

travel operators for tigers

Action on responsible use of wild habitats

APPLICATION FOR ACCOMMODATION PROVIDERS TO JOIN THE TOFT CAMPAIGN

Travel Operators for Tigers (TOFT) is a campaign aimed at every International, National or Regional Tour operator, travel agent, DMC, local accommodation and service provider taking visitors into India's wildlife destinations.



The campaign's aims are three fold:

To advocate and support better tourism practices in wilderness areas, with specific best practice guidelines for Tour Operators, Destination Management companies, agents, service and accommodation providers and visitors.

To help empower local communities to become involved in wildlife tourism projects that can initiate low impact and sustainable development which helps conserve the parks and benefits the communities through employment and business opportunities.

To catalyse initiatives through the lodge community that enhance wildlife conservation and community support, including waste and water management, trade cooperatives, local employment, fair wages and local enterprises and services.

These objectives are best achieved by collective action and the partnership of all those in the provision of tourism in wildlife areas of India.



The Benefits of Membership

Each Accommodation Provider joining Travel Operators for Tigers:







- 1) **Can state your support** for the Travel Operators for Tigers campaign in lodge brochures, literature and websites incorporating a Travel Operators for Tigers 'logo' and mission statement where required.
- 2) **Will be marketed** as a TOFT member lodge to all Destination Management Companies, travel agents and International Tour Operators in India and Abroad.
- 3) **Will be linked** to the TOFT website as an accommodation partner, with privileged ranking according to one's PUG certification ranking.
- 4) **Will be audited** by a PUG audit team. Helping you to save costs, save energy improve your operation efficiency and prove your active stance in support of your local environment to your clients, agents, operators, the Park and Government ministries.
- 5) **Will be acknowledged** as a member of the Travel Operators for Tigers campaign in literature and any PR that is undertaken to promote wildlife and Tiger tourism and more sustainable tourism and conservation efforts in India.
- 6) **Will be informed** of projects, initiatives, training and activities that are carried out by Travel Operators for Tigers by regular email updates, newsflashes and visits to your premises or offices.
- 7) **Will be invited** to partake in actions or projects that will offer your client's more interesting activities, help stimulate projects and conservation initiatives that are possible to include on your visitors' itineraries or marketed as part of your sales drive.

The Agreement

YOUR AGREEMENT TO BEST PRACTICE LODGE OPERATIONS

*P*roviders Name

As part of your commitment to 'Best Practice Operations' accommodation providers or local service providers are required to:

-  Undertake to complete the full lodge PUG audit process as set out in the Lodge Handbook and the TOFT website.*
 I agree
-  Agree to place the TOFT Travellers leaflets (or your own branded equivalent) in all guest bedrooms and put up TOFT membership signage by reception or in a key lounge area of your accommodation for maximum visibility.
 I agree
-  Highlight your membership of TOFT in lodge literature, websites or publications.
 I agree
-  Agree to place TOFT signage on your vehicles that enter the park
 I agree
-  Work and operate within the laws of the park and its surroundings at all times
 I agree
-  Inform all your staff, back and front of house as well as Naturalist staff about the campaign and your membership and obligations under it.
 I agree

* THE TOFT PUG AUDIT

The TOFT PUG audit is mandatory for all lodge members, and active membership cannot be given until the initial self assessment has been completed and returned to TOFT. The cost of this audit is borne by you (see correspondence for exact costs) and involves an initial self assessment, followed by a 24 hour on site visit by auditors, and then ongoing monitoring and feedback. A TOFT PUG audit certificate is then valid for four years.

Please note that completion of the audit does not necessarily mean you will gain certification. If this is the case your TOFT PUG Audit Report will provide you with ways in which your operation can achieve the minimum ecological standards necessary to gain the certification, and you will remain a TOFT 'Under process' member, until suitable efforts have been made to ensure certification.

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Accommodation name :

Park region :

Accommodation Address:

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Main Tel. No. of Accommodation:

Main Tel. No. of City based office: (if applicable)

Main Contact / Owner: Title:

Email contact :

Second Contact : Title:

Email contact :

Your Onsite Manager's contact:..... Title:

Email contact :

Website address.....

Are you a member of a ESoI, a local Hotel or Lodge Association or other trade associations :

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How long have you been operational as a lodge / accommodation provider?

(TOFT does not audit lodges until they have had one full season of operation to bed down their management, staffing, marketing and operational systems)

When ideally would you like to be audited?

How do you see your accommodation applying the relevant best practices and how will you help the campaign achieve its objectives?

By signing this document you have agreed on behalf of the accommodation unit, to work within the spirit of the TOFT campaign as laid down within this form. You have also agreed to undertake the full PUG audit at the earliest opportunity, or within one calendar year of the date shown. Finally you agree to operate within all relevant laws and regulations as laid out in the Indian Constitution.

Signature:

Full Name:

Date:

Please return this form together with the PUG Initial Questionnaire Form to:

Administrative office

TOFT India

A1/76, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi 110029

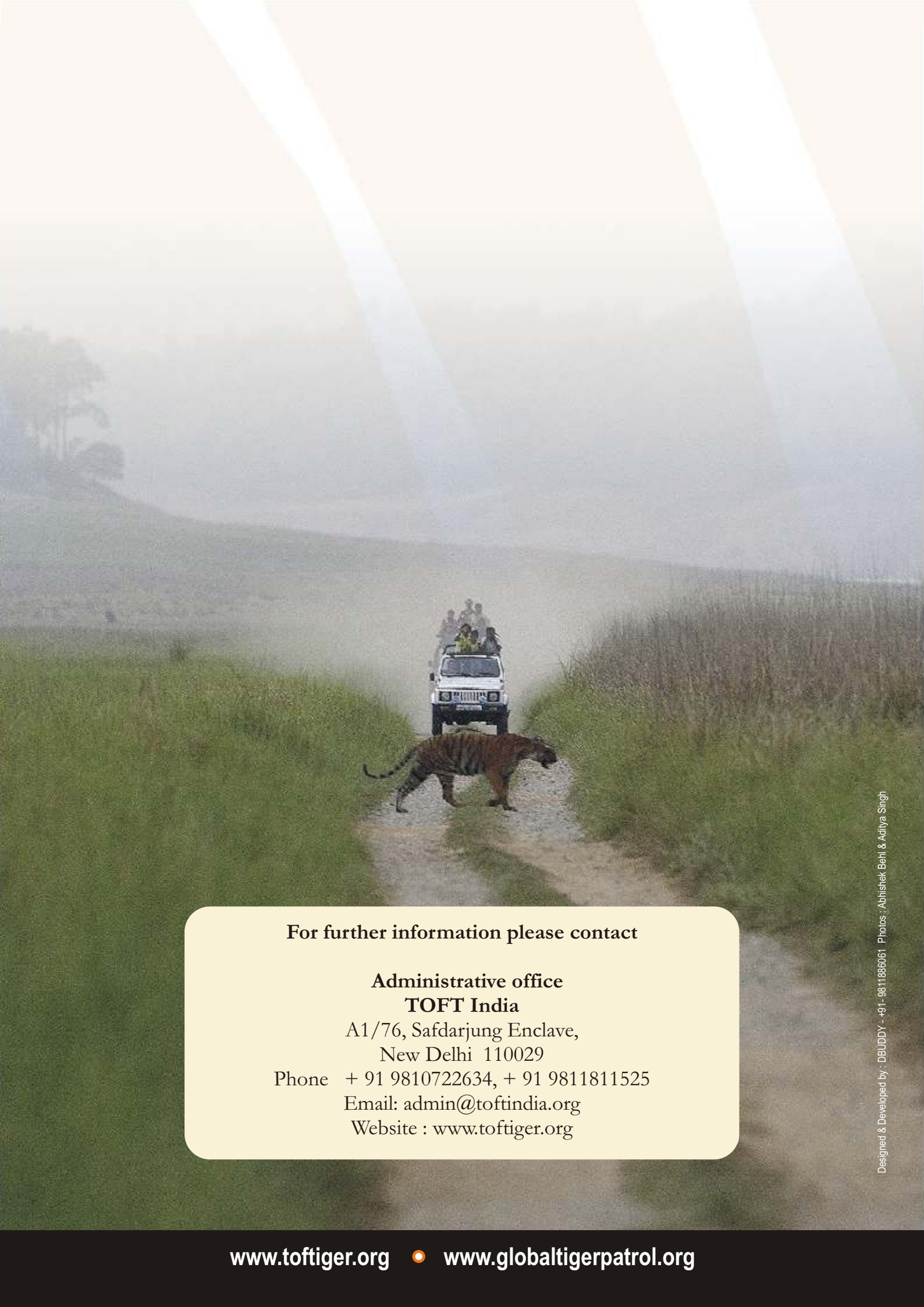
Phone + 91 9810722634, + 91 9811811525

Email: admin@toftindia.org,

Website : www.toftiger.org

Please note

The Travel Operators for Tigers campaign is open to all those involved in Nature Travel who wish to participate and adhere to the appropriate guidelines. Its strength is in its collective partnership for a common goal – a better experience for your visitors and a long term future for India’s forests and wildlife.



For further information please contact

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TOFT India**

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