

### **Guidelines to be followed by Tourists.**

- (i) Carrying of firearms of any kind is not permitted within the Sanctuary or tourism Zone.
- (ii) Walking, trekking or getting down of the vehicle, other than the designated places in the Sanctuary or Tourism Zone, is strictly prohibited.
- (iii) Driving inside the Sanctuary or Tourism Zone beyond prescribed timings is prohibited.
- (iv) Blowing of horns and driving beyond the speed limit is strictly prohibited within the Sanctuary or Tourism Zone.
- (v) Visitors are prohibited from taking vehicles off the designated routes.
- (vi) Cooking is not allowed in Sanctuary except at the designated places where canteen facility is not provided.
- (vii) Visitors are required to carry a litter bag with them while entering the Sanctuary or Tourism Zone and bring back their non-biodegradable litter (tin cans, plastic, glass, bottle, metal foil etc.) outside the Forest.
- (viii) Smoking in public places and during excursion in Sanctuary or Tourism Zone area is a punishable offence. Also lighting of any kind of fire is strictly prohibited.
- (ix) Playing of radio and other sound producing devices within the Sanctuary or Tourism Zone is strictly prohibited.
- (x) Entry into the restricted zone by the visitors is prohibited.
- (xi) Shouting, teasing or chasing animals, putting light extra in night, feeding them or causing damage to plant or animal life or their habitat and any such attempts are prohibited and punishable offence will invite severe penalties.
- (xii) Visitors are compulsorily required to obtain a clearance certificate before leaving their place of residence, if any, within the Sanctuary or Tourism Zone.
- (xiii) Visitors are advised to wear clothes of colours, which merge with the natural surroundings (khaki, olive green or other dull colours).
- (xiv) Entry/exit timing of the Sanctuary or Tourism Zone is regulated in such a manner that visitors must reach their gate of entry before prescribed time.

(xv) Visitors shall keep a minimum distance of more than 20 meters from all wild animals; cordoning, luring or feeding of any wild animal shall be prohibited. Minimum distance between vehicles while spotting wild animal shall be maintained at 50 meters. Vehicles shall not monopolize a wildlife sighting for more than 5 minutes.

(xvi) Entry into the Sanctuary or Tourism Zone with or without permit is on the own risk of the visitor. The authorities shall not be responsible for any damages caused during the visit in Sanctuary or Tourism Zone.

(xvii) Permit is non transferable.

(xviii) Non-vegetarian food is prohibited inside Sanctuary or Tourism Zone.

(xix) Tourists are not allowed to carry and consume any kind of Alcoholic beverages in Sanctuary or Tourism Zone.

(xx) Visitors are not allowed to carry and use any kind of intoxicants, drugs and other narcotics etc.

(xxi) Pets are not allowed in the Sanctuary or Tourism Zone.

(xxii) Forest Authorities may cancel the permit, for any good and sufficient reasons. The decision of relevant authority would be final in this regard.

(xiii) The permit to enter Sanctuary or Tourism Zone is issued under sec 28 (1&2) of Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972 and it is the responsibility of the visitors to follow the above-mentioned rules and regulations. Any infringement of the above mentioned rules and regulations hence would be treated as violation of the Act and dealt accordingly.

## **Regulation of Visitors to Religious Places in and around Sanctuary**

Though, there is no religious place inside the boundaries of Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, but there are certain places outside or on periphery of the Sanctuary. Kalichaur, Surya Devi Temples are in Chhakata Range. Sumanthapla Temple is located in Nandhaur Range. On northern boundary Betlar Temple in Danda Range, Byandhura Temple in Sharda Range are situated in Haldwani Forest Division while Kaladev Temple and Reetha Sahib Gurudwara are situated in Champawat Forest Division. Most of these religious places are on fringes of Wildlife Sanctuary but there is access through Wildlife Sanctuary for Byandhura Temple, Kaladev Temple and Reetha Sahib Gurudwara whereby the visitors use various forest roads and bridal paths in Nandhaur, Jaulasal, Danda and Sharda Ranges. Though the actual figures related to number of visitors is not available with the division, but every year, the no of visitors is increasing exponentially. In fact, visitors reaching Byandhura Temple, Kaladev Temple and Reetha Sahib Gurudwara through Sanctuary limits are in thousands. The visitor inflow as well their activities have to be regulated in such a way to minimize its negative impact on wildlife habitat of Sanctuary and forests around it. Following regulatory mechanism has to be followed to control and manage the visitor access to such religious places;

(i) For any access through Sanctuary area, a valid permit issued under section 28(1) (d) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 would be required for specified duration/ time. All conditions and direction given while, allowing a permit for access through sanctuary by CWLW/Authorized Officer, shall be followed. Any infringement shall be considered as violation of section 28(2) of Wild Life (protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Further, the entry in Reserve Forest (Including Sanctuary) shall be regulated as per Rules Governing Temporary Use of roads under control of Forest Department, Uttar Pradesh (GO. No. 7273/XI Va-70 (41)/1962 dated 25.03.1969 attached in Annexures) and any other Act, Rules, Orders as applicable.

(iii) Uttarakhand Government or Department will not be liable to any damage caused to a person and/or any property etc. upon entering into boundaries of Sanctuary/Division for visit to such religious places.

(iv) All Vehicles entering Sanctuary/ Division for this purpose shall follow standards/conditions/Guidelines laid down by Chief Wildlife Warden/Department.

(v) Heavy vehicles including tractor-trolley etc. shall not be allowed in Nandhaur Valley or any other route as prescribed by Divisional Forest Officer for access to Byandhura Temple, Kaladev Temple and Reetha Sahib Gurudwara. Further, Divisional Forest Officer may laid down restriction on any other type of vehicle or mode of transport, if he/she finds any negative impact on Wildlife Habitat.

(vi) Divisional Forest Officer may laid down restriction on entry of vehicles for other religious places, where people use roads/ paths passing though forest area if he/she finds any negative impact on forests.

(vii) No movement shall be allowed to such religious places after sunset.

(viii) Access to such places shall be allowed for duration and timings as mentioned by Divisional Forest Officer in permit.

(ix) Blowing of horns and driving beyond the speed limit is strictly prohibited such forest areas and Sanctuary.

(vii) Visitors are prohibited from taking vehicles off the designated routes.

(viii) Cooking is not allowed in Sanctuary or such forest areas except at the designated places as mentioned by relevant forest authority in permission.

(ix) No new construction, extension of such places is allowed in violation of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and other relevant laws.

(x) There shall be committee in the chairmanship of Divisional Forest Officer, Haldwani to regulate and manage visitor movement or any activity in such religious places.

(xi) Any other regulation, restriction provided in management plan or departmental orders shall also be applicable in addition to provisions mentioned above.