

## Bhitarkanika to host Bhitarkanika Mahotsav for the first time

TIMESOFINDIA.COM | Feb 23, 2023, 01.00 PM IST



Bhitarkanika National Park, one of the most important Ramsar Sites in India, is all set to host the Bhitarkanika Mahotsav for the first time. The three-day festival (March 10-12) will take place in Nalitapatia village, just on the outskirts of the national park. The village is located just 6 km from the national park.

*Also read:* [Exploring Jhalana, Rajasthan's leopard country](#)

The festival is a joint venture between the Odisha Forest Department, District Administration and Tourism Department. The festival aims at promoting the national park, its wetland area and the mangroves. Bhitarkanika's mangrove forest is one of the largest mangrove forests in India.

### **About Bhitarkanika National Park**

Bhitarkanika National Park is located in Kendrapara district in Odisha. The national park is mostly a wetland and a mangrove forest. It was declared as a Ramsar Site in August 2002. Bhitarkanika National Park is an important home to the saltwater crocodile, Indian python, king cobra and over 215 species of both resident and migratory birds.





The national park is made up of expansive mangrove forests, rivers, backwater, estuaries and mudflats. It is a part of the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, which is spread over an area of 672 sq km.

While visiting Bhitarkanika National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, do make a small detour to Gahirmatha. Located just 35 km, Gahirmatha Beach and Marine Sanctuary is one of the most important Olive Ridley turtle nesting sites in the world. These endangered sea turtles flock to Odisha's Gahirmatha and Rushikulya every year, around February-end and stay till the first week of March. It's a great sight for sure.

If you are looking for an offbeat experience this year, let Bhitarkanika be one of them. You can never go wrong with this one.