SATKOSIA GORGE SANCTUARY
WILDLIFE PARADISE SPREAD ACROSS THE MAGNIFICENT MAHANADI GORGE
The name Satkosia originates from two words, set meaning seven and kos meaning two miles, indicating the length of the gorge as 14 miles or 22 km.

The mighty river Mahanadi, before it emerges into the coastal plains passes through a narrow gorge with magnificently wooded mountains of 1,500 to 2,500 feet in height on either side. The riverbed in the gorge is very narrow, barely a furlong at places. It is the gorge where the Mahanadi divides the entire area into two parts.

The Satkosia Gorge with its magnificent diversity on both of its northern and southern side covers an area of 795.52 sq km. It was notified as Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary in May, 1976.

The Satkosia Tiger Reserve comprising Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary (part) on its north & Baisipalli Sanctuary on its south was notified on 31st December, 2007 over an area of 963.87 sq. km. The geographical co-ordinates of the extreme points of the Tiger Reserve boundary lie on 20°23’40” N and 20°45’36” N Latitudes and 84°32’35” E and 85°05’24” E Longitudes.

Some pioneering work in Crocodile conservation in India is also being done here. The Gharial Research and Conservation Unit (GRACU) was started in March 1975. The activities include Conservation Breeding: releasing of reared crocodiles into the wild and its rehabilitation.

**FLORA** - There are over 400 plant species comprising of 126 trees, 98 shrubs, 125 herbs and 51 climbers identified in the reserve. The main tree species are Sal (Shorea robusta), Pisasal (Pterocarpus marsupium), Sissoo (Dalbergia latifolia), Jamun (Syzygium cuminii), Arjuna (Terminalia arjuna), Asan (Terminalia tomentosa), Dhaura (Anogeissus latifolia), Siris (Albizia lebbeck). Bandhan (Cugeinia oojelnensis), Phasi (Anogeissus...
acuminata) and Haldu (Adina cordifolia). Bamboo namely Salia (Dendrocalamus strictus) and Daba (Bambusa arundinaceae) occur extensively.

**FAUNA** - Satkosia Gorge is the home for the most endangered Gharials. Due to its most favourable habitat conditions, a viable population of elephants thrives in this sanctuary. The fauna includes Elephant, Tiger, Wild Dog, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Bear, Barking Deer, Gaur, Leopard, Jackal, Giant Squirrel, Porcupine, Indian Hare, Rattle etc. The Gorge also has Muggers, Turtles, Terrapins, Crabs, Molluscs besides other Aquatic life forms and Amphibians.

Both resident and migratory birds are found in this sanctuary. The resident birds include the Hornbills, Pea fowls, Kingfishers, Egrets, Cormorants, River terns, Owls, Pigeons, Myna, Parakeets, Drongo, Doves, Wood pecker, Golden oriole, Vultures, Babblers, Barbets, Minivets, Sun birds, Eagle, Crow pheasants etc. The migratory birds include Brahminy ducks, Indian Skimmer. Bar headed geese etc.

**HOW TO REACH** - The Sanctuary is approachable from Angul, Nayagarh or Boudh districts. Entry points at Pempasar, Kumuri, Chhamundia, Kusang. Satkosia can be approached from Chhamundia which is 30 Kms. from Gania in Nayagarh district. From Angul on NH-55 (Old 42), it is 30 Kms. Angul which is 160 km. from Bhubaneswar is an important road junction, well connected by regular bus services from Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Sambalpur and Rourkela. From Dasapalla: 30 kms.
From Charichhak: 40 kms. Nearest Railway Station: Angul - 30 kms.

TIME TO VISIT - Throughout the year but the best time to visit is October to April (in winter or early summer months).

THINGS TO DO -
- Jeep Safari
- Nature walks with an expert
- Boat cruise in the deep blue waters of Mahanadi
- Bird watching
- Hilly forest trekking

MAIN ATTRACTIONS -
- Panoramic picturesque view of the gorge
- Gharial Research & Conservation Centre, Tikarpada, Interpretation Centre
- Satkosia Sands Resort and nature camp at Badmul: through entry gate Chamundia one can reach Satkosia Sands Resort and can stay in tents and cottages facing the magnificent Satkosia Gorge on foothills of Mountains
- River view tented accommodation of TIPPS Tikarpada
- Chhotkei Nature camp
- Baghmunda-a Nature awareness and Wildlife Conservation Centre which is a rich scenic place.
- Tarava Nature camp

OTHER ATTRACTIONS -
- Tikarpada - a scenic village on the banks of Mahanadi against the backdrop of green mountains offers beautiful view of the gorge.
- Pampasar - Entry point, sighting of hill myna, murmuring lyrics of stream.
- Buchundabhogra - Known for its dense forest with the water body & watch tower to view undisturbed wild animals in buffer zone.
- Dihasahi - Watch tower in buffer zone to view undisturbed wildlife.

Chhotkei - A community run nature camp located on a hill top, offers an unparalleled view. The nature camp consists of 5 eco-cottages, and 5 Nos. eco-friendly thatched roofing tents with platform, dinning space and walking paths having all amenities and facilities in the same campus to accommodate visitors is set up.

Purunakote - Watch a herd of Chital thronging the meadows in the front of Purunakote Forest Rest House

Badamul - Chances of spotting Giant Squirrel, Hill Myna, grazing of Sambars, Deers.

Sitalpani - Popular for its streams and waterfalls.

Sapa Pathar - is a massive rock bed of black granite surrounded with profound wilderness inside Baisipalli sanctuary.

Kuanria - is a paradise of water birds almost in all weathers. There is also a Deer Park and an interpretation Centre.

ACCOMMODATION - Eco-cottage and eco-friendly tented accommodation facilities in Nature Camps are available at Chhotkei, Tikarpada, Purunakote, Tarava, Balipur, Baghmunda, Chhamundia at affordable rates. The options of guest houses are also available in and around the sanctuary. There are Rest Houses at Tikarpada, Chhamundia and Kuanria maintained by the Forest Department.

Online booking can be made through website: www.ecotourodisa.com

CONTACT US:
Divisional Forest Officer, Satkosia Wildlife Division, Angul
At/P.O. Hakimpada, Angul, Dist. Angul (Odisha), PIN-759143
FAX: 06764-236218 (O) Tele-06764-236219
Email - dfosatkosiawl@yahoo.co.in

Divisional Forest Officer, Mahanadi Wildlife Division, Nayagarh
At/P.O. Nayagarh, Dist. Nayagarh (Odisha), PIN-752070
Tele/FAX-06753-253971 (O) & 252723 (R)
Email - mahanadiwl.dfo@gmail.com