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GOOD WILDLIFE TRAVEL GUIDE

THIRD EDITION

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Revision Editor - Ragini Singh

Cover Photo © Dr. T. Shivanandappa

First published in November 2015; updated March 2017.

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Design by: www.dbuddy.net

TOFTigers
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WELCOME TO THE 'BIG EIGHT' CONTINENT

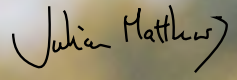
The Indian subcontinent is one of the great 'hotspots' of the world for safari-goers. It can boast of more than the 'big five', with more cat species than Africa - including the world's favourite big cat, four bear species, wolves, an ape species and both squirrels and snakes that can fly! Its landscapes range from humid rainforests, arid deserts, mangrove swamps and wooded jungles through to the world's highest mountains. The choice is extraordinary and mind-blowing.

Furthermore, you can combine any one of these wildlife destinations with vibrant heritage, colourful history and the warm hospitality of an ancient culture.

As a traveller, you will also appreciate that choosing any one of the operators, agents or accommodation providers highlighted in this guide means real peace of mind. Each operation has set out to not only ensure you have a life enhancing and memorable journey, but every business has made a commitment to ensure your visit supports both the wildlife you see and the rural communities bordering these parks through our internationally recognised PUG eco-rating certificate.

So now you really can enjoy your wild break - as a conservation traveller - and help save the planet and its wildlife.

Read on to find out more. This updated issue covers not only India, Nepal but also our first member in Bhutan. Our presence there will expand over the coming months.
Happy visits.



Julian Matthews
Founder
julian.matthews@toftigers.org

'WILDERNESS AREAS COVERED BY TOFTigers IN INDIA, NEPAL AND BHUTAN

The map spans a number of wilderness areas including Tiger Reserves (T.R.), National Parks (N.P.) and Wildlife Sanctuaries (W.S) and other areas of natural beauty where there is accommodation carrying a TOFTigers PUG mark - our internationally recognised certificate for sustainability in nature tourism. See next page for more information.

LIST OF PUG ECO-RATED LODGES

View the destination page to get the full park and accommodation providers listed in each destination.

ASSAM

Kaziranga Tiger Reserve 111
Diphlu River Lodge
Infinity Resorts Kaziranga
M V Mahabaahu (Cruiser)

Nameri Tiger Reserve 129
Nameri Eco Camp

CHHATTISGARH

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Muba's Machaan

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Coorg Valley 71
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Green Valley Resort

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KAAV Safari Lodge
Red Earth Kabini
Waterwoods Lodge & Resorts

MADHYA PRADESH

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Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge
Infinity Resorts Bandhavgarh
JungleMantra
Kings Lodge
Mahua Kothi - Taj Safaris
Skay's Camp
Tree House Hideaway
Tiger's Den Resort

Kanha Tiger Reserve 91
7 Tigers Resort
Banjaar Tola - Taj Safaris
Chitvan Jungle Lodge
Courtyard House
Flame of the Forest Safari Lodge
Infinity Resorts Kanha
Kanha Earth Lodge
Kanha Jungle Lodge
Kanha Village Eco Resort
Kipling Camp
Singinawa Jungle Lodge
Soulacia Hotel & Resort
The Baagh - A Forest Retreat
Tuli Tiger Resort

Panna Tiger Reserve 141
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Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve 177
Irai Safari Retreat
Svasara Jungle Lodge
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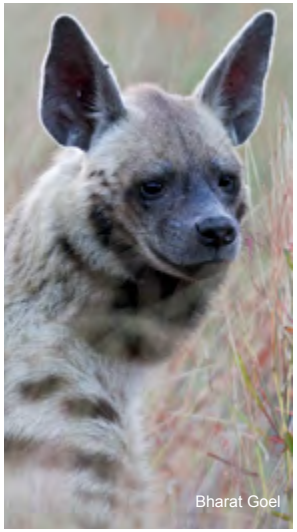
Bharat Goel

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Jim's Jungle Retreat
Paatlidun Safari Lodge
The Golden Tusk
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Rajaji National Park 153
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Sunderban Tiger Camp
Tora Eco Resort & Life
Experience Centre

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Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge

Chitwan National Park 63
Barahi Jungle Lodge
Kasara Jungle Resort
Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge

TOURISM, THE ROPE THAT BINDS

But India needs a new breed of economists and leaders

By *Bittu Sahgal, Editor, Sanctuary Asia*

I was on the river in the wildlife-rich Tale Valley Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh on August 1, 2001 on an official site visit to the Subansiri on behalf of the Indian Board for Wildlife. I was investigating claims by the promoters of the Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Project that "no threatened plants or animals existed in the Lower Subansiri Valley."

The leopard and elephant spoor I had seen had put paid to that casual claim within five minutes of disembarking from the boat. Several very credible naturalists had surveyed the area over the years and consistently affirmed that the Lower Subansiri Valley was one of the richest biodiversity vaults in India. Much more than countries such as Rwanda or Botswana, the Northeast was made for tourism, which could guarantee every man, woman and child a dignified living, with a much, much higher standard of living than they now enjoy.

But such opinions do not sit well unfortunately, across planners and politicians who understand little about sustainability and even less about development. Their mantra is "Show me the Money" or "Show me the Votes, fast". Consequently, Himalayan slopes have been deforested; mangroves in the Sundarbans and Orissa have been stripped; mighty rivers such as the Ganges and Brahmaputra have been poisoned; and cities have been assaulted by rapacious constructions with virtually no environmental mitigation or protection steps taken. The consequences have been felt, less by planners and more by the people and wildernesses they write of casually as "acceptable collateral damage".

Adding to this litany of environmental horrors, almost half a million poverty-stricken farmers and fisher folk have chosen to commit suicide in the decade gone by. Rather than face the climate-related crop failures and empty nets that left them unable to pay back loans taken for chemical pesticides and fertilisers, or motorised boats and nets... heads of families chose to give up on life. This, if nothing else, should waken our Rip Van Winkles (Kumbakaranas) to the possibility of a winwin situation that welds the objectives of biodiversity conservation, social and economic welfare and climate change mitigation, using ecologically sensitive and socially just tourism as the rope that binds. By returning farms and landholdings carved from forests to their natural state, millions of people living in communities close to our sanctuaries and National Parks could privately own and run wildlife conservancies on their own properties.

"India is a multi-destination country with a variety of tourist attractions and facilities. It is the second largest net foreign exchange earner by way of invisible exports. Tourism creates more jobs than any other sector for every rupee invested. It has a major role in promoting large-scale employment opportunities."

The Government of India

Of course this is easier said than done. For this happy occurrence, we must somehow cajole economists and planners into abandoning intellectual arrogance, ecological ignorance and the ever-present avarice that is the handmaiden of big money.

Here is what the Indian Government says: "India is a multi-destination country with a variety of tourist attractions and facilities. It is the second largest net foreign exchange earner by way of invisible exports. Tourism creates more jobs than any other sector for every rupee invested. It has a major role in promoting large-scale employment opportunities."

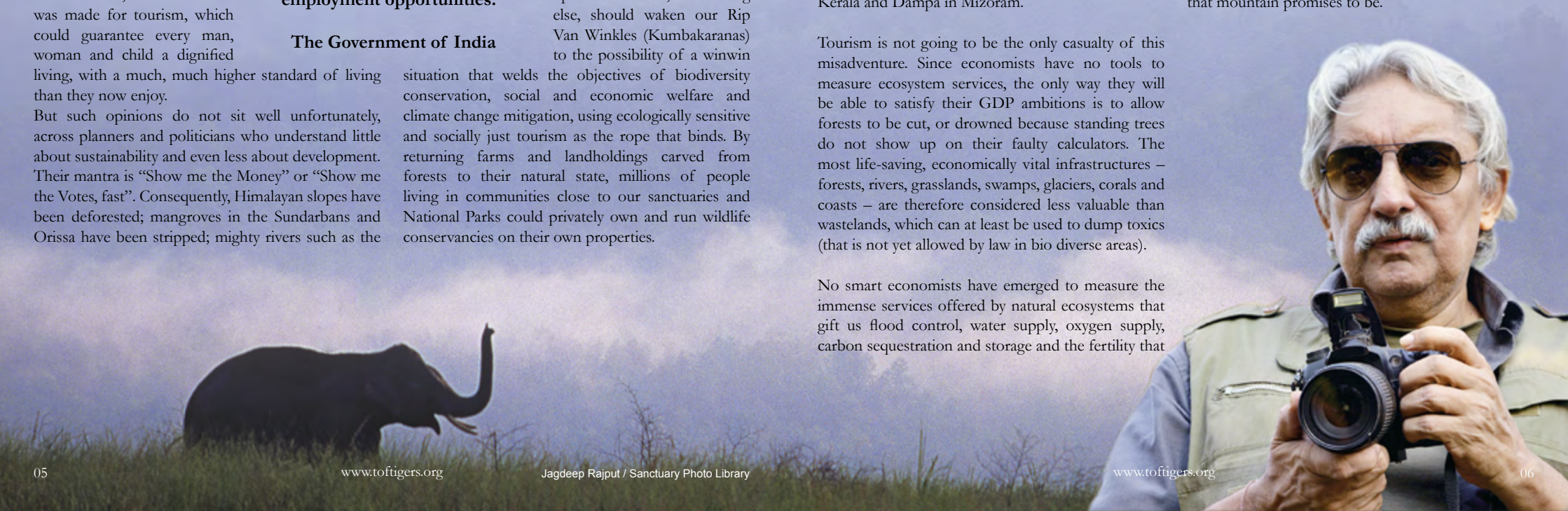
Here is what the Indian government does: Truncates the National Board of Wildlife to facilitate oil exploration, thermal power projects, highways, power lines, limestone and other mining, irrigation and water supply projects, oil pipelines, limestone mining, border fencing and other defence projects. Most of these will seriously hurt the sustainable tourism income that India hopes to earn, particularly close to Tiger Reserves such as Tadoba and Nagzira in Maharashtra, Pench in Madhya Pradesh, the Rann of Kutchh Wild Ass Sanctuary in Gujarat, Periyar in Kerala and Dampa in Mizoram.

Tourism is not going to be the only casualty of this misadventure. Since economists have no tools to measure ecosystem services, the only way they will be able to satisfy their GDP ambitions is to allow forests to be cut, or drowned because standing trees do not show up on their faulty calculators. The most life-saving, economically vital infrastructures – forests, rivers, grasslands, swamps, glaciers, corals and coasts – are therefore considered less valuable than wastelands, which can at least be used to dump toxics (that is not yet allowed by law in bio diverse areas).

No smart economists have emerged to measure the immense services offered by natural ecosystems that gift us flood control, water supply, oxygen supply, carbon sequestration and storage and the fertility that is bequeathed to our farms. The moment growth goes down, the GDP-chasers begin to dig into our natural resource vault to plunder a bit more to artificially boost the economy. Their vision extends only to the extent that their tenures last and they crave the accolades and spotlight that is shone on them by their peers. But their days (and reputations) are numbered.

Nature is not going to send out judgments, only consequences. Deforest the planet...you get floods and droughts; deplete oceans...you get empty fishing nets and hunger; kill soils with pesticides and fertilisers… soil organisms die and, ultimately, soils will stop delivering food; burn ungodly quantities of coal and oil…you get a warped climate, with its attendant cyclones, diseases and the manifold uncertainties that make a mockery of all financial projections.

Nature tourism is a conservation tool, an economic tool, a social justice tool and a climate change mitigation tool. But as with any tool, it can be used expertly or inexpertly. TOFTigers is trying to nudge India and the world in the right direction. As the Editor of *Sanctuary Asia*, I am happy to be working towards the same objective, irrespective of how high that mountain promises to be.



Jagdeep Rajput / Sanctuary Photo Library

Dr. Anish Andheria / Sanctuary Photo Library

Baiju Patil / Sanctuary Photo Library

Sumit Sen / Sanctuary Photo Library

NORTH INDIA

The Northern region is largely associated with the Himalayan ranges and the mysterious Ghost of the Mountains - the snow leopard. The pristine Gangotri National Park is where you can find both sitting at an altitude of a little over 7,000 metres above sea level. The origin of the holy river Ganges, the towering Gaumukh glacier, falls within this park. Mammals such as the surefooted caprids, the Himalayan blue sheep, red fox, Himalayan black bear, brown bear, Himalayan tahr, Himalayan musk deer, Himalayan weasel, Himalayan ibex, and bharal are all found here. Lammergeier, griffon vulture, yellow-billed choughs, orange-flanked bush robin, koklass pheasant, monal, Himalayan snowcock and snow pigeon are some of the beautiful birds that reside here.

Come down South a tad for the **Rajaji National Park** and **Corbett Tiger Reserve** with their verdant expanses of forests, blue rivers and white rocks. Asian elephants, tigers, leopards, hog deer, goral, jungle cats, sloth bears, barking deer, jackals, Indian porcupine and yellow-throated martens are some of the mammals that call these parks home.

WEST INDIA

When we think of West India, we think of the last and only remaining abode of the Asiatic lions, the **Gir National Park** in Gujarat. Today, the conservation efforts of the Gujarat government and forest management have seen the lion population reach in the range of 500.

The harsher and ever so unique habitat of Thar Desert is a beautiful sandy, brown expanse in the State of Rajasthan. Almost 3,000 square kilometres of this desert forms the Desert National Park. As exceptional as this National Park is, just as exceptional is its distinctive wildlife. The endemic reptile species like the laungwala toad-headed agama, spiny-tailed lizard, saw-scaled viper to name a few can be seen here; not to mention the charismatic mammals of the desert like the chinkara, Indian fox, desert cat, desert hare and many more. On the Eastern edge of this desert, in the ancient folds of the Aravalli Hills lies **Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve,** home of the most well-documented tigers in the world, reigning over ancient hill top ramparts and amongst ruined palaces on lotus covered lakes.

Living up to the adjective 'interesting' is the Kutchh Desert Sanctuary in Gujarat. It is a true saline desert, which seasonally gives rise to the saline wetland areas that last a couple of months before turning into a saline desert again. Apart from a heavenly spectacle of thousands of flamingos that flock to the Flamingo City here, it offers a glimpse into the wildlife of millions of years ago too. Fossils can be found aplenty on Jurassic and Cretaceous period rock remnants in certain areas of the sanctuary.

EAST INDIA

The forests in the Eastern part of India boast of unique flora and fauna. Endangered animals such as one-horned rhinoceros, the gargantuan wild buffalos and the critically endangered brow-antlered deer have made this unique topography their home. The world's largest mangrove estuary, the Sundarbans, lies in West Bengal. **Sundarbans Tiger Reserve** is a unique ecosystem in which all the plants and animals found here have adapted themselves to the estuarine life of the mangrove forest swamp. The high salinity, extreme tides, strong winds, high temperatures, oxygen-depleted soils have all shaped this unique biome. It's a reptilian wonderland. Saltwater crocodile, water monitor, king cobra, monocelate cobra and the river terrapin are just some of the species that thrive here.

One of the densest tiger forests in the world, the **Kaziranga National Park** is also one the best-protected wildlife areas in the country. This is a haven for large herbivores and has in turn been able to sustain a healthy population of tigers. Kaziranga's wetlands sustain a varied diversity of mammals, reptiles, avian species and plants.

Isaac Kehimkar / Sanctuary Photo Library

Dr. Anish Andheria / Sanctuary Photo Library

Tiger Tops

CENTRAL INDIA

The Central Indian landscape is adorned with Vindhya, Satpura, Aravalli, Maikal and Ajanta mountain ranges that ensconce amazing flora and fauna species biodiversity within the several Wildlife Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves. Without a doubt, one of the most exciting Tiger Reserves in Central India is the **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve**. The landscape within this park is beautifully dominated by bamboo and teak. Situated in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra, TATR is home to diverse mammal, reptiles, birds and plant species. Another popular tiger destination in Central India is the **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** whose allure is amplified by the remnants of history that bejewels the park such as the Shesh Shaiya, a giant, arresting statue of Vishnu from the 10th century A.D., that lies reclined at the base of the legendary Bandhavgarh Fort. Walk or trek in the **Satpura** hills and lake shoreline, spot a famous tigress and her cubs in **Pench** or enjoy the varied scenic beauty of **Panna** and marvel at its restoration.

Kanha Tiger Reserve is another spectacle that passes off as one the best-managed wildlife reserves in the country. Here populations of handsome and threatened raptors such as the long-billed vulture can be sighted and the world's only population of barasingha call Kanha its home.

SOUTH INDIA

The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve spans across more than 5,000 square kilometres of the pristine Western Ghats of South India replete with moist, evergreen, dry and tropical forests. Some of the best Tiger Reserves, National Parks and sanctuaries such as **Bandipur, Nagarahole** and **Mudumalai** and many more like the picturesque regions of **Coorg Valley** and **Valparai** fall under this UNESCO designated Biosphere Reserve. The endangered and endemic lion-tailed macaque and Nilgiri tahr are found in this one-of-its-kind Western Ghats ecosystem.

The tropical lake forest, Periyar Tiger Reserve holds and protects the precious Periyar Lake that attracts all creatures great and small. This reserve is made up of diverse habitats and is an excellent site to sight the endangered dholes, gaur and elephants. A true birdwatchers' paradise, this forest boasts of birds such as the great hornbill, Malabar pied hornbill, Malabar grey hornbill, Malabar trogon, changeable hawk eagle, vernal hanging parrot to name a very few.

NEPAL

Nepal, the land of the Himalayas, historic cities and lush forests is home to a wide range of flora and fauna owing to extreme variations in its altitude and climate - from the sweltering heat of the Terai region to the freezing cold of the Himalayan highlands. Start with the Terai lowlands - a belt of well-watered floodplains with tall grasslands interposed with riverine and hardwood sal forests. Musk deer, blue bull, one-horned rhinoceros, black buck, the royal Bengal tiger, gharial, marsh mugger crocodile and the last of a breed of Asiatic wild buffalo all roam here. **The Royal Chitwan** and **Bardia National Parks** are located here and offer nature lovers a good look at most of these residents and many more. In the Churia range, look for ancient fossil deposits of Pleistocene mammals long extinct in the subcontinent.

As you go higher in the North towards the Mahabharat range, you find hills covered by deodar, oak, birch and maple. These forests are home to deer, leopard, ghoral serow and the Impeyan pheasant, which is Nepal's national bird. Climb higher nearer to the alpine mountains that are the haunt of the snow leopard and its prey - the blue sheep and Himalayan tahr. The varied ecosystems sprouts over 300 species of orchids, eleven of which are endemic to Nepal. Whether you want to trek, relax, or view its diverse wildlife, you will find yourself immersed in this treasure trove of natural beauty.

By *Lakshmy Raman, Sanctuary Asia*

Preparing for your visit

Welcome to the Jungle.

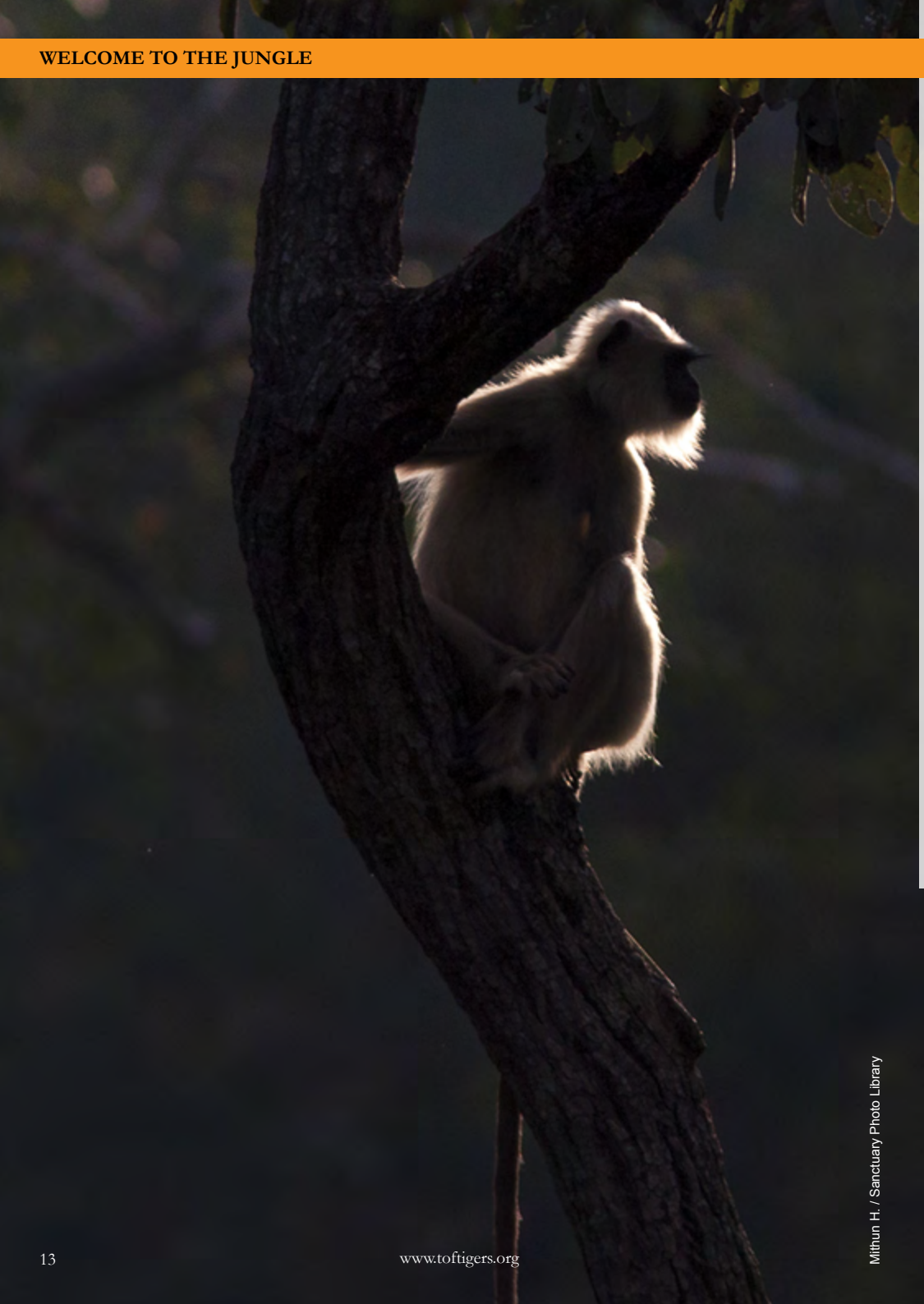
Crisp mornings, scorching afternoons and chilly evenings typify most parks in India, with safaris restricted to morning and evening drives. While park management, suitable accommodation, good naturalists and great wildlife sightings are all essential to your trip, what really makes or breaks the wilderness experience is your attitude. With the world at your fingertips (through the Internet) it takes little effort to ensure that you make the most of any sojourn into the wild as unobtrusively as possible.

Aditya Singh

Park Etiquette

Wildlife tourism can provide a huge fillip to conservation efforts, but rowdy tourists often sour the experience for other tourists, park managers and wildlife alike. While in the park, please remember to:

- **Wear muted tones.** Flashy jewellery and neon clothing are best kept for other occasions. Choose tones of green, olive, brown and khaki for your time in the forest.
- **Exit the park on time.** Dallying in the jungle past your exit time may marginally increase your chances of seeing a big cat, but it also puts a strain on the park administration that will be deployed to escort you out.
- **Respect your driver and guide.** These two individuals are your jungle interpreters. It is best to listen to them while in their company. In case of any problems, a complaint can always later be registered with the Park Director.
- **Keep it clean.** Littering is unwise at the best of times, but in the forest it is wholly unacceptable. Store any trash in your vehicle and dispose of it responsibly once you are back at your resort. Tigers should not be chewing plastic bottles!
- **Stay silent.** Oh, the jungle is very exciting, but your visit will yield so much more if you keep the volume down. This includes not just containing your exclamations of joy when you spot a big cat, but also keeping your cell phones on silent and ensuring your driver doesn't blow the horn.
- **Stay in your zone.** Tourist vehicles are assigned specific zones or routes to ensure that traffic is evenly spread across the tourism zone so as to cause the least disturbance to wildlife.
- **Check your flash.** Camera toters, this is aimed at you. Please make sure your flash is off before you enter the park. Startling a wild animal while you take a picture is avoidable.
- **Report anomalies.** Whether it is a grievously injured animal, a suspected trap or a fellow tourist flouting the rules, take accountability and report it locally or via TOFTigers (admin@toftindia.org). Backing up your report with a photograph or video will be appreciated.
- **Appreciate it all.** The forest ecosystem is made up of a myriad of little miracles. Unfortunately, many tourists become so enraptured by mega mammals that they forget to pay attention to other flora and fauna. Observe everything and you won't be disappointed.
- **Never get out of your safari vehicle** - not even if you drop your hat or want a perfect selfie. One act of foolish daredevilry could cost you dearly. No matter how passive a wild animal looks, their space must be respected.



Mithun H. / Sanctuary Photo Library

Jungle Tips

Now that you know how to behave while in the park and have sufficiently fortified yourself against untoward incidents, you can go the extra mile to create your perfect forest holiday.

- You've probably already packed a number of field guides for your trip. But did you know that there are also innumerable apps that you can download on your smartphone or tablet to enhance your wildlife experience? From identifying bird song to giving photography tips - there's an app for every kind of jungle explorer.

- Before you leave, reach out to someone who knows the ins and outs of your chosen destination. Not only will they give you good tips, they could also guide you towards their favourite naturalist, guide or forest guard whom they know, from experience, will show you a good time.

- The indigenous communities that live around so many of India's Protected Areas are an untapped repository of knowledge on natural history. Take the time to engage with the locals to learn about their history and relationship with the land. Perhaps you will even be invited for a meal to one of their homes in the bargain. Respect their privacy and treat them sensitively.

- While in the jungle, keep your eyes peeled for wild animal spoor! Anything from footprints to scat can give you clues to the wildlife that inhabits an area. Be uninhibited in questioning your guide - they are trained naturalists who are there to share their knowledge!

- Your field gear is often a crucial part of your travels. Before you leave home, double-check your chargers, batteries and gadgets.

- Protect yourself against the searing Indian heat. All this takes is lathering on some high SPF sunscreen and wearing a hat or cap. Additionally, keep yourself hydrated.

- Bugs abound in areas of high biodiversity. Non-toxic mosquito repellent or even eucalyptus or citronella oil should be a part of your jungle kit and liberally applied at key hours like dusk.

Source: *Sanctuary Asia*

This beautiful, vast, diverse country is made for open-hearted explorers. With some preparation and a positive attitude, India's wilds will reveal infinite magical moments to nature lovers.

Enjoy your trip!

YOUR SUPPORT : OUR INVESTMENT

Using this publication as the basis of your visit, you will have already played a role in helping local communities to thrive and become stakeholders in protecting the wildlife and wildernesses you have seen, but should you wish to do more, here are ways you can invest in a park's long term protection.

Dharm Gurjer (Cucumber Farmer)

Chhotu Keer (Chilli Farmer)

Badri Senportrait (Tractor Driver)

Support a Village Wildlife Guardian
Support one of our Guardians, a local villager who provides vital intelligence on the movement of wildlife in and around a tiger park and helps to prevent poaching and illegal activities in his patch. We regard them as a park's 'second protection force'.

You can do this privately or through a foundation or corporate from just ₹ 15,000 in India (or US$250/£150 from abroad) - which is three months of vital support for a watcher including a part time wage, smartphone, training and support.

For further details:
Visit www.toftigers.org/TOFT/Sponsor-a-guardian and see how you can help them and what you can expect in return for your support.

Email us:
info@toftindia.org

Tel:
In India: +91 11 4100 6608
Outside India: +44 (0) 1963 824514

Team with Dharmendra

Training with Forest Guards

Paw print casting

Camera trap photo of tiger

Conservation organisations you could also consider

In India

Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI)
WPSI is a non profit organisation which provides support and information to government authorities to combat poaching and the escalating illegal wildlife trade in India - particularly in wild tigers.

Tel: +91 11 4163 5920/21
Email: wpsi@vsnl.com
www.wpsi-india.org

The Corbett Foundation
TCF is a charity that conducts projects in wildlife conservation, environmental awareness, community health, veterinary care, animal rescue, alternative livelihood training and TOFTigers Village Guardian scheme, all in and around many well-known parks.

Tel: +91 22 6146 6400
Email: info@corbettfoundation.org
www.corbettfoundation.org

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)
An important and long established nature conservation NGO, BNHS spans diverse habitats across India with over 150 scientists and professionals working on research, conservation and nature education.

Tel: +91 22 2282 1811
Email: info@bnhs.org
www.bnhs.org

WWF India
A challenging, constructive, science-based organisation, WWF-India's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. It works on species and habitats, climate change and environmental education.

Tel: +91 11 4150 4815
Email: donate@wwfindia.net
www.wwfindia.org

Waste Warriors
Waste Warriors Society is a not-for-profit organisation working towards sustainable waste management in Dharamsala, Dehradun and around the Corbett Landscape. The team collects, processes and disposes about 10,000 kg of waste every month, and also conducts awareness raising and educational programmes.

Cell: +91 89549 42516
Email: corbett@wastewarriors.org
www.wastewarriors.org

In Nepal

National Trust for Nature Conservation
NTNC is an NGO that works on nature conservation and biodiversity projects as well as cultural heritage protection, eco-tourism, and sustainable development.

Tel: +977 1 5526 571, 5526 573
Email: info@ntnc.org.np
www.ntnc.org.np

Nature Guide

An introductory guide to just some of the floral and faunal treasures found in India, Nepal and Bhutan.

Baiju Patil / Sanctuary Photo Library

INDIAN WILDLIFE

There is so much here for all your senses. Stay alert, scan the forests and listen to the many new sounds; the chorus of birds and the alarm calls of animals. Your naturalist guide will point things out to you but spend time just listening. Ask to stop the vehicle when you want to see something and use silence to hear exactly what is going on. You really can learn to read the wild - much like our ancestors once did.

The Indian subcontinent is a whole ecosystem of wondrous life forms and beautiful creatures. Here is just a snapshot of some of the most common mammals that you might see on a specific safari.

Sashi Subrat Seet

Vivek Sharma

Tigers *(Panthera tigris)*

India's most charismatic and the world's most favourite creature, the majestic tiger is a safari-goer's ultimate prize to spot. Today many tigers and tigresses (and their cubs) can be seen in many of India's Tiger Reserves, having grown up with the hustle and bustle of visitors and their vehicles, cameras and excited chatter. Many tigers have their own Facebook page, or you can read about them and their family histories, or follow them on **www.tigernation.org**.

The tiger is the world's biggest cat (weighing up to 230 kg) and hunts and moves mostly at night and rests by day. However dawn and dusk are good times to see them on the move. Lots of water sources, good den sites, better protection and plenty of food including wild pig, sambar deer and spotted deer, has ensured that healthy tiger populations now exist in most Tiger Reserves in India and Nepal. A census in 2014 highlighted some 2,226 adult tigers living in India and a further 200 in Nepal, across some 40,000 square kilometres of protected tiger habitat. Numbers are up in the last few years - but down from 100,000 only a century ago, and so tigers remain highly endangered.

Dominant males have large territories to oversee - often with two to four breeding tigresses under their protection bringing up their cubs - and it's a tough job, often fighting off marauding males and keeping an eye on females. Tigresses on the other hand are good breeders and keeping their own cubs (average of two cubs for up to two years) safe and fed requires cunning, daring, experience, skill, love and a dollop of luck - oh and a very strong long term male mate and protector. Tigers are wary of man and they only become man-eaters if food is very scarce, or if they are too old or wounded to catch other prey.

Listen out for the alarm calls of deer and langurs as tigers move through the forest, making your job easier to find one and if you hear one calling - you're close!

Asian elephant *(Elephas maximus)*

Revered as the Lord Ganesha, it is India's largest and probably most intelligent land mammal weighing 3,000 kilograms and lives up to 60 years. Elephants principally live in North Eastern, Northern and Southern forests of India and in the Nepalese Terai. Only males have large tusks, but it is the matriarch that leads herds of family members. It is thought that there are only 25,000 of them left in the subcontinent. These mighty beings kill probably 500 people a year in conflicts with farmers - so show some respect!

Asiatic lion *(Panthera leo)*

Over 400 Asiatic lions live only in Gir National Park in Gujarat, where protection saved it from extinction a hundred years ago. They live in small prides of two to five females with a maned male only joining for food and mating. They mostly eat chital and the cattle of the Maldhari herders who live in unique harmony with them. Listen for the male's roar with the end grunts - it makes the hair on your neck stand!

Indian one-horned rhinoceros *(Rhinoceros unicornis)*

This one-horned, slate grey, armour plated relic of evolution weighs in at up to 2,000 kilograms and was brought back from near extinction a 100 years ago. They now number 1,750 in the wild mainly in the grasslands of Terai and North Eastern river basins. Males and females look similar. They are creatures of habit that often walk the same paths and, being territorial, 'toilet' in the same dump each day, making them an easy catch for photographers - and poachers!

Asiatic wild buffalo *(Bovidae arnee)*

Once huge herds lived across India, but today only remnants of these large, black and dangerous bovids (wild cattle) live in small woodlands, grasslands and marsh pockets in North East and Central India. Both males and females have horns and the largest horn in the world was recorded at over two metres wide! If you see them stomp their feet, shake their head and snort – get out of their way! They are the wild stock of all of today's domestic buffalo across the subcontinent.

Pictures by Atul Dhamankar, Mihir Mahajan, Sanctuary Photo Library, Shivang Mehta, Subrat Seet, Aditya Dhanwatey, Aditya Singh, Sachin Rai, Anurag Sharma, S. Tiwari, Kay Tiwari, Salim Ali, Bharat Goel, Vinod Goel, Ankit Goyal, Praveen Siddannavar, Hatsy Singh and Dhamenda Khandal.

Leopard *(Panthera pardus)*

Leopards are very adaptable big cats, with beautiful black rosettes on a clear yellow coat. It's a real treat to see, because it's the eternal, but far smaller, enemy of the tiger. Mostly nocturnal, it hides during the day. Its rasping mating call - like the sound of wood being sawed - is unmistakable at night. They hunt smaller prey and haul it up trees away from other carnivores.

Sloth bear *(Melursus ursinus)*

The shaggy black long haired Bhalu of Jungle Book fame is a great bear to see wandering the forest, digging up termites or pulling bark off trees to get at tasty ants. Their sharp claws are very dangerous and they like to stand on their hind legs to get a better view as their sight is not very good. See a mother with her cubs riding on her back and you will have just witnessed a once in a lifetime treat.

Gaur *(Bos gaurus)*

The gaur is the largest ox in the world, often called the Indian bison. With a huge muscular frame of 800 to 1,200 kilograms, mature males are jet black, while females and young are coffee brown in colour. Reintroduced to the parks in 2010, they are now in good health and breeding well. They often become tiger food, but can be too big and dangerous when in small herds.

Common langur *(Semnopithecus entellus)*

These widespread and predominantly leaf-eating monkeys with long tails for a life in the trees are worshipped by Hindus as Hanuman, the Monkey God. They live in single male groups or troop of ten to a hundred. Look out for its friendship with the spotted deer and listen out for a sentinel's alarm bark – it means that it's seen a carnivore nearby! Several rarer langur species live precious lives in forest patches across India.

Hoolock gibbon *(Bunopithecus hoolock)*

India's only ape, this long armed, tailless primate is an amazing gymnast and can be seen brachiating through the tree canopies. It is also the most melodious singer of haunting songs - a jungle karaoke at dawn! Male and females are of two distinctly different colours; females are golden blonde and males totally black except for fabulous white eyebrows. Pairs are monogamous and live together for life - but are sadly being greatly affected by loss of forests, particularly tree canopies.

Wild dog *(Cuon alpinus)*

The dhole, as it is known in India, is a reddish brown forest dog. They live and hunt in collaborative large or small packs depending on the season and available food like deer and pig. Elusive, but often the most exciting animals to watch, they are sociable and playful when relaxed, yet exciting and dramatic when out hunting. Every animal and ground bird in the forest is scared of wild dogs.

Jackal *(Canis aureus)*

You may have seen them near villages; they are handsome canids with golden and black haired coats and black tipped tails. They are always busy in the park, hunting and scavenging, singularly, in pairs or small packs for small mammals, insects and birds. You can often hear them yelping or barking like dogs.

Caracal *(Caracal caracal)*

If you happen to see this beautiful medium sized cat then you are blessed. It's elusive, solitary and shy, but instantly recognisable with its tall black tufted ears and pinkish brown fur. It uses stealth, speed and agility to catch small mammals like hares and is particularly good at catching birds.

Spotted deer *(Axis axis)*

The most common deer in India, it's also a tiger's most frequent meal. They are found in small or larger herds of females, with baby fawns and other youngsters. See if you can spot the male with his large antlers who is in charge of each herd. Often seen with langurs to help them spot danger or seen rutting (fighting) over females, their alarm call is a sharp 'ack ack' or 'wow'. It is an important alarm call to listen out for on your drive – a predator is close by.

Sambar deer *(Cervus unicolor)*

Look out for Asia's largest deer. It is one and a half metres tall, with shaggy brown coat and huge spreading antlers on the males. They're commonly seen in thick bamboo groves and forests where they take shelter and eat mostly leaves. Found in small family or young bachelor groups of three to five individuals, they are a tiger's favourite food. Listen out for their loud 'dhonk' alarm call signalling that a carnivore is nearby.

Wild pig *(Sus crofa)*

A large forest pig, the 'forest's farmer', the wild pig is able to dig up forest floors and grasslands with its tough snout looking for roots and tubers – but will eat almost anything! Strong and weighing up to 100 kilograms, they will put up a rapid flight and a brave fight against any carnivore if caught. Being great breeders, they are often seen in sounders of up to twelve little piglets with their mother. Being tasty food, they have to be tough and fast to survive.

Marsh crocodile *(Crocodylus palustris)*

Observe the mugger on the shoreline of the Tadoba Lake or Andhari River. It likes to snatch small mammals drinking, or eat fish - it's not too fussy. They can grow up to sixteen feet and 450 kilograms and have a healthy appetite. Never forget that these reptiles have been around for 220 million years and are well adapted to their lifestyle.

Porcupine *(Hystrix indica)*

The nibblings of porcupines are likely to be the only thing you see of this amazing giant rodent because it sleeps underground during the day. Its dorsal hairs have evolved into spiky black and white quills and are a danger to any creature that threatens them. Beware! It attacks by running backwards.

Crested serpent eagle

COMMON BIRDS CHECKLIST

with Atul Dhamankar

The Indian subcontinent is a birder's paradise. Never is there a dull moment on a safari. When you are not watching out for mammals, look up and enjoy the staggering birdlife that graces landscapes from the heights of the Himalayas to the waters of the Sundarbans. Take a good guide, pack some binoculars and a bird guide and you are set for a fantastic time on any safari destination in India, both inside and outside parks and also in city parks and farmlands. Here are a small number of easily recognised birds to tick off your list.

Indian skimmer

River tern

Sarus crane

Bar-headed goose

Golden oriole

Black-hooded oriole

White-eyed buzzard

Changeable hawk eagle

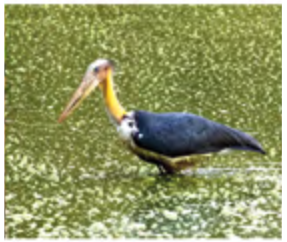
Oriental honey buzzard

Egyptian vulture

Long-billed vulture

Red-headed vulture

Wooly-necked stork



Lesser adjutant stork

Painted stork

Coppersmith barbet

Compiled by naturalist, photographer and writer Atul Dhamankar.
For more information, visit **www.atuldhamankartiger.com**.
Pictures by Atul Dhamankar, Sanctuary Photo Library, Aditya Dhanwatey, Kay Tiwari, Shivaram Subramaniam, S. Tiwari, Ripan Biswas, Ramesh Vijaymohan, Shivang Mehta, Subrat Seet, Harishvara Venkat, Salim Ali, Aditya Singh, Yogeshwar Krishna, Saurabh Desai, Gopi Krishnamurthy & Bhanu Singh.

COMMON BIRDS

Blue-throated barbet

Brown-headed barbet

Little owlet

Brown fish owl

Indian roller

Common myna

Chestnut-headed bee eater

Green bee eater

Spotted owlet

Malabar pied hornbill

Common Hoopoe

Jungle babbler

Lesser goldenback woodpecker

Yellow fronted woodpecker

Crested treeswift

Yellow-footed green pigeon

Indian nightjar

Little cormorant

Darter

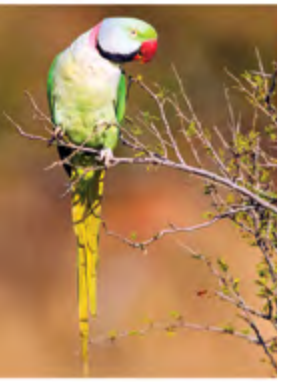
Rose-ringed parakeet

Indian pitta

Purple sunbird

Common kingfisher

Pied kingfisher


Alexandrine parakeet

Great hornbill

Paradise flycatcher

Rufous treepie

Raquet-tailed drongo

OTHER CREATURES THAT FLY

Indian flying fox (bat species)

Flying squirrel

Flying snake

Palash or 'Flame of the Forest' in full bloom in February.

TREES OF INDIA

Trees are something that we all have a unique affinity to, yet we are all too often unappreciative of them because they are always there. India and Nepal have a unique religious and mythological relationship with trees, with sacred groves as well as sacred individual trees used as shrines in villages and towns across the country. There are over 2,500 varieties of trees on the subcontinent but the once vast forests have all but disappeared in the last 200 years. Here are just a few very special ones to spot on a safari.

Mango tree *(Mangifera indica)*

Mangoes are India's best loved fruit. The tree's huge 20 metre high evergreen canopy and delicious fruit provides food, shade and shelter for both man, birds and animals. Hugely popular in villages and often planted along the roadside to feed pilgrims, it flowers from April and mango season is celebrated from April onwards when the fruits ripen.

Photo Credits: Hemraj Meena, Vinod Goel, Atul Dhamankar and Julian Matthews.

Mahua tree *(Madhuca indica)*

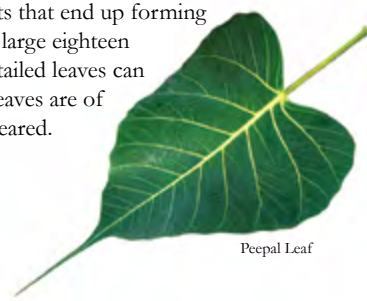
Valued above all other trees in Central India, it's never felled and often stands in tribal villages when all other trees have gone. Its flowers are highly nutritious with deer, monkeys, pig and bears gorging them, but villagers collect them just as fervently to brew into an alcoholic spirit, often setting alight the surrounding forest to collect them. Mahua collecting season in April is dangerous for the villagers - surprising tigers and tipsy bears alike.

Banyan tree *(Ficus bengalensis)*

Unmissable, this huge parasitic fig tree, with aerial roots that grow downward, holding up massive extended branches, holds the title for being the broadest tree in the world. One specimen in Kolkata occupies two hectares, can shade 20,000 people, has 3,000 prop roots and is 300 years old! Its shelter and fruit is the lifeblood for a host of birds and animals and it is considered sacred. It has its very own wasp species to pollinate it too!

Peepal tree *(Ficus religiosa)*

Sacred to both Hindus and Buddhists alike, this long living strangler fig is even regarded as a Brahmin itself, ensuring it lives to very old age (up to two millennia) wherever it grows. Strangling its hosts with roots that end up forming the trunk, it can grow into a large eighteen metre high tree whose long-tailed leaves can clatter noisily in the wind. Leaves are of a lovely red when newly appeared.



Peepal Leaf

Arjuna's tree *(Terminalis Arjuna)*

These trees are found most often beside water and rivers in Central and Southern India. They are huge impressive hardwood trees with big white grey buttress and root systems that hold back sandy riverbanks. They offer shade to wildlife in summer and its bark has many medicinal uses.

Palash tree *(Butea monosperma)*

The most spectacular sights of an Indian summer are the 'Flame of the Forest' trees blazing with bright orange flowers which squirrels, langurs, parrots and bees love. It grows everywhere, in poor and salty soils too. A floral infusion is used to make red dyes for the festival of Holi, the leaves are used for making disposable plates and fibres are made into rope.

Teak tree *(Tectona grandis)*

A famous hardwood, teak is native to dry and moist forests in India, but the huge old trees were all but lost by the end of the 1800's being used for railways and shipbuilding. They are tall, growing up to 40 metres high, though most are now smaller and heavily replanted for forestry. It's easily identified by its white candelabra based flowers in the monsoons. Its huge 30 centimetre long leaves that slowly turn brown and crisp are artistically defoliated by a species of moth larvae before falling to the ground in summer.

Sal tree *(Shorea robusta)*

These trees form magnificent tall and closed canopy forests across India's heartlands, from belts in Central India to the Terai region of Nepal. Extensively felled during the Raj period as a hardwood tree, it's one tree that foresters seem unable to propagate. Aggressively ensuring no other vegetation grows in its dark shade, its understorey is therefore open and interesting to walk through.

Tamarind tree *(Tamarindus indica)*

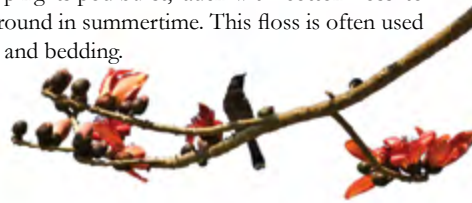
An original native of tropical Africa, it is now widespread in Asia with a Persian derived name. The large evergreen spreading shade of the tamarind has fruit pods that are essential to Indian cuisine. Its bark and leaves are invaluable to village medicine cabinets as a carminative and laxative and valuable food for wildlife, livestock and humans alike.

Neem tree *(Azadirachta indica)*

A symbol of good health and a harbinger of good times for centuries, the neem is a mid-sized nearly evergreen tree and hailed as a veritable medicine cabinet as seen in villages across India. Its leaves are used as an insect and pest repellent and neem toddy from its trunk is used as an effective general antiseptic. Today, apart from being seen as a miracle tree in the cosmetic industry, it is also used as bio-pesticide, contraception, soil nitrogen regulator and has many other uses.

Silk cotton tree *(Bombax ceiba)*

This tree has a very distinctive branching and thorny trunk with showy red flowers that attracts birds between February and April before dropping its pod burst, laden with 'cotton floss' to snow upon the ground in summertime. This floss is often used for filling pillows and bedding.



Dhok tree *(Anogeissus pendula)*

The most common tree in the hot dry slopes of the Aravalli Hills, the dhok is best seen in Ranthambhore. It's a deciduous silvery bark tree that's nibbled to a common grazing height by spotted deer and sambar in the hot summer months. Its silvery bare trees in mid-summer can be spotted from afar. It is said to be the toughest timber in India.

Common bamboo *(Bambusa bambos)*

Bamboos are actually grass with many varieties of it found throughout India and Nepal. The most common is Bambusa bamboo in forests of deciduous moist Central and Southern India, growing up to 30 metres tall. They have a dark green stalk or culm and flower once every 40 to 60 years. With this mass seeding - a forest feast for reptiles, small mammals and their prey begins, but it also leads to a massive dieback of the forest storey which can bring famine for others. It is an important cash crop for village communities used in pulp and paper, thatching and roofing.

TRACKS AND SIGNS OF INDIAN WILDLIFE

with Shekhar S. Kolipaka

Much of your safari will be taken in a vehicle, yet you will miss 90% of what is in the wild if you don't get down and dirty on foot or even on your knees. All creatures great and small leave tell-tale signs of their existence in the trees, along the roads and riverbanks of the reserves. A good naturalist or park guide can help you, but here are a few clues to look for.

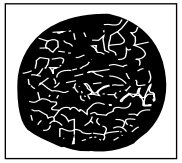
MAMMAL TRACKS

Pugmarks without claws

All have four toes and a central pad.

The foreleg track of a tiger is bigger and much rounder than the hind track. It can be up to thirteen centimetres long and twelve centimetres wide.

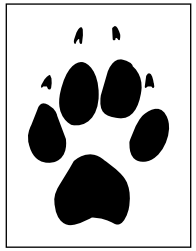
The leopard is the most widely distributed large cat in India and it can even be seen in cities. The tracks of a male are larger than that of a female leopard.

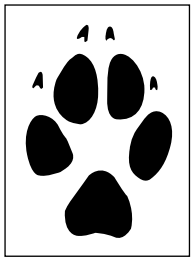


The elephant is an unmistakable track, crater like, showing us an exact fingerprint of the skin on its foot.

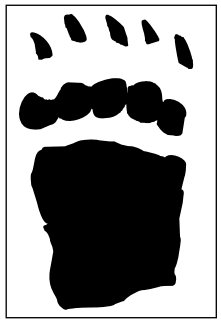
Pugmarks with claws

The difference between cat species and other mammals is that only cats have retractable claws, so with most other mammal tracks like bears, wild dogs, jackals and even porcupines and badgers you can spot claw marks too. Look carefully.





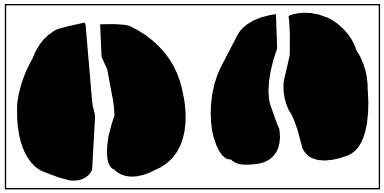
Jackal tracks are commonly seen in many parks - often mistaken as dogs. You can see the claw marks easily in their tracks.



A special pug mark to find is the sloth bear. They have two very different tracks, front pad and back pads, but their claws are huge and dangerous!

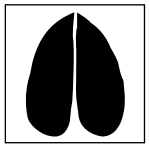
Cloven-hoofed mammals and other signs

This group of animals includes many of the cat's favorite food. If you see lots of tracks like these below, there is a really good chance you are in good big cat territory. They include wild buffalo, gaur, sambar, spotted deer, wild pig and nilgai antelope (relative scale).

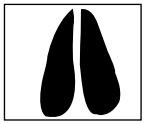


Gaur
c. 120 to 160 mm

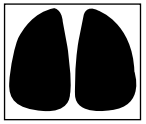
Sambar deer
c. 85 to 100 mm



Nilgai antelope
c. 87 to 100 mm



Spotted deer
c. 50 to 66 mm

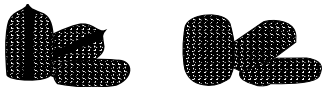


Wild pig
c. 50 to 65 mm

ANIMAL DROPPINGS

Much can be learnt from droppings or 'scat'. It tells you what animal it is, when it was here, what and when it last ate - so you can even tell how hungry it is! Look out for:

From bats, hares and rodents



Deer and antelope species

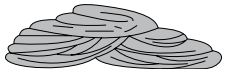
Porcupine, crocodile, monitor lizard and monkey

Wild dogs, jackal, mongoose and civet

Rhino and elephants

Tigers, leopards, smaller cats and hyena

This is a tiger's droppings consisting mainly of hair balls from its last victim.



Gaur and wild buffalo (also cattle)

What do you think makes these marks on a tree?

Like us, many animals prefer to use roads and wildlife tracks to move through the jungle. It makes tracking them easier!

Do animals have toilets?

Yes. Nilgai antelope and sambar deer both use latrines, often coming back to the same place. This is a territorial marker as well as a useful latrine. Rhinos famously have their own toilet sites, making rhinos easy to find for poachers, who often hide near these latrines.

OTHER SIGNS TO SEE & SPOT

Both sambhar and spotted deer rub the 'velvet' off their new antlers. Because deer grow antlers every year you can learn to tell their age from their antlers. The bigger their antlers, the older the animal.

THE WONDER OF TERMITE COLONIES

These super organisms are highly organised, and build termite mounds of extraordinary strength and size, up to eight to ten foot high in some parks. They are often studied by architects to help them understand building, temperature control and energy saving structures. They are critical to a soil's fertility as they recycle leaf litter and dung. What you see above ground is only a fraction of what is below ground with mega cities of tunnels and 'fungal gardens' to sustain the colony. Millions of individuals are divided into either workers or soldiers to guard the colony, while the queen and king look after the reproductive duties.

What is eating this tree bark?

This is the porcupine feeding on its favorite tree bark. Its two front teeth marks are noticeable.

Many animals eat different plants and bark as medicine, to relieve pains. The nibblings of a langur monkey from the Arjuna tree is similar but higher up a tree. It relieves their stomach pains.

Compiled by Kolipaka S Shekhar.
Buy his book
'A Field Guide to Tracks and Signs'
at www.wildlifetracking.in (for orders in India)
or www.nhbs.com (for orders outside India)

WILDLIFE PARKS & PUG ACCOMMODATION PROVIDERS

Wildlife Parks and Accommodation Providers

Your guide to the parks and the best lodges, resorts and homestays to enjoy your wilderness experience.

Balaji Loganathan / Sanctuary Photo Library

TOFTigers
Sustaining the wild

What are we?

TOFTigers is a worldwide business-to-business nature travel campaign charity started in 2005. It is run by passionate nature travel professionals, experts and conservationists, mostly voluntarily, who believe that well-conceived, well-planned and well-managed tourism plays a vital part in helping preserve wild habitat, promoting conservation and in supporting local communities across the Indian subcontinent. Much more work needs to be done in wildlife destinations to achieve this goal – hence this initiative.

In addition to offering extraordinary personal experiences, responsible wildlife tourism also provides a clear economic imperative for protecting forests and helping save their biodiversity, including tigers. Such tourism is one of the only non-extractive industries that can still release real economic value from forests, turn poachers into gamekeepers, passive visitors into passionate advocates and bring marginalised forest communities into the mainstream of sustainable economic life.

Our membership of over 200 travel companies, nature accommodation and service providers from India and across the globe, recognise forests as living breathing ecosystems, with biodiversity services critical to the long-term ecological health of the Indian subcontinent.

It's critical that all forms of tourism - especially those in and around wilderness areas - are driven down a responsible business framework and that travel professionals, nature conservationists, local communities and governments work hand in hand to achieve this.

The TOFTigers campaign initially focused on a few of the best known tiger viewing parks in India. Today it is increasingly including any number of parks, sanctuaries or wild lands with a vision to help put unknown and unexplored parks on the map as a way of ensuring that tourism pressures are spread further and thinner across wilderness landscapes, with benefits accruing to many areas rather than just a few hotspots.

Each park highlighted in this guide has different attractions, fabulous wildlife, unique flora and fauna and unforgettable nature experiences. We want to encourage you to take more time to explore the variety of wildlife and nature experiences on offer and not simply see a visit to the parks in terms of tiger viewing.

We flag up the best suppliers for you with our PUG eco-rating certification, so that you and your travel supplier can now make better and more informed decisions about where to go and where to stay, stimulating better business practices and ensuring more long term conservation and community support by your visit.

Ultimately, TOFTigers' power to influence change is derived from the purchasing decisions by you as a safari-goer and by the suppliers of your travel itinerary. We flag up the best suppliers for you with our PUG eco-rating certification, so that you and your travel supplier can now make better and more informed decisions about where to go and where to stay, stimulating better business practices and ensuring more long term conservation and community support by your visit. Join our mailing list for news about our expanding network of parks with PUG eco-rated accommodation.

By using one of our members listed in this Guide Directory, you are making a magical difference to nature conservation for all our tomorrows. We know that once you have experienced the true spirit of the jungle, you will, like us become an advocate for India's conservation efforts.

Want to know more - visit our website or email us at **info@toftindia.org** or join our mailing list at **mailing@toftindia.org**

PUG RATINGS & KEY REFERENCE PAGE

All the accommodation providers listed in this travel guide have gained PUG certification. This means our professional audit team has visited their property for 24 hours and undertaken a comprehensive review of their operations, their ecological practices and their contribution to the local community and support for conservation. If they pass PUG's minimum standards they are judged as Good, Quality or Outstanding operations, giving you a real choice to travel right.

Looking for the PUG eco-rating - now recognised by the United Nations backed Global Sustainable Tourism Council - ensures you are making the right choice on your wilderness travels.

PUG Mark Explained:

TOFTigers PUG ECO RATING OUTSTANDING TOFTIGERS.ORG

TOFTigers PUG ECO RATING QUALITY TOFTIGERS.ORG

TOFTigers PUG ECO RATING GOOD TOFTIGERS.ORG

Outstanding Practice:
These are exemplary industry leaders. These providers have a positive impact on the environment, local communities and their clients. They invest both time and money to maintain sustainable tourism practices.

Quality Practice:
These providers are environmentally and culturally responsible. They are continuously working to better their operations and enhance their sustainable practices and are working to become exemplary industry leaders.

Good Practice:
These providers are low-impact. They make choices based on environmental and social responsibility but have not yet attained best practice in sustainability.

Lodges & Resorts Price Guide

$	Up to $50 (up to £40, up to €47, up to ₹ 3,400)
$$	$50-$150 (from £40-£120, €47-€140, ₹ 3,400 - 10,200)
$$$	$150-$300 (from £120-£240, €140-€280, ₹ 10,200 - 20,400)
$$$$	From $300+ (from £240+, €224+, ₹ 20,400+)

Symbols Key

- In-house lodge naturalist
- Bikes
- Swimming pool
- Wheelchair access
- Spa
- Credit cards accepted
- WiFi

The price bands are only indicative and intended as a general guide for the starting room rate per person per night, not the complete range. Currency rate equivalents, taken in January 2017 will vary. Please check your provider for up-to-date rates and process.

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Madhya Pradesh

It is hard to imagine as you drive through these forests that this area was originally home to powerful kings and maharajas residing in the large hilltop fort; its meadows were rich agricultural lands tended by farmers and Buddhist monks and *sadhus* occupied an extensive cave system in 100 BC.

The name *bandhav-garh* means 'fort of the brother' and was gifted by Lord Ram to his brother Lakshman. In the twelfth century the fort was given in dowry to the Baghela clan of which the present Maharaja of Rewa is a direct descendent. After almost continuous occupation, the capital of the Baghelas was moved to Rewa by the nineteenth century and the forests became the hunting reserve of the Maharaja and his guests. Gulab Singh of Rewa shot 480 tigers across his kingdom.

The present Maharaja's late father in 1968 stopped hunting in these woods and gifted it to the State before it was declared a National Park and later a Tiger Reserve. The park was extended in 1986 and today it covers 1,161 square kilometres, including the buffer areas, in which village communities exist.

Famed over the years for its charismatic male and female tigers that are well documented, it today has over 50 individuals residing within its forests.

The park is divided into three separate tourism zones - Tala, Magdhi and Khitauli.

Kay Tiwari

What you can do inside the park
Game drives in small jeeps are usual and there are some viewing hides. An elephant safari is also possible with separate permission and payment, though not guaranteed. A visit to the hilltop fortress in the Tala zone is a treat; stop by at some of the remarkable handmade caves and visit an imposing ten-metre long statue of Lord Vishnu, carved in the tenth century. In Magdhi stop and enjoy the scenic meadow.

What to look out for
This is not simply a reserve with a high density of tigers and cubs. Keep an eye out for long-billed vultures that circle around the hill fort, dragonflies around watery meadows, chital herds around the pools, sloth bears and the Malabar pied hornbills whose shriek is instantly recognisable. The great forests of sal hardwood trees and ever-changing greens, browns and yellows of the deciduous crocodile bark and tendu trees or clumps of bamboo hide many treasures against the stunning backdrop of the sheer sandstone cliffs of the ancient Vindhya range. This is a park with much to offer the seasoned nature traveller and the first timer.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Walking trails have been set up in Panpatha zone bordering the park taking in some village trails. Shop in Tala village where some small local souvenirs and curios can be had. Short or longer bike trails take in pretty rural village communities like Rancha that will introduce you to rural life and agriculture pressing close to park boundaries.

Conservation issues
Bandhavgarh faces many issues, including illegal deforestation on its borders, wildlife conflict with farmers, a bush meat trade that is affecting prey species like wild pig and spotted deer populations, and poor planning and development that hampers efforts at protection. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org** and consider helping with funding or support:

- **Bandhavgarh Foundation**
- **The Corbett Foundation**

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Tour operators or lodges can help book park visits or go **online**. Book at least 3 months in advance.

Park Timings:
The Park is open for visitors for c.4.5 hours after sunrise and c.2.5 hours in the afternoon before sunset. Please check park opening times with the gate as they vary slightly between summer and winter months depending on sunrise and sunset. The Park is closed every Wednesday afternoon and from 1st July to 30th September every year.

Getting Around the Park:
Jeeps called 'gypsies' that carry 4 to 6 people are available. Book through operator, lodge or at the gate. It comes with a driver and Park guide. No self-drive vehicles are allowed. Morning and evening safaris are priced between ₹ 726 (per person cost when vehicle is full) and ₹ 4,360 (per vehicle cost).

Entry Fees:
Tala Zone:
₹ 2,660 for Indian Nationals
₹ 5,330 for Foreign Nationals
Magadhi and Khitauli Zones:
₹ 1,425 for Indian Nationals
₹ 2,690 for Foreign Nationals

By Air: Jabalpur (130 km) and Khajuraho (210 km). Transport can be hired from these airports to drive to the park.

By Rail / Road: Jabalpur (170 km), Katni (95 km), Satna (112 km) and Umaria (35 km) are the nearest railway stations. Transport can be hired to drive to the park.

Vivek Sharma

Mahua Kothi - Taj Safaris

The name Mahua Kothi draws its inspiration from the fragrant mahua or butter tree. The lodge is set in 40 acres of grounds and the original homestead has been tastefully renovated. Stay in *kutiyas* (jungle village huts) built in the vernacular style of Central India using natural, local materials and textiles.

Enjoy your meals in the lush gardens or terraces with food made from produce sourced locally and from the resort's own kitchen garden. The open kitchen welcomes guests upon arrival where they can watch butter being churned and masala being grounded by hand.

You could also take time for some yoga as well as traditional Indian games of marbles and Chaupad. Bicycles are parked in the courtyards for the use of guests who want to explore and the veranda that runs the length of the building is ideal for star gazing.

TOFTigers MEMBERS – LODGES & RESORTS

Opening Times:
Open all through the year, but the park itself is only open to the public from 16th October to 30th June.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (165 km), Khajuraho (260 km)
Nearest railhead - Jabalpur (165 km), Khajuraho (260 km)
Nearest park gate - Tala (3 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. Screening of wildlife movies; indoor games organised by naturalists; treasure hunt, cooking demonstration; guided nature walks; and community visits are some of the activities they can participate in. "I am a Naturalist" programme for budding naturalists is a 3-5 day module that introduces kids to the finer art of tracking animals using field signs, alarm calls and pug marks. At the end of the programme they take home a certificate.

PRICE BAND $$$$

SPA Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.tajsafaris.com
tajsafaris@tajhotels.com
1800-111-825

Activities / Special Features:
Sit around a bonfire under the sprawling branches of a mahua tree and enjoy cocktails and kebabs; or relax on the terrace of the homestead puffing on an aromatic hookah under the night sky. You may take a guided nature walk with a naturalist, or drive to the village of the Baiga tribe. Interested guests can be a part of their ongoing community initiatives by donating or helping install smokeless wood stoves in village houses, visiting the primary school to distribute nutritional supplements, or watching the bee keeping initiative at a village home.

Accommodation:
The 12 suites are built in the traditional style of Central India. Each is accessed through private courtyards with shaded seating and traditional mud floors. Interiors include wooden shutters, walls in lime and earth washes and handmade pottery roof tiles.

Food:
Enjoy a spread of Indian and international flavours with fresh produce from the resort's kitchen garden or sourced from local farms. Olive oil is used as the main cooking media along with other exotic ingredients sourced from different parts of the world. Dinners are served on open terraces with a live spit roasting, Khud cooking and traditional folk dancers in the background.

Mihir Mahajan / Sanctuary Photo Library

BANDHAVGARH TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

JungleMantra

JungleMantra is a friendly owner-run lodge for those who love wildlife and wish to stay with like-minded people. Situated in the valley between the core forest and buffer zones of the park, with extensive private grounds comprising mature mixed jungle (over 32 acres) with a lake, JungleMantra offers a truly magical safari experience.

Independent, charming, rustic rooms quietly blend in with the surrounding woodland. The cottages are spacious, comfortable and beautifully furnished yet retain the style and simplicity of a true safari camp. A restful private veranda overlooks the vista of jungles.

You are encouraged to get involved in the lodge's conservation projects and community work.

Activities / Special Features:
Jungle safaris, treks and bird watching with resident naturalists; wildlife films; bonfire barbeques; tribal dances; bullock cart rides to the village; cookery classes.

Accommodation:
The camp offers 8 cottages with en suite bathrooms and private veranda. Bamboo and log construction provides the best advantages of tented accommodation while keeping the comfort, warmth and security of more conventional brick structures.

Food:
The restaurant offers Indian and international cuisines. Cookery classes are popular with guests. Chakor-Ghar, an outdoor seating and dining area, offers spectacular panoramic views of the park. Sundown Lounge is a beautiful indoor dining area reminiscent of the colonial period.

PRICE BAND $$$ | SPA | Wi-Fi

Opening Times:
Open all through the year except during the monsoon from July through September.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (188 km)
Nearest railhead - Umaria (32 km), Katni (96 km)
Nearest park gate - Tala (3 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. Depending on seasonal availability, various additional activities are arranged for children ranging from arts classes and hat making to making plaster casts of animal tracks in the grounds.

Further Information and Booking:
www.junglemantrasafaris.com
junglemantraresorts@gmail.com
+91 99105 86006

Infinity Resorts Bandhavgarh

Infinity Resorts Bandhavgarh is set amongst ten acres of verdant bamboo groves and natural vegetation and is reminiscent of an old Maharajas' shooting lodge of bygone days. A natural lake, grassland and indigenous flora host colourful birds and other wildlife you can observe for hours without leaving the resort.

Using local tiles, stone, wood and thatch, the resort has been tastefully designed to blend into the environment. The villas have large glass panels that enable you to view the world outside and the rooms are decorated with inlaid semi-precious stones and white marble. Enjoy excursions beyond the park with Infinity's Corbett Foundation or relaxing activities within the lodge for a perfect break.

Activities / Special Features:
Nature safaris with in-house naturalist; bird watching by the lake; wildlife movies; nature treks; excursions to historic forts, temples and museums; tribal dances; and village tours.

Accommodation:
The resort offers 8 Lakeside Pavilions, 6 Villas and 6 Deluxe Rooms. All rooms have a private sitting area in front with table and outdoor chairs, ceiling fan, air-conditioning, telephone, mini bar fridge, tea and coffee facilities.

Food:
Indian, Chinese and Continental cuisines are served in the restaurant that opens onto the outdoor dining terrace overlooking the swimming pool. Al fresco dining is also available.

PRICE BAND $$ | Wi-Fi

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (188 km)
Nearest railhead - Katni (100 km), Umaria (32 km)
Nearest park gate - Tala (1 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. Special village trips for kids and adults can be arranged.

Further Information and Booking:
www.infinityresorts.com/category/bandhavgarh
infinity_del@airtelmail.in
+91 96501 93664, 96501 93662

Kings Lodge

The lodge is set in a beautiful meadowed estate between rolling hills on two sides of the park. Thoughtfully designed with sensitivity and in harmony with the native features, you feel at peace surrounded by lush meadows, wooded hills and clear skies.

All efforts have been made to involve the local communities incorporating their knowledge and art in the original development of the lodge. Interiors are rustic yet plush, designed to wow you during your stay.

Dine on a huge single cut old neem tree table and enjoy drinks around a warming fire. Your stay here will be refreshing and adventurous with seasoned hospitality and fine guiding.

Activities / Special Features:
Game drives with lodge naturalists; nature walks; bird watching; village visit and workshops with bamboo weavers.

Accommodation:
The resort offers 10 regular cottages and 8 stilted cottages. Choose between a twin and double cottage all of which are equipped with en suite bathrooms, verandas, air-conditioning and a coffee maker.

Food:
All meals are served in the multi-cuisine dining hall with a fireplace overlooking expanses of wild grasslands. Fresh produce is sourced from the neighbouring villages and the kitchen garden of the lodge.

PRICE BAND $$$ | SPA | Wi-Fi

Opening Times:
Open from 1st October to 30th June and closed during the monsoons.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (190 km), Khajuraho (245 km)
Nearest railhead - Umaria (35 km), Katni (100 km)
Nearest park gate - Tala

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Further Information and Booking:
www.kingslodge.in
enquiry@pugdundeesafaris.com
+91 124 2970497, +91 124 2571404

Tree House Hideaway

Tree House Hideaway is located in 21 acres of forested land with five private tree houses, held up by stilts, each set in its own tree from where you exist amongst the birds and tree-bound mammals of the surrounding jungle. The lodge's circular dining hall and watering hole is built around a huge mahua tree. A *machaan* overlooks a waterhole frequented by wild animals.

Beautifully designed in a fusion of traditional jungle living and contemporary styling, it offers an idyllic getaway. The bedrooms are furnished with understated accessories. Each tree house has been cleverly made using natural wood to ensure a harmonious blend within its own wilderness. Real canopy living.

Activities / Special Features:
Game viewing hides built around a waterhole for mammal and bird watching with professional naturalists; daily game drives; village and market visits; walking; and biking.

Accommodation:
There are 5 air-conditioned tree homes with en suite bathrooms and large doors opening onto decking verandas under the tree's branches.

Food:
Meals are served in the large tree house with an upper floor bar. Indian, Continental and barbeque meals are prepared to suit your own palette.

PRICE BAND $$$ | Wi-Fi

Opening Times:
Open from 1st October to 30th June.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (170 km), Khajuraho (280 km)
Nearest railhead - Umaria (35 km), Katni (95 km)
Nearest park gate - Tala (2 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Further Information and Booking:
www.treehousehideaway.com
enquiry@pugdundeesafaris.com
+91 124 2970497, +91 124 2571404

Skay's Camp

Skay's Camp was established by 'old timers' Satyendra Tiwari and his English wife, Kay and is run with the help of Satyendra's brother Hariom and his family. It is their home and you are welcomed as their homestay guest. It is simple accommodation in quiet village surroundings amongst a flower garden, fruit trees, pretty butterflies and cats. Perfect for those who prefer the in-depth knowledge and passion of wildlife aficionados over luxury lodgings.

Their local staff help maintain the land and run the kitchen. The homestay is run in an eco-friendly way. The limited number of rooms offer privacy and a quiet atmosphere where you can commune with nature at your own pace, or wander into the surrounding village or farmlands.

Activities / Special Features:
Park drives with a naturalist; trips to Bandhavgarh Fort; bird and butterfly walks (subject to condition of entry); slide shows and informal wildlife talks; wildlife library; wildlife gallery; Kay's art prints can be seen in the gallery.

Accommodation:
Accommodation is in one of 5 simple twin rooms with attached bathrooms.

Food:
All meals, principally vegetarian, are served with authentic local flavours. Much of the fruit and vegetables are home grown.

Opening Times:
Closed from July until end of September for the monsoon.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (190 km), Khajuraho (245 km)
Nearest railhead - Umaria (35 km), Katni (100 km)
Nearest park gate - Tala (1 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $

Further Information and Booking:
www.skayscamp.in
skayscamp@gmail.com
+91 9425331209

Tiger's Den Resort

Tiger's Den Resort is located on the fringes of Tala village close to the park entrance and offers comfortable, detached cottages and suites within the three acres of verdant landscaped gardens and trees.

Sixty species of trees attract numerous birds and a nursery houses several medicinal plants. Take one step outside and you find yourself in a small thriving village, where life works to the schedules of the national park opening timings and the natural rhythms of the seasons.

Activities / Special Features:
Jeep safaris with lodge naturalists; elephant safaris; nature walks; nature slideshows; safaris in newly opened zones; village walks.

Accommodation:
The resort offers 22 cottages and 12 suites with attached bathrooms and verandas overlooking the gardens.

Food:
The multi-cuisine restaurant serves Indian, Continental and Chinese cuisines, but they specialise in barbecue and tandoor dishes.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (170 km), Khajuraho (280 km)
Nearest railhead - Umaria (35 km), Katni (95 km)
Nearest park gate - Tala (1 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. They can engage in activities such as watching wildlife films, quizzes and get familiar with local flora accompanied by naturalists.

PRICE BAND $$

Further Information and Booking:
www.tigerdenbandhavgarh.com
info@tigerdenbandhavgarh.com
+91 11 27570446, +91 9650012721

Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge

PUG ECO RATING GOOD TOFTIGERS.ORG

Run by Amit Sankhala, grandson of the founder of Project Tiger Kailash Sankahala in the 1970's, Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge is set in ten acres of grounds teeming with wildlife and the sounds of the jungle. Fourteen thatched twin-bedded cottages and eight rooms in two separate villas combine modern comfort with the feel of an Indian village. An organic kitchen garden and a medicinal plant garden supply fresh herbs, fruits and vegetables. The lodge houses a field station, the Kailash Sankhala Conservation Centre and contributes to Tiger Trust.

PRICE BAND $$ | Wi-Fi

Opening Times:
Closed from 15th June to 1st October depending on the park opening times.

Location:
Nearest airport -
Jabalpur (200 km), Khajuraho (280 km)
Nearest railhead -
Umaria (32 km), Katni (100 km)
Nearest park gate - Tala (500 m)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. There are bicycles on the property, plus nature walks and bird watching walks can be organised for kids.

Further Information and Booking:
www.bandhavgarhjunglelodge.com
tigerresorts@tigersindia.com
+91 94253 31230

UNDER PROCESS: Samode Safari Lodge

Taj Safaris

Kim Sullivan / Sanctuary Photo Library

BANDHAVGARH TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

Bandipur Tiger Reserve

Karnataka

As you drive through the forests of Bandipur National Park, one sweet fragrance that greets you is of the sandalwood trees that are protected along with the wildlife that abounds here, most often seen in areas cleared of the irrepressible lantana bush. Bandipur National Park is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve and stretches over 1,282 square kilometres of dense forests, rivers, mountains, gorges and open grasslands. Though part of one of India's best known and densest tiger habitats (over 700 in the 2014 census) it's far better for sightings of elephant herds, leopard and wild dog than these big cats.

Together with the adjoining Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary and Nagarhole and Mudumalai National Parks, it forms the largest Protected Area in Southern India, totalling 2,183 square kilometres. The Nugu, Moyar and Kabini rivers feed this area perennially with gushing waters and host a variety of aquatic birds that are a delight to spot.

The Reserve was once the erstwhile Maharaja Voodiyar's private hunting ground until 1941 when it became part of a larger National Park called Venugopal Wildlife Park. In 1973, it was recognised as Bandipur National Park and it became one of the fifteen sanctuaries brought under the umbrella of Project Tiger.

Niranjan Sant / Sanctuary Photo Library

What you can do inside the park

You can go for a wildlife safari in a government operated jeep or bus, but your wildlife experience is likely to be far better by opting for walks and drives with naturalists in the forested areas outside the designated tourism zone. For magnificent views, take a ride to Gopalswamy Betta, which is one of the highest peaks in the park at 1,454 metres and where you can also see the thirteenth century fort of the Palegars of Terakanambi. Don't forget to visit the Mysore Ditch – a 260 metre deep gorge that has been eroded by the Moyar River.

What to look out for

Elephants, tigers, leopards, Indian pangolins, dholes and their prey now move freely between Nagarahole and Bandipur, so keep your eyes peeled. Spot some of the colourful birds chirping away such as the hill myna, yellow-footed green pigeon, white-bellied woodpecker, Malabar parakeet, great hornbill and the crested treeswift.

Fun things to see and do outside the park

A popular attraction is the Mudumalai Elephant Camp – a government-run elephant resting camp where you can interact with the majestic pachyderms. For history buffs, the town of Sringapatnam is a must-visit. It is where Tipu Sultan fought and was defeated in 1799 by English Raj forces. It is also famous for the Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary - one of the best places in India to sight the marsh crocodile.

Conservation issues

For farmers in the 200 villages along the Bandipur forest periphery, the park is a vast pasture for grazing cattle and collection of forest produce, increasing the chances of man-animal conflict. The National Highway 212 passes through the park and speeding vehicles have killed many wild animals. Poor infrastructure and tourism planning could have adverse effects on elephant corridors connecting these areas. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org** and consider helping with funding or support:

- **Bandipur Tiger Conservation Foundation**

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Tour operators or your lodge can help book your visit or you can go **online**.

Park Timings:
Winter: Morning: 06:45 am to 09:45 am
Evening: 03:00 pm to 06:00 pm
Summer: Morning: 06:30 am to 09:30 am
Evening: 03:30 pm to 06:30 pm

Getting Around the Park:
Jeeps are available to book through your lodge or at the gate. They come with a driver and park guide. No self-drive vehicles are allowed.
Bolero Jeep Ride:
₹ 2,600 for Indian Nationals
₹ 5,500 for Foreign Nationals
Gypsy Ride:
₹ 4,000 for Indian Nationals
₹ 6,500 for Foreign Nationals
Van Safari:
₹ 75 per person for a 30-minute safari in a 25-seater bus

Entry Fees:
₹ 300 for Indian Nationals
₹ 1,100 for Foreign Nationals

By Air:
The nearest airport is at Bengaluru (200 km). Transport can be hired to drive to the park.

By Rail / Road:
The nearest railhead is Mysore (71 km). Transport can be hired to drive to the park.

Manoj Sindagi / Sanctuary Photo Library

Dhole's Den Resort

Not unlike a very contemporary glass-fronted Alpine villa, this is Karthik Davey and his wife Ingrid's holiday home. Dhole's Den gets its name from the Asiatic wild dogs that frequent the area, together with elephant herds and big cats from the bordering park.

The ground floor is large, big and airy for dining and relaxation. Upstairs and in separate villas, spacious guest rooms with sliding doors opening onto terraces give you panoramic and unhindered views of the jungles leading to the blue Nilgiri Mountains beyond. Locally sourced fabric and furnishings have been used for the interiors lending an authenticity to your visit.

Activities / Special Features:
Library with books on wildlife and conservation-based film screenings; camping; meditation area; nature walks; bird safari; visit to local village communities; an observation machaan within the lodge grounds.

Accommodation:
Accommodation is in 5 spacious living units with en suite bathrooms. High ceilings and glass louvers allow a gentle breeze to flow throughout the day. Attached balconies ensure panoramic views.

Food:
Guests have a varied choice of Indian, South Indian, Chinese and Continental cuisines. Locally sourced food includes fresh organic vegetables and herbs grown in the lodge's kitchen garden.

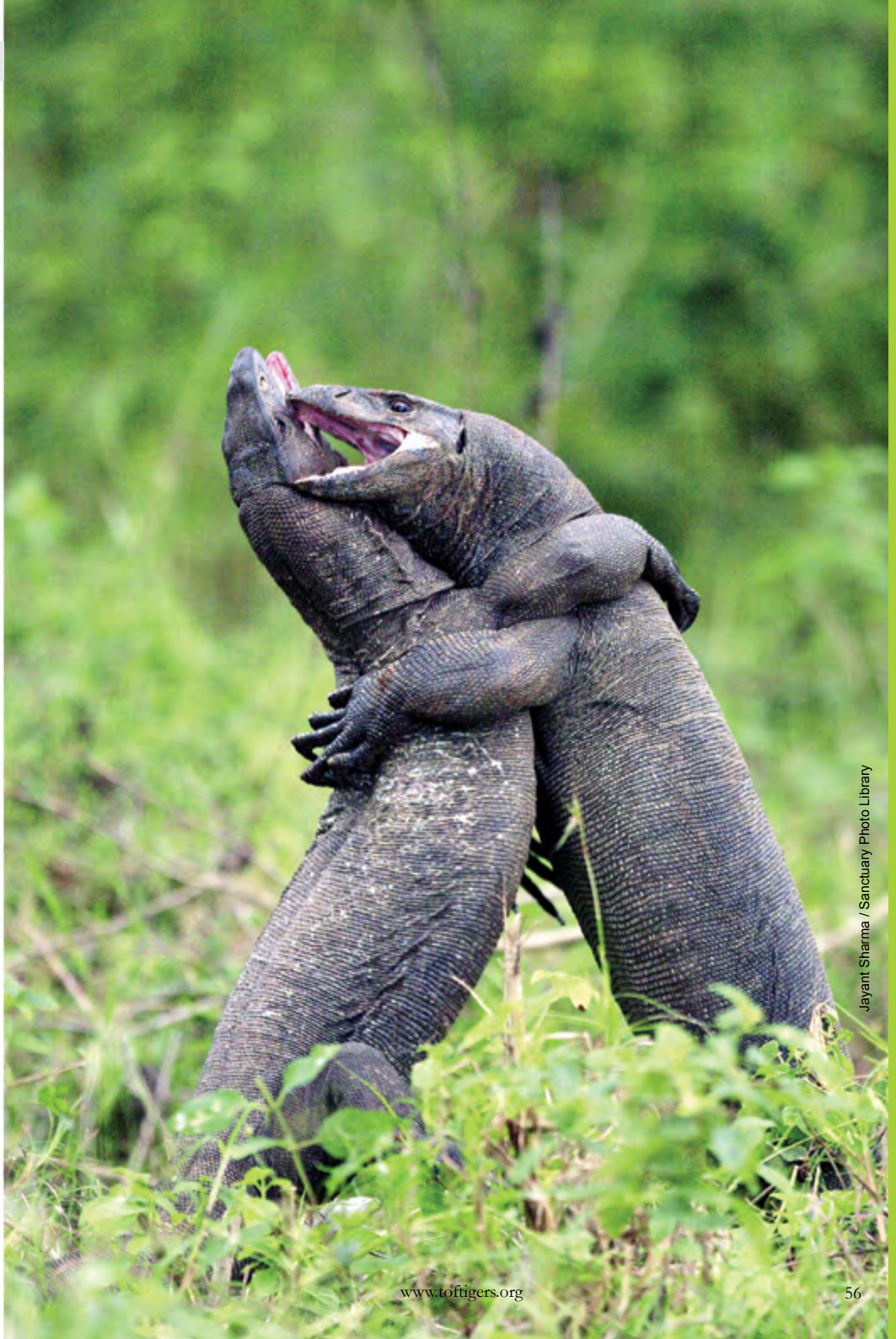
PRICE BAND $$

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport -
Mysore (80 km), Coimbatore (198 km), Bengaluru (256 km)
Nearest railhead - Mysore (90 km), Bengaluru (220 km)
Nearest park gate - Bandipur Reception (7 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. They can participate in activities such as tribal archery, local games, volleyball and badminton.

Further Information and Booking:
www.dholesden.com
manager@dholesden.com
+91 94444 68376



Jayant Sharma / Sanctuary Photo Library

BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE, KARNATAKA

Bardia National Park

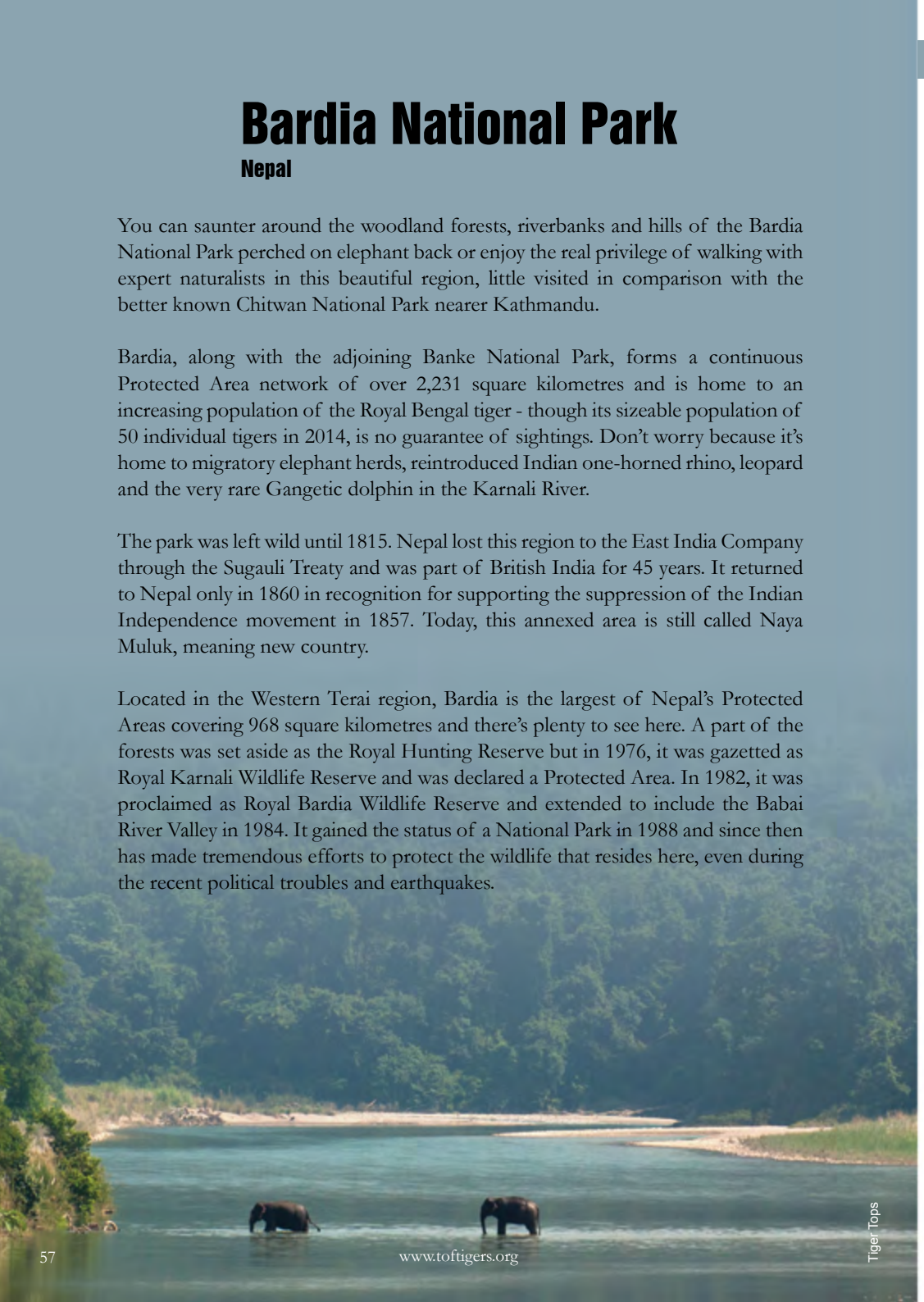
Nepal

You can saunter around the woodland forests, riverbanks and hills of the Bardia National Park perched on elephant back or enjoy the real privilege of walking with expert naturalists in this beautiful region, little visited in comparison with the better known Chitwan National Park nearer Kathmandu.

Bardia, along with the adjoining Banke National Park, forms a continuous Protected Area network of over 2,231 square kilometres and is home to an increasing population of the Royal Bengal tiger - though its sizeable population of 50 individual tigers in 2014, is no guarantee of sightings. Don't worry because it's home to migratory elephant herds, reintroduced Indian one-horned rhino, leopard and the very rare Gangetic dolphin in the Karnali River.

The park was left wild until 1815. Nepal lost this region to the East India Company through the Sugauli Treaty and was part of British India for 45 years. It returned to Nepal only in 1860 in recognition for supporting the suppression of the Indian Independence movement in 1857. Today, this annexed area is still called Naya Muluk, meaning new country.

Located in the Western Terai region, Bardia is the largest of Nepal's Protected Areas covering 968 square kilometres and there's plenty to see here. A part of the forests was set aside as the Royal Hunting Reserve but in 1976, it was gazetted as Royal Karnali Wildlife Reserve and was declared a Protected Area. In 1982, it was proclaimed as Royal Bardia Wildlife Reserve and extended to include the Babai River Valley in 1984. It gained the status of a National Park in 1988 and since then has made tremendous efforts to protect the wildlife that resides here, even during the recent political troubles and earthquakes.


Tiger Tops

What you can do inside the park
Jungle safaris are the biggest draw either by jeep or on elephant back to spot the creatures of the wild in their natural habitat. It's also one of the only reserves that allows walking within its borders. Your jeep can take you into the heart of the park from where you go on a walking safari. A boat cruise along the Karnali River is a perfect opportunity to spot gharials, mugger crocodiles and the endangered Gangetic dolphin. Between the safaris, you can enjoy jungle walks and bird watching. It is also possible to camp in the buffer zone forests.

What to look out for
Bardia forests are a wonderful mix of sal trees, open grasslands and riverine woodlands. The open forests make for good tiger sightings and are a good habitat for rhinos and migratory elephant herds who cross the border from Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in India. The rivers support sizeable populations of gharial and mugger crocodiles as well as the Gangetic dolphins. Birdlife is also excellent and includes the rare Bengal florican, the silver-eared mesia and the increasingly endangered sarus cranes.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Bardia is surrounded by many villages and the community most well known in these lowlands of Nepal is the fascinating Tharu community who are famously resistant to the deadly malaria disease and live in beautifully decorated homes. A chance to visit their villages is a must when visiting this part of the country.

Conservation issues
Bardia suffered terribly during Nepal's Maoist Insurgency. A huge increase in poaching saw tiger numbers plummet from around 80 before the insurgency to just eighteen in 2009. When the Maoists won the elections in 2008, peace brought a renewed commitment to tiger conservation. Happily, the tiger numbers have doubled and researchers are optimistic that their number is now higher still at 50 today. Also, there have been almost no reports of poaching in the last three years - a remarkable feat. Community run conservancies for bordering villagers are working but still need support from travellers. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org.**

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Your lodge will be able to book your safari slots for you, or go directly through the park headquarters.

Park Timings:
The Park is open from sunrise to sunset.

Getting Around the Park:
Jeeps, elephant and boating safaris are the best way to get close to wildlife here. Enquire about walking and treks in the Park too.

Park Entry Fee:
NR 100 for Nepalese Nationals
NR 1,500 for Foreign Nationals
Fishing Permit in Karnali River:
NR 200 for Nepalese Nationals
NR 2,000 for Foreign Nationals
Camping Permit:
NR 200 for Nepalese Nationals
NR 1,500 for Foreign Nationals
River Safaris Permit:
NR 200 for Nepalese Nationals
NR 2,000 for Foreign Nationals
Jeep Safari Permit: NR 2,000 per car
NR 4,000 per jeep | NR 5,000 per bus

By Air:
From Kathmandu airport, travellers can take a 55-minute flight to Nepalgunj airport and then book a vehicle to the park.

By Road:
From Kathmandu it is a 15-hour journey by bus. Buses leave every day in the morning. There are two buses that run everyday from Nepalgunj airport to Bardia National Park, taking three to four hours. Alternatively, you may hire a private car.

Tiger Tops

TIGER TOPS
crafting experiences ★ creating memories

Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge

PUG ECO RATING QUALITY TOFTIGERS.ORG

Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge helped put Bardia National Park on the wildlife map many years ago and today continues to offer the same warm Nepalese hospitality in a beautiful setting, nature's home to its array of creatures great and small. The lodge embraces a strong local identity in its design, adopting traditional building techniques and drawing inspiration from the local Tharu culture.

Getting to observe and know the resident domesticated elephants - their daily routine and distinct personalities - and engaging with their mahouts is an experience not to be missed. The lodge has been cultivating and expanding its organic vegetable farm and is close to self-sufficiency, providing an abundant array of fresh fruit and vegetables for you to enjoy during your stay.

Activities / Special Features:
Jeep and river safari inside the National Park; nature walks; bird watching; organic farm visit; river rafting in Bheri or Karnali Rivers to spot the rare river dolphins; and golden mahseer angling.

Accommodation:
There are 21 very comfortable en suite rooms, 9 signature rooms and 12 traditional rooms with a mixture of local Tharu and contemporary furnishings.

Food:
The organic farm's freshly harvested produce is used to cook up delicious Nepalese, South Asian and Mediterranean fusion cuisines. The bar will serve up some exotic cocktails.

PRICE BAND $$ Wi-Fi

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Nepalgunj (90 km)
Nearest park gate - Bardia (4 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome and the staff will take care of all the activity planning for them.

Further Information and Booking:
www.tigertops.com/karnali-lodge
info@tigertops.com
+977 08 1694 847

Tiger Tops

BARDIA NATIONAL PARK, NEPAL

Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary

Chhattisgarh

The adage 'big things come in small packages' couldn't hold truer than in the case of Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary. This 245 square kilometres park is known for its sizeable population of the common leopard, large gaur herds, sloth bears and a host of prey species.

Leopards thrive in this region - free of resident tigers - and they have managed to climb on top of the food chain without any fierce competition from their eternal enemy. Wildlife enthusiasts come here to catch a glimpse of this elusive cat, making this the state's second most popular Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary was established in 1976 under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 and is a fascinating alternative to the more crowded tiger parks of the country.

The mixed deciduous forests coupled with the sounds of the residents, made by over 150 species of melodious birds make for an ideal wildlife experience.

What you can do inside the park
Enjoy morning and afternoon jungle safaris and stop to observe wildlife from water towers strategically placed inside the Sanctuary to give you the best wildlife viewing opportunities. Accompanying guides are adept at spotting wildlife.

What to look out for
Leopards are the main attraction here but not everyone gets a chance to see this shy creature as it hides in the dense forest canopy. Other wildlife that reside here are sloth bears, jackals, four-horned antelopes, striped hyenas, chinkara, barking deer, muntjac, and gaur. The bison is locally known as the gaur. Take in the landscape, which is a mix of flat and hilly terrains and offers picturesque views of rivulets and streams that attract a large number of bird species. Keep an eye out for white-rumped vultures, green avadavats, lesser kestrels and racket-tailed drongos.

Aditya Singh

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Nature walks in the buffer zone of the Sanctuary are a delight as you get a chance to get up close and personal with nature, and spot things and creatures you might have missed otherwise. There are trails designed specifically for birders that take you near meandering water bodies to observe migratory birds.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Your tour operator or lodge would be able to make the bookings for you. Or you can book at the entrance directly.

Park Timings:
Winter: Morning: 06:00 am to 11:30 am
Evening: 03:00 pm to 05:30 pm
Summer: Morning: 05:00 am to 10:00 am
Evening: 03:00 pm to 05:30 pm

It is closed from 1st July to 31st October during the monsoons.

Getting Around the Park:
Jeeps are available to book through your lodge or at the gate costing ₹ 2,800

Entry Fees:
₹ 55 for Indian Nationals
₹ 200 for Foreign Nationals
Gate Entry: ₹ 100
Guide Charges: ₹ 100

By Air: Raipur (85 km)

By Rail / Road: Mahasamund railway (60 km). The park is easily approachable through the PWD forest road, which connects Barnawapara with Raipur via Patewa and with Pithora on NH 6.

Muba's Machaan

PUG ECO RATING GOOD TOFTIGERS.ORG

Muba offers ten tastefully decorated rustic machaans, houses on stilts, with modern amenities each looking out into the expansive, lush green jungle. Each has a deck for you to sit and enjoy the sights and sounds of the forest that envelope you.

Go for nature and birding walks or treks with the resident naturalist, take a village tour, ride a bullock cart or have a picnic at the Mahanadi River to make the most of your stay. Refuel at the restaurant's buffet spread of Indian and Mughlai cuisines.

PRICE BAND $$

Opening Times:
The resort is open all through the year but the Sanctuary is open from October to June only. Guests can enjoy other activities in the rainy season.

Location:
Nearest airport - Raipur (95 km)
Nearest railhead - Raipur (95 km)
Nearest park gate - Barbaspur (1.5 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Further Information and Booking:
www.mubaresorts.com
mubajungleresort@gmail.com
+91 93030 37453, +91 93019 77677

Chitwan National Park

Nepal

World famous as one of the first parks to see tigers regularly in the 1970's, the rich biodiversity of Chitwan National Park has earned its status as a World Heritage Site as one of the last surviving examples of the natural ecosystems of the Terai region. It was the country's first National Park declared in 1973 and also holds within its boundary a Ramsar Wetland site, the Beezashari Lake. It is a treasure trove for nature enthusiasts and an early pioneer in some of the best practices in nature tourism and support for conservation.

In these forests, you will find a diversity of wildlife from the largest terrestrial mammal, the elephant, to the smallest, the pygmy shrew! It is most famous for one-horned rhinos and the Bengal tiger of which there are believed to be 120 at the last census. The park covers an area of 932 square kilometres between two East-West river valleys at the base of the Shiwalik range of the Himalayas.

Historically, Chitwan was protected by Nepalese kings as it was the hunting ground for aristocrats. King George V and his son, the future Edward VIII, hunted here in 1911 and in just one safari killed 38 tigers and eighteen rhinos! Hunting has been long since banned and poaching activities have been brought under control due to relentless efforts by the government. There has been a recent revival in the population of tigers and herds of rhinos basking in the sun are once again a common sight.

Barahi Jungle Lodge

What you can do inside the park
You can hire a jeep from your hotel or local travel operator for a jeep safari and your hotel can arrange for an experienced driver and naturalist who will guide you through the forest. The Narayali River is ideal for boating rides and gives you the chance to view wildlife on the banks with village life in the backdrop. The best way to explore the forest is on foot. It makes your trip rather interesting as essentially you can do a river, jeep and foot safari all together, one after the other.

What to look out for
Apart from the one-horned rhino and the Bengal tiger, keep an eye out for leopards, sloth bears, fishing and jungle cats, golden jackals, crab-eating mongoose and yellow-throated martens. You can also catch a glimpse of the gharial and the marsh mugger on a boating safari. Chitwan also has one of the highest concentrations of birds in the world, with more than 22 globally threatened species in its boundaries such as the critically endangered Bengal florican, slender-billed vulture, white-rumped vulture, spotted eagle and red-headed vulture. It also receives several migratory species such as the greater spotted eagle, eastern imperial eagle and Pallas's fish eagle.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
The visitor centre at Sauraha and a museum at Kasara provide fascinating information on wildlife and conservation programmes. The Women's User Group souvenir shop offers a variety of handicrafts and other local products. Nearby is a gharial breeding centre, which also has marsh muggers, as part of a conservation initiative. Here you can learn about the conservation measures being implemented for the long-term survival of the species. The Elephant Breeding Centre at Khorsor gives you information on domesticated elephants and the baby elephants born there.

Conservation issues
The aquatic life in these forests faces a serious threat from pollution of their ecosystems due to infrastructural developments on the banks of the river. Also, the Government of Nepal has proposed a new railway line, which threatens to cut across the heart of this National Park and put its wildlife in jeopardy.

The government has made a provision of giving back 30 to 50 per cent of the park revenue for community development in the buffer zone and this has significantly reduced poaching incidents in the park, alongside some great community conservation efforts by WWF and other organisations. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org.**

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Your tour operator or lodge would be able to make the bookings for you. Or you can book at the entrance directly.

Park Timings:
The park is open from sunrise to sunset all year round.

Getting Around the Park:
Wildlife safaris by jeep, boat, on foot, or on elephants can be arranged by your tour operator or lodge, depending on weather conditions affecting the river and roads.

Entry Fees:
For International tourists: NR 1,500
For SAARC Nationals: NR 750
For Nepalese Nationals: NR 100
Buffer zone: NR 200

By Air:
Kathmandu (55 km), Bharatpur (10 km)

By Road:
Most travellers prefer to take local or private buses that leave Thamel along the Kantiparh Road in Kathmandu. Cabs are also easily available at the airport.

Barahi Jungle Lodge

Barahi Jungle Lodge

PUG ECO RATING OUTSTANDING TOFTIGERS.ORG

Set on the northern banks of the Rapti River, its glorious location looks out over the tall golden grasslands and verdant forest and green hills of Chitwan National Park. Here lining its banks, along its 30 acres, are built a number of charming Tharu - inspired thatched villas from which to explore the grasslands and forests beyond.

The lodge is just a stone's throw away from the glories of nature that this park has to offer. They can be explored alongside expert home-grown naturalists through small paddle boats, a comfortable vehicle or on elephant back, or for those with a taste for adrenalin, on foot. After all your exertions, relax on your villa's private balcony with a beverage of your choice, unwind around the pool or at the Tiger's Den bar, before indulging in the lodge's food fest in its open- aired dining room.

Activities / Special Features:
Go for breathtaking and adrenalin fuelled nature walks with the resident naturalist who will point out the variety of life, birds and other creatures you see along the way. Other ways to explore the park include canoe, jeep and elephant backed safaris. You may even get a chance to bathe one of the resident elephants on your return home.

Accommodation:
Spread over 30 acres, the lodge offers 35 boutique en suite rooms, built as individual and two-in-one private villas or suites. The rooms open up to a balcony with a sit-out overlooking the forest and the river. Beautifully designed with a rustic blend of contemporary and traditional Nepali furnishings with indigenous skills, used wood, bamboo and elephant grass.

Food:
A large open plan dining room serves a range of Indian and Continental dishes cooked with fresh ingredients, sourced from neighbouring village gardens. Lively musical performances by Tharu artists can be enjoyed around a camp fire in the evenings.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport -
Bharatpur (32 km)
Nearest park gate -
Meghauli (across the river, 5 minutes away)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $$$$ SPA Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.barahijunglelodge.com
salesdesk@pugdundeesafaris.com
+977 1 4411113, +91 124 2970497

TIGER TOPS
crafting experiences ★ creating memories

Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge

PUG ECO RATING OUTSTANDING TOFTIGERS.ORG

A short bullock-cart ride from the Narayani River, the natural boundary between Chitwan National Park and the surrounding townships, takes you to the doors of Tharu Lodge. Emulating the longhouse style of local Tharu architecture and built from indigenous materials, the lodge overlooks idyllic Terai landscapes, ensuring that nothing but the sounds of the forest interrupt your stay.

Dine under a mango tree; then sway in a hammock in the afternoon breeze after a game drive. Try a bird watching tour - the lodge's naturalists have recorded more than 300 species of birds in the surrounding habitats. You can get to observe and know the lodge's twelve resident elephants as they wake, graze, bathe, play and feed, and engage with the mahouts´ daily work.

Exploring the villages by foot or bullock cart is the best way to experience rural Nepali life.

Activities / Special Features:
Set out on breathtaking and adrenalin fuelled nature walks with the resident naturalist who will point out the variety of wildlife, birds and other creatures along the way. Other ways to explore the park include canoe rides and jeep drives.

Accommodation:
12 en suite lodge rooms designed in a traditional manner await you. Interiors include bamboo blinds, cool decor and wooden furniture naturally finished and treated. 9 en suite safari tents are merged into the property grounds amongst the indigenous vegetation.

Food:
A large dining room serves a range of Indian and Continental dishes cooked with fresh ingredients, sourced from neighbouring village gardens. Lively musical performances by Tharu artists can be enjoyed around a camp fire in the evenings.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Bharatpur (46 km), Kathmandu (158 km)
Nearest park gate - Amaltari (1.2 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. They can keep themselves entertained with activities such as tennis, swimming, elephant bathing, bullock cart rides and an elephant safari.

PRICE BAND $$$

Further Information and Booking:
www.tigertops.com/tharu-lodge
info@tigertops.com
+977 07 8690 721
BLOG

Tiger Tops

Kasara Jungle Resort

Kasara Jungle Resort lies on the borders of Nepal's Chitwan National Park and offers simple luxury in a lush jungle environment. Visitors can enjoy delectable fresh food, a variety of adventure activities, close interaction with local people and culture and a true jungle experience with our expert naturalists on our elephant, canoe and jeep safaris. A relaxing spa to re-energise and de-stress, or a morning yoga and meditation session can add to a therapeutic holiday experience.

The exterior and interior décor of the resort is seamless with the natural environment, owing to the use of natural wood, local materials and subtle shades.

Activities / Special Features:
Elephant safaris; elephant experience; canoe rides; jungle walks; bird watching; Tharu cultural dance; ox cart village tour; visit to the crocodile breeding centre; jeep safari; cycling; private events; corporate retreats and conferences. The resort also organises a Wildlife and Nature Photography Contest.

Accommodation:
Kasara has 35 upscale deluxe rooms that provide bathroom with indoor and outdoor space and a private water garden courtyard. The two-family rooms are two-storied private residential areas each with a private plunge pool and balcony with a forest view.

Food:
Guests can expect tasty food made from locally sourced produce. Kasara offers fine dining, a bar and lounge, 50 different labels of wine and a main café open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Kasara has an in-house farm, where organic fruits and vegetables are grown and sourced fresh to the kitchen.

PRICE BAND $$$$ Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.kasararesort.com
info@kasararesort.com
+977 98011 71127

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Bharatpur Airport (19 km)
Nearest railhead - N/A
Nearest entry gate - Kasara Headquarter (15 minutes)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. Cookouts are organised for young guests. Provisions for children 4 years and below are complimentary without extra bed. Children between 5-12 years will be charged as per policy.

Coorg Valley

Karnataka

Driving through the verdant forests of any of the four sanctuaries of Coorg on a misty morning with the calls of the resident wildlife and birdlife in full song, is an experience unlike any other. The region is ornamented with grassy downs, paddy fields, sloping glades, waterfalls and deep ravines giving you endless and glorious surprises at every turn.

The Coorg region is also known by its local name Kodagu and the region spans about 4,100 square kilometres on the eastern slopes of the rich diversity of the Western Ghats of Karnataka. It is a hilly region with its highest peak, Tadiandamol, rising to 1,750 meters above sea level.

According to ancient Indian treatises this land was called Krodadesa, which later became Kodagu. It is derived from *kod*, which means give and *avva* meaning mother, in reference to River Cauvery that sustains life in this region.

The British started coffee cultivation on a large scale in the region and soon the local residents followed suit. Providing the largest contribution of coffee in the country, Coorg is renowned for its monsoon-fed coffee, shade-grown under giant rosewood, wild fig, and jackfruit trees that not only nurture but also infuse the bean with their unique aroma and flavour.

Coorg is also an important wildlife destination with its own distinct identity as a major travel attraction with its coffee and spice plantations and exotic flora and fauna. It also has its own unique long-standing social and cultural heritage. Its proximity to lesser known sanctuaries and National Parks like Nagarhole and the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary make it an exciting destination for nature and adventure junkies.

Orange County Resorts & Hotels Ltd.

Fun things to see and do

There are plenty of fun activities and adventures to explore in this region. Check with your lodge or tour operator what they can arrange. Take a walk in the many plantations and learn about harvesting tea, coffee and spices; this is a patch of verdant green hills so you are sure to find plenty of birds and small creatures as you take a nature walk. Visit one of the nearby villages and learn about their unique lifestyle; and don't forget to take a coracle ride down the river and enjoy the serenity this place has to offer. The Bylekuppe Tibetan settlement is also an interesting trip where you can visit monasteries and sample traditional Tibetan food. For those more inclined towards wildlife, safaris can be arranged to a number of Wildlife Sanctuaries and Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. Remember to take a packet of Coorg pepper home with you - it has been considered the best in the world.

What to look out for

Keep your eyes peeled for sightings of the elusive tiger or elephants trying to cross your path. Herds of deer and troops of langurs and bonnet macaques entertain you on your safari. Monkeys swinging from branches might come to have a closer look as you drive slowly through the forests and birds will chirp to catch your attention. The Indian pied hornbill and the Malabar giant squirrel are native to the region and you might be able to spot a few on nature walks.

Conservation issues

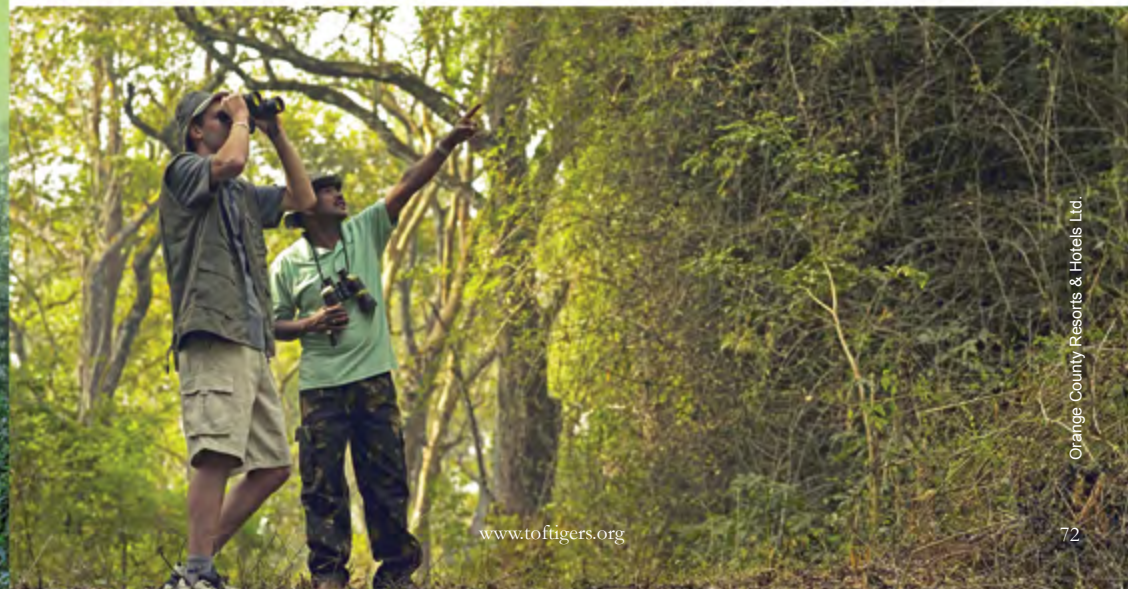
Proposed new roads connecting Kerala and Karnataka that carve through many of the sanctuaries are being contested and long standing environmental plans for protection of much of these crucial Western Ghat habitats are bitterly opposed by many communities. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org.**

PARK INFORMATION

Getting Around:
You can hire a car or get around in your own vehicle.

By Air:
Mangalore (135 km) is the closest airport. From here you can hire transport for your lodge.

By Rail / Road:
Mysore (118 km), Bengaluru (255 km) and Mangalore (135 km) are the nearest railheads and major towns. Coorg is within driving distance either in a hired car or in your own vehicle.



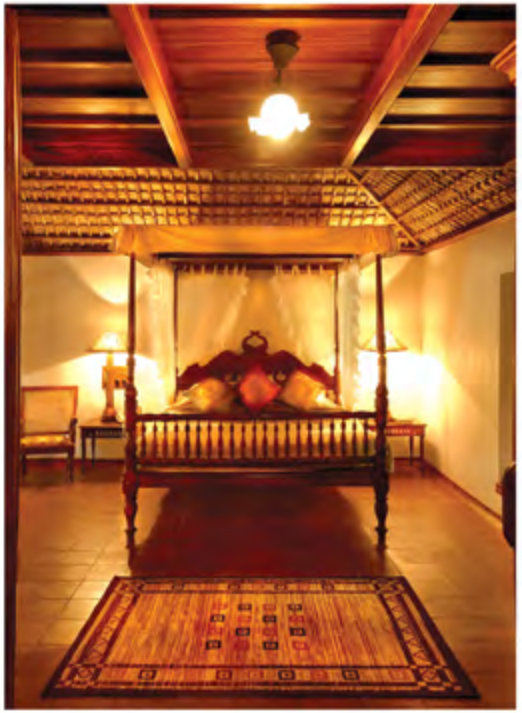
Orange County Resorts & Hotels Ltd.

Orange County, Coorg

Bordered by the river Cauvery, Orange County is situated amidst a 300-acre working coffee and spice plantation, in a place often referred to as India's Scotland. Famous for its coffee, rubber and spices, a stay here is equivalent to that of a colonial planter's lifestyle.

Imbibe its aromas infused with a rich cultural history and living traditions; and relax within its villas and lawns with old growth trees.

Cropping seasons play a large part in Coorg's life ensuring a variety of harvest festivals. You can take a guided tour of the working coffee and spice plantation and try your hand at pruning or harvesting. Go bird watching with the resident naturalist or experience the rhythms of local life in the neighbouring Karadigodu village. Alternatively, ask to visit one of a number of National Parks and Sanctuaries in striking distance of the lodge, including Nagarhole and Bhramagiri.



Activities / Special Features:
Choose between a large communal pool and an exclusive infinity pool; go for a plantation or nature walk, bird watching, coracle ride, or a village visit by cycle. Trips can be arranged to Bylekuppe, the second largest Tibetan settlement outside Tibet, complete with a monastery, a Golden temple and a flea market.

Accommodation:
There are 55 luxurious accommodation options - Lily Pool Villas, Private Pool Villas, Lily Pool Bungalows and Lily Pool Cottages – spread out in clusters around this working coffee and spice plantation, which are inspired by ethnic Kodava architecture. Each villa has separate living rooms, spacious bedrooms with private courtyards, sit-out areas and private swimming pools.

Food:
Choose one of the three restaurants that offer varied cuisines from kebabs and grills to Indian and vegetarian delicacies. Private dinners can also be arranged at the infinity pool deck by the lake or by the poolside in your own Kodava-style Private Pool Villa. For a more intimate experience, ask for a romantic treetop dining experience. Alcohol is also served at the resort.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport -
Mysore (132 km), Bengaluru (297 km)
Nearest railhead -
Mysore (122 km), Mangalore (170 km), Bengaluru (257 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. The resort also has an Activity Centre to keep children occupied.

PRICE BAND $$$ SPA Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.orangecounty.in/coorg-resorts
info@orangecounty.in
+91 80 4191 1170, +91 80 4191 1171

Green Valley Resort

PUG ECO RATING GOOD TOFTIGERS.ORG

Set in two and a half acres of lush green plantation overlooking a valley in the South Coorg region, Green Valley offers a serene getaway in the lap of nature. Stay in one of the thirteen rooms that include cottages, tents and a machaan and wake up to a blanket of mist, chirping birds and the morning sunshine shimmering through the foliage.

Keep yourself entertained with activities such as river rafting, walks around a coffee plantation, bird watching and trekking.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Bengaluru (269 km)
Nearest railhead -
Mysore (100 km), Mangalore (180 km)
Nearest park gate -
Nagarhole (22 km); Wayanad Reserve Forest (30 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. There is a play area for kids.

PRICE BAND $ | Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.greenvalleyresort.in
simha.prime@gmail.com
+91 99866 30555, +91 93428 33848

Orange County Resorts & Hotels Ltd.

Balaji Loganathan / Sanctuary Photo Library

COORG VALLEY, KARNATAKA

Corbett Tiger Reserve

Uttarakhand

Driving through the cathedral-like arches of ancient sal trees, the meadows of Dhikala, or watching fish-eating gharial crocodiles hunt mahseer at Champion's pool, all overlooked by the blue vistas of the Kumaon Hills, Corbett is, not surprisingly, one of the first parks that comes to mind when thinking of Indian wildernesses to visit.

Named after the famous hunter, naturalist and author Jim Corbett who played a key role in its establishment, Corbett is the oldest National Park in India and it was here, on April 1, 1973, that Project Tiger was launched.

The 1,300 square kilometre park is in the sub-Himalayan belt and the park's altitude ranges from 400 metres to 1,600 metres. Corbett is often called the 'land of roar, trumpet and song', but it is best known for the numerous opportunities to watch large families of elephants. With a bird count of an astounding 550 species, it is an ideal place for avid bird watchers. It holds India's densest tiger populations, over 200 individuals across its entire range.

The park is divided into three distinct geographical areas, with hilly areas of deciduous mixed forests, low lying grassland with ravines and vast dense forests of sal trees. The magnificent Ramganga River flows through the heart of the park bringing a continuous supply of water even in the hot summer months, attracting a host of predators and prey alike.

The park is divided into five tourism zones namely Dhikala, Jhirna, Bijrani, Sonanadi and Domunda (Lohachaur).

Jagdeep Rajput / Sanctuary Photo Library

What you can do inside the park
Morning and afternoon game drives are the most popular activities here. Book early to ensure a seat on a jeep or open truck. It's also possible to book night stays in one of the old forest rest houses overnight. Since the park attracts many travellers, it might not always be possible to book many safaris during your stay, but thankfully there are plenty of activities you can do around the park.

What to look out for
Although Corbett has a significant tiger population, sightings are less common due to the dense habitat. Keep an eye open for the yellow-throated marten, Himalayan palm civet, the rare ghoral, herds of deer and elephants, leopards, sloth bear and jackals. You can also stop by the Ramganga River and see a number of gharials and muggers basking in the sun. Marvel at the prolific variety of birdlife, a raptor's haven, with only the once rich vulture colonies having taken a beating over the last few years. Many say it's a birding destination with tigers - rather than the other way round.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
There are excellent birding and wildlife trails in the buffer zone where you can spot plenty of common and some endemic birds especially in the mornings and early evenings, in fact often better wild experiences than in the park, which can get crowded with noisy day trippers. Trek to the Barati Rau waterfalls, an excellent place to spot reptiles and amphibians, orioles, flycatchers and great hornbills. For a touch of history, take a short drive up to Kaladhungi and visit Jim Corbett's old house, which is now a museum dedicated to his work.

Conservation
Sadly tourism pressures are intense and continue to build often beyond the area's carrying capacity thanks to a lack of political will and other development. Illegal poaching, fishing and wood felling continues. TOFTigers funded a Waste Warriors project and a Vulture Restoration project here monitoring nesting sites, raising awareness amongst villagers about the importance of vultures and discouraging use of illegal veterinary drugs. Any incidents of poor practice or rule breaking can be reported to us at **admin@toftindia.org** for action, ideally with photos. Consider helping with funding or support:

- **Tiger Conservation Foundation**
- **Corbett Foundation**

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Your lodge or tour operator can book a safari for you, or you can book **online**.

Park Timings:
Winter: Morning: 06:30 am to 11:00 am
Evening: 02:30 pm to 05:30 pm
Summer: Morning: 05:35 am to 09:45 am
Evening: 02:45 pm to 06:45 pm
For Canters in Dhikala Zone:
(only 2 canters with 16 seats allowed per day)
Winter: Morning: 06:30 am to 11:30 am
Evening: 11:30 am to 04:30 pm
Summer: Morning: 06:00 am to 12:00 pm
Evening: 02:00 pm to 06:45 pm
The park is closed from July to October due to heavy rains.

Getting Around the Park:
You can hire a jeep or go in a larger open bus that seats 16. Each comes with a trained guide and driver. Elephant rides are also an option from Bijrani and Dhikala forest rest houses. These go out morning and evenings for approximately 2 hours.

Entry Fees:
₹ 200 for Indian Nationals
₹ 900 for Foreign Nationals
Gypsy:
₹ 250 per Gypsy for Indian Nationals
₹ 500 per Gypsy for Foreign Nationals
Elephant Ride:
₹ 300 per person for Indian Nationals
₹ 1,000 per person for Foreign Nationals

By Air:
New Delhi (240 km), Dehradun (250 km), Lucknow (247km). Pantnagar airport is just a 2-hour drive from Ramnagar. You can hire cars or drive your own vehicle to the lodge.

By Rail / Road:
Nainital is 62 km away. Ramnagar Railway station (2 km) has services to and from major cities. Transport can be hired on arrival.

Aahana
The Corbett Wilderness

PUG ECO RATING OUTSTANDING TOFTIGERS.ORG

Aahana is a Sanskrit word meaning 'the first rays of the rising sun' and it does bathe the landscaped property in golden light every morning. On the fringes of the Corbett National Park, the plush eco-friendly resort is built around a large swimming pool.

The Victorian style architecture of the villa-like houses has 48 differing bedrooms - all with luxuriant interiors and cleverly designed to accommodate all types of groups, from a couple to a large family. This is as much a place for active families and large groups as it is a springboard for nature-based adventures.

The entire property has been landscaped with forest trees and lawns to provide an extended space to relax and enjoy the forest backdrop. Furthermore, its commitment to restoration, conservation and good environmental practice ensures your stay does not compromise the park.

TOFTigers MEMBERS – LODGES & RESORTS

Activities / Special Features:
You can choose to explore the jungle by an elephant safari or a jeep. Other activities include cycling, buggy ride, bullock cart ride, fishing, nature walks and yoga sessions with a trained teacher. A round of golf can also be arranged in Nainital, which is a 2-hour ride by car. Within the property, take advantage of the family sports room, go horseback riding, get an invigorating massage at the spa, or simply relax by the pool.

Accommodation:
There are 10 Victorian style residential blocks housing 48 differing yet plush styles of bedrooms and suites, all with attached bathrooms. All rooms have private balconies that overlook the forested Bijrani Zone of the park and only differ in their set up and interconnectedness.

Food:
The restaurant with an extended deck for barbeques and sky dining overlooks the swimming pool and offers an eclectic variety of Mediterranean, Oriental and Indian cuisines. Most of the produce is purchased from local farmers or grown in the organic gardens ensuring fresh daily ingredients. Dinner is often arranged next to a roaring bonfire.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year. The park has 5 zones, 2 of which remain open throughout the year.

Location:
Nearest Airport - Pantnagar (70 km)
Nearest railhead - Ramnagar (8 km)
Nearest park gate -
Khara (6 km), Bijrani (9 km), Dhangari (17 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. The lodge offers a large variety of indoor and outdoor games for children.

PRICE BAND $$$ SPA Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.aahanaresort.com
info@aahanaresort.com
+91 124 4908604; +91 96396 00021

Rajesh Panwar / Sanctuary Photo Library

CORBETT TIGER RESERVE, UTTARAKHAND

The Golden Tusk

Just five minutes drive from the Jhirna and Dhela safari zones, The Golden Tusk is a boutique resort set in over seven acres of landscaped estate nestled at the edge of reserve forest on the banks of river Dhela.

Withdraw yourself from routine and immerse yourself in leisure activities for all age groups in and around this quaint locality. The lodge offers a getaway experience with 40 well-appointed rooms, multi-cuisine and speciality dining, a range of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, customised safaris and excursions.

Activities / Special Features:
Jungle safaris; nature walks; cycle trips; hiking; farm visits; wall climbing; rappelling; zipping; outdoor games; indoor games; sightseeing trips to nearby attractions.

Accommodation:
Six styles of lodging options offer something for every traveller: scenic views, private lawns, spacious rooms and camping. Stay in one of 29 rooms categorised as Forest View Suite, Villas, Country View Suite, Villa Grande, Tiger Suites and Swiss Tents with amenities including air-conditioning, TV, a refrigerator and a tea/coffee maker.

Food:
The multi-cuisine restaurant serves an assortment of popular Indian, international and authentic Kumaoni delicacies. At a raised level, with a spectacular view of the forest, The Deck dishes out some terrific barbeque selections. The Gin Tree Bar will be opening shortly. A private dinner by the pool can be arranged on request.

PRICE BAND $$ · SPA · Wi-Fi

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport -
Pantnagar (85 km), Dehradun (250 km), Delhi (260 km)
Nearest railhead - Ramnagar (15 km), Kashipur (39 km)
Nearest park gate -
Jhirna (3 km), Dhela (5 km), Bijrani (16 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. They can try adventure sports like Burma Bridge and Commando net.

Further Information and Booking:
www.thegoldentusk.com
contact@thegoldentusk.com
+91 8937 000 770, +91 11 4970 4980

Jim's Jungle Retreat

Committed to responsible tourism, with active involvement of the local community, Jim's Jungle Retreat aims to minimise disturbance to its surroundings while providing its guests with an exciting, educative and uplifting experience.

Set in fifteen acres of restored woodland, painstakingly reforested over a decade of planting, it is built on a strong social and ethical foundation as it invites you to Seek the Tiger, Find the Jungle. The lodge's various styles of accommodation range, from those reminiscent of Raj-era forest rest houses to thatch - roofed cottages borrowing from the architectural nuances of the local Van Gujjar community. Expertly curated wildlife activities and warm hospitality greet you for an unmatched wilderness experience.

Activities / Special Features:
Jeep safaris; elephant rides; Nature and birding walks; camera trap experience; night walk in the Mahavan Project; cycling expeditions; short excursions to Choti Haldwani and Gujjar Dera; full day excursions for angling in the Ramganga River; overnight stays inside Corbett.

Accommodation:
The lodge offers 18 residences including jungle cottages and lodges that borrow from their architectural past - old forest bungalows and rest houses of the Raj era and the local Van Gujjar community houses built by hand.

Food:
Indulge in Continental cuisines paired with traditional dishes from the Kumauni village, while also enjoying the cooking styles from the Awadhi, Rampuri and Anglo-Indian kitchens. Try their in-house tea infusions, homemade breads and preserves and organic ingredients from their vegetable gardens.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Pantnagar (98 km), Delhi (275 km)
Nearest railhead - Ramnagar (13 km)
Nearest park gate - Dhela (1.5 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. They can participate in activities such as the Young Rangers programme, bug crawl, rooster chase, organic gardening, pond fishing, farm animal raising and overnight camping.

PRICE BAND $$ · SPA · Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.jimsjungleretreat.com
experiences@jimsjungleretreat.com
+91 11 4753 7647

Camp Hornbill

For the energetic ones who are not content with simply relaxing on a holiday, Camp Hornbill offers you a good value camping experience, with ample opportunity to enjoy various outdoor activities including cycling, trekking and bird watching. Moreover, as a community run venture, its open-hearted hospitality offers an insight into local village life bordering Corbett.

Surrounded by dense forest lands and the River Khichadi flowing close by, nature comes to you with the region's profusion of birds manifesting themselves from dawn to dusk with their musical chirping.

The camp's main open dining hall and other buildings use local materials such as mud and thatch. A simple garden and pond are features between the tents.

Activities / Special Features:
Guided nature walks with local village naturalists; birding trails; village walks; treks; mountain biking; rappelling; accompanied night walks in the buffer zone; river crossing on a rope line; water surfing; vertical rope ladder climbing.

Accommodation:
The camp has 4 en suite mud cottages and 12 American safari tents (with separate bathrooms) equipped with camp cots, quilts, mattresses, and pillows. Kerosene and solar lanterns are used for lighting.

Food:
Fresh vegetables from neighbouring villages are used in the camp kitchen. The menu is a simple mix of Kumaoni and Indian cuisines.

PRICE BAND
$$

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Delhi (290 km)
Nearest railhead - Ramnagar (10 km)
Nearest park gate - Bijrani (10 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Further Information and Booking:
www.mountainways.in
camphornbill@gmail.com;
mountainwaysoutdoors@gmail.com
+91 98372 74210, +91 94561 43370

Vanghat

Accessible only with a scenic two-kilometre walk and short raft across the Ramganga River, this secluded and rustic lodge is set up for the serious nature enthusiast. Owner and conservationist, Sumantha Ghosh has put in a lot of effort to restore and preserve the natural hills and river around the lodge in the buffer of the Corbett Park.

The lodge positively invites wildlife including elephants to amble through the valley and its grounds, while smaller denizens of the forest like wild boar and barking deer are regular visitors here. The lodge's thick green cover makes for an excellent bird watching spot and a lovely place to spend early mornings and dusk by the river with binoculars.

Activities / Special Features:
Walking safaris accompanied by knowledgeable naturalists; birding; treks to local villages in the hills; and catch-and-release mahseer angling.

Accommodation:
The property houses 4 hand-built mud cottages and 1 stone cottage built with minimum impact on the natural environment. They are constructed with locally sourced clay, savannah thatch, and wood and are inspired by the traditional Van Gujjar tribal homes.

Food:
Wholesome dishes, as well as a range of Indian and Tibetan specialities and continental fare are served. Ingredients are predominantly locally sourced and dinner is served by candlelight.

PRICE BAND
$$$

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Delhi (300 km)
Nearest railhead - Ramnagar
Nearest park gate - Durgadevi (6 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Further Information and Booking:
www.vanghat.com
info@vanghat.com
91 95900 50001

PAATLIDUN SAFARI LODGE
A TRADITION BEYOND TIGERS
CORBETT TIGER RESERVE

PUG ECO RATING QUALITY TOFTIGERS.ORG

Paatlidun Safari Lodge

This 13-acre lodge lies just 3.5 km from the Corbett Tiger Reserve. Ringed by the River Kosi, it is nestled in a narrow valley, from where it derives its name. Here, you can soak in your private open-air pool in the company of birds, butterflies and crickets or embark on an early morning nature walk with the in-house naturalists. Take back memories from the souvenir shop that promotes local handicrafts and other products.

The lodge is built in the traditional Kumaoni style with locally sourced indigenous materials. Each custom-designed cottage-suite has a private pool, cozy sit-out, back yard, open-air shower, vintage furniture and star window over the bed.

Activities / Special Features:
Nature walks; bird watching; pugmark cast making; village visits; local farming; tree/rope climbing; leaf and rock painting; adventure sports; star gazing; indoor games.

Accommodation:
The lodge offers four Luxury Cottages built on a sumptuous 1,750 sqft and eight Premium Luxury Cottages built on 2,200 sq ft. Each cottage is named after a month of the Hindu Lunar Calendar.

Food:
Guests can enjoy culinary delights at Risya, the restaurant; Chakh, the lounge and bar and Dhaba, the chai stall. The cuisines vary from authentic Kumaoni delicacies to pizzas from the live counter. Paatlidun has an in-house farm, where organic fruits and vegetables are grown and sourced fresh to the kitchen.

PRICE BAND $$$ Wi-Fi

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location
Nearest airport - Pantnagar Airport (72 km), Delhi (275 km)
Nearest railhead - Ramnagar (25 km)
Nearest entry gate - Dhikala/ Durgadevi (6 km)

Children's Policy
Children of all ages are welcome. Cookouts are organised for young guests. Provisions for children below eight years are complimentary without extra bed. Children between 8-18 years will be charged as per policy.

Further Information and Booking:
www.paatlidun.com
kriti@templetongroup.in
+91 9999 338 886

Shutterstock

Corbett RIVER CREEK

PUG ECO RATING GOOD TOFTIGERS.ORG

Corbett River Creek

Corbett River Creek is a well-equipped resort set in five acres of grounds on the banks of the Ramganga River. Accommodation is spread across seven buildings with twelve river-facing rooms, six river-facing family suites and four garden-facing rooms all with modern en suite facilities. After an action packed day of safaris, mountain biking, adventure sports and nature walks amongst a host of other activities, relax in the spa, by the bonfire or at the tobacco-free hookah bar.

PRICE BAND $$ SPA

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - New Delhi (310 km)
Nearest railhead - Ramnagar (35 km)
Nearest park gate - Durgadevi

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Further Information and Booking:
www.corbettrivercreek.com
info@corbettrivercreek.com
+91 96500 84379

Gir National Park

Gujarat

Rugged, scraggly, brown and dry, Gir is best known as the last bastion of the Asiatic lion. A beautiful hilly but harsh and thorny habitat in southern Gujarat, it is the last remnant of native landscape within the Saurashtra peninsula, yet often compared with the African bushveld. Old lion adversaries including leopards, hyenas, jackals and sloth bears live here too.

The lions that once ranged from Asia Minor to the northern plains of India almost came to the brink of extinction due to a combination of reduced habitat and mindless hunting. Today, roughly 526 of them can be found in and around Gir, the only individuals left on the subcontinent. The forest area and its lions were declared as 'protected' in the early 1900's by the then Nawabs of the princely state of Junagadh. This initiative assisted in the conservation of the lions whose population had plummeted to only fifteen due to endless trophy hunting.

In the years after India's independence, Prime Minister Nehru, spurred on by conservationists like Dr Salim Ali, formally declared Gir a Forest Reserve in 1965 and eventually a National Park in 1974 with a total area of 1,412 square kilometres.

While on your safari, don't be surprised if you find tribesmen roaming this lion country on foot with their cattle without a care. These people are from the Maldhari tribe that translates to 'owner of animals'. These colourful, nomadic people have lived alongside lions for millennia – with mutual respect.

Baiju Patil / Sanctuary Photo Library

What you can do inside the park
The best way to get a sense of Gir is to drive along Sasan and Kankai, Baval Chowk, Chodavadi and Tulsi Shyam zones. Seven rivers run through the park: the Hiran, Saraswati, Datardi, Shingoda, Machhundri, Ghodavadi and Raval. These are great places to spot marsh crocodiles and turtles along with aquatic birds. Most of the year you will find a variety of animals that come to quench their thirst on the banks.

What to look out for
It might be a desert, but Gir is home to a plethora of wildlife. Apart from the Asiatic lions, the hunters include leopards, sloth bears, striped hyenas and golden jackals. Herbivores are also aplenty - chital, nilgai, sambar, four-horned antelope, chinkara and wild boar. Among the smaller mammals, porcupine, hare and pangolin scurry beneath your feet. Gir has the highest population of marsh crocodiles among all Protected Areas in India. The plentiful avifauna population has more than 300 species of birds. There are six recorded species of vultures alone.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Make a trip to the crocodile hatchery and learn about these interesting creatures. For the spiritually inclined, the famous Somnath and Palitana Jain Temples are close by. People flock in droves to pay their respects to their deities here. Junagarh Fort is another attraction mainly for those interested in the history of the region. Diu is a beach town where you can go to relax and soak up some sun and sand.

Conservation
The park and the Girnar temple attract thousands of visitors every year putting pressure on the forest. There are also roads and a railway track that runs through Gir causing numerous road kills. Experts have urged that a new home be found for the lions and a rich forest in Madhya Pradesh, called Kuno Palpur has been identified for relocating a small pride. But this idea does not find favour with Gujarat as it feels that its monopoly on the lions will end. Hopefully, a resolution to the problem will be found to the advantage of the lions in the long term, with the ex-Gujarat Chief Minister now India's Prime Minister. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Your lodge or tour operator can book a safari for you, or you can visit: **www.girlion.in**

Park Timings:
Morning: 06:00 am to 09:00 am and
09:00 am to 12:00 pm
Evening: 03:00 pm to 06:00 pm
Gir Jungle Trail remains closed from 16th June to 15th October every year.

Getting Around the Park:
Jeeps called 'gypsies' that carry 4 to 6 persons. Book through your operator, lodge or at the gate. Cost from ₹ 1,200 per game drive.

Entry Fees:
For Indian Nationals
Weekdays: ₹ 800 | Weekends: ₹ 1,000
Festival days: ₹ 1,200
For Foreign Nationals:
Weekdays: ₹ 4,800 | Weekends: ₹ 6,000
Festival days: ₹ 7,500

By Air:
Diu (110 km), Rajkot (156 km), Ahmedabad (348 km). Transport can be hired to drive to the park.

By Rail / Road:
Junagadh (65 km) is the nearest town. Transportation is available from the railway station.

Satish H / Sanctuary Photo Library

Safari Camps & Lodges

Lion Safari Camp

The Lion Safari Camp is a comfortable tented camp owned and managed by Camps of India. It is located in a private mango orchard overlooking the Hiran River. With over 900 mango trees in the grounds that offer much needed shade, the trees bear fruit during summers so you can savour this king of fruits picked straight from a tree.

Twenty one comfortable walk-in safari tents, each with its en suite bathroom, nestle amongst the mango and palm trees, connected by landscaped gardens and pathways. Dine in an open tented restaurant beside the river, or enjoy facilities including billiards and table tennis between visits to see the sights of Gir.

Activities / Special Features:
Jungle safaris; bird watching safaris with in-house naturalist; excursions to nearby attractions; cultural evenings with folk dance and music.

Accommodation:
21 tents furnished with natural materials, en suite bathrooms, coffee machines, air-conditioners and telephones are available. Each tent has an extended deck and chairs to sit and relax.

Food:
The restaurant overlooks the Hiran River and offers a choice of Indian, Chinese and Continental food. There is a barbeque in the evenings. Fresh Gujarati seafood can be arranged with advance notice.

PRICE BAND
$$$

Opening Times:
Closed from 15th June to 15th October.

Location:
Nearest airport - Diu (105 km), Rajkot (160 km)
Nearest railhead - Sasan (1 km), Veraval (40 km)
Nearest park gate - Sasan Gir (2 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Further Information and Booking:
www.campsofindia.com/lion_safari_camp.php
sasangir@campsofindia.com
+91 93282 74094

Keyur Nandaniya / Sanctuary Photo Library

GIR NATIONAL PARK, GUJARAT

Kanha Tiger Reserve

Madhya Pradesh

Stopping your vehicle beside one of the large golden grass meadows with the sunbeams angled by the tall sal forest behind you; a morning mist and the unseen crack of horns from a pair of barasingha stags clashing and you might well be reminded of Mowgli's forests made famous by Rudyard Kipling.

These lowland forests are a mixture of great sal hardwood trees, once heavily felled for railways sleepers and other mixed species of forest. It is interspersed with grassy meadows - the habitat of spotted deer, the rare hard ground barasingha and ambush ground for the tiger. The higher forests are more tropical with bamboo growing in clusters within which gaur, wild pig, sloth bear and sambar deer make their homes. With all this prey, tigers are numerous too (over 100 at last count) and habituated to jeeps, ensuring memorable sightings.

The Reserve lies in the east of the Central Indian highlands of the ancient Satpura mountain range. Here, flat-topped hills support grassy meadows and the river Sulkum flows through the valley. The Banjaar and Halon valleys used to be hunting grounds of the British who would hunt the barasingha deer but their rapid decline in numbers forced the authorities to gazette Kanha as a Sanctuary in 1933. In 1955, a 250 square kilometre patch of land was declared the Kanha National Park. The Mukki Valley was added to the Protected Area in 1970 and then, thanks to Project Tiger, a vital part of the upper Halon Valley was also included. Today it stretches over an area of 940 square kilometres with a surrounding buffer zone of 1,009 square kilometres. Along with the neighbouring Phen Sanctuary, it forms the Kanha Tiger Reserve.

There are four tourist zones here, each worth a visit - Kanha, Kisli, Mukki and Sarhi.

Gaurav Shirodkar / Sanctuary Photo Library

What you can do inside the park
Inside the park only safaris on registered vehicles are allowed. Vehicles are restricted to certain zones but well managed movements and strict jeep numbers ensure good wildlife experiences. Though walking is not allowed the joy is in stopping your vehicle and listening to the endless bird sounds and alarm calls of the jungle. Picturesque picnic and rest stops are allocated within the park.

What to look out for
Well known individual tigers are sought out commonly including many tigresses with cubs. However, leopards, sloth bears and exciting packs of hungry wild dogs or dholes also abound in these forests. Prey species like the chital and sambar are found grazing in herds. The barasingha or swamp deer (hard ground swamp deer) is found only in Kanha and barely 1,200 of them survive in the wild. Look out for rhesus macaque, golden jackal, Bengal fox, smooth-coated otter, honey badger, small Indian civet, Indian grey mongoose, spotted chevrotain and pangolin. There are also 175 varieties of birds in Kanha including the purple heron, shikra and white-eyed buzzard. The Indian ghost tree (kullu) is hard to miss with its ghostly white trunks. The sap from these trees is used in the production of chewing gum!

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Visit nearby villages to see their farming practices and their weekly markets, which are fascinating. Ask your lodge about birding, cycling or walking trails nearby and along the Banjaar River. There are nature trails in the buffer zone near the Khatia and Mukki Gates. Cycles are available for hire from the Forest Department counters near the gates. Night safaris en route to Aaramtola at Mukki Gate can also be arranged within buffer areas, good for sighting nocturnal creatures. Visit the herbal trail in Chhapri near Khatia and learn about the medicinal plants grown there.

Conservation
Kanha faces similar pressures to most protected areas, including developmental and infrastructure projects, grazing, illegal poaching, woodcutting, forest product extraction and bush meat off-take. It also has both historic and present issues with compensation and support for many of the Baiga and Gond village communities relocated over the years to make way for viable wilderness habitation. However recent research highlights the economic value of the park at ₹ 1,650 crores (£176 million per year) ensuring support for this well managed park continues. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.

PARK INFORMATION

How to book
Your lodge or tour operator can book a safari for you, or you can book **online**.

Park Timings:
The Park is open for visitors for c.4.5 hours after sunrise and c.2.5 hours in the afternoon before sunset. Please check park opening times with the gate as they vary slightly between summer and winter months depending on sunrise and sunset. The Reserve is closed from 16th June – 30th September every year and is also closed for afternoon safaris every Wednesdays and on the festivals of Holi and Diwali.

Getting Around the Park:
Jeeps called 'gypsies' that are registered with the authorities and carry 4 to 6 people are available and the only vehicles allowed inside. Book through your operator, lodge or at the gate. Cost from ₹ 2,000 per game drive.

Entry Fees:
For Kisli, Mukki and Sarhi Zones:
₹ 1,320 for Indian Nationals
₹ 2,640 for Foreign Nationals
For Kanha Zone:
₹ 1,980 for Indian Nationals
₹ 3,960 for Foreign Nationals
Cost of Park Guide: ₹ 360 for each safari

By Air:
Jabalpur to Kisli (160 km), Jabalpur to Mukki (200 km), Nagpur (270 km). Transport can be hired to drive to the park.

By Road:
Kanha is a five to six hour drive from Jabalpur or Nagpur. Mandla is 100 km from Mukki and 60 km from Kisli gate.

Chitvan Jungle Lodge

PUG ECO RATING OUTSTANDING TOFTIGERS.ORG

Spread over fourteen verdant green acres, Chitvan Jungle Lodge is a comfortable safari lodge that blends into its surrounding forest and farmlands and has been interwoven empathetically with its Gond tribal village neighbours. A small water body provides an advantageous viewpoint for observing the area's wealth of wildlife.

Each sumptuous wood-bedecked suite is designed with an earth element in mind - water, earth and sky - with the decor reflecting the theme.

Cycle through villages and farmlands or take a birding walk with a resident naturalist along the Banjaar River. There are over a hundred bird species and 40 butterfly species to spot within the grounds itself. You can also plant a sapling that will be maintained by the resort, take a bullock cart ride through local villages or try your hand at some organic farming - there's never a dull moment at Chitvan.

Opening Times:
Closed from 15th June till 30th September.

Location:
Nearest Airport -
Raipur (220 km), Jabalpur (220 km), Nagpur (300 km)
Nearest Railhead - Gondia (135 km), Jabalpur (200 km)
Nearest park gate - Mukki Gate (4 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. The Jungle Knowledge Educational Tour is specially designed for youngsters and teaches them the importance of forests and wildlife. It entails a gentle walk to the Banjaar River with a naturalist, spotting the footprints of different creatures, both big and small.

PRICE BAND $$ SPA

Further Information and Booking:
www.chitvan.com
info@chitvan.com
+91 11 45665201/02/03/04,
+91 98107 26252

BLOG

Activities / Special Features:
Besides the standard jungle drives, the lodge arranges tribal dances, bullock cart rides, birding and nature walks and local market visits. A short cycling trip to the countryside, an Indian cooking demonstration and learning organic farming at the lodge's farms are also popular activities enjoyed by guests of all ages.

Accommodation:
Choose from the 10 Jal cottages or 4 Prithvi suites, which have a big saja tree in the centre of the block and comfortable and spacious rooms. The 4 Akash suites are located next to the organic farms and give you a captivating view of the Maikal Hills. The Mahasagar Suite is a large 2-bedroom suite with a living room and 4 private balconies to enjoy panoramic views.

Food:
From grains and vegetables to milk products, all ingredients served here are organic and mostly harvested at the lodge or in neighbouring farms. A variety of Indian and Continental dishes are cooked to suit your preferences. You can try an Indian cooking demonstration, interact with the chef and learn about some of the delicacies from the kitchen. Having a sundowner at the bar is a perfect way to end your day here.

Kipling Camp

Kipling Camp was established by a well-known family of conservationists in the 1980's with a strong wildlife and community focus. Today, tiger conservationist Belinda Wright and her mother continue to run this family-owned lodge in the traditional style with its houseguest ambience and commitment to the community that helped lay the foundation for the success of Kanha over the years.

Once an open farmland, it is now a sun-speckled woodland where chattering birds, spotted deer and even tigers do not fear to tread, using the Camp's waterhole as part of their domain. Dining is mostly al fresco in an open dining area where many well-known personalities and field researchers have regaled wildlife tales over a large whisky. It's also home to Tara, the elephant made famous by her sojourns across India with the late Mark Shand.

Activities / Special Features:
Apart from daily jungle safaris, you can go for a birding or nature walk, bathe Tara the elephant in the river, explore local villages and farms, visit the local school and tribal artists, or have a massage. At night there are film shows and tribal dances. Day trips can be organised to visit the forts near Mandla and the gorges near Seoni.

Accommodation:
6 cottages with 15 rooms are scattered among the trees, all with en suite bathrooms and rain showers. 3 of the rooms are air-conditioned. There is also a private cottage with a sitting room and patio overlooking the wildlife waterhole. Heaters and hot water bottles are provided in the winter and coolers or air-conditioners in the summer.

Food:
A choice of Indian and Continental cuisines is offered here. Picnic breakfasts are served in the National Park during the morning safari. Lunch and dinner are served back at the camp under the mahua tree, on the Bamboo House patio, or under the stars. Alcohol is served under license.

Opening Times:
Closed from mid-May to mid-October.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (160 km)
Nearest railhead - Jabalpur (160 km), Nagpur (260 km)
Nearest park gate - Kisli Gate (3 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are particularly welcome - it is a wonderful place for them to learn about nature and have their first wildlife experience. They are taken on nature walks, to see results from the wildlife camera traps and to meet and learn about Tara the elephant.

PRICE BAND $$ SPA Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.kiplingcamp.com
info@kiplingcamp.com
+91 11 6519 6377

Mayank Mishra / Sanctuary Photo Library

Singinawa Jungle Lodge

Located in 110 acres of reclaimed and restored jungle, Singinawa is appropriately named in Sherpa language meaning 'Protectors of the Sacred Forest'. This beautiful expanse of regenerated, natural habitat and the lodge is now under the new protection of its proprietor, Tulika Kedia, whose management and naturalist team care for all guests' needs with unwavering commitment.

Guest accommodation is in charming stone and slate cottages, nestled in their own area of jungle on either side of the main lodge, offering privacy and oneness with nature. Passing wildlife and avian species are observed regularly, with the antics of troops of langur being a source of great amusement.

Tulika's patronage of indigenous art and support of Gondi artists has culminated in the induction of The Kanha Museum of Life and Art situated within the lodge and is curated by noted art historian, Dr Alka Pande.

Opening Times:
Singinawa is closed from end of June to end of September each year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (155 km), Nagpur (275 km)
Nearest railhead - Jabalpur (155 km), Nagpur (275 km)
Nearest park gate - Mukki (12 km), Khatia (36 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. They get the chance to learn traditional Indian games with school children from nearby villages. They can also learn pugmark identification, plaster cast making techniques and how to read jungle signs with the resident naturalist. The lodge also arranges for baby sitters, special cots and food for infants and children on request.

PRICE BAND $$$ SPA Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.singinawajunglelodge.com
info@singinawajunglelodge.com
+91 124 4908 610

Activities / Special Features:
Jeep safaris into the park, treks and nature walks in the buffer forest are popular. Go into the interior of the forest on a 20 km track on all terrain Firefox bicycles to Jaldidand Baiga village, or plan a day trip to Phen Wildlife Sanctuary. If you go for a visit to a nearby village, don't forget to stop by the village market, cattle fair and meet the tribal potters at Baihar. Take a guided tour of The Kanha Museum of Life and Art at the lodge. The lodge offers visitors the added opportunity to not only accompany trained naturalists on a tour of the local forests but also soak in the indigenous culture through an aesthetic experience.

Accommodation:
The lodge offers 12 tastefully designed cottages. All of them have a large bedroom, private veranda, en suite bathrooms with double vanities and rain showers, proper fireplaces, air conditioning and a mini bar. Newly introduced, The Perch is a secluded bungalow that offers 4 avifauna-themed rooms. It has its own private dining and living room; kitchen; library; a personal butler service; and a lotus pond that beautifies the surrounding garden.

Food:
Singinawa's chefs offer extensive menus of Indian, Nepalese, Continental and pan Asian cuisines. The adjoining home farm grows and supplies organic rice, wheat and pulses directly to the kitchen, while vegetables, herbs and spices are plucked afresh daily from their organic herb and spice garden.

The Watering Hole, with its open treetop level terrace, offers guests an idyllic venue to unwind over a cup of coffee, or partake of an elaborate range of cocktails.

Kanha Earth Lodge

Kanha Earth Lodge is tucked into 16 acres of reforested lands, adjoining the buffer forests of Kanha. Lying close to a small quintessential village community and rich farmlands, it makes for a rich experiential stay. Away from the hurly burly of the Kanha-Kisli Gate, the lodge's natural landscape attracts a multitude of mammals and colorful birds feasting on the old growth trees, all of which can be enjoyed in the company of top quality naturalists. Even so, it is only 30 minutes from the park gate, ensuring that it is close enough for easy access to the forest.

The comfortable bungalow style and award winning buildings, nestled within this forest paradise, are inspired by Gond tribal architecture, while recycled, waste wood, terracotta tiles and local stone has been used for construction and furniture design. The lodge has a nature library-cum-presentation room and an eco shop that contributes 25% of its proceeds towards conservation activities.

TOFTigers MEMBERS – LODGES & RESORTS

Opening Times:
Open from 1st October to 30th June.

Location:
Nearest airport -
Jabalpur (176 km), Nagpur (270 km), Raipur (350 km)
Nearest railhead -
Jabalpur (176 km), Nagpur (270 km), Gondia (200 km)
Nearest park gate - Khatia (15 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $$$ Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.kanhaearthlodge.com
enquiry@pugdundeesafaris.com
+91 124 2970 497, +91 124 2570 404

Activities / Special Features:
If you're feeling adventurous, explore the outdoors through a jeep safari with the lodge naturalists, elephant safari, birding walk, nature trail or cycling. Guests can sight the rare hard ground barasingha found only in Kanha's large grasslands, in addition to tigers, leopards, sloth bears, lesser cats and over 250 bird species. For a cultural experience, visit a local Gond tribal home and participate in a crafts workshop with Gond woodcarvers and local potters, or a painting workshop with Gond painters. You could also visit the Friday weekly market to shop for local produce and souvenirs. For the guests who want to relax, there is an infinity pool, which is set between Mahua trees and its infinity edges merge into Kanha's forests.

Accommodation:
The lodge offers 12 air-conditioned luxury bungalows with en suite bathrooms, dressing room and large open verandas with forest views. The bungalows are designed to merge into the landscape yet provide all the comforts for a luxurious stay like 24-hour power back up, 24-hour hot-water facility, complimentary organic toiletries and bathroom essentials and a tea and coffee pantry offering a choice of select brews. The lodge refrains from directing jungles to create landscapes and has its resident birds and mammals that have been happily coexisting since the foundation, thus providing guests with a true wilderness experience.

Food:
A multi-cuisine dining hall serves Indian and continental cuisine cooked with fresh produce sourced from our kitchen gardens and the neighboring villages. Moreover, there is a facility for outdoor barbeques and bush dinners, where one can dine under the stars.

Charles Fraser

KANHA TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

Banjaar Tola - Taj Safaris

Banjaar Tola is a plush jungle safari lodge situated on the banks of the Banjaar River. With its own unique identity celebrating the Bastar and Dogra art from nearby Chhattisgarh, it's really a masterpiece in the contemporary use of canvas through all the living quarters, fine dining and glamorous leisure areas.

With two elegant camps of nine suites, each with its own intimate tented sitting area, the luxurious en suite tents have been designed in a post-modern style with textiles designed with rich block-printed Madhya Pradesh cottons and silks. Raw timber furniture, canvas wardrobes, leather detailing and handcrafted furniture made from fallen trees and driftwood give you a thoroughly upmarket camping feel.

Activities / Special Features:
Gond and Baiga tribes showcase their dances by the bonfire in the evening; personalised cooking lessons; bird watching at the Banjaar River; cycling through the village.

Accommodation:
Accommodation is in one of 18 tented suites set on raised platforms, with large bathrooms. Wide glass doors open onto private decks overlooking the river, offering panoramic views of the wilderness beyond.

Food:
The food is inspired by Chhattisgarh cuisine but can cater for all tastes. Dinner may be served in the forest lit by lanterns and accompanied by traditional dancing or on your own balcony. Fresh salads from the lodge gardens are also served.

PRICE BAND
$$$$

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Nagpur (244 km), Jabalpur (195 km)
Nearest railhead - Nagpur (244 km), Jabalpur (193 km)
Nearest park gate - Mukki (2 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. Screening of wildlife movies; indoor games organised by naturalists; treasure hunt, cooking demonstration; guided nature walks; and community visits are some of the activities they can participate in. "I am a Naturalist" programme for budding naturalists is a 3-5 day module that introduces kids to the finer art of tracking animals using field signs, alarm calls and pug marks. At the end of the programme they take home a certificate.

Further Information and Booking:
www.tajsafaris.com
tajsafaris@tajhotels.com
1800 111 825

Mihir Mahajan / Sanctuary Photo Library

KANHA TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

Flame of the Forest Safari Lodge

Flame of the Forest is the dream of naturalist Karan Modi and his Swiss wife Isabelle Heini. It is a small, comfortable open aired lodge nestled on the banks of the Banjaar River over twenty acres of land most of which has been left untouched to return to nature. Panoramic views over the slow river and the Kanha forests beyond greet every visitor and ensure the sounds of the tiger forests within.

Each of the four cottages is built in the vernacular style of Central India. Take a sundowner or dine under thatch, al fresco or even in the river when the waters are low! The Yoga hall overlooking the river is the perfect place to root yourself into the wilderness.

Activities / Special Features:
Wildlife library; Yoga classes; shop with products made by local women; *machaan*; game drives with a trained naturalist; walks to the village and in the buffer zone; visit to the weekly market; cycling tours.

Accommodation:
There are 4 individual cottages facing the river. Every cottage has an en suite bathroom, a private courtyard, veranda deck, and a machaan. To combat the summer heat, every room is equipped with an air conditioner and a generator back-up.

Food:
The lodge provides fresh food from their own vegetable garden cooked in the traditional style of Central India.

Opening Times:
Closed from 1st July to 30th September.

Location:
Nearest airport - Nagpur (244 km), Jabalpur (195 km)
Nearest railhead - Nagpur (244 km), Jabalpur (195 km)
Nearest park gate - Khatia

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $$$ | Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.flameoftheforest.in
karanmod@gmail.com
+91 9669 555 339

Infinity Resorts Kanha

The Infinity Resorts offers guests the experience of being in the heart of Indian jungles, nestled on a sloping hillock and at striking distance from the National Park. The resort is spread over 24 acres of lush green forest and grasslands with thick mahua and mango trees, bamboo and shrubs that attract a variety of colourful birds that are a pleasure to watch and photograph.

Stay in a spacious villa or luxury tent with the rooms tastefully decorated with rock paintings depicting prehistoric scenes of tribal hunting animals. The original paintings can still be found in stone caves in nearby Bhimbetka.

Activities / Special Features:
Wildlife safaris; walking trails; nature treks; bird watching along the river Jamunia; visits to Baiga and Gond villages; visit the Tribal Museum established by The Corbett Foundation; rappelling; mountain climbing; jungle treks.

Accommodation:
A choice of 20 rooms is offered to guests. These include 10 hexagonal tents with en suite bathrooms and a sit-out deck, and 10 villas with open decks.

Food:
A selection of North and South Indian food, Chinese and Continental cuisines are served. Guests can enjoy a grand buffet or order a la carte. Packed picnic and sightseeing meals are also provided. Riverside picnic lunch, evening theme dinner and morning breakfast can be arranged on request.

Opening Times:
The resort is open all through the year but the park is closed from July to October.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (176 km), Nagpur (270 km)
Nearest railhead - Jabalpur (176 km), Nagpur (270 km)
Nearest park gate - Mukki (8 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. They can visit the local village, learn craftwork from the locals, and watch wildlife documentaries at the lodge.

PRICE BAND $$ | SPA | Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.infinityresorts.com
infinity_del@airtelmail.in
+91 96501 93664, 96501 93662

Courtyard House

Situated near the pristine forests of Kanha is a quaint courtyard house owned by hoteliers Neelesh and Kirty Agrawal, who welcome you to their homestead. Their home incorporates traditional ethnic touches within an old British Indian architectural style, offering a quiet retreat beside the lush greens of woods and open farmlands.

The accommodation is deliberately limited to five comfortable homely rooms to ensure peace and privacy. The central open courtyard is a hub of activities for both recreation and relaxation with open chairs, hammocks and an infinity pool nearby. The Hindu Tulsi Pot and rose garden engulfed by flowery shrubs ensures a suitable ambiance for relaxation.

Activities / Special Features:
Library; in-house naturalist; customised vehicle for park safaris; birding on foot; visit to tribal villages; night safaris.

Accommodation:
There are just 5 comfortable en suite rooms. Each view extends into the forests – with its abode of birds, butterflies, and wild animals.

Food:
The main dining area serves up a buffet but food service is also available under the Kanha sky on starry nights along with a bar and camp fire. Picnics and poolside meals can also be arranged.

Opening Times:
Closed from 15th June to 1st October.

Location:
Nearest airport - Nagpur (285 km), Jabalpur (185 km)
Nearest railhead - Nagpur (275 km), Jabalpur (160 km)
Nearest park gate - Khatia (6 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $$$

Further Information and Booking:
www.courtyardhousekanha.com
courtyardhousekanha@hotmail.com
+91 94251 53571

Kanha Jungle Lodge

Naturalist and old timers Tarun and Dimple Bhati have run the Kanha Jungle lodge for over fifteen years, as part of Tiger Resorts Group. Its eleven acres of thick sal forest has engulfed the open sided buildings and rooms under its arching canopies ensuring an authentic natural forest environment in which to spend your wildlife holiday. You know it's real when every evening you can watch flying squirrels glide amongst the trees.

The lodge's naturalists (or Tarun and Dimple's young son Jai) take guests on walks and birding tours pointing out the many species found here and regaling them with anecdotes, interesting tid-bits and finding a large number of painted butterflies.

Activities / Special Features:
Nature walks; bird watching; star gazing; cooking classes; village visits; visit to village schools and markets.

Accommodation:
Accommodation is in one of 18 rooms and 2 new independent deluxe cottages with private patios overlooking the forest. All rooms have attached bathroom and a hot water bottle is placed in your bed at night!

Food:
A large round thatched dining room serves continental and Indian cuisine. Much of the produce comes from the lodge's organic farm. Order up a drink from the bar as you tell each other stories from the day's safari.

Opening Times:
Closed from 15th June to 15th October, depending on the park opening date.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (176 km), Nagpur (270 km)
Nearest railhead - Jabalpur (176 km), Nagpur (270 km)
Nearest park gate - Mukki (1 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $$$

Further Information and Booking:
www.kanhajunglelodge.com
tigerresorts@tigersindia.com
+91 90981 87253

The Baagh - A Forest Retreat

The Baagh is a scenic wilderness retreat surrounded by the forests and traditional tribal villages in the Mandla district. It lets you experience the adventure of the jungle and the romance of brilliant sunrises and sunsets all in the same day.

Spread over nearly twenty acres of land, the lodge offers eight residential complexes that have serene views of the hills and vegetation. Fruit-bearing mango, papaya, orange, and sweet lime trees provide you with juicy treats as you explore the lodge grounds. The resort is designed to harmonise with the centuries-old rural architecture of the villages while incorporating comfortable and modern amenities.

Activities / Special Features:
Morning and evening jungle safaris; wildlife documentaries; tribal Baiga dance entertainment; guided bird and village walks; riverside picnics.

Accommodation:
There are 24 well-appointed rooms among 8 residential complexes. Each room has open balconies or private patio areas with a view of the jungle. Rooms have solar heat, air-conditioning and fans.

Food:
The lodge offers traditional and innovative Indian specialties to Western favourites prepared with locally grown produce and specialty items from their on-site organic gardens.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Raipur (210 km), Nagpur (275 km)
Nearest railhead - Jabalpur (190 km)
Nearest park gate - Mukki (7 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $$

Further Information and Booking:
www.thebaagh.com
accounts@bengalganga.com
+ 91 11 4108 5922 / +91 88023 52349

Soulacia Hotel & Resort

Spread across 12 acres of green landscape planted with more than 1,000 saplings, Soulacia is surrounded by the beautiful lush forests of the Kanha National Park and located just 500m from the park entrance. The resort tastefully combines comfort and exciting wildlife experiences. There's a cycling and jogging track for those looking to exercise the body and soul. Star enthusiasts can explore the enchanting night sky through a telescope, Sky Scout and other resources.

The cottages, constructed with locally sourced materials, are equipped with large bathrooms with private open showers and outdoor sitting. The two-bedroom apartments offer a private kitchen, living space and a garden, ideal for a family.

Activities / Special Features:
Night safaris in the buffer zone; tribal village visits; bird watching; nature walk; star-gazing; swimming; biking.

Accommodation:
The resort offers 11 independent cottages, two luxury tents, and two double-bedroom apartments with en suite bathrooms. All bedrooms have split air conditioners and 100% power back up.

Food:
Spice Meadow, the restaurant and bar on an elevated wooden deck facing the pool offers Indian and continental food, and a variety of drinks. Café: The Grassroot, the exclusive coffee shop offers richly brewed, steaming cups of coffee and small eats. Alcohol is also available for guests.

Opening Times:
Closed from 1st July to 30th September, depending on the Park opening date

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (160 km), Raipur (260 km), Nagpur (300 km)
Nearest railhead - Gondia (145 km), Jabalpur (160 km)
Nearest entry gate - Khatia (500 meters)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $$

Further Information and Booking:
www.soulacia.com
info@soulacia.com, soulacia@gmail.com
+91 9891 55 66 55, 9717 199 299

Jagdeep Rajput / Sanctuary Photo Library

Tuli Tiger Resort

PUG ECO RATING GOOD TOFTIGERS.ORG

Tuli Tiger Resort is set in 22 acres of formal greenery and woodlands and a large natural pond that attracts a host of animals. Large windows and outdoor seating areas in the 26 comfortable cottages and eight tents provide both natural light and nature's sound and senses from your room. Enjoy tiger safaris by jeep, nature walks and bird watching with an in-house naturalist before returning to unwind in the spa, or swap stories around an evening bonfire.

PRICE BAND $$ · SPA · Wi-Fi

Opening Times:
The lodge is open from 1st October to 30th June.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (160 km), Nagpur (255km)
Nearest railhead - Jabalpur (160 km), Nagpur (255km)
Nearest park gate - Khatia (6 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. There is a play area for kids. They can also use the library, poolroom and play indoor games.

Further Information and Booking:
www.tulihotels.com/jungle-lodges
sales@tuligroup.com
+91 712 6653 666; 1800 209 9050

7 Tigers Resort

PUG ECO RATING GOOD TOFTIGERS.ORG

The 7 Tigers Resort is spread over 23 acres of lush green forest adjacent to the Banjaar River. This comfortable resort offering a warm welcome has eight luxury rooms, two suite rooms and two pine cottages all with views of the river. Sip a drink by a crackling bonfire and enjoy a multi-cuisine menu that uses organic and freshly harvested vegetables. Bicycle to the nearby village, enjoy riverside picnics, fishing, jungle safaris, movies on wildlife conservation and nature walks. You can even plant a tree here.

PRICE BAND $$ · SPA

Opening Times:
Closed from 16th June till 30th September.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (190 km), Raipur (232 km), Nagpur (250 km)
Nearest rail head - Gondia (125 km), Jabalpur (190 km), Nagpur (270 km)
Nearest park gate - Mukki (7 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. They may play indoor or outdoor games, splash in the kiddie pool, watch a movie on wildlife awareness or plant a tree.

Further Information and Booking:
www.7tigersresort.com
reservations.7tigersresort@gmail.com
+91 81209 59754, +91 99774 10222

Kanha Village Eco Resort

PUG ECO RATING GOOD TOFTIGERS.ORG

The dream of Navneet Maheshwari, Kanha Village Eco Resort combines the earth and clay materials used in traditional homes with modern comfort. Accommodation is in indigenous mud cottages constructed in local style all with en suite facilities offering their own open-to-sky splash pools and large comfortable rooms. Visit a medicinal plantation, soak in village life and relax in their pool and spa. The restaurants cater for a range of palettes using local produce and also serves ethnic and Jain food.

PRICE BAND $$ · SPA · Wi-Fi

Opening Times:
The resort is open from mid-October till June. From July until mid-October they remain closed except for guests who want to enjoy the rainy season with jungle walks or Yoga sessions.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (168 km), Raipur (232 km), Nagpur (250 km)
Nearest railhead - Jabalpur (168 km)
Nearest park gate - Khatia (5.5 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. They have a games room for children as well as a decent stock of books and documentaries to keep them enthralled.

Further Information and Booking:
www.kanha.in
info@kanhavillage.com
+91 99778 53263

KANHA TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

Kaziranga National Park

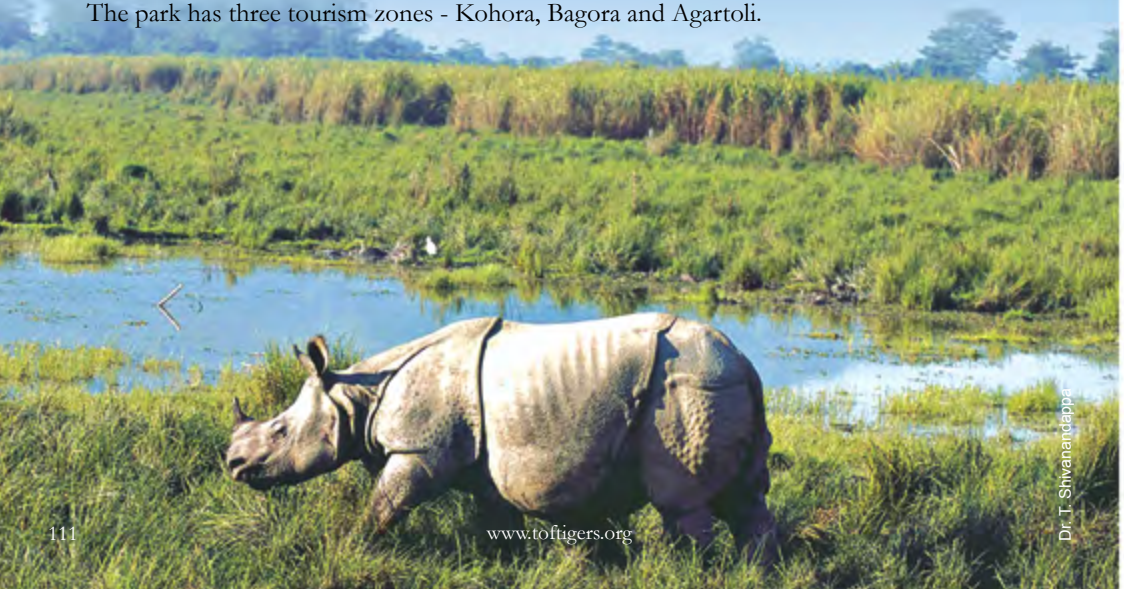
Assam

As you amble across the tall grasslands on elephant back and emerge into an opening, you're likely to run into some heavily armoured, prehistoric looking one- horned rhinoceros, nonchalantly grazing before you barely looking up to give you the time of day. Do consider the sight that belies the extraordinary story behind their survival, here on the banks of the mighty Brahmaputra River.

This 430 square kilometres of swamps, sandy riverine islands and waves of tall elephant grass which exist over a flat and broad plain, interspersed with forests of moist tropical trees, floods dramatically ever year and is key to its semi aquatic existence. A World Heritage Site, the park today hosts two-thirds of the world's greater one-horned rhinoceros, according to the latest census in March 2015 a total of 2,401 - a remarkable feat considering the species was on the verge of extinction, with only 12 left in 1903. In 1908, Kaziranga was designated a Reserve Forest with pioneering protection efforts underway, before being given official park status in 1974.

Within these watery borders remain herds of now endangered wild buffalo, Asian elephant, swamp deer, capped langur and Asia's only ape - the hoolock gibbon, which lives in the canopies of the higher bordering forests of Karbi Anglong. It's also one of India densest tiger habitats with recent estimations of over 80 individuals - but you will be lucky to spot them. Keep binoculars at the ready for this is rare Bengal florican country and a host of wetland and migrant bird species, specifically in the winter months can be enjoyed on elephant back, from a watchtower, by jeep, or in some parts, on foot with an experienced guide.

The park has three tourism zones - Kohora, Bagora and Agartoli.



Dr. T. Shivanandappa

What you can do inside the park
Game drives into the park are popular along with elephant-back viewing, principally to see the rhinos, and in specific zones, walking with expert guides is possible. Ask your provider for details. Cruises on the Brahmaputra River can be arranged. Observation towers situated at Sohola, Mihimukh, Kathpara, Foliamari and Harmoti are great vantage points for wildlife viewing, and worth stopping at. An interpretation centre at the Bagori range helps you learn more about the park.

What to look out for
The one-horned rhino is the star attraction here but look out for tigers, elephants and hoolock gibbons. Two of the largest snakes in the world, the reticulated python and rock python, also inhabit the park. This is a birder's paradise. Regular sightings include the Oriental honey buzzard, black-shouldered kite, Indian vulture, slender-billed vulture and Indian white-rumped vulture. A large number of migratory birds descend on the lakes and marshlands during the winter including greylag geese, ruddy shelduck, falcated duck and the Northern shoveller. Other threatened species that have been seen here are the black-breasted parrotbill and the rufous-vented prinia.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Boat rides along the Brahmaputra are allowed in the Eastern zone and is a great way to see river dolphins. The Kakochang Waterfalls, located in Jorhat district, are a scenic stop near the park. Nature walks are organised in the buffer forests and a visit to a tea plantation can also be arranged by your lodge. Do make a stop to the nearby Karbi villages where you can see the typical local architecture and also buy handmade cane and bamboo handicrafts.

Conservation
The Southern edge of the park, bordered by the National Highway 37 has had huge tourism development pressure and is beginning to cut off migratory corridors from higher hilly grounds needed during seasonal flooding in Karbi Anglong and the Mikkir hills. Car accidents involving wildlife have also increased due to increased traffic. Though well managed and well protected by brave guards, poaching is ever present. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.
You can support:

- **The Corbett Foundation**
- **Wildlife Trust of India**

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Your lodge or tour operator can book a safari for you. Visit the **website** for more information.

Park Timings:
Morning : 07:30 am to 12:00 pm
Evening : 02:00 pm to 05:00 pm
The park remains open from 1st October until 31st May.

Getting Around the Park:
Game viewing is done in Gypsy jeeps along the reserve's dirt roads and also on elephant back. Prices start from ₹ 1,950 per jeep.

Entry Fees:
₹ 100 for Indian Nationals
₹ 650 for Foreign Nationals
Fee For Visiting Full Day:
₹ 200 for Indian Nationals
₹ 2,000 for Foreign Nationals
Fee Per Person For Elephant Ride:
₹ 875 for Indian Nationals
₹ 1,925 for Foreign Nationals
Toll For Road Per Trip:
₹ 300 for all nationals
Naturalist: ₹ 1,000

By Air: Guwahati (240 km).

By Road:
From Guwahati, one can go by road to Kohora on the National Highway 37.

Bharat Goel

Diphlu River Lodge

Set amongst verdant farmland, patches of bird-rich forest and slow meandering streams, the ambience of the River Lodge makes it a retreat in the true sense of the word. The luxurious, but rustic and eco-friendly lodge was built to adapt to the existing foliage and terrain. The cottages are built on stilts and their thatch-covered roofs are supported by thick bamboo pillars. The lodge is separated from the Kaziranga National Park by the river Diphlu, giving the cottages a close view of the wildlife-stocked jungle beyond it. The spacious main building, called Machan, has a library, a restaurant, sitting areas and a large veranda with gorgeous views of the park beyond the river.

Activities / Special Features:
Dolphin Boat Safari (October to end June) to view Gangetic dolphins; visit to a 11th century Durga temple in the hills and shopping in Tezpur; open-jeep safaris and nature walks accompanied by resident naturalist; elephant safaris (need to be booked a day in advance); village visits to Mising, Bodo and Karbi, all unique in their dialect, traditions and attire; tribal dances around a bonfire with barbeque; tea plantation visit. (Note: tea manufacture stops mid-December to mid-March).

Accommodation:
12 straw-thatched cottages, raised on stilts above the ground, each sleeping two, are available. Made of bamboo and thatch, they beautifully blend in with the stunning surroundings. The cottages are air-conditioned and have been tastefully furnished with Assamese and Naga artefacts.

PRICE BAND $$

Further Information and Booking:
www.diphluriverlodge.com
sales@assambengal.in
+91 92070 42330 / 31

Food:
The cuisine served here is a hard to define blend of Indian, Assamese and Continental made with fresh ingredients that rarely disappoint. The homemade marmalade is highly recommended. The lodge also organically grows its own rice, mustard and some vegetables. The bar serves up some good cocktails.

Opening Times: Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Guwahati (220 km)
Nearest railhead - Jorhat (100 km)
Nearest park gate - 3 km

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome but it is the parents' responsibility to look after them.

Infinity Resorts Kaziranga

Set in the midst of a thick bamboo grove, a plantation of betel nuts and fruit trees, Infinity Resort offers you a very comfortable abode high off the ground, built on a contemporary interpretation of old Assamese houses with their high sloping thatched roofs and traditional squared handmade walls. Bamboo furniture and Assamese furnishing completes the theme of the rooms.

Dining and entertainment takes place in a large glass two storied building called 'Long house', within which you will also find a spa, shop, chill out library, children's activities area and internet café, all overlooking a large lake.

Activities / Special Features:
Elephant safaris; indoor games; wildlife movies; walking trails; nature treks; Assamese folk dances on request.

Accommodation:
There are 16 rooms on offer that recreate an authentic Assamese ambience. Each room has an en suite bathroom and distinctive triangular private balcony.

Food:
Guests are served various cuisines such as Assamese, North Indian, Chinese and Continental. Although meals are served buffet-style, they also cater to those on special diets.

PRICE BAND $$ SPA

Further Information and Booking:
www.infinityresorts.com
infinity_del@airtelmail.in
+ 91 96501 93664, 96501 93662

Opening Times:
The resort is open all through the year but the park is partially open in October and May, fully operational from November to April every year, and then remains closed from June to September.

Location:
Nearest airport - Guwahati (194 km)
Nearest railhead - Guwahati (194 km), Jorhat (115 km)
Nearest park gate - Central Park Zone (2 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

MV Mahabaahu

Cruising on the M.V. Mahabaahu along the holy Brahmaputra River in India's North Eastern States offers you a real insight into the region's rich cultural heritage, ever changing landscape and a plethora of India's most well known land and marine creatures. It is the only other river in the world, besides Zambezi, where jeep, elephant and boat safaris are possible.

This ten-metre wide and 55-metre long liner has five decks, three of which have comfortable en suite berths. However, the daily shore excursions are the real joy, apart from the wildlife stops at Kaziranga, and visits to temples, tea estates, ghats and monasteries. Choose from a weeklong expedition cruise to a three-night Guwahati return circuit incorporating Kaziranga National Park.

Activities / Special Features:
Spa; boat safaris; jeep and elephant safaris; cultural and heritage tours; library; sun deck.

Accommodation:
23 aesthetically designed cabins including 2 suites with balcony, 9 Superior Cabins with balconies and 12 Superior Cabins without balconies. Every unit is air-conditioned with attached bathrooms, flat-screen television sets with satellite connections, mini-bars, telephones and electronic safes.

Food:
You may enjoy drinks at the Soma Lounge and then relish Indian and Continental delicacies made using locally sourced ingredients in the ship's restaurant.

Opening Times:
October to May.

Location:
Embarkation point - Upstream cruise boarding at Pandu port in Guwahati and disembarking at Neamati ghat at Jorhat; Downstream cruise boarding at Neamati ghat at Jorhat and disembarking at Pandu port in Guwahati.
Nearest airport - Guwahati for Upstream cruise; Jorhat for Downstream cruise.
Nearest railhead - Guwahati for Upstream cruise; Jorhat for Downstream cruise.

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. They can participate in cooking demonstrations or sessions with the resident naturalist.

PRICE BAND $$$$ SPA

Further Information and Booking:
www.mahabaahucruiseindia.com
cruisedirector@mahabaahucruiseindia.com
+91 129 4098 000

Aditya Singh

Keoladeo Ghana National Park

Rajasthan

This man-made swamp is one of the world's best-known and yet most-threatened birding havens. Bharatpur, as it was earlier known, was founded by Maharaja Suraj Mal in 1733 when he ordered the building of the Ajan Dam that flooded the natural depression behind it. The park derives its present name from a Shiva temple here and the word 'ghana' that was added to its name means 'dense' in Hindi.

Occupying an area of roughly 29 square kilometres, the park features man-made wetlands and microhabitats like low-lying lands completely submerged in water, grasslands and dense tree growth. Lord Curzon and Lord Kitchener inaugurated the first duck shoot here in 1902. The party of 17 killed 540 birds on that one day. In 1956 the area was declared a Bird Sanctuary but the hunting was only stopped in 1964. It was declared a Ramsar site in 1981, a National Park in 1982 and a World Heritage Site in 1985.

The park is home to 375 bird species and the number grows exponentially when the migratory birds arrive. The park was one of the favoured nesting grounds for the Siberian cranes during their yearly migration. Sadly their numbers have all but died over the years due to poaching and wars on their migratory route.

What you can do inside the park
Cycles, rickshaws and boats are available for excursions into the park. Longer walks and rides are also available.

Mayur Desai / Sanctuary Photo Library

What to look out for
Keoladeo receives thousands of waterfowl including cotton teal, tufted duck, comb duck, Indian shag, Asian open-billed stork, Oriental ibis and the sarus crane. The park is also a breeding ground for the painted stork, herons and cormorants. You can also see non-feathered friends including deer, wild boar, jackals and the rarely spotted Asian and Indian civets.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Visit the famous Keoladeo temple or enjoy a rickshaw ride to Python Point where you are likely to see pythons. An interesting walk is along the Brijendra *Bund* trail that extends six kilometres from the Keoladeo temple to Kadam Kunj. The many bunds, on which you will see babul trees growing, are excellent places to spot birds.

Conservation
The park is often starved of water from the Ajan Dam so that it can be diverted to neighbouring farmers and this has a real effect on the sheer bird numbers visiting the park when it happens. There is no buffer zone to restrict human intervention from the villages located around it. This has led to serious problems with encroachment and cattle grazing. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Your lodge or tour operator can book a safari for you, or buy on the gate.

Park Timings:
Open from sunrise to sunset all year round.

Getting Around the Park:
Vehicles are permitted up to the main parking area inside the park with fees of ₹ 50 per vehicle. Walking, cycling and rickshaws are common ways of getting around. Bicycles and boats are also available for hire.

Entry Fees:
₹ 75 for Indian Nationals
₹ 500 for Foreign Nationals
Guide Fees:
₹ 900 for half day
₹ 1,600 for full day.

By Air: Agra (56 km), Delhi (184 km).

By Rail / Road: Bharatpur railway station (5 km). Transport can be hired to drive to the park, or you can bring your own vehicle.

The Birder's Inn

PUG ECO RATING GOOD TOFTIGERS.ORG

The Birder's Inn is run by Tirath Singh, an avid bird watcher and naturalist. Located a mere stone's throw from the entrance to the park, the lodge offers 24 spacious rooms that overlook lush gardens. The lodge employs some of the best local naturalists; people who were actually born inside the park. Share in their experiences and insights to make your visit truly worthwhile. Go for a ride on cycle-rickshaws and bicycles or a boat safari. Excursions to nearby Deeg palace, Fatehpur Sikri and Dholpur Chambal River are also arranged.

Opening Times: Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Agra (56 km)
Nearest railhead - Bharatpur (5 km)
Nearest park gate - Keoladeo (300 m)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $ Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.birdersinn.com
bookings@birdersinn.com
+91 5644 227 346, + 91 94140 23340

Nagarhole Tiger Reserve

Karnataka

Looking to view some of India's most impressive herds of elephants? Then, you're in the right place. This park is part of a contiguous 5,500 square kilometre landscape (ideal habitat for these pachyderms) of the Nilgiri Biosphere reserve, bordering three States in the Western Ghats - Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Named after the river Nagarhole that snakes through its rich tropical forests, it is a combination of two Kannada terms, *Nagara* meaning cobra and *hole* meaning river. Together with Bandipur National Park, Mudumalai and other Protected Areas, this region constitutes the largest contiguous forest covering in Asia. It is home to the largest congregation of Asiatic elephants in the world and the Indian bison or gaur. It also has one of the greatest densities of tigers (fifteen tigers per 100 square kilometres) and the largest population on the continent with 406 individuals at the last census, many having been studied for years by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) researchers. But don't just look for the mega fauna; look into the treetops for arboreal giant squirrels, flying snakes, or one of the 300 bird species from Malabar pied hornbills to rusty-tailed fly catchers.

The Lingayat kings of Kodagu ruled Nagarhole until the British colonial administration established hegemony in the 1850s. In 1955, a 285 square kilometre area was gazetted as the Nagarhole Game Sanctuary. The same was extended in 1974 with some reserved forests from the Mysore district being added to bring the total area to the present 644 square kilometres. It was accorded the status of a National Park in 1974.

Nagesh panathal / Sanctuary Photo Library

What you can do inside the park
Game drives in converted open top government-owned vehicles are the only form of wildlife viewing, so ensure you book early and enlist a good guide to get the most from a visit. The Mule-hole River and the banks of the Kabini River are all excellent spots to look out for elephants in summer. A coracle or a boat ride down the Kabini River usually results in good sightings of large and small mammals that have come to the banks for a drink and the birds that flock around the shores. A tour can also be arranged to one of the tribal villages within the reserve to experience the life of the Kurubas.

What to look out for
These forests consist of three major predators - tiger, leopard and dhole, all three co-existing in high densities thanks to high densities of prey like spotted, mouse and barking deer. Other animals that have made their habitat in Nagarhole are Indian bison, porcupines, jackals, hyenas, and sloth bears. Several species of venomous snakes, a cornucopia of reptiles including a ying frog and raptors like the changeable hawk eagle, rufous-bellied hawk eagle and grey-headed fish eagle are also found here. More recently there have been sightings of a black panther.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Nature walking trail on the shores of Kabini river take you a step closer to things you might have missed in a hurry. Small critters, colourful flowers and birds are just some of the things you can spot here. Still water rafting and rappelling can be arranged by private lodges for those looking for adventures. Visit the Irrupu Falls or, on your way home, the historic fort of Seringapatnam or the city of Mysore.

Conservation
Well protected and one of India's best studied Protected Areas, threats to the park come from illegal cutting of sandalwood and teak trees and poor planning and development. Forest fires and seasonal droughts leading to water shortage have caused many wild animals to migrate to other greener spaces. There are also many cases of human-wildlife conflict due to raids by wild animals and elephants on nearby villages along with the consequent retaliation by villagers. Investment in elephant proof trenches and solar fencing around the park helps but is not fool proof for these intelligent creatures. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**. Consider support for:

- **Wildlife First**
- **Wildlife Conservation Society**

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Safaris can be booked through resorts and tour operators.

Park Timings:
Morning : 06:00 am to 09:30 am
Evening : 03:30 pm to 06:30 pm

Getting Around the Park:
Jeeps, elephant and boats can be hired for safaris from the lodge or your tour operator.

Entry Fees:
Prices for safaris are ₹ 1,720 for Indian Nationals and ₹ 2,720 for Foreign Nationals

By Air: Mysore (96 km), Bengaluru (236 km)

By Rail / Road: The nearest railway station is in Mysore. Transport can be hired on arrival or you may drive your own vehicle here. The nearest town is Kutta (7 km).

R Dev / Sanctuary Photo Library

Orange County, Kabini

PUG ECO RATING OUTSTANDING TOFTIGERS.ORG

Cleverly inspired in design by the Kadu Kuruba Hadis, the local tribal village homestead, this picturesque wilderness resort is bordered on two sides by the Kabini reservoir. It overlooks the sweeping vista of one of India's finest tiger and elephant reserves, Nagarhole on the opposite bank.

A sundowner in the cavernous palm-roofed open-air lounges or dinner in one of the two restaurants overlooking this glorious scene is a 'must do' as the sun goes down across the lake. Alternatively take to a lantern lit boat for a truly romantic dinner for two.

With so many activities to choose from it is difficult to find the time for the infinity pool, the night walks, boat and coracle safaris, bike and bullock cart trips - besides the escorted game drives into the park itself - so you may just have to come again next year.

Activities / Special Features:
On the boat safari or coracle ride on the Kabini River, spot as many residents of the forest as you can. Get up close and personal with Kaveri, the resident elephant and lend a hand with bathing and feeding her. The nature trail with the in-house naturalist takes you along the banks of the Kabini and then through the scrub and fields along the village roads. You can also explore nature around the resort at night.

Accommodation:
The resort architecture has a tribal Kadu Kuruba leitmotif and the dwellings subtly incorporate the colours and textures of the landscape in every detail. The 8 Pool Huts have a large living and dining area, a palatial bedroom, a bathroom with a courtyard and your own personal swimming arena. The 29 Jacuzzi Huts offer you spacious living spaces and comfortable bedrooms, with your very own personal open-to-sky Jacuzzi.

Food:
The 2 restaurants at Kabini lay out a platter of the choicest international and regional cuisine overlooking the River Kabini. You can also request a romantic boat-dining experience, feasting while silently floating on the waters of the Kabini. Alcohol is also served at the resort.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport -
Mysore (90 km), Kozhikode (210 km), Bangalore (275 km)
Nearest railhead -
Mysore (90km), Kozhikode (180 km)
Nearest park gate -
Bandipur Forest Check Post (11 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. The resort also has an Activity Centre to keep children occupied.

PRICE BAND $$$$ SPA Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.orangecounty.in/kabini-resorts
info@orangecounty.in
+91 80 4191 1170, +91 80 4191 1171

KAAV SAFARI LODGE KABINI

KAAV Safari Lodge

PUG ECO RATING QUALITY TOFTIGERS.ORG

KAAV is a small ultra modern boutique lodge located adjacent to the Nagarhole National Park and set up to maintain its mission to ensure intimacy and privacy within this natural playground, where spotted deer alarm calls are part of the everyday routine. Modernist furnishing blended with the natural tones and varnished woods of the rooms, complimented by chic bathrooms with designer touches welcome you.

The dining table is cut from a single tree trunk and even the infinity pool maintains the same modernist theme. The lodge provides your base for a variety of adventures in and around Kabini and Nagarhole, by vehicle, by boat or coracle, by bike or on foot.

Activities / Special Features:
Vehicle safari, boat safari, cycling, coracle ride, nature walk and birding.

Accommodation:
The lodge offers 4 comfortable rooms with private decks and 2 safari-like tented rooms each with en suite bathrooms.

Food:
A choice of Indian and Continental delicacies is on offer and barbeques and beer can be arranged in the evenings on request.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport -
Mysore (80 km), Calicut (160 km), Bangalore (220 km)
Nearest railhead -
Mysore (80 km), Chamarajanagar (120 km)
Nearest park gate -
Udbur (4 km)

Children's Policy:
Children below 10 years are not allowed at KAAV (except when all the four rooms are booked by one group).

PRICE BAND $$$ · Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.kaav.com
pk@kaav.com
+91 99006 13595

Red earth Kabini

Red Earth Kabini

PUG ECO RATING QUALITY TOFTIGERS.ORG

Red Earth Kabini's ten acres is set on a peninsula, bordered by the picturesque backwaters of the Kabini Dam, which flows on into the mighty Nagarhole and Bandipur reserves nearby. Red earth mud walls are the predominant colour and texture of the comfortable cottages together with thatch roofs and bamboo verandas, laid out around waterholes.

The fact that three suites are deliberately kept for honeymooners suggests that this is a place to indulge your senses. With marbled hot tubs in every cottage and the 'wetland' bar in the middle of an island, you would be right to consider it as a romantic getaway – with wildlife as an added extra.

Activities / Special Features:
Jungle safaris; bird watching with in-house naturalist; musical and theatrical performances; fishing trips in coracles along the backwater of Kabini; cycling; Tibetan monastery visits.

Accommodation:
20 cottages are set in 2 clusters of 10 cottages around a small lake, 3 of these are Honeymoon cottages and 1 cottage is designed for the physically challenged. All cottages are air-conditioned with their own open-to-the-sky hot tubs.

Food:
Food here is prepared using organic vegetables sourced from the local villages. A colonial style bar makes for a great place to relax in the evenings.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Mysore (64 km), Bangalore (201 km)
Nearest railhead - Mysore (60 km), Bangalore (204 km)
Nearest park gate - Dommankatte (6 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. They can watch wildlife movies or documentaries, be entertained by a magic show in the evening, go cycling, or play some indoor games.

PRICE BAND $$ · SPA · Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.redearthkabini.in
info@redearthkabini.in
+91 98458 91013
BLOG

Waterwoods Lodge & Resorts

One of the oldest privately owned resorts in the area, Waterwoods is located on a picturesque river front on the northern shores of the Kabini backwater's. Views from its rooms are of the deep blue of the swimming pool and beyond its gardens to the Brahmagiri mountain range.

Built in a contemporary style, its accommodation is light and airy thanks to large windows that ensure endless views. It has its own organic greenhouse that supplies most of the fresh produce to the restaurant kitchen with Tandoori dishes a particular favourite, taken mostly by the water's edge.

Activities / Special Features:
Rides on ATV; boat cruise to Bheemankoli; nature walk; visit heritage temples; Balle Elephant Camp; canoeing.

Accommodation:
The 15 rooms are designed to bring the views of Kabini into your private setting. A TV, DVD player and pressurised rain showers in all the bathrooms are also available.

Food:
Waterwoods grows most of its organic vegetables used in its cooking in its large greenhouse and they pride themselves on a cooking style typical of South Indian home-cooked specialities. Enjoy a glass of wine or beer as you watch the sun go down.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Mysore (75 km), Bangalore (225 km)
Nearest railhead - Mysore (78 km), Bangalore (225 km)
Nearest park gate - Nagarhole (4.5 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $$$ SPA Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.waterwoods.in
reservations@waterwoods.in
+91 70220 13180, +91 70220 13181

Harishvara Venkat

Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary

Maharashtra

This small park often gets overlooked for its more famous and larger counterparts, but true nature enthusiasts know its importance. Covering an area of 152 square kilometres, nestled within the Vidarbha mountain range, it is often referred to as the 'green oasis' of the region.

Nagzira got its name from the snake or *nag* temple here and *zira*, which means a perennial source of water referring to the stream from a hill in Pongezara.

Gond kings once ruled these forests. In 1970, this area was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary and in 2012, it was merged with another National Park. The sanctuary is now part of the proposed Nagzira-Navegaon Tiger Reserve. The forests of Gondia and Bhandara form an important corridor with links to other Tiger Reserves in the region.

What you can do inside the park
Jungle safaris are the most popular way to spend your time here. Jeeps are available on hire and you can even take your own vehicle inside. Stop at observation towers and spend some quality time watching wildlife. Currently, there are five watch cabins and five watchtowers.

What to look out for
As you drive through thick vegetation with a view of mountains in the backdrop, keep an eye out for tigers, leopards, mouse deer, spotted hyenas and dhole. The endangered Chinese pangolins are nocturnal in habit and are rarely sighted. The treetops are dotted with birds such as barbets, woodpeckers, hornbills, flycatchers and herons. The catchment area supports several varieties of freshwater fish and attract migratory water birds.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Go for nature walks in the buffer zone or bird watching around water bodies. Visit the museum at the Nagzira tourist complex, Chorkhamara village, or the Navegaon Wildlife Sanctuary. You can also try fishing in dams near Navegaon and Nagzira where you can observe a variety of birds while waiting for a catch.

Pinal Patel / Sanctuary Photo Library

Conservation
A proposal to construct a thermal power plant just nine kilometres away from the park boundary puts the wildlife at risk of losing pristine habitat, as well as being exposed to conflict with humans. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Safaris can be booked through resorts and tour operators, or **online**.

Park Timings:
Winter : Morning : 06:00 am - 11:00 am
Evening : 02:30 pm - 05:30 pm
Summer : Morning: 05:00 am - 10:00 am
Evening: 03:30 pm - 07:00 pm
The park is closed from 1st July until 30th September.

Getting Around the Park:
Jeeps are available on hire, and you can even take in your own vehicle, but hiring a guide is compulsory. The Pitezhari Gate is the main point from where permits to enter the Sanctuary can be taken. Charges start from ₹ 3,000 for Indian Nationals and ₹ 3,500 for Foreign Nationals. Each jeep accommodates 6 people per vehicle and includes vehicle fee, guide charge and entry fee.

Entry Fees:
₹ 50 for Indian Nationals
₹ 100 for Foreign Nationals
Guide Fee: ₹ 300
Vehicle Entry Charges: ₹ 150

By Air: Nagpur (120 km). Transport can be hired on arrival.

By Rail / Road: There are 3 railway stations to the park: Gondia (45 km), Bhandara (75 km) and Nagpur (122 km). Cabs and buses are available from these stations for the park.

Opening Times:
The resort is open all through the year, but the park is open only from 1st October to 30th June.

Location:
Nearest airport - Nagpur (122 km)
Nearest railhead -
Gondia (45 km), Nagpur (122 km)
Nearest park gate - Pitazari (4 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. There are indoor and outdoor games available and also many interesting wildlife books for them to read.

Muba Jungle Camp

PUG ECO RATING GOOD TOFTIGERS.ORG

Enveloped by a lush green forest and surrounded by the beautiful Nagzira mountains, accommodation is in one of ten cottages built on stilts twelve feet above ground with adjoining walkways overlooking a large water body, which attracts all the thirsty creatures of the jungle by day and night!

Enjoy a stream of activities such as trekking with an in-house naturalist, jeep safaris, birding and nature walks, or bullock cart rides. After a busy day, savour the delicacies of the multi cuisine restaurant.

PRICE BAND $$

Further Information and Booking:
www.mubaresorts.com
mubajungleresort@gmail.com
+91 93030 37453, +91 93019 77677

Nameri National Park

Assam

Get away from the bustle of overcrowded parks and visit this quiet gem for a more personal interaction with the wilderness in Assam. Spanning an area of 344 square kilometres, it shares its Northern boundary with the Pakke Tiger Reserve of Arunachal Pradesh, a patchwork of lush green forests and wetlands with the clear waters of the Jia Bhoroli River adding to the beautiful views.

Jia Bhoroli was once famous for its golden mahseer population and was a popular angling destination, but it has now been banned allowing the fish population to flourish. Murral, goonch, Indian trout and chocolate mahseer are other varieties of fish found here. Apart from elephants and tigers, Nameri also has a sizeable population of avifauna, including the rare and endangered white-winged wood duck.

At Nameri there are no jeep safaris. Instead, visitors can walk the nature trail accompanied by an armed guard. Watchtowers overlooking a patch of small pools are good spots to stop and take in the surroundings. You are likely to spot some green imperial pigeons here. Another way to explore the park and view its water birds is by rafting the mild rapids of the Jia Bhoroli River. It is more a pleasure ride than an adventurous tumble.

Nameri Eco Camp

What you can do inside the park
River rafting on the Jia Bhoroli river is a fourteen-kilometres ride that takes about three hours to cover and traverses over mild rapids. Go for a moderate trek inside the park with an armed Forest Department guide and get a closer look at the nooks and crannies of the park.

What to look out for
Orchids are found in abundance in the region, adding some colourful flair between the bamboo stalks and along the open grassland. The forests are also rich in epiphytes, lianas, and clump-forming bamboo. Nameri also has a sizeable elephant population and is also home to a host of other animals including the tiger, leopard, sambar, dhole, muntjac, sloth bear, Himalayan black bear and the Indian giant squirrel. With over 350 species of birds in the region, birders can revel in rare sightings such as the seasonal visitor the ibisbill, the highly endangered white-winged wood duck and the near-threatened ferruginous duck.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
The historic town of Tezpur is just 35 kilometres away. Historical ruins from the 8th and 9th centuries dot the surrounding areas of the city. The ruins of Bamuni Hills are the most famous. For those who haven't had their fill of wildlife, there are three other nature reserves within a two-hour drive from Nameri-Kaziranga National Park, Orang National Park and Pakke Tiger Reserve.

Conservation
Many landless communities had migrated into these forest areas in search of secured land and livelihoods during the colonial period. Unlike the local tribal communities who were hunter-gatherers and foragers, these settlers depended on agriculture. As farm lands grew further into forest lands, so did the man-animal conflict and it continues to be a problem today. Efforts to provide alternative livelihood skills programmes for the forest villagers are supported by the lodges here to reduce their dependency on forest land. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Your lodge or tour operator should make all bookings for you.

Park Timings:
Entry permits are issued from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Monday through Sunday.
Rafting time is between 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
The 5 km walking trail starts from Potasali Ghat which is open from 6.30 am to 1.30 pm, and for avid wildlife enthusiasts and birders afternoon trekking ends at 4.30 pm.
The Park remains open for the visitors from 1st November to 30th April.

Getting Around the Park:
Jeep safaris are not available at Nameri. Instead, there are walking trails and river rafting on the Jia Bhoroli River.

Entry Fees:
₹ 50 for Indian Nationals
₹ 500 for Foreign Nationals
Camera Fees: ₹ 50 per camera
Guard Fee: ₹ 100
Boat fee: ₹ 300 per boat for Indian and Foreign Nationals. An additional charge of ₹ 100 is levied for the boatman.

By Air: Tezpur (37 km). Transport can be hired or you can bring your own vehicle.

By Rail / Road: Rangapara Railway Station (25 km) connects Guwahati. Nameri falls on the Bomdila Highway that connects Guwahati and Tawang.

Nameri Eco Camp

Nameri Eco Camp

Nameri Eco Camp is owned and managed by an NGO called Assam (Bhorelli) Angling and Conservation Association and is located in the buffer zone of the Nameri National Park. It offers comfortable yet good value living for keen naturalists and birdwatchers trying to spot an extraordinary variety of birds within these verdant grounds. In fact over 350 species have been recorded right here!

The camp is spread over three acres and has a choice of rooms, safari tents, or a shared dormitory. Visit the camp's souvenir shop 'Keteki', that sells locally made products and also plan a visit to the local handicraft centre to ensure you make the most of this community treasure.

Activities / Special Features:
River rafting; trek in the park with the assistance of an armed forest department guide.

Accommodation:
The camp has 9 tents, 3 cottages, and a dormitory that accommodates around 20 people. Locally sourced materials, such as bamboo, have been used for the construction.

Food:
The eatery here has a varied menu. Food served ranges from local cuisine to Chinese dishes. Both vegetarian and non-vegetarian items are available. Tandoori roti and chicken is a big hit with tourists.

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. They can visit the pygmy hog centre behind the camp or go for easy and safe float trips on the Jia Bhoroli River.

PRICE BAND
$

Opening Times:
Open all through the year. The National Park is closed from June to October but rafting on the river is open all year round depending on the condition of the river and discretion of the Range Officer.

Location:
Nearest airport - Guwahati (220 km), Tezpur (25 km)
Nearest railhead - Tezpur (37km)
Nearest park gate - Jia Bhoroli River (1 km)

Further Information and Booking:
info@nameriecocamp.com
+91 98542 76171, +91 98540 19932

Saurabh Sawant / Sanctuary Photo Library

National Chambal Sanctuary

Uttar Pradesh

As you glide quietly down the powering Chambal River, you are mesmerised by the deep ravines that envelope you on both sides, formed by continuous soil erosion of monsoonal floods over countless millennia. They form a maze of entwining cliffs of ancient mud and dry scrub forest – home to various species of mammals, reptiles and birds.

National Chambal Sanctuary is named after the river, one of India's cleanest and longest rivers and covers an area of 1,235 square kilometres. It was declared a Protected Area in 1979 in an effort to protect the forest and river ecosystem, as well as the largest wild population of the endangered gharial crocodile. The Sanctuary is also listed as an important birding area and is a proposed Ramsar Site.

Ancient Indian texts refer to the Chambal as the Charmanyavati - originating from the blood of thousands of cows sacrificed by the Aryan King Rantideva.

The river is a lifeline for both the people and the forests that border it. Its waters originate from the Singur Chouri peak in the Vindhya range in Madhya Pradesh and meander their way through Rajasthan, entering Uttar Pradesh and finally draining into the Yamuna to become part of the Gangetic plains. The Sanctuary is home to the critically endangered gharial crocodile, the red-crowned roof turtle and the very endangered Ganges river dolphin.

There are public vehicle entry points to Chambal Sanctuary at Pinahat, Nandagon Ghat, Sahson and Bhareh.

Manish Arya / Sanctuary Photo Library

What you can do inside the park
The best opportunities for sighting and photography of gharial and dolphins can be had by hiring a boat with a driver and guide, available at several points along the river. Most boatmen are exceptionally skilled at cutting the boat engines and manoeuvring as close to the birds and animals as possible without disturbing them. Walking trails in the ravines and along the river offer opportunities for close observation of the wide variety of plants and animals in the Sanctuary.

What to look out for
These forests and their freshwater ecosystems are best known for the wide variety of aquatic and bird life found here. They are the only known place on earth for nesting for the threatened Indian skimmers! Migratory birds from Siberia form part of its rich avian fauna. Vulnerable bird species found here include the sarus crane, Pallas's fish eagle and Indian courser. Chambal supports eight of the 26 rare turtle species found in India, including Indian narrow-headed soft shell turtle, three-striped roof turtle and crowned river turtle. Other wildlife found here are the critically endangered Gangetic dolphins, smooth coated otters, striped hyenas, Indian wolves and the muggers.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Visitors may explore Ater Fort, a beautiful but dilapidated landmark and historical site. Take a camel safari along the riverbanks through villages and up to the Fort for a more interesting journey. The villages provide an interesting insight into rural India and one can still find a potter at his wheel making earthenware and shops selling hand-woven quilts. The Sarus Crane Conservation Reserve is also nearby. It is a widespread wetland area, interspersed by cultivated fields, where large numbers of the sarus cranes breed.

Conservation
Parts of the sanctuary are threatened by extensive illegal sand mining, which is endangering the fragile flowing waters critical for gharial breeding. In 2010, the Minister for Environment and Forests formed the National Tri-State Chambal Sanctuary Management and Coordination Committee to ensure ways to protect gharials and their habitat. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindiaorg** and consider helping with funding or support:

- **The Chambal Conservation Foundation**

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Safaris can be booked through your lodge or tour operators.

Park Timings:
It is open throughout the day. The park is closed from June to September due to heavy rains in the region.

Getting Around the Park:
A boat hired for ₹ 1,000 is the best way to get close to the birds and aquatic life. You can also hire a jeep for ₹ 3,000 to explore the land, or drive your own vehicle. Naturalist fee ₹ 1,200.

Entry Fees:
₹ 450 for Indian Nationals
₹ 550 for Foreign Nationals

By Air: Agra (70 km). You may hire a cab or drive your own vehicle.

By Road:
The Sanctuary is about 270 km from Delhi and attracts many travellers who enjoy road trips. The journey can be covered in about 5 to 6 hours by road.

Ankit Goel

Mela Kothi: The Chambal Safari Lodge

PUG ECO RATING QUALITY TOFTIGERS.ORG

Ram Pratap Singh and his wife Anu have turned their run down inheritance, Mela Kothi, into a lovingly restored homely lodge nestled in 35 sprawling acres of scenic woodlands. Originally built as a mela or cattle fair camp in the late 1890s, the house and its stables now welcome you in style and comfort to the little known wilderness and cultural heart of the Chambal region.

Combining the Rajput style of the old and the comforts of modern living, it has a range of bedroom suites and cottages with courtyards, verandas and even a library. You come together over food in the stable's dining room or under the stars in a courtyard setting within the original homestead. It's very much 'your home away from home'.

Activities / Special Features:
Accompanied by naturalists, guests may explore the Chambal Valley by boat, camel, jeep, bicycle and on foot. Village visits; guided visits to the Bateshwar Temples and animal fair; and cooking demonstrations are other activities offered.

Accommodation:
The lodge has 13 rooms, 1 large heritage room, 2 suites, a suite and a twin-bed room in the Bougan Serai, and 8 cottages in the grounds surrounding the main house. Rooms have private sit-outs overlooking the woodland and fields.

Food:
Authentic home cooked meals with local specialities are served, all made with fresh organically grown ingredients from the lodge's farm or procured directly from the local farmers. Relax in the evening with beer or a glass of wine.

PRICE BAND $$$ Wi-Fi

Opening Times:
Closed from 1st May to 30th September.

Location:
Nearest airport - Agra (70 km)
Nearest railhead - Agra (70 km), Gwalior (140 km)
Nearest park gate - Nandgaon Ghat (17 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Further Information and Booking:
www.chambalsafari.com
rpsjarar@chambalsafari.com
+91 99970 66002, + 91 98374 15512

Ankit Goel

NATIONAL CHAMBAL SANCTUARY, UTTAR PRADESH

Nilgiris, Cherambadi

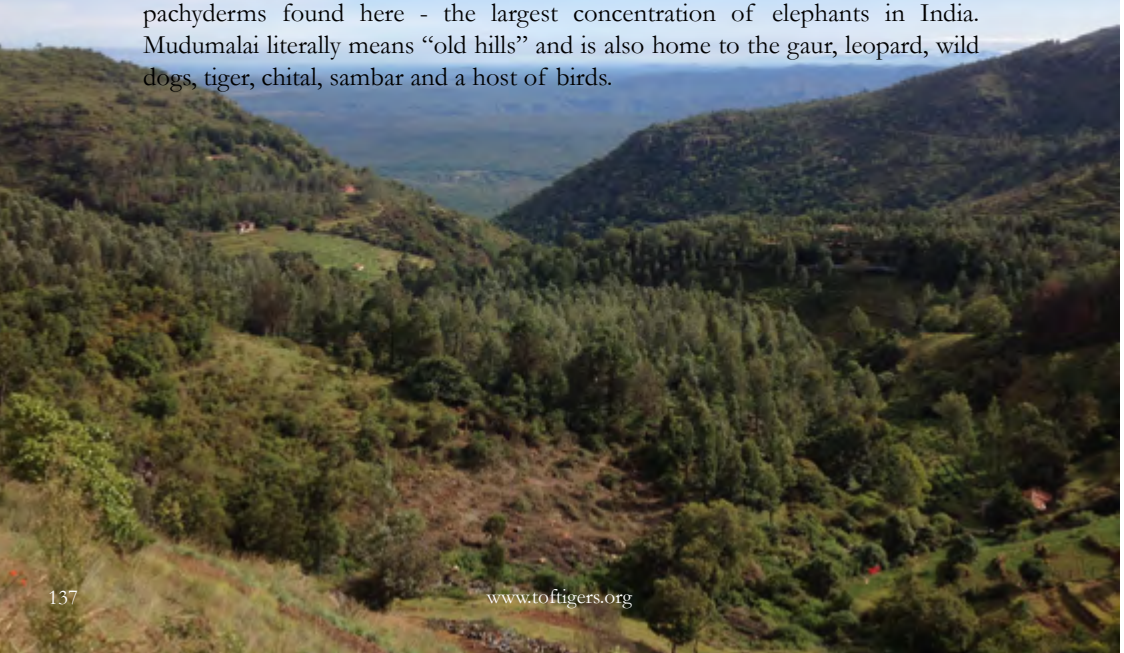
Mudumalai, Tamil Nadu

You can lose yourself in the lush green forests of the Nilgiris and return to experience it all over again. Never a dull moment, this green world either rings with langur alarm calls or quivers with the passing of an elephant herd.

Covering a tract of over 5,000 square kilometers, the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is India's first Biosphere Reserve with extensive forests, a rich repository of flora and fauna and a source of great rivers, including the Kaveri. Home to several tribal communities like the Todas, Kotas, Irullas and others, 'Nilgiri' after which the mountain range is named spreads across the borders of the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.

Part of the biosphere, Cherambadi is about 40 km from Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. It is known for its tea and coffee plantations of major groups such as Harrisons Malyalam, Tata, etc. While ambling through these estates, you can watch out for wild elephants, leopards and other smaller mammals that frequent here. The area acts as an elephant corridor between the three states.

Once upon a time, Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, now also a declared Tiger Reserve was made up of old forest blocks, used for big game shooting. During World War II, the forest was used as a training camp for soldiers to be sent to Burma. Today, it is one of the safest refuges for the Asian Elephant with over 600 pachyderms found here - the largest concentration of elephants in India. Mudumalai literally means "old hills" and is also home to the gaur, leopard, wild dogs, tiger, chital, sambar and a host of birds.



What you can do inside the park
The Sanctuary organises its own jeep and bus trips inside the forest on fixed routes. These go 15 km inside the forest and leave twice a day – morning and afternoon. You can also opt for an elephant safari, which can be reserved at the Wildlife Warden's office or at the Reception Centre at Theppakadu. Station yourself at a machaan or salt lick overlooking a waterhole, to sight wildlife unobserved. Visiting the gushing Moyar Falls may be worthwhile too.

What to look out for
Make sure to visit between December and June for the best sightings. Elephants and gaurs are found in large numbers, so look out for herds crossing over to or from Bandipur. If you're lucky enough, you might witness a pack of dholes (wild dogs) chasing deer for dinner while chital, sambar, gaur, sloth bear, wild pig pop up unexpectedly in shadows or sunshine. The loud drumming of the white-bellied woodpecker with its striking crimson chest is captivating while snakes and lizards remain well hidden in the scrub. Mudumalai is a versatile canvas with grasslands, semi-evergreen, moist and dry deciduous and dry thorn forests adding to its many shades.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Visitors can explore Ooty, a tranquil hill station, which offers something for everybody. For adventure lovers, there is trekking, angling, horse riding and mountain biking, while leisure seekers can stay at a lush green tea plantation or enjoy a quiet homestay and bonfire.

Conservation
Due to excessive cattle grazing, there has been an extensive growth of invasive species such as lantana that hinders the natural regeneration process of the forests. Wildlife habitats stand to be significantly impacted due to the construction activities of the proposed India-based Neutrino Observatory at Singara, Masinagudi. The wildlife corridor is likely to be disrupted by the five-year work plan and its repercussions in terms of human footprint, vehicular pollution and new support infrastructure. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Enquiries regarding accommodation and bookings can be made at the Wildlife Warden's office at Mudumalai Sanctuary, Coonoor Road, Ooty, Tamil Nadu - Tel.: 0423-44098.

Park Timings:
The park is open for visitors in the morning from 07:00 am to 09:00 am and then in the afternoon from 03:00 pm to 05:00 pm.

Getting Around the Park:
Jeeps and buses are arranged for by the Sanctuary to run on fixed routes, 15km into the forest. These tours run twice a day – in the morning and afternoon. An elephant ride can also be reserved at the Wildlife Warden's office or at the Reception Centre at Theppakadu. Private vehicles and hiking on foot are not permitted inside the sanctuary

Entry Fees:
₹ Rs. - 110 per person
Jeep Safari - ₹ 600 for 6 people for 45 minutes
Forest Department Vehicle - ₹ 300 per head

By Air:
Coimbatore (160 km). Transport can be hired from these airports to drive to the park.

By Rail:
Udhagamandalam or Ooty (64 km)

By Road:
Gudalur (16 km) is the nearest town. Small government minibuses choose the short route along the Sighur Ghat road, while larger vehicles prefer the route from Gudalur to the reserve, which takes an hour longer. Private buses or Cheran Transport buses can be taken from Ooty to Masinagudi. Buses run every couple of hours between Theppakkadu and Masinagudi. Jeeps can also be shared or hired.

RP - Sanjiv Goenka Group
Growing Legacies

PUG ECO RATING QUALITY TOFTIGERS.ORG

Wentworth Estate

Spread across 3,000 acres, Wentworth Estate of Harrisons Malayalam Ltd., is a tea, coffee and black pepper plantation surrounded by the Nilgiris forest in Tamil Nadu. On a lucky day visitors can see wild animals such as elephants, tigers, bear, deer and leopards that cross the tea gardens. The vast property provides ample opportunity for bird watching, nature walks and tea garden walks. The souvenir shop displays and markets local art and craft produced by the tribals of the Nilgiris.

Wentworth provides accommodation in its two tea bungalows, which represent British style and architecture. They have been made with locally sourced material and decorated with local handicrafts.

Accommodation:
Bird watching; nature walk; tea factory visit; coffee plantation visit; market visit; tribal village visit; training in tea plucking and tea processing. Visitors can also have a picnic at the beautiful Cholady riverside or embark on an adventurous jeep safari through the rough terrain.

Accommodation:
The estate offers two tea bungalows – the first having three rooms and the second, two rooms. Each spacious room has a view of the green scenery outside and a fireplace.

Food:
Wentworth offers meals cooked fresh from local produce. Guests can enjoy delicious North and South Indian, and Continental, vegetarian and non-vegetarian food. A barbecue with campfire adds to the ambience.

PRICE BAND $$ | Wi-Fi

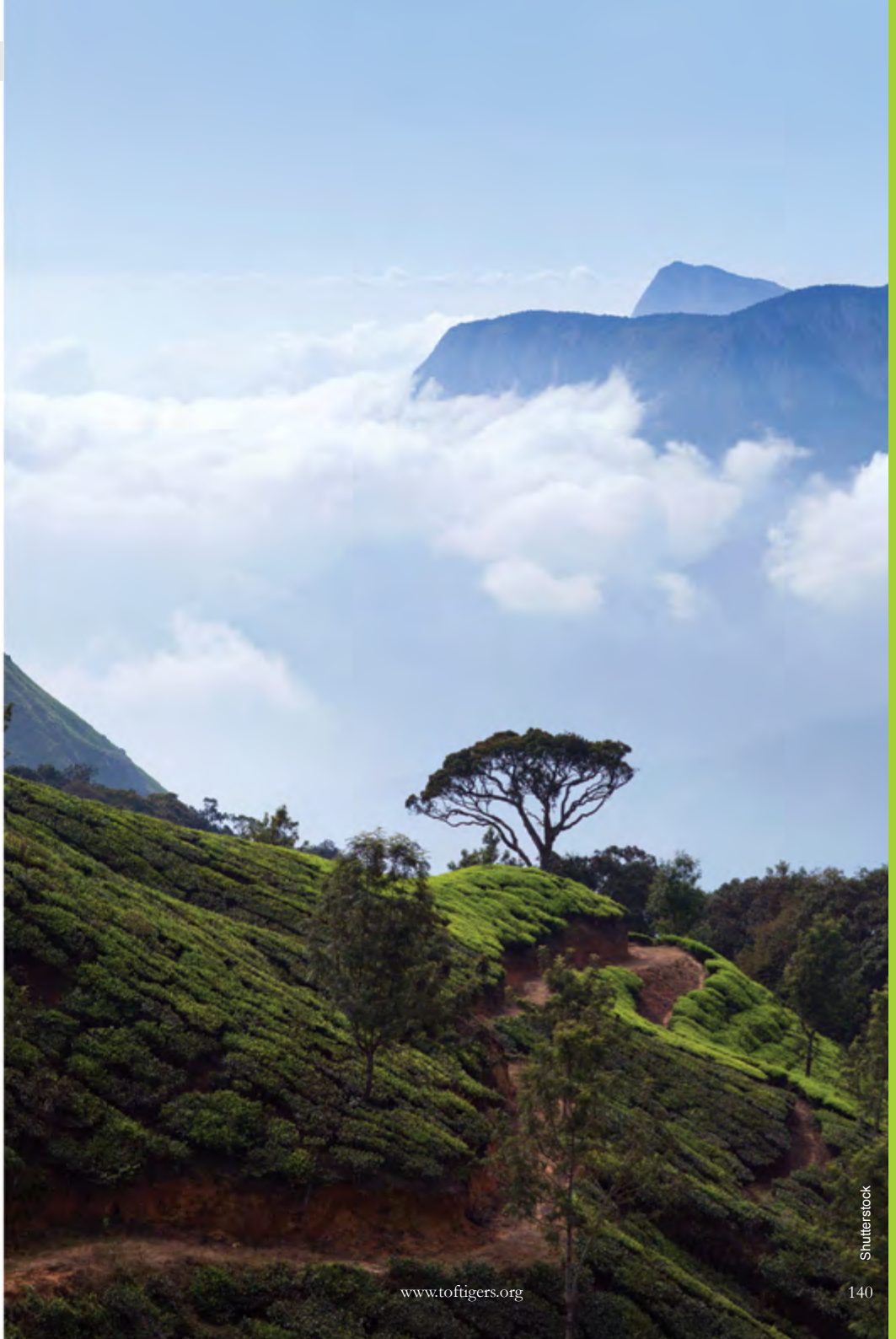
Further Information and Booking:
wentworthheritagebungalows.co.in
wentworth@harrisonsmalayalam.com
+91 944 600 3960, 9496 402 600

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Karipur Airport (Calicut) (120 km)
Nearest railhead - Calicut (100 km)
Nearest entry gate - Calicut (100 km), Mysore (130 km), Ooty (100 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. Cookouts are organised for young guests. Provisions for children below eight years are complimentary without extra bed. Children between 8-18 years will be charged as per policy.

Rajeev Menon / Wentworth Estate


Shutterstock

NILGIRIS – CHERAMBADI – MUDUMALAI, TAMIL NADU

Panna Tiger Reserve

Madhya Pradesh

Lush emerald green forests, deep ravines, open plateaus and cascading waterfalls welcome you into their folds. Captivated one forgets that, as with most Indian wildlife reserves, Panna too was originally a hunting reserve owned by the Maharaja of Panna. It was granted National Park status in 1981.

The boundary of the 540 square kilometre park is marked by the broad and rocky River Ken which flows through the Vindhya range in Madhya Pradesh towards the Ganges, a river full of life from crocodiles that bask on its sandy banks to white -necked storks and kingfishers that fish in its waters.

It's also a park of epic and well-charted conservation struggles. Diamond and sandstone mining was gravely affecting the park and by the 1990's it was in deep trouble. Experts turned around its fortunes by the turn of century, but by 2009 tigers were again poached to extinction. Recent relocation efforts have been remarkably successful and tiger numbers grow year on year with over 30 individual adults today, many accustomed to visitors. However leopards still abound, alongside a good population of sambar deer, nilgai and spotted deer to feed this success story.

According to legends, the Pandavas of the epic Mahabharata spent a part of their exile in these forests. The Pandava Falls near the park have a beautiful lake and shrines dedicated to these gods in the surrounding cliffs.

Entry gates are located at Madla and Hinauta.

Lila / Sanctuary Photo Library

What you can do inside the park
Apart from safaris in jeeps, boat trips on the Ken River are an excellent way to view birdlife and crocodiles.

What to look out for
This park attracts an excellent variety of resident and migratory bird species and is particularly noted for the high density of paradise flycatchers and a good number of water birds. The park's dense forest cover provides excellent habitat for nilgai, chinkara, sambar and chital as well as more elusive species such as the sloth bear, wolf, tiger, leopard and lesser cats. The river is home to both of India's crocodiles, the marsh mugger and the fish eating gharial.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Take a boat along the Ken River and a walk in nearby woodland forests. Night game drives can also be arranged. Visit the local village and the Madla school to meet some of the people that make this place special. You could also perch yourself on a machaan in one of the village fields for a good vantage point to spot wildlife at dawn and dusk. Lastly ensure you plan a visit to the erotic temples of Khajaraho, just an hour away, to know why India is called the land of the Kama Sutra.

Conservation
This well managed park with its recent conservation successes does not mean that authorities can get complacent. Issues arising from the needs of the people who depend on the forest for both forest products like tendu leaves and mahua fruits for alcoholic beverages as well as livestock grazing in or around the park boundaries are being addressed through awareness programmes. Forest fires cause problems during summers and illegal poaching and mining remains an ever-present threat. Plans to divert the Ken River are a major political issue at the present time. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Safaris can be booked through your lodge or tour operators or **online**.

Park Timings:
The Park is open for visitors for c.4.5 hours after sunrise and c.2.5 hours in the afternoon before sunset. Please check park opening times with the gate as they vary slightly between summer and winter months depending on sunrise and sunset. The Park is closed from July to October.

Getting Around the Park:
The reserve does not have any transport facility for visitors. A four-wheel drive petrol vehicle is best for wildlife watching and is hired at the gate or by your lodge.

Entry Fees:
Safari permits are available for Indian and Foreign Nationals at ₹ 1,500.
Gypsy (up to 8 people) ₹ 1,500.
Guide fee: ₹ 360.

By Air: Khajuraho (25 km)

By Rail / Road: Jhansi (180 km), Satna (90 km), Katni (150 km) are the nearest towns and railheads.

Dhiren Shah / Sanctuary Photo Library

Pashangarh - Taj Safaris

Pashangarh is built at the top of a small hill in 200 acres of wilderness adjoining Panna Tiger Reserve with far reaching views of the tiger forest and a large waterhole that has been host to numerous big cats and antelopes.

Large rough stone cottages with handcrafted contemporary furniture and silk and linen furnishings draw their inspiration from the dry-packed stone houses of the region. The guest areas celebrate Haveli design with a spacious central courtyard. A strong motif throughout the lodge is that of the crocodile, which inhabits the Ken River. Here you can learn about the rich biodiversity of Central India with the in-house naturalists on jungle safaris and private nature walks.

Activities / Special Features:
A boat ride on the Ken River; cycling through the village; yoga lessons; trips to Khajuraho temple and Kalinjar fort; and visit an active diamond mine. A naturalist can also help you set up a camera trap before turning in for the night so you can see what wildlife visited you as you slept.

Accommodation:
The lodge features 12 stone cottages, contemporary yet mindful of their Indian heritage. Each has a large en suite bathroom and discreet veranda with a comfortable day bed.

Food:
The lodge offers the best of Bundelkhand-style cuisine. The menu may often feature delicacies straight from the lodge's own garden.

PRICE BAND $$$$ | SPA | Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.tajsafaris.com
tajsafaris@tajhotels.com
1800-111-825

Opening Times:
Open all through the year, but the park itself is only open to the public from 15th October to 30th June.

Location:
Nearest airport - Khajuraho (50 km)
Nearest railhead - Khajuraho (50 km)
Nearest park gate - Hinauta (30 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. Screening of wildlife movies; indoor games organised by naturalists; treasure hunt, cooking demonstration; guided nature walks; and community visits are some of the activities they can participate in. "I am a Naturalist" programme for budding naturalists is a 3-5 day module that introduces kids to the finer art of tracking animals using field signs, alarm calls and pug marks. At the end of the programme they take home a certificate.

Ken River Lodge

Spread over 50 acres of woodland, the lodge is built on the banks of the wide crocodile infested Ken river and is home to Shyamendra Singh, grandson of the Maharaja of Nagod.

It offers six village style air-conditioned huts and six cottages with a living room, kitchenette and an open deck. Apart from the game drives in the day, go for the night safari at Jhinna or for birding and boating trips with resident naturalists. Fresh produce is sourced from the neighbouring villages and the kitchen garden of the lodge.

PRICE BAND $$ | Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.kenriverlodge.com
enquiry@pugdundeesafaris.com
+91 124 2970 497, +91 124 2570 404

Opening Times:
Open from 1st October to 30th June.

Location:
Nearest airport -
Khajuraho(26 km), Jabalpur (350 km)
Nearest railhead -
Khajuraho(26 km), Jhansi (176 km)
Nearest park gate - Madla (1 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Mihir Mahajan / Sanctuary Photo Library

Pench Tiger Reserve

Madhya Pradesh

The evidence is undeniable, the feeling palpable, as you drive down the dusty dirt tracks, that around every corner a drama will unfold, a glimpse caught, a movement spotted. The sun-dappled forest floor is alive with spotted deer. Vast herds also gather on the shorelines of the park's reservoir, offering a smorgasbord of food for Pench's hungry carnivores that include leopards, wild dogs and tigers (thought to be close to 65). The remarkably unshy tigress, Collarwali, who has nurtured 20 cubs in five litters and whose mother was featured in the BBC's Spy in the Jungle series is a treat to spot.

It was here that Rudyard Kipling chose to base his story of the wolf boy Mowgli. However, it wasn't until 1992 that Pench was included under the umbrella of Project Tiger. Today, the Reserve covers districts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The park is predominantly a teak forest, but other hardwoods and flowering trees support a rich and diverse array of birdlife too.

Local villagers, mostly Gonds, will tell you about their local god, Mansingh Deo. He was a legendary figure who was believed to have supernatural healing powers and would ride into the local bazaar on his tiger. There are two temples dedicated to him, the Chhota Mansingh and Bada Mansingh temples which are worth a visit.

The park has three tourism zones: Touria, Karmajhiri and Jhamtara.

Karan Verma / Sanctuary Photo Library

What you can do inside the park
Seeking a tiger doggedly can cause you to miss the whine of the cicada, the sight of the common butterfly or the shrill call of a crested serpent eagle. It's India's densest population of prey species, nearly 25,000 of them, including spotted deer, wild pig and sambar deer. In April when the Pench River dries out, the animals use dohs or perennial springs as waterholes, or crowd the shoreline and tender grasses of a receding reservoir. It acts as an artificial wetland where you can see hordes of water birds sitting on what were the tree stumps of flooded woodlands.

What to look out for
Tiger is the main cat species but commonly seen wildlife includes chital, sambar, nilgai, wild boar and jackal. Other wild animals found are leopard, sloth bear, wild dog, porcupine, jungle cat, fox, striped hyena, herds of gaur, four-horned chowsingha and barking deer. There are more than 170 species of birds including several migratory ones. Some of them are crimson-breasted barbet, red-vented bulbul, racket-tailed drongo and magpie robin with lesser whistling teal, pintails, river terns and northern shovellers on or near water bodies.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
You could visit the Kandadev, Bagdev and Kumbhababa temples that attract thousands of pilgrims every year. They give you an insight into the lives of the local people. Ramtek, about an hour away, also has temples that are over 600 years old. The old British cantonment, Kemtee and the Kalidasa memorial are other points you may want to visit at Ramtek.

Conservation
Pench is a well managed park but threats include the National Highways carriageway cutting corridors to Kanha. An irrigation colony within the core area has been finally handed back to the forest authorities. This ruling by the Bombay High Court came twelve years after the first order in 2002 that said that no human settlements are permissible in the Tiger Reserve. Poaching, overgrazing and sprawling tourism present ongoing concerns. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**. You can support:

- **Corbett Foundation**

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Safaris can be booked through your lodge or tour operator or **online**.

Park Timings:
The Park is open for visitors for c.4.5 hours after sunrise and c.2.5 hours in the afternoon before sunset. Please check park opening times with the gate as they vary slightly between summer and winter months depending on sunrise and sunset. The Park remains open to visitors from 1st October to 15th June and is closed on Wednesdays for afternoon safaris.

Getting Around the Park
Game viewing is done in Gypsy jeeps along the reserve's dirt roads which can be hired at the entrance or arranged by the lodge. Private vehicles are not allowed inside.

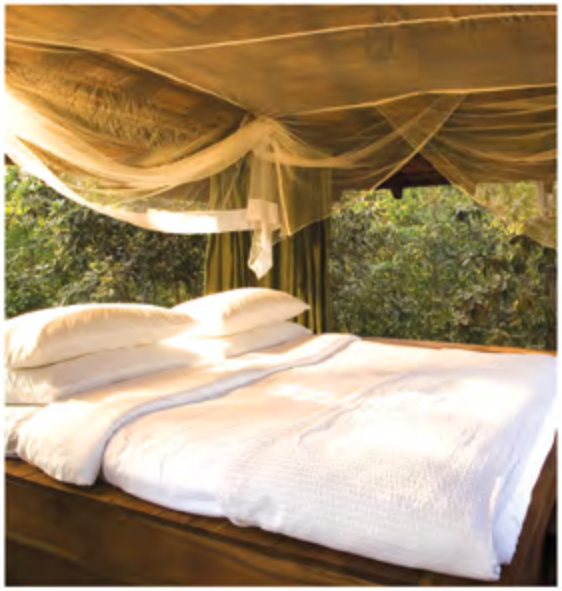
Entry Fees:
Safari permit: ₹ 250 single seat for Indian and Foreign Nationals | ₹ 1,500 for full vehicle permit. Maximum 6 guests per vehicles.
Gypsy safari: ₹ 2,000
Guide hire: ₹ 360

By Air: Sonegaon (70 km)

By Rail / Road: Seoni (30 km) and Nagpur (70 km) are the nearest towns and railheads from where you may hire transportation.

Bharat Goel

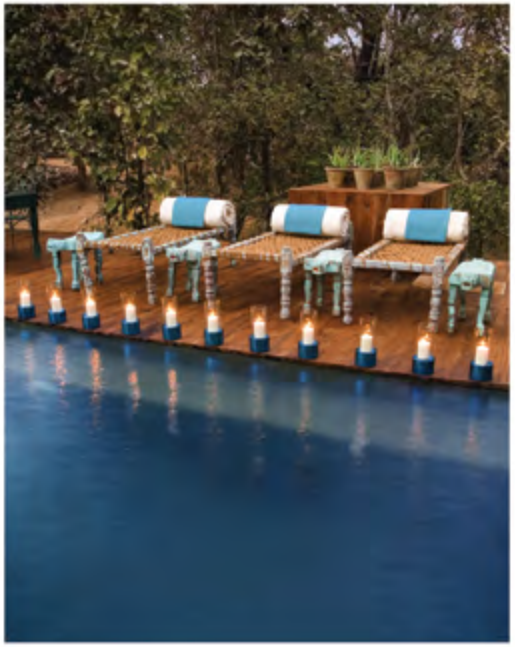
Baghvan - Taj Safaris



Located on the edge of the Pench Tiger Reserve, Baghvan is aptly named after India's iconic Royal Bengal Tiger. This property set the standards for the four Taj Safaris lodges. Magnificent suites are hidden in thick forests along narrow natural paths beside a dry nullah or streambed close to the park - its pebbled and fine-sanded bed being the favoured territorial trail of many a carnivore and their prey.

A cheeky mix of old and new, ethnic and safari furnishings, textures, colours, cushions and wall hangings cover the open lounge, dining room and library. This leads to another al fresco dining room and further on to a small plunge pool to while away your midday hours.

Each interconnecting suite has its own private elevated machaan, or rooftop platform that converts to an outdoor bedroom if you prefer to sleep under the stars.



Opening Times:
Closed from 1st July until 30th September. The park itself is only open to the public from 15th October to 30th June.

Location:
Nearest airport - Nagpur (90 km) and Jabalpur (192 km)
Nearest railhead - Nagpur (90 km) and Jabalpur (192 km)
Nearest park gate - Turia (1 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. Screening of wildlife movies, indoor games organised by naturalists, treasure hunt, cooking demonstration, guided nature walks, and community visits are some of the activities they can participate in. The "I am a Naturalist" programme for budding naturalists is a 3-5 day module that introduces kids to the finer art of tracking animals using field signs, alarm calls and pug marks. At the end of the programme they take home a certificate.

PRICE BAND $$$$ Wi-Fi SPA

Further Information and Booking:
www.tajsafaris.com/our_lodges/baghvan/default.php
tajsafaris@tajhotels.com
1800-111-825

Activities / Special Features:
Watch the jungle buzz with activity on one of the daily game drives, a foot safari in the nullah or on an exciting night safari under the moonlit sky. For those who want to relax, you can watch birds from the pool deck or steal and outdoor siesta with birdsong in the background. Visitors can also enjoy a leisurely bicycle trip or a visit to the potter's village at Baghvan Pench. Though the park is closed on Wednesday afternoons, guests at Baghvan now have an option of a safari in the afternoon through prior booking.

Accommodation:
The lodge offers 12 private suites that have a distinctive contemporary bungalow feel. Each suite comprises two inter-linked buildings, spacious bathrooms and a rooftop machaan for lazy sleepouts. Delicate Parsi tiles, woven hyacinth furniture, high ceilings, deep welcoming sofas and giant ebony chests grace the elegant guest areas.

Food:
Meals can include a varied range of cuisines. The kitchen garden has an array of fresh green vegetables and herbs. Pick the ones you like and have the chef add them to your next meal. Breakfast and lunche are served on a sweeping shaded deck surrounding the beautiful swimming pool and overlooking the nullah.

Taj Safaris

Pench Jungle Camp

Though the main accommodation of the lodge is set within thirteen acres of lush bamboo foliage, shade giving trees and sprawling lawns, a further 38 acres next door is home to herds of spotted deer, nilgai, rare wild dog movements and the cacophony of groups of langur monkeys who do not respect any such boundaries.

Choose from a range of comfortable accommodation styles be it the lodge's suites, rooms or large safari tented rooms. Enjoy the many activities that the lodge offers, from a dip in the swimming pool to enjoying the spa, horse riding and bird watching with an in-house naturalist around the lodge grounds. There is even a hot air balloon!

Activities / Special Features:
Jungle safaris; hot air ballooning; horse rides; elephant rides; cycling; village walk; nature walk in the private park with a naturalist.

Accommodation:
The lodge offers 13 safari tents, 3 cottages, 4 premier rooms and 1 family suite, all air-conditioned and with en suite bathrooms.

Food:
They have a multi-cuisine restaurant offering Indian, Chinese, Continental and tandoori meals. Alcohol is served on request.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

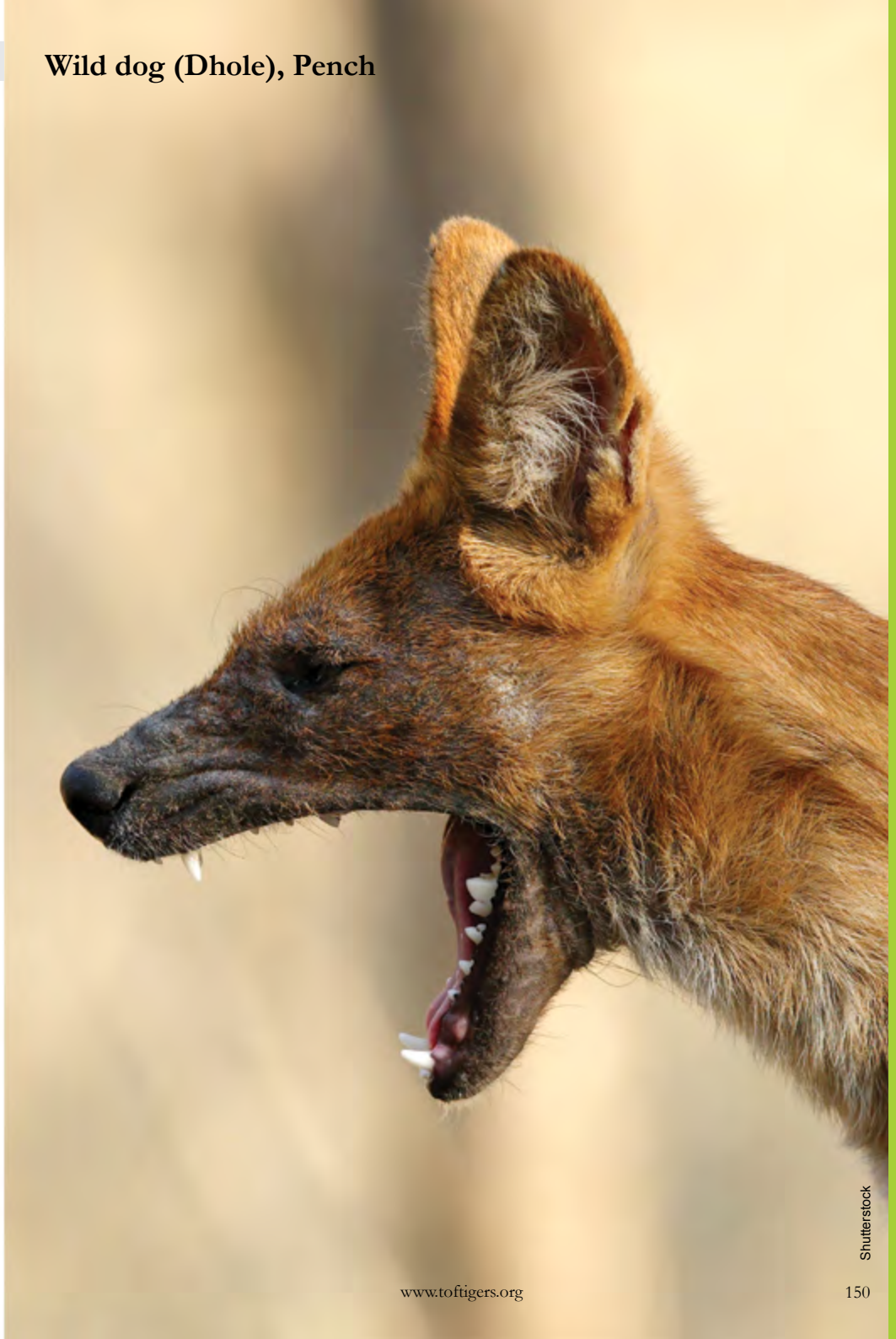
Location:
Nearest airport - Nagpur (102 km)
Nearest railhead - Nagpur (102 km), Jabalpur (192 km)
Nearest park gate - Turia (1 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. Kids can enjoy activities like cycling, trampoline, Burma bridge, flying fox and badminton.

PRICE BAND $$$

Further Information and Booking:
www.penchjunglecamp.com
freedom@penchjunglecamp.com
+91 9999 742 000

Wild dog (Dhole), Pench



Shutterstock

The Riverwood Forest Retreat

Spread over nine acres of woodland and forest gardens, the retreat is built on the banks of the beautiful monsoon river of Panjhdhar that ambles through the buffers of Pench. Deer and other creatures amble into the grounds from the surrounding forest, all of which can be watched from a tall machaan at sunrise or sunset.

The sixteen spacious rooms are comfortable and airy, with views of the forest, private gardens or river and being away from the main hub of lodges ensures your bike rides, nature trails or village visits, especially to the potter's village, are both fascinating and authentic.

Activities / Special Features:
Wildlife safaris; birding; library; indoor games; night safari; star gazing; village walk; pottery workshop.

Accommodation:
There are 8 of each river-facing and garden-facing rooms. The cottages have a private garden and all rooms are equipped with a work area and most have an outdoor shower as well.

Food:
Indian and Continental meals are served in the dining area prepared from locally sourced ingredients.

PRICE BAND $$

Opening Times:
The resort remains open throughout the year but the forest stays closed for visitors between 15th June and 30th September every year. The closing time may be extended to 15th October at times.

Location:
Nearest airport - Nagpur (90 km), Jabalpur (200 km)
Nearest railhead - Nagpur (90 km), Jabalpur (200 km)
Nearest park gate - Turia (12 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Further Information and Booking:
www.waxpolhotels.com
delhi@waxpolhotels.com
+91 11 4799 9803, +91 97113 26357

Mahua Vann

Mahua Vann stands true to its name as a property created inside a forest with more than 300 trees spread over eleven acres. The lodge offers two cottages each with a private machaan, five standard cottages and eleven other rooms. Bordered by seasonal streams on two sides with a pond nearby, the lodge attracts a myriad of colourful birds, which your lodge's naturalist can tell you all about. A visit to Pachdhar potter's village and local market is also a must for travellers.

PRICE BAND $$$

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Nagpur (90 km)
Nearest railhead - Nagpur (90 km)
Nearest park gate - Turia (2 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Further Information and Booking:
www.mahuaresorts.com
mahuaresorts@gmail.com
+91 85859 83456, +91 99110 87646

Tuli Tiger Corridor

Spread over 22 acres this plush resort on the edge of the Pench forest is set around a large water body, with fifteen sumptuous cottages and eight spacious walk-in tents all furnished with rich antique style furniture and furnishings. Spend your day exploring the forests on jeep and elephant safaris, before relaxing by the pool, in the spa, or go birding and walking with their in-house naturalists.

PRICE BAND $$

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Nagpur (88 km)
Nearest railhead - Seoni (40 km)
Nearest park gate - Turia (2.5 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. There is a play area for kids. They can also use the library, poolroom and play indoor games.

Further Information and Booking:
www.tulihotels.com
sales@tuligroup.com
+91 712 6653 666; 1800 209 9050

UNDER PROCESS: Tathastu Resorts, Pench Tree Lodge

Rajaji National Park

Uttarakhand

Watch a family of elephants here as they go about their daily routine and try to pick out their distinct personalities and understand social hierarchies. Rajaji has the largest population of elephants in Uttarakhand (over 500) giving you excellent opportunities to study the pachyderms.

Rajaji is also the first staging ground for migratory birds once they cross over the Himalayas into the Indian subcontinent, so you are bound to meet many feathered visitors in the winter months.

Rajaji is spread over 820 square kilometres and was formed in 1983 by merging three wildlife sanctuaries - Chilla, Motichur and Rajaji. The Ganges cuts through these forests and is home to a wide variety of fish like trout, mahseer and chilwa. The park was named after C. Rajagopalachari who was a prominent leader during the Indian freedom struggle from the British.

Jungle safaris are offered at two locations currently, Chilla and Motichur Ranges. Visitors can enter from one of the seven gates at Ramgarh, Mohand, Ranipur, Motichur, Chilla, Kunao and Laldhang.

What you can do inside the park
Take a game drive during the winter months of October to February when the migratory birds descend. March and April offer the best weather for outdoor treks and overnight camping. The summer months of May through June might be very hot but it is also the best time for spotting wildlife. The park is closed during the rains, but you can still visit the buffer zone.

What to look out for
Elephants are the main draw, but leopard, mountain goat or ghoral and the elusive Himalayan black bear are also sighted. It is also a haven for birds.

Aniruddha Mookerjee / Sanctuary Photo Library

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Rafting on the Ganges is a thrilling experience. Situated in Dehradun and declared as a Bird Sanctuary, the wetlands at Assan Barrage is a birder's paradise. The best places for birding are on the 26-kilometre forest drive from Chilla and along the 40-kilometre Phanduwala - Motichur trail.

Conservation
Overgrazing by settlements around the park has depleted the food for herbivores resulting in elephants raiding crops and creating serious conflicts with locals. The Chilla Canal has interrupted elephant corridors and the army's ammunition dump at Raiwalla has further dented the elephant passage. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Safaris can be booked through your lodge or tour operators. No online facility is available.

Park Timings:
Morning : 06:00 am to 09:00 am
Evening : 03:00 pm to 06:00 pm
The Park is closed from 16th June to 16th November for tourists

Getting Around the Park:
Gypsies and other safari vehicles are available on hire from the entry gates but make sure to book them in advance to ensure availability. A local guide is a must with every vehicle
Cost of Safari Vehicle:
₹ 2,000 from the gate

Entry Fees:
₹ 150 for Indian Nationals
₹ 600 for Foreign Nationals
Vehicle Fee:
₹ 250 per vehicle for Indian Nationals
₹ 500 per vehicle for Foreign Nationals
Cost of Guide:
₹ 300 for a general guide
₹ 1,500 for an experienced bird and wildlife guide

By Air: Dehradun (35 km). Transportation is easily available on hire.

By Rail / Road: Haridwar (24 km), Rishikesh (18 km) are the nearest towns and railheads. Transportation can be hired from here to the park.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Dehradun (35 km)
Nearest railhead - Rishikesh (18 km)
Nearest park gate - Chilla

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. There is a separate play area for kids.

V Resorts

Surrounded by rich farmlands and distant Shivalik hills, the resort is located in the elephant corridor of nearby and lesser known Rajaji Tiger Reserve. The resort has sixteen rooms - exemplar and each having a novel and distinct appeal. Each room has a sweeping view of the proud towering hills and the verdant forests. All the rooms have hardwood floors and are designed on a wildlife theme. Eight of the rooms open out onto a private balcony with an inviting splash pool to revitalise your senses.

PRICE BAND $$ | SPA | Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.vresorts.in
bookings@vresorts.in
+91 85059 77070 / 91 120 4004 800

Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

Rajasthan

Striking images of tigers lying on ancient tombs or fortress walls or lapping up water from its picturesque lakes draws thousands of visitors to Ranthambhore each year. It is brimming with tigers too, over 30 individuals plus numerous cubs at the last count.

Ranthambhore National Park is part of the much larger 1,333 square kilometres Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. It derives its name from the hilltop fortress within its boundaries and has been the destination of many well-known documentaries over the years. The fort overlooks the lakes and is a picturesque spot where many birds and animals can be found, making you want to linger just a little bit longer, to watch one of the tiger royalties who reside here.

The ancient mountain ranges of the Aravalli and Vindhya meet here creating a mix of flat tablelands and steep cliffs. These forests were, until 1949, the private hunting reserve of the Maharaja of Jaipur. This is where the Queen of England and her husband went on a tiger hunt in the late 1940's.

An inspired Park Director, Fateh Singh Rathore, pioneered the relocation of nine villages from the core area to lands outside the park boundaries between 1973 and 1975. This proved a resounding success as the dependence on the forest resources was reduced. The wildlife, relatively free from human interference, could roam the forests during the day and tiger sightings increased dramatically. Many of his ideas have helped shape the park you see today, flourishing with wildlife.

Aditya Singh

What you can do inside the park

The majestic Ranthambhore Fort, built in the 10th century, stands 700 feet above the surrounding plains. Inside the fort, there are three red Karauli stone temples devoted to Ganesh, Shiva and Ramlala Ji. It is a scenic structure and often tigers can be spotted roaming the ruins. Visit one of the three shallow man made lakes within the park boundaries - Padam Talao, Raj Bagh and Milak Talao - around which most of Ranthambhore's wildlife is concentrated. Padam Talao is the largest of the many lakes located in the park. The red sandstone Jogi Mahal can be found at the edge of the lake. The lodge was used by the late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to view wildlife.

What to look out for

Depending on the month you travel, you will see a variety of birds and animals. Winter sees plenty of birds that are migrating, while summer has large mammals roaming the forests in search of water. The varied topography provides habitats for animals like the jackal, mongoose, sloth bear, leopard, lesser cats, caracal and of course the tiger. Spend time near the lakes to spot waders and waterfowl including snipes, grebes, godwits, sandpipers, geese and ducks.

Fun things to see and do outside the park

Areas around Ranthambhore have developed catering to tourists who flock to the park in large numbers. Visit the village and stop over at the Daskari Kendra, which is a women's co-operative NGO producing block printing, local textile and handicraft work. Local bird watching tours around Mansarovar and Surwal Lakes result in plenty of sightings. Visit Amli Deh on the river Banas, renowned for spotting striped hyenas, foxes and jackals.

Conservation

The settlements around the park are mainly agriculturist dependent upon the natural resources of the park. As the villages expand into the park boundaries, raiding by wild animals and livestock kills have increased. The main cause of deterioration is grazing of livestock in the buffer zone as well as in some areas of the core zone. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**. **Support the TOFTigers Village Wildlife Guardian programme through Tigerwatch**.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Safaris can be booked through your lodge, tour operators, or **online**.

Park Timings:
Winter : Morning: 07:00 am to 10:30 am
Evening: 02:15 pm to 05:30 pm
Summer : Morning: 06:00 am to 09:30 am
Evening: 03:00 pm to 06:45 pm
The park is closed to visitors from July to September every year

Getting Around the Park:
Game drives are in either government-registered jeeps or large 20-person safari bus called canters. Private vehicles are not allowed inside.

Entry Fees:
Jeep:
₹ 5,950 for Indian and Foreign Nationals.
Canter:
₹ 2,500 for Indian and Foreign Nationals.

By Air: Jaipur (180 km). Transport can be hired to drive to the park.

By Rail / Road: Sawai Madhopur (10 km). Transport can be hired to drive to the park.

Bharat Goel

The Oberoi
VANYAVILĀS
RANTHAMBHORE, INDIA

The Oberoi Vanyavilas

PUG ECO RATING
OUTSTANDING
TOFTIGERS.ORG

For those who demand the sumptuous home comforts, Oberoi Vanyavilas is just your adobe. Spread over twenty acres of landscaped gardens, it has a number of palatial tents with finely embroidered canopies and private walled gardens, a large waterhole and lounge areas fit for a Maharaja.

Order a sundowner while watching wildlife from the observation tower overlooking the Aravalli Hills and the resort's specially created waterhole where over 75 species of colourful birds can be spotted.

For those interested in the arts, the resort arranges demonstrations by local wildlife painters and traditional local artisans that practice the Moghiya arts and crafts. You can also try your hand at the art of block printing and see demonstrations of traditional patchwork and Kantha embroidery.

In the winter, the main hall of the restaurant is lit by an open wood fireplace, while folk musicians lend ambience to the courtyard.

Activities / Special Features:
There are plenty of attractions around the resort apart from the jungle safaris. The Ranthambhore Fort is a popular attraction. Bird watchers frequent the lake of Surwal as it attracts a lot of winter migratory birds. You can also shop at local NGO centres like Dhonk, Dastakar and Ranthambhore School of Arts in the nearby market.

Accommodation:
25 luxury tents are located in clusters that afford privacy, but also enable families or small groups to stay close to each other. Designed to reflect the majestic caravans that crossed the deserts carrying noblemen during the times of the Raj, the tents are within easy walking distance of the pool, restaurant and spa. The inner canopy is decorated with gold woven tiger print, rugs lie on polished teak floorboards, while the four-poster, canopied bed is the prize of the room.

Food:
Experience a multi-cuisine dining experience, with much of the fresh ingredients coming straight from the resort's kitchen garden. Private dining can be experienced in the restaurant garden, amphitheatre or lush mango grove.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year, but the park itself is only open to the public from 15th October to 30th June.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jaipur (180 km)
Nearest railhead - Sawai Madhopur (4 km), Jaipur (180 km)
Nearest park gate - Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve Gate (5 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. Guests may treat their children to a baking lesson with the resort's patisserie where they will learn simple methods for cooking delicious cookies. Children will also be captivated by talks by the naturalist and horticulturalist who will talk to them about wildlife and gardening.

PRICE BAND $$$$ | SPA | Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.oberoihotels.com
reservations.ranthambhore@oberoihotels.com
+91 7462 223 999, 223 640

Vinod Goel

Khem Villas

Owned by Dr. Goverdhan Singh, son of legendary Park Director, Fateh Singh Rathore and his charming wife, Usha, Khem Villas is a very comfortable and family-run stay in 25 acres of restored farmlands. It is now restored to a verdant garden of native trees, grasslands and water bodies and is home to jackals, jungle cats, hyenas, desert fox and even an odd crocodile or two! This vast natural habitat is also a bird watcher's paradise.

Moreover, guests can detox and unwind at the Age Veda Spa, which provides meditative silence and body therapies. The various room types have been crafted using locally sourced materials and positioned to offer you privacy. Fine, and only vegetarian, dining is enjoyed in the bungalow-style building. Apart from the various daily activities, some visionary conservation and health projects have been set up by Goverdhan.

TOFTigers MEMBERS – LODGES & RESORTS

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jaipur (180km), Agra (276 km)
Nearest railhead -
Sawai Madhopur (12 km), Bundi (131 km), Kota (150 km)
Nearest park gate - Misadhara

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. Nature walks, trips to see a bio-gas plant, dairy and green house visits, and educational tour explaining ecological practices in growing our own food are some of the activities planned for kids.

PRICE BAND $$$ SPA

Further Information and Booking:
www.khemvillas.com
khemvillas@anokhi.com
+91 7462 252347, 252348

Activities / Special Features:
Grab your binoculars and make the best of your game drive in the park or a quiet nature and bird walk with the lodge's expert naturalist. For those seeking history and local culture, visit the fort or walk through the nearby village for some interesting sights. Make sure to try the river safari on the Chambal River and a nature walk through the 80 acres of restored land, which has been turned into a natural jungle over 25 years. Visitors can view herds of black buck, the most magnificent gazelle of the desert landscape, just an hour's drive from Ranthambhore, and get involved in the lodge's conservation projects.

Accommodation:
The lodge offers three types of accommodation – cottages, rooms and traditional Shikar tents. Each cottage includes a spacious bedroom, bathroom with an al fresco shower and courtyard. Made of bamboo and wood, each tent is comfortable, minimalistic and with modern facilities, lending a rustic charm.

Food:
All the food at Khem Villas is vegetarian, but can be adapted to individual tastes. A variety of Indian, Western and Oriental cuisine is available to guests. The lodge also runs an organic farm and dairy that supplies food for the lodge's guests. The lodge also has a well stocked bar you can take advantage of after a long day filled with activities.

RANTHAMBHORE TIGER RESERVE, RAJASTHAN

ALSISAR HOTELS

Nahargarh

PUG ECO RATING QUALITY TOFTIGERS.ORG

With a remarkably bold vision, Gaj Singh has built the unmistakable Nahargarh to resemble a sixteenth century fort complex of the Indo-Islamic era, within which sits a traditional Rajput hunting lodge, complete with a myriad of arches, sumptuous domes, formal Mughal gardens, courtyards and even painted frescos, all nestled with the background of the picturesque Aravalli Hills. It's an extraordinary authentic copy from the 21st century.

Interiors, fittings and furnishings don't disappoint either. Its spacious rooms reflect traditional Rajasthani Rajput design fit for today's travelling maharajahs. The atrium comes alive in the evenings with traditional musical performances as this palace recreates the royal nostalgia of old.

Activities / Special Features:
Jungle safaris; village visits; wildlife film screenings.

Accommodation:
80 authentically designed and spacious rooms all with large en suite bathrooms that lose nothing of their royal ambience.

Food:
A multi-cuisine restaurant serves a buffet comprising a variety of global cuisines and barbeques. The bar serves an assortment of alcoholic drinks.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jaipur (156 km)
Nearest railhead - Sawai Madhopur (7 km)
Nearest park gate - (1.5 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $$$ SPA Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.nahargarh.com
alsisar@alsisar.com
+91 74622 52281

BLOG

TOFTigers funded Village Wildlife Guardian, Ranthambhore.

RANTHAMBHORE TIGER RESERVE, RAJASTHAN

Satpura Tiger Reserve

Madhya Pradesh

After you get on a ferry on the Tawa dam, your gateway to this park, you will encounter rugged hills and steep mountains with sandstone peaks, narrow water filled gorges, deep ravines, dense sal and teak forests, as well as quiet coves and bays on which crocodiles bask and spotted deer drink. This is real explorers' country.

With real vision, Satpura is set up differently to most other Tiger Reserves in India, allowing you a far more immersive nature experience within its bounds including nature walks, trekking (and even overnight camping), canoeing and elephant back safaris that do more than ferry you back and forth on a 'tiger show'. In fact it's deliberately not set up to show you tigers, even though its population is doing better than ever. This is for the keen nature lover who appreciates quality guiding and off the beaten track access to all of nature - big and small.

Satpura is part of India's Central Highlands, getting its name from the Satpura hill ranges and it's within striking distance of the plateau on which the old English Raj town of Pachmarhi, the summer capital of the Central Provinces till 1947 is built. These cool Highlands were being rapidly deforested of precious teak in the 1860s, and support was raised to declare the area a 'reserve', indeed the first in the world to be formally declared a Protected Area. Along with the adjoining Bori and Pachmarhi Sanctuaries, the Satpura Tiger Reserve is a 1,427 square kilometre area of unique Central Indian Highland ecosystem.

Satpura has only one tourism zone where only twelve vehicles are allowed in the morning and evening.

Hashim Tyabji

What you can do inside the park
Choose to go on a nice nature walk one day, game drive further the next morning and canoeing in bays and coves that afternoon, take a bike trail or ride an elephant for a couple of hours the next. Few places offer that kind of choice. Some lodges offer trekking and overnight camping dates that can get you to parts of the park inaccessible to vehicles too. Stop and enjoy the Denwa gorge scenery and if you get a chance, and if you can get permission, ask to see the ancient cave painting in these hills.

What to look out for
Wildlife spotting here is excellent with a real chance of seeing wild dog packs and sloth bear, both uncommon in other parks. There are healthy leopard populations with prey species like sambar, chital, nilgai, and even some pale-coloured gaur. Also look out for foxes, porcupines, flying squirrels at dusk and the colourful Indian Giant squirrel in the trees. Mugger crocodiles bask in the coves of the Tawa Lake. There is a large number of bird species to be found here including water birds like pairs of nesting skimmers and good river and little terns, as well as hornbills and lots of peacocks.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Take a bike and explore the countryside, or enjoy a night safari through the buffer zone, where you could see many of the park's nocturnal creatures including jungle cats, common palm civet, Indian hare, small Indian mongoose and leopards. Arrange these with your lodge. Birding by the lake's shore with a naturalist is fun too, or if you have a full day drive to the old hill town and army cantonment of Pachmarhi for a glimpse of the colonial past. If time is short visit local villages either on bike or by vehicle.

Conservation
Located within the Satpura Tiger Reserve, Pachmarhi is a popular hill station that receives over 65,000 visitors a year putting a lot of stress on the natural resources here. Existing villages that still live within the boundaries of the reserve also make use of the forest resources including wood extraction, grazing and jungle produce. Illegal fishing in the Tawa reservoir is also a major concern. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Safaris can be booked through your lodge or tour operators.

Park Timings:
The Park is open for visitors for c.4.5 hours after sunrise and c.2.5 hours in the afternoon before sunset. Please check park opening times with the gate as they vary slightly between summer and winter months depending on sunrise and sunset.
Madhai and Churna entry points are closed from 16th June to 30th September. Pachmarhi is open all year. Wednesday afternoon the park is closed.

Getting Around the Park:
You can hire a jeep or go on a walking trail inside the core area, but in both cases you need to be accompanied by a registered forest guide. Elephant safaris and kayaking or canoeing are also good options to explore the buffer areas, with night safaris available too.

Entry Fees:
Satpura has several activities with several components to the fees, so it is best to find out the current pricing from your tour operator or lodge depending on the activities you want to try.

By Air: Bhopal (135 km). Transport can be hired to drive to the park.

By Rail / Road: The nearest town is Hoshangabad and the nearest railhead is Piparia (55 km). Transport can be hired to drive to the park.

Forsyth's Lodge

Denwa Backwater Escape

Denwa Backwater Escape is the latest enterprise in an expanding portfolio of Pugdundee's stylish lodges and overlooks the mesmerising backwaters of a dam built on Denwa River. Its glorious location takes in the panoramic views of the surrounding grasslands and the rolling Pachmarhi hills. Built on ten acres of forested land, it lies across the river from the park. A short hop by boat then a jeep or an elephant gets you deeper into the forests.

The lodge has been built using local materials like stone and baked tiles, but the design is contemporary rather than rustic. The interiors of the rooms are done up in style with leather safari furniture using local craftsmanship. The main buildings and the swimming pool use handcrafted furniture made from recycled wood and old railway sleepers, ensuring use of local artisan skills and minimum impact on this stunning landscape.

TOFTigers MEMBERS – LODGES & RESORTS

SATPURA TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

Activities / Special Features:
Activities offered include nature walks; walking and jeep safaris; kayaking; cycling; night safaris; and for the adventurous even camping options in the park. Naturally, the lodge provides trained naturalists to accompany their guests on all these activities.

Accommodation:
Choose one of 8 luxuriant river-view cottages or 2 river-view tree houses, all en suite. The cottages have a large terrace where you can sleep out under a glorious panoply of stars. Staff will arrange for mosquito netting on request. All come with intercom facility, air conditioning and power back up.

Food:
The dining hall overlooks the tranquil Denwa River and serves a variety of Indian, Continental and local cuisines cooked with fresh produce sourced from neighbouring villages.

Opening Times:
Open from 1st October to 30th June.

Location:
Nearest airport -
Bhopal (150 km), Jabalpur (250 km), Nagpur (325 km)
Nearest railhead -
Sohagpur (20 km), Pipariya (40 km), Itarsi (70 km)
Nearest park gate -
Madhai (1 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $$$ Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.denwabackwaterescape.com
enquiry@pugdundeesafaris.com
+91 124 2970 497, +91 124 2570 404

Reni Pani Jungle Lodge

Forsyth's Lodge

PUG ECO RATING OUTSTANDING TOFTIGERS.ORG

Forsyth's Lodge's founders pioneered Satpura's rise to prominence, helping to catalyse its more innovative approach to nature tourism. This stylish lodge set in a once barren tract of 44 acres of farmland is now a restored forest with grassy meadows, alive again with birds and wildlife, reflecting their original passion.

Now under new management the lodge continues to focus on in-depth wildlife and wilderness experiences without losing its local touch. Our highly experienced team of naturalists will captivate you with both enthusiasm and knowledge. Enjoy sun downers on the roof of the communal building, a contemporary rammed-earth structure, with views of the distant Satpura Hills and overlooking the village inspired cottages built out of the same cob materials, ensuring an aesthetic blending with nature and its local environment, without compromising on comfort in any way.

TOFTigers MEMBERS – LODGES & RESORTS

Activities / Special Features:
The lodge arranges for jeep safaris by day and night; elephant or walking safaris escorted by a naturalist; and canoeing steered by a boatman who will point out the treasures of the forests. The lodge arranges a 4-day trip to Pachmarhi. The Forsyth trail is another option, which is a gentle 2-day hike.

Accommodation:
Forsyth's consists of 12 independent en suite cottages built in an arc around the lodge building and a swimming pool, each made to offer unique and private vantage points into the lodge's carefully restored landscape.

Food:
The Forsyth Bar, situated on an elevated platform, gives you great views and serves delectable Indian and Continental meals. You can sample traditional fare at lunchtime cooked by local women in a village kitchen created at the lodge. A candlelit dinner can also be arranged under a mature tree near a roaring campfire.

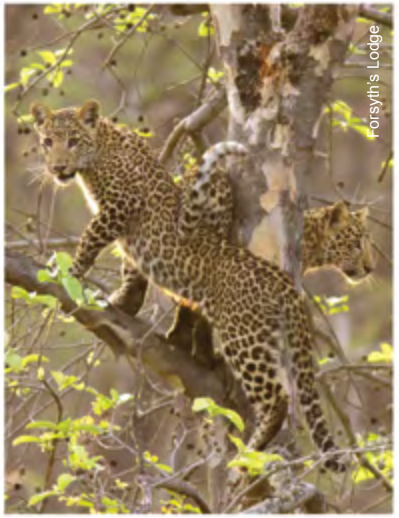
Opening Times:
Closed from 1st July until 15th October.

Location:
Nearest airport - Bhopal (180 km)
Nearest railhead - Pipariya (38 km), Itarsi (62 km)
Nearest park gate - Madai (13 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. A Junior Rangers Course is available for children. Spread over three days with each session lasting 30 minutes, this course introduces them to the basic tools of jungle craft such as ecology, learning how to identify different animal prints and trees, using field guides and making nature notes and sketches.

PRICE BAND $$$ SPA

Further Information and Booking:
www.forsythlodge.com
bookings@forsythlodge.com
+91 85272 90666



SATPURA TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

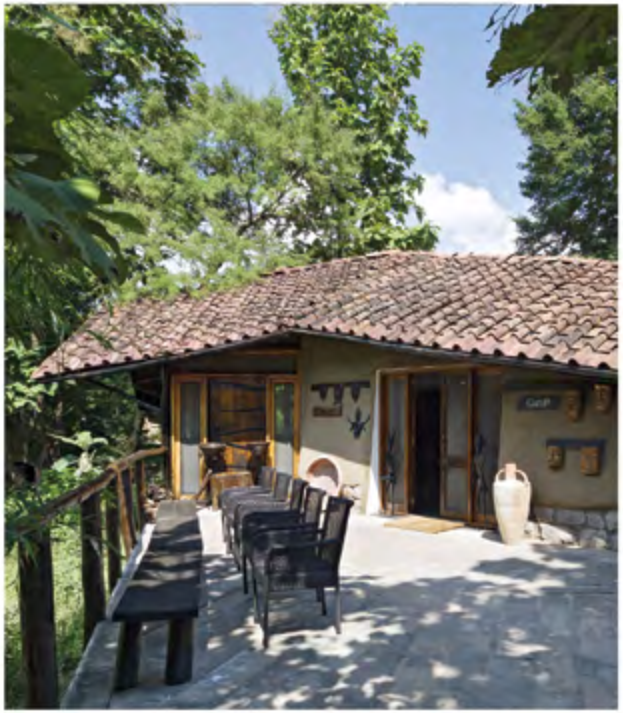
Reni Pani Jungle Lodge

PUG ECO RATING OUTSTANDING TOFTIGERS.ORG

Reni Pani Jungle Lodge is a cleverly designed conservation and wildlife lodge run by a family who are seasoned Bhopali hoteliers. This beautiful lodge is located in pristine forest close to Satpura National Park. The 30-acre grounds feature magnificent trees, a sprawling meadow, a seasonal nullah and water holes attracting chirpy birds and a host of animals to drink.

The lodge's stylish cottages are built using local, indigenous materials and are characterised by viewing decks, large lounging bay windows and modern bathrooms. The central Gol Ghar features a dining area, a bar, a library packed with books and a comfy lounge to relax after your exciting day.

The lodge values the forest it resides within and has made appreciable efforts to restore and maintain it, as well as empowering the local communities through jobs and local purchases of their fresh vegetable and fruit produce.



Activities / Special Features:
You can opt for a multitude of activities ranging from adventure treks and camps to Churna and Pachmarhi, wildlife safari on foot, by jeep, bird watching, nature walks, village walks, boat, canoeing and elephant safaris led by Reni Pani's expert naturalist guides.

Accommodation:
The lodge offers 6 stylish en suite cottages located along the seasonal stream that runs through the lodge, each with a deck; 4 forest cottages located in the woods across the stream featuring a large deck on the roof of the bathroom; 2 hill cottages located on the highest point of Reni Pani's hillock with decks offering a unique canopy view of the forest.

Food:
Fixed home-style meals are provided using locally available organic produce and meats. The lodge can also arrange dinner or tea in a clearing or by a picturesque waterfront for a private meal.

Opening Times:
Closed from 16th June to 1st October.

Location:
Nearest airport - Bhopal (135 km)
Nearest railhead -
Sohagpur (16 km); Pipariya (35 km); Itarsi (60 km)
Nearest park gate - Madhai (10.5 km)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. Children activities revolve around educative and guided wildlife experiences and nature interpretation by the lodge's team of experts.

PRICE BAND $$$$ | SPA | Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.renipanijunglelodge.com
info@renipanijunglelodge.com
+91 99819 97714, +91 9301 999197

Reni Pani Jungle Lodge

Sundarbans Tiger Reserve

West Bengal

The Sundarbans is one of the most unique wildlife destinations you will ever visit. Its ecosystem is a nursery, protector, restorer and engine of many of land, sea and air's most crucial natural processes. For anyone who loves nature, this treasure trove is a 'must see'.

Home to 78 species of mangroves - the highest diversity in the world - these aquatic and often tidal based forests are the only ones where tigers are found. The estuarine crocodile, water monitor lizard, the Gangetic and Irrawaddy dolphins, Olive Ridley turtle and king cobra make their home here too, close to the floating villages that inhabit the vast cluster of low lying estuaries and islands.

The only way to see this place is by boat, either on short outings or longer cruises with an excellent guide. Keep your eyes peeled to see the creatures that inhabit this wet and wondrous world including smooth-coated otters, Irrawaddy dolphins, porpoises and sharks in the waters and crabs, reptiles and mudskippers on the shorelines! However, to spy a tiger is like winning the tombola, even though there are believed to be 90 here - somewhere!

In an age of climate change, this forest is destined to be one of West Bengal's most vital defences against rising sea levels that has the capability to stop the displacement of millions of humans.

Measuring about 10,000 square kilometres and straddling both India and Bangladesh, it is the largest active delta in the world formed by the rivers Meghna, Ganga and Brahmaputra. Known for its unique mangrove forests, parts of the forest are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in recognition of their high biodiversity.

Debal Sen / Sanctuary Photo Library

What you can do inside the park
Boats trips are arranged by your lodge. The Sudhanyakhali forest camp is where visitors have often spotted tigers and a host of others animals. Visit the Mangrove Interpretation Centre at Sajnekhali to learn about the biodiversity found here. It also shows the cultural heritage of the village folk in the region. A watchtower helps you view the scenery - at Dobanki where you can do a canopy walk, at Neti Dhopani in the core area and at Burir Dabri watchtower where you can do a caged mangrove walk near the Bangladesh border.

What to look out for
Sharks and dolphins hunt in these waterways benefitting from the protection afforded to the tiger habitat, as do nearly 50 species of mammals and over 350 species of birds. Mudskippers, crabs and snakes are plentiful. A host of waders such as whimbrels, sandpipers and plovers can be found in the shallows searching for invertebrates and other morsels. These forests are home to many rare and globally threatened wildlife species such as saltwater crocodiles, Bengal tigers, Olive Ridley turtles, river terrapin and king cobra.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Visit a fishing village to understand the harsh realities of life here. Near Sajnekhali is a turtle farm where you see Olive Ridley turtles, their hatchlings and eggs. The Bhagabatpur crocodile breeding farm houses estuarine crocodiles and you can learn more about them there.

Conservation
The Sundarbans are vulnerable to floods, cyclones, rising sea levels and coastline erosion due to its geographical location of lying in the low coastal zone. The forests and their wildlife face increased salinity, higher tidal surges and permanent submergence due to rising sea levels as a result of climate change. Resident tigers here have a notorious reputation of being man-eaters because of the increasing cases of tiger attacks on humans due to the constant contact that the two species come into as they share the same finite space. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Safaris can be booked through your lodge or tour operators.

Park Timings:
The Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, its adjoining Wildlife Sanctuaries and reserve forests are open all year round. However, the best time to visit is between November to February.

Getting Around the Park:
The only way to navigate is by boat. The road journey starts from Kolkata up to Gadkhali from where the tourists are picked up by mechanised boats for moving within the park. These boats are available on a half and full day basis, but a boat permit and a guide is a must.

Entry Fees:
₹ 130 for Indian Nationals
₹ 300 for Foreign Nationals
Entry for Motor Boats: ₹ 7000 per day
Guide charges: ₹ 500, or
exclusive language guide: ₹ 5,000 per day

By Air: Kolkata (100 km). Transportation can be hired to Gadkhali from where ferries are available to the park.

By Road: From Kolkata, one can travel to Gadkhali from where boats ferry visitors up and down to the entrance of the Reserve. An alternative route is also via Canning, 80 km from Kolkata and then via boat to the entrance of Sajnekhali Wildlife Sanctuary.

Aditya Singh
Sanctuary Photo Library

M. V. Paramhamsa

The cruise vessel MV Paramhamsa is designed to journey principally between Kolkata and the mangrove swamps of the Sundarbans to allow you to experience the rich wildlife and birdlife, the winding rivers, steaming islands and many creeks from the comfort of a touring boat.

Its four decks with 30 wood-lined staterooms all have large windows that ensure you never miss the luxuriant natural world and its inhabitants travelling by. Alternatively move to the top deck for better nature viewing, lounging in the sun, or enjoying star gazing. Your schedule includes wildlife safaris by small boats, birding, or visits to farming and fishing communities.

Activities / Special Features:
Folk and cultural dances; film shows focusing in particular on wildlife and nature; shore visits for jungle sightings in smaller vessels; guided jungle cruise; talks by environmentalists and other experts.

Accommodation:
The boat has 18 Deluxe cabins and 12 Family cabins that are all river facing with en suite bathrooms. There are 20 rooms on the main deck and 12 on the first deck. The first deck rooms are larger and have an additional sofa bed.

Food:
Meals include multi-cuisine dishes, with a smattering of local Bengali delicacies, served in a buffet style in the Mangrove restaurant on the first deck.

PRICE BAND $$$$ SPA

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Embarkation point - Vivada Jetty on River Hoogly, Kolkata
Nearest airport - Kolkata
Nearest railhead - Kolkata

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Further Information and Booking:
www.vivadacruises.com
info@vivadacruises.com
+91 33 2463 1990

Sunderban Tiger Camp

Located on Dayapur Island on the banks of the River Pitchkhali opposite the mangrove reserve, this camp is a comfortable resort for exploring the region's fascinating mangrove forests, myriad islands and fascinating wildlife. The island has no electricity and fresh water so the lodge has provided ample quantities through rainwater harvesting and solar energy.

A range of rooms cater to your comfort and budget needs each individually hand painted with pictures of the area's flora and fauna. Visit the camp's private lake for the migratory birds or go for birding walks within its grounds. Keep an eye out for crocodiles, crabs and other marine creatures that call the river their home.

Activities / Special Features:
Dinghy boat rides; excursions; wildlife films; local folk drama - Bon Bibi Jatra; tribal dance; bird watching around the resort; cycling; angling; indoor/outdoor games.

Accommodation:
There are a total of 21 rooms available. Executive cottages, Executive rooms, Deluxe cottages, huts, and tents are the various types of accommodations available - all en suite.

Food:
The restaurant serves up some delicious Bengali, North Indian and Indian Chinese cuisines as a buffet. The lodge's bar will happily rustle up a drink for you to enjoy as well.

PRICE BAND $$ Wi-Fi

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Kolkata (115 km)
Nearest railhead - Kolkata (115 km)
Nearest park gate - Sajnekhali Watch Tower (10 min by boat)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

Further Information and Booking:
www.waxpolhotels.com
kolkata@waxpolhotels.com
+91 33 3293 5749, +91 98308 67600

ECO RESORT & LIFE EXPERIENCE CENTRE
TORA
BALI ISLAND : SUNDARBANS

PUG ECO RATING
QUALITY
TOFTIGERS.ORG

Tora Eco Resort & Life Experience Centre

Tora Eco Resort sits on Bali Island surrounded by paddy fields on the banks of the river Gumdi. The lodge is a unique and authentic community project designed to give travellers a privileged insight into Sundarban's village life including their fishing and farming techniques.

Accommodation is in ethic village cottages made from locally available materials. Dining is Bengali style in a simple thatched-covered dining room that also hosts other activities including a village hall and village plays. Trained villagers will take you around their village, homes and forest or a cruise through the creeks and tell you the story of Sundarbans through their own experiences and stories that have passed down through countless generations.

Activities / Special Features:
Jungle cruise in comfortable mechanised boats within the Tiger Reserve accompanied by park guide; village walks and participation in village activities; mud walk; local folk performances; angling.

Accommodation:
There are 9 mud-plastered thatched cottages in keeping with the local style. Each cottage has a veranda, a simple interior made of brick and en suite bathrooms.

Food:
Meals are home-made Bengali cuisine. Continental cuisine can be arranged with prior notice. They have a small organic garden that supplies the lodge's kitchen.

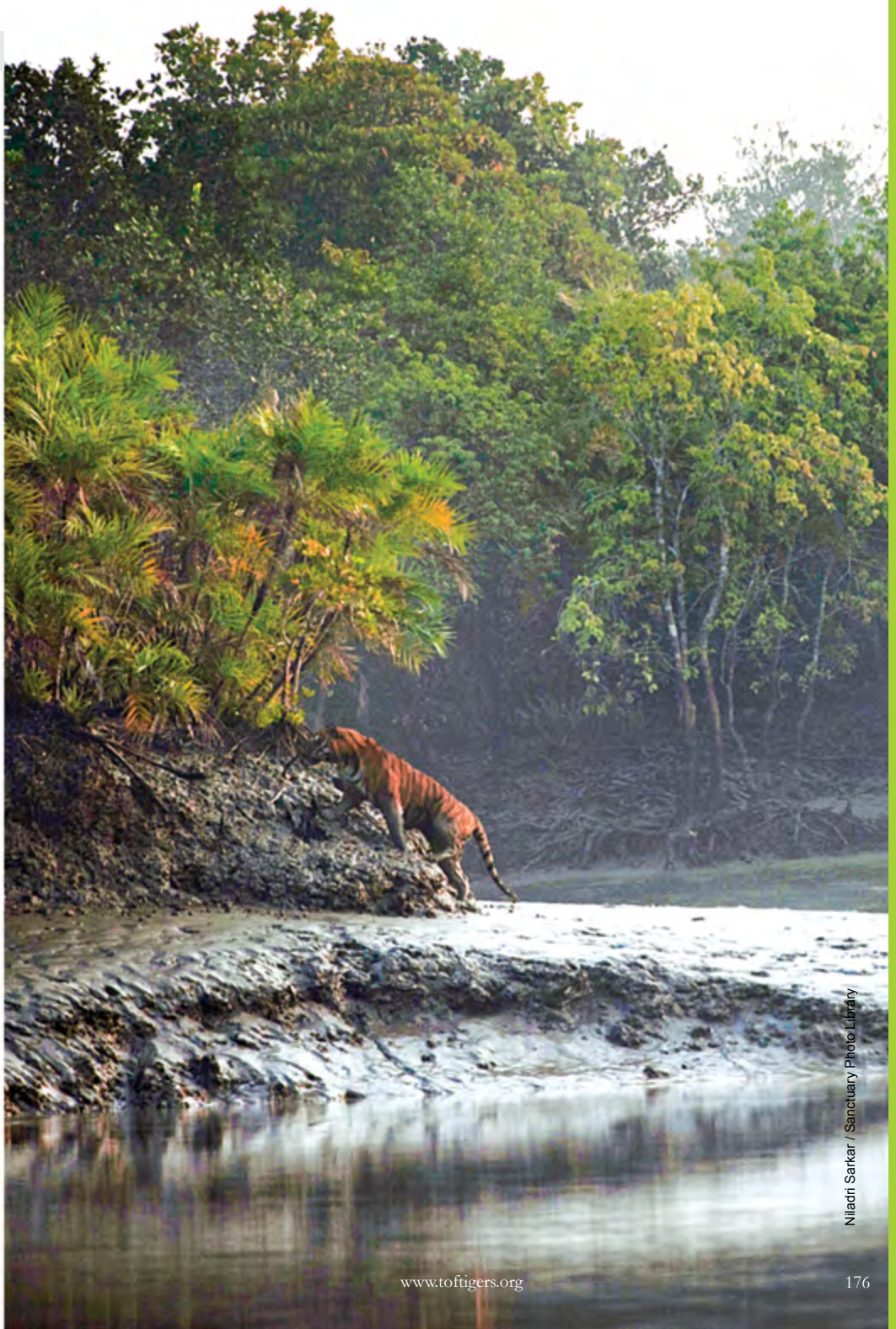
Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Kolkata (100 km)
Nearest railhead - Canning (40 km), Kolkata (100 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND
$$$

Further Information and Booking:
www.toraresort.in
banshakti@gmail.com
+91 99030 55524



Niladri Sarkar / Sanctuary Photo Library

SUNDARBANS TIGER RESERVE, WEST BENGAL

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve

Maharashtra

This classic teak and bamboo paradise epitomises a Central Indian jungle - from the lush green foliage in early monsoons, to the dry and dusty browns and yellows of summer, you can enjoy Tadoba's beauty throughout the year.

Often referred to as The Jewel of Vidharba, Tadoba was overlooked until very recently. Visionary management and better protection now ensures it sits amongst the best parks in India with recognised tigers and their playful cubs residing around picturesque lakes like Tadoba and Telia, and the meadows of Panderpuni, Khatoda and Jamunjhora. Recent village relocation programmes are opening up new areas and new habitats and the greater area now contains over 100 tigers in its 1,854 square kilometres area.

Tadoba is shrouded in the legends of its original inhabitants, the Gonds. Once great hunter-gatherers, they are now principally farmers and herders since the wave of Hindu settlers opened up these dark forests in the 18th and 19th centuries. Evidence of their tribal kingdoms can still be seen in the fortress of Chanda today. The name Tadoba is derived from the legend of a Gond called Taru who was killed by a tiger.

There are three tourism zones that can be accessed via one of four gates around the park - Khutwanda, Kolara, Navegaon and Mohurli.

Bharat Goel

What you can do inside the park
Game drives are largely along the more accessible and open Western side. In the Tadoba range, make sure to stop at Katezari, which is an evergreen valley, drive around Tadoba Lake and Pandharpauni meadows that have two waterholes where animals make frequent visits. In the Mohurli range, visit the Telia Lake, which is a good place to spot migratory birds and Andhari Nala is excellent for gaur sightings.

What to look out for
Apart from tigers and leopards, look for the rusty-spotted cat, sloth bear, ratel, gaur, four-horned antelope, Indian mouse deer and Indian pangolin. Over 200 bird species like paradise flycatchers, noisy coppersmith, brown-headed barbets, Indian pittas and shrikes along with 75 different types of butterflies have been spotted here. Monsoon brings out a whole raft of reptiles, snakes and animals active during the rains providing avid naturalists with new opportunities to study the small – not just the large.

Fun things to see and do outside the park
Camping facilities are available at Mohorli and Kolsa on prior booking. The nearby Bhadravati town attracts tourists for its ancient Bhadravati and Jain temples that have beautiful sculptures. There are walking nature trails and machaan lookout spots in Khutwanda; boat and canoe trips on the picturesque Irai Lake; and birding routes around lodges.

Conservation
Tadoba sits on some of India's richest coalfields. On the road to Chandrapur, huge open cast mining operations continue and together with an expanding town have cut off migratory corridors through Brahmapuri and Nagzira forests. These corridors are absolutely vital for Tadoba's far-roaming tigers that would otherwise crowd the fringes and increase chances of man-animal conflicts. Illegal poaching, wood chopping and overgrazing are a problem, but an eco-sensitive planning zone has stopped the advent of mass tourism. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:
Safaris can be booked through your lodge or tour operators. You can also book them online: http://mahaecotourism.gov.in/Site/Common/nationalParks.aspx

Park Timings:
Winter : Morning: 06:30 am to 11:00 am
: Evening: 02:00 pm to 06:00 pm
Summer : Morning: 05:30 am to 10:00 am
: Evening: 03:30 pm to 07:00 pm
The Park is now open all year round.

Getting Around the Park:
Game viewing is done in jeeps that can be hired from Khutwanda, Kolara and Mohurli Gates or booked by your lodge. Prices start from ₹ 2,500. Canters are available from Mohurli having a capacity of 20 people and have to be booked directly on arrival at the gate. Safari departures take place at 6:30 am and 3:30 pm.
Tadoba also offers walking safaris, silent electric-operated Pontoon boats and sit-ups on photographic hides.

Entry Fee Per Vehicle:
Weekdays: ₹ 750 for cars and jeeps,
₹ 1,500 for mini buses
Weekends and Holidays: ₹ 1,000 for cars and jeeps | ₹ 2,000 for mini buses
Guide Fees: ₹ 300

By Air:
Nagpur (140 -250 km depending on the gate).

By Rail / Road: Nagpur (140 km). The nearest railway station is Chandrapur (45 km), Warora (42 km) and Chimur (32 km) is the nearest town. Local transport can be hired to reach the reserve from Chandrapur and Chimur.

Bharat Goel

TigerTrails Jungle Lodge

TigerTrails is a converted family home of the Dhanwatays, fashioned into a simple forest lodge and set in 20 acres of rejuvenated forest and a plethora of well-visited waterholes. This little private wildlife haven borders the park making it ideal for the early rising wildlife traveller and photographer passionate about getting close to nature.

It is not unusual to have tigers in the property, with visits from wild dog packs, sloth bear and many of park's prey species - the numerous tracks can be read around the waterholes or watched on close circuit TV while dining in the open hall or around the campfire at night.

A visit here is not for the faint-hearted, with the myriad sounds of the jungle seemingly so close by; it is as close to being inside a park as it is possible today.

Activities / Special Features:
Activities include games drives, birding and walking safaris with professional wilderness guides, bike tours and boat and canoe trips on the Irai Lake. A walking trail takes in the conservancy itself and the myriad streams pouring from the reserve itself. Guests can visit the local Gond village to observe tribal culture and heritage by foot or by bike.

Accommodation:
There are 10 rooms on offer. Simplicity is the theme in the bedrooms and bathrooms, rustic yet comfortable without frills. All rooms have air-conditioning and power back up to recharge hard working cameras!

Food:
The food is simple home cooked Indian cuisine, using freshly procured vegetables. Barbeques around the campfire are arranged in the lodge courtyard, where the neighbouring Gond Adiwasis can entertain with folk dances and music.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year, but the park itself is closed for safaris every Tuesdays.

Location:
Nearest airport - Nagpur (140 km)
Nearest railhead - Chandrapur (50 km), Nagpur (140 km)
Nearest park gate - Khutwanda (200 m)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $$ Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.tigertrails.in
www.tigertrailstadoba.com
info@tigertrails.in
+91 712 6541 327

Irai Safari Retreat

Located beside the village of Bhamdeli, this comfortable lodge is spread across 14 acres of naturally restored landscape overlooking the glistening waters of the Irai Lake that borders this tiger park.

Combining traditional architectural style, its eight large cottages provide comfortable yet contemporary living, with double storey sit out terraces to unwind at sundown. Eight Safari Serengeti tented rooms with attached *machaan* lounges are also on offer to get you closer to nature.

In house naturalists are on hand to open up the world of Tadoba's natural riches around the lodge. Take them along for a birdwatching walk or for a safari in the park. Unwind with bicycles, table tennis, a swimming pool and an airy restaurant and lounge area.

Activities / Special Features:
Bird watching expeditions, bullock cart rides, nature trails, cycling around the lodge and interactions with partner NGOs are part of their activity schedules for guests. Excursion trips to the nearby village can be organised on request.

Accommodation:
There are 8 en suite cottages with a veranda on the ground floor and a sit-out terrace on the top. The Serengeti safari tents are comfortably furnished and have a canvas covered veranda. All tents are en suite with a view of the Irai lake and the jungles beyond.

Food:
A wide range of foods are served in buffet style in its airy restaurant and chefs can also indulge your special requests or local delicacies as desired. Alternatively arrange to have your meal in your cottage, in the machaan or overlooking the lake on request.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Nagpur (120 km)
Nearest railhead - Chandrapur (25 km)
Nearest park gate - Mohurli (1.5 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND $$ Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.iraisafariretreat.com
reservations@iraisafariretreat.com
+91 93726 35294

Svasara Jungle Lodge

Set over ten acres of land near the Kolara tribal hamlet, Svasara is a Sanskrit word meaning nest, which is exactly what the lodge aims to offer - a place of security and belonging that exists in harmony with its natural surroundings. Comfortable modern and colourfully decorated rooms reflect this approach too.

The property is today an ideal spot for birding and walking safaris in the region offering many sightings of the forest's denizens and bird species, helped by its own tree nursery. The lodge's Teakhouse is a pavilion made of recycled wood and other natural materials that houses an outdoor dining area, an open-air cinema, conservation centre and an outdoor barbeque pit.

Activities / Special Features:
Safari; nature shop; wildlife library; walking trails; The Teakhouse for open-air cinema; waterhole; indigenous trees' nursery; organic farm; pool and spa; cultural day tours; butterfly park; village tours.

Accommodation:
The 12 air-conditioned suites celebrate local art and include a private veranda and en suite bathrooms.

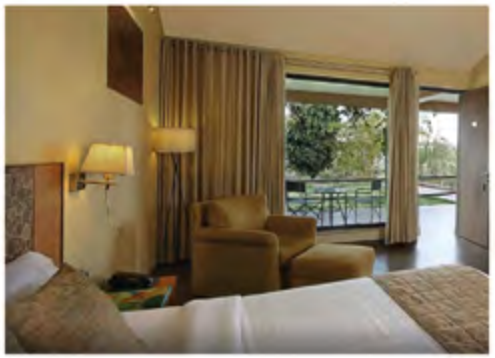
Food:
Food at Svasara includes a wide selection of Indian, Continental, and local Varadi cuisine with ingredients freshly sourced from their organic vegetable garden.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Nagpur (100 km)
Nearest railhead -
Warora (51 km), Chandrapur (90 km), Nagpur (100 km)
Nearest park gate - Kolara (300 m)

Children's Policy:
As the lodge is located on the periphery of the jungle and in a remote location, parents are requested to keep a close watch on their children. It is advisable not to take very young kids for risk of insect bites, dust etc.

PRICE BAND $$ Wi-Fi SPA



Further Information and Booking:
www.svasararesorts.com
info@svasararesorts.com
+91 93 7000 8008

Valparai Forest

Tamil Nadu

As you drive and navigate the 40 hairpin bends from Azhiyar to Valparai, you can feel the gathering freshness in the air. Roll down your vehicle's windows and breathe it in as you enjoy this panoramic drive through the plantations to the hill station of Valparai.

Valparai is a mid-elevation hill station located 3,500 feet above sea level on the Anamalai Hills range of the Western Ghats. The name Anamalai translates to Elephant Hill after the elephants that still roam in large herds in the Protected Areas that dot the region.

According to some of the earliest records found on the region, in 1846 a man named Ramasamy Mudaliyar started a coffee plantation here. Then in 1890, Britishers Wintil and Nordan bought land from the Madras State Government and planted tea and coffee. Carwer Marsh who had experience in tea and coffee farming assisted them in their endeavour. Carwer Marsh interacted and built a close relationship with the local people and was later known as The Father of Anamalai. His statue was erected on the Kavarkal Estate to honour his devotion to the people of the region.

Valparai remains pleasant throughout the year with an average temperature of 30 degrees Celsius in the day but can go as low as 18 degrees in the winter months of December through March. June until August is the monsoon season when the hills are covered in all shades of green. The summer months of March through May could get hot with temperatures going up to 36 degrees in the daytime, but surrounded by lush forests, the cool breeze helps to cool you down.

Harishvara Venkat

Fun things to see and do
Private tea companies own large parts of the land in the region and a visit to one of the estates is sure to refresh any tea enthusiast. There are many interesting places to visit in Valparai. Sholayar dam, one of the largest reservoirs in South India is close by. Monkey Falls, Athirapally waterfalls, Koolangal River and Aaliyar and Nirar dams are other scenic water bodies in its vicinity. The Amaravathy reservoir has many crocodiles that can be seen basking on the banks. The Balaji Temple and Karamalai Annai Velankanni Church attract many pilgrims as well.

What to look out for
For nature and wildlife enthusiasts, the nearby Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, Eravikulam National Park and Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary provide hours of wildlife viewing pleasure. Besides being a rich elephant tract, the area is also home to numerous leopards. Keep your eyes open for the beautiful golden and black lion-tailed macaques, gaur, sambar, the great whoosh of a great hornbill and giant squirrels. Valparai is also the habitat of the Nilgiri tahr, an endemic wild goat. These mountain goats can be found in the higher altitudes in the range of 1,200 to 2,600 metres above sea level in the southern Western Ghats. Watch these adept climbers navigate steep slopes with ease.

Conservation
There have been many developments in the region in the past few years that have blocked the elephant's migratory corridors. Besides this, the ever-growing tea plantations have also reduced the large mammal's territories. Efforts are being made to identify and develop corridors to reduce any man-animal conflict. Many plantation owners have also lent their support to the cause. Your visit is crucial to support the local economy, but please also report abuse or poor practice at **admin@toftindia.org**.

PARK INFORMATION

More information can be found on the region at www.forests.tn.nic.in/wildbiodiversity/ws_igws.html

Getting Around:
It is best to hire a vehicle to take you around the region. Your lodge or tour operator would be able to arrange this for you.

By Air:
Coimbatore (105 km). Transport can be hired to drive to Valparai. Alternatively, Cochin via Athirapally waterfalls is 140 km by road.

By Road:
From Coimbatore to Valparai is 105 km. Transport can be hired to drive to Valparai.

Harishvara Venkat

briar TEA BUNGALOWS
Come, Time Travel

Stanmore Garden Bungalow

PUG ECO RATING QUALITY TOFTIGERS.ORG

Located on a hillock in the picturesque Anamalai Hills, this old British Tea Estate Bungalow offers panoramic views of the surrounding hills and tea plantations that surround its two acres. Part of a 12,000 acre tea estate, the homestead reflects the Colonial tea planters style, with Burmese teak floors and old Victorian furniture.

Choose to stay in wooden chalets, duplex chalets in the grounds or three old bedrooms in the bungalow, each with views of the immaculate tea plantations.

Take a guided nature walk along the Koolangal and Injipara Rivers with an in-house naturalist who would point out the many birds and small animals residing here in the Western Ghats.

Activities / Special Features:
Guided nature walks; bird watching; cycling; village visits; plantation visits.

Accommodation:
Stay in the bungalow with large living space comprising 3 spacious bedrooms. Furthermore there are 5 single bedroom wooden chalets and 2 wooden suites with an additional upper floor and balconies.

Food:
Meals are always full course and often made using local recipes and ingredients. Their vegetable garden provides guests with a fresh supply of produce.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Coimbatore (113 km)
Nearest railhead - Coimbatore (105 km)

Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. There is a play area for kids as well.

PRICE BAND $$$ Wi-Fi

Further Information and Booking:
www.teabungalows.com
reservations@teil.in
+91 94422 02001, +91 94422 02002

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Each company has agreed to work towards best practice in their operations and to use their purchasing power to make the right choices to ensure clients enjoy both a superb experience, but also help contribute to the welfare of communities within each destination and the wildlife on which it is dependent.

Vaibhav Mehta

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E: ravi@activeindiaholidays.com
www.activeindiaholidays.com

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Vinod Goel

Aryavrit Travels Pvt. Ltd.

Aryavrit Travels is a certified travel agency, which provides tour packages, multilingual guides, hotel booking, and car rental services in all major cities of India, Nepal and Bhutan. With an experience of 20 years in the tourism sector in India, our founder and director has a dedicated team of people to offer high quality services. We also offer a full range of services ranging from assistance at airports to booking hotel rooms, and specialised services such as organising seminars and gala dinners with entertainment.

105 B, Paradise, C - 61 A, Sarojini Marg,
C - Scheme, Jaipur - 302001, Rajasthan, India
T: +91 141 4030 081
E: info@aryavrittravels.net
www.aryavrittravels.net

Banyan Tours and Travels

With seven offices across India, we have a presence in the main tourist regions. Our trained staff attend to the smallest travel requirements of clients. This includes being up-to-date with the latest changes in nature reserves and parks. Be it culture, adventure, or wildlife tourism, we aim to deliver a personalised, enjoyable and memorable holiday. Banyan mostly uses TOFTigers PUG certified lodges and is exploring ways to keep tours carbon friendly. We are also working on eco-sensitive wilderness programmes.

903-904, Vatika City Point, Sector 25,
MG Road, Gurgaon - 122002, India
T: +91 124 4563 800
E: info@banyantours.com
www.banyantours.com

Castle & King India Inc.

We are a family owned tour operator with over ten years' experience organising in-bound tours in India from luxury holidays enabling you to experience one of the world's great civilizations to wildlife extravaganzas. Our team of experienced and energetic professionals in Delhi and network of field agents across India offer you the best service at competitive prices. We use services and hotels that share our commitment to encouraging the preservation of wildlife and habitats, and improving the well being of local people.

Suite T-305, Sector 5, Plot no. 7, Arjun Plaza,
Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078, India
T: +91 11 4557 2470
E: castleandking@vsnl.net
www.castleandking.com

Cholan Tours Pvt. Ltd.

We established ourselves in the tourism industry by leading small groups on tours of spiritual and holistic journeys in India for several years and have expanded our focus to leisure travel. We are specialists in offering tailor-made tour packages covering art and culture, beaches, backwater, wildlife and Ayurveda. We try to minimise our impact on the environment wherever possible, starting with our offices that use solar power and are paper-free.

No.4, Annai Avenue, Kollidakkarai, Vasanth
Nagar Ex. Srirangam, Trichy, Tamil Nadu - 620006
T: +91 431 4226100, +91 431 4226102
E: pandian@cholantours.com
www.cholantours.com

Citius Travel Solutions

Citius Travel Solutions believes in an individual relationship and the human touch when dealing with clients. Based at Kolkata with regional offices in Mumbai and Delhi, we offer a variety of wildlife safaris in the National Parks of Gir, Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Ranthambore, Sunderbans, Kaziranga and Manas. We also have wide expertise in tours that encompass Heritage History of India, Adventure Tourism in the Himalayan range and Beach Holidays. Citius Travel Solutions is committed to conservation, education and promotion of India's wildlife causes.

125, Rash Behari Avenue, Anupama Apartments,
2nd Floor, Kolkata - 700094, India
T: +91 33 4001 5057
E: amitra@citiusinfo.com
www.citius.in

Classic Holidays India Pvt. Ltd.

For more than eight years, Vacation India, a wholly owned division of Classic Holidays (India) Pvt. Ltd. has developed personalised comprehensive, exciting and safe travel itineraries for visitors to India. We believe in grassroots travel and network with local communities, individuals and businesses so that local economies gain through tourism. We urge our guests to bring rechargeable batteries and plug adapters, minimise the use of plastic and use biodegradable detergents and soaps as far as possible.

130, First Floor, Parsvnath Panchvati, Taj Nagari
Phase 2, Agra, Uttar Pradesh - 282001, India
T: +91 9927465808, 1-844-202-1239 (USA/CA)
E: info@vacationindia.com
www.vacationindia.com

Cox & Kings Limited

Cox & Kings Inbound division is a leading DMC in South Asia that handles group holidays, FIT, incentives, charters, off-board cruise operations, exhibitions and trade fairs. Meticulous planning, emphasis on safety, efficient staff and cutting edge technology enables us to deliver best in class quality services to the incoming clientele. Headquartered in India, the company is the leading holidays and education travel group with operations in 22 countries across continents. Innovate packaging, pricing and marketing have been the hallmarks of its success over the years.

Kamal Cinema Complex, Block A & B, Safdarjung
Development Area, New Delhi-110029, India
T: +91 11 2676 7900, +91 11 2676 8811
E: inbound@coxandkings.com
www.coxandkingsinbound.com

Dravidian Trails Holidays Pvt. Ltd.

Dravidian Trails aims to open up the culture, tradition and beauty of South India more comprehensively to travellers. We offer specialist trails across Southern states from wellness, wildlife and spiritual holidays, to trips to backwaters, coffee plantations and islands, as well as heritage and performing arts tours. The company shares a concern for the environment and respect for local culture. We recognise conservation as an important task and have joined organisations such as TOFTigers and offer the best support we can.

First Floor, Mynakam Arcade, Sreekandath Road,
Ravipuram, Cochin, Kerala - 682016
T: +91 484 4060601
E: swami@dravidiantrails.in
www.dravidiantrails.in

Discovery Journeys India Pvt. Ltd.

Discovery Journeys has been organising active nature holidays for 22 years. We offer professionally guided authentic tours for the discerning traveller. Drawing on long experience, we access rare and world-famous wildlife sites across India. Be it safari, trekking, sacred or cultural understanding that is sought, our team of expert naturalists provide insights and expertise that ensure our clients cherish their experience of original India. We operate a local eco-awareness engagement policy and meet tight environmental tests on our vehicles and locations.

88 Chapri House, Sector-23, HUDA,
Gurgaon, Haryana - 122017, India
T: +91 124 407 3072
E: info@discoveryjourneysindia.com
www.discoveryjourneysindia.com

Bharat Goel

DMC Tours Pvt. Ltd. T/a Destination Management Consultants

DMC is an energetic and experienced group of avid tourism professionals who have served in the tourism industry for years. We have experimented successfully with new prospects and possibilities of experiencing the Indian wildlife and creating unforgettable memories enabling us to stand out as a highly qualified and professional wildlife adventure team. We listen, understand and create incredible, magical and memorable travel experiences. We are dedicated to wildlife tours in India and the subcontinent and follow responsible and eco-friendly tourism practices.

T - 1, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase - 2,
New Delhi - 110020, India
T: +91 11 46110500
E: adventure@thedmc.co.in
www.thedmc.co.in

Dynamic Tours Pvt. Ltd.

Since 1983, we have been planning and developing 'tailored holidays' across the subcontinent. Staffed by dedicated travel professionals and wildlife enthusiasts, we organise competitively priced cultural and wildlife experiences around India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. We pride ourselves in bringing personal care and attention to every tour in order to reveal the heart and spirit of India. We are a committed TOFTigers member and participate in nature conservation activities and actively support the Tiger Trust.

206 Rakeshdeep, 11 Commercial Complex,
Gulmohar Enclave, New Delhi - 110049, India
T: +91 11 2651 6770, +91 11 2685 3760
E: dynamictours@tigersindia.com
www.adventure-india.com

Eastbound Group

We are a full service destination management company with a long record in sustainable tourism. We arrange culture tours, wildlife and wilderness safaris and spiritual journeys. Constantly looking out for new destinations, we often offer uncharted areas of India for clients to explore. Our experienced English speaking personnel take care of details and help create trips to remember. Our support for wildlife conservation is delivered through our TOFTigers membership. We condone their efforts to effect sustainable nature tourism within India.

898 Udyog Vihar, Phase I,
Gurgaon - 122016, India
T: +91 124 421 7830 | F: + 91 124 421 7849
E: info@eastboundgroup.com
www.eastboundgroup.com

Eastern Risen Expedition Pvt. Ltd.

Headquartered in the beautiful state of Orissa, ERE has offices all over India so that it can connect travellers with this beautiful country. Our team of guides is well versed in all the important aspects of travel and can take care of nearly every detail. Our portfolio includes package tours in the North East, Odisha, Gujarat, and Central India. As a signatory to the Pledge to Sustainable Tourism, we always strive to minimise our environmental impact.

Plot No. 1267 / 2376, Gr. Floor, Canal Road,
Bomikhal (Gobind Prasad),
Bhubaneswar - 751006, India
T: +91 674 2578275, +91 9777 564695
E: bijan@easternrisen.com
www.easternrisen.com

East India Travel Co.

East India Travel Co. operates in Northeastern India and Bhutan but we also provide assistance with arrivals and departures and organise sightseeing in all the entry and exit Indian cities. Wildlife, indigenous culture, nature, trekking, and river cruises are some of the activities we offer. Experiential travel is what we do best, that benefits the local communities as well. We are committed to making our staff, supply chain and stakeholders aware of the importance of conservation and responsible tourism.

Umala, Sundarpur Bye Lane No. 1, R. G. Barua
Road, Guwahati, Assam - 781005, India
T: +91 361 2330 466, +91 98647 32022
E: tours@eastindiatravel.in
www.eastindiatravel.in

Bharat Goel

Enchanting Travels Pvt. Ltd.

Enchanting Travels was established in 2004 with one sole purpose - to redefine authentic, tailor-made travel experiences to 32 of the most exotic destinations around the world. Guests can embark upon exclusive, private safaris in India's best-known forest reserves, crafted by a multi-cultural team who share your passion for tigers and wildlife. Protection and preservation of natural resources is an operational prerogative for us, which guides our choices of partners in India and throughout the world.

660/1, Akshaya, 2nd Floor, 100 Ft. Road,
Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560038, Karnataka
T: +91 804048 7777
E: contact@enchantingtravels.com
www.enchantingtravels.com

Enriching Journeys Pvt. Ltd.

A young destination management company in the luxury and experiential travel domain, Enriching Journeys operates across India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal. We provide a range of services from personalised meet-and-greet to final departure at the airport, taking care of all the details in between. We have a deep-rooted connection with the tribes of eastern India and encourage local participation while celebrating indigenous rituals and customs. Enriching Journeys does not promote visits to zoos or the use of animals for pleasure.

323, Vardhman Crown Plaza, Sector-19,
Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075, India
T: +91 11 2804 3153
E: swarnendu@enrichingjourneys.com
www.enrichingjourneys.com

ETERNAL JOURNEYS

Eternal Journeys Pvt. Ltd.

Eternal Journeys Pvt. Ltd. is a premier tour operating company that helps travellers discover the Indian subcontinent in an experiential way. We offer bespoke and special interest holidays across the Himalayas, Thar Desert, Ganges River and wildlife parks; special interest tours; heritage train tours; river cruises and more. We are helping to address the greater challenges of tourism like carbon footprint and impact on local society and culture through our own unique initiatives, while also focusing on women empowerment.

No. 8, 3rd Floor, Mahaluxmi Square, C-1,
Abhay Khand-2, Indirapuram, District Ghaziabad,
U.P. - 201010, India
T: + 91-120-4121692, +91 8800700112 / 113
E: office@eternaljourneys.in
www.eternaljourneys.in

Exclusive India Journeys

At Exclusive India Journeys, the focus is on you, ensuring that your vacation is designed around you and your desires! We provide travellers with local knowledge and the experience of the real India that flows in its food, culture, history and people. Whether you prefer luxury or standard travel, our reliable network throughout India results in hassle-free travel for you. We support organisations working towards the preservation of the environment. Our wildlife tours aim to create awareness of nature among our clients.

301, Vaishali Tower - 1, Nursery Circle,
Vaishali Nagar, Jaipur - 302021, Rajasthan, India
T: +91 141 5100 931, + 91 98290 34279
E: exclind@airtelmail.in
www.exclusiveindiajourneys.in

Greaves Travel

Greaves Travel is one of the leading specialists of bespoke private tours to India, with worldwide offices in the UK, USA, Canada and India. Operating for over thirty years, Greaves was voted winner of Specialist Tour Operator, Conde Nast Traveller Readers' Travel Awards 2012 – for its first-hand knowledge of the Indian subcontinent. Greaves Travel is a founding member of TOFTigers. We actively work to promote and deliver responsible and sustainable tourism to India.

4- B, Jangpura- B, Mathura Road,
New Delhi - 110014, India
T: +91 11 4323 7000
E: sales@greavesindia.com
www.greavesindia.com

Help Tourism Pvt. Ltd.

A pioneer of responsible tourism in East and Northeast India, Help Tourism has been offering wildlife expeditions and more since 1991. We also run award-winning jungle camps in Sundarbans and Pakke Tiger Reserve and Neora Valley National Park. We link Protected Areas with the local people's livelihoods through responsible tourism, giving them ownership of their natural treasures. To date, we have been associated with 30 conservation and community-based tourism projects in the region and have partnered with more than 100 community groups.

67A, Kali Temple Road, Sadananda Kuthi
(1st Floor), Kolkata - 700 026, India
T: +91-33-24550917, 24549682, 24549719
E: asit.helptourism@gmail.com;
info@helptourism.com
www.helptourism.com
www.helptourism.net

INDIAN TRAVEL COMPANIES & GROUND AGENTS

Holiday Charme India Pvt. Ltd.

An inbound travel company, Holiday Charme offers specialised wildlife tours to Ranthambhore, Corbett, Kanha, Bandhavgarh and Panna Tiger Reserve, and Chambal and Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary. In addition, multilingual guides, hotel bookings and car rentals. Our visitors are given a taste of real India – its cultures, foods, festivals and traditions. We believe in working closely with the local people, so they benefit from jobs and ways to preserve their culture, environments and heritage, while our guests enjoy a more authentic experience.

28/10, Ground Floor, West Patel Nagar,
New Delhi – 110008, India
T: +91 999 990 9615
E: holidaycharmeindia@gmail.com
www.bestravel.solutions

i4u Travel Services

Based in Madhya Pradesh, i4u is committed to offer guests professional services and unbiased travel advice. We design itineraries for visits to Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Panna, Pench, and Satpura National Parks, and other destinations while providing logistical support with accommodations, transfers and more. Our guests stay at premium resorts and hotels rated 3 stars and above. Moreover, we are associated with organisations that are dedicated to improving the value, quality, and effectiveness of tourism and travel research.

106, Rajul Landmark, Russel Chowk,
Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India
T: +91 94251 57188, +91 761 2450 488
E: contact@i4utravels.com
www.i4utravels.com

Ideal Jungle Safaris

Experience India's wealth of wildlife with Ideal Jungle Safaris. We are dedicated wildlife travel specialists who offer a tailor-made service spanning India's National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. We also provide a range of competitively priced packages to Tadoba, Nagzira, Kanha, Pench, Bandhavgarh, Bor Wildlife Sanctuary and many more forests – all within five hours drive of Nagpur. We guide our guests about good practice when visiting forests and aim to build awareness of the importance of preserving wildlife and forests.

SS 4, Golden Palace, WHC Road,
Near Sudama Theatre, Dharampeth,
Nagpur - 440010, Maharashtra, India
T: +91 712 6620 107, +91 98813 80050
E: idealjunglesafaris@gmail.com
www.idealjunglesafaris.com

IDMS Tours Pvt. Ltd.

IDMS Tours is committed to enhancing your travel experience, be it business, leisure, or both - we have the experience and ingredients to make your holiday experience, from concept to conclusion, a seamless one. We provide tour packages with top rated, comfort and economy hotels, expert tour managers, and local guides. We believe we should value and protect nature's diversity in the wild. We are proud to be part of TOFTigers supporting the conservation of tigers, wildlife and wilderness through sustainable tourism.

482, 1st Floor, DDA Flats, Lado Sarai,
New Delhi - 110030, India
T: +91 11 2952 1080
E: pramod@idmstours.co.in
www.idmstours.co.in

Incent Tours

Founded in 1982, Incent Tours is an independent and original travel company that organises private travel and creates fascinating journeys, for small groups, families, couples and individual travellers in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. As a part of our efforts to ensure that we are responsible in our practices and to reduce the carbon footprint created by our guests, we ensure that a part of the proceeds of clients engaging in wildlife activities goes towards wildlife conservation organisations.

29, Panchsheel Community Centre,
Panchsheel Park, New Delhi 110017, India
T: +91 11 4085 0000
E: info@incent-tours.com
www.incent-tours.com

Incredible India Tours

Set up by non-nationals in 2006, who now call India 'home', Incredible India Tours cover India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Burma. We take only very small groups of four to ten to ensure that they visit the must-sees, as well as, the hidden treasures of India for a truly immersive, memorable experience. We ensure that our trips create as low an environmental impact as possible, by liaising with responsible local accommodation providers, safari operators, transport suppliers, shops and restaurants.

21 Bhattwadi, Ambamata, Udaipur,
Rajasthan - 313001, India
T: +91 95490 02876
E: info@incredibleindiatours.com
www.incredibleindiatours.com

Indian Nature Tourism

We are a small owner-operated travel company based in Goa, India, specialising in birding, wildlife and photographic travel in India and the wider subcontinent. We provide a personalised service and knowledge of India's natural ecology that only a local company can offer. We operate responsibly towards the long-term future of India's natural heritage by minimising the impact of our operations. In addition, we support charities and projects working to conserve habitats and biodiversity that help conserve birds and wildlife.

A - 203, Chowgule Meadows, Paithona,
Salvador - Do - Mundo, P. O. Betim, Bardez,
Goa - 403101, India
T: +91 98504 69472
E: indianature@live.in
www.indianaturetours.com

Indian Wildlife Experiences

Indian Wildlife Experiences (IWX) is a wildlife destination management venture of SDU Travels Pvt. Ltd., that seamlessly consolidates the most elevated models of ecological knowledge and contemporary tourism exercises. Our belief in creating awareness about sustainability in nature, stems from the fact that we understand and value the crucial link between wildlife and the environment. In addition to the customary Wildlife Tours, with language specialists, IWX also offers a plethora of services in related fields such as Botanical Tours; Photography Tours; Herpetology Tours.

28-31, GF, D4, District Centre, Saket,
New Delhi - 110017, India
T: +91 11 4979 9700, +91 7838 388 090
E: info@iwx.co.in
www.iwxindia.com

Indian Excursions Co.

Indian Excursions create truly tailor-made tours of India, specialising in high-end Rajasthan. Known for their fine attention to detail, co-founders Shiv and Madeleine are an experienced and passionate team who're praised for their personal approach and outstanding service. Ranthambhore National Park is where it all started for them, and the reserve remains close to their hearts today: here, they have all the right experience, knowledge and local contacts to create amazing safari experiences.

212-213 Vardhman Crown Mall,
Sector 19 - Dwarka, New Delhi 110075, India
T: +91 11 2804 3257, +91 9711 300 340
E: info@indianexcursions.in
www.rajasthantourpackage.co

Indo Asia Leisure Services Ltd.

Indo Asia Tours was founded in 1987 by a dedicated group of professionals, and since then we have experienced steady growth and presently handle tourists from 35 countries. We believe in the road less travelled and endeavour to provide inspired itineraries that uncover hidden gems at each destination. We provide personalised wildlife experiences in different game viewing environments heightened by the diverse knowledge of our guides and naturalists. Your experience is amplified by our commitment towards social and environmentally inclined associations as well.

Indo Asia House, 56 Institutional Area,
Sector 44, Gurgaon - 122002, Haryana, India
T: +91 124 4534 525, +91 124 4534 653,
E: marketing@indoasiatours.com
www.indoasia-tours.com

Jungle Calling

At Jungle Calling we wish to invite and embrace everyone who wants to appreciate and know more about the subtlety of the forest, its habitat and its ways. Our drives go beyond just tiger sightings. We convey tour guests where spotting rare birds, seeing different landscapes and enjoying the various other sights and sounds of the forest are just as enjoyable. It is our endeavour that once you have seen the forest through our lens, you'll love it as much as we do.

7th Floor, Heritage Plaza, Opp. Indian Oil Nagar,
J.P. Road, Andheri West, Mumbai 400053, India
T: +91 22 6670 7878, +91 22 6670 7819
E: info@junglecalling.in
www.junglecalling.in

JungleRoads

JungleRoads comprises a team of adventure buffs who try to turn your vacation into an experience of a lifetime. We are professionals from various fields bounded by a passion for wilderness. We craft small and large group tours to the jungles of India and try to share our passion for wildlife with all enthusiasts who want to experience the bliss of nature. We plan our tours in such a way that can create awareness about the jungles and its inhabitants among our guests.

E 116, Ground Floor, Sector 12, Kharghar,
Navi Mumbai - 410210, Maharashtra, India
T: +91 9999 134 355
E: aloke@jungleroads.com;
pankaj@jungleroads.com
www.jungleroads.com

Jungle Safari Tours

Jungle Safari Tours offers services to travellers to Ranthambhore, Sariska, Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Panna, Pench, Tadoba and Corbett National Parks. Our travel services include: accommodation, transport, jeep safaris and guiding. Our network allows us to stay in touch with our drivers, tour executives and clients. This close-knitted infrastructure helps us to provide a high standard of customer service at all times. We strive to preserve India's forests and wildlife through responsible tourism. Wherever possible we use TOFTigers audited lodges.

2401/4, Ground Floor, Street No. 19,
Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi - 110008, India
T: +91 11 2589 1412
E: junglesafaritours@gmail.com
www.junglesafari.in

JungleSutra Wildlife Journeys by Creative Travel

JungleSutra offers wildlife experiences for travellers interested in exploring the wildlife of the Indian subcontinent. Our team is made up of wildlife experts backed up by operations professionals to ensure excellence in both planning and executing mainstream or tailored experiences to discover India's diverse and rarely explored wildlife. We also know the importance of supporting indigenous populations and explore a variety of avenues to give back to nature. We work with the local people to encourage best ecotourism practices and support conservation projects.

Creative Plaza, Nanakpura, Moti Bagh,
New Delhi - 110021, India
T: +91 11 2687 2257
E: engage@junglesutra.com
www.junglesutra.com

Jungle Travels India Pvt. Ltd.

JTI is a wildlife tour company based in Guwahati and a leading tour operator in Northeast India. With over 29 years of experience, we organise customised bird watching and wildlife safaris, led by our team of experienced naturalists and guides. As a recipient of the National Tourism Award, we recognise our responsibility towards environmental sustainability and continue to develop practices that positively influence local stakeholders. Our Diphlu River Lodge was rated as the 2nd Best Wildlife Resort in India, by Lonely Planet in 2013.

3B, Dirang Arcade, G.N.B. Road, Chandmari,
Guwahati - 781003, Assam, India
T: +91 920 704 2330, +91 361 266 7871
E: info@jungletravels.in
www.jtigroup.co.in

Atul Dhamankar

Kash Venture Travels Pvt. Ltd. (KVT)

KVT specialises in experiential, active India tours and destination services offering holidays across India and Nepal. Our decades of experience, niche adventure expertise, innovative products and quality of service are thus well established and recognised with four National Tourism Awards from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for Best Inbound and Adventure Tour Operator in the country. It is always our endeavour to evolve and balance our operations in a manner that maximises the positives while reducing any potential impact on our environment.

805-806, Kirti Shikhar, District Centre,
Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058, India
T: +91 11 2552 3807
E: mohan@kvtindia.com
www.kvtholidays.com

Khajuraho Routes Travel Services

Headquartered in Khajuraho with branch offices in Agra, Gwalior, Orchha, Varanasi, Bodhgaya, Bandhavgarh and Jabalpur, Khajuraho Routes offers tailor-made packages and special interest tours to groups and independent travellers. We ensure economic benefits for local people by employing them as tour leaders, guides and drivers, by eating in local restaurants and using locally-owned hotels wherever possible. We minimise our impact on the environment by travelling in small groups, offsetting our carbon emissions, reducing waste and supporting conservation projects.

Opp. Shilpgram, Near Poddar Chowk, Khajuraho,
Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh - 471606, India
T: +91 7686272026, 9993910094, 9981980094
E: khajurahoroutes@gmail.com
www.khajurahoroutes.in

Koyeli Tours & Travels

Koyeli Tours, based in Assam provides a comprehensive ground handling service in North East India. We offer tours focusing on wildlife and birding, ecotourism, motorcycle tours, tea tourism, culture, river cruises on the Brahmaputra, and arts and crafts. We offer a workforce of qualified travel planners, managers and tour guides and have our own fleet of vehicles and drivers. We are committed to contributing to TOFTigers' work in setting standards in wildlife tourism and making India world class wildlife travel destination.

Janambhumi Building, 151 - R.G. Baruah Road,
Assam, Guwahati - 781 005, India
T: +91 361 220 6666, 99540 55553
E: arijit@koyelitravels.in
www.koyelitravels.in

Luxury India Holidays Pvt. Ltd.

Our prime objective is to provide first class tailor-made holidays for discerning travellers. We arrange stylish city accommodation, top class wildlife lodges, and bespoke guiding to ensure you enjoy a memorable holiday in India. We encourage you to contact any of our Marketing and Business Development executives spread across USA, Europe, Russia and South-America for a presentation. We believe in sustainable tourism and work only with travel partners that promote safeguarding local heritage, culture and our natural world.

98 - P, 1st & 2nd Floor, Sector - 30,
Gurgaon - 122001, Haryana, India
T: +91 124 4077 853, +91 124 4077 553
E: sales@luxuryindiaholidays.com
www.luxuryindiaholidays.com

Monkfoot Travel Pvt. Ltd.

We specialise in bringing our guests closer to the destinations they travel to through well-researched itineraries tailored to their needs. Set up in 2010 by an experienced team, our unique cultural and adventure trips span all parts of India and range from wildlife, rafting and kayaking to textiles, tribal culture and fusion festivals. We encourage our guests to try trips that support local communities and give them meaningful connections with local people and a greater understanding of local culture and heritage.

212 Ocean Plaza, 2nd Floor, Sector 18,
Noida - 201301, Uttar Pradesh, India
T: +91 120 4211 787
E: ratnabh@monkfoot.com
www.monkfoot.com

Aditya Singh

Nature Safari India Pvt. Ltd.

Nature Safari India is a leading online-based wildlife safari company. Founded in 2000, we offer a wide portfolio of tours that includes tiger and bird watching, cultural experiences and jungle tours. Mindful of the fragility and value of the Indian ecosystem, we created conservation holidays which incorporate respect for social, cultural and ecological interests of the local communities. With loyal staff and a record of customer satisfaction, we aim to deliver holidays of the highest quality.

51, B-3, Sector - 11, Rohini,
New Delhi - 110085, India
T: +91 11 2757 0446
E: info@naturesafariindia.com
www.naturesafariindia.com

Orange Tours And Trips Pvt. Ltd.

At Orange, we are committed to spreading happiness by delivering amazing experiences. Our experienced multi-lingual team of travel experts think beyond the ordinary and bring India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka to you in all its glory. We believe in contributing to the social development of the community in which we operate. In doing so, we aim to build a better, sustainable way of life for each section of society and raise the country's human development index.

260 - 61, II Floor, Spazei-Tech Park, B1 Tower,
Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurgaon - 122002,
Haryana
T: +91 124 4829 200
E: ishveen@orangedmc.com
www.orangedmc.com

Oriental Bliss Tours Pvt. Ltd.

Oriental Bliss Tours is a destination management company with a team of professionals from varied backgrounds who are passionate travellers. We are members of TOFTigers as part of an overall portfolio of wildlife charity contribution. Our objective is responsible tourism, which values biodiversity and ecological services. Use our services to discover India, a vibrant land filled with colour, warmth and incredible diversity. No matter where your interests lie, we assure you a journey of India like never before.

#8, (FF), Krishna Market, Lajpat Nagar - I,
New Delhi - 110024, India
T: +91 11 4132 9499, +91 11 4514 3170
E: contact@orientalbliss.in
www.orientalbliss.in

Paradise Holidays India Pvt. Ltd.

Paradise Holidays offers a range of tours from classical to adventure and visits to wildlife parks across India. We explore and encourage travel to destinations that are rich in flora, fauna, culture and heritage. Being a responsible tour company, we ensure that our travel is eco-friendly, leaves behind the least carbon footprint and contributes to local development. We employ local people as tour guides, drivers and in other roles on our tours to help the local economy.

312, Ansals Classique Tower, Rajouri Garden,
New Delhi - 110027, India
T: +91 11 4552 0736
E: india@paradiseholidays.com
www.paradiseholidays.com

Pettitts India Tours Pvt. Ltd.

Pettitts is a leading tailor-made holiday expert with over 25 years of experience in the travel industry. We specialise in tours to India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. Our commitment to professionalism has earned us the National Tourism Award for excellence in the field of tourism by the Government of India. We aim to provide sustainable and long-term services to the tourism community as a whole by caring for the environment and encouraging community-led tourism projects for supporting the local economy.

Suite 302 - 306, Kanishka Complex, Plot no 2,
LSC (Near Samachar Apartments), Mayur Vihar,
Phase - I, Delhi - 110091, India
T: +91 11 4215 6219/18
E: uk@pettittsindia.com, sam@pettittsindia.com
www.pettitts.co.uk

PureQuest Adventures

PureQuest is an experiential inbound tour operator that is passionate about authentic adventure experiences. We create comprehensive programmes that showcase the most epic aspects of our destinations, ensuring each tailored programme complements the unique requirements of niche markets, such as luxury escapades, multi-generational family adventures and student groups. We work with responsible suppliers and prefer properties and suppliers that are local, sustainable and unique. Whenever possible, only locally made products are purchased for use on trips.

B-128, Sector 5, NOIDA, National Capital
Region of Delhi, U.P. - 201301, India
T: +91 120 3823 816
E: india@purequest.com
www.purequest.com

Aditya Singh

INDIAN TRAVEL COMPANIES & GROUND AGENTS

Quality India Tours Pvt. Ltd.

Quality India Tours organises high quality, individual trips on the Indian subcontinent. We arrange bespoke tours for individuals, and small or large groups. Our team consists of specialists in India who have excellent knowledge in tourism due to years of experience. For you we have selected and personally tested many interesting destinations and a wide range of accommodation. Travel with us and experience Indian hospitality, warmth, and tolerance. Experience the real India with us.

J - 266, 2nd Floor, Saket,
New Delhi - 110017, India
T: +91 11 4645 2177
E: anil@qualityindiatours.com
www.qualityindiatours.com

Rajasthan Routes Trails Pvt. Ltd.

Rajasthan Routes Trails, a modern excursion company with its head office in Jaipur, is a traveller's window to Rajasthan. We organise holiday package tours to destinations in Rajasthan to introduce our guests to the rich culture, history, and natural treasures of the state. Our senior guides and escorts walk you through their knowledge of Rajasthan and its culture. We believe in contributing positively to the communities we visit and arrange NGO visits and other tours for our guests to learn about the local culture.

401, 4th Floor, City Corporate, D-3, Malviya
Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur 302001, Rajasthan, India
T: +91 141 4113 666
E: rajendra@rajasthanroutestrails.com
www.rajasthanroutestrails.com

Rare Holidays

We have been offering professional and personalised travel services to wildlife lovers and tourists visiting India for two decades. Our aim is to provide exotic and enjoyable stays in India with the choicest accommodation, transport and guide services. We provide free consultancy and also offer customised and developed packages to suit a variety of tastes. For wildlife lovers and tourists, we strive to provide something special. We balance the impact of tourism by promoting local employees and using eco-friendly hotels.

171A, Pocket 4, Mayur Vihar-1,
New Delhi - 110091, India
T: +91 11 2271 5006, +91 120 4222 771
E: info@rareholidays.com
www.rareholidays.com

Royal Expeditions Pvt. Ltd.

Royal Expeditions has pioneered tours supporting conservation projects and funding research programmes of endangered species like the tiger and snow leopard. Our carefully chosen range of naturalists and wildlife scientists, who accompany you on your safari, add fresh insight to your experience of the Indian jungles and their inhabitants. We always bring a personalised touch to the intrigue of India. As a founder member of TOFTigers we seek to minimise our environmental impact and enhance the local economies that depend on responsible tourism.

26 Community Centre, East of Kailash,
New Delhi - 110065, India
T: +91 11 4162 2245, +91 11 2623 8546
E: tours@royalexpeditions.com
www.royalexpeditions.com

Royal India Holidays

Our range of holidays include: cultural; religious; adventure; beach holidays; and wildlife tours. We operate across the nation. Our wildlife tours are designed for nature lovers and animal enthusiasts. We offer: India Luxury Wildlife Tour; Asiatic Lion Safari; Big Five of Indian Jungles; Indian Rhinos; and Tiger Safari and many more. We seek to ensure that local traditions and customs are respected and local communities benefit from tourism. We work with suppliers who are environmentally responsible.

Corporate Suite 87, 3rd Floor, Ansal Plaza,
Vaishali, Delhi NCR, Ghaziabad - 201010,
Uttar Pradesh, India
T: +91 120 4106 005, +91 98100 68824
E: newton@royalindiaholidays.in
www.royalindiaholiday.com

Vinod Goel

RVentures Holidays

At Rventures, we show you the bright, exotic, adventurous and the fun side of India, Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan through our wide range of personalised holidays. All you have to do is choose your destination and we'll take care of everything else. We have been conducting community development programmes in villages and support local art and culture, and conduct visits to rural schools and homes so our guests can also experience the joy of giving back to the community.

L-16 / 2A, DLF Phase II,
Gurgaon - 122002, Haryana, India
M: +91 9810 4090 55 | T: +91 24 4203 022
E: rahul@rventuresholidays.com
www.rventuresholidays.com

Sacred Dot Tours LLP

Sacred Dot Tours is a travel curator, specialising in destinations like India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and UAE. We offer our expertise in planning tours for individual holidaymakers, couples, companies and education groups. Being conscious and conscientious about nature and the environment, Sacred Dot's core values and focus is towards conservation, preservation and sustainability. Through our partners, suppliers and NGO affiliations, we strive to protect natural and cultural resources, while showcasing destinations in a safe and sustainable manner.

101, DT Mega Mall, Golf Course Road,
DLF Phase -1, Gurgaon - 122002, India
T: +91 124 410 1122
E: parul@sacreddot.com
www.sacreddot.com

INDIAN TRAVEL COMPANIES & GROUND AGENTS

Sai India Travel

Sai India Travel is a Delhi-based specialist inbound travel company organising tours across the Indian subcontinent. Our tour themes include culture, special interest (including festivals), wildlife and nature, spa and wellness, and tribal tours. Staff and drivers speak English, Italian and Spanish. We are always ready to join hands with organisations working for the well-being of society and the conservation of heritage and wildlife and support them to make a positive contribution to required areas.

F-7, 3rd Floor, Unit No-3, Main Road,
Kalkaji, New Delhi - 110019, India
T: +91 11 6465 2052
E: saiindiatravel@gmail.com
www.saiindiatravel.com

Sanskriti Tours Pvt. Ltd.

Sanskriti is a tour operator and travel agency based in Delhi since 2002. We offer a wide range of handcrafted opportunities exploring the Indian subcontinent. Our wildlife tours include birding in north India, jungle safaris, tours focusing on wildlife in different regions, and those combining wildlife and beaches. Our broader offer spans a variety of tours from Ayurveda in Kerala to Buddhist Circuit Travels and Ladakh Jeep Safaris. We are committed to responsible tourism through valuing nature, local culture and diversity.

S- 203 A, 2nd Floor, HL Arcade, Plot No.-14,
Sec-5 Market, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075, India
T: +91 11 2508 0675, +91 11 4550 9477
E: tarun@sanskrititours.com
www.sanskrititours.com

Sea Stone Travels Pvt. Ltd.

An accredited member of IATA, Sea Stone Travels organises specialised package tours, especially wildlife tours in addition to arranging foreign exchange, visas for foreign travel, and more. Since 2007, we have believed that guests should enjoy their vacation and not stress about logistics and planning. We also believe in taking small measures to reduce the environmental impact of tourism. For instance, our guests are encouraged to carry reusable water bottles rather than plastic ones, to minimise plastic waste.

66, Tagore Marg, Besides Axis Bank, Civil Lines,
Nagpur, Maharashtra - 440001, India
T: +91 96 6503 6356
E: manager@sstpln.com
www.seastonetravels.in

Shanti Adventure Tours Pvt. Ltd.

Shanti Travel is a European travel agency based in India that organises tailor-made trips to Asian destinations. Our immersive holidays are a great way to discover Asia's natural wonders, from the Bengal tigers in India to the one-horned rhinos in Nepal. Guests can experience the incredible abundance and sheer diversity of Asian flora and fauna in Ranthambhore National Park, Kaziranga National Park and many more parks in the region. We advocate responsible tourism and utilise local resources and accommodation.

C - 66, Okhla Phase - I,
New Delhi - 110020, India
T: +91 11 4607 7800
E: contact@shantitravel.com
www.shantitravel.com/en

Special Holidays Travel Pvt. Ltd.

Special Holidays is a National Tourism Award winning tour operator with a strong network presence in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. We have our own transport fleet and offer competitive rates for hotels, tour packages, and car rentals as well. We have separate divisions for special interest tours such as incentive travel, cultural tours, eco-tours, business travel, pilgrimage tours and cater for the needs of both luxury and budget travellers. We are committed to socially responsible, culturally respectable and environmentally sustainable tourism.

H.O: S-203-204, D.A.V Complex, Local
Commercial Centre, Mayur Vihar Phase I,
New Delhi - 110091, India
T: +91 11 2271 4522, +91 11 2271 4577
E: sandeep@specialholidays.net
www.specialholidays.net

Stripes Holidays

We at Stripes Holidays are wildlife and nature lovers who have come together to promote responsible wildlife and cultural tourism. Eco-tourism, cultural and wellness tours in Madhya Pradesh are our expertise. From wildlife lodges to ground handling we organise everything for you. Join our wildlife photography expeditions, catch a glimpse of the cultural heritage of India, or just soak in the lap of nature; we promise to provide a perfect holiday package to enjoy with your family and friends.

D.B Vallabh Das Palace, 1288, Hanujman Tal,
Jabalpur - 482002, Madhya Pradesh, India
T: +91 99778 53263
E: info@stripesholidys.com
www.stripestours.com

The Earth Safari

Professional photographer and wildlife expert Saran Vaid established The Earth Safari. His handpicked team organises Big Cat Safari Tours in India where clients may encounter a variety of animals - from the most shy to the fiercest. Beyond our wildlife expertise, we also offer tours to nearby places that are famous for their charm. The Earth Safari is committed to minimising negative environmental impacts, generating greater economic benefits for local people and enhancing the well-being of host communities.

520, Somdutt Chambers II, 9, Bhikaji CamaPlace,
New Delhi - 110066, India
T: +91 11 4056 6338, +91 84478 70008
E: safaris@theearthsafari.com
www.theearthsafari.com

Vaibhav Mehta

INDIAN TRAVEL COMPANIES & GROUND AGENTS

Tiger Expeditions

Tiger Expeditions is an inbound tour operator and destination management company. We are well known for providing high quality tour host services with comprehensive destination knowledge. Though we are a small company, with our personalised services we have exceptional experience with large groups and conferences, and can easily mobilise for larger groups. We aim to be one of the worlds' most respected brands in travel by providing superior services to our valued visitors and being committed to conservation of wildlife and other organic resources.

11/24, Rose Cottage, B. M. Khan,
Agra - 282002, Uttar Pradesh, India
T: +91 562 2525 787
E: office@tigerexpeditions.com
www.tigerexpeditions.com

TigerRoutes.com

At TigerRoutes, our consultants have travelled extensively to Indian wildlife destinations, bringing invaluable experience when designing and facilitating your tailor-made tour. The same specialist consultant will normally oversee your tour from start to finish, giving you a personalised experience. We are dedicated wildlife specialists with expert knowledge of where to find your favorite species. We believe that wildlife tourism gives locals a sustainable alternative to environmentally destructive practices. Wherever possible we use locally owned lodges and local guides, directly supporting the local community.

13/1, Gaurav Garima Road, Gandhi Bagh,
Nagpur (MS) - 440002, Maharashtra, India
T: +91-712-6420 555
E: info@tigerroutes.com
www.tigerroutes.com

Tigerwalah

At Tigerwalah, we are unashamedly in love with the jungle. To share this passion with our guests, we offer exciting trips into the wild, plan fresh itineraries, book safaris and ensure an enriching experience for them. Not only do we cover the major wildlife parks in India like Ranthambhore, Corbett, Kanha and more, we extend our services to lesser-known parks as well. We help sensitise our clients about ground realities, current challenges and conservation measures while following ethical wildlife practices ourselves.

4/15, Jasmine Street, Vatika City, Sector 49,
Sohna Road, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122101, India
T: +919871431155
E: info@tigerwalah.com
www.tigerwalah.com

Tour My India Pvt. Ltd.

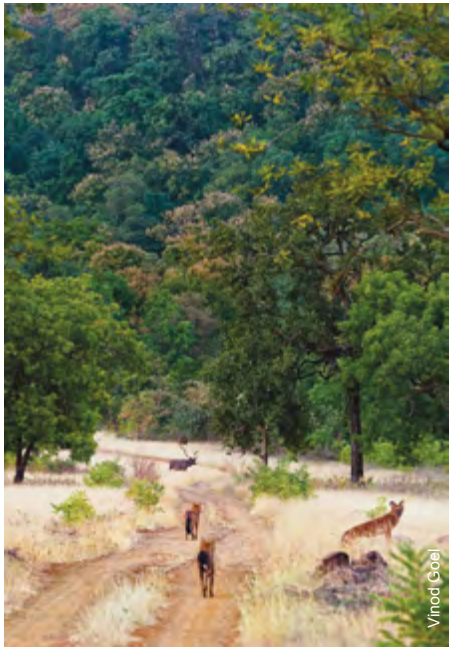
Tour My India is an award winning wildlife tour operator that works in association with the Government of India's Department of Tourism and Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO). We offer authentic wildlife tour packages that aim to turn the dream vacations of wildlife lovers into reality, and also provide multilingual local guides catering for travellers from around the world. As an amiable wildlife tour operator, we respect nature and its resources and try to ensure we do no harm during our tours.

C - 81C, Sector 8, Noida - 201301,
Uttar Pradesh, India
T: +91 120 4052 666, +91 120 4052 600
E: info@tourmyindia.com
www.tourmyindia.com

Trans India Holidays

Trans India Holidays is a mid-sized inbound tour operator based in New Delhi. Established in 1990, we provide bespoke holidays in India, Nepal and Bhutan. Our wildlife tours cover almost all of the Indian subcontinent's National Parks, from Ranthambore in the North, to Periyar in the South, from Gir in the West to Kaziranga in the East. Trans India Holidays has long been associated with responsible tourism and is completely committed to sustainable tourism and supporting conservation efforts for wildlife.

18, Community Centre, Kailash Colony Extn.,
Zamrudpur, New Delhi - 110048, India
T: +91 11 2923 4617, +91 11 4720 8000
E: kgoswamy@transindiaholidays.com
www.transindiaholidays.com



Travel Inn India Pvt. Ltd.

Travel Inn (I) Pvt. Ltd. is a leading ground agent and six times winner of the National Tourism Award. We pride ourselves on our knowledge of India's wildlife and the importance of preserving it. Since 1996, we have worked closely with experienced ornithologists and naturalists to offer perfectly crafted bird watching and large mammal tours spanning across India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. We recognise the need to ensure long-term environmental sustainability and to spread the benefits of tourism to local communities, businesses and conservation efforts.

204 Adhunik Chambers, 13/29,
East Patel Nagar, New Delhi - 110008, India
T: +91 11 4323 2000
E: ravi.kalra@travelinn.travel
www.travelinn.in

Untold India Tours Pvt. Ltd.

A small boutique destination management company, Untold India provides tailor-made tours to India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives, assisted by travel professionals who have travelled widely in these regions. We recognise the importance of being environmentally conscious and hence provide a sustainable, high-quality eco-tour experience to our guests. We are committed to working with our local ground handlers to raise awareness about conservation and to demonstrate responsible tourism practices in our daily operations.

SRB 82 C, Shipra Riviera, Indirapuram,
Ghaziabad, UP - 201012, India
T: +91 98105 98637
E: praveen@untoldindia.in
www.untoldindia.in

Vasco Travel Pvt. Ltd.

Vasco Birding and Wildlife holidays is managed by a dedicated team of nature lovers and our own naturalists. These professionals help in designing our tours keeping in mind ornithological considerations. Emphasis is on working with local partners, handpicked drivers who understand the dynamics of touring with a birdwatcher or a wildlife fanatic. Responsible Tourism being at the heart of our business module, we strongly advocate that responsible development of wildlife tourism can be a tool in promoting conservation.

N-12, 3rd Floor, Sector 18, Noida - 201301,
Uttar Pradesh, India
T: +91 120 4601 390
E: vikas@vascotravel.net
www.vascotravel.net

Wild Expeditions Tours & Travels

Driven by passion, Wild Expeditions has grown into a leading nature travel company over the last twenty years. We are committed to providing an unsurpassed level of service through careful attention to detail and a personal touch. We have a base workforce of over 45 people with our offices strategically placed in locations that are convenient and accessible to guests. Our offices are at important entry and exit points of Central India. We also aim to encourage and promote responsible tourism in Central India.

Aseem Commercial Plaza, 304, Green View
Apartment, Caravas, South Civil Lines,
Station Road, Jabalpur - 482001,
Madhya Pradesh, India
T: +91 761 2626 870, +91 761 2626 970
E: deepak@wildexpeditionindia.com
www.wildexpeditionindia.com

Wildhunt

Wildhunt specialises in responsible tours in India's finest wildernesses and Tiger Reserves. We organise customised and tailor-made tours sharing our founder's passion for exploring the wild and observing nature through the lens. Forthcoming tours include Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Gir National Park, Jim Corbett National Park and Ranthambhore. We believe that responsible, well-managed tours can play a vital role in preserving the forests of India and their wildlife. Our objective is non-extractive responsible tourism, which values biodiversity and ecological services.

Rohini, Ground Floor, 2/3 F, Deb Lane,
Kolkata - 700014, West Bengal, India
T: +91 33 4000 4929, +91 98 7435 7967
E: info@wildhunt.in
www.wildhunt.in

Wildlife Explorer India Pvt. Ltd.

Wildlife Explorer India is a dedicated wildlife and bird tour company with over fifteen years of experience in escorting hundreds of passionate travellers into the biologically diverse national parks of India. The company was formed out of a lifelong love and passion for wildlife, birding and photography. Our team comprises experienced ex-wildlife safari guides and naturalists who excel at tailor-making your trip to your need. We also take great care to ensure long-term environmental sustainability.

GL-13, 208 Second Floor, Kochhar Tower,
Jail Road, Near Tilak Nagar, New Delhi - 110058
T: +91 11 4554 1946
E: info@wildlifeexplorerindia.com
www.wildlifeexplorerindia.com

Shivang Mehta / Nature Wanderers

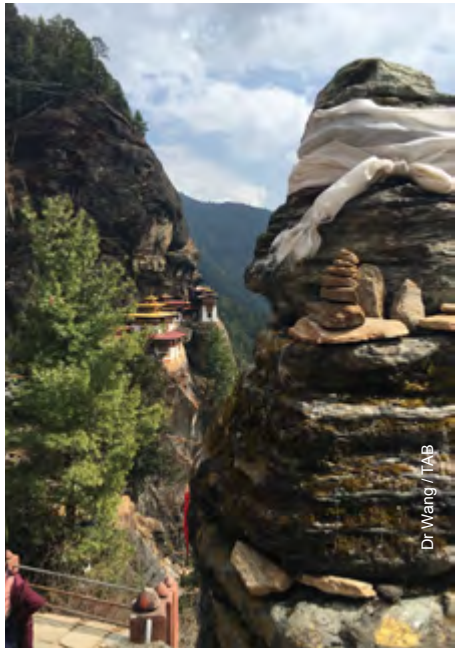
INDIAN TRAVEL COMPANIES & GROUND AGENTS

Dr Wang / TAB

Tiger Adventures Bhutan

Based in the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, Tiger Adventures Bhutan is run by a dedicated conservationist who has considerable experience in the field of environmental and natural resource conservation. We offer an unlimited range of travel arrangements throughout the country and across India and Nepal. We are striving to raise awareness about the maintenance of national parks and the conservation and protection of wildlife. In fact, 5% of the company's total profit is donated to nature conservation in Bhutan.

Changlam 3, Building 10, R-5,
Thimphu, PO Box 684, Bhutan
T: +97517111009, +9752336228
E: tigeradventures@gmail.com
www.bhutantigertours.com


Dr Wang / TAB

Joe Parkes

TOFTigers MEMBERS
INDIAN PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS & SPECIALISTS

Photography can inspire a passion for nature and conservation. Join our members who have agreed to abide by good practice in their operations – and get close to nature. With thanks to all the photographers featured in the Guide.

Vinod Goel / Wild Nest

Nature Wanderers Pvt. Ltd.

Nature Wanderers is India's pioneering photography tours and travel company that imparts field photography training and guidance to amateur and professional photographers. With over ten years of experience and 400+ tours under our belt, we conduct wildlife photography tours in Indian National Parks. Affiliated to Canon India, we are their official photo tour agency for promoting the culture of wildlife photography in India and Nature Wanderers was nominated as the Top Wildlife Promotion Company in the 2014 edition of TOFTigers Wildlife Tourism Awards.

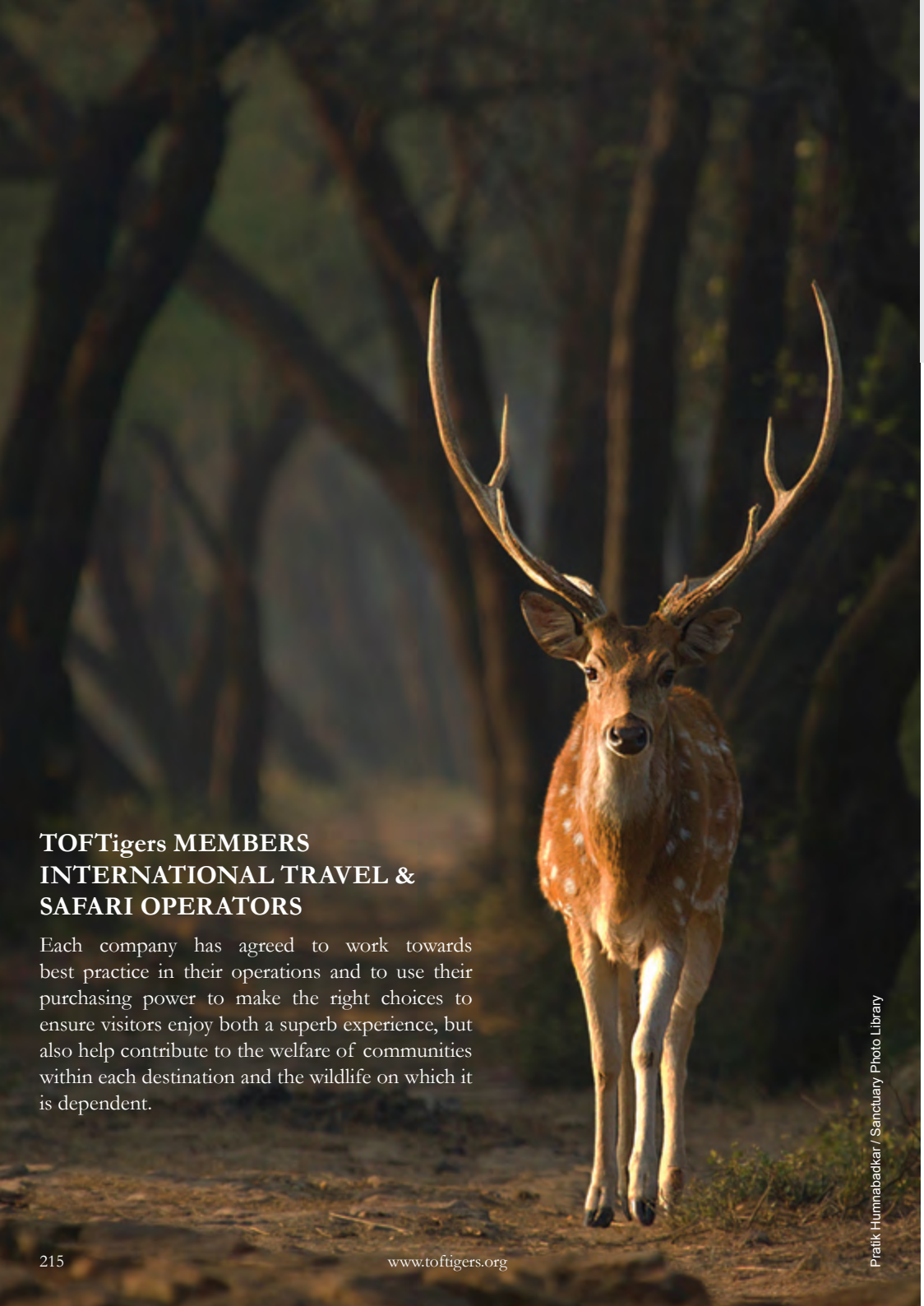
307, Prateek Kunj, Sector 21-C,
Faridabad, Haryana, India
T: +91 98713 67945, +91 98713 84780
E: info@naturewanderers.com
www.naturewanderers.com

Wildnest Travel And Photography Pvt. Ltd.

With over ten years' experience of exploring and photographing wildlife in India, we at Wildnest believe in sharing our first-hand knowledge to make your journey an unforgettable one. The itineraries are completely designed by our photographers, keeping in mind all requisites for outstanding wildlife experiences and photographic opportunities. Craft your trip with your unique taste and make it perfect with our local knowledge and expertise. We support and acquaint travellers with local communities and culture wherever possible.

B-40, Radha Krishna Lane, Kaushambi,
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201010
T: +91 9999 5353 50
E: tour@wildnest.in
www.wildnest.in

Shivang Mehta / Nature Wanderers



Pratik Humnabadkar / Sanctuary Photo Library

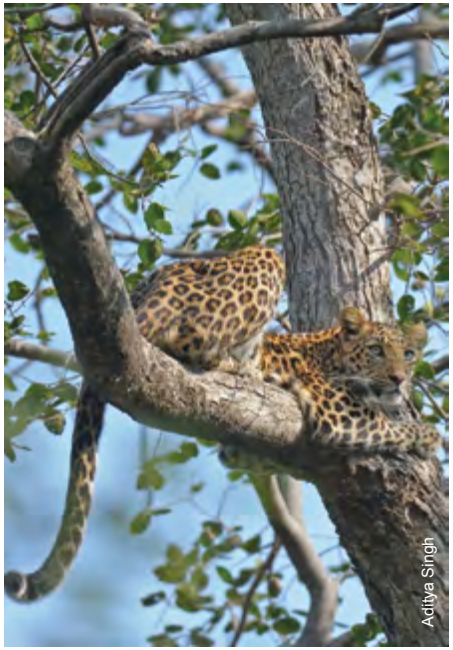
TOFTigers MEMBERS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & SAFARI OPERATORS

Each company has agreed to work towards best practice in their operations and to use their purchasing power to make the right choices to ensure visitors enjoy both a superb experience, but also help contribute to the welfare of communities within each destination and the wildlife on which it is dependent.

Abercrombie & Kent

Abercrombie & Kent was founded 50 years ago on the belief that travel should surprise, stimulate and inspire. With a handpicked team of experts all over the world, we uncover local secrets and experiences beyond the reach of most travellers. Advocating respect for the natural environment, we aim to benefit the indigenous peoples whose lands we travel to through our philanthropic projects. Whether it is palaces and forts, wildlife sanctuaries or beaches, Abercrombie & Kent offers you a unique experience.

St George's House, Ambrose Street, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire GL50 3BP, UK
T: +44 (0) 1242 547704,
+44 (0) 1242 547 760
E: info@abercrombiekent.co.uk
www.abercrombiekent.co.uk



Aditya Singh

Ampersand Travel

Ampersand Travel are experts in tailor-made travel to the Indian subcontinent. We believe that luxury is in the experience, creating journeys that fully absorb the senses. Our primary focus is organising private cultural and wildlife tours for individuals and small groups. Both on and off the beaten track, our tours combine luxury hand-picked accommodation, from boutique tents to palace hotels, and privately guided sightseeing with specialist guides. We promote respect for natural environments, local people and wildlife, and are passionate about supporting TOFTigers' work.

Battersea Studios 2, 82 Silverthorne Road,
London SW8 3HE, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 7819 9770
E: info@ampersandtravel.com
www.ampersandtravel.com

Asia Odyssey

Set up in the 1990s and with consultants travelling regularly throughout their specialist countries, Asia Odyssey caters for a raft of interests from heritage, culture and spas to wildlife, trekking and diving. Our dedicated team has an unparalleled knowledge of the region gained over decades of first-hand experience, guaranteeing the best advice and a fantastic itinerary. All Asia Odyssey tours to Indian Tiger Parks include a donation of £5 per person per night, which goes directly to supporting Indian tiger conservation projects.

5 The Mews, 6 Putney Common,
London SW15 1HL UK
T: +44 (0) 20 8704 1216
E: info@asiaodyssey.com
www.asiaodyssey.com

Audley Travel

Audley Travel offers clients the best possible tailor-made travel experiences by employing specialists with detailed, in-depth knowledge of the countries we visit backed by a no-compromise attitude to quality and service. We have boundless enthusiasm for India and its wildlife, and take an honest 'tell it how it is' approach to planning an itinerary, suggesting sights, selecting accommodation and discussing the practicalities of travel. We have been awarded AITO 5 status (the highest achievable) for responsible tourism.

New Mill, New Mill Lane,
Witney OX29 9SX, UK
T: +44 (0) 1993 838 300
E: india@audleytravel.com
www.audleytravel.com/india

Cox & Kings

Cox & Kings is the longest established travel company in the world and its roots remain firmly where it started - in the Indian subcontinent. Today, we specialise in escorted group and tailor-made private journeys, focusing on the culture, history and wildlife of the region. Our India programme features various opportunities for viewing tigers, either as part of a tailor-made itinerary, or as a private extension to a group tour.

6th Floor, 30 Millbank,
London SW1P 4EE, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 7873 5000
E: sales@coxandkings.co.uk
www.coxandkings.co.uk

Exodus Travels

Leading adventure tour operator Exodus Travels has been taking people on wildlife holidays across seven continents for over 40 years. These exciting yet sensitively run holidays focus on supporting local businesses, as well as caring for the environments and local cultures visited. Having raised over £150,000 to help protect the tiger population in Bandhavgarh National Park, Exodus is now turning its attention to responsible tourism projects in Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.

Grange Mills, Weir Road,
London SW12 0NE
T: +44 20 8772 3942
E: sales@exodus.co.uk
www.exodus.co.uk

Far Frontiers Travel

Fiona Brijnath, owner of Far Frontiers Travel, has 25 years' experience and a wealth of ideas she's bursting to share. Not one for shoehorning clients into a set itinerary, Fiona will personally chat around your desires and suggest trip highlights and possibilities uniquely tailored for you. With her flair for multi-country itineraries she might weave Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet or even further afield into your Indian experience. Her polar travel company, Arcturus, offers fantastic wildlife expedition voyages with equally dedicated attention.

Ninestone, South Zeal,
Devon EX20 2PZ, UK
T: +44 (0) 1837 840640
E: fiona@farfrontiers.com
www.farfrontiers.com

UNITED KINGDOM

TOFTigers MEMBERS

Greaves India

Greaves India is an award-winning specialist of bespoke private tours to the Indian subcontinent, with worldwide offices based in the United Kingdom, United States, Canada and India. With over 35 years' experience, Greaves employ a large network of dedicated specialists, all of whom have extensive knowledge of the land, culture, history and language to help smooth your path through the exotic subcontinent. Greaves is passionate about sustainable tourism and supports a range of conservation and heritage throughout India.

53 Welbeck Street, London
W1G 9XR, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 7487 9111
E: tours@greavesuk.com
www.greavesindia.com

Imagine India

Imagine India is a luxury tour operator specialising in tailor-made holidays to the Indian subcontinent. We are passionate about wildlife and know that the jungle provides so many wonderful adventures for our clients. We understand the importance of protecting this unique habitat and the magnificent creatures that call it home. By supporting organisations such as TOFTigers, we endeavour to help our clients go in search of India's wildlife in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Riverbank house, 1 Putney Bridge Approach,
London SW6 3JD, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 3141 2820
E: info@imagineindia.co.uk
www.imaginetravel.com/imagine-india

India Connections

India Connections offers tailor-made holidays to North India. We arrange tailor-made holidays to South India through our other company - Kerala Connections. All our holidays are individually arranged for each customer and we offer a range of homestays and alternative accommodation options as well as the established hotels and jungle lodges. Our responsible tourism ethos is to ensure our customers enjoy their holiday alongside protecting the environment, respecting local traditions, understanding historic and cultural issues and benefitting local communities.

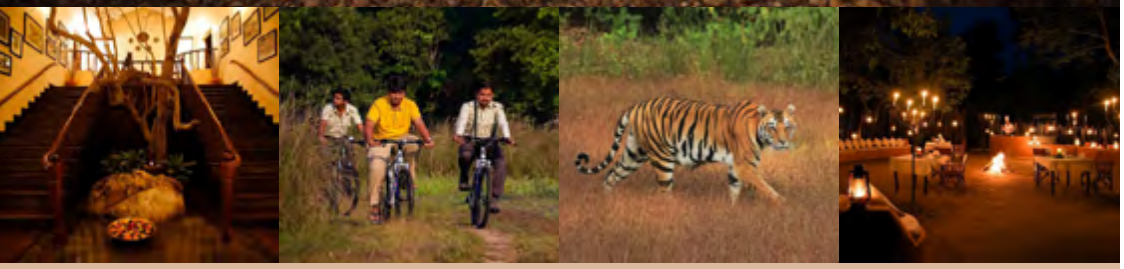
School House Lane, Horsmonden,
Kent TN12 8BP, UK
T: +44 (0) 1892 725555
E: info@indiaconnections.co.uk
www.indiaconnections.co.uk

Maxwell Scott Travel

Maxwell Scott Travel is a specialist, family-run company that offers the joy of travelling to India, Sri Lanka, Burma and Bhutan. We specialise in tailor-made travel, journeys and holidays for individuals and groups – and we also offer a collection of small escorted group tours. We are committed to responsible and sensitive tourism; we actively and financially support charitable based projects in India and are especially pleased to help support wildlife conservation and local community programmes through TOFTigers' work.

30 Ullswater Drive, Wetherby,
West Yorkshire LS22 6YF, UK
T: +44 (0) 1937 520677
E: enquiries@maxwellscotttravel.com
www.travelmaxwellscott.com

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & SAFARI OPERATORS



Run by passionate wildlife enthusiasts and full-time qualified naturalists, Singinawa Jungle Lodge is spread across 110 acres of land adjoining the Kanha National Park. Within the property 12 pristine stone and slate, spacious, well-lit, air-conditioned cottages; a 4-bed room Jungle Bungalow - 'The Perch'; and a 2-bed room Jungle Bungalow - 'The Wildernest', create the perfect setting to deliver a high quality Jungle lodge experience.

Our eco-friendly, unobtrusive experiences have been created to help you peacefully immerse yourself in nature. These experience include: Jeep safaris to the Kanha National Park, Jungle Walks, Paghdandi Bicycling trips through the village, volunteering at the Singinawa Conservation Foundation, retreat at the Tannaur river side, traditional Indian farming at the Singinawa Organic Farm, alternative therapies at the Meadow Spa, eco-restoration walks, aromatic and fragrant trails, a trip to the village market and cattle fair and pottery with the tribal potters of Baihar.

Come experience high-end living in the Wilderness. Singinawa Jungle Lodge, a wildlife destination which truly cares.

+91 124 4908610 singinawajunglelodge
singinawajunglelodge.com bookings@singinawajunglelodge.com
Village Kohka, Po Tehsil Baihar, Kanha National Park
Madhya Pradesh, India

SINGINAWA
JUNGLE LODGE • KANHA • INDIA

Mysteries of India

Mysteries of India is a leading specialist operator of tailor-made holidays to India and the subcontinent since 1982. Our expertise lies in creating unique holidays for discerning travellers - individuals and groups. We combine destination knowledge, attention to detail and exceptional service to provide you with experiences you will cherish forever. Ecotourism is more than a catch-phase. We support where possible, services and hotels that are minimally destructive to the environment and which strengthen local cultures and local economies.

Arden Hall, 66 Brooklands Road, Sal,
Cheshire M33 3SJ, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 8584 1414
E: holidays@mysteriesofindia
www.mysteriesofindia.com

Natural World Safaris

Journey with wildlife specialists, Natural World Safaris, deep into extraordinary landscapes to experience the wonders of the natural world. The team of former wildlife safari guides and highly knowledgeable experts tailor safaris that offer close and personal wildlife encounters whilst promoting responsible travel and supporting local conservation projects. We pride ourselves on handcrafting only the finest holidays to suit the needs of individual clients, taking the essential concepts of a safari and translating these into all the itineraries we design.

3rd Floor Office, West Wing, 2 Bartholomews,
Brighton BN1 1HG, UK
T: +44 (0) 1273 691 642
E: sales@naturalworldsafaris.com
www.naturalworldsafaris.com

On the Go Tours

INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE TOUR OPERATOR
RUNNER UP
TOFTigers Wildlife Tourism AWARDS 2016

With a selection of award-winning group tours and tailor-made holidays to destinations around the world, On The Go Tours is passionate about opening up the wonders of the world to you, bringing you closer to local culture. In India, we have a selection of tours taking in highlights of the Golden Triangle and beyond, including tiger spotting in national parks. We are committed to keeping tigers in the wild, at the same time giving you a first-hand view of their natural habitat.

68 North End Road,
London W14 9EP, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 7371 1113
E: info@onthegotours.com
www.onthegotours.com

On Track Safaris

Formed in 2007 by wildlife conservationists, Will and Carol Fox, On Track Safaris offers more than the 'run of the mill' safari experience across South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Thailand, India and Botswana. Guests in small groups can expect personal service, stylish accommodation and great game viewing. Believing that conservation and tourism must work hand-in-hand, we are involved in ongoing conservation projects and take measures to reduce our footprint by not littering, using only biodegradable soaps and shampoos and conserving water.

Greenwood House, Charlton Down,
Dorset, UK
T: +441305 259091
E: carol@ontracksafaris.com
www.ontracksafaris.com

UNITED KINGDOM

Original Travel

Original Travel is an innovative and ideas driven company, creating bespoke holidays that match our clients' needs, time and budgets. We launched in 2003 as a luxury, tailor-made tour operator and in 2009 merged with wildlife safari specialists Tim Best Travel. We have since expanded our portfolio of destinations to include our favourite long haul destinations around the world. We are passionate about conserving this majestic creature, and wholeheartedly support TOFTigers' campaign.

First Floor, 111 Upper Richmond Road,
London, SW15 2TL, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 7978 7333
E: ask@originaltravel.co.uk
www.originaltravel.co.uk

Royle Safaris

We excel in providing innovative, pioneering wildlife holidays to some of the most amazing destinations in the world. With a great selection of tours tailored to view some of the most charismatic and endangered animals on the planet, we specialise in tours that focus on rare and elusive species including all big cats. We also update our range with many new itineraries each year. Always committed to sustainable eco-tourism we donate to various wildlife conservation and research organisations every year.

6 Greenhythe Road, Heald Green, Stockport,
Cheshire SK8 3NS, UK
T: 0845 226 8259
E: info@royle-safaris.co.uk
www.royle-safaris.co.uk

Scott Dunn

Scott Dunn is a luxury tour operator specialising in bespoke itineraries to India and around the world. We are passionate about India's wildlife parks and the fantastic experiences that come from visiting them. Our specialists seek out the best properties and re-tune their local knowledge in order to craft tailor-made holidays to suit our guests. We endeavour to be responsible in helping support the wildlife populations through support for the local communities who live in and around them.

Riverbank House, 1 Putney Bridge Approach,
London SW6 3JD
T: +44 (0) 20 8682 5000
E: info@scottdunn.com
www.scottdunn.com

Steppes Travel

At Steppes Travel, we listen to what you want and create a personalised itinerary tailored for you, to over 100 destinations around the world. While we show you the highlights of a country, we also take our clients off the beaten track, to see the lesser-known but equally interesting places not frequented by tourists. Our aim is to maximise the experience, help local communities, support conservation and wildlife initiatives whilst minimising the environmental impact, and advocate travelling responsibly.

Travel House, 51 Castle Street, Cirencester,
Gloucestershire GL7 1QD, UK
T: +44 (0) 1285 880 980
E: enquiry@steppestravel.co.uk
www.steppestravel.co.uk

UNITED KINGDOM

TOFTigers MEMBERS

Tailormade Journeys Ltd

Tailormade Journeys Limited looks after all your travel planning and takes you for an experience of a lifetime. Enjoy the culture, heritage, wildlife and beaches of India with our holiday itineraries that are planned with the utmost care. If you wish to modify any part of the itinerary, add or undertake a multi-country tour, just send us your request and our expert team will arrange it. Our motto is - you ask and we do it.

25 Grangewood, Wexham, Slough,
South Bucks SL3 6LP, UK
T: +44 1753 577 330
E: info@tailormadeholidays4u.com
www.tailormadeholidays4u.com

Bharat Goel

Tears for Tigers (TfT) Travel

TfT Travel has been built off half a decade of guiding in the Himalayan region with a particular interest in Nepal, India, Bhutan, Burma and Sri Lanka. As a reputable and brilliant travel agency we have partnered up with a number of conservation organisations and our aim is to connect our clients to a project. All of our trips and tours are bespoke and personalised, tailored to the client's budget. A TfT Travel experience is intended to be inspirational, sustainable and life changing.

4 Chelwood Vachery, Millbrook Hill, Nutley,
East Sussex, TN22 3HR, UK
T: +44 7949437750
E: info@tearsfortigerstravel.com
www.experience-wildlife.com

The Explorations Company

The Explorations Company is dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and is a member of TOFTigers as part of our broader portfolio of wildlife charity contributions. We specialise in individually tailored safaris and holidays and offer some of the best tiger and snow leopard safaris on the Indian subcontinent. We only recommend accommodation we have visited including small, owner-managed properties with the best guiding. We can also assemble luxury, private, nomadic mobile camps in wilderness areas and we also have an office in India.

Fraser House, Wadham Close, Southrop,
Gloucestershire GL7 3NR UK
T: +44 (0) 1367 850 566
E: N.Shepherd@explorationscompany.com
www.explorationscompany.com

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & SAFARI OPERATORS

UNITED KINGDOM

The Great Projects

The Great Projects offer multi-award winning wildlife volunteering projects and eco tours for volunteers worldwide. Their conservation projects and signature tours are designed to be memorable and rewarding, and through their donation and conservation schemes you will know that your travel helps to save endangered animals from all around the world! With opportunities to get up close and personal with orangutans, gorillas, whale sharks and more in some of the world's most stunning locations, you're guaranteed a once in a lifetime opportunity!

3 Dairy Yard, Star Street,
Ware, Hertfordshire, UK
T: +44 (0) 208 885 4987
E: info@thegreatprojects.com
www.thegreatprojects.com

The Ultimate Travel Company

The Ultimate Travel Company offers a wide variety of travel experiences and services - from luxury tailor-made itineraries to group charity trips, a simple airline ticket or a round-the-world holiday. Our knowledgeable specialists are recognised for their expertise in arranging trips to India to suit the discerning traveller. We believe in sustainable tourism that will have minimal impact on the places we visit and are committed to doing all we can to ensure we achieve this, wherever you travel.

25 - 27 Vanston Place,
London SW6 1AZ, UK
T: +44 (0) 2035 539 829
E: enquiry@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk
www.theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk

Tribes Travel

Tribes Travel has been at the forefront of sustainable travel since it was begun in 1998, by founders Amanda and Guy Marks. International awards have recognised our diverse efforts in promoting experiences and services that benefit the wildlife, environment and people of its twenty plus destinations. We have a high rate of returning clients. They come for high quality tailor-made holidays such as African safaris, Galapagos cruises, hiking trips, cultural tours and of course wildlife journeys in India and Nepal's reserves.

The Old Dairy, Wood Farm,
Ipswich Road, Otley, Suffolk IP6 9JW
T: +44 (0) 1473 890 499
E: enquiries@tribes.co.uk
www.tribes.co.uk

Western & Oriental

Western & Oriental create tailor-made wildlife tours, which combine luxury and comfort. Whether you wish to search for the Bengal tiger in India, photograph orangutans in Malaysia, encounter elephants in Thailand or Sri Lanka, or bird watch in the Caribbean we have a range of holiday destinations that offer incredible wildlife encounters. Our specialists are dedicated to raising awareness and promote conservation projects within destinations and in partnership with a selection of hotels and resorts that we feature.

2 Waterhouse Square, 138-142 Holborn,
London, EC1N 2ST, UK
T: +44 (0) 207 666 1234, 207 666 1376
E: enquiries@westernoriental.com
www.westernoriental.com

UNITED KINGDOM

TOFTigers MEMBERS

Wild Frontiers

Wild Frontiers is an award-winning adventure travel company, specialising in small group tours and tailor-made holidays to Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and South America. We travel along evocative routes taking in some of the world's most spectacular scenery, exploring landscapes, cultures and cuisines and experiencing a country from its very heart. Wild Frontiers is committed to doing this in a responsible way, minimising impact on fragile cultures and environments and is the winner of the Guardian/Observer Best Ethical Travel Company award.

78 Glentham Road,
London, SW13 9JJ
T: +44 (0) 20 8741 7390
E: info@wildfrontiers.co.uk
www.wildfrontierstravel.com

Wildlife Trails

Wildlife Trails specialises in exclusive personalised wildlife tours throughout India and beyond. Our private tours are designed so that our clients spend more quality time at the National Parks and less time travelling or coping with rushed itineraries. You will also be supporting the Tiger Trails Foundation by booking with us. Ten percent of our net profits go into this registered charity, which since 2004 has supported and paid for a private computer school in the village of Ranwal, close to Ranthambhore National Park.

Dale Cottage, Calderbridge,
Cumbria CA20 1DN, UK
T: +44 (0) 1946 841495, 0800 999 4334
E: asia@wildlifetrails.co.uk
www.wildlifetrails.co.uk

World Discovery

World Discovery offers luxury tailor-made holidays to more than twenty destinations worldwide. Our emphasis is on History, Culture and Wildlife. We offer a range of itineraries to India, which includes visits to the National Parks to view the wildlife. India is one of World Discovery's most important destinations and we support TOFTigers in their efforts to support tiger conservation. We strive to operate our holidays in an environmentally responsible manner to ensure that our own contribution is positive and beneficial.

Dorking, Surrey RH4 1LD,
UK
T: +44 (0) 1306 888799
E: enquiries@worlddiscovery.co.uk
www.world-discovery.co.uk

Zigi Tours

Based in London, Zigi Tours is an independent luxury tour operator that specialises in small group tours across the Indian subcontinent and select handpicked destinations. We offer an array of personalised travel experiences tailored to your preferences from luxury train journeys to spa and wellness breaks, cultural exploration to wildlife expeditions. We also provide tailored services for MICE travel. By supporting TOFTigers, we are contributing to the cause of wildlife conservation while highlighting the importance of responsible tourism.

Rush Green, Romford, Essex, UK
T: 01708501214
0800 3213439
E: info@zigitours.com
www.zigitours.com

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & SAFARI OPERATORS

Mantra Wild Adventures

We take your unbridled wanderlust and deliver what you're craving: the wild, natural India of your dreams. We peel back the layers of the country we know and love to provide access to experiences that you won't see in generic tours. It's an experience meticulously designed for couples, small groups or solo female travellers with open hearts, open eyes and a desire to embrace adventure safely. We're passionate about conservation and support the places we visit by contributing to local conservation and community initiatives.

305/15B Albert St,
North Parramatta NSW 2151, Australia
T: 1300 036 782 (From Australia)
E: info@mantrawild.com.au
www.mantrawild.com.au

Natural Focus Safaris

Natural Focus Safaris specialises in personalised wildlife and cultural experiences to some of the world's most iconic wilderness destinations. We are one of Australia's oldest independently owned travel companies creating memorable journeys for over 30 years. Our commitment to authenticity means that we only offer intimate boutique accommodation, small ship cruises, rail journeys, and private, tailor-made experiences. We also provide our clients with the option to donate to nominated non-profit organisations dedicated to preserving the places we are so passionate about.

1st Floor, 333 Clarendon St,
South Melbourne, VIC 3205, Australia
T: +61 3 9249 3777
E: info@awsnfs.com
www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au

Julian Matthews

Viv's India

Being different is our forte and wildlife our passion. We hope to share with you our fascination and enthusiasm for Incredible India and encourage you to visit one of the world's most exciting destinations. To do our best to touch nature in a way that will give back to the ecosystems around us, we include a donation to support the lodges, camps, National Parks and guardians that benefit local communities by providing employment and enhancing understanding of the worthiness of their cause.

57 Clyde Street, Mollymook Beach,
NSW 2539, Australia
T: +61 2 4455 5047
E: viv@vivsindia.com.au
www.vivsindia.com.au

Aditya Singh

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & SAFARI OPERATORS

CANADA

Nature Encounters Tours & Travel

Nature Encounters Tours & Travel vacations are designed from first-hand knowledge of the best places to experience wildlife, culture and landscapes. These destinations have become our home away from home, and our guests are family. Our knowledge, personalised service and hand picked guides will provide you with the most memorable experiences. Sustainable tourism is important to us, be it the lodges we choose, the employment of local villagers or our support of wildlife conservation groups. We do walk the talk…

435 Bowen Island Trunk Road,
Bowen Island, BC Canada V0N 1G1
T: Vancouver Area +1 (604) 947 9005
Toll Free: (866) 949 3007
E: carol@natureencounterstours.com
www.natureencounterstours.com

Ankit Goyal

GERMANY

Diamir

DIAMIR is one of the leading tour operators for adventure and nature holidays in the German-speaking market. High-quality nature and culture holidays, trekking tours, safaris, photo tours, cruises, family tours and expeditions take the centre stage in our travel portfolio. Our India programme with focus on trekking, culture and safaris is one of the most comprehensive in the German-speaking market. In addition to our daily commitment to sustainable tourism, we support numerous relief operations and projects. We also ensure local employment in the destination countries.

Berthold-Haupt-Straße 2,
01257 Dresden, Germany
T: +49 351 312077
E: info@diamir.de
www.diamir.de

Tischler Reisen

Tischler Reisen specialises in tailor-made programmes for individual guests and groups to wonderful destinations around the world. We offer one of Germany's most extensive India programmes. This includes: nature experiences to India's National Parks; cultural tours; special interest tours; luxury trains, cruises and backwater tours; Ayurveda and Yoga; beach holidays; and Himalaya tours. We are proud to be the first German tour operator to be a member of the TOFTigers initiative and are happy to support this distinguished project.

Tischler Reisen AG, Partnachstr. 50,
82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
T: +49 8821 93179612
E: indien@tischler-reisen.de
www.tischler-reisen.de

THE NETHERLANDS

All for Nature Travel & Consultancy

All for Nature B.V. is based in the Netherlands and serves clients in Belgium and the Netherlands. Travelling with All for Nature Travel means that you experience the most beautiful wildlife and unspoiled nature whilst staying at small, comfortable accommodations. Our travel directly contributes towards the conservation of endangered species like the tiger and other animals all over the world. Our practices are sustainable and we have obtained the Travelife Certificate for Tour Operators.

Oudelandseweg 2, 3443 AA Woerden,
The Netherlands
T: +31 348 448 146
E: info@allfornature.nl
www.allfornature.nl

Bianca Travel

Bianca Travel specialises in creative travel planning to India. Whether you are planning a business trip, a honeymoon or a vacation, we tailor trips to all destinations in India. As lovers of nature and wildlife we can advise about India's National Parks and also write our clients a unique itinerary. Our expertise will bring you peace of mind for safe and memorable travel. With our membership of TOFTigers we support the conservation of nature and the protection of India's tigers.

Bizetlaan 25, 3055 SB Rotterdam,
The Netherlands
T: +31 10 4610 862
E: info@biancatravel.nl
www.biancatravel.nl

Koning AAP

Koning Aap is a Dutch tour operator that organises adventurous group tours to over 60 exotic destinations worldwide. We take pride in our professional tour guides and high client appreciation. Knowledge and experience is our strength. At Koning Aap we make sure that holidays contain the ingredients to create memorable experiences. We believe it is important that environmental sustainability results from our tours. We are members of TOFTigers to stem the tiger's decline and support local communities.

Entrada 223, 1114 AA Amsterdam-Duivendrecht,
The Netherlands
T: +31 20 7887 700
E: info@koningaap.nl
www.koningaap.nl

Sawadee Reizen

For more than 30 years Sawadee Reizen has specialised in active and adventurous group journeys. Our travel programme contains over 180 unique tours to destinations around the world. We travel in small groups, have competent tour leaders and offer balanced itineraries where we go beyond the familiar highlights. We travel with respect for nature, the environment and local people. We have been a Travelife certified company since 2014.

Sarphatistraat 650, 1018 AV Amsterdam,
The Netherlands
T: +31 20 420 2220
E: info@sawadee.nl
www.sawadee.nl

THE NETHERLANDS

Shoestring

We are a young and dynamic travel company that covers some of the most interesting corners of the globe. Our people are familiar with our tours because they frequently take them. We travel in small groups setting a relaxed pace so clients have the freedom to discover the great experiences that each location offers. We believe it is important that our tours are environmentally sensitive. We are members of TOFTigers to stem the tiger's decline and support local communities.

Entrada 223, 1114 AA Amsterdam-Duivendrecht,
The Netherlands
T: +31 20 6850 203
E: info@shoestring.nl
www.shoestring.com

SNP Nature Travel

SNP Nature Travel is a Dutch tour operator specialising in activity-based tourism all over the world. We have developed over 300 group trips and 700 FIT packages. These include: walking; hiking; cycling; wildlife; bird watching; arctic adventures; desert tours; cultural tours; and landscape photography courses. SNP is a green and nature orientated company. Therefore we focus strongly on the fragility of our natural world and on sustainable tourism. This vision runs through our travel programmes and our entire business.

P.O. Box 1270, 6501BG Nijmegen,
The Netherlands
T: +31 24 327 7000
E: sales@snp.nl
www.snp.nl

Sundowner

Sundowner is a fully bonded Dutch tour operator specialising in tailor-made and small group wildlife holidays worldwide. We have travelled the world looking for wildlife and natural beauty in remote places. These include tiger safaris in India, Nepal and Russia. We love sharing our experience and work hard to create tours to make our clients' wildlife dreams come true. We care for wildlife and nature and are pleased to support TOFTigers with their work conserving tigers, wildlife and wilderness in India.

Keizer Karelplein 13a1,
1185HL Amstelveen, The Netherlands
T: +31 20 641 8697
E: info@sundowner.nl
www.sundowner.nl

Thika Travel

Thika Travel specialises in individually tailored journeys to exclusive destinations like the Polar Regions, Latin America, Safari-Africa, the Indian Ocean, and the Indian Subcontinent. The focus is on having unique experiences, visiting places where nature is unspoiled, where authenticity still remains and the needs of local communities are met. We care about the places we travel to and do our best to keep it for future generations. This is also why we support TOFTigers with their campaign for tiger conservation.

Kerkplein 6, 3628 AE Kockengen,
The Netherlands
T: +31 346 24 4030
E: india@thika.nl
www.thikatravel.com

THE NETHERLANDS

Wild Times

Wild Times offers unique safaris all over Africa and tailor-made holidays in Asia. Be it a safari with your family, your friends, or honeymoon, we will make it happen. Just share your thought with us and we will design a safari that fits your wishes and budget best. We take sustainable tourism seriously! We believe we can help protect threatened ecosystems, endangered species and the precious diversity of its wilderness areas through our model of low impact, high yield responsible luxury adventure tourism.

Bankastraat 106, 2585 ES,
The Hague, The Netherlands
T: +31 62 5404 337 /+31 70 2153 250
E: info@wildtimessafaris.com
www.wildtimessafaris.com

YourWay2GO

YourWay2GO is a Dutch specialist in customised tours to more than 30 countries. Our sales team comprises world travellers with a personal approach who offer our customers a service creating tours tailored to suit them. We stand for individual freedom and fulfilling our clients' personal wishes. We like to think outside the box and choose comfortable and atmospheric accommodation over luxurious resorts. We are members of TOFTigers to stem the decline of the tiger and support local communities.

Entrada 223, 1114 AA Amsterdam-Duivendrecht,
The Netherlands
T: +31 20 7 88 77 55
E: info@yourway2go.nl
www.yourway2go.nl

SINGAPORE

Outwoods Pte. Ltd.

Outwoods combines the thrill of the wild with the artistry of the camera and is the dream child of wildlife photographer Askhay Rajput and entrepreneurial traveller Shikha Sarkar. Based in Singapore, our expertise for tailor-made wildlife photography tours is built on personal travel experience and trusted relationships in every destination. We also offer bespoke leadership trips for company executives and incentive programmes. Our approach to responsible tourism includes a dedicated week promoting tigers and wildlife conservation in India.

985 Bukit Timah Road, 04 - 09 Maplewoods,
Singapore 589627
T: +65 8344 7829
E: info@outwoods.com.sg
www.outwoods.com.sg

Tiger Tops

SWEDEN

Äventyrsresor AB

Äventyrsresor is a leading Scandinavian ecotourism operator with educational and adventure tours travelling exclusively in small-groups, escorted by highly experienced lecturers and tour leaders. Since its inception, we have practiced a policy of sustainable travel and encourage our travellers to respect the natural and cultural heritage and save our natural resources. We also provide financial support to a wide variety of environmental and conservation projects.

Hornsbruksgatan 19, 4tr,
117 34 Stockholm, Sweden
T: +46 8 55 60 69 00
E: resor@aventyrsresor.se
www.aventyrsresor.se

PolarQuest

PolarQuest is an adventure travel company that focuses on responsible tourism. We travel in small groups with knowledgeable and enthusiastic tour leaders. With us you can experience impressive nature and extraordinary wildlife. We travel to all corners of the world including India, where we search for leopards, sloth bears and the charismatic tiger. Our trips offer excellent opportunities to view and photograph wildlife or just enjoy the grandeur of nature.

Box 180, 40123 Gothenburg,
Sweden
T: +46 31 333 1730
E: info@polar-quest.com
www.polar-quest.com

Swed-Asia Travels

Swed-Asia Travels guarantees to give you exciting experiences in India, Nepal and Bhutan. We specialise in carefully arranged tours and safaris, off the beaten track led by Swedish and local guides with the goal for you to see the tiger. Our tailor-made tiger tours offer you an incredible opportunity to see these magnificent animals in their natural habitat. As a proud TOFTigers member we are committed to working responsibly as a tour operator for sustainable, long-term tiger tourism.

SE-645 30 Strängnäs,
Sweden
T: +46 152 181 82, +46 8 345 786
E: reslust@swedasia.com
www.swedasia.com

Wild Nature Photo Tours

Wild Nature Photo Tours is a travel company specialising in nature photo tours owned and run by nature-photographers Henrik Karlsson and Jan Pedersen. Our tours are designed to give the best photographic opportunities with workshop to inspire and expand participants' photo knowledge. We have first hand experience of our destinations giving us an edge in creating tours, and work with the best local guides. We promote nature conservation and we always involve local guides, tour operators and National Parks services.

Rosenlundsvägen 4,
394 77 Kalmar, Sweden
T: +46 705 891 318
E: info@wildnaturephototours.com
www.wildnaturephototours.com

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TOFTigers MEMBERS

Greaves Tours L.L.C.

Greaves Tours has over 30 years' experience in travel to India and a specialised and dedicated team in the USA, UK and in India. We promise to smooth your path through this exotic country with unmatched personal attention bringing you the best of the Indian subcontinent. Have dinner on the ramparts of forts and palaces, meet with interesting authors and artists…the possibilities are endless. Greaves is passionate about sustainable tourism and supports a range of conservation and heritage projects throughout India.

1306 Old Skokie Road, Highland Park,
IL 60035, USA
T: +1 (224) 765 4545, +1 (800) 318 7801
E: sales@greavesindia.com
www.greavesindia.com

Natural Habitat Adventures

Natural Habitat Adventures has been a leader in responsible adventure travel and ecotourism since 1985. From small-group tiger safaris in India to exploration of the natural treasures of Nepal and Bhutan, our journeys, led by professional naturalist guides, reveal the planet's most extraordinary nature destinations. As the world's first 100-percent carbon-neutral travel company—and the conservation travel partner of World Wildlife Fund—we offer eco-conscious expeditions from Antarctica to Zambia with a multitude of adventures in between!

PO Box 3065, Boulder,
CO, 80307, USA
T: +1 800 543 8917, 303 449 3711 (intl.)
E: info@nathab.com
www.nathab.com

Wilderness Travel

Wilderness Travel offers extraordinary cultural, wildlife and hiking adventures throughout the world, including a collection of journeys to India and Nepal. We have been a leader in adventure travel since 1978 and have received multiple awards including 'Best Tour Operator' in Afar Magazine's inaugural Travelers' Choice Awards and Top Five 'World's Best' Tour Operators from Travel and Leisure magazine. With a strong commitment to ecologically responsible, low-impact tourism, our journeys feature artfully crafted itineraries, small groups and expert trip leaders.

1102 Ninth Street,
Berkeley CA 94710, USA
T: +1 800 368 2794, +1 510 558 2488
E: info@wildernesstravel.com
www.wildernesstravel.com

Wildland Adventures

Wildland Adventures is rated the Best 'Do-It-All' Outfitter by National Geographic Adventure. Our trips are designed for active and inquisitive travellers who seek to protect our planet and experience the world without artifice. We hand select boutique accommodations with style and charm and visit local communities with expert native guides where guests can experience rural life and local cuisines. Wildland is committed to sustainable tourism and supports tiger conservation with its "10,000 Tigers" initiative in collaboration with TOFTigers.

3516 NE 155th Street, Seattle,
WA 98155-7412, USA
T: +1 800 345 4453
E: info@wildland.com
www.wildland.com

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & SAFARI OPERATORS

TOFTigers MEMBERS
SERVICE & MEDIA ORGANISATIONS

Rare India

RARE is a leading representation and marketing company specialising in owner-driven destination hotels, hospitality and tourism. We have worked with individual hotels, destinations, events and associated products across India, Nepal and Bhutan, evolving distinctive strategies to bring about innovation in travel. RARE has taken art, fairs, festivals, music, wildlife and heritage conservation, volun-tourism to the travel trade and beyond. A member of TOFTigers since 2014, we proudly associate with hotels that have a strong green philosophy and are run by well-known conservationists.

U 26A/6, Ground Floor, Phase - III,
DLF City, Gurgaon - 122002, Haryana, India
T: +91 124 4062 480
E: info@rareindia.com, shoba@rareindia.com
www.rareindia.com

themensa

Run by duo, Anurag and Prerika, 'themensa' provides highly personalised representation and marketing services to independent and private hotels in the Indian subcontinent to help build unique brand identities in the travel-trade industry. Our services include outreach and distribution, marketing and promotions, travel PR, digital marketing and consulting. Believing that every property and traveller has different needs, getting them closer is our objective. We will be working with TOFTigers to promote the PUG mark to our clients and support lesser known travel destinations.

T-29/6, LGF, DLF Phase-III,
Gurgaon 122002, Haryana, India
T: +91 98110 26470
E: info@themensa.com
www.themensa.com

EUROPE

Tattva Tourism Solutions

Tattva is a vital source for promoting, representing and marketing select boutique hotels and luxury trains from the Indian subcontinent in Europe. Our properties range from resorts and heritage to houseboats and PUG eco-rated jungle lodges. We are a one-stop-shop for all information required by European partners not only on the properties being promoted but the destination as a whole. We love what we do and are whole-heartedly committed to sustainable tourism and proud to be TOFTigers' European Representative.

Urenfleet 6e,
21129 Hamburg, Germany
T: +49 40 851 053 78
E: info@tattva-ts.com
www.tattva-ts.com

INDIEN aktuell

INDIEN aktuell is a marketing portal attracting one million special interest users from Germany, Switzerland and Austria annually. It works closely with the Indian National and State Tourism boards and travel trade to multiply promotion and networking activities. A trusted content and information provider reaching more than 40,000 media, travel trade, and consumers interested in India as a business and tourism destination, we provide tailor-made marketing solutions for all budgets through digital, print and social media. Our partnership with TOFTigers will promote responsible tourism.

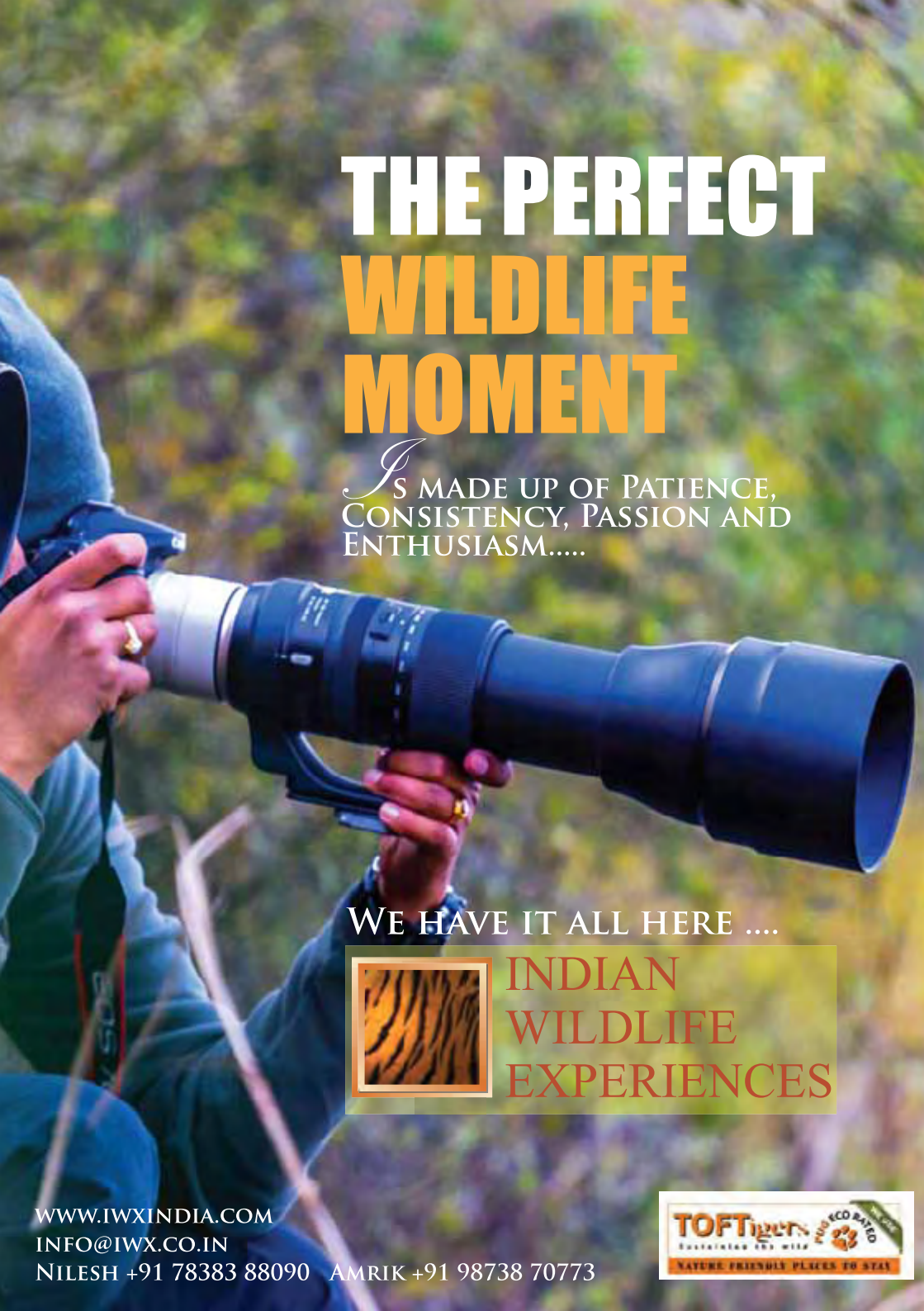
C/o Prexma Limited
Kaiserswerther Markt 51 40489
Düsseldorf, Germany
T: +49 211 4054544
E: info@indienaktuell.de
www.indienaktuell.de

INDIA NORTH AMERICA

The Wanderlust Portfolio

Wanderlust Portfolio offers specialised marketing services for adventure travel companies from Africa and India and high-end lodges and hotels. Armed with a database of leading tour operators and high end travel agents in the US and Canada, the focus is on personal meetings, trade show representation and industry functions for that personal connection. Timely, yet not too frequent newsletters are another source of valuable communications along with web training. We're passionate about what we do which includes representing TOFTigers in North America.

Boulder, CO, USA
T: +1 720-328-8595
E: kiki@wanderlustportfolio.com
www.wanderlustportfolio.com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