

NAME: - Jaineel Bhatt

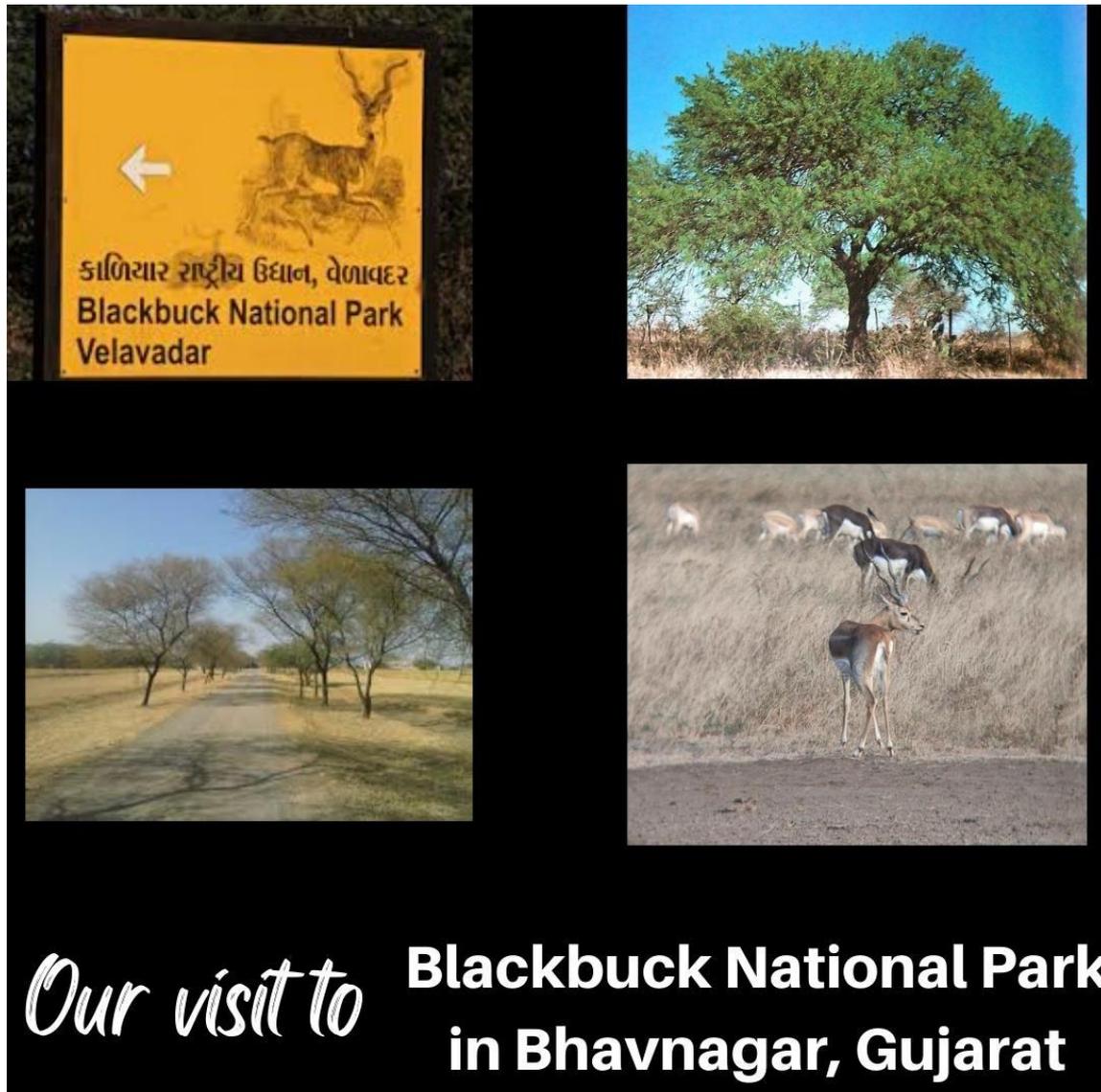
DAY 8

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Greenest

SCHOOL: - Vidyadhish Vidyasankul

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Pre-travel: After taking my parents permission, me and my friends decided to give visit Blackbuck National Park, Velavadar, Bhavnagar. I invited my friends and they agreed to join me on this trip. The destination was 35 miles away from my place, but this time instead of driving by car, we decided to take a bus to reduce our carbon footprint and make this trip as sustainable as possible. Although few of friends resisted my idea, I convinced them. We packed some fruits and my mom made us some organic poha (recipe coming soon). After preparing we were ready for this sustainable outdoor exploration.

Reflection:

After taking 1.30 hr bus we finally arrived at our destination. It felt so good travelling by bus with all friends. We hired a safari-jeep that showed us around. After roaming around for 20mins we finally saw a huge herd of blackbuck having their afternoon lunch and chilling in sun. My friend who's also a photographer took some pictures of them. Although taking pictures wasn't allowed, we took the permission to take few pictures. This was the first time I saw a blackbuck and I just loved them. It has ringed horns that have a spiral twist of three to four turns and are up to 70 cm long. The body's upper parts are black and the underparts and a ring around the eyes are white. The female, light brown in colour is usually hornless. On this journey I learned a lot about how this national park was formed, it was two local communities Kathi & Bishnoi who protected the black buck with vigour and zeal for hundreds of years. This really inspired us to preserve and protect our wildlife in every way possible. Later after 2 hours of exploring we finally took the bus and went home. On our way back we watched videos on YouTube about wildlife preservation and how one veterinarian helped revolutionize conservation in Africa¹

After returning home, I calculated our CO2 footprint of this trip. Because we took the public transportation and ate organic fruits and snacks, we reduced our CO2 footprint by 25%.

These small steps like using public transportation and having organic foods can really make a huge difference in protecting our environment.

REFERENCES:

1 <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/how-one-veterinarian-helped-revolutionize-conservation-africa>

