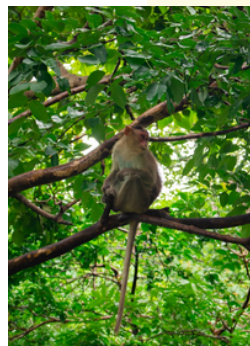
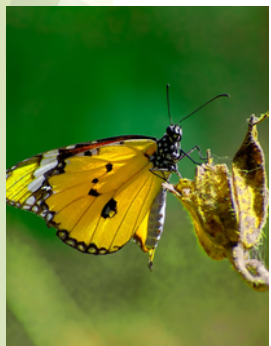


# Sanjay Gandhi National Park – Mumbai's Urban Forest

**Field Visit to the Kanheri Caves Complex**  
**(5 hours | 30 km from Congress Venue | Guided Ecology & Heritage Tour)**



**Date: Sunday, 16 November 2025**

**Time: 7 AM – 4 PM**

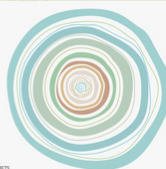
**Meeting Point: 7 AM Jio World Convention Center  
(Conference Venue), bus leaves at 7:15 AM for  
Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali, Mumbai**

**Fee: ₹3,500 per person  
(including GST, entry fees, and guide charges,  
Pickup / Drop-off from the conference venue)**

**(This tour is not included in the Congress registration fee  
and must be booked and paid for separately.)**

**Group Size: Up to 25 participants**

**Organised by: Foundation for Educational Rendezvous  
with Nature (FERN)**



## Tour Overview

Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) is one of the few protected forests in the world located within a metropolitan boundary. Spread over 100 square kilometres, it forms Mumbai's green lung – home to dense forests, seasonal rivers, leopards, and over 1,000 species of flora and fauna.

This guided field visit, organised by Foundation for Educational Rendezvous with Nature FERN, offers an immersive look at the region's ecology, native vegetation, and human-wildlife coexistence, culminating in an exploration of the Kanheri Caves, a remarkable Buddhist monastic complex carved into basalt rock nearly two millennia ago.

The visit blends natural history, landscape ecology, and heritage interpretation, giving participants a firsthand experience of Mumbai's living ecosystem.



## Resource Persons

- Seema Hardikar – Naturalist specialising in the flora and birds of Mumbai and surrounding regions. Works as a freelance consultant in ecological restoration, permaculture design, diversity-friendly farming, and Miyawaki forest development in urban settings.
- Rohit Pansare – Environmental planner and consultant in the renewable energy sector. Experienced in nature photography, biodiversity surveys, and spatial mapping of ecological landscapes.

## Itinerary

Time	Activity
7:00 AM	Meeting Point at Jio World Convention Center (conference venue), bus leaves for SGNP at 7:15 AM
8:30 AM	Assemble at SGNP Main Entrance, Borivali. Collect individual and vehicle entry tickets.
9:00 AM	Drive to Kanheri Caves entrance (approx. 15 minutes).
9:20 AM	Park vehicles. Short introduction and safety briefing.
9:30 AM	Biodiversity Briefing – Overview of Mumbai's forest types, habitats, flora, fauna, and human-wildlife interactions by experts.
10:00 AM	Nature Trail – Gentle 700 m uphill walk observing trees, herbs, lianas, and birds; discussion on ethnobotanical uses of native plants.
11:00 AM	Arrive at Kanheri Caves ticket counter and collect individual tickets.
11:15 AM – 1:00 PM	Explore Kanheri Caves Complex – Over 100 rock-cut caves across a basaltic plateau, surrounded by forest and unique microhabitats. Observe flora and fauna of the outcrops and nearby forest areas.
1:15 PM	Return to car parking and drive back to SGNP main gate.
1:30 PM	Group wrap-up and feedback session. End of tour.

## Good to Know

- Moderate walking and light trekking are involved, the route includes a gradual ascent and uneven terrain.
- Respect all park rules – no littering, no loud sounds, or disturbing wildlife.
- Tour may be adjusted slightly depending on the weather or forest regulations.

## Payment Instructions

### Make Payment

Proceed to payment using the banking details.

Bank Name - HDFC BANK

Account Name - EXH WORLDWIDE LLP-ISOLA IFLA APR-25 ESC

Account Number - 99992746247262

Branch Address - Industry House, Ground Floor, H T Parekh Marg,  
Churchgate, Mumbai - 400020

IFSC/RTGS code - HDFC0000501

Ensure the amount matches the applicable tour fee:

₹3,500 per person –Sanjay Gandhi National Park – Mumbai's Urban Forest

### Share Payment Screenshot

- After completing payment, send a screenshot of the payment confirmation along with the following details:

1. Full Name
2. Registered Email ID
3. Selected Tour Name
4. Number of Participants
5. Payment Screenshot

- Share this via email or WhatsApp to the IFLA 2025 Technical Tours Team:

 vicky@exhibetter.com

 +91 9833140113 (Gayatri Narkar – Call/WhatsApp)

 +91 9768914289 (Pranita Sawant – Call/WhatsApp)

### Confirmation & Spot Allocation

- Your booking will be confirmed only after payment verification.
- A confirmation email will be sent within 3 business days containing your e-ticket and reporting instructions.
- Spots are limited and confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

## FAQ

---

### 1. Is this tour part of the Congress registration?

No. Technical tours are optional and must be paid for separately.

### 2. Will the visit proceed if it rains?

Yes, with safety adjustments.

### 3. Are refreshments included?

Light refreshments are provided during the tour.

### 4. Can I bring a guest?

Yes, subject to seat availability and advance payment.

### 5. How physically demanding is the trail?

The walk involves a gentle 700 m climb and a 1 km exploration at the caves – moderate fitness recommended.

### 6. What to Wear?

- Full-sleeved T-shirt and long pants
- Trekking or walking shoes
- Sun cap or hat

### 7. What to Carry?

- Small field backpack
- Drinking water and dry snacks
- Mosquito repellent
- Field diary, pen/pencil
- Camera and binoculars
- Hand lens (10x)
- Field guides for Mumbai's nature trails