

### Educational tours

Close to 9,200 students from 63 educational institutions, corporates and around 5,500 members of the general public have visited NBNP, last year. The Park entertains educational institutions and corporates conducting excursions or tours, encouraging them to make use of the available facilities to conduct educational programmes of their own and introduce new members to the biodiversity of the park. Let the motive of the visit not be to just take a leisurely day off, but explore and learn more about the intricacies of our ecosystem and the fragility of nature.



### Future Projects

In order to conduct better educative programmes, NBNP proposes to facilitate an Audiovisual Centre and an Auditorium at the Park. This facility will be used to hold screenings and interactive programmes that will enthuse and increase the involvement of the children / students in understanding, protecting and preserving nature. The facility will also double as an opportunity for corporates to have outbound workshops, seminars, etc., in the midst of nature.

An auditorium that will blend with the environment has been designed capable of seating 200 people at a projected cost of Rs. 2.5 crores and is likely to be functional by early 2016. Activities such as planting & preservation, expansion of infrastructure etc., are ongoing goals at NBNP that will ensure that the park continues to remain relevant for all times to come.



### A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF NBNP



**NILGIRI BIOSPHERE NATURE PARK**  
Environmental Resource Centre

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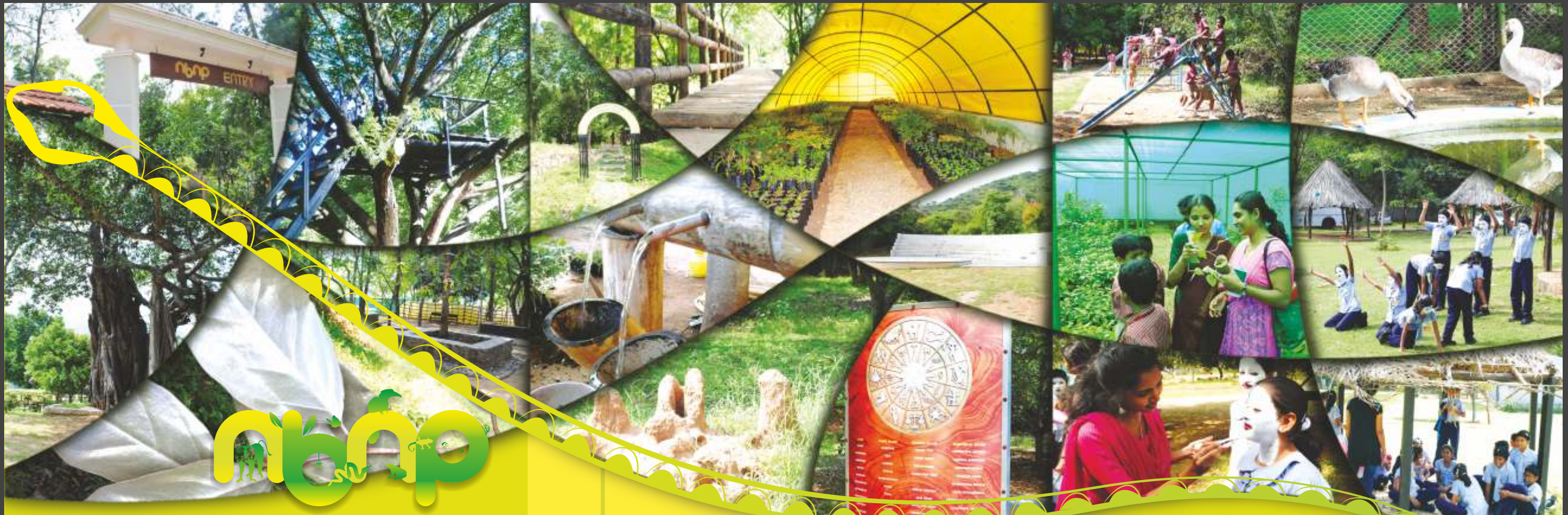
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**NILGIRI BIOSPHERE NATURE PARK**

**Nature as you have never  
seen it before**

Hike a nature trail, explore flora and fauna that are native to the region and can only be found here, learn about the immense biodiversity of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve or just kick back and enjoy some fresh air with your companions. Be part of a holistic experience that will alter the way you look at life and its interdependence with Mother Nature.



## NILGIRI BIOSPHERE NATURE PARK

### Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park

NBNP has green houses and plant nurseries from where visitors can buy plants native to the Western Ghats, such as house plants, zodiac trees, betel vines and certain exotic varieties of plants like the *Basmathi pandanus* – an aromatic plant that adds aroma to cooking rice, naturally.



The Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park (NBNP) is an initiative of The Coimbatore Zoological Park and Conservation Centre (CZPCC), which aims to introduce people of all ages to the rich diversity in flora and fauna of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR).

The Park is located at Thuvaipathy, Anaikatti, 32 km from Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, India, with its first phase covering 70 acres of land. Visitors can sight some of the myriad living organisms of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, including rare medicinal, native plants and tiny indigenous life forms, serving to enrich one's knowledge about the biodiversity of the region.

NBNP's collection of threatened plant species have been recognized by the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow and the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), London, all of whom carry out projects in collaboration with NBNP.

### Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR)

The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is an International Biosphere Reserve in the Western Ghats and Nilgiri Hill ranges of Southern India. The reserve encompasses a total of 5,520 km<sup>2</sup> in the states of Karnataka (1,527 km<sup>2</sup>), Kerala (1,455 km<sup>2</sup>) and Tamil Nadu (2,537 km<sup>2</sup>).

The NBR is rich in biodiversity and has over 100 species of mammals, 350 species of birds, 80 species of reptiles, 31 species of amphibians, 39 species of fish, 316 species of butterflies and numerous other invertebrates. It is also home to around 3,300 plant and 175 orchid species of which 1,232 and 8 are endemic, respectively. NBR stands as one among the only two designated biodiversity hotspots in India.

### The Coimbatore Zoological Park and Conservation Centre

The Coimbatore Zoological Park and Conservation Centre (CZPCC) was established in the year 1986 and is located at Anaikatti in Coimbatore, at an altitude of 598 meters above mean sea level. The objectives of CZPCC stem from the scientific & ethical concerns, and interests of its members.

The society envisions the Nilgiri Biosphere Nature Park (NBNP) as a holistic environmental complex. The CZPCC Botanical Garden Project started in September 1992, with an ambitious and detailed concept plan for the collection of appropriate plants, preparation of the site and recreation of different types of vegetation found in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR).

Anaikatti, where NBNP is located, serves as the migratory stop-over for butterflies from Siruvani and Vellingiri Hills en route to the forests of Silent Valley. Scores of them huddle over the wet earth to suck in rejuvenating minerals like calcium and sodium, which the soil of the region is rich in.



### Exhibits at NBNP

**Amphibian Pond** - Manmade ponds which hold a wide variety of frogs.

**Aquarium** - Features native species of fish in the Nilgiri Biosphere region.

**Arboretum** - A collection of threatened plant species native to NBR, that are of immense environmental value to the region.

**Herbal Garden** - Abounds with plants of intrinsic medicinal value from the Western Ghats.

**Pollinator Garden** - Features ornamental flowering plants, which are visited by bees, butterflies, beetles, bugs, spiders and birds, all year around.

**Rockery** - A naturally formed rock garden with plants growing around them.

**Zodiac Garden** - A carefully cultivated collection of 27 tree varieties, each representing auras of the 27 nakshatras popular to Indian culture.

### Facilities at NBNP

Aquarium | Amphitheatre | Forest Zone | Educational and Recreational Activity Area | Nature Trails | Kid's play area | Greenhouse (Nursery) | Resting huts | Cafeteria

The Calabash tree or beggar's bowl tree is a native of the Western Ghats. It is so called because the ascetics traditionally used half portions of the fruit rind as a food bowl. It is also believed that the seasoned bowl is capable of keeping food from spoilage for a longer time than traditional vessels. The flowers and fruits of the tree are known to grow directly on its bark.

