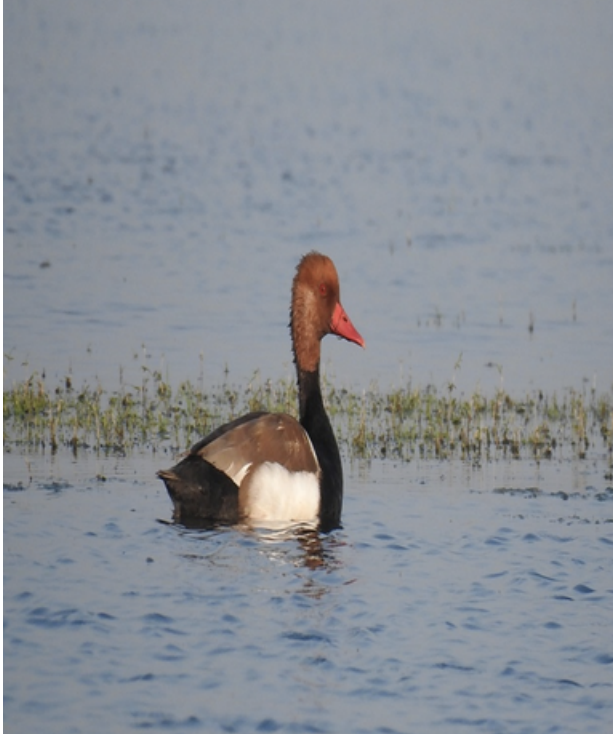


# PONG DAM



## BIRD PARADISE

The vast waters of the Pong Dam lake and the surrounding wetlands have been home to hundreds of species of birds, including migratory birds. More than 420 species of birds belonging to about 56 of the 77 bird families recorded in India have been spotted here.

What brings Pong Dam lake its international fame is the Bar Headed geese. Its large congregation makes Pong Dam a 'wetland of international significance'. More than 50,000 Bar Headed geese have been recorded here.

The bird counting exercise recorded 1.17Lakh birds, most of them migratory in nature.

One of the highlights of the bird sanctuary at Pong Dam is a 'Vulture cafe', where cattle carcasses are dumped at a designated area to help Vultures scavenge on them.

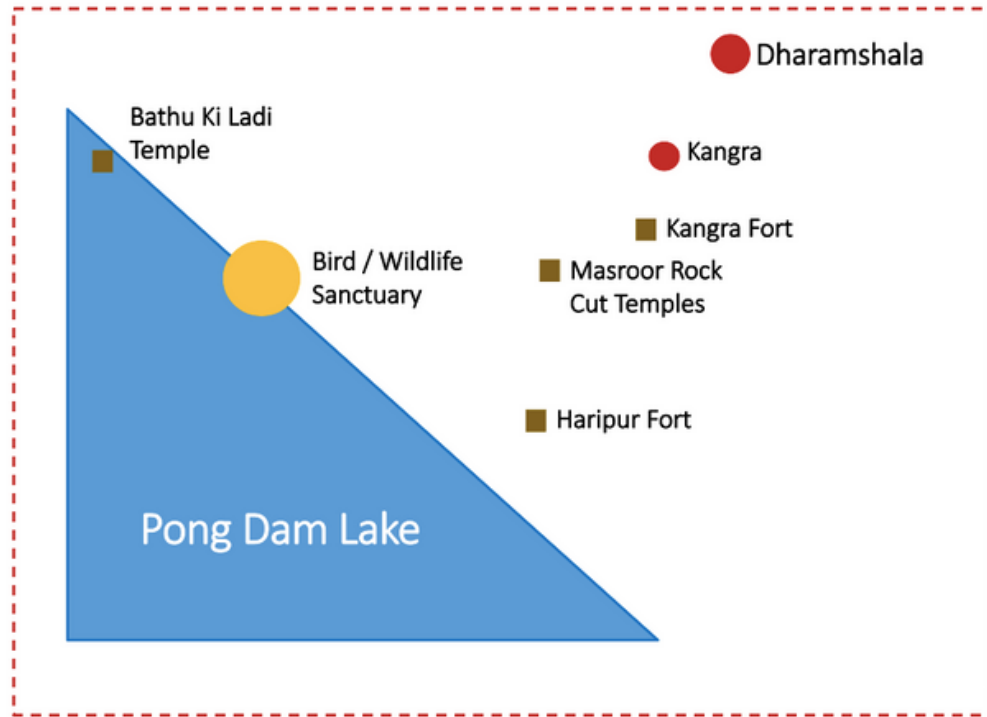
Some of the Avifauna spotted at Pong Dam include the resident birds of jangle fowls, peafowl, Grey partridges, Black Partridges etc. Among the waterfowl's main species are Bar headed geese, Pintails, common pochards, coots, Grebes, Cormorants, Herons, Storks, Ruddy shellduck, common Teal, Shovellers, Moorhen, Stints, Lapwing, Plovers, Shank, Snipe, Gull, Terns, Kingfishers, Kites, Mallards, Gadwall, Egrets and Marsh Harriers, among others.



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## THINGS TO DO AT NAGROTA SURIAN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

A trip to Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is not just about birds. A set of ancient forts, temples and towns with a heritage legacies provide a veritable perspective while travelling to Nagrota Surian. Some of the places that can be visited alongside an enchanting experience with birds and wildlife include:



**Kangra Fort** - One of the oldest Himalayan forts built by the Katoch dynasty.

*10km from Nagrota Surian*

**Masroor Rock Cut Temples** - Carved out of a monolith, this 8th Century temple consists of 15 structures dedicated to deities - Shiva, Vishnu, Lakshman, Ram and Sita.

*15km from Nagrota Surian*

**Haripur Fort** - This 18th Century fort carries the legacy of the Guler Riyasat. The town's 600-year old heritage makes it an important place to visit, surrounded by the Dauladhar range.

*13km from Nagrota Surian*

**Bathu Ki Ladi Temple** - Completely submerged during the monsoons, these temples become visible from close ranges during the summer months. This phenomena also displays the vastness of the Pong Dam Lake.

*38km from Nagrota Surian*

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## LOHRI FESTIVAL, January 13, 2024 - Pragpur (talab)

Pragpur, the heritage village located 18km from Pong Dam celebrates the Lohri festival with vigour. A state festival conducted by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, the festival includes such vibrant activities like bonfires, dances and music, and is a platform for local population to display their craft.

