

<u>Location:</u> About 10 kilometres from Ponda town eastwards in Ponda Taluka <u>Habitat Description:</u> Habitat is a steep hilly and moist deciduous forest. There are plenty of rocky streams in the area with an impressive mammal population and can be termed as the best protected forest in Goa. Habitat shows healthy signs except for a few noisy, unruly and boisterous visitors and traffic to the zoo.

<u>Tips:</u> Kindly buy a ticket to enter the sanctuary since the ticket counter is at the end of the road to the sanctuary (about 4 km form the welcome entrance arch). This location is closed on Mondays and is open from 9:00AM to 5:30PM. The best place to spot the birds on their morning flyway is on the road to the temple off the road to the Zoo at the point of around 500 metres from the welcome entrance arch. Also sighting birds is fruitful near the Ganjem Bridge at a distance of 1km from the main arch on the main road towards Usgao Tisk. Accommodation is also available at the Sanctuary on booking with the Forest Department at Panaji. Breakfast is available at two restaurants inside the Zoo area deep inside the sanctuary.



HOTSPOT MATRIX

RARE BIRDS & A

DISTANCE

COMFORT

CURRENT COUNT 255 bird species

AVOCET & PEREGRINE

Star Species: Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, Malabar Trogon, Red Spurfowl, Orange Minivet, Flame- throated Bulbul, Crested Hawk Eagle, Asian Fairy Bluebird, Malabar Whistling Thrush, White- rumped Shama and all sunbirds. Other mammals observed in this sanctuary is the Malabar Giant Squirrel (abundant), the Spotted Deer, Sambhar, Gaur and the langurs.

Goa's only zoo is located at the end of the road of this sanctuary. It consists of exotic species not native to Goa and species rescued from various parts of Goa and housed here due to injury or out of concern of safety to civilians.