Pachmarhi
General Information

Pachmarhi’s vast land area and animal life is not the only thing that draws great interest to it. It has lots of history behind its origins. Aside from its history there is a great deal of human impact on this biosphere, and today many tourists can go get an experience of the natural beauties and wonders of this particular biosphere.

It was established by the Indian government and EPCO as a biosphere on March 3rd, 1999. But it certainly existed way before because it was discovered in 1857 by a Bengal Lancer by the name of Colonel Forsyth. This spot quickly became known as Forsyth point. There is, however, human history as well; there are at least 500 villages with in the areas of the biosphere. One may run into one of two tribes for example, the Gonds and Korkus are two primitive tribes that call Pachmarhi their home. They are primitive because of the fact that they live in small cave or rock shelters, huts, and are content with a simple lifestyle. Just like cave drawings, many drawings and images were found depicting things such as war or hunting. Some of these depictions can date back as far as 1000 B.C.

Pachmarhi has become a large tourist attraction in the past years. It has plenty of sites and attractions specifically geared towards tourism. Some examples of sites that are enjoyed by many are Apsara Vihar, Rajat Parbat, and Duchess Falls. The Apsara Vihar is also known as the Fair Pool and may be one of the most beautiful pools in the entire biosphere. The Rajat Parbat means large or big falls, and drops water from height of three hundred feet. It has many spots for a diverse group of individuals. There are places that people may enjoy a picnic
with an amazing mountain top view. There are even spots for mountain climbers; Lanjee Giri is a prime example of an attraction for rock climbing. For many of these attractions hotels, transportation, escorts, and expert guides are available to get the full experience out of one’s visit.

In fact educational programs can piggy back off of the tourism. Students who are studying abroad may find this to be a useful tool in gathering information for academic and non academic use.

Pachmarhi is with out a doubt a very interesting place with rich history but see for yourself, maybe one day you can see it with your own eyes.

**Climate of Pachmarhi**

Pachmarhi is actually one of the more popular places to visit, as it has fairly good weather all year-round. It is about 3500 feet above sea level, and gets about 785.84mm of annual rainfall, mostly during the monsoon season. The summer months have nice weather due to its elevation. The temperature doesn’t exceed 35 degrees Celsius during the day, and makes for an ideal place to vacation. Winter months can get down to 4 degrees Celsius at night, which is pretty good considering the bone-numbing temperatures in the Himalayan foothills, which are usually shut down during the winter. Winter air is cold and crisp, with beautiful mist-filled air, and the reserve is still used for vacationing. The monsoon season is the only time when people going on vacation are less likely to come here, since the rain is usually pouring most of the time, and the sky is cloudy almost constantly. The heavy precipitation gives the places seasonal waterfalls and lush plant growth, and after the season ends the place erupts with flowers and new growth for the summer. Overall, this is one of the more pleasant and stable climates in India, and is an all-year-round vacationing spot.
Fauna of Pachmarhi

Like most of India’s wilderness, the Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve has a healthy population of animal life within its borders. It supports a large number of medium and large-sized game animals, as well as large predators like the leopard and tiger. The dense vegetation and forested hills make for an ideal habitat for all the animal life to be found here. The area has a long history of wildlife conservation and seems to have all the animals that are in the biogeographic classification of that region. As per a 1991 consensus, they reported 42 tigers, 74 leopards, 3475 wild boar, 964 barking deer, 1223 guars, 981 cheetals, 981 samphars, 1282 Rhesus macaque, and 6 crocodiles. I will talk a little bit about each in detail, but for the sake of space, I will leave out the bird, insect and arachnid populations simply because the sheer number of interesting and unique species that I would feel the need to include otherwise. Suffice it to say that the Pachmarhi region has a huge and awesome variety of insects and arachnids, and about 101 different species of birds.

I will start with the large hunters in the region, the leopards, and the iconic predator of India, the Bengal tiger. The Bengal tiger is the largest tiger, and predator, in India. An adult male Bengal can get around 8.8 and 10.2 feet long and from 419 to 569 pounds. It hunts just about every kind of prey animal in its territory, using its coloration and amazing stealth to ambush its prey from the undergrowth. The attack is usually an instant death where the prey has almost no chance of escape. Its diet mainly consists of wild pigs, buffalo, and the several species of deer in the area. Leopards are even stealthier, and can be difficult to spot even if they are near a
populated area. They are very good climbers, and will drag prey up a tree to rest and eat it without fear of another predator trying to steal it. They usually hunt at night, and are expert stalkers, walking right up to prey without them noticing and seeming to appear from nowhere. They go for the throat and neck, either taking out the jugular or severing the spine. They will eat just about anything, even scavenging tiger kills when available.

As for the prey animals, I’ll start with the deer. The Pachmarhi Reserve has several species of deer living in abundance in the forests and hills. The most common are the Muntjac, Cheetal, and Sambar deer. The Muntjac, or barking deer, is a very tiny species, small enough and sweet enough that you can actually keep them as pets. They are introduced, and have a rather wide range of population. It nibbles on roots and nutritious plants and is usually found in small groups, pairs, or alone. Sambar is found almost all over India, and is one of the larger species of deer. They eat mostly leaves, and are more active at night. They have become less shy of humans because of the protection of the reserves and national parks. This is one of the tigers favorite prey animals due to its large size and population. For people out in the wild, its alarm call should be taken seriously, as it is usually an accurate indicator or a predator in the area. Cheetal, or spotted deer, have coats that are similar to an American whitetail deer fawn. They are very nervous and are usually found in large hers of 30 to 50 individuals, mostly does and a few bucks. They are usually under trees where langur monkeys are at, since the monkeys drop tidbits of food and will call an alarm if they see a predator. They mostly eat grass, so you are as likely to find them in dense forest as you will in more open and grassy areas.

Indian wild boar is very wide-spread and populous. They are amazingly tough creatures like any wild boar. They eat a wide variety of plant matter, focusing on nuts, roots, and seeds. They also will eat insects, eggs, and carrion. Males are usually solitary, but females are usually
found in groups of around twenty or more individuals, though some can have as many as 100 members. They sleep in groups with bodily contact, and will use the same resting spot several times before moving on.

The Gaur is a large bovine animal that has horns in both males and females. They are usually diurnal animals, but when disturbed by human populations they tend to become nocturnal to avoid contact with people. They mostly eat grasses, shoots, and fruits, and usually in groups of anywhere from 2 to 40 individuals, though adult males may travel alone. It is usually near water, but it will go rushing back to the cover of the forest when startled.

One of the most common monkeys in India is the Rhesus macaque, and it’s not only limited to India either. They have a range stretching throughout mainland Asia and Afghanistan. They are very good at living near and with humans, and are found in many cities in Asia. They are very enterprising and get most of their food from people leaving them things to eat. In the wild their diet is as varied as any primate, mostly eating berries and fruits as well as insects and other small animals. They are very socially complex, and can be in groups of almost any size, though you seldom see them as only solitary or a pair. They are also worshipped in some temples in India and other parts of Asia, so they live in these temples and are given offerings of food. They are prey for just about anything that can catch them, including birds of prey.

As you can see, there is a rich and healthy animal population in the Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve, and these are only some of the larger animals, only a small number of species that co-exist here. They are all protected by the natural cover of the forest and the government protection that India has placed upon the region. Hopefully this biosphere will continue to enjoy the protection it has been given and prosper as a place of wildlife refuge and environmental research.
Bibliography


This is a report on the Pachmarhi reserve that details a lot of general info about the place. It includes geography, climate, animals, plants, and basically all manner of information on the biosphere and the research done there.


While it is a tourism site, it does gives good general information about the climate of the area. It also provides tourist activity that I can use to get an idea of the number of humans that go to the reserve during the year.


Some information on the Muntjac deer.


Some information on the Gaur.


Some information on the Cheetal, or spotted deer.


Some information on the Sambar deer.

Some information on the Rhesus macaque.


Some information on the wild boar of India.


Some information on the Bengal tiger.


Some information on the leopards in India.


Gained information on human history and history of the site


Gained information on tourism

"Tourism in India- about pachmarhi, hill stations, scenic places, tourism." Tourism in India, Indian Tourist Places - Monuments, adventure tourism, backwater tourism, rock cut caves, pilgrim..."
Gained information on tourism and human impact.


This source gave information about tourism, human impact, and history of the site.