

# ElACP RESOURCE PARTNER *On* ECOTOURISM

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Newsletter

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## BEST ECO-TOURISM DESTINATIONS IN INDIA

### What will it take to develop, grow, and maintain Eco tourism in northern India?

Raising awareness and appreciation for eco-tourism among potential visitors and local communities is essential for its success in northern India.

*Written by, Swarupa Tripathy*

*New Delhi | Updated: July 4, 2024 18:31 IST*



*The development of eco-tourism destinations in northern India faces several significant challenges. (Source: Freepik)*

From the snow-capped Himalayas to lush forests and winding rivers, northern India's diverse landscapes hold immense potential for ecotourism. However, despite its natural beauty and rich biodiversity, sustainable or eco-tourism development in this area has lagged behind other parts of the country and the world. Many lessons can be learnt from the already successful projects in other parts of the country.

But what exactly are the reasons behind this?

"Successful models could have facilitated more eco-tourism

sites, but apart from a few projects in forest areas, there aren't enough examples," said P A Mohammed Riyas, Kerala's minister for public works and tourism. He added that lack of innovation, insufficient expertise, and haphazard development have hindered growth and led to negative effects.

Pooja Nataraj, co-founder of The ImPart Collective, cites a 2019 Ministry of Tourism report showing that only six per cent of India's tourism investment goes towards ecotourism. "Additionally, balancing tourism growth with the preservation of natural habitats and biodiversity remains challenging, as seen with the increased human-wildlife conflicts in regions like Uttarakhand," she told indianexpress.com.

Mridula Tangirala, head of tourism, Tata Trusts, believes that northern India, especially the Himalayan belt, is a paradoxical landscape. "It grapples with the dual dilemma of over-tourism straining its popular regions, while its hidden gems languish in the shadows of under-tourism," she said.

### Sustainable infrastructure development and the role of governments

To address challenges in ecotourism, crucial infrastructure improvements must minimise environmental impact and respect local communities. Amit Jaipuria, founder and CEO of Postcard Travel Club, suggests using green construction methods, locally sourced materials, and focusing on energy efficiency, waste management, and community engagement.

Riyas stresses the importance of scientific know-how and proper planning, highlighting a shortage of quality planners

and developers. He advocates adhering to sustainable development principles, implementing Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), and proper visitor management practices.

Understanding an area's "carrying capacity" – the amount of tourism it can safely absorb – is essential, according to Tangirala. She believes tourism success should not be measured solely in economic terms but should also consider community and environmental empathy, education, and equity among stakeholders.

Concurring, Riyas says, "Eco-tourism projects should ensure equitable distribution of economic benefits to the local community by way of employment and small and medium scale entrepreneurship."



*By fostering a deep appreciation for the natural and cultural heritage of northern India among both visitors and locals, a foundation for responsible tourism practices can be built. (Source: Freepik)*

Kerala's Responsible Tourism initiative integrates local communities into the tourism value chain, promoting cultural exchanges and economic benefits while preserving natural resources. Examples include the Thenmala eco-tourism project and eco-tourism activities in Periyar Tiger Reserve, informed Riyas.

Kabini Resorts, the first eco-tourism venture by Jungle Lodges and Resorts Ltd., a joint venture between the Tourism and Forest Departments of the Government of Karnataka, has been a leading eco-tourism initiative for over two decades.

G S Rathore, founder of Jungle Camps India, emphasises that successful ecotourism relies on "active local community participation and support," but pointed out there is often a lack of awareness about its economic benefits and insufficient training programs to

empower locals.

Tangirala points to Dzuleke village in Nagaland as a model of sustainable development and inclusive rural growth. With support from the Trusts, the North East Initiative Development Agency (NEIDA), the village developed community-based eco-tourism, banning hunting and trapping, and training residents to become proficient guides, thereby preserving the region's natural and cultural heritage while supporting the rural community.

Internationally, Costa Rica stands out as a prime example of successful eco-tourism development. Rathore says, "Costa Rica is renowned for its eco-tourism initiatives focused on biodiversity conservation. National parks, private reserves, and sustainable lodges offer experiences like wildlife watching, canopy tours, and sustainable agriculture visits." Nataraj adds, "The country's eco-tourism framework generates \$1.7 billion annually, emphasising biodiversity conservation and community benefits."

### **Fostering awareness and appreciation**

Raising awareness and appreciation for eco-tourism among potential visitors and local communities is essential for its success in northern India. This can be achieved through multi-faceted approaches.

Megh, founder of Narayan Eco Home Stay in Jibhi, Himachal Pradesh, emphasises educational outreach. "Launching impactful campaigns that underscore the manifold benefits of eco-tourism can significantly help." He also advocates for workshops to equip locals with essential skills and educate tourists about sustainable practices.

Awareness creation should start before the planning stage and involve local people according to Riyas. He recommends using publicity and PR activities to enhance multi-stakeholder involvement in eco-tourism site development and management.

Tangirala introduces the concept of regenerative tourism, which revives ancient wisdom and knowledge in local communities through "review, re-engagement, and re-interpretation." She says, "Fact-based yet compelling storytelling can change the understanding and attitudes of both visitors and locals."

This approach builds a strong foundation for responsible tourism by encouraging a deep appreciation for northern India's natural and cultural heritage.

Source:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/destination-of-the-week/eco-tourism-northern-india-environment-sustainability-travel-tourists-9410008/>



Written by: Soby Negi

Updated on: August 4, 2024

### **How Trekking helps Uttarakhand's Local Community**

With the rise in demand for ecotourism all over India, Uttarakhand comes into the center of one of the important destinations for trekking. Due to having beautiful hilly terrain and the heart touching scenic beauty of Uttarakhand attracts trekking lovers and increases the demand for ecotourism sports. And this tends to the state as one of the popular choices for trekking.

As trekking acts as one of the important growth providers of Uttarakhand's GSD, it also helps its local community. Uttarakhand has a vast number of trekking sites due to this it is emerging as a tourist destination for adventurous sports and helps in the sustainable tourism development of the state and its Local Community. Now in this article, we want to highlight the importance of trekking into Uttarakhand's Local Community and how it is changing their life.





## Economic Impact

Uttarakhand is famously known for its pilgrimage tourism which has been practiced here for centuries. And now modernization has touched the local part of Uttarakhand and this pilgrimage tourism has evolved into a new face in the form of mass tourism. This includes mountaineering, trekking, and many other adventurous sports. But here our main focus is on trekking and its economic impacts on its local community.

Notable trekking destinations like Gaumukh Tapovan, Sunderdhunga, Dodital, Kalinda Khal, and Binsar have positioned Uttarakhand as a hub for adventure tourism. This industry, characterized as a smog-free and lucrative sector, stands as a pivotal source of revenue for both the state's economy and local communities.

Trekking in Uttarakhand acts as a key pillar of tourism and it has a multiplier impact on the state's economy. It acts as a key employment generator and increases the living standard of local people or their communities. And also helps in countries' national income (Tourism Policy 2023)

The Era of mass tourism in the core area of trekking has a very slight and enormous effects on the Himalayas. And in its local economy. According to Ragan report (2000), Garhwal earns between 10-15% of its revenue from taxes and levies imposed on adventurous tourism like trekking and pilgrimage each year.

The final report of UTD master plan 2007-2022, the major sources of international tourists for Uttarakhand were from the USA, UK, Australia, and other European countries. And trekking is also acting as a main source of attraction for these tourists which is about 51.3%. The money spent by the tourists who are coming for adventures activities like trekking and other adventurous activities like trekking and other adventures has diverse effects on the local economy.

It scales up the economy and so-called multiplier effect like jobs are created, capital is accumulated and local workers that used to be dependent on subsistence farming start their businesses on these trekking routes and they act as a trekking guide or selling souvenirs to trekkers.

This business in turn employs the local community as guides or workers thereby indirectly benefiting tourist money.

As a part of ecotourism trekking helps in the overall improvement of local living standards through better healthcare, education, and building of infrastructure. And also, one of the important impacts of this industry is that it helps Uttarakhand's biggest challenge which is unemployment so this type of tourism offers a lucrative and interesting avenue for local youth for an income source.

The economic benefits of trekking in Uttarakhand extend beyond the scenic landscapes to the local communities along the pilgrimage routes. As the trekking journey from Rishikesh to Badrinath and Kedarnath, the flourishing of small tea stalls, dhabas, and shops along the roadsides illustrates a substantial financial boost from daily tourist activities.

While there are challenges associated with the economic impact of trekking on local communities, the positive contributions, such as job creation and improved living standards, underscore the importance of sustainable and responsible tourism practices. Balancing economic benefits with cultural preservation becomes crucial for the long-term prosperity of these regions.

## Trekking is helpful; for the Cultural Exchange

Trekking not only explores the landscapes of remote regions but also serves as a gateway to culture exchange between trekkers and local communities. The high-altitude treks take individuals through less-explored areas where indigenous communities reside, providing an immersive experience of their daily lives and cultural practices.



### 1. Linguistic diversity:

Trekkers often encounter diverse languages during their journey, learning

basic phrases or greetings. This exposure fosters appreciation for the linguistic tapestry of the world, emphasizing the role of language in preserving cultural identity.

### 2. Culinary Exploration:

Local foods and traditional recipes along the trekking route offer a flavorful insight into the cultural heritage of communities. Sharing meals with locals becomes a cultural exchange, allowing trekking to understand the significance of food in different cultures.

### 3. Artistic Expressions:

Trekkers may witness or participate in local craftsmanship, such as weaving, pottery, or traditional dance. Engaging with these artistic expressions provides a deeper understanding of their cultural significance, enhancing the overall cultural exchange.

### 4. Historical And Cultural Sites:

ruins, ancient structures, or pilgrimage sites encountered during trekking hold cultural and historical value. Trekkers gain an appreciation for the stories embedded in these places, connecting them to the cultural tapestry of the region.

### 5. Cultural Norms and Respect:

Understanding and adhering to local cultural norms, whether related to dress, behavior, or religious practices, becomes integral to the trekking experience. This respect builds an appreciation for the diversity of cultural expressions.

### 6. Cross-Cultural Connections:

Trekking often brings together individuals from various backgrounds and cultures. The shared experience of trekking creates a platform for cross-cultural connections and exchanges. Trekkers learn from one another, share stories, and celebrate the diversity within the trekking goes beyond the physical challenge; it becomes a journey of cultural diversity that exists in the world.

## Trekking contributes to infrastructure development

Tourism, particularly fueled by the allure of trekking, plays a pivotal role in propelling infrastructure development.

The economic impetus generated by the influx of trekkers catalyzes strategic investments, resulting in improved roads, accommodations, and facilities that benefits both tourists and the local community.

### 1. Enhanced Road Networks:

The growing popularity of trekking destinations necessitates better connectivity. To accommodate this, governments often invest in upgrading existing roads or constructing new ones, providing efficient transportation corridors to and from trekking sites. For example, the Char Dham Railway Connects the four holy places in Uttarakhand states namely Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri. The not only eases access for tourists but also enhances overall connectivity for local communities.

### 2. Accommodation Facilities:

Trekking destinations gain prominence, there is an increased demand for diverse and comfortable accommodation options. This drives the development of hotels, guesthouses, and eco-friendly lodges, offering trekkers a range of choices. In Uttarakhand, some top hotels and guesthouses are already established but recently at the investor summit new and also big players in the hospitality industry have pledged to invest in this sector. Simultaneously, it opens avenues for local entrepreneurs to invest in hospitality, creating jobs and economic opportunities.

### 3. Community Homestays:

trekking destinations often witness the rise of community homestays, providing tourists with an authentic local experience. This not only generates income for the residents but also fosters cultural exchange. The establishment of these homestays becomes a key element in the infrastructure network, promoting sustainable and responsible tourism.

### 4. Facilities for Adventure Tourism:

With the surge in adventure tourism, facilities like trekking gear shops, guide services, and adventure activity centers emerge. The development of these facilities not only caters to the immediate needs of trekkers but also contributes to the economic vitality of the region.

### 5. Rest Stops and Amenities:

trekking routes may witness the creation of rest stops, information centers, and basic amenities along the trails. These facilities improve the overall trekking experience for tourists while also ensuring the safety and well-being of the local community.

### 6. Environmental Conservation Measures:

Sustainable trekking initiative often involve infrastructure projects focused on environmental conservation. This includes waste management systems, eco-friendly toilets, and efforts to preserve the natural beauty of the surroundings. These initiatives ensure that tourism development is ecologically responsible.

### 7. Local Skill Development:

The demand for tourism services, from guiding to hospitality necessitates skill development within the local community. Training programs and workshops geared towards enhancing these skills not only support tourism but also empower local with employed capabilities. In essence trekking -driven tourism acts as a catalyst for holistic infrastructure development. The improvements extend beyond serving the immediate needs of tourists, creating a lasting impact on the overall quality of life for residents. Residents. By fostering sustainable practices and community engagement, trekking destinations can become models of responsible tourism development.



### Conservation Efforts in Trekking

- **Safe Spaces:** Some trekking areas are like nature's homes, and rules help keep them safe.
- **Counting Friends:** We check how many trekkers can visit without hurting nature. Rules limit the number to keep things balanced.

- **No Litter Policy:** Everyone follows rules to keep trekking sports clean. Communities help with water collection and recycling.
- **Eco-Friendly Stays:** Rules encourage eco-friendly places to stay, using green tech and saving energy and water.
- **Local Helpers:** People who live there are nature's helpers. They learn to protect wildlife and trees, and everyone benefits.
- **Learning Together:** We teach everyone, including locals and trekkers, why nature is special and needs our care.
- **Community Benefits:** Some places give money to local communities from tourism. This motivates them to keep nature safe.
- **Building Rules:** Rules make sure we don't build things that harm nature. We want our special places to stay beautiful
- **Watching Out:** People keep an eye on trekking spots to make sure everyone follows the rules. Locals help as guides and guards.

### Community empowerment through trekking

#### 1. Community Trek Guides:

train locals as trekking guides, fostering sustainable tourism and proving economic opportunities.

#### 2. Culinary Trek Experiences:

collaborate with villages to incorporate local cuisine, creating jobs for cooks and enhancing the trekking experience.

#### 3. Trekking Crafts Cooperative:

form a local artisan cooperative, promoting unique handicrafts and supporting community businesses.

#### 4. Infrastructure for locals:

Invest in community-owned guesthouses and trail improvements, creating jobs and boosting local economics.

#### 5. Educational trek initiatives:

Collaborate with schools for educational trek experiences, supporting local education and cultural exchange.



## Challenges Of Trekking's Impact on the Environment:

**1. Deforestation Debate:** The impact of tourism particularly trekking, on the ecology of Uttarakhand has sparked debates, with concerns about deforestation. While some argue that the Himalayan ecosystem is rapidly degrading, others find these claims oversimplified and distorted.

**2. Pressure on forests:** the increasing number of tourists in the region exerts pressure on forest along the main trekking corridors. Clustering of shops, tea stalls, hotels, and restaurants around popular sites adds to environmental strain.

### 3. Garbage Accumulation:

Waste disposal poses a significant challenge, with estimates suggesting that a single trekking group can generate 15 kg of non-biodegradable or burnable waste during a 10-day trek. The Everest region is labeled as “the world's highest junkyard” due to extensive garbage along tourist trails.

### 4. Human Waste Contamination:

Improper disposal of human waste poses threats to water sources. Even correct burial in designated “cat holes” becomes a problematic due to the sheer volume of people. Areas around popular campsites can resemble “moonscapes” due to the large number of these dug holes.

### 5. Trail degradation:

The escalating number of tourists contributes to trail degradation in the Uttaranchal Himalayas. Poorly maintained trails lead to soil erosion, deep ruts, and the formation of alternative paths, causing damage to vegetation cover and potential habitat loss.

### 6. Pollution of water sources:

Campsites often face pollution, with reports of garbage dumps in undeveloped areas and contamination of holy rivers like Vishnuganga with feces and sewage. Trekking – induced pollution extends to creeks and rivers, affecting both aquatic life and the local ecosystem.



## Community engagement through trekking

In Sarmoli village, Uttarakhand, the Himalayan ark homestay program, initiated by Malika Virdi in 2004, exemplifies successful community engagement through trekking. Entirely run by women, this program not only provides unique experiences for visitors but also creates livelihood opportunities, empowers women collectives, and forest environmental conservation. Sarmoli's journey showcases the transformative impact of sustainable tourism on individual, families, and the broader community.

In conclusion, trekking in Uttarakhand not only contributes significantly to the state's economic growth also but plays a crucial role in transforming the lives of its local communities. The economic impact is evident through job creation, improved living standards, and the overall enhancement of the state's GDP. The cultural exchange facilitated by trekking fosters understanding and appreciation for the rich diversity of the region, showcasing linguistic, culinary, artistic, and historical aspects.

Furthermore, trekking catalyzes infrastructure development, driving investments in road networks, accommodation facilities, and community homestays. The positive ripple effects extend to environmental conservation, with initiatives focused on preserving nature, waste management, and eco-friendly practices.

However, it's essential to address the challenges associated with the environmental impact of trekking, such as deforestation, waste accumulation, and water pollution. Sustainable practices, community involvement, and responsible tourism are crucial in mitigating these challenges.

The cases of Sarmoli village exemplify

successful community engagement, demonstrating how trekking initiatives can empower local communities, particularly women, and contribution to environmental conservation. As Uttarakhand continues to thrive as a trekking destination, a balanced approach that prioritizes both economic benefits and environmental sustainability will ensure the long-term prosperity of the region and its communities.

Source:

<https://himalayandreamtreks.in/how-trekking-helps-uttarakhands-local-community/>

## Embark On a Green Journey: Top 7 Eco-Friendly Spots in Leh Ladakh

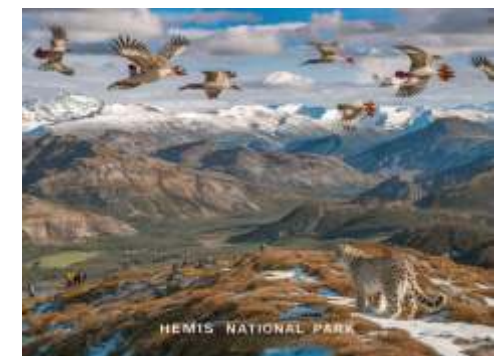


Kumar Utkarsh

Updated: Jul 25, 2024 1:25 PM IST

Situated within the majestic Himalayas, Leh, India, is a paradise for eco-conscious travellers seeking an enchanting blend of natural beauty and sustainable practices. From pristine landscapes to culturally rich heritage sites, Leh offers a plethora of eco-friendly travel destinations that not only captivate the senses but also foster a deep appreciation for conservation efforts. Let's embark on a journey to explore the top sustainable gems of Leh, where every step taken is a testament to responsible tourism.

### 1. Hemis National Park



Tucked away in the eastern part of Ladakh, Hemis National Park stands as a sanctuary for diverse wildlife and fragile ecosystems. Spanning over 4,400 square kilometers, this protected area is home to elusive snow leopards, Himalayan brown bears, and rare bird species like the Tibetan snowcock. Visitors can embark on guided wildlife tours, ensuring minimal disruption to the natural habitat while contributing to conservation efforts through eco-tourism initiatives.

## 2. Pangong Tso Lake

Renowned for its surreal turquoise waters set against a backdrop of rugged mountains, Pangong Tso Lake offers a serene retreat for eco-conscious travelers. Located at an altitude of 4,350 meters, this transboundary lake mesmerizes visitors with its pristine beauty while advocating for responsible tourism practices. Travelers can opt for eco-friendly camping experiences along the lakeshore, immersing themselves in the tranquil ambiance while minimizing their carbon footprint.

## 3. Alchi Monastery



Steeped in history and spiritual significance, Alchi Monastery is a testament to Ladakh's rich cultural heritage and architectural marvels. Dating back to the 10th century, this ancient monastery features exquisite murals, intricate wood carvings, and sacred artifacts, offering a glimpse into the region's vibrant past. Visitors can participate in guided tours led by local monks, promoting sustainable tourism

and supporting community-based initiatives aimed at preserving Ladakh's cultural legacy.

## 4. Nubra Valley

Tucked away in the northern part of Ladakh, Nubra Valley beckons travelers with its panoramic vistas, lush orchards, and traditional Ladakhi villages. As one of the few cold deserts in the world, this enchanting valley boasts a unique ecosystem teeming with indigenous flora and fauna. Eco-conscious travelers can explore the valley on foot or bicycle, immersing themselves in the natural splendor while minimizing their environmental impact.

## 5. Shey Palace



Perched atop a hill overlooking the Indus Valley, Shey Palace stands as a testament to Ladakh's royal legacy and architectural grandeur. Built in the 17th century, this historic palace served as the summer retreat for the Ladakhi kings, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding landscapes. Visitors can explore the palace complex, adorned with ancient murals, Buddhist stupas, and prayer halls, while supporting sustainable tourism initiatives aimed at preserving cultural heritage sites.

## 6. Tso Moriri Lake

Hidden amidst the remote corners of Ladakh, Tso Moriri Lake mesmerizes travelers with its crystal-clear waters and snow-capped peaks. Designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, this pristine lake serves as a vital habitat for migratory birds and endemic species. Eco-conscious travelers

can embark on guided trekking expeditions around the lake, immersing themselves in the tranquil ambiance while respecting the fragile ecosystem.

## 7. Lamayuru Monastery



Perched atop a rugged cliff overlooking the Indus Valley, Lamayuru Monastery is one of the oldest and largest monastic complexes in Ladakh. Dating back to the 11th century, this ancient monastery is renowned for its dramatic landscape, sacred relics, and vibrant festivals. Visitors can partake in eco-friendly meditation retreats and cultural exchanges, fostering a deeper connection with the spiritual heritage of Ladakh while promoting sustainable tourism practices.

## In conclusion

Leh Ladakh stands as a beacon of sustainable tourism, offering eco-conscious travelers a plethora of enchanting destinations to explore. From pristine lakes and majestic mountains to ancient monasteries and cultural landmarks, Leh encapsulates the essence of responsible travel, where every journey undertaken is a step towards preserving the natural and cultural treasures of this Himalayan paradise. As we embark on this eco-friendly voyage, let us tread lightly, leaving behind only footprints of admiration and reverence for the awe-inspiring wonders of Leh Ladakh.

Source:

<https://travel.india.com/guide/destination/embark-on-a-green-journey-top-7-eco-friendly-spots-in-leh-ladakh-7112624/>



# Exploring Eco-Tourism Perspectives for Sustainable Tourism in Telangana

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## ABSTRACT -1

This paper explores the integration of eco-tourism practices to enhance sustainable tourism in Telangana, India. With the tourism sector rapidly expanding nationwide, Telangana's abundance of cultural heritage and diverse landscapes presents promising opportunities for eco-tourism development. The abstract underscores the importance of eco-tourism in fostering sustainable practices that balance environmental conservation with socio-economic benefits. It highlights various eco-friendly activities like nature walks, wildlife safaris, and cultural tours designed to engage tourists while promoting conservation awareness. Additionally, the abstract outlines strategies for effective eco-tourism implementation, including stakeholder collaboration and sustainable tourism planning. Overall, the paper advocates for the incorporation of ecotourism into Telangana's tourism framework to offer visitors unique experiences while safeguarding the region's natural and cultural treasures. In India, tourism is one of the fastest-growing sectors, playing a pivotal role in promoting global social harmony and alleviating poverty. Telangana stands out among Indian states for its diverse tourism offerings, including rich histories, monuments, and bio-cultural diversities. Renowned for its cultural legacy, historic sites, and vibrant wildlife sanctuaries, Telangana continues to attract tourists seeking unique experiences. Eco-tourism emerges as a rapidly expanding sub-sector, offering sustainable alternatives to traditional mass tourism; recognized for its emphasis on egalitarian and community-based initiatives, eco-tourism holds immense potential to enhance the quality of life while preserving natural and cultural heritage.

**Keywords - Eco-tourism, Sustainable tourism, Telangana, Tourism development, Conservation, Cultural heritage, Socioeconomic benefits, Environmental Impact.**

Source: <https://www.internationaljournalssrg.org/IJHSS/2024/Volume11-Issue3/IJHSS-V11I3P102.pdf>

## Ecotourism and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development in U.P.

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## ABSTRACT -2

These days, one of the main industries producing income and jobs is tourism. India is one of the most popular travel destinations because of its rich past, culture, and natural beauty. The report's first section will address the general definition of tourism and tourism in India. The situation will be examined in light of current trends in the tourism sector and ongoing changes occurring in India. We'll divide tourism into two categories: eco-tourism and state-specific modifications. The second part, which is devoted to Sustainable Development, will highlight the links between tourism and the increased understanding of natural resources. There are three categories of sustainable tourism, each with its own variations. As a result, sustainability will be discussed and assessed in relation to the tourism sector. The actions made to establish sustainable ecotourism are covered in another section of the study. Then, the development has occurred as a result of ecotourism's sustainability. I've even talked about the changes the epidemic has caused to the tourism business, as we all know how badly the COVID19 case is spreading over the world. But after reading the article, the reader will have a general understanding of the significance of ecotourism and sustainable tourism, at least from the standpoint of the travel and tourism sector.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development, pilgrimages, world heritage sites, VFR travel, ill equipped, Geopolitical instability.

Source: <https://www.jetir.org/papers/JETIR2408003.pdf>

## **Beyond the Forests: Ecotourism and Sustainable Livelihoods in Karnataka's Protected Landscapes**

**Sachin C. Pujar & Nihar Ranjan Mishra**

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### **ABSTRACT -3**

The paper is situated within the context of two prominent tiger reserves, namely the Kali Tiger Reserve and Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, located in Karnataka, India. The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the pivotal role played by ecotourism in shaping rural livelihoods and to evaluate the outcomes that result from the integration of ecotourism into pre-existing livelihood strategies. Employing a sustainable livelihoods approach, the study engaged 214 participants from 25 adjoining villages of the tiger reserves, service providers, and government officials at various administrative levels. The findings of the study suggest that although ecotourism has not supplanted traditional livelihoods, it has effectively contributed to income augmentation for residents in the study areas. This research also illuminates a notable disparity between policy intent and on-ground implementation due to the inherent ambiguity present in tourism policies, which tends to generate and exacerbate a plethora of issues that impede the effective integration of ecotourism into existing livelihood strategies. The paper sets the stage for further deeper exploration of the intersection between ecotourism and rural livelihoods, aimed at fostering more inclusive and sustainable tourism practices within ecologically sensitive areas.

**Keywords:** Ecotourism, Nature-based tourism, Rural livelihoods, Sustainable livelihoods approach, Karnataka, India

Source: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13683500.2024.2376891?src=>

### **Invitation for Article/Research paper**

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Research papers / Articles related to ecotourism, climate change & mitigation are invited for free publication in the EIACP newsletter. The same will be uploaded in the EIACP website with due courtesy of the author.

### **Terms and conditions for publication:**

- Closely related with ecotourism related subjects or climate change.
- Full paper with abstract notes.
- 1,000 words in English language.
- High resolution pictures (3,4 nos.) of the topic.

**Note:** Publication of the research paper/ article will be decided by the editorial board of the Newsletter.

Please send your valuable suggestions, queries, comments and articles to:

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This newsletter is aimed at disseminating ecotourism information and its related subjects among, environment enthusiasts, ecotourism stakeholders, students, researchers and public at large.

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