

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

Garh Panchakot or the Panchet Hills, situated in north-east corner of Purulia District of West Bengal, is bordered by the Damodar River and its tributaries. The hill gets its name from its five peaks and the ruins of Panchkot Raj dynasty that lie at its feet. Situated at 650 m above the lush green hill stands amidst a lateritic landscape where temperatures range from 7°C in winter to 40°C in summer.



Hiking

Hadhadi waterbody to Hilltop via Bhasa pul (7.5 kms one way) - Hadhadi near the starting point of the route is a perennial water body. The boulder pitched path is usually gentle but runs to steep at places. There are several scenic viewpoints on the way. The forest is quite dense on this route and abounding with small seasonal rivulets through an undergrowth of tangled lianas. Lucky Hikers may be able to spot some of the abundant wild animals. A small waterbody lies en-route to the hill top where clouds of butterflies aggregate for mud-puddling. On the top of the Garh Panchakot hill is a 'Gol Ghar' where the visitors can rest after the uphill trek and enjoy the breath-taking view of the Surroundings and the Damodar river at a distance.



Best Time to Visit

October to March is the most favourable period for tourists to explore the Garh Panchkot. Purulia experiences extremely hot and dry summers with temperatures ranging between 23° to 45° C. The arrival of monsoons marks a sudden shift in the temperatures, making the weather wet and damp and hiking risky. The mercury starts dropping with the arrival of winter- the days are pleasant with highs of 20° C, while the nights are really cold at 7° C.



How to Reach

Garh Panchakot is connected by Road as well as Rail. It is 252 kms from Kolkata via Assansol, 25 kms from Adra and 19 kms from Barakar. Nearest railway station is Adra(23 kms) and Assansol(40 kms). Nearest Airport is Andal(75 kms).

Emergency Contacts

Neturia Forest Beat Office, Raghunathpur	: 9932434220
Janardandih Gram Panchayat	: 8348647551
Neturia Police Station	: 8145500398
BMOH Harmardi	: 9732001082

Divisional Forest Officer Kangsabati North Division

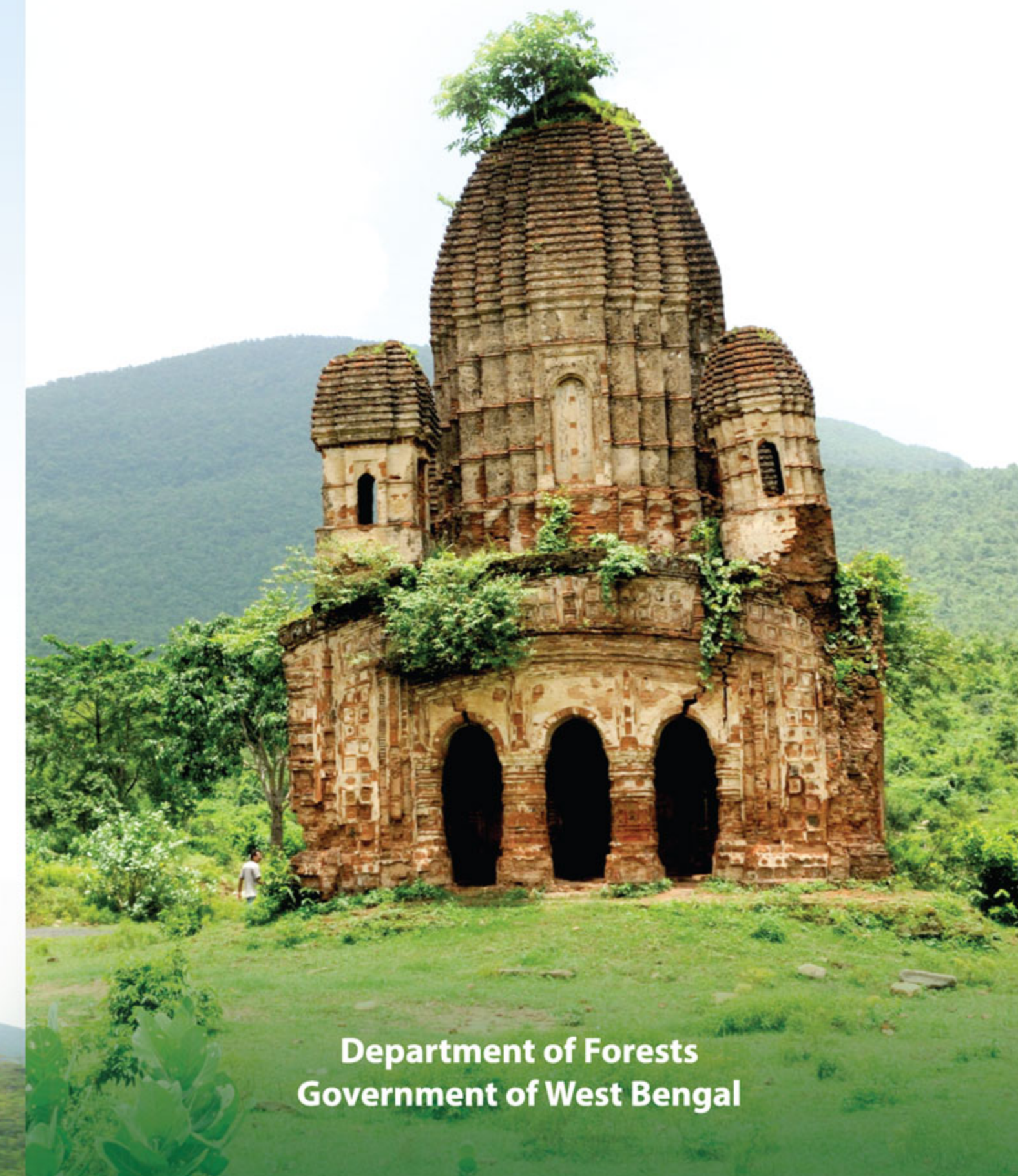
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GARH PANCHAKOT

Purulia District

Bengal Nature Trails



Department of Forests
Government of West Bengal