



Similipal National Park

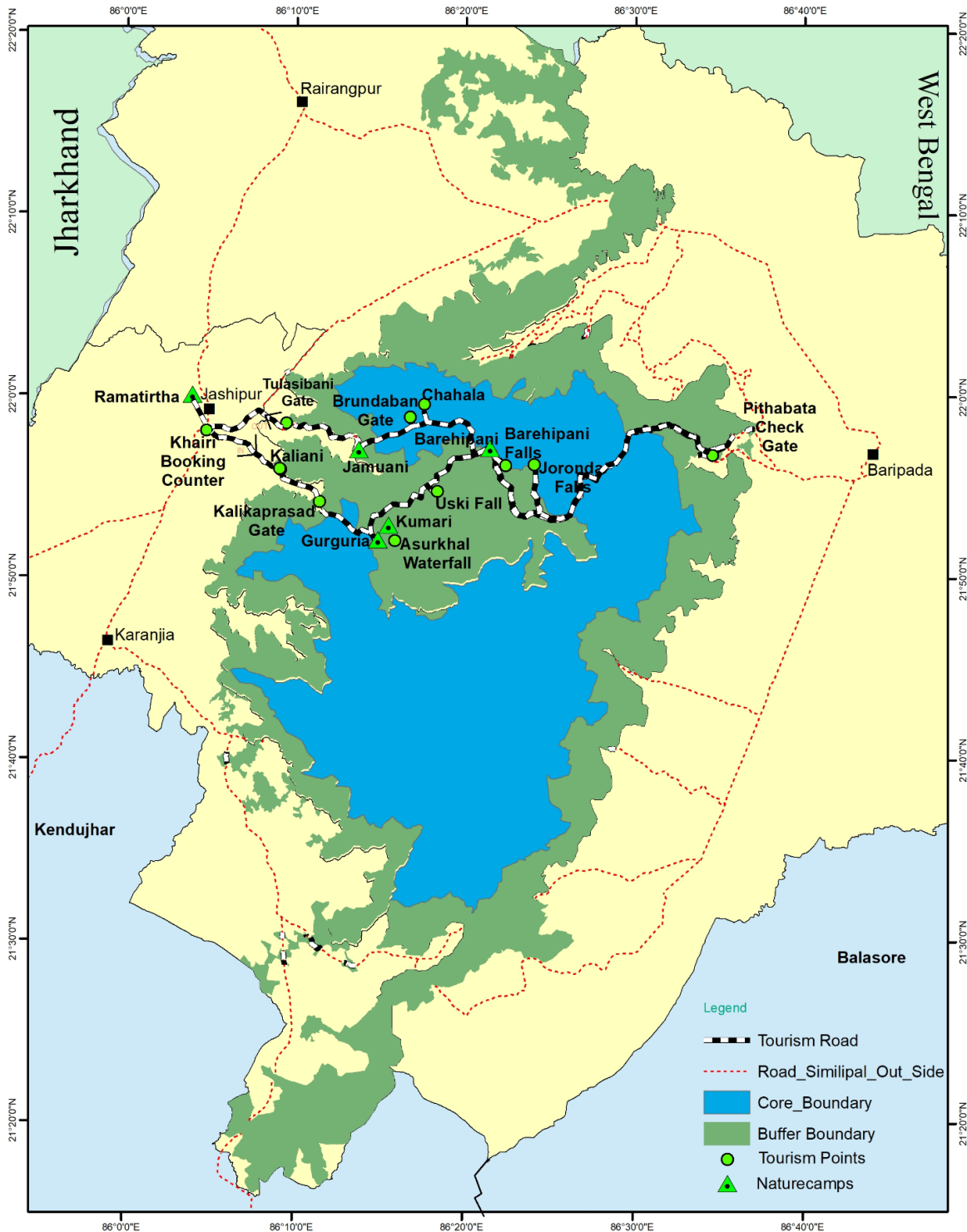
Source: IE

The Odisha government has recently declared **Similipal Tiger Reserve** as the **state's second national park**, following Bhitarkanika, making it the **107th national park in India**.

- **Significance:** The notified area (845.70 sq/km) will now be **'rights free'** and no human activities will be allowed.
 - The remaining part of the 2,750 sq/km area will be considered as a **wildlife sanctuary** (Limited human activities allowed).
 - The **Greater Similipal Landscape Programme** aims to secure the newly designated national park and its surrounding ecological corridors.
- **About Similipal:**
 - Similipal, located in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, is the world's only home to **wild melanistic tigers**, sheltering 40 royal Bengal tigers, 25% of Odisha's elephant population, and 104 orchid species, many of which are endemic to the region.
 - It comes under the **Deccan Peninsular Biogeographic Zone**, Chhotanagpur Province, and Mahanadian Region.
 - It is known for its **beautiful waterfalls**, including **Barehipani and Joranda**.
 - The park is surrounded by high plateaus and hills, the highest peak being the twin peaks of **Khairiburu and Meghashini**.
 - The forests of Similipal are a **mix of sal trees, moist deciduous, and semi-evergreen types**, creating a complex and thriving habitat for flora, fauna, and forest-dependent communities.
 - The **major ungulate species** found here are sambar (*Rusa unicolor*), chital (*Axis axis*), barking deer (*Muntiacus vaginalis*), gaur (*Bos gaurus*), and mouse deer (*Moschiola indica*).

Similipal Tiger Reserve

Eco- Tourism Map



Read more: [Rare Melanistic Tiger](#)