



1st Mahananda Bird Festival

The Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary is rich in avi-fauna and has more than 300 species of birds. The Sanctuary has been designated as an “Important Bird Area” owing to its critical role in conservation of birds and its habitat. The Sanctuary is well known among the birding community and bird watchers flock to the sanctuary for sighting the Rufous necked hornbill and other birds. The Darjeeling Wildlife Division will be organizing the 1st Mahananda Bird Festival from 20th to 23rd February, 2021 to provide an opportunity for the participants to explore the forests of Mahananda and sight different birds. The participants will be taken to popular birding spots like Rongdong and Latpanchor in addition to the birding trails within the forests. The participants will witness the diverse landscapes of rivers, plains, forests and the hills throughout the festival.

Please apply online through the link below
<https://cutt.ly/5jTJ0qe>

1. Participation Fee: ₹ 5000.00 (Rupees Five Thousand Only). The applicant shall have to deposit the fee of Rs.5000.00 (Rupees five Thousand Only) to the designated bank account through electronic transfer after the participation is confirmed. The fee shall be deposited within 5 days of confirmation. Failing which the participation will stand forfeited and the waitlisted candidates will be confirmed.
2. Decision of the Organising Committee will be final.
3. If any participant fails to join the festival after making payment no refund will be made.

In case of cancellation of the festival due to COVID-19 Pandemic or any other unforeseen circumstances or Government order, FULL REFUND of Participation fee will be made to the participants.



4. Important Dates:

- » Opening date of online application is 18th January 2021.
- » Last date for application form submission: 2nd February 2021.
- » Publishing of the selected & reserved list of participants: 5th February 2021.
- » Last date for payment of participation fee by the selected candidates & sending receipt of online successful payment of participation fee of selected candidates through mail at mahanandabirdfest@gmail.com: 10th February 2021.
- » Confirmation (if any) of participants in the reserve list: 12th February 2021.
- » Last date for payment of participation fee by participants of reserved list & sending receipt of online successful payment of participation fee of selected candidates through mail at mahanandabirdfest@gmail.com: 17th February 2021

5. Who can participate in the festival?

Any individual more than 18 years and below 60 years of age having good physical fitness and keen interest in nature can attend the festival. Maximum 48 participants will be accommodated and selection will be subject to the decision of a screening committee. Interested participants shall apply online by using the link -<https://cutt.ly/5jTJOqe> only. Last date of submission of online application is 2nd February 2021.

The Receipt of successful online payment of participation fee shall be mailed to mahanandabirdfest@gmail.com from the participant email.





6. Where is the Festival site?

The Mahananda Bird Festival 2021 will be held covering entire Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary with central camping site at SUKNA.

7. Where do I have to report on Inaugural day?

All the participants shall report at Nature Interpretation Centre (NIC), SUKNA for registration on 20th February 2021, by 2:00 PM.

8. What about the accommodation?

The participants will be provided basic accommodation in Forest Barrack on sharing basis. BED ROLL SHALL BE CARRIED BY THE PARTICIPANT.

9. What about the food arrangement?

Food & Drinking Water shall be provided at campsite by organising committee. Water bottle (one 1 ltr. & one ½ ltr.) shall be carried by the participant.

10. Is there any Pick up and drop facilities?

No. Participants can avail taxi/auto from Siliguri.

11. Distance from

- » New Jalpaiguri Railway Station (NJP) – 15 KM.
- » Bagdogra Airport- 13 KM.
- » Tenzing Norgay Bus Terminus- 11.5 KM.

12. What I have to bring?

All the registered (Selected) participants are requested to bring their bird books, binoculars, knee caps, hiking poles, photography equipment, sleeping bag, winter wears, water bottle (one 1 ltr. & one ½ ltr.), torch, first-aid kit. Carrying personal Sleeping Bag is must, as the temperature significantly drops 5° C in North Bengal and nights are chilly during winters. Participants shall wear appropriate colours (like brown, gray, olive) while entering the forests.



13. How do I Register?

Only online by following link - <https://cutt.ly/5jTJOqe>

14. What is the selection process?

48 applications shall be accepted by the screening committee based on the applicant's aptitude.

15. How do I confirm my Registration?

All shortlisted participants will receive an email with detail route map by 5th February 2021. Participant in the reserve list on confirmation will receive the details by 12th February 2021.

16. What is the cancellation and refund policy?

No refund will be provided in case the participants is unable to participate in the festival.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Darjeeling Wildlife Division reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any scheduled festival event mentioned in the program details.

17. How do I contact Mahananda Bird Festival organizers?

Through email: mahanandabirdfest@gmail.com,

Through Mobile: Sri. Sudipta Ghosh, Range Officer

Mobile No: +91-9735908737

Postal Address:
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Darjeeling Wildlife Division
Old Bengal Natural History Muesum
Meadow Banks Road
Darjeeling, Pin 734101
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