

Click the Great Himalayan National Park 2006



GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK

ग्रेट हिमालयन नैशनल पार्क

April 23, 2006 to April 28, 2006

INTRODUCTION

SAHARA- SUNSHINE ADVENTURES in association with the **HP STATE TOURISM DEPARTMENT AND THE BIO DIVERSITY CONSERVATION SOCIETY-GHNP**, proudly announce Himachal's first ever nature photography competition.

The Brief

It may sound a bit clichéd but we all know that a world where man and animal coexisted together sharing physical space, food and water did actually exist. Human population bursting at its seams created an imbalance in the ecosystem bringing along misery to our mute friends in ways and means that we all are familiar with.

We might never recover from the serious ecological imbalance accredited to mankind. These natural treasures once lost will be lost forever. We have already crossed the threshold, the brunt of which is still being felt by our mute friends. We as environmentally aware citizens have to ponder over this grave problem and act. And act fast is what we have to do.

We have the pleasure of sharing an idea based on foresight and vision - a photography competition in the GHNP titled "Click the GHNP" contest. We believe that the physical presence of wildlife photographers, naturalists and enthusiasts who take part in this competition at GHNP would serve the purpose for which GHNP was created. Many such competitions held on a regular basis would have a "cascading" effect in spreading the message of conservation and bringing in quality tourists.



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Organizing Body

SAHARA- Sunshine Adventures
A. B Kullu-175101 (HP) India
Dhalpur Kullu

and

The Tourism Department
Govt. PG College Kullu –

DETAILED PROGRAM

24th April 2006 Monday

Afternoon :

Venue : Hotel Sarwari , Dhalpur Kullu

Welcome Speech and Press Conference by the District Tourism Development Officer

Screening of Voices and Choices in the Great Himalayan National Park
Address by the Director Great Himalayan National Park

Address by "Payson R Stevens": An x NASA photographer who is also the president of "Friends of GHNP" and one of the honorable judges in the competition
Slide Show on the Kullu valley and the Great Himalayan National Park by Dr. Kaul and Mr. Rahul Sood (Both noted photographers from the Kullu valley)

Lunch

After Lunch Escorted to Sai Ropa Tourist Center for an introduction session with members of SAHARA AND GHNP PARK OFFICIALS. An introduction to the GHNP by the Director of the park and meeting staff members of the trek. Evening bonfire dinner and Raju's guest house for overnight halt.

DAY 2 25th April 2006 Tuesday

The whole group would be divided in two teams

Team 1

Morning Transfer to Rolla on foot passing through the picturesque eco-zone of the Great Himalayan National Park. The party would pass through the pristine ecozone of the GHNP clicking the rich flora and fauna as well as aspects of the village life .o/n Camp at Rolla inside the Great Himalayan National Park

Team 2

Morning departure to Sainj valley by vehicle. After getting off at the roadhead at Neuli the party treks to Shakti village on the other side of the Great Himalayan National Park. o/n Campsite at Shakti Village

Day 3 26th April 2006 Wednesday

Team 1

Rolla to Shilt : This forest is home to the endangered king of the birds “the Western Tragopan” (In the villages close to GHNP, the local name of Western Tragopan is Jujurana . Juju means bird and rana means king, i.e. the king of the birds). There is a local legend that the “Lord” created this pheasant and all the birds in the universe donated a feather each to give it color and unparalleled beauty.

Team 2

Shkati to Humkhani Forest :

Day 4 27th April Thursday

Team 1

Shilt Rest Day : Rest day to explore the wildlife and the surroundings. Opportunities for individual photographers to explore the highest reaches of the GHNP, climb, photograph.... whatever!

Team 2

Humkhani to Dhel and back to Humkhani : Campsite to Dhel Thatch (3737 meters). Today we climb uphill through a thick forest to the magnificent Dhel Thatch. The thatch is a beautiful high and wide meadow. There are great mountain vistas and opportunities for observing wildlife. o/n Camp Humkhani

Day 5 28th April Friday

Team 1

Shilt to Khraongcha to Sai Ropa: Today a distance of 13 Kms(trekking) and the rest by Jeep brings us back to civilization.

Team 2

Humkhani- Shakti and on to Neuli and back to Sai Ropa : This is one of the longest days for the participants. A downhill walk through a very thick forest full of Monal Pheasant. (A large plump pheasant with a loud, ringing call. Males are mainly iridescent blue, green on the mantle and rufous on the neck, with a white patch on the lower back and an orange tail). It is a prominent bird and the state bird of Himachal and often seen by the tourists and trekkers.

Evening campfire and celebration with local dance performed by staff of SHA and SAHARA

Day 6 29th April Saturday

Morning departure by vehicle to Chandigarh after breakfast

There are five categories to choose from

FAUNA

The Great Himalayan National Park, undoubtedly the most pristine mountain landscape in the Western Himalayas... and perhaps the planet. From the Andes to Nepal and Tibet, to the mountains of Eastern Europe and Western China - the pressures of a growing human population have left the landscape – even so-called “national parks” - overgrazed, denuded of timber, devoid of wildlife and covered with signs of animals and their shepherds. Ironically, here in India, home to over a billion people, it is still possible to find vast virgin forests and endless fields of wildflowers and ranges of un-named, unclimbed summits. Blue sheep, Himalayan Thar, even bear and snow leopard abound



FLORA

The unique ecological aspects of the Western Himalaya led to the creation of the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) in the Kullu district of India's mountain state of Himachal Pradesh. These features include biodiversity, sparse human populations, inaccessibility, little tourism, and a local economy based on traditional livelihoods

The rare and endemic nature of many animal and plant communities at GHNP are of interest not only to scientists, but to lovers of nature worldwide. The World Conservation Monitoring Center has identified GHNP as one of the five Centres of Plant Diversity and Endemism in India



COMMUNITY

The Kullu Valley has always attracted people with its beauty and resources. Its isolation also provided a safe refuge from the turmoil and wars on the Indian plains below. Historical records indicate that people started migrating into the valley about 1,000 years ago. For the last 800 years the migration of people did not place an undue burden on the natural resources. People lived in relative harmony with their environment and sustained their livelihoods. Historically, village life was a relatively self-sufficient, local system of subsistence, with links to the natural and supernatural world. As an agricultural system it integrated croplands, forests, and grazing lands.



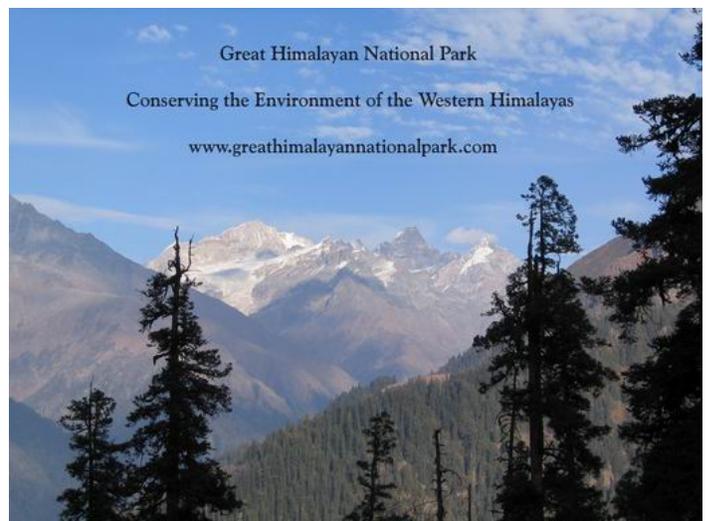
NATURE

Bounded to the East by the Himalayan Mountains, the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP) forms part of the boundary between four ecological zones: (1) the dry deserts of interior Asia and the well-watered lowlands of the Indian plains, (2) the Oriental and Palearctic faunal realms, (3) the high plateau of Tibet and the jumbled Himalayan peaks, and (4) the catchments of the Beas and Sutlej Rivers, both mighty tributaries of the Indus. Because of its complex geography and its great variations in altitude, the limited area of the Park encompasses an enormous range of species, which span the subtropical to the alpine and include those characteristic of the south-east Asian forests as well as those found across Siberia and the Asian steppes. Few ecological sanctuaries present such a variety of wildlife habitat and biological diversity in such a small area



SCENERY

From the roadhead at Gushaini or Neuli, the trails leading to the Park pass through subtropical pine forests. They rise towards the dense coniferous and mixed deciduous woods of the temperate zone, which is entered at about 1800 m. In summer, the spreading canopy of green and silver oaks and horse chestnuts provide welcome relief from the sun. Above this zone, at about 2500 m, cool-temperate forests of fir and spruce occur on northerly slopes, with brown oaks on southerly aspects. Above 3000 m, these forests grade gently into a sub-alpine zone of birches and rhododendrons, diminishing in size as the tree line is approached. Above 3000-3200 m, we find alpine meadows, splashed with a great variety of flowers and higher again is the realm of rock and ice that rules the high peaks and ridges.



Rules and Regulations of the contest

1. The Contest is open to Indian nationals only.
2. Both professionals and amateurs are welcome to participate.
3. Employees of RVPSP, SRRMET and their immediate family members are not eligible. Likewise members of the jury, technical committee and their immediate family members are not eligible.
4. A maximum of fifteen entries will be invited on first come first serve basis. However if the required entries are not forthcoming then a minimum of ten participants could form a viable group.
5. Entries can be sent as digital images or prints.
6. Digital images can be submitted on CD.
7. Online submissions are not allowed.
8. For submission on CD, the images should be JPEG files in the highest possible resolution. CDs should be clearly labeled and mailed or hand delivered to
9. Please note that we will contact winning entrants to obtain higher resolution files/originals/negatives for reproduction purposes. Originals should at least have a resolution of 300dpi at A5 size.
10. The Organizer does not accept any liability for lost, delayed, damaged or incomplete entries.
11. The copyright of the entire image must be held by the entrant or the entrant must have the written authority of the copyright owner to submit the photograph for the competition. It is the responsibility of the entrant to seek all permissions required for the image to win under the entrant's name, and for the display and publication of the entry.
12. The Organizer reserves the right to request evidence of such authorities or consents.
13. Scanned entries in the CD format of the best shots will become the property of GHNP, Himachal Tourism which could be used in a manner of their own choosing.
14. Up to five images may be entered in each category.
15. No image may be entered in more than one category.
16. The judges reserve the right to re-categorize any entry.
17. Any image that has won a prize in another major competition is not eligible. If an image has won a prize in such a competition it will be disqualified.
18. The panel of judges appointed by the Organizer will choose the winners. Their decision on all matters relating to the competition is final, and no correspondence will be entertained concerning the competition's judging and organization.
19. The judges reserve the right in their absolute discretion to:
 - a) declare void any entry;
 - b) declare the whole competition or a category or categories void should no entry meet the required standard;
 - c) award prizes to those entrants who achieve a certain standard and if the entries taken as a whole do not achieve the anticipated standard either to substitute prizes on offer or declare that none of the entries are worthy of a prize.
20. Winners will be duly notified.
21. All winning, commended and short-listed pictures will be kept until after the Awards Ceremony and the results together with a selection of the entries may be published in a selected mass media.
22. The Organizer reserves the right to reproduce, exhibit and to license the reproduction and the exhibition of some or all, in whole or part, in all media (now known or hereafter created) of prize-winning, commended and short-listed entries without the permission of the entrant or copyright owner or payment for such use, but only in connection with the

promotion of and publicity for this competition. The moral right of the photographer/copyright owner will be acknowledged.

23. Should the Organizer wish to reproduce and exhibit prize-winning, commended or short-listed entries not in association with this competition, then the Organizer will obtain permission from the owner of the copyright and a token reproduction fee may be payable.
24. All images are sent at the photographer's risk and the Organizer regrets that it cannot accept any liability for any loss of, or damage occurring to images entered in the competition (how so ever caused) or for any other loss or damage resulting there from.
25. Travel arrangements would include the following;
 - Complimentary pick up and drop by deluxe coach/qualis from Chandigarh at a place date and time advertised and communicated by the organizers.
 - Stay in Sai Ropa Rest House and Tents at location.
 - Food at location.
 - Guides and Porters and all trekking equipment for the duration of the trek.
26. Does not include:
 - Transportation of participants from their place of residence to Chandigarh and back.
 - Food during transit in bus from Chandigarh to location.
 - Insurance and repatriation costs
 - Cost of film and other photographic equipment.
 - Expenses of personal nature.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS



SAHARA (The Society for Scientific Advancement of Hills & Rural Areas) activities include promoting visits of friends from foreign lands to create a better understanding of the Western Himalayas, its people, religions and culture. The ecotourism program continues developing a paradigm wherein local villagers actually benefit from having their ancestral lands turned into a wilderness preserve. Part of the plan is to train local youths in eco-tourism and trekking so that more resources become available to them than ever in the past while wild nature is preserved for posterity. A plan of simple elegance and sweeping implications



Sunshine Himalayan Adventures: Founded in 1996, Sunshine Himalayan Adventures (SHA) is an approved Tour Operator in the Northern Indian State of Himachal Pradesh (HP) and permitted to offer tours in the pristine wilderness of India's newest National Park – The Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP). SHA is dedicated to responsible Eco-tourism principles

and tour products that are environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial to the local people. We offer our clients the opportunity to experience the beauty and wonder of the Western Himalayan ecosystem and the exciting culture of the renowned Kullu Valley, known throughout India as the "Valley of the Gods."
