





Importance

The Hokersar Wetland – the Conservation Reserve under the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978, was declared a Ramsar site on November 8, 2005, under the Ramsar Convention. It has been listed under National Wetlands Conservation Programme. Hokersar provides overwintering resort to millions of water birds from their breeding grounds in Pale arctic region extending from north Europe to Central Asia and breeding ground to a segment of water bird species. The wetland is home to a large variety of wildlife including birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, insects and plants. Local people living around the wetland are involved in a variety of wetland-based livelihoods like paddy crop cultivation, cultivation of vegetables, fishing, and other related activities like poultry rearing, cattle rearing, wood collection, mulch, and reed collection.

DOs ✓

- ✓ Get necessary permission before visiting
- ✓ Maintain a safe distance from all wildlife
- ✓ Appreciate the wetland and local regulations
- ✓ Neither visit alone nor in a group of too many
- ✓ Respect wildlife's private space
- ✓ Take nothing and leave only puddled footprints
- ✓ Tune down

DON'Ts

- x Don't litter and ensure that waste is disposed only in bins earmarked for the purpose
- x Don't throw away plastic bags
- x Don't collect any form of fauna or flora from any locations
- x Don't take photographs of people without their consent
- x Don't damage plants by walking, driving, or landing on extensive moss beds or lichen-covered areas
- x Don't make noise to avoid frightening wildlife



email hokersarwetland@gmail.com

IBA IMPORTANT BIRD AREA SITE NUMBER IN-JK-09

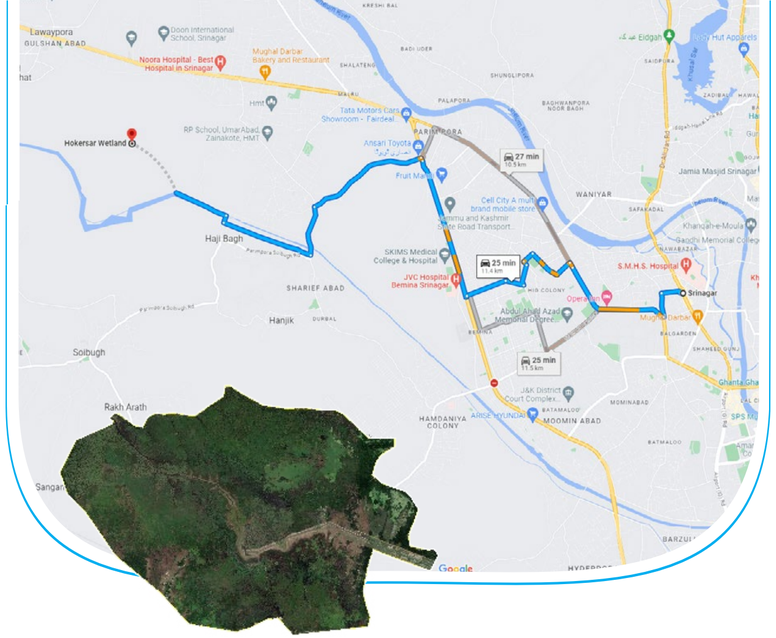
Ramsar SITE NUMBER 1570

HOKERSAR

WETLAND CONSERVATION RESERVE



DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION,
GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR



Latitude
34° 06' N

Longitude
74° 05'

Altitude
1580 metres (5200 feet)

Area
13.54 sq km

Distance
40 km from Srinagar

How to reach
Road: Buses and cabs are available from Srinagar

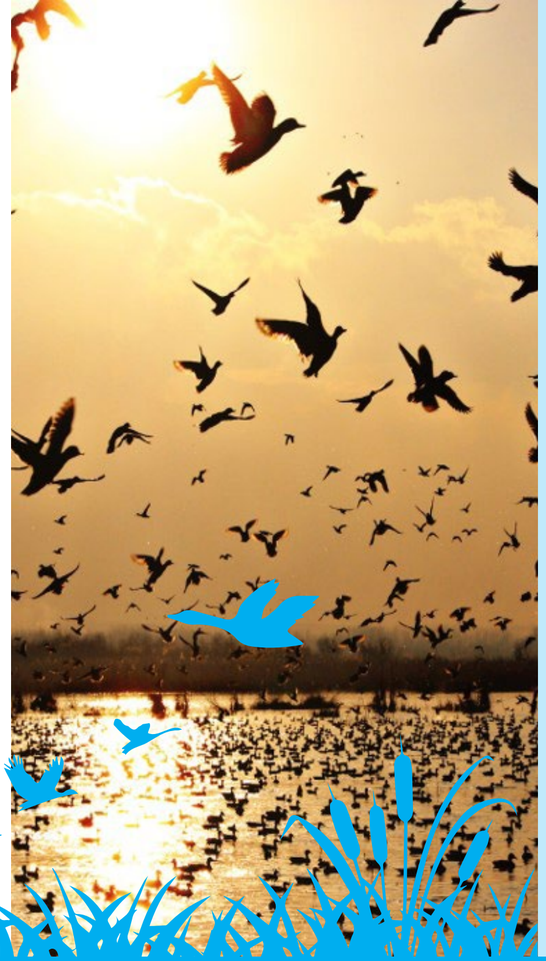
Best time to visit: **October to April**

Known as the 'Queen Wetland of Kashmir', the Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve (also known as Hokera) is a winter wonderland and bird paradise. The wetland on the Srinagar's outskirts with its vast waterways, marshes, and vegetation is the biggest in the city and the second biggest in Kashmir valley and gives an impression of a bird wonderland when one visits during the arrival of migratory birds between October and April.

The wetland is roughly oval in outline. The wetland is drained into the River Jhelum through Doodhganga flood spill channel.

Travelling from the colder areas of the world flying over continents in flocks, birds like mallards, greylag geese, pochards, common teals, shovellers, and pintails annually visit the region in winter.

Hokersar is a shallow post-glacial water body, flanking the River Jhelum that runs across Kashmir valley. Hokersar is a permanent eutrophic lake surrounded by fresh water marshes on the flood plain of River Jhelum. Two perennial streams of Doodganga and Sukhnag feed the wetland.



Flora and Fauna

The wetland is weedy and extensive morass, bounded by thick willow groves with scattered stands of popular. The wetlands supports a definite type of vegetation ranging from sub merged, attached and free floating besides grass, herbs, and reeds. The catchment areas of the lake include rugged mountains, forests, agriculture, and horticulture lands and land under human settlements.

Avifauna

Migratory geese and ducks consist of Brahminy Duck, Tufted Duck, Gadwall, Garganey, Greylag Goose, Mallard, Common Merganser, Northern Pintail, Common Pochard, Ferruginous Pochard, Red-Crested Pochard, Northern Shoveller, Common Teal, and Eurasian Wigeon.

The Floating Islands

The floating Islands are used for many economic utilities including the cultivation of vegetables and willow plantations. The water area produces several economically important plants like Nelumbo nucifera used as a vegetable and Typha angustata utilised for making mats. Several natural grasses produced in the lake are used as fodder as well as biofertilisers. The wetland supports a definite type of vegetation, ranging from submerged, attached floating, free floating, and emergent aquatic vegetation, grasses, herbs, reeds, and sedges.
During summer months, Gammarus species, a representative of Amphipoda is quite commonly seen. Insects commonly seen are mosquitoes, water beetles, black swimmers, dragonflies, caddisfly, water spiders, and water striders. The wetland harbours rich and diverse fish fauna comprising Cyprinus carpis, Crossocheillus, and Gambosia besides small-sized labeo, schizothorax, and their fries and fingerling.

