



Hemis High Altitude National Park

Hemis High Altitude National Park was created in 1981—India's first national park to be established north of the main Himalaya Range.

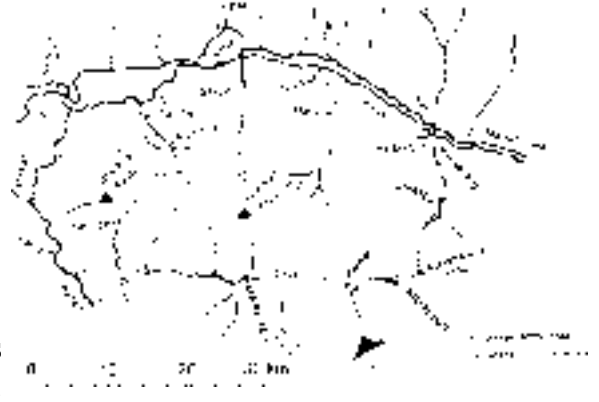
The Park covers an area of 3,350 square kilometers. Besides being India's best protected area for snow leopards, the four species of wild sheep and goats living within the Park give it international biodiversity importance.

About 1,600 people live within the Park's boundaries. They grow barley and selected vegetables and own more than 4,000 head of livestock (sheep, goats and yaks).

The Markha Valley circuit through Hemis remains Ladakh's most popular trekking route, with some 5,000 visitors per year.

Tourism provides the local inhabitants with an important source of supplementary income (See the panel on Parachute Cafes).

Besides Ladakh's beautiful scenery and rich culture—from the monasteries to village life—Hemis Park offers many wildlife viewing opportunities. See the Wildlife panel for tips on searching for animals; your chances are best in late afternoon and early morning



Awareness and responsibility are the most important things tourists can bring to Ladakh. Your behavior has an affect on local people's attitude towards their culture and environment. Therefore, please serve as the best example for others.

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Obtain a permit from the Wildlife Warden's office or at the park checkpoint before entering the park

Adhere to the National Park rules and regulations

Silence and discipline pay

Do not disturb wildlife

Avail the assistance of the National Park staff

Do not take anything from the Park

Do not pollute the environment: Carry out your non-biodegradable garbage; return batteries to your home country for proper disposal

Don't wear revealing clothing

Ask before photographing people

Respect religious sites: remove your shoes before entering gompas; refrain from smoking;

pass mani stones and prayer flags to the left

Don't enter homes uninvited

Discourage begging by children

Negotiate fairly for services

For more information on Hemis High Altitude National Park

contact the Jammu & Kashmir

Dept. of Wildlife Protection

Wildlife Warden Leh

Phone (01982) 2371



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