

VERVE

The Spirit of Today's Woman

TRAVEL

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IN FOR A RETREAT: HIDDEN TRAVEL GEMS TO EXPLORE IN INDIA

Text by Ranjabati Das. Illustrations by Rutuja Patil

We hunt out some new-old havens that you ought to experience before they transform into tourist traps or, worse, disappear into oblivion....

Doors Wide Open
The Doars, West Bengal



The Dooars, comprising North Bengal and a part of Assam, is one of the most pristinely beautiful tourism destinations in the region. The Bengal portion of the Dooars or the Western Dooars, as it is known, is further divided into western, central and eastern parts. The name 'Dooars', meaning 'door' in Bengali, Assamese, Nepali and Bhutanese, is derived from its geographical location that allows it to operate as a gateway to Bhutan and the North-East. Here, dense tropical forests stretch endlessly, covering much of the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas that are home to a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna. Think, sprawling colonial tea estates, picturesque hills, towering forests, quiet hamlets and vast swathes of national parks and wildlife reserves. Altogether, the Dooars has great pull; once in this lap of nature, you will find it hard to leave behind the locale that seems designed for that digital detox you've been craving. Introspect, get inspired, switch off or take a leisurely long walk...far from the madding crowd.

Into The Wild

For a dose of wildlife, visit the Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary, which is a natural habitat for the endangered one-horned rhino in central Doars. Or you could even hop over to the Gorumara National Park in western Dooars. The Buxa Tiger Reserve falls towards the east, near the border of Bhutan. Apart from offering at least 150 different species of orchids, Buxa is also home to the Royal Bengal tiger, the Asian elephant, leopards, and much more.

Travel Log

Ideal for nature lovers (go angling, birdwatching, trekking, biking or camping), wildlife enthusiasts and photographers. For travellers pursuing a peaceful break, the serene tea gardens are perfect sanctuaries, replete with soothing sceneries. Visit all through the year. Fly into Bagdogra Airport, near Siliguri. Stay in Jalpaiguri. At The Riverwood Forest Retreats Dooars, The Reserve Gorumara, or Sun City; all in Lataguri. Or [the Sinclairs Retreat in Chalsa](#).

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