



## LOCATION INFORMATION

### *The Verdant Charms of Buxa—Dooars*

**Buxa-Dooars** is lush foothill jungle domain spread over 5200 square kilometres in the state of West Bengal and lies along the borders of the Himalayan Kingdom Bhutan on one part and the Indian state of Assam on the other. The huge sylvan expanse with rare fauna and flora of the region offers well-facilitated forest accommodation among the many wildlife sanctuaries in the area.

The region gets its name from the small fiefdom of Buxa and its fort with the same name [now extinct] and Dooar ['Dooar' in Bengali means Door]. Buxa, centuries ago served as the door to the trading routes to Bhutan, Sikkim and Assam for traders from south. And the British appropriately used the local word 'Dooar' to describe it. Through the years the place came to be identified as Buxa-Dooars.

The exotic fauna in the sanctuaries include the rare Indian one-horned Rhino, the Gaur bison, Spotted and Barking Deer and the Indian Leopard besides innumerable species of birds and reptiles.

The wildlife sanctuaries are spell binding and always make a visual treat at every nook and corner with some striking nature's bounties – of mountain springs [called 'Jhora' locally] wild flowers and startling unannounced appearance of some exotic animal.



Jungle safaris are conducted in Jeep or Elephant back when tracking Tiger, Rhino or Leopards. It's thrilling all through!

## Jungle Rules

Jungles are few remaining nature's territory, mercifully spared by the spread of civilization. Those who value the remaining of nature's eco parks would also spontaneously respect, we believe, the rules of the place. Some of the ways we can keep these places undisturbed and help retain its character are:

~ No smoking or lighting fires. One accidental spark can devastate acres of forests rendering its inhabitants homeless and vulnerable. The trees that have taken half a century or more to mature would have to regenerate, needing the same time. That means our progeny and we will have more toxic air to breathe. We have examples from Australia, Europe and America of ravaging forest fires in recent times, all triggered by man.

~ No litter, not even the biodegradable ones. Remember even the harmless looking discards can be an item of curiosity and inquisition by animals and in the process can hurt, choke or injure the animal. Besides, the jungle is the only place we are spared the ugly sights of civilization let us vehemently retrain the civilized rubbish to find its nest in the jungles.

~ The jungle is a silent zone. Let's respect that. Unfamiliar noises drive away the wary animals and you deny yourself the rare sighting of nature's exotic treasures.

~ Do not disfigure the natural ambience. Do not break tree branches, chisel out names on the tree barks. Leave behind only footprints if you like, and take back memories in slides.

~ Discourage trade in wildlife. They attract stringent punishments. Entomological collections need permission from authorities. Some are even banned and punishable with imprisonment.

