

# Birding Trip to Mangalajodi

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Mangalajodi, an ancient village in the Khurda area of Odisha, is a breathtaking haven where wildlife and nature coexist in perfect harmony. Renowned as a birdwatcher's paradise, this global wetland boasts stunning vistas of approximately 1.5 million birds during peak season. It serves as a sanctuary for a wide variety of avian species, including thousands of migratory birds from across the world. Designated as an international bird protection area, Mangalajodi is celebrated for its vibrant birdlife and rich biodiversity, attracting ornithologists, researchers, and nature enthusiasts alike.

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## Table of Contents

1. Preservation of the Wetland
  2. Birding Excursion
  3. Conservation Awareness and Learning Experience
  4. Community Engagement and Future Initiatives
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## Preservation of the Wetland

The preservation of this magnificent wetland is a testament to the collaborative efforts of local communities and governmental organizations. Fishing, a crucial source of livelihood for the locals, has posed challenges to the ecosystem's balance, with increased fishing activities leading to stagnant fish pools. However, sustainable practices are being promoted to maintain the delicate ecological equilibrium.

Mangalajodi's diverse avian population and rich biological diversity offer a living classroom for students and researchers, highlighting the importance of wetland conservation and the role of community participation in safeguarding natural habitats.

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## Birding Excursion

Oasis organized an immersive birding trip to Mangalajodi, providing participants with an unparalleled opportunity to observe the vibrant avian life in their natural habitat. The excursion also included guided boat tours, where local bird guides shared their knowledge about the species observed, their behaviors, and their migratory patterns. Participants

documented various bird species, contributing to citizen science initiatives and enriching their understanding of bird conservation.

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### **Conservation Awareness and Learning Experience**

The birding trip was not merely a sightseeing expedition but an educational journey that deepened participants' awareness of conservation issues. Guided discussions emphasized the importance of protecting vulnerable species and maintaining the wetland's ecological balance.

Through firsthand experiences, students gained insights into the challenges posed by habitat loss, climate change, and human activities. The trip highlighted the necessity of sustainable tourism and responsible wildlife observation, encouraging participants to advocate for conservation in their communities.

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### **Conclusion and Reflections**

The birding trip to Mangalajodi was a transformative experience that fostered ecological awareness, scientific curiosity, and community engagement. Participants returned with a renewed sense of responsibility towards environmental stewardship and a deeper connection to the natural world.

For Oasis, the journey reaffirmed its mission to inspire future generations to embrace conservation and sustainability. By blending experiential learning with active participation, the Mangalajodi trip set the stage for continued exploration and advocacy for India's incredible biodiversity.

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Associated Members- Existing Members at that time

Written By- Swastik Sourav Sahoo