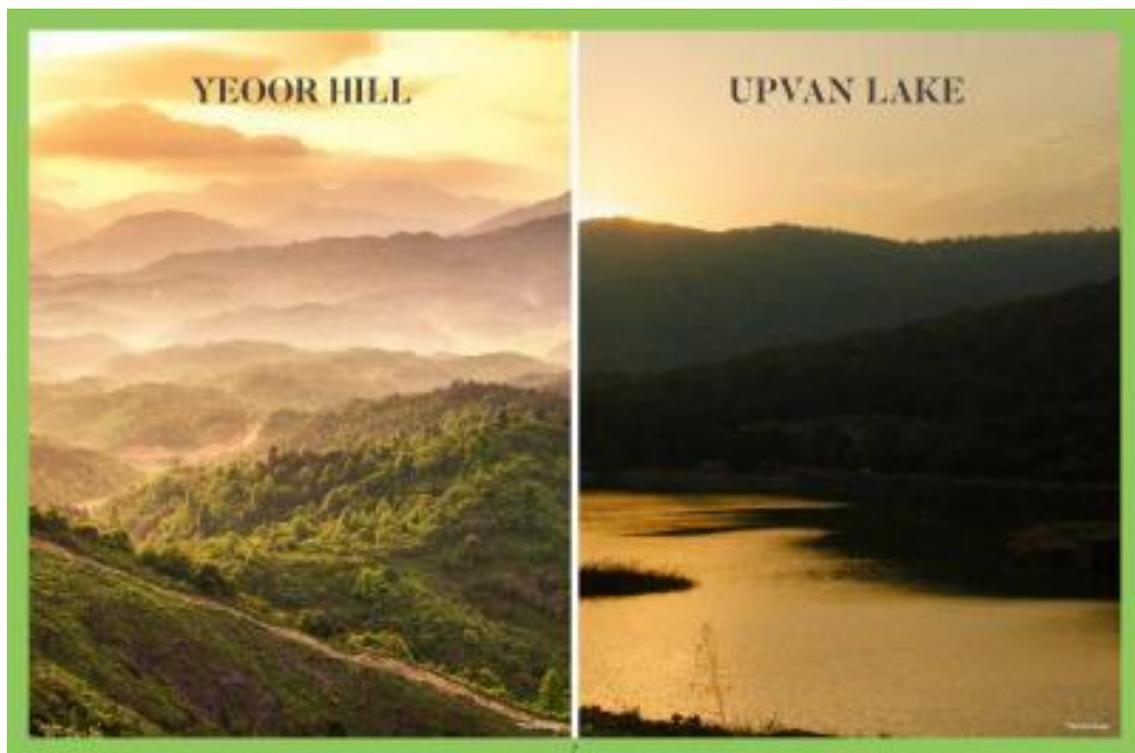


# Biodiversity AT YEOR Hills, THANE



## **INTRODUCTION:**

Famous as the beautiful and quick getaway from the chaos of metropolis, Yeoor hills is located in Upvan, in the Thane district of Mumbai, Maharashtra that lies in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park. It is also called Yogi Hills in Mulund and “Mama Bhanja” mountain is the prominent peak of Yeoor. It has around 60 sq.km of deciduous forest and has a moist and warm climate. Yeoor hills lies just a few kms from Thane and has a few restaurants &



Dhabas. The city is unique in terms of different types of ecosystems as it is a part of North Western Ghats. The area is popular for nature lovers for school education trips, nature walks and bird watching.

Yeoor hills has a two folded charm for its dense forest as well as a small hill station. It is well known for its flora and fauna among the nature lovers for school education trips, walks, treks, and bird watching. It is known for its panthers and wildlife. It is a buffer zone at the eastern end of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park and is a haven for biodiversity. The area of Yeoor comprises of six traditional villages, having a population of mainly Adivasis (tribals) who earn their living by cutting wood and selling organic fruits, growing rice and fishing in the nearby dam. The place experiences its first rainfall from the monsoon winds, making the surroundings more vibrant and refreshing.

Bird lovers, watchers and nature photographers are frequent to yeoor hills and other areas in the city. While bird watchers visit the place to have a glance at different species of birds. Thane creek was home to many of the migratory birds but with increase in human activity and deforestation the population has decreased gradually and now only few species are spotted. Many other places like Kolshet and Mumbra hills were also preferred by birds but there too numbers have declined.

## **HOW TO REACH:**

In order to get to Yeoor hills, one has to forward their journey either through riding his bike, driving his car or by local buses from thane station (w). Autorikshaw may also be a good option.

## OTHER ATTRACTION NEAR YEOR Hill:



## SPECIES FOUND AT YEOR hills ARE:

### List of Sightings:

#### Birds:

1. Shikra
2. Crested Serpent Eagle
3. Black Hooded Oriole
4. Common Tailorbird
5. Coppersmith Barbet

#### Insects:

1. Crematogaster sp.
2. Camponotus sp. (irritans)
3. Camponotus sp. (angusticollis)
4. Cerulean - laying eggs on Butea superba (Palash)
5. Spot Swordtail
6. Common Pierrot
7. Oecophylla sp. (smaragdina) - Weaver Ants
8. Scale Insects
9. Danaid Eggfly female
10. Golden Angle
11. Robber Fly
12. Harvester Ants Nest
13. Cicada - Plenty

**Arachnida:**

1. Crab Spider - Female and Male
2. Ant-mimicking Spider
3. Scorpion UNID - caught by villagers, did not let us set 'em free.

**Reptiles:**

1. Forest Calotes - 5 Males

Approximately 150 types of plants including tall trees, herbs and climbers are present in the forest.

**Trees:**

1. Terminalia tomentosa
2. Tectona grandis
3. Holoptelea integrifolia
4. Madhuca indica

**Shrubs:**

1. Cassia
2. Heliotropium indicum
3. Chrotolarea juncea
4. Flaccourtia and Acacia
5. Helicteres isora
6. Woodfordia floribunda
7. Leeha
8. Cesus woodroii

**NEWS/ MEDIA COVER:****1. THANE'S BIODIVERSITY GETS RICHER BY 13 NEW BIRDS:**

In Yeoor there are trees like bamboo, boar, apple, mango, eco crop, terminalia, tomentoso, red pine, bauhinia, resinosa, amla, vine, nilgiri, benera, black currant, tamarind, turmeric, lotus, chasheco, hangersten, jackfruit, sandlefruit, seasen, jaan plant, almond, and deepal. You may also see many types of trees such as bamboo, boar, apple, mango, red pine, amla, nilgiri, black current, tamarind, turmeric, lotus, jamun.



The flamboyant Indian Pitta were among the birds spotted

SOURCE: <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-thane-s-biodiversity-gets-richer-by-13-new-birds-2054315>

Rich greenery of Thane is home to many flora and fauna. Yeoor hills and many lakes in the city is home to various birds and in a recently conducted bird count by Thane based HOPE, an environmental NGO affiliated to Rotary club of Thane, in association with Enviro Vigil, 111 species of birds were spotted. Interestingly 13 new birds have been added to Thane's biodiversity.

Sangeeta Joshi from enviro vigil shares "the bird count was conducted for local and migratory birds and which are often spotted during winter. As many as 2,365 birds were spotted by different teams.

The birds spotted during bird count includes, kingfisher, Black drongo, wagtail, Booted warbler, White-BBrowed fantail among others.

Reference: <http://www.sahyadrica.com/2011/05/year-after-two-years.html>

## 2. FOREST FIRE AT YEOOR HILL DAMAGES BIODIVERSITY

Vijay Singh / TNN / Updated: Apr 5, 2019, 22:10 IST

Mumbai: Forest fire at Yeoor hill damages biodiversity

MUMBAI: A major forest fire had started at [Yeoor](#) hill, which is part of [Sanjay Gandhi National Park](#) (SGNP), on Friday afternoon. Forest officials put off the fire by 8.30 pm, but it caused damage to the [biodiversity](#).

The SGNP director, [Anwar Ahmed](#), told TOI: "The fire started towards Manpada in Yeoor in the evening hours, but it was extinguished  8.30 pm. Tomorrow morning we can do a damage estimation."

Ahmed added that it is likely to be a man-made fire.

Local activists have reiterated that besides active patrolling by forest guards, the culprits who damage the natural biodiversity in forests must be severely punished.

"Earlier today, there was also a forest fire at Panvel taluka. Ten days ago too, there was a forest fire, which is always man made. This must be stopped before further damage is done," said Navi Mumbai activist Anarjit Chauhan.

### Reference:

1. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/mumbai-forest-fire-at-yeoor-hill-damages-biodiversity/articleshow/68744827.cms>
2. <http://www.sahyadrica.com/2011/05/year-after-two-years.html>
3. <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-thane-s-biodiversity-gets-richer-by-13-new-birds-2054315>
4. Preliminary study of butterfly diversity from Thane City and Forest around Thane, Maharashtra- Paper by Amol Patwardhan and Poonam Kurve