

THE MAGICAL MELGHAT TIGER RESERVE BIODIVERSITY MAP

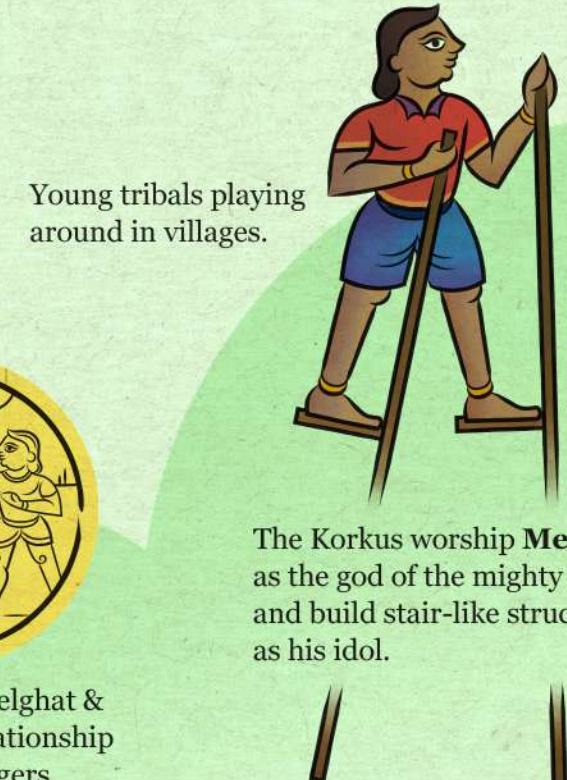
The magical Melghat is a meeting place of cliffs & valleys and rocks & ravines from the southern Satpura Hills of Central India. Situated in Amravati district of Maharashtra and spread across 2768.52 square kms of area, the Melghat tiger reserve is thriving with majestic rivers, sacred forests and mystic groves. The tough terrains bustling with teaks and bamboo are home to mighty tigers and their several wild cohabitants like Sloth Bear, Indian Gaur, Sambar deer, Leopard, Nilgais and the endangered, 'back from extinction' Forest Owl. The theatrical monsoons feed the five tributaries of Tapi river that borders the Melghats in the north. And deciduous forests cover the Melghats in a different colour for every season. The Melghats are also witness to a gallant history of the state preserved as forts of Gavilgarh and Narnala and the Gavilgarh ridge. One of the first forests to be notified as a tiger reserve, the Melghats are India's beautifully kept secret repository of biological and cultural heritage.



- LEGENDS**
- CHECKPOINT
 - FOREST REST HOUSE
 - ▬ RIVER
 - ⊠ HISTORICAL FORT



Sloth Bears of Melghat & their complex relationship with the villagers.



The Korkus worship Meghnad as the god of the mighty monsoon and build stair-like structures as his idol.



Harisal is India's first ideal digital village as a result of a collaborative effort by the state and Microsoft.



The famous Kandri Baba temple near Tarubanda.



The Korkus place their faiths in age-old fables of Bhunka baba and Bidi Wale baba, who showed supernatural guardianship for their villages.



The iconic Melghat Tiger Reserve entry gate at Rajdecbaba.

Korku tribal dance in their traditional attires.

Windmills are a source of clean energy for the locals of the hill station.



Named after the Rajput Ruler Narnala Singh, the Narnala Fort is also called the Shahnur Fort is a hill fortress in Melghat.

THE KORKUS AND CULTURE

The first showers of the monsoon arrive only after each branch of a particular Imli tree in the village is full with leaves. Such is the relationship that the Korkus, one of the most ancient tribes to have lived in the Melghats share with the land. Their knowledge about herbs & happenings of the forest and a jovial way of living are invaluable.

FORTS OF A VALIANT PAST

The Melghats have fortified a history of invasions and victories in its glorious Gavilgarh and Narnala forts. The iconic man-made structures that once guarded Gond, Mughal and Maratha empires are now being surrounded by dense greens and wild beings. These also offer visitors a panoramic view of the Satpura ranges.

REPOSITORY OF RARE NATURE

The mystic forests of Melghats have hidden within their dense groves and undulating turfs, several fascinating tales of tough tigers, beautiful birds and more. One such rare resident of the tiger reserve that is said to have come back from extinction is the elusive Forest Owl (a critically endangered bird species).

RIVERS AND WATERFALLS

The Melghats are a catchment for five tributaries of the Tapi- Khandu, Khapara, Sipna, Gadga and Dolar. Locked by the mighty Arjuna trees, these rivers run wild through the highs and lows of the valleys which also house waterfalls like Bhimkund-Kichakhara and Panchkhara that come straight out of the tales of Mahabharata.

CONSERVATION WITH LOCALS

One can spot dedicated computer training centres clad as Korku huts sprouting in the region with the idea to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for youth from relocated forest villages. Tribals also train for forest protection, habitat management, an active wildlife crime cell and tourism activities.

A VISITOR'S HOMELAND

The Melghat Tiger Reserve welcomes all its visitors to its renovated forest rest houses, some of which were built within the british era. Other than these, budding eco-camps and interpretation centres present exclusive experiences and education to the visitors along with empowering the local tribals for operation.