



The Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP), one of the world heritage sites is situated in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh between 31°38'–31°51' N and 77°20'–77°45' E longitude. The park covers an area of about 755 km² within an altitude range from 1344 m to 6205 m.

The temperature of the National park ranges from -10°C to 35 °C and the mean annual precipitation is 1155 mm. The wettest month is July. The soil is mostly acidic with pH ranging from 4.16 to 6.22. The Park is bounded by Rupai Baba Wildlife Sanctuary in the east, Pin Valley National Park in the north east and Kunawar Wild Life Sanctuary in the north-west. The south western side is surrounded by a human settlements, cultivated fields and orchards. Four rivers Jiwana, Sainj, Parvati and Tirthan passes through the National Park which ultimately meet the Beas river of the Beas river.



Majority of the forest of GHNP can be grouped under the Temperate vegetation; which can further divided as temperate broad-leaf forest, temperate conifer forest, temperate Oak-conifer forest, temperate secondary scrub, temperate grassy slopes, subalpine fir-spruce, Birch-rhododendron, Alpine scrub, Alpine meadows. The National park reported to have more than total 897 species of seed plants belonging to 457 genera and 121.

The dominant conifers found in the park are *Abies pindrow*, *Cedrus deodara*, *Pinus roxburghii*, *Pinus wallichiana*, *Picea smithiana* and *Taxus wallichiana*; while the dominant trees are *Quercus leucotrichophora*, *Quercus floribunda*, *Quercus semecarpifolia*, *Celtis tetrandra*, *Aesculus indica*, *Juglans regia*, *Acer* spp., *Prunus cornuta*, *Betula alnoides*, *Betula utilis*, *Toona serrata*, *Populus ciliata* etc. Some of the interesting herbs and shrubs are *Indigofera heterantha*, *Viburnum grandiflorum*, *Sarcococca prunifolia*, *Berberis lycium*, *Iris hookeriana*, *Persicaria wallichii*, *Impatiens glauca*, *Rumex nepalensis*, *Girardinia diversifolia*, *Strobilanthes atropurpurea* etc. Some threatened plants of the park are *Taxus wallichiana*, *Cypripedium cordigerum*, *Saussurea obvallata*, *Picrorhiza kurroa*, *Angelica glauca*, *Arnebia benthamii*, *Sinopodophyllum hexandrum* etc.

