Reptiles Checklist	20 species
Flora Checklist	220 species



SAFARI

In an attempt to give an opportunity to see the animals and birds in their natural habitat, The Forest Department Of Rajasthan organizes safari's in Jhalana Leopard Reserve. These safari's are held in two shifts i.e. early in the morning and in the evenings. To avoid overcrowding and to regulate tourism only a limited number of vehicles are allowed in each shift.

There is a ticket window at the entrance of the safari gate that opens 1 hour prior to the safari. **Advance bookings can also be made at website <https://sso.rajasthan.gov.in>**

Jhalana Leopard reserve is divided into 3 zones. With valid tickets, there are no zone restrictions and the guests can go into any zone that they like. Though the terrain in each zone is different, yet each zone offers equal opportunities to spot leopards and other wild animals and birds in their habitat.



HOW TO REACH

Being right in the middle of Jaipur City, Jhalana Leopard Reserve is not very far from any of the popular tourists spots or hotels in Jaipur. The ticket window and the entry gate for Jhalana Leopard safari is situated in the Malviya Industrial Area, RIICO at Malviya Nagar. It is close to the Apex Circle.

Distances from major points of arrival within Jaipur are as follows:

Jaipur Sanganer Airport	6.8 kms
Jaipur Main Railway Station	13 kms
Jaipur Sindhi Camp Bus Stand	11 kms

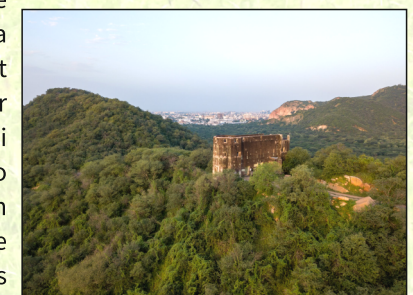
INTERPRETATION CENTRE



Apart from having a jungle safari in comfortable gypsy's or silent electric vehicles, guests can also enjoy the Interpretation Centre dedicated to the bio diversity of Jhalana. Here the guests can enjoy watching photographs of various mammals and birds in their natural habitat. A special section is dedicated to the Leopards of Jhalana. Guests can also gain knowledge about leopard behavior through visual means at the interpretation centre. Apart from the interpretation centre, the guests can also relax in an air conditioned waiting room whilst they wait for their safari vehicle.

SHIKAR AUDHI (Hunting Palace)

The guests, on a nominal extra charge, can also visit the "Shikar Audhi" or the erstwhile hunting palace. In the early 19th century, Jhalana was a popular hunting ground with eminent state guests visiting the forests for hunting. The old Shikar Audhi (Hunting Palace) stands testimony to all the hunts that were carried out in Jhalana. The last of the Tigers were shot in the year 1948 and its cubs shifted to Jaipur zoo. With the ban on hunting, leopards have thrived here and have become the apex predator at Jhalana. Now the guests can visit Shikar Audhi during their safari, take their own tea coffee and snacks, relax there and also enjoy the commanding views offered from the top.



CONTACT US

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