

DOS AND DON'T'S

Welcome to the Bengal Forest Trails... You are in unfamiliar territory and to carry back good memories and avoid unnecessary accidents, it is essential to respect nature and recognise our limitations...

Dos on a Trek

We do not expect unauthorized hikers... always carry permit from Forest Department.

This is wilderness trail... wear proper clothes and shoes befitting the occasion.

Carry only dry food, sufficient potable water and insect repellents.

Keep helpline numbers (police/forest/medical) ready on your mobile.

Do not expect a pharmacy on trek routes... carry a first aid kit and essential medicines.

Carry raincoat, umbrella, battery torch and a stick/lathi. You cannot out-guess nature.

Carry garbage bag and put all garbage in it for disposal at the end of the trek. Nature does not expect unwanted contributions from you.

Always move in groups... neither get left behind nor leave your colleagues behind.

Respect local cultural, religious and social customs and norms... you are the outsider here.

Return to base camp by 4.30... jungles can be quite confusing at night & wildlife will not provide directions.

Don'ts on a trek

Do not leave plastic or non-degradable material behind... they do not agree with the natural surroundings.

Don't Trek or Hike alone... you should always take a guide along.

Don't pollute water, air or soil... don't leave anything behind except foot prints.

Do not smoke, drink alcohol or litter during the trek. The natural air is more intoxicating.

Don't create noise or use speakers during the trek. Enjoy the sounds of the forest.

Don't light fires en-route.. or throw inflammables... forests are the repository of carbon.

Don't collect any vegetation or poach (kill/capture/injure) any wild fauna.... Take back only memories and photographs.

Don't deviate from the designated route.

Don't undertake graffiti on any natural or man-made property; nature does not expect artistic contributions from you.

Forests have enough wild life... do not take your pets along,



Introduction

Susunia is a small village at the foot of Susunia hill located in Bankura district in the eastern part of the Chotanagpur plateau. The 440 meters high hill, predating the Himalayas, is a curious collection of boulders of myriad sizes and large stones called 'Poppins Peak'. It is located around 30km from Bankura.



The Trail

Water Dhara to Susunia Pahar Hill Top (4kms up & down): The trail starts at the plain base of the hill but climbs steadily uphill to reach a height of 439.5mts. The path is rocky and slippery in places. The trek traverses through beautiful sal forests and rocky terrain. Various inscriptions of the 4th century of archeological importance are visible en-route. There are some beautiful viewing points from where one can enjoy the beauty of the surrounding landscape.



Best Time to Visit

The best time to visit Bankura is during the winter months from October to February. The temperatures remain at a very comfortable level and rain is minimal during winter. Winters are cold and dry here. During this time the maximum temperature does not rise above 30°C while the minimum stays in the range of 12 to 15°C.



How to Reach

No direct buses are available from Kolkata to Susunia. Regular buses ply from Durgapur, Kharagpur and Bankura to Susunia. One may take the train from Howrah to Chhatna Station from where the hills are only 10 kms away; private vehicles are available for hire to reach Susunia.

Emergency Contacts

Forest Beat Office, Susunia	: 9083254758
Susunia Gram Panchayat	: 9775515115
Chatna Police Station	: 03242277222
Chatna Hospital	: 03242277512
BDO Chatna	: 03242277233

Divisional Forest Officer Bankura North Division, Machantala

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JALDHARA TO SUSHUNIA

Bankura District

Bengal Nature Trails

Department of Forests
Government of West Bengal



History

The excavations in Susunia have revealed inscriptions dating back to 4th century AD. Susunia hill is a fossil site and fossil remains of Asiatic Lion, giraffe, hyena and other animal species have been discovered from surrounding areas. The purportedly 'oldest' rock inscription of West Bengal is located here. King Chandravarman, the king of Jodhpur, Rajasthan conquered Bengal in the 4th century and built a castle at Aranyak Susunia hill, which is not traceable today



Ecology

Like other forest areas in the district, the vegetation of Susunia hill comprises tropical dry deciduous forest dominated by Sal. The hill is very rich in medicinal plants and includes species like amlaki, arjun, palash, mohua and bael. Owing to human disturbances, the presence of fauna in the area is meagre. Those that are still spotted include the wild boar, jackal, hyena, fox, hare and langur. The place is also known as a good location for bird watching.



JALDHARA TO SUSHUNIA

Bankura District



Old Tetul tree of sushunia



vegetation at top of Hillock



Banyan tree growth on Sushunia Rocks



Geology

The flat land around Susunia is composed of laterite and alluvium, while gneisses and schist of Archean age are found in the extreme west. Sedimentary rocks of the Gondwana system with a combination of granite and few ultrabasic rocks are found here. Susunia hills zone is covered by gneisses, which is composed of sillimanite and kyanite bearing quartzite.



Beautiful Sal forests of Sushunia hillock



vegetation at top of Hillock.



way to Dhara



End Point



Lord Krishna Worship Place atop



Starting Point. Stone crafters Bazaar



Points of Interest

Various inscriptions of archeological importance dating to the 4th century A.D may be seen at Susunia. There is a very prominent engraved wheel (Charkra) with flaming rim, hub and multiple spokes. The script visible on the rock face, named Shankha Lipi and resembling the shape of conch shells, is remarkable. A stone Narasingha (an Avatar of Lord Vishnu) graces the place from where spring water pours out of the rocky hill side through a carved projected spout. The water of the 'Dhara,' a sweet water perennial spring, is believed to have medicinal properties. Susunia is also used as a location for camping and rock-climbing. Stone craftsmen of Susunia are quite well known for their stoneware. Biharinath hill, the highest peak of Bankura (448 meter) with famous Biharinath temple just a few kilometres away from Susunia.

