

LIST OF IMPORTANT FORESTS IN INDIA

We depend on the forests for our survival, from the air we breathe to the wood we use. Besides providing habitats for animals and livelihoods for humans, forests also provide watershed protection, prevent soil erosion and mitigate climate change. Yet, despite our dependence on the forests, we are still allowing them to disappear.

What are the different types of forests in India?

Coniferous Forests, Broadleaved Forests, Evergreen Forests, Wet Evergreen, Deciduous Forests, and Mangrove Forests are some main types of forests found in India. Total Forest and Tree Cover rises to 24.56% of the total geographical area of India. In this article, we have published the properties of the types of forests in India.

India has a diverse range of forests: from the rainforest of Kerala in the south to the alpine pastures of Ladakh in the north, from the deserts of Rajasthan in the west to the evergreen forests in the north-east. Climate, soil type, topography, and elevation are the main factors that determine the type of forest. Forests are classified according to their nature and composition, the type of climate in which they thrive, and their relationship with the surrounding environment.

Forest Types in India:

- a) **Coniferous Forests** grow in the Himalayan mountain region, where the temperatures are low. These forests have tall stately trees with needlelike leaves and downward sloping branches so that the snow can slip off the branches. They have cones instead of seeds and are called **Gymnosperms**.
- b) **Broadleaved Forests** have several types, such as evergreen forests, deciduous forests, thorn forests, and mangrove forests. Broadleaved forests have large leaves of various shapes.
- c) **Evergreen Forests** grow in the high rainfall areas of the Western Ghats, North-Eastern India, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. These forests grow in areas where the monsoon lasts for several months.

The trees overlap with each other to form a continuous canopy. Thus very little light penetrates down to the forest floor. Only a few shade-loving plants can grow in the ground layer in areas where some light filters down from the closed canopy.

The forest is rich in orchids and ferns. The barks of the trees are covered in moss. The forest abounds in animal life and is most rich in insect life.

d) **Wet Evergreen**

Wet evergreen forests are found in the south along the Western Ghats and the Nicobar and Andaman Islands and all along the north-eastern region. It is characterized by tall, straight evergreen trees that have a buttressed trunk or root on three sides like a tripod that helps to keep a tree upright during a storm. These trees often rise to a great height before they open out like a cauliflower.

The more common trees that are found here are the jackfruit, betel nut palm, Jamun, Mango, and Hollock. The trees in this forest form a tiered pattern: shrubs cover the layer closer to the ground, followed by the short structured trees and then the tall variety. Beautiful ferns of various colours and different varieties of orchids grow on the trunks of the trees.

Name	Location	Area	Notes
Abujmarh forest	Chhattisgarh	3,900 km ²	This is a hilly forest covering Narayanpur district, Bijapur district, and Dantewada district. It is home to indigenous tribes of India, including Gond, Muria, Abuj Maria, and Halbaas.
Annekal Reserved Forest	Western Ghats		
Baikunthapur Forest	Dooars, West Bengal		This is a terai forest
Bhavnagar Amreli Forest	Gir National Park, Amreli district, Gujarat		Bhavnagar Amreli Forest is a reserved area for conservation of Asiatic lions. The new location is east side of Gir National Park in Amreli district of Gujarat. After inclusion of New Jesal sanctuary the area of this forest will go to 1600 km ² which is bigger than Gir sanctuary.
Bhitarkanika Mangroves	Odisha	650 km ²	In 1975, an area of 672 km ² was declared the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary. The core area of the sanctuary, with an area of 145 km ² , was declared Bhitarkanika National Park in September 1998. The Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary, which bounds the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary to the east, was created in September 1997.
Dvaita Forest	South of the Kamyaka Forest		It contained within it a lake called the Dwaita lake, abounding with flowers, and delightful to look at, and inhabited by many species of birds, elephants and many trees.
Jakanari reserve forest	Coimbatore		This forest is in the foothills of Jakanari mountain of Nilgris. This reserve forest is recently becoming polluted because of human activities of nearby Mettupalayam.
Kamyaka Forest	Kuru Kingdom along the banks of		No longer exists. It contained within it a lake called the Kamyaka lake (2,51).

the Sarasvati River

Kukrail Reserve Forest

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Madhu Forest

Northern India, west of Yamuna

No longer exists. According to the Ramayana, an Asura named Madhu, ruled this forest and its territory.

Molai forest

Jorhat district, Assam

1,360 acres

Molai forest is named after Padma Shri Jadav "Molai" Payeng, Indian environmental activist and forestry worker.

Mulai Kathoni

Brahmaputra River

550 hectares

Naimisha Forest

Gomati River, between the Panchala Kingdom and Kosala Kingdom, Uttar Pradesh

No longer exists. Naimisha Forest or Naimiṣāranya was an ancient forest mentioned in the Mahabharata and the Puranas.

Nallamala Hills

Eastern Ghats, Andhra Pradesh (South of River Krishna) [1]

90 mi (140 km) north-south

The average elevation today is about 520 m. There are also many other peaks above 800 m.

Nanmangalam Reserve Forest

Chennai, Tamilnadu

320 hectares (total area 2,400 hectares)

The state forest department has entrusted the work of data collection in this small forest area to Care Earth, a bio-diversity research organization.

New Amarambalam Reserved Forest

the Western Ghats,

265.72 square kilometres

The Indian Bird Conservation Network (IBCN) has identified 212 species of birds from the Nilambur and Amarambalam Forests.

Pichavaram Mangrove Forest

Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu

1,100 hectares

World's second biggest mangrove forest.

Saranda forest

West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand

820 km²

Sal (*Shorea robusta*) is the most important tree in the area.

Vandalur Reserve Forest

Chennai, Tamilnadu

1,490 acres

In 1976, a portion of the reserve forest covering 1,265 acres (512 ha) was demarcated by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department as the new location for the Madras Zoo

