

TOFTigers

Sustaining the wild

GREAT WILDLIFE TRAVEL GUIDE

FOURTH EDITION
(UPDATED)

TO INDIA AND NEPAL - INCLUDES 300+ OF THE BEST
NATURE FRIENDLY TRAVEL AND LODGING PROVIDERS

Julian Matthews



In association with

Sanctuary

NATURE FOUNDATION





The heart of
Incredible India

MADHYA PRADESH

— The Tiger State —

For those who would love to rough it out in the wilds,
Madhya Pradesh offers the never-ending jungles of
Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Panna, Satpura & Pench.

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Picture - Reni Pani Hotel

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Cover Photo © Subrat Seet (Tiger In Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve)

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WE ARE WINNING

The Indian subcontinent is one of the great 'hotspots' of the world for safari-goers. It's visitors like yourself from around the world and within South Asia, who are helping save the Bengal tiger and its wildlands by transforming the future for tens of thousands of bordering villagers.

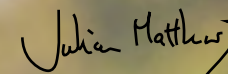
I started TOFTigers in 2004, when India announced only 1,400 wild tigers remained, and they were heading for extinction, so it's a triumph today that India can boast of having nearly 3,000 (and Nepal's tiger numbers are improving too).

It's not just better protection, but this new 'nature-dependent' economy, that has helped turn a creature from a problem and expendable - to an asset and totally invaluable - in the preceding years. An amazing success story.

Today, thankfully, the subcontinent can still boast of more than just the 'big five' – but also the tiger and snow leopard, 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.

Combine any one of the wildlife destinations with vibrant heritage, colourful history and the warm hospitality of an ancient culture, by choosing any one of the operators, agents or accommodation providers highlighted in this guide will mean 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.

Happy visit.



Julian Matthews

Editor and Founder TOFTigers
julian.matthews@toftigers.org





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.

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

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TOURISM, THE ROPE THAT BINDS

But India needs a new breed of economists and leaders

By *Bittu Sabgal, Publisher, Sanctuary Nature Foundation*

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.

Of course this is easier said than done. For this happy occurrence, we must somehow cajole

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.

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 Kutch Wild Ass Sanctuary in Gujarat, Periyar in Kerala and Dampa in Mizoram.

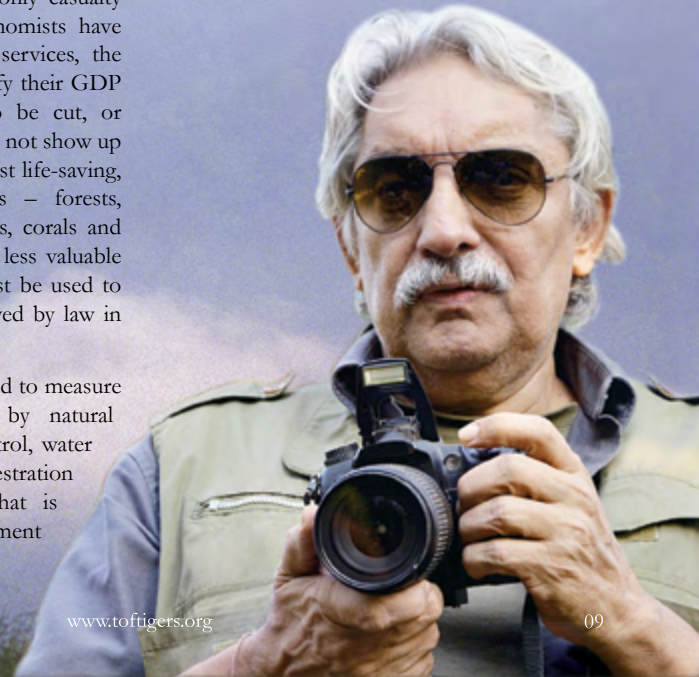
Tourism is not going to be the only casualty of this misadventure. Since economists have no tools to measure ecosystem services, the only way they will be able to satisfy their GDP ambitions is to allow forests to be cut, or drowned because standing trees do not show up on their faulty calculators. The 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.





Dr. Anish Andheria / Sanctuary Photo Library



Baju 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, monocellate 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 Anandheria / Sanctuary Photo Library



Tiger Tops

CENTRAL INDIA

The Central Indian landscape is adorned with Vindhya, Satpura, Aravalli, Maikal and Ajanta mountain ranges that enshrine 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 of 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, goral 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.

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.



Elephant backed safaris - In writing this guide, we are aware of the issues surrounding elephant-backed safaris. To this end we have consulted widely with respected wildlife scientists, behaviourists and vet experts on this subject, in particular the **Asian Captive Elephant Working Group (ACEWG)**. We call for greater strides to be made in their training and welfare and TOFTigers is in the process of agreeing a certification system for Elephant camps and safaris across South Asia like that now happening in others parts of Asia. For a full statement on our policy [see here](#).

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.

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.

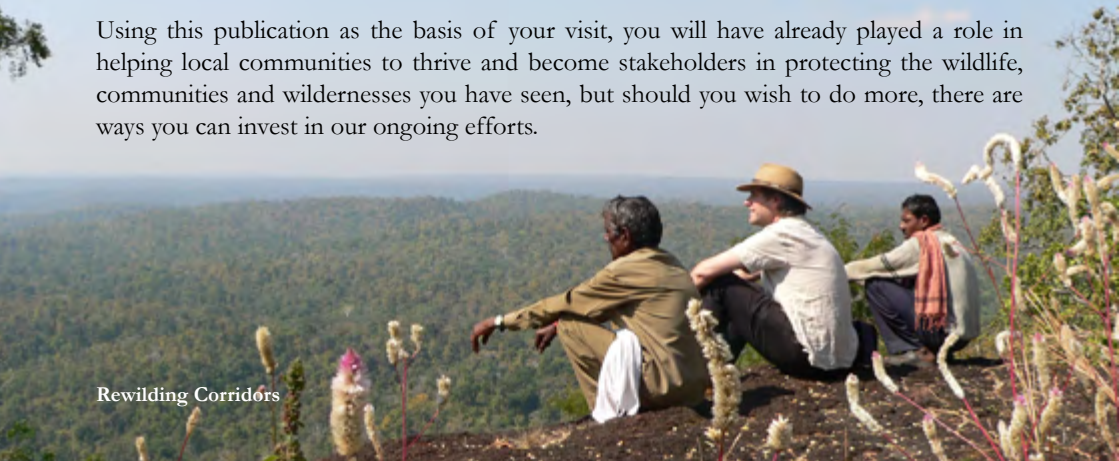
Source: *Sanctuary Nature Foundation*

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 : YOUR 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, communities and wildernesses you have seen, but should you wish to do more, there are ways you can invest in our ongoing efforts.



Rewilding Corridors

Supporting TOFTigers

We are principally funded by our members in this guidebook. However we do raise funds and sponsorship for a range of activities. They include conservation and community projects, research, publications, nature skills and sustainability training programmes and our biennial TOFTigers Wildlife Travel Awards that highlights and rewards the best of the best in combining nature and travel across South Asia. Please do contact us should you wish to know more or focus funds to a specific place or park.

For further details: Visit www.toftigers.org/what-we-do-campaign/

Email us: admin@toftindia.org

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



Park guide training funded by TOFTigers



Children in the park programme



Wildlife tourism awards winner



Field guides with certificates

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@wpsi-india.org

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)

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

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 and Nepal.



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 2019 highlighted nearly 3,000 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.


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



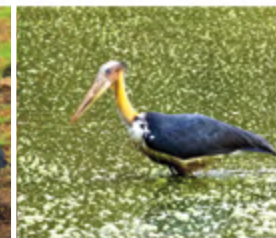
Long-billed vulture



Red-headed vulture



Woolly-necked stork



Lesser adjutant stork



Painted stork



Coppersmith barbet

Compiled by naturalist, photographer and writer Atul Dhamankar.

For more information, visit www.atuldhmankartiger.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.



Blue-throated barbet



Brown-headed barbet



Little owl



Brown fish owl



Indian roller



Common myna



Chestnut-headed
bee eater

Green bee eater



Spotted owl



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

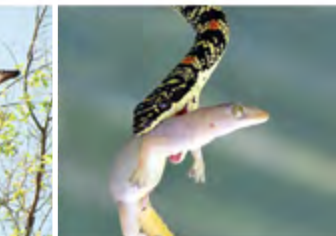
OTHER CREATURES THAT FLY



Indian flying fox
(bat species)



Flying squirrel



Flying snake



Atul Dhamankar

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 tippy bears alike.



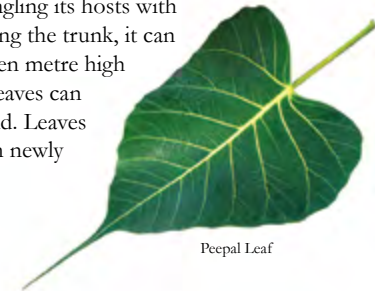
Banyan tree (*Ficus bengalensis*)

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.



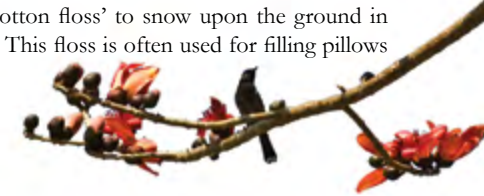
Neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*)

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.

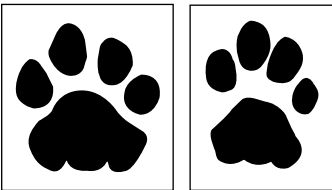
MAMMAL TRACKS

Pugmarks without claws

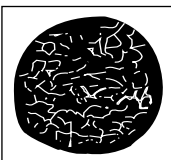
All have four toes and a central pad.



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.



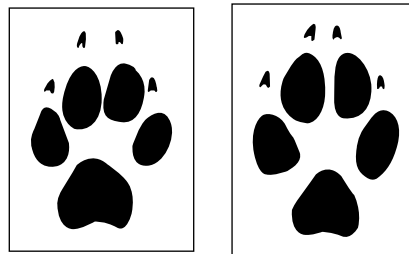
The leopard is the most widely distributed large cat in India and it can even be seen in cities. The tracks of a male are larger than that of a female leopard.



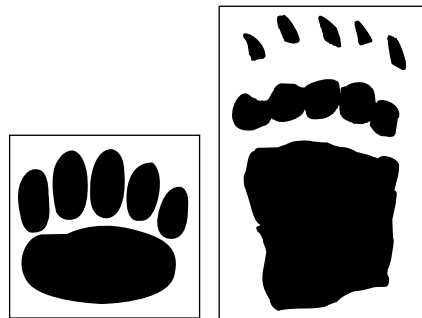
The elephant is an unmistakable track, crater like, showing us an exact fingerprint of the skin on its foot.

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.



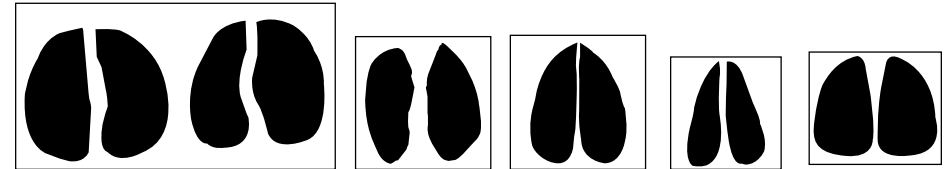
Jackal tracks are commonly seen in many parks - often mistaken as dogs. You can see the claw marks easily in their tracks.



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

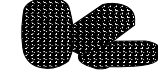
Much can be learnt from droppings or 'scat'. It tells you what animal it is, when it was here, what and when it last ate - so you can even tell how hungry it is! Look out for:



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 and Accommodation Providers

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

What are we?

TOFTigers is a worldwide business-to-business nature based travel campaign started in 2004. It is run by passionate nature travel professionals, sustainability experts and conservationists, many voluntarily, who believe that well-conceived, well-planned and well-managed nature 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 (and elsewhere) 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 300 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 sustainable 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 increasing 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.

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 accommodation for you with our Internationally recognised eco-rating certification programme, 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 South Asia's conservation efforts.



WANT TO KNOW MORE
Visit our website or email us at admin@toftindia.org to join our mailing list.

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:



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
- Swimming pool
- Spa
- WiFi
- Bikes
- Wheelchair access
- Credit cards accepted

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 2020 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 *sadbhus* occupied an extensive cave system in 100 BC. *Bandhav-garb* means 'fort of the brother' and is believed to have been 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. By 1968, all the animals in the park had been hunted out and on the day the present Maharaja's late father gifted the forests to the State, there were no quadrupeds left in the park. Soon after, the forests were 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 90 individuals residing within its forests.

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

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@tofindia.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 four 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. No self-drive vehicles are allowed. The jeeps can be hired at a cost of ₹ 2,500 per vehicle.



Entry Fees:

₹ 1,500 per vehicle that can accommodate six persons. A single-seat permit costs ₹ 250. Children under 5 are allowed for free. Guide fee: ₹ 360.



By Air: Jabalpur (180 km) and Khajuraho (210 km). Transport can be hired from these airports to drive to the park.



By Rail / Road: Jabalpur (180 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.





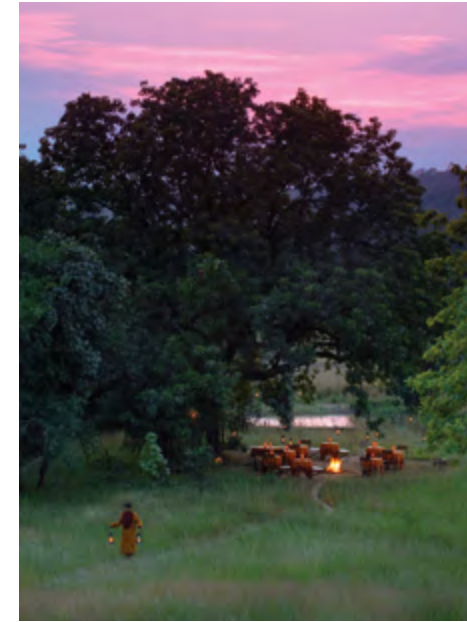
Mahua Kothi, A Taj Safari Bandhavgarh National Park



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 *kutiya*s (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 ground 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.



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.



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.

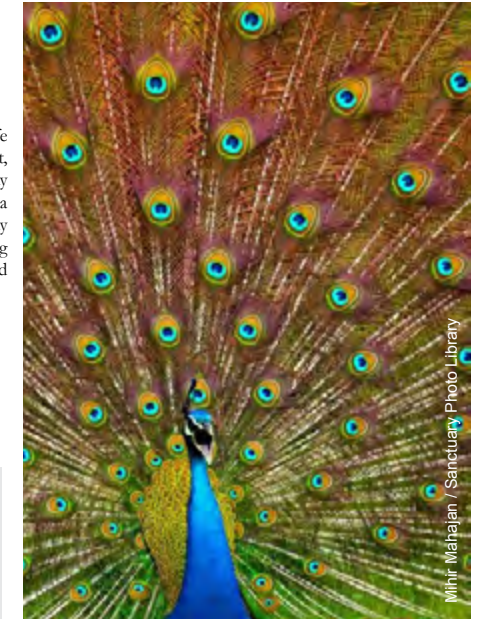


Further Information and Booking:

www.tajsafaris.com

tajsafaris@tajhotels.com

1800-111-825



Mihir Mahajan / Sanctuary Photo Library

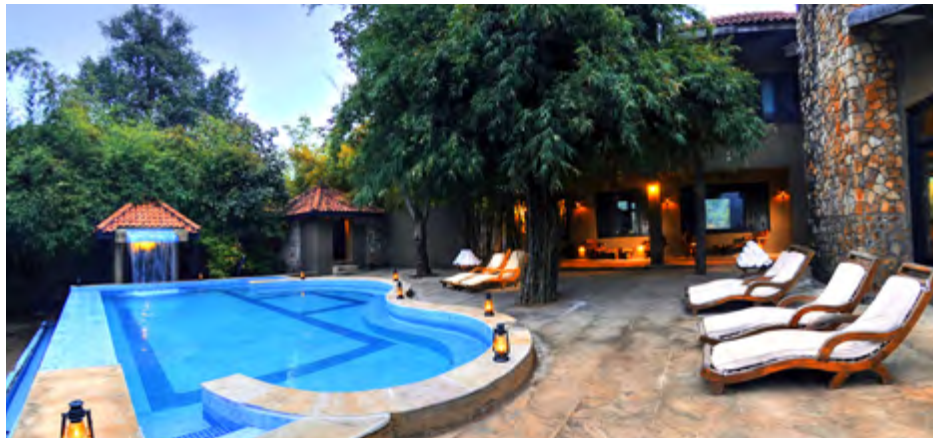


Kings Lodge Pugdunde Safari



A ten-minute drive from the Tala Gate, Kings 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 region's native features, you feel at peace surrounded by lush greenery, 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. The lodge's interiors are rustic yet plush, designed to wow their guests. Dine around a huge single-cut neem tree table and enjoy drinks beside a warming fire. Your stay at Kings Lodge will be refreshing and adventurous with seasoned hospitality and fine guiding.



Activities / Special Features:

Explore the wonders of Bandhavgarh's jungles during game drives in open jeeps. Guests are also encouraged to go on walking tours into the periphery of the forests, where they can soak in the sights and sounds of the wilderness around with trained guides. You can choose to cycle around nearby villages at your own pace. Cycling trails are laid out in the park's buffer zone as well. You can also interact with the local community, break bread with them and get involved in volunteer programmes that bring about positive change in these villages. Get some hands-on bamboo weaving experience while you are there! The lodge's butterfly garden and organic farms are great spots to idle away your time. Sundowner sessions are regularly organised in the lodge, as are bespoke alfresco meals.

Accommodation:

The lodge offers ten regular cottages and eight stilted cottages. Choose between a twin and double cottage – all of which come with modern en suite bathrooms and spacious verandas offering lovely views of the forests. The rooms are well-furnished with air-conditioning and a coffee maker. The lodge's interiors are rustic and unimposing. The lodge has come up on the traditional knowledge of the local community. All rooms are well-appointed with comfortable chairs and desks for those looking to rid themselves of the writer's block.

Food:

Scrumptious meals are served in the multi-cuisine dining hall that has a fireplace to keep you warm as you enjoy your meal with views of the expanses of wild grasslands. Fresh produce is sourced from neighbouring villages and the kitchen garden of the lodge.



Further Information and Booking:

www.kingslodge.in
enquiry@pugdundeefaris.com
 +91 88 0063 7711 / +91 98 1025 3436



Opening Times:

The lodge is 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.



Anish Andheria



Tree House Hideaway Pugdunde Safari



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 the guests stay amongst the birds and tree-bound mammals of the surrounding jungles. The lodge's circular dining hall and watering hole are built around a huge mahua tree. A machaan overlooks a watering hole frequented by wild animals.

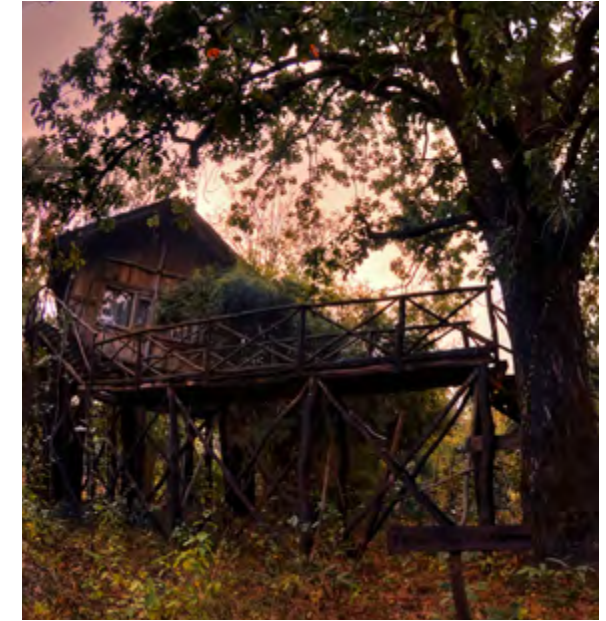
Beautifully designed in a fusion of traditional jungle living and contemporary styling, Tree House Hideaway offers an idyllic getaway. The bedrooms are furnished with understated accessories. Each tree house has been cleverly made using natural wood to ensure a harmonious blend within its own wilderness. Real canopy living at its finest. You can while away your time unseen and unheard in the cosy privacy of your tree house or choose to seek out the sights and sounds of the forest during safaris!

Activities / Special Features:

Tree house Hideaway offers ample opportunities for forest living – observe the multitude of wildlife that has made the property their secure home or venture out into the forests for safaris. Game viewing hides have been built around a watering hole for mammal and bird watching with professional naturalists. Cycling and picnicking into the periphery of the forests are also encouraged. Visits to nearby villagers are arranged during which guests can give bamboo weaving and other local art and craft a shot. A guide is usually present during most activities to ensure an enhanced experience.


Accommodation:


There are five air-conditioned tree houses with en suite bathrooms and large doors opening onto decking verandas under the tree's branches. The interiors reflect a union of the contemporary and traditional. All hideaways have been built using wood. The rooms have air conditioning and 24-hour power back up as well as mosquito netting. The tree houses – Mahua, Tendu, Peepal, Banyan and Palash are all named after the trees atop which they sit.




Food:

A large tree house built over two levels around a century-old Mahua tree serves as the grand dining area in Tree House Hideaway. While meals are served in the lower level, the upper floor is a bar cum lounge known as 'The Watering Hole'. The dining hall offers a range of Indian, Continental and barbeque meals prepared to suit your own palette.




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

 **Location:**
Nearest airport - Jabalpur (170 km), Khajuraho (280 km)
Nearest railhead - Umariya (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@pugdundeefaris.com
 +91 88 0063 7711 / +91 98 1025 3436



Vikram Singh Bai



Bandhav Vilas



Nestled among the picturesque Vindhya Hills and the natural beauty of the wild, Bandhav Vilas is a jungle resort located at the edge of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. It serves a good base from which one can explore the territory of the majestic tiger. The resort setting is pleasing and features a dramatic watercourse and private sit-outs and decks. Charming villas, contemporary interiors with traditional touches, well-equipped bathrooms and private open-to-sky courtyards – all present a smooth contrast to the ruggedness of the jungle.



Activities / Special Features:

Jungle safaris, bonfire nights; native cultural performances; tours to nearby villages; bird watching trips.

Accommodation:

The villas on offer for accommodation cover more than 1000 sq ft, and some of them are designed for the differently-abled. Each villa has a bedroom, private-sit out, dressing area, spacious bathroom, private courtyard with rain shower and private deck.

Food:

The lodge serves Indian and continental food.



Opening Times:

Closed from 30th June to 30th September.



Location:

Nearest airport - Jabalpur (164 km), Khajuraho (237 km)
Nearest railhead - Umaria (32 km), Katni (100 km)
Nearest park gate - Tala (4km), Magadhi (8km), Khitauli (8km)



Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome.



Further Information and Booking:

www.bandhavvilas.com
sales@consortiumhotels.org
 +91 11 4566 5201/02/03/04
 +91 88 6051 8885 / +91 88 6051 8887



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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.infinityresorts.com/category/bandhavgarh
infinity_del@airtelmail.in
 +91 96501 93664, 96501 93662



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.





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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.tigerdenbandhavgarh.com
info@tigerdenbandhavgarh.com
 +91 11 27570446, +91 9650012721

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.



Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge



Run by Amit Sankhala, grandson of the founder of Project Tiger Kailash Sankhala 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 four spacious rooms in one villa 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.

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 11 2685 3760 / 2651 6770 / 2685 8656



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.

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 Nagarhole 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@tofindia.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:

Morning: 06:00 am to 09:30 am
Evening: 03:30 pm to 6:30 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. The jeep safaris start at ₹ 4,500 (taxes extra) and above for an entire vehicle.

Entry Fees:

₹ 250 for both Indian and foreign nationals. Safari vehicles have to be hired separately.

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.



Nirajan Sant / Sanctuary Photo Library



Manoj Sindagi / Sanctuary Photo Library



Dhole's Den Resort



Run by Kartik Davey and his wife Ingrid, Dhole's Den is a contemporary safari-homestay that offers spectacular views of the jungles leading to the blue Nilgiri hills and beyond. 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. Not unlike a very contemporary glass-fronted Alpine villa, this lodge is the family's holiday home.

Guests at the lodge can spend their time on guided jeep safaris, nature walks, village tours, camp fires, yoga sessions and birdwatching to enjoy a natural experience away from the city. Dhole's den has five spacious living units with balconies with unhindered views of the hills. The lodge has been designed to maximise natural light and ventilation combining minimalistic style, natural comfort and eco-friendly design. They also have a dedicated meditation area and an observation machaan within the lodge property.



Activities / Special Features:

Go on thrilling nature walks, birdwatching trips and safaris with the lodge's in-house naturalist and learn about the flora and fauna of the Nilgiris. Guests can also opt to go camping or visit local village communities. A well-stocked library offers a range of books on conservation. Get your zen on with some meditation or simply observe wildlife from the *machaan* within the lodge grounds.

Accommodation:

Accommodation is provided in five spacious living units with en suite bathrooms. High ceilings and

glass louvers allow a gentle breeze throughout the day. Attached balconies ensure panoramic views. Large eaves and trees planted near guest rooms provide natural shade and cooling. Local materials have been used where possible. Admirably, the lodge has also installed ramps for guests with disabilities.

Food:

Guests at Dhole's Den are spoiled for choice in food as they can pick from a variety of Indian, South Indian, Chinese and Continental dishes. Locally-sourced food includes fresh organic vegetables and herbs grown in the lodge's kitchen garden.



Opening Times:

The lodge is open throughout 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 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

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.

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 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 2,500 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



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 Karnali Lodge



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. The lodge has been cultivating and expanding its organic vegetables farm and is close to self-sufficient, providing an abundant array of fresh fruits and vegetables for you to enjoy during your stay. Bardia National Park is one of the best places in Nepal to spot tigers, while also offering excellent game viewing of species such as wild elephants, leopards and dolphins.

Activities / Special Features:

Jeep and river safari inside the National Park; nature walks; bird watching; organic farm visit; river rafting in Babai 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.



Opening Times:

The lodge is open from September to June.



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



Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary

Uttarakhand

Set in the scenic Jhandi Dhar hills in the Himalayas, Binsar was the summer capital of the erstwhile Chand Rajas who ruled Kumaon between the 11th and 18th centuries AD. Elevated to the status of a wildlife sanctuary in 1988 after a prolonged movement by the local community, this sleepy hamlet in Uttarakhand spans an area of about 45 sq km that covers nine very picturesque and traditional Kumaon villages, with a total population of just 600 people. It's a walkers' and trekkers' paradise between its villages and original forests.

Named after a 16th century Shiva temple dedicated to Bineshwar, Binsar provides a stunning view of the 300-km-long snow-covered expanse covering Himalayan peaks such as Badrinath, Kamet, Gauri Parbat, Panchachuli, Kedarnath, Shivling, Trisul and Nanda Devi. Owing to its proximity to the national capital, this wildlife park has become a popular spot for trekkers looking for their weekend's dose of fresh air in a tranquil and breathtaking setting.

Binsar is a glorious slice of Himalayan flora and fauna, that has survived the ravages of Himalayan deforestation and development. With open patches of greenery frequented by hill jezebels, painted ladies, Indian tortoiseshells and red admirals, Binsar's forests will certainly pique one's interest in butterfly watching as you trek along the steep paths. If you plan a trip soon after the monsoons, you can also find reptiles such as the Himalayan trinkets, Kashmir agamas and white-lipped pit vipers lurking around the moss-covered forest floors and layers of fallen oak leaves.

What you can do inside the park

Binsar's cooler climes make it ideal for a quiet trek in the lap of the Kumaon hills. You can soak in the soothing sights and sounds of the forests through nature walks led by guides familiar with the mountain's flora and fauna. The wildlife sanctuary is also a visual treat for those keen on watching its winged visitors – birding and butterfly walks are two of the main activities in this park. A trip to Zero Point, the highest viewing point in the sanctuary, for a breathtaking view of the chain of snow-capped peaks, is worthwhile but gets crowded with trippers.

What to look out for

Binsar's broadleaf temperate forests are home to 200 species of resident and migratory birds; including Griffon vultures, laughing thrushes, sibilas, jays, fork-tails, Kalij pheasants, and tits; making it one of the best birding destinations in the Kumaon. There are 25 varieties of trees, 24 types of bushes and seven kinds of grasses in the sanctuary; its higher altitudes are covered in oak and in winter a carpet of red from the rhododendron trees. If it's your lucky day, you may get to spot gorals effortlessly climbing up oak-lined slopes or Indian porcupines peeking out of their rocky hideouts. These misty tree-clothed foothills are also known to shelter leopards, red foxes, common langurs, yellow-throated martens, barking deer, jungle cats, and the Himalayan black bear.

Fun things to see and do outside the park

If you have a day to spare, consider a trek to the Jageshwar temple. Tourist lodges also arrange day-trips to nearby NGOs such as Panchachuli Women Weavers of Kumaon that focus on generating sustainable employment opportunities for the region's villagers by helping them market local produce and handicrafts like jams, pickles, shawls, and preserves.

Conservation

A proactive village based cooperative, Forest department and private sector have played key roles in encouraging the local populace to depend on sustainable sources of livelihood, turning their attention away from the forests'

depleting resources and instead look to preservation of both their natural and cultural heritage through the advent of nature and trekking tourism. Though signs of logging and forest fires are visible, extensive damage to Binsar's fragile ecosystem has so far been avoided and quintessentially beautiful Kumaon villages, with their unique architectural heritage remained largely unscathed by ugly development seen now in many parts on the drive to Binsar. Furthermore a noticeable increase in birdlife and animal life is now visible, without the hunting pressures of yester year. Long may this continue.



PARK INFORMATION



How to Book:

You can pre-book your trip through your lodge or tour operator.



Park Timings:

The park is open for visitors from 07.00 am till 06.00 pm. It is closed in July and August due to the monsoons.



Getting Around the Park:

The region's hilly terrain makes it difficult to move within this pocket-sized park in a vehicle. Your legs are your best bet to make your way up and down Binsar's forested slopes.



Entry Fees:

₹ 150 for Indian nationals
₹ 600 for foreign nationals.
Additionally, one will have to pay ₹ 250 per vehicle for entry into the park.



By Air: Pantnagar Airport (144 km). Travel can be pre-booked to drive to the park.



By Rail: Kathgodam (119 km).



By road: Almora is the closest town (33km).



Vinod Goel



Mary Budden Estate



Mary Budden Estate is a boutique homestay located in the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary named after its last known inhabitant Ms Mary Budden, who worked as a missionary in the hills of Kumaon in the 19th century. In 1990, Ashwani and Serena Chopra bought the estate, and restored this heritage property.

The estate sits on five acres of land perched at 8,000 ft. The property has two cottages, each with three bedrooms. The artistically decorated interiors blend with the architectural inspirations of the late 19th century. It is one of only five privately-owned estates in the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, lovingly restored for comfortable and elegant living by retaining its original charm.

Activities / Special Features:

Guided walks; yoga; birdwatching; trips to Chittai bell temple, Devdhura and cave temples; homestay at Dalar Village; activities at village school; outdoor games; board games; library

Accommodation:

The Mary Budden Cottage has three rooms that can sleep six people plus two children. An intimate front porch and rich pine wood add to the cottage's charm. The Rhododendron Cottage is airy and romantic with beautiful views. It has all the amenities of Mary Budden Cottage and is further enhanced with a larger living room, a library and picture windows.

Food:

Continental, Indian, Pahadi/Kumaoni, Chinese and Tibetan cuisines are available.



Opening Times:

The lodge is open from 2nd September to 30th June.



Location:

Nearest Railhead - Kathgodam (120 km)

Nearest Airport - Pantnagar (155 km)

Nearest park gate - Binsar (The lodge is located within the park)



Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome.

PRICE BAND

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Further Information and Booking:

www.marybuddenestate.in

contact@marybuddenestate.in

+91 94 1131 6517



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 Shivalik 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

CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK, NEPAL

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 muggler 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 or on foot can be arranged by your tour operator or lodge, depending on weather conditions affecting the river and roads.



Entry Fees:

For International tourists: NR 2,000 +taxes
For SAARC Nationals: NR 1,000 +taxes
For Nepalese Nationals: NR 200
Children below the age of ten are given free entry.



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



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.

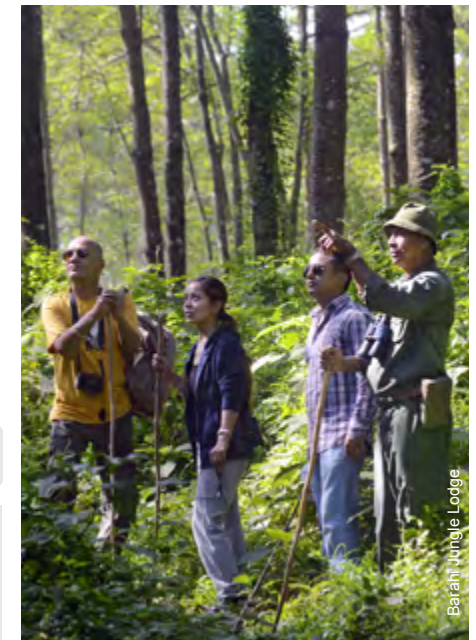
Location:
Nearest airport -
Bharatpur (32 km)
Nearest park gate -
Meghauri (across the river, 5 minutes away)

Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.



Further Information and Booking:

www.barahijunglelodge.com
 bjl@barahi.com
 +977 1 4411113, +91 124 2970497



Barahi Jungle Lodge



Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge



On the edge of 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.

Go on a bird watching tour - the lodge's naturalists have recorded more than 300 species of birds in the surrounding habitats. You 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.



Activities / Special Features:
Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime elephant experience here. At the Tiger Tops Elephant Camp near the lodge, you can stay in one of six fully-equipped safari tents with attached bathrooms. Accompanied by an experienced Tiger Tops naturalist on all activities, you will learn about the elephants routine, their relationship with their mahouts and their interaction with their environment. You can also set out on adrenaline-fuelled safaris either by jeep, canoe or foot.

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

Food:
A large dining room serves a range of Nepali and Continental dishes cooked with fresh ingredients, sourced from their organic farm and neighbouring village gardens.

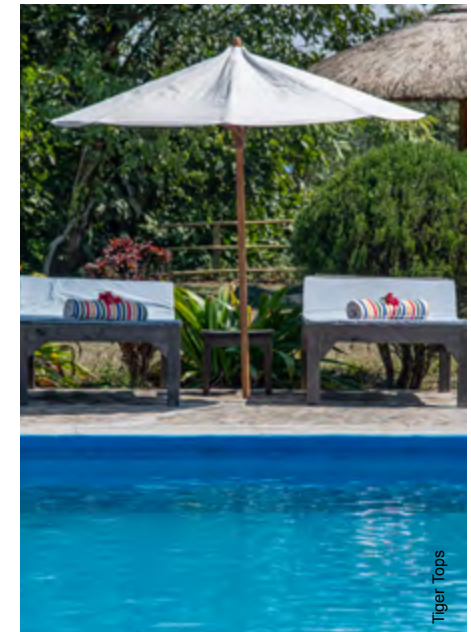
Opening Times:
The lodge is open from September to June.

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 and elephant bathing.



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



Tiger Tops

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 *amma* 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.

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.





Green Valley Resort



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)

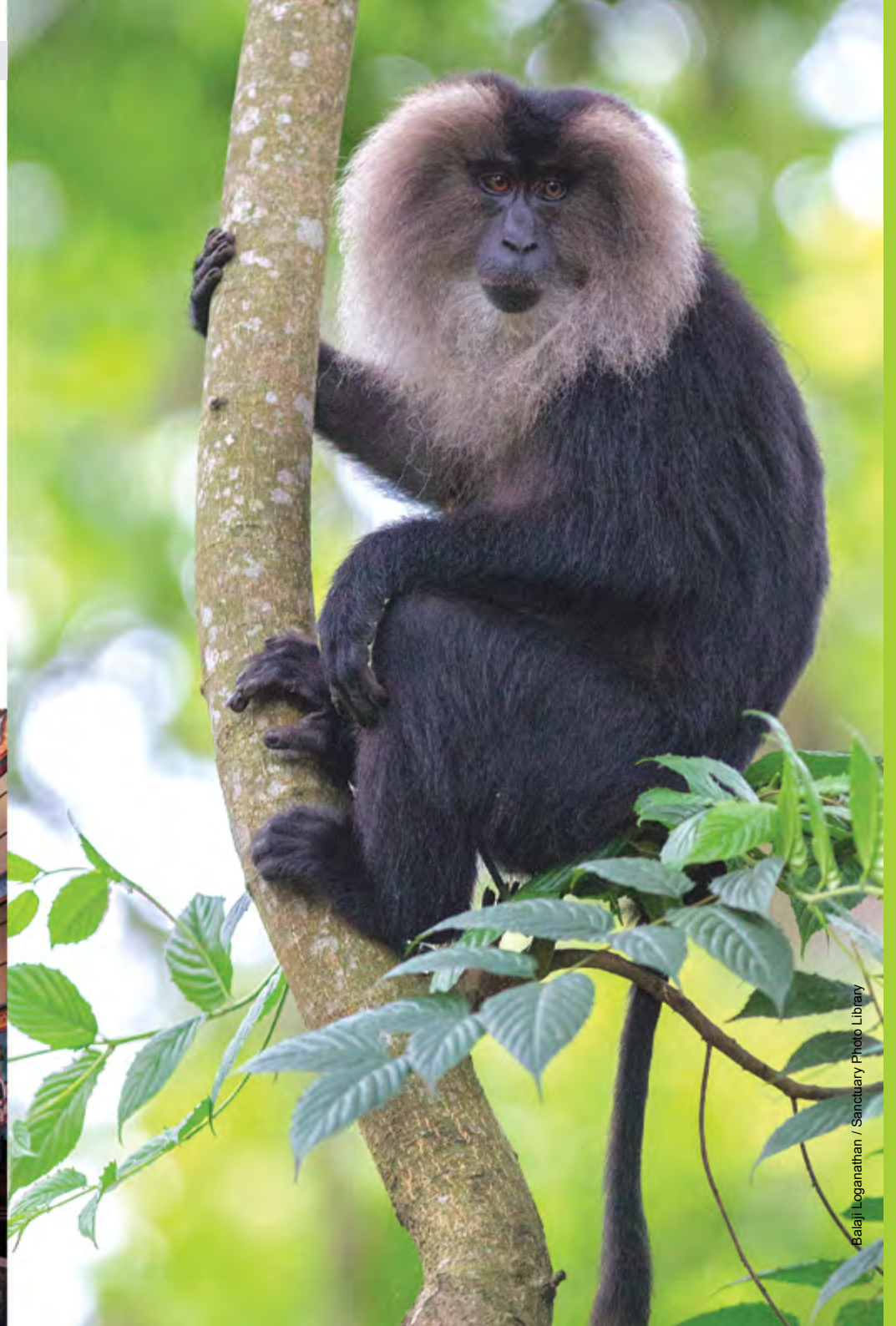
Children's Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome. There is a play area for kids.



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

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:

For Jeeps:

Morning: 06:00 am to 09:30 am

Evening: 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

For Canter:

Morning: 6:00 am to 11:30 am

Evening: 12:00 pm to 5:30 pm

These timings may vary in the summer and winter months.

While the park is closed from July to October during the heavy rains, Jhirna, Dhela and Sitabani tourism zones remain open all through the year.



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. Canter rides cost ₹1,500 and upwards per seat, while jeep safaris start at ₹4,500 per jeep.



Entry Fees:

₹ 200 for Indian Nationals

₹ 900 for Foreign Nationals

Elephant Ride

(For maximum of four tourists):

₹ 3,500 per elephant



By Air:

New Delhi (240 km), Dehradun (250 km), Lucknow (247 km). 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



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.



Activities / Special Features:

You can choose to explore the jungle during the jeep safari. 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. The resort also has a naturopathy and wellness centre that provides a wide range of spa therapies and treatments under the guidance of certified practitioners.

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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.aahanaresort.com

bookings@aaahanaresort.com

+91 70 8860 0024/21



Rajesh Panwar / Sanctuary Photo Library



Jim's Jungle Retreat

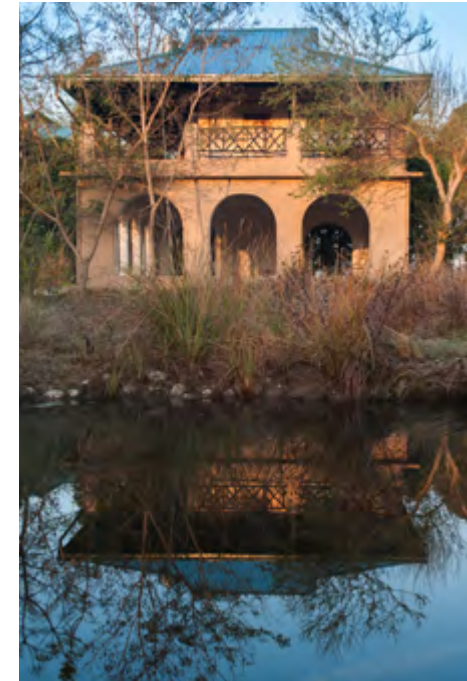
Seek the Tiger, Find the Jungle



Committed to responsible tourism with the active involvement of the local community, Jim's Jungle Retreat offers its guests an exciting, educative and uplifting experience in the buffer forests of Corbett Tiger Reserve. Set in 15 acres that have been joyously reforested over 15 years with local flora, the retreat built on a strong social and ethical foundation hosts over 70 spectacular bird species even as deer and other mammals, including tigers and elephants, come visiting.

Step back into time with meaningful indulgences of unspoiled natural landscapes. Stay in lodges reminiscent of Raj-era forest rest houses. Relish without guilt the farm-to-table produce transformed into delicacies using secret recipes of the Raj, hidden grains and pulses from the mountains of Kumaon, and country-style world cuisine.

Over 30 years of birding and tracking experience in the Corbett jungles, curated wildlife activities, and warm Kumaoni hospitality come together to produce an unmatched wilderness experience. Jim's Jungle Retreat invites you to come "seek the tiger, find the jungle".



Activities / Special Features:


Curated wildlife experiences await you at Jim's Jungle Retreat. Learn about the different forms of life in the forests during jeep safaris and nature walks. You can also go on guided birdwatching trips with the lodge's resident naturalist. Take a stroll through our various trails, including the Python trail and the Mahavan Project, go cycling or visit the nearby Chhoti Haldwani and Van Gujjar Dera. Overnight stays in the Corbett Forest Rest House can also be arranged for.

Accommodation:


The lodge offers 18 housing units, including Jungle Cottages and Jungle Lodges. The Jungle Cottages, with wrap-around verandas, come with a living room, a bedroom, dressing room and bath each. At 15-foot elevation, the Jungle Lodges offer spectacular views of the surrounding forests. These units boast of plush interiors and a 10-foot wrap-around verandah. The lodge's construction borrows from the region's architectural past – old forest bungalows and rest houses of the Raj-era and the local Van Gujjar community houses built by hand. Century-old lithographs adorn the walls in the lodge; soft linens and luxurious fabrics speak of the lodge's attention to detail.

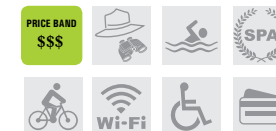
Food:

The food is farm-to-table fresh, organic and specially-curated for the gastronomy-enthusiasts with dishes sourced from secret Raj recipes, the hills of Kumaon, the Mughlai kitchens of Rampur, and country-style contemporary world cuisine. Every meal is a treat to your taste buds; the menu never repeated during your stay, unless of course, you ask us for the dish again!




 **Opening Times:**
Open all through the year.

 **Location:**
Nearest airport - Pantnagar (98 km), Dehradun (215 km), Delhi (275 km)
Nearest railhead - Ramnagar (13 km), Kathgodam (70 km)
Nearest park gate - Dhela (1.5 km), Jhirna (3 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 and farm animal raising.



Further Information and Booking:

 www.jimsjungleretreat.com
 info@jimsjungleretreat.com
 +91 11 4753 7647, +91 11 4351 6376
+91 97 1178 9828, +91 97 1178 9262





The Golden Tusk



Just a five minute drive from the Jhirna and Dhela safari zones, The Golden Tusk is a boutique resort set in over nine 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 multi-cuisine and speciality dining, a range of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, customised safaris and excursions.

Activities / Special Features:

Jungle safaris; birding trips; nature walks; cycling trips; hiking; farm visits; Himalayan view trips; sightseeing trips to nearby attractions; library & interpretation centre; in-house adventure activities like wall climbing, rappelling and zipping; outdoor/indoor games.

Accommodation:

Six styles of lodging options offer something for every traveller: scenic views, private lawns, spacious rooms and camping. Stay in one of 49 rooms categorised as Country View, Forest View & Pool View Suites, Villa, Tiger Suites and Swiss Tents with all modern amenities including air-conditioning, TV, a refrigerator and a tea/coffee maker.

Food:

The 'Golden Forest' 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 & Lounge' serves selection of cocktails and mocktails during those bonfire nights. A unique in-pool dining option can be arranged on request.



Further Information and Booking:

www.thegoldentusk.com
contact@thegoldentusk.com
+91 89 3700 0770, +91 11 4054 0540



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.



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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.paatlidun.com
kriti@templetongroup.in
+91 9999 338 886



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.





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.



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.

Accommodation:

The camp has nine en suite mud cottages and ten 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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.kumaonmaati.com

info@kumaonmaati.com

+91 98 3727 4210, +91 94 5614 3370



Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

Uttar Pradesh

One of the most celebrated conservationists, 'Billy' Arjan Singh, put Dudhwa on the map in India in the 1970's, with the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi backing him. Uttar Pradesh's last viable tiger habitat was coming under real threat before it was declared a sanctuary in 1968 thanks to his stubborn persistence. The park today comprises the three protected areas of Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary and Dudhwa National Park on the borders with Nepal, part of the well known terai region inhabited by the gentle and artistic Tharu people. The park was officially brought under Project Tiger in 1987.

Today it still remains, one of the least visited premier parks of India, troubled historically by poaching, human encroachment and over grazing. It's flanked on the north by the Mohana river and the Suheli river on the south and its vast alluvial plains have some of the finest sal and teak forests interspersed with vast expanses of lush green grasslands and magnificent marshes. Dudhwa's moist deciduous habitat makes it one of the most vibrant wildlife reserves in the country where both prey and predator thrive in healthy numbers, even with its abundant rainfall, and seasonal flooding.

The increasingly seen Bengal tiger population is complimented with a sizeable population of leopards, as is evident from ongoing man-animal conflicts in agricultural fields around the park's fringes. Home to half the world's population of swamp deer or barasinghas, it's one of the few parks in India inhabited by five types of deer - sambar deer, barking deer, spotted deer, hog deer and barasinghas.



Bharat Goel

© Bharat Goel

What to do and look out for

Dudhwa is excellent tiger country - a living testament to Arjan Singh's determination to protect the big cats of the Terai region. It is also possible to sight deer, barasinghas, sloth bears, jungle cats, fishing cats, and hispid hares on a safari drive. Visitors occasionally get to see mugger crocodiles lurking around the sandy banks of the Suheli and Mohana rivers. With some luck, one may also chance upon swimming otters or monitor lizards searching for crocodile eggs near one of the many lakes, rivers, rivulets or streams here. Dudhwa's thick grasslands fed by the fertile Gangetic plains and numerous water bodies attract a large number of migratory birds during the winters. Birdwatchers throng Dudhwa every year to watch the mesmerising mating ritual of these floricans.

Fun things to see and do outside the park

The Manduk Mandir/Frog Temple constructed by the Oyal kings makes for an interesting stopover if you are travelling from Hargaon to Lakhimpur-Kheri and Dudhwa. With a base built in the shape of a frog, the 200-year-old temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Diwali is one of this temple's bigger festivals.

Conservation

Livestock grazing and human encroachment pose a serious threat to Dudhwa's biodiversity. The areas surrounding the fringes of the reserve, where sugarcane cultivation is common, witness frequent conflicts between the big cats and human beings. Wild animals that venture into these fields are often killed in retaliation. With Nepal on the other side of the Tiger Reserve's border, poaching and related smuggling crimes are also serious problems. Logging and forest fires have taken a toll on the park as well.



PARK INFORMATION



How to Book:

You will have to pre-book your trip through your lodge or travel operator.



Park Timings:

The park is open from 15th November to 15th June every year. The timings vary according to the season.

Winter : Morning: 07.00 am – 10.00 am
Evening: 03.00 pm – 06.00 pm

Summer : Morning: 06.00 am – 09.00 am
Evening: 04.00 pm – 07.00 pm



Getting Around the Park:

Coaches and jeeps can be hired from the park office.



Entry Fee (per person):

₹ 100 for Indians

₹ 300 for foreign nationals

You can choose to stay for 1-3 nights on a single pass.



By Air: Lucknow (238 km). Travel to the park can be pre-booked.

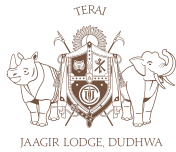


By Rail: Dudhwa (4 km).



By Road: The nearest town, Palia (5 km,) is about 238 km from Lucknow. It may be important to stop over in Palia before you head to Dudhwa as provisions may be unavailable beyond this point.

Vinod Goel



Jaagir Lodge



Jaagir Lodge prides itself as a place for guests to 'converse with' the Terai Himalaya region's rich flora and fauna. With its main building dating back to the elegance of the Maharajahs', this 1940's built hunting lodge, today is a restored fusion of antique furniture, beautiful wallpaper patterns and rich upholstery offerings elegant lodge and villa accommodation that showcase the comforts of the colonial era with modern convenience. The lodge offers ample opportunities for big cat safaris, elephant rides, rhino-spotting and bird watching.

Jaagir Lodge, Dudhwa plans tailor made journeys in the region suited to your special interests, be it photography or wildlife spotting. They facilitate special interactions with the Tharu tribe - who call themselves the 'people of the forests' - for an insightful experience to learn their ancient traditions, arts and folklore. You can also hop on a bicycle and tour through sugarcane farms and nearby villages. Jaagir's resident naturalist will be there with you at every step to ensure you don't miss anything.

Activities / Special Features:

Guided jeep safaris, nature walk,; bicycling and bird watching with photo lessons. Also enjoy stargazing, culinary lessons, yoga sessions and interactions with the local Tharu community.

Accommodation:

Combination of elegant colonial suites and en suite bedrooms mixed with pavilion or brick villas in the farmstead, amongst the gardens and mango orchards. All rooms are air-conditioned.

Food:

Well-crafted menus allow for an epicurean exploration of global as well as time-tested home recipes from the kitchen gardens.



Further Information and Booking:

www.tutc.com/jaagir-lodge-dudhwa
info@tutc.com
 +91 80 1090 2222



Opening Times:

The lodge is open from 15th November to 15th June, annually.



Location:

Nearest airport - Dhangadhi in Nepal (60 km), Lucknow (236 km)
Nearest railhead - Shahjahanpur (110 km), Lucknow (234 km)
Nearest park gate - Satiana Range, Dudhwa National Park (7 km)



Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome.



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 1,134 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

www.toftigers.org

What you can do inside the park

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. However, leopards, sloth bears and exciting packs of hungry wild dogs or dholes also abound in these forests. The barasingha or swamp deer (hard ground swamp deer) is found in Kanha and barely 1,200 of them survive in the wild. Look out for rhesus macaque, smooth-coated otter, honey badger, small Indian civet, Indian grey mongoose, spotted chevrotain and pangolin. There are also 175 varieties of birds in Kanha. 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. 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. Night safaris can also be arranged within buffer areas. 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 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 ₹ 2,800 per game drive.



Entry Fees:

For Jeep:

₹ 1,750 per jeep for all nationals

₹ 250 per seat for all nationals

Cost of Park Guide: ₹ 600 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 three-and-a-half hour drive from Jabalpur and a five-and-a-half hours away from Nagpur. Mandla is 100 km from Mukki and 60 km from Kisli gate.

Anish Andheria





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:

Six cottages with fourteen 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 - Khatia 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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.kiplingcamp.com
info@kiplingcamp.com
 +91 98 1111 4446



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.



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. The Wilderness, a bungalow with two bedrooms, a living-cum-dining room and attached bathrooms is the latest addition to the property.

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.

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.



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





Kanha Earth Lodge Pugdundee Safaris



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.



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.

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.



Further Information and Booking:

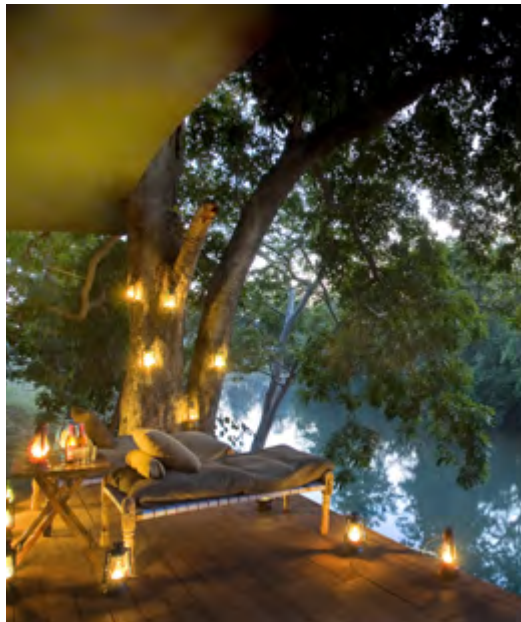
www.kanhaearthlodge.com
 enquiry@pugdundeefaris.com
 +91 88 0063 7711 / +91 98 1025 3436



Charles Fraser

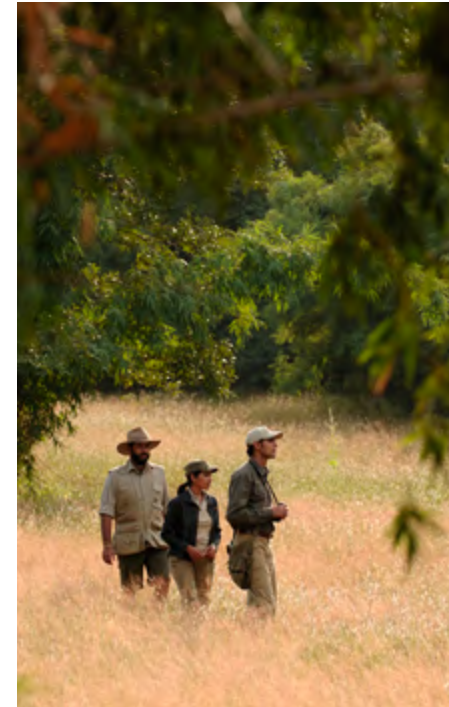


Banjaar Tola, A Taj Safari Kanha National Park



Banjaar Tola is a plush jungle safari lodge situated on the banks of the Banjaar River, overlooking the Kanha National Park. With its unique identity celebrating the Bastar and Dogra art from nearby Chhattisgarh, the lodge is a masterpiece in the contemporary use of canvas through all the living quarters, fine dining and glamorous leisure areas. The lodge sits pretty in 90 acres of private Sal forest interspersed with grasslands and a seasonal lake.

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 using 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. Learn about life in the forests during safari drives with the lodge's resident naturalist. Interactive culinary classes, stargazing sessions and scenic private dinners are arranged for those looking to just soak in the comforts of the lodge.



Activities / Special Features:

Make the most of your time at Kanha and watch Kipling's stories come to life during the exciting safari drives in the forests. Visits to nearby villages give guests a chance to interact and learn from members of the local communities. You can also take your bicycle out and cover as much distance by wheels to soak in the sights and sounds of the region. Gond and Baiga tribes showcase their dances by the lodge's bonfire in the evening. Banjaar Tola's personalised cooking lessons are a big hit with the gourmands.

Accommodation:

Accommodation at Banjaar Tola is spread over two camps on either side with nine stilted tents each. All of the 18 tented suites set on raised platforms come with large bathrooms and wide glass doors that open into floating private decks overlooking the river and the park's core area. They offer panoramic views of the wilderness beyond. Bastar bell metal work, Gond artwork and intricate stone carvings have been used to decorate the interiors, while also showcasing the cultural heritage of the region. The use of bamboo panelling in the rooms and for furnishings speaks of the sustainable path the lodge has undertaken.

Food:

The food at Banjaar Tola is inspired by Chhattisgarhi cuisine but can cater to all tastes. Dinner may be served in the forest lit by lanterns and accompanied by traditional dancing or on your own balcony. Fresh salads made using produce from the lodge gardens are also served. Private dinners in scenic settings besides the poolside or under clear starlit skies are also arranged for. A picnic dinner atop your jeep's bonnet will await you at the end of your thrilling jungle safari, complete with freshly-baked goodies, fruits, hot kathi rolls and freshly-brewed coffee to wash it all down.

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 hunts, cooking demonstrations, guided nature walks and community visits are some of the activities they can participate in. The lodge organises an "I am a Naturalist" programme for budding naturalists with 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
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Further Information and Booking:

www.tajsafaris.com
 tajsafaris@tajhotels.com
 1800 111 825



Gaurav Patil / Sanctuary Photo Library



Chitvan Jungle Lodge



Spread over fourteen verdant green acres, Chitvan Jungle Lodge is a comfortable safari lodge that has been interwoven empathetically with its Gond tribal village neighbours. A small water body provides an advantageous viewpoint for observing wildlife. Each wood-bedecked suite is designed with an earth element in mind - water, earth and sky.

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.

Activities / Special Features:

Jungle drives; dance performances by the local tribal community; bullock cart rides, birding and nature walks; local market visits; cycling trips to the countryside; Indian cooking demonstration; organic farming lessons at the lodge's farms



Opening Times:

Closed from 1st July 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:

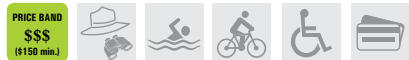
Children of all ages are welcome. The Jungle Knowledge Educational Tour is specially designed for youngsters and teaches them the importance of forests and wildlife. It entails a gentle walk to the Banjaar River with a naturalist, spotting the footprints of different creatures, both big and small.

Accommodation:

Choose from the ten Jal cottages or four Prithvi suites, which have a big saja tree in the centre of the block and spacious rooms. The four Akash suites give you a captivating view of the Maikal Hills. The Mahasagar Suite is a large two-bedroom suite with a living room and four private balconies.

Food:

A variety of Indian and Continental dishes are cooked to suit your preferences. All ingredients served here are organic and mostly harvested at the lodge or in neighbouring farms. Having a sundowner at the bar is a perfect way to end your day here.



Further Information and Booking:

www.chitvan.com

sales@consortiumhotels.org

+91 11 45665201/02/03/04

+91 88 6051 8885 / +91 88 6051 8887





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. No safaris on Wednesday evenings.



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

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Further Information and Booking:

www.courtyardhousekanha.com
courtyardhousekanha@hotmail.com
 +91 94251 53571



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 Banjar 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

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Further Information and Booking:

www.flameoftheforest.in
karanmod@gmail.com
 +91 9669 555 339





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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.kanhajunglelodge.com
tigerresorts@tigersindia.com

+91 11 2685 3760/2651 6770/2685 8656



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.



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. 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; birdwatching; nature walk; star-gazing.

Accommodation:

The resort offers 11 independent cottages and two luxury tents. 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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.soulacia.com
info@soulacia.com, soulacia@gmail.com

+91 9891 55 66 55, 9717 199 299



Opening Times:

The lodge is closed from 1st July to 30th September.



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 below the age of six years are accommodated on a complimentary basis.



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 every 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's 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 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

www.toftigers.org

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 November until 30th April.

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 ₹ 1,750 per jeep.

Entry Fees:

₹ 100 for Indian Nationals

₹ 650 for Foreign Nationals

Fee Per Person For Elephant Ride:

₹ 900 for Indian Nationals

₹ 1,950 for Foreign Nationals

Toll For Road Per Trip:

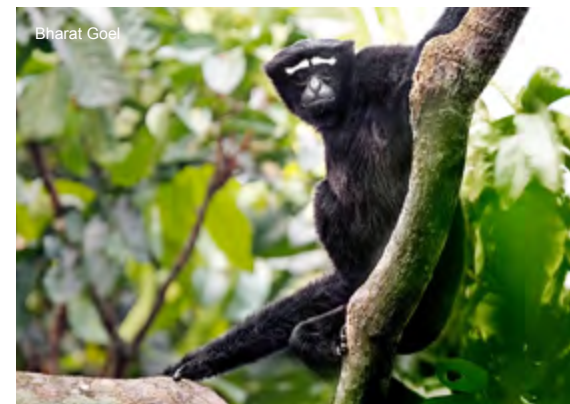
₹ 300 for all nationals

A guard fee of ₹ 25 per person is charged extra.

By Air: Guwahati (240 km).

By Road:

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



Bharat Goel

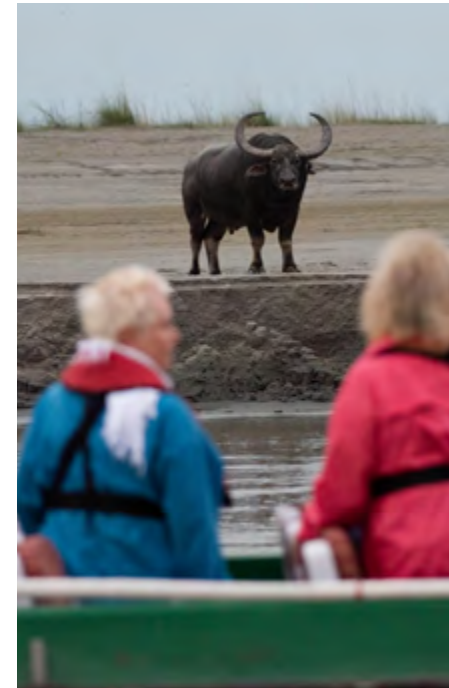


MV Mahabaahu



MV Mahabaahu, the Brahmaputra River Cruise ship has experienced seven seasons witnessing the shaping and re-shaping of the shores and noticed how the life of the Assamese is affected with the river's rise and fall. Assam's rich tea gardens, paddy fields, tribal culture, farming, fishing, the national parks, tiger reserves and sanctuaries along with Namghar culture are a result of the river and its tributaries. MV Mahabaahu introduces you to Assam and its rich cultural heritage, diverse land forms and a variety of aqua, avian and terrestrial fauna as you traverse the river.

The ten-metre wide and 55-metre long liner has five decks, three of which have comfortable en suite berths. While onboard, guests can experience rejuvenating therapies at the in-house spa, sauna or jacuzzi and take some time out for yoga and ayurvedic massages. However, the daily and varied shore excursions are the real joy, apart from the wildlife stops at Kaziranga; and visits to Kamakhya temple, tea estates, ghats, and monasteries.



Activities / Special Features:

MV Mahabaahu organises elephant and jeep safaris in the Kaziranga park, and boat safaris on the Eastern Range besides showcasing the heritage of the weaving communities, the Mishings living on stilted chang ghars and the neo-Vaishnavite Gayan Bayan, Maati Akhora, Mukha Bhavana and Dashavtar in Majuli. The cruise between Guwahati and Jorhat also incorporates visits to a jute mill, Ahomiya monuments at Sibsagar, and bonfire evenings. The tea tasting with a planter's family in Jorhat allows the experience of walking through the tea-gardens. The cruise's naturalist holds orientations prior to each visit to introduce you to the culture of the area, the community and the norms of sharing space. Culinary lessons by the in-house chefs are a hit with gourmands.

Accommodation:

The cruise has 23 aesthetically-designed cabins; including two 'Suites' and nine 'Superior Cabins' with balconies, and 12 'Superior Cabins' without balconies. Every unit is airconditioned and comes with attached bathrooms, flat-screen television sets, mini-bars, and electronic safes. The cabins have large windows that exploit natural light in the day time, while also assuring breath taking views. The MV Mahabaahu offers large public spaces on the open Sun Deck, the second deck and the swimming pool deck with sun beds and seating to laze around and sip your drinks.

Food:

Catch some drinks at the bar and then relish Indian, Oriental and Continental delicacies made using locally-sourced ingredients in the ship's restaurant. The cruise also has an onboard bakery producing fresh breads, donuts, croissants, lavaash and more. Homemade ice-creams and desserts add to the delight.



Opening Times:

The cruise is operational from October to April.



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 6 years and above are welcome. Please see the terms and conditions here <https://adventurerivercruises.com/booking-policy/>



Further Information and Booking:

www.adventurerivercruises.com
info@adventureresortscruises.com
 +91 12 9412 0200



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.

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 fee is additional.


 **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 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.



Further Information and Booking:

 www.birdersinn.com
 bookings@birdersinn.com
 +91 5644 227 346, + 91 94140 23340

Manas Tiger Reserve

Assam

Contiguous with the Royal Manas National Park on its borders in Bhutan, this park in the North Eastern State of Assam will leave you absolutely enchanted and is the only park in India where you could, with luck, see the 'big five' on the same game drive – herds of elephant, wild water buffalo, leopard, tiger and the Indian one-horned rhino – making it unique as a safari destination. Search hard and long enough and you could add the clouded leopard, golden cat, hoolock gibbon and even Gangetic dolphins to your list. This is one reason it has also been designated a UNESCO Natural World Heritage site, a tiger reserve, an elephant reserve and a biosphere reserve – all at the same time.

Against the backdrop of the Himalayan foothills, the area was the hunting grounds of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar and the Raja of Gauripur, and declared a protected area as early as 1928, but the hunting rights of the royal families were not revoked. It is named after the Manas River, which in turn borrowed its identity from the serpent goddess, Manasa.

The park is an important migratory corridor for the elephant population of the entire Indo-Bhutan region, and 380 species of birds have been recorded here too. Spread across 3150 sq. kms, Manas is lush with patches of dense jungle interspersed with grassland and thick undergrowth. It is best known for its rare and endangered wildlife, more than any other park in India, like the pygmy hog, Bengal florican, golden langur, Assam roofed turtle, and its large population of wild water buffalo.

In the early 1990's the park was at the centre of a period of militant unrest, resulting in widespread poaching, that was to have a devastating effect on its biodiversity, but thankfully it has ended and the park is now recovering – but slowly. The park is a fascinating place for nature lovers to observe wildlife away from the crowds of many parks today, with great birding and wonderful vistas. It is most accessible through the Bansbari gate.



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What you can do inside the park

If you like adventure, the park has a lot in store for you. Opt for extensive birdwatching, jeep safaris, elephant safaris, river rafting, visits to the India-Bhutan border or the eastern range, and jungle treks in the buffer zone. If peace and quiet is what you seek, head towards the Mathanguri tourist site on the bank of the Manas River, close to Bhutan to experience nature at its tranquil best.

What to look out for

Keep a watchful eye out for the Asiatic elephant, the elusive tiger, leopard, gaur, wild hog, hog deer and the golden and capped langurs. If you are lucky, you can sight some highly endangered species like the pygmy hog, slow loris and Bengal florican. In fact, Manas boasts of housing the world's largest population of the Bengal florican. The park is a birdwatcher's delight with around 380 species of birds, including three hornbills - the Great, Wreathed and Rufous-necked. The forest consists of more than 650 species of flowering plants, while some of the common trees you will observe are the Simul, Oxi, Sissoo, Khaie and Gamari.

Fun things to see and do outside the park

When you want to explore life outside the park, try the village trail, tea garden visits, bicycle rides, ethnic cuisine of the Bodo Community, and interactions with the poacher-turned-volunteers safeguarding the forest.

Conservation

The park faces problems due to excessive cattle grazing, extensive growth of invasive plant species, human-wildlife conflict and the problem of annual fires affecting biodiversity. However, measures are being taken to address these issues. For example, weeds are being uprooted; fencing restricts cattle from grazing within the park; people are forbidden to enter the park for firewood collection; and fencing and forest camps set up outside the park are working to ensure that wildlife doesn't venture out. Still, there is a long way to go.



PARK INFORMATION



How to Book:

Safaris can be booked through your lodge or tour operator. Make sure you book in advance.



Park Timings:

Morning: 06:00 am to 12:00 pm

Evening: 02:00 pm to 05:00 pm



Getting Around the Park:

Jeeps safaris run for 3.5 hours (half day) and elephant safaris for 1 hour. You can also opt for the raft for riverside sightings. Jeep safaris cost ₹ 2,960 and upwards for Indian nationals and ₹ 3,500 onwards for foreign nationals. Elephant safaris are priced at ₹ 1,030 for Indian nationals and ₹ 2,145 for others.



Entry Fees:

₹ 100 per person for Indian nationals.

₹ 650 per person for foreign nationals.



By Air: Guwahati Airport (180 km). Taxis are available to take you to the park.



By Rail: Barpeta Road Station (24 km), New Bongaigaon Junction (70 km).



By Road: Via Barpeta Road (24 km). Manas is also accessible from Guwahati (176 km), Kaziranga (403 km), Darjeeling (466 km), Shillong (287 km) and Siliguri (386 km).



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Musa Jungle Retreat



From the midnight trumpet of a wild elephant to the morning call of majestic peacocks, guests at the Musa Jungle Retreat can take in the sights and sounds of the Manas National Park's wild beings from the comfort of their cottages. Situated close to the southern border of the park, this jungle resort derives its name from the local Bodo word for tiger – Musa.

Musa Retreat sprawls across eight acres of lush forests in the Bansbari range. The lodge appreciates and caters to the needs of all guests - domestic and foreign travellers, wildlife enthusiasts, family groups, corporate clients and weekend visitors.

Activities / Special Features:

Half-day and full-day jeep safaris with forest guards and naturalists; village excursions and heritage trips leading all the way to Bhutan; elephant safaris; river rafting; bonfires; cultural shows; dance performances; bicycling



Opening Times:

The lodge remains closed from June to September.



Location:

Nearest Airport - Guwahati (138km)
Nearest Railhead - Barpeta Road (20km)
Nearest Park gate - Manas (1km)



Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome.

Accommodation:

Twenty cottages with modern amenities are available under two categories – Striped panthera or Cluster Cottages and Bansbari Villages or Suite Cottages. The cottages have peaked ceilings, verandahs and traditional thatched roofs. The lodge also has ramps and rooms designed for the specially-abled.

Food:

The lodge's in-house restaurant 'Panorama' mainly offers Indian, Chinese and continental cuisines. They also serve traditional Bodo and Assamese meals on request.



Further Information and Booking:

www.musa.co.in
musajungleretreat@gmail.com
 +91 78 9647 1992



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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 09:00 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:**
₹ 2,000 for Indian nationals.
₹ 2,500 for foreign nationals.
Safari charges and taxes are extra.

 **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

EVOLVE BACK
KURUBA SAFARI LODGE, KABINI

Evolve Back Kuruba Safari Lodge, Kabini



Cleverly inspired in design by the Kadu Kuruba Hadis, the local tribal village homestead, this picturesque wilderness lodge is bordered on two sides by the Kabini reservoir. It overlooks the sweeping vistas 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 River Kabini. Alternatively experience a lantern lit boat ride 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 safaris, coracle rides 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. 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 four tastefully-designed 'Pool Reserve' huts have temperature-controlled pools and a unique star bed to enjoy the cosmic wonders of Kabini's night skies. The 'Pool Huts' have plush interiors and a personal swimming arena. If you opt for one of the 12 'Jacuzzi Huts', well-appointed interiors and your very own open-to-sky jacuzzi await you.

Food:

The two 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 (180 km), Bangalore (273 km)
Nearest railhead -
Mysore (90km), Kozhikode (180 km), Bangalore (245 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.

Further Information and Booking:

www.evolveback.com
 info@evolveback.com
 +91 80 4191 1170





Red Earth Kabini



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.



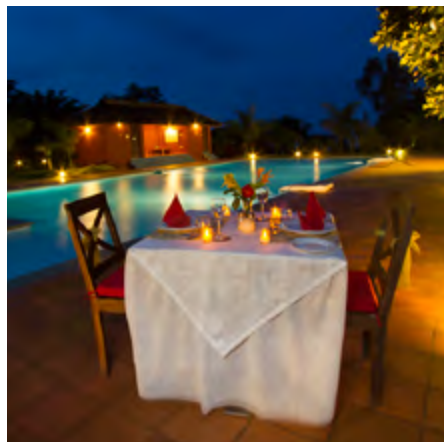
Location:

Nearest airport - Mysore (64 km), Bangalore (201 km)
Nearest railhead - Mysore (60 km), Bangalore (204 km)
Nearest park gate - Dommarkatte (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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.redearthkabini.in
info@redearthkabini.in
 +91 87 2274 5555



Waterwoods Lodge, Kabini



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 backwaters. Views from its rooms are of the deep blue of the swimming pool, and beyond its gardens are Kabini's backwaters and the backdrop of 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:

Land and boat safari trips into the Nagarhole National Park; canoeing in the backwaters; indoor activities like snooker and other games.

Accommodation:

The 15 rooms are designed to bring the views of Kabini into your private setting. Smart TV with dish connection, DVD player, stocked mini-bar fridge, air-conditioner, a safe, and pressurised rain showers in all bathrooms are standard amenities provided in all rooms.

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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.waterwoods.in
reservations@waterwoods.in
 +91 70220 13180, +91 70220 13181



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@tofindia.org 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 May to September due to heavy rains in the region.



Getting Around the Park:

A boat can be hired at ₹ 2,000 per person for Indian nationals and ₹ 3,000 for others. This is the best way to get closer to the birds and aquatic life. You can also hire a jeep for a safari in the park's peripheral areas at ₹ 3,000 per person. Taxes are extra.



Entry Fees:

₹ 50 for Indian Nationals
₹ 600 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



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 olden days 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'. Mela Kothi offers opportunities for nature walks, river safaris, camel safaris, and jeep safaris, as well as culture trips to the nearby Bateshwar temple and Rapri village.



Activities / Special Features:

With a team of trained naturalist guides, the lodge is able to offer several excursions designed to best discover the natural, cultural and historical attractions of the Chambal valley. Take a boat safari in the river to catch a glimpse of muggers, gharials and turtles. Ride a camel along the forgotten paths leading to the citadel of Ater. You can also go on the Saurus crane trail in a jeep or catch excellent sightings of blackbuck. The lodge offers excursions to nearby temples, villages and also to the site of an ancient cattle and horse fair that is larger in size than the Pushkar fair.

Accommodation:

Mela Kothi has on offer 13 rooms for accommodation – one large heritage room in the main house, two suites in Imli Sarai, a suite and a twin-bedroom in the Bougan Serai, and eight cottages in the grounds surrounding the main house. Rooms have private sit-outs overlooking the reclaimed woodlands and fields. The lodge has been built using locally-sourced material with lots of trees, grasses and plants to allow for natural cooling of the rooms. All of the accommodation units are air-conditioned, and bring together the stately grace of erstwhile times, the warmth of local homes and the comforts of modern living.

Food:

Authentic home-cooked buffet spreads with local specialities are served, all made with fresh organically grown ingredients from the lodge's farm or procured directly from the local farmers. Recipes from back in the day that members of the family competed against each to reinvent with a twist still cooked for guests with pride. Relax in the evening with beer or a glass of wine. The lodge's 18th century stables and greenery lend the picture postcard-perfect setting for your mealtimes. Get acquainted with other guests at the campfire after dusk or sit back and look at the starlit skies.



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

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 Khajuraho, 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 per jeep. A single-seat permit costs Rs 250. Booking charges for the vehicle are additional **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



Tendu Leaf Jungle Resort



Overlooking the serenity of the Panna jungles, Vibhav and his wife have ingeniously carved out a natural resort using wholly recycled timbers besides the bank of the wide Ken river. The resort is a lush green haunt for nature-lovers, with its river views and its natural yet carefully crafted landscape, around an old tree hide and a large pond, invoking a sense of peaceful coexistence. The stylish wooden and thatched accommodation is packed with handcrafted designs and all the amenities needed for a memorable stay. Driven by the age-old Indian philosophy of 'Athithi Devo Bhava', or 'Guest is God' the lodge strives to ensure that all you're needs are taken care of - whilst letting a lot of nature back in too.

Activities / Special Features:

Cycling; fishing; boat rides; nature walks; jungle safaris; village tours; trekking; pottery classes; bird watching trips

Accommodation:

The huts offered under the 'Luxury', 'Deluxe' and 'Family' categories are all designed to capture the enchanting natural beauty of the jungles around them. The huts come with hot water supply, electronic safes and dual-mode air-conditioning.

Food:

The chefs at Riverview Restaurant cook up delicious meals covering a range of cuisines. Enjoy your food overlooking the forests under starlit skies. The restaurant's first floor offers alfresco dining experiences.



Opening Times:
Open around the year.



Location:
Nearest airport - Khajuraho (25 km)
Nearest railhead - Khajuraho (25 km)
Nearest park gate - Panna (500 m)



Children Policy:
Children of all ages are welcome.



Further Information and Booking:

www.tenduleafjunglersort.com
sales@tenduleafjunglersort.com
+91 99 1980 2823



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Nearest Airport and Railway Station : Khajuraho (20km), Jabalpur : 220km, Jhansi : 180 km, Satna : 80 km, Varanasi : 400 km

Address : Village Toriya, Post-Chandnagar, District Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh, PIN - 471101
CALL US : M:+91 9630815708 • E : info@tenduleafjunglersort.com

Prayagraj Sales office : M:+91 9919802823 • E: sales@tenduleafjunglersort.com



www.tenduleafjunglersort.com



Pashan Garh, A Taj Safari Panna National Park



Pashan Garh 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 leather 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 inhouse 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 Kalinjhar fort; and night drives. 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.



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 - Mandla Gate (26 km) and Hinata Gate (26 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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.tajsafaris.com
tajsafaris@tajhotels.com
1800-111-825



Ken River Lodge Pugdundee Safaris

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.



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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.kenriverlodge.com
enquiry@pugdundeefaris.com
+91 88 0063 7711 / +91 98 1025 3436



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.



PENCH TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH

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, Kemtec 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:

₹ 1,500 per jeep for both foreign and Indian nationals. Single-seat permits are available at ₹ 250. Cost of hiring the jeep is additional.

Guide hire: ₹ 360



By Air: Songaon (70 km)



By Rail / Road: Seoni (30 km) and Nagpur (70 km) are the nearest towns and railheads from where you may hire transportation.



www.toftigers.org

Karan Verma / Sanctuary Photo Library



Bharat Goel

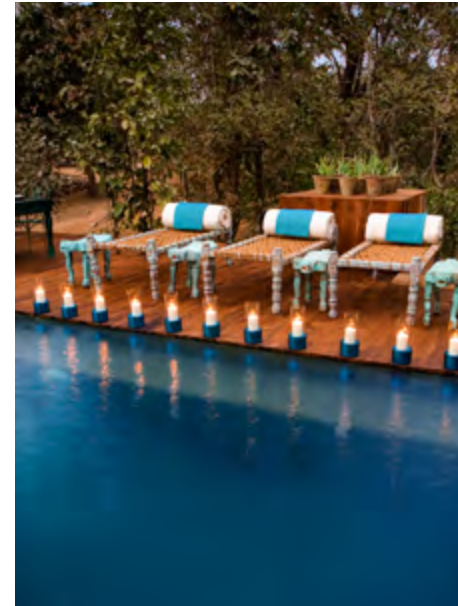
TAJ SAFARIS Baghvan, A Taj Safari
Pench National Park



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.



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 an 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 remains closed for safaris on the Madhya Pradesh side on Wednesday afternoons, safaris can be arranged from nearby Maharashtra's Khursapur gate entry.

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 lunch are served on a sweeping shaded deck surrounding the beautiful swimming pool and overlooking the nullah.



Opening Times:

The lodge is open throughout the year. The park is open from 1st 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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.tajsafaris.com/our_lodges/baghvan/default.php
tajsafaris@tajhotels.com
1800-111-825



Taj Safaris



Pench Jungle Camp



The recently-renovated Pench Jungle Camp sits in an enviable position next to the Turia Gate of Pench National Park where parts of Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book were brought to life. The camp is low-key and rustic – perfect for an authentic adventure in India's verdant hinterlands. The cottages, rooms and canvas tents on offer for accommodation have been built with indigenous materials and decked up with native art and wooden beds. There's plenty of space to cool off, whether you make the most of the huge pile of wildlife books in the lounge, take a refreshing dip in the small outdoor pool or sneak off for a refreshing massage in the jungle.

Activities / Special Features:

Jungle safaris; cycling; village walks; nature walks in the private park with a naturalist; special bush dinners; birdwatching; camera trap studies; night walks in eco park.

Accommodation:

The lodge offers 13 safari tents, four safari cottages, six safari rooms and one family suite, all air-conditioned and with en suite bathrooms.

Food:

The lodge has a multi-cuisine restaurant offering Indian, Chinese, Continental and tandoori cuisines. Alcohol is served on request.



Opening Times:

The lodge is 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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.penchjunglecamp.com
freedom@penchjunglecamp.com
+91 9999 742 000



Wild dog (Dhole), Pench





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 21 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; bazaars; pottery workshop; interactive cooking classes; nature trails; and cycling in the buffer zone.

Accommodation:

The Riverwood Forest Retreat - Pench features 21 earthy cottage style, air-conditioned suites. All the rooms have private gardens with sit-outs and huge windows overlooking the garden, forest or the river bed. Located at a height of two storeys, the Tree House offers an uninterrupted view of the Pachdhar river and the buffer forest.

Food:

Indian and Continental meals are made using locally-sourced ingredients. We can cater to any dietary preferences or allergies.

Opening Times:

Though the Resort remains open throughout the year, the park stays closed for visitors from 1st July to 30th September every year.

Location:

Nearest airport - Nagpur (90 km), Jabalpur (200 km)
Nearest railhead - Nagpur (90 km), Jabalpur (200 km)
Nearest park gate - Turia (12 km), Khursapar (17 km)

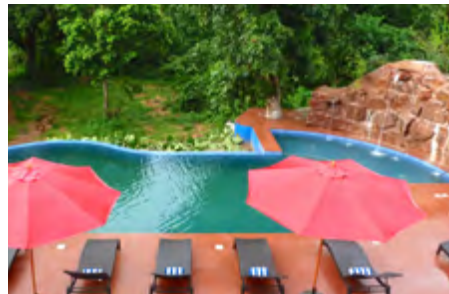
Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome.



Further Information and Booking:

www.waxpolhotels.com
delhi@waxpolhotels.com
 +91 97 1132 635 , +91 93 1399 5669



Pench Tree Lodge Pugdundee Safaris



Pench Tree Lodge is set in one of the least-explored areas of the Pench National Park, close to the picturesque village of Sarahiri. It offers guests access to six cleverly-built en suite 'tree-homes' high in Mahua trees and a set of six large and comfortable villas beside a pond in the lodge's 40 acres.

A walk through the grasslands takes you to the central hub with its refreshing swimming pool and changing rooms, and a two-storey wooded structure that hides a comfortable lounge bar, an indoor and outdoor dining area with pretty views across the rewilded landscape. Guests here have spotted wild boars, civet and jungle cats, jackals, monkeys and spotted deer as they sat sipping their morning tea or evening sundowners!

Activities / Special Features:

Jeep safaris; bird watching; night trails; village walks and bazaars; interactive cooking classes with in-house chef; seasonal organic kitchen gardening; nature trails and good cycling.

Accommodation:

Six stilted 18 ft high wooden tree-houses, each with private decks, large four-poster beds, en suite bathrooms, and a coffee and tea pantry. The same stylish aesthetics and features can be enjoyed in the six large and light cottages on terra firma, and all are air-conditioned and also have round-the-clock power back-up.

Food:

Passionately advocating for locally-grown and sourced food, menus at Pench Tree Lodge are crafted around the season's choicest produce. Chefs can cater to any preferences, allergies or dietary restrictions.



Further Information and Booking:

www.penchtreelodge.com
enquiry@pugdundeefaris.com
 +91 88 0063 7711, +91 98 1025 3436



Opening Times:

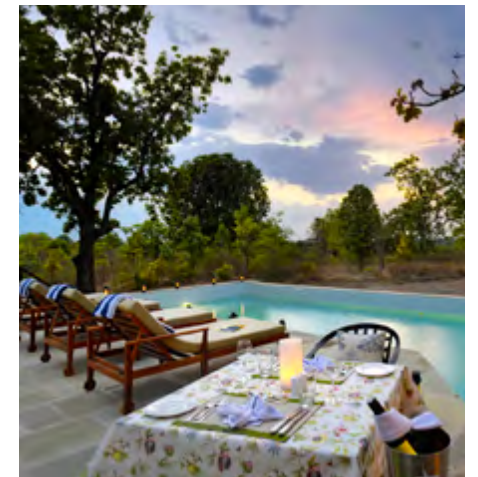
The lodge is open throughout the year.

Location:

Nearest airport: Nagpur (150 km)
Nearest railhead: Nagpur (130 km), Jabalpur (210 km)
Nearest park gate: Karmajhiri Gate (10 km)

Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome.





Tathastu Resorts



Spread across an area of 15 acres amongst 1,500 types of trees and plants, and around a large waterhole, the Tathastu resort has something for every kind of traveller, their family and friends. The lodge offers a veritable range of options for wildlifers sportsmen and adventurers, but also art workshops and cultural experiences, as well as nature trails led by their in house naturalists.

Enjoy Tathastu in a tastefully designed villa, a safari tent, a tree-house, a cave or even a mud room, depending on the experience you and your family seek.

For your adrenaline fix, the lodge organises jungle safaris, birdwatching, bicycle tours, boating, fishing and guided nature walks. For a more laidback time, feast your senses on the cultural performances by local villagers or grab a book and find a quiet spot for yourself under one the property's many shady trees. The in-house spa also offers some rejuvenating therapies.

Activities / Special Features:

Safaris, bicycle tours and guided nature walks; outdoor games like cricket and badminton; collection of indoor games such as hula hoops, foosball and darts; archery; treasure hunts; stargazing; pottery; fishing; health spa; karaoke; swimming; e-rickshaw rides; wildlife movie watching; star gazing; cultural performances; life-size chess; barbecue

Accommodation:

The lodge has 59 rooms under various categories - cave rooms, tents, tree houses, mud rooms and villas – each offering a different experience. Guests can also opt to stay at the in-house art centre amongst artisans, discovering new talents or building up on the old.

Food:

The lodge's on-site restaurant offers delicious food in a range of cuisines – South Indian, Chinese, Mughlai, North Indian, Continental – you name it. Mouth-watering cookies, customised cakes, breads and much more are freshly-baked at the lodge's bakery. A licensed 'Jungle Bar' offers a wide variety of liquor brands.



Opening Times:

Open all through the year.



Location:

Nearest airport - Nagpur (90 km)

Nearest railhead - Seoni (30 km)

Nearest park gate - Turia (2 km)



Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome.



Further Information and Booking:

www.tathasturesorts.com

info@tathasturesorts.com

+91 97 6555 0607



Periyar Tiger Reserve

Kerala

The Periyar Tiger Reserve is a spectacular expanse of greenery and seemingly unending chain of hills in the southern region of the Western Ghats. Its central heart, Periyar lake, was fashioned as a private game sanctuary by the Maharaja of Travancore to stop the encroachment of neighbouring tea plantations. Today the reserve along the river Periyar, which originates in the heart of these forests, spreads over an area of 925 sq km amidst Thekkady's spice-scented Cardamom Hills.

More than 60 species of mammals are found here; including the Asiatic elephant, Bengal tiger, Indian bison, sambar deer, Indian wild dog, leopard and barking deer. The Western Ghats are believed to be amongst the oldest mountain chains in the world, and boasts of a wealth of diverse flora, fauna and terrain. The reserve is bordered by the Kerala-Tamil Nadu interstate line from Kumily in the north, the Ranni and Kakki reserved forests, and the Kottayam division forests. The manmade Periyar Lake covers 26 sq km and is the park's nucleus and main visitor focus. The forests around the lake were declared reserve forests in 1899 by the then Maharaja of Travancore, a reserve in 1934 and thereafter a tiger reserve in 1978 under Project Tiger. In 1982, the core area of the park was notified as a national park.

Periyar Tiger Reserve has 1,965 species of flowering plants, including 171 grass varieties and 143 species of orchids. The only south Indian conifer, scientifically known as *Podocarpus Wallichianus*, grows in the forests here.

Though elusive and mostly confined to the quiet interiors, more than 40 tigers prowl these forests. Nilgiri tahrs are aplenty in the high-altitude rocky areas, whereas the endangered lion-tailed macaques are seen in the interior evergreen forests. Both the bonnet macaques and Nilgiri langurs inhabit the trees here. Similarly, the reserve also boasts of a rich variety of amphibians, fish and reptiles. The reserve has recorded 322 bird species, who are mostly permanent residents.

What you can do inside the park

Boat safaris to watch animals around the lake shores are available, but far better are the nature walks and night treks with trained tribal guides for visitors seeking the secrets of the jungle on foot. One can opt to camp out in the forests for a night, with prior permission. Tourists also spend time atop watchtowers, quietly observing the forests from afar.

What to look out for

Families of Asiatic elephants along the lakeshore dominate the landscape. Cautious Eurasian otters standing on their hindlegs also make for a splendid sight. Mahseer and other multi-coloured fish are found in the clear waters. Fruit-bearing trees shelter and feed primates like lion-tailed macaque, the bonnet macaque, the Nilgiri langur and the common langur. Keep an eye out for colourful Malabar giant squirrels. Monitor and flying lizards, and golden flying snakes are also found here. Birdwatchers are enamoured by the fish-eating great cormorants, darters osprey, great hornbills and the Eurasian cuckoo.

Fun things to see and do outside the park

Travellers can visit an elephant sanctuary, and also opt for walks through spice plantations. The Kerala Ayurveda Museum in nearby Agadipetty is another favourite tourist haunt. Eco-tourism packages to Gavi are also available on prior request. Indulge in Ayurveda massages or martial arts and kathakali performances.

Conservation

Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, which sees an annual footfall of more than five million pilgrims, is located in the reserve's buffer zone. The park's biodiversity has been affected by constructions that have come up due to the pilgrim influx. Ecologists have long called for regulation of the pilgrim numbers. Community-based eco-tourism initiatives launched by the park authorities have helped poachers and other forest-dependents seek alternative livelihoods. Any incidents of poor practice or rule breaking can be reported to us at admin@toftindia.org.

PARK INFORMATION

How to Book:

Lodges in the region do take care of bookings for their guests. You can also buy your tickets directly at Forest information Centre counters in the park. To book tickets online, please visit: <http://www.periyarfoundation.online/>

Park Timings:

The park is open throughout the year from 06.00 am to 05.00 pm every day. However, the boat rides are available only at specific times in a day. The park remains closed during floods or heavy rain.

Getting Around the Park:


Boat rides are the most commonly-used mode of transport to move around the park. Serious wildlifers are also allowed to trek the forests with local guides, but with prior permission from the park officials.

Entry Fee (per person):

₹ 45 for Indians (adult)
₹ 15 for Indian child (below 12 years)
₹ 500 for foreign nationals (adult)
₹ 180 for foreign nationals (below 12 years)
₹ 45 extra for camera
₹ 20 for bus fare to the park

 **By Air:** Madurai (140 km) and Cochin (190 km).

 **By Rail:** Kottayam (110 km)

 **By Road:** Kumily is about 4 km from Periyar.



Anish Andheria



TOFTigers



Spice Village, Thekkady



Nestled in Kerala's spice-scented Thekkady highlands, Spice Village was conceived in 1991 at the beginning of a journey by its founder Jose Dominic into lodge sustainability, and now is part of his family's multi award winning CGH Earth group. His vision ensured it was built from local materials, using native workmanship and traditional workmanship and with a large dollop of 'mountain spirit'. The 52 spacious cottages on the 12-acre property are modelled on the eco-conscious dwellings of the native Manan tribe.

Every detail has been thought through, from the indigenous species of elephant grass used by local artisans to thatch the roofs, pinewood crates sourced from the nearest seaport have been upcycled to furnish the rooms and the waste paper collected from the resort is turned into notepads, menus and luggage tags. Lastly, the Manan community is relied upon to steward the lodge's organic gardens bringing fresh vegetables, spices and fruits to your tables every day, as well as for their traditional knowledge that inspires this 'eco-village' to tread on a self-sustaining path.



modelled on the Manan tribe's sustainable dwellings. The deluxe category cottages come with a garden and large sit-out areas. Furniture has been made of wooden crates sourced from the nearest seaport. Traditional craftsmen were employed to use elephant grass to thatch roofs for the cottages, cooling the rooms even without air-conditioning.

Food:

The atmospheric 'Woodhouse Bar' - named after the lodge's earlier resident and forest ranger A.W. Woods - has a 150-year-old billiards table and a trainer who will teach you all the tricks of the game. Spice Village's '50 Mile' restaurant offers dishes made of ingredients sourced within a 50-mile radius. 'Tamarind Restaurant' has both global and local cuisines, and an amazing buffet spread. Freshly-brewed herbal tea with spice-tinged concoctions is another feature at Spice Village. Organic kitchen gardens produce some fresh veggies.



Opening Times:

Open all through the year.



Location:

Nearest airports - Madurai (145 km), Kochi (190 km)

Nearest railhead - Kottayam (107 km)

Nearest park gate - Periyar (2 km)



Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome.

Activities / Special Features:

Forest treks, birding and village walks, cultural performances by native communities, and trips to the lodge's manmade forests are some of the activities organised. Besides cooking lessons from the local tribes, Spice Village's chefs conduct masterclasses every evening to share secrets from Malayali kitchens. Basketball, badminton, tennis and other games are all played in the resort garden. The Ayurveda centre offers herbal massages and therapies. You can also spend time at the local interpretation centre – tiger club. Cool off in the lodge's swimming pool and take a plunge under the trees! Basketball, badminton, tennis and other games are played in the spice garden retreat.

Accommodation:

The lodge has 52 cottages for accommodation



Further Information and Booking:

www.cghearth.com

contact@cghearth.com

+91 48 4426 1720





Cardamom County By Xandari



Cardamom County is a nature retreat tucked away in Periyar's cloud-hugging Cardamom Hills on the very borders of this reserve, part of the Xandari portfolio of lodgings. Its design reflects the lodge's desire to conserve its natural surroundings, with spacious cottages constructed cleverly along the natural contours of the thickly-wooded hill. Focused at its base, is an organic garden, an inviting sculptured swimming pool and its main reception area and open air restaurant. Radiant bird songs awake the traveller each morning before a cup of tea arrives and another exciting day in this verdant natural haven begins.

Activities / Special Features:

Cardamom County offers accommodations in elegant cottages built on various levels along the natural contours of the hillock it sits on. Three categories of rooms are on offer – the Periyar Cottages that face bamboo forests, County Cottages with views of all-natural spice gardens, and Suites with breathtaking views from the bedroom and living room windows.

Activities:

Safaris; paper bag making sessions; nature walks; bamboo rafting; border hiking; visits to spice plantation, elephant camp and tea factories; day-trips to Gavi; spa and wellness



Further Information and Booking:

www.xandari.com
reservations@xandari.com
 +91 94 4709 6884



Food:

Complimentary multi-cuisine breakfasts are arranged for all resident guests. The lodge also has an all-day dining restaurant called 'All Spice' that provides delicious meals.



Opening Times:

The lodge is open all through the year.



Location:

Nearest airports - Madurai (140 km), Kochi (180 km)
Nearest railhead - Kottayam (114 km)
Nearest park gate - Periyar (500 meters)



Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome.



The Wildernest



The Wildernest is a ten-room bed & breakfast lodge located in the small town of Kumily close to the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. Run by a team of eight, it is ideal for people seeking to spot wildlife in and around the sanctuary. The Wildernest also has deep connections with the local spice industry. Besides the tastefully done-rooms and hearty breakfast, the team here can also guide you to shopping in the local market and nature treks.

Traditional Kerala handicrafts, a range of organic food products and world-famous spice shops – all in the local market. There are several spice plantations and indigenous villages nearby; the incredibly diverse Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary is within walking distance.

Activities / Special Features:

Visits to Periyar Tiger Reserve, local market, tribal villages and spice plantations; nature walks; trips to vegetable farms, vineyards; tribal dance, kathakali and kalaripayattu demonstrations in nearby cultural centres

Accommodation:

Rooms are of two types: Terraced rooms (with an open sit-out upstairs) and Secret Gardens (with a private garden area). No two rooms are the same, but all are equally roomy. Stone and brick facades add a rustic feel to the place. Natural materials have been used wherever possible.

Food:

We serve up filling breakfasts with all the homemade peanut butter, jams and preserve you want. Tea and

coffee are aplenty. For other meals, just take a walk down the road to the market and enjoy delectable Kerala, North Indian, Chinese and continental dishes fit for every budget and taste.



Opening Times:

The lodge is open throughout the year.



Location:

Nearest airports - Madurai (140 km), Kochi (180 km)
Nearest railhead - Kottayam (107 km)
Nearest park gate - Periyar (500 meters)



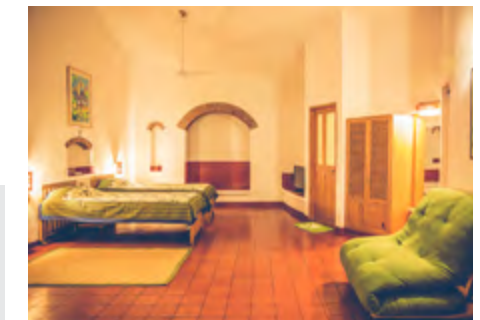
Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome.



Further Information and Booking:

www.wildernest-kerala.com
contact@wildernest-kerala.com
 +91 48 6922 4030, +91 48 6922 4040



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.



Aaditya 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 Amla 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.



PARK INFORMATION



How to Book:

Tour operators or lodges can help book park visits or directly book by sending all details to pcwlw2018@gmail.com



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 Vanyavilas Wildlife Resort



For those who demand the sumptuous home comforts, The Oberoi Vanyavilas Wildlife Resort 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 Surval 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:

Twenty five 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:

The hotel is operational from 15th September to 30th June. Though the park is open throughout the year, Zones 1 to 5 are closed for tourism from 1st July to 30th September.



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:

Two children up to the age of 12 years can be accommodated in their parents' room, where one extra bed will be provided.

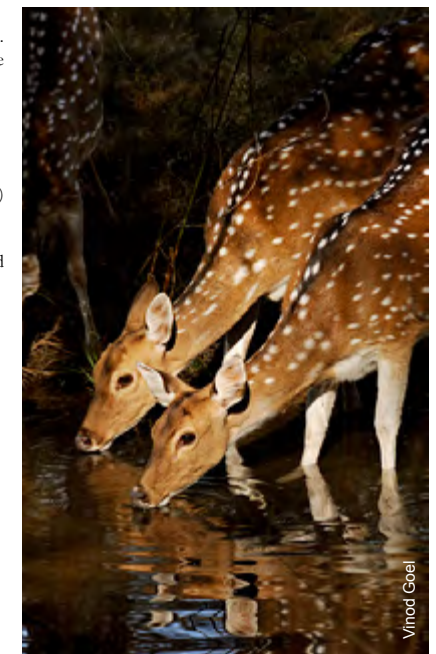


Further Information and Booking:

www.oberoihotels.com

✉ reservations.ranthambhore@oberoihotels.com

☎ +91 7462 223 999, 223 640



Vinod Goyal



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.



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.

Opening Times:
Open all through the year.

Location:
Nearest airport - Jaipur (180 km), 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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.khemvillas.com
 khemvillas@anokhi.com
 +91 7462 252347, 252348



SASAN 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.



Bajju Patel / 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: 06:30 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 ₹ 2,100 per game drive.

 **Entry Fees:**
For Indian Nationals
Weekdays: ₹ 800
Weekends and festival days: ₹ 1,000
For Foreign Nationals:
Weekdays: ₹ 5,600
Weekends and festival days: ₹ 7,000

 **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



The Fern Gir Forest Resort



In the land of the famous Asiatic lions at Sasan Gir, The Fern Gir Forest Resort offers 40 well-appointed suites, villas and cottages, the setting of which makes for a very memorable vacation. True to an authentic experience of living in undisturbed nature, the lodge ensures that the environment remains protected with The Fern's award-winning, environmentally-sensitive programmes. The resort is built in an ethnic style inspired by local design that has evolved to strike the best balance in Gir's hot summer and chilly winters.

Activities / Special Features:

Indoor and outdoor games like table tennis, billiards, volleyball, badminton; competitions like tug of war, musical chairs, environmental quizzes, drawing; Dhamal dance; nature-related activities like riverside trails, bird watching, wildlife movies, planting trees and star gazing. The lodge also has a swimming pool, amphitheatre, kids' play area and gym.

Accommodation:

The Fern Gir Forest Resort has 40 well-appointed, air-conditioned suites, villas and cottages for accommodation under these categories - Gir Cottage, Winter Green Cottage, Fern Club Vilas and Hazel Suite. The suite comes with open sky bathrooms. The rooms are fully-equipped with television sets, electronic safes and round-the-clock supply of hot water.



Further Information and Booking:

<https://www.fernhotels.com/the-fern-gir-forest-resort-gir.html>

info@asiaticlion.org

+91 90 9904 9262



Food:

With three restaurants on the resort premises, The Fern Gir Forest Resort offers multi-cuisine options for both a-la-carte and buffet fine-dining experiences.

Opening Times:
Open throughout the year.

Location:
Nearest Airport - Diu (62 km)
Nearest Railhead - Veraval (40 km)
Nearest park gate - Devalia Safari Park (9 km)

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





Woods At Sasan Resort and Spa



Nestled among 300 lush mango trees, Woods at Sasan sits within this eight-acre orchard at the edge of the Gir National Park. The rooms and villas on the property have been aesthetically designed keeping a close eye on both comfort and sustainability.

Members of the local community are hired for mud wall art depicting elements from the ways of life of the Maldhari and Siddi tribes, with block-printing table cloths and furniture-making out of woven rope – all of which add to the local derived authenticity of the property. Local art and culture are promoted through pottery classes, puppet shows, and artefacts used to decorate the resort.

Activities / Special Features:

Treatments at in-house wellbeing center 'Som', cooking classes, puppet shows, pottery classes, trips to Veraval fish market, cycling, village wedding experiences, nature walks, vintage car rides, and lion safaris are some of the activities offered here. Diu, Junagadh and Somnath are all a short drive away.

Accommodation:

The resort has 38 accommodation units under different categories- The Woods Studios, The Woods Studios with Terrace, The Woods Pavilions and The Woods Villa. They have been built using indigenous materials by local craftsmen with minimal intrusions to the natural terrain and foliage.

Food:

There are two restaurants at the lodge. While 'Swadesh' specialises in fare influenced by Gujarati flavours, the 'Terracotta Restaurant & Terrace' has al fresco dining inspired by local and global cuisines.



Opening Times:

The lodge is closed from 16th June to 15th October.



Location:

Nearest airport - Diu Airport (90km)

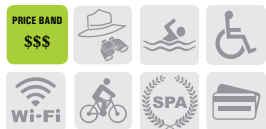
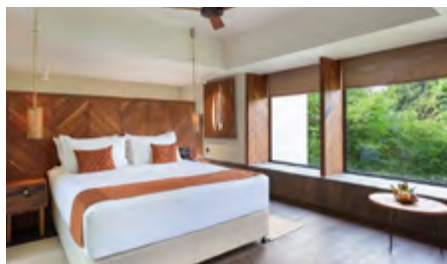
Nearest Railhead - Somnath (36km), Junagadh (60km), Gondal (124km)

Nearest park gate - Devalia Safari Park (6 km)



Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome. The lodge has a kid's playroom offering a range of games, toys and educational activities. Cookery classes are also organised for children.



Further Information and Booking:

www.woodsatsasan.com

reservation@1000island.in

+91 28 7728 1000



Sometimes, you DO get what you wish for.

- ✓ Lions, leopards, birds
- ✓ 38 Luxury stays.
- ✓ Sustainable ecological practices.
- ✓ Active nature conservation.
- ✓ Local community involvement
- ✓ A truly memorable vacation.



WOODS
AT
SASAN

Know more about us at
woodsatsasan.com

87581 00055 | 72269 30001 | sales@1000island.in
Gir Forest, Sasan - Talal Highway, Sasan, Gujarat India - 362 135
(An initiative by 1000 Island Hospitality, Design and Lifestyle)

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.



What you can do inside the park

Go on a nature walk one day, game drive the next morning and canoe in bays and coves that afternoon. Go on a bike trail or ride an elephant the next day. Some lodges offer trekking and overnight camping in otherwise inaccessible parts of the park. Enjoy the Denwa gorge scenery and if you can get permission, enjoy the ancient cave painting in these hills.

What to look out for

Wildlife spotting here is excellent with good chances of seeing wild dog packs and sloth bear. There are healthy leopard populations with prey species like sambar, chital, nilgai, and pale-coloured gaur. Look out for foxes, porcupines, flying squirrels and the Indian Giant squirrel. Mugger crocodiles bask near the Tawa Lake. There is a large number of bird species to be found here as well.

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. The park is closed on Wednesday afternoons.



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.



Hashim Tyabji

Forsyth's Lodge





Forsyth Lodge



Forsyth 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.



Activities / Special Features:

The lodge arranges for jeep safaris by day in the core zone, dusk safaris at sunset in the buffer zone, walking safaris accompanied by a naturalist, as well as canoeing and motorboat safaris steered by a boatman who will help you discover the many wonders of the forest. The lodge also offers overnight camping in the buffer zone, as well as 4-day trips to Pachmarhi and a lovely two day hike down the Forsyth trail.

Accommodation:

Forsyth Lodge consists of 12 independent en suite eco-luxury cottages built in an arc around the lodge building and swimming pool, each made to offer unique and private vantage points into the lodge's carefully restored landscape.

Food:

The lounge, situated above the main dining room, gives you great views of the surrounding areas and serves delectable Indian and Continental meals. The lodge also offers farm fresh salads and produce from its organic garden. You can sample local fare at lunchtime. A candlelit dinner can be arranged. A private dining area can also be set up by the swimming pool.

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

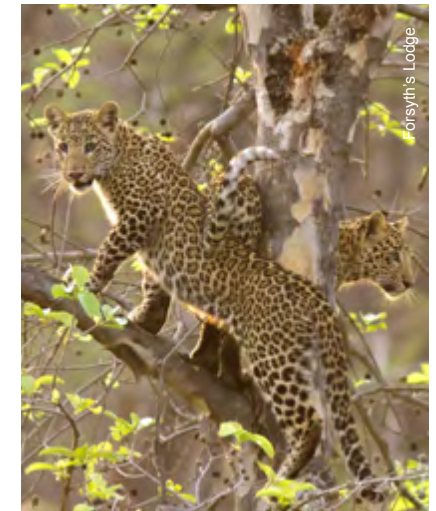
Location:
Nearest airport - Bhopal (180 km)
Nearest railhead - Pipariya (38 km), Itarsi (62 km)
Nearest park gate - Madai (13 km)

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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.forsythlodge.com
 bookings@forsythlodge.com
 +91 81 3036 5940, +91 124 490 8615





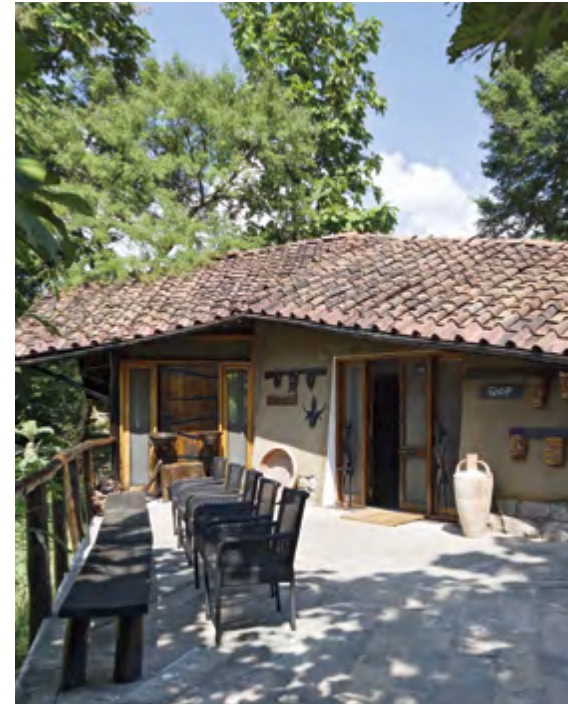
Reni Pani Jungle Lodge



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 six 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, and 2 hill cottages located on the highest point of Reni Pani's hillock with decks. The lodge also has four tents overlooking a pond.

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. Activities for kids revolve around educative and guided wildlife experiences and nature interpretation by the lodge's team of experts.



Further Information and Booking:

www.renipanijunglelodge.com
 info@renipanijunglelodge.com
 +91 99819 97714, +91 9301 999197



Reni Pani Jungle Lodge



Cheetal Resort



Situated along the large backwaters of the Denwa river that forms the boundary of the Satpura Tiger Reserve, Cheetal Resort offers panoramic views of the hill ranges' sprawling meadows, dense forests, rich wildlife and historic heritage. This 3.5-acre property near the Madhai entrance of the reserve is filled with trees and vegetation, a perfect window to the jungles around.

Cheetal's well-furnished rooms come with swimming pool and forest views. The food offered at the resort is regional cuisine at its best. All meals are served in the common dining area; and in the winter's, guests can have their meals near the bonfire. Live barbecues and the wide range speciality pickles on sale here are also worth mentioning.

Activities / Special Features:

Jeep safaris; jungle walks; boating; canoeing, evening buffer area jeep rides; bird watching

Accommodation:

Cheetal resort offers twelve fully furnished Premium AC rooms on its 3.5-acre campus. Each room has ensuite bathroom facilities, including flush toilets and an indoor shower.

Food:

Cheetal Resort offers a wide variety of authentic Indian cuisines. Custom-made menus for meals are also available.



Opening Times:

Lodge is closed from 1st July to 30th September every year.



Location:

Nearest airport - Bhopal (165 km); Nagpur airport (328 km)
Nearest railhead - Bhopal (165 km) via Hoshangabad, Babai, Semri to Madhai
Nearest park gate - Madhai Gate (1 km)



Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome.



Further Information and Booking:

www.cheetalresort.com
contact@cheetalresort.com
 +91 94 2590 6714, +91 62 6703 3948



Denwa Backwater Escape Pugdundee Safaris



Denwa Backwater Escape is the latest enterprise in the Pugdundee portfolio. It overlooks the mesmerising backwaters of the Denwa River dam with panoramic views of grasslands and the rolling Pachmarhi hills. 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 are done up in style with leather safari furniture using local craftsmanship. The main buildings have handcrafted furniture made from recycled wood and old railway sleepers, ensuring the use of local artisan skills.

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. The lodge provides trained naturalists to accompany their guests on all these activities.

Accommodation:

Choose one of eight river-view cottages or two 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 units 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:

The lodge is 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's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome. Complimentary rates apply.



Further Information and Booking:

www.denwabackwaterescape.com
enquiry@pugdundeefaris.com
 +91 88 0063 7711 / +91 98 1025 3436



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.

SUNDARBANS TIGER RESERVE, WEST BENGAL

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 here. The endangered batagur baska species is also bred at Sajnekhali.

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@tofindia.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 and February.



Getting Around the Park:

The only way to navigate the reserve is by boat. The road journey starts from Kolkata up to Gadkhali, from where tourists are picked up by mechanised boats for movement within the park. Road transport is not possible beyond Gadkhali. The boats are available on a half and full day basis, but a boat permit and a guide is a must.



Entry Fees:

₹ 100 for Indian Nationals
₹ 200 for Foreign Nationals

Entry for Motor Boats: ₹ 500 per day for non-AC and Rs 1,200 per day for AC launches.

Guide charges: ₹ 500 per day for Indians and ₹ 800 per day for others.

An additional fee of ₹ 100 is charged for the guide's overnight pass, as well as ₹ 100 for way fare.



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.



Sunderban Tiger Camp



Akanksha Garg would visit the Sunderbans with her family as a child, a 12 hour journey from their home in Kolkata. Her appreciation of its value started from then on itself. In 2004, Akanksha and her father Pravir Garg built the Sunderban Tiger Camp, but not without first winning the trust of the people of Dayapur Island where the lodge was built. The world's largest mangrove forests was not an easy place to live and work in with no freshwater or electricity. Traditionally, the locals earned their living through fishing, hunting for deer and collecting honey in waters and mangroves where tigers lurk. The camp created direct and indirect employment opportunities, improving quality of lives of villagers, and increasing tiger population through increased conservation efforts – even while providing memorable experiences for tourists.

Activities / Special Features:

Sunderbans cruise with guide; sunset fisher boat rides; in-property birding walks; angling; games room with pool table; local folklore drama, dances, cultural experiences and honey collection tours.

Accommodation:

The camp has 21 rooms designed in harmony with the environment using bamboo and other sustainable materials and practices; including rainwater harvesting, solar power, 90% staffing from amongst local population, and a no-plastic use policy.

Food:

Bengali, Indian, Chinese and Western cuisines are available, as are drinks at the Sunderbans Sundowners bar. Fresh fish, vegetables and chicken are sourced from surrounding villages for a healthy diet. We can cater to any dietary preferences or allergies.



Further Information and Booking:

www.waxpolhotels.com
delhi@waxpolhotels.com
 +91 97 1132 6357 / +91 93 1399 5669



Opening Times:

Open throughout the year.



Location:

Nearest airport - Kolkata (130 km)
Nearest railhead - Sealdah (85 km) / Howrah (95 km)
Nearest park gate - Sajnekhali Watch Tower
 (10 minutes by boat)



Children's Policy:

Children of all ages are welcome.



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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.toraresort.in
banshakti@gmail.com
 +91 99030 55524

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 Pandarpuni, 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.

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 Mohurli 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

While the core areas remain closed during the monsoons, the buffer zone is open. The core zone of the park will be closed on Tuesdays and the other zones on Wednesdays beginning April 2020.



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 ₹ 2,200. Canfers are available from Mohurli, Navegaon and Kolara gates and have to be booked directly on arrival at the gate. Tickets cost ₹ 400 per seat.

Tadoba also offers walking safaris, silent electric-operated Pontoon boats and sit-ups on photographic hides.



Entry Fee Per Vehicle:

The entry fee for each vehicle begins at ₹ 1,000 on weekdays and ₹ 4,000 on weekends, and varies according to how early you book your safari. Tatkal bookings can be made up to three days in advance at a fee of ₹ 4,000 per vehicle.



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.





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. A salient feature of the lodge's ethos has been preserving the local cuisine, for which several culinary programmes have been made part of the other exciting activities offered here.



Activities / Special Features:


Venture out on safaris or laze around in the lodge property as you watch the forest's wildlife from the park's periphery. Unwind at the pool-spa or grab a book from the library. Modelled after the Maratha kings' garden pavilions, the lodge's 'Teakhouse' built from upcycled wood has an open-air cinema where documentaries are screened. The dining hall makes for the perfect setting as delectable dishes are served fresh at your tables. Culinary classes are also conducted. The lodge's indigenous tree nursery, butterfly park and organic farms see a lot of guests spending time there. Svasara organises cultural tours as well.


Accommodation:


The lodge offers 12 air-conditioned suites that celebrate local art. All rooms have been tastefully decorated with simple wooden furniture. The minimalistic décor and clean, soft linen add to the comfort and warmth the rooms exude.

Food:

Dinners at Svasara are a journey through India's diverse regional cuisines – the most popular being the local Varadi menu of Maharashtra's Vidharbha region. Guests not only enjoy the local flavours, but also the freshness of the lodge's organic farm produce. The menus keep changing with fares from Punjabi, Mughlai, Bihari, Kashmiri, Bohri and even Anglo-Indian cuisines.




 **Opening Times:**
The lodge is open all through the year.

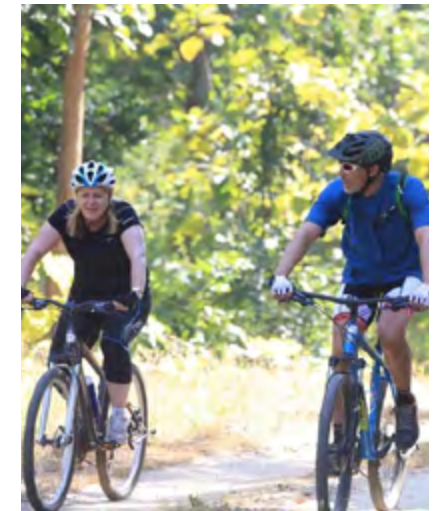
 **Location:**
Nearest airport - Nagpur (100 km)
Nearest railhead - Warora (51 km), Chandrapur (90 km), Nagpur (100 km)
Nearest park gate - Kolara (300 m)

 **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 bring infants and toddlers for risk of insect bites, dust etc.



Further Information and Booking:

 www.svasararesorts.com
 info@svasararesorts.com
 +91 93 7264 0322





LIMBAN Limban Resort



Nestled in the enigmatic Bhavgadh hills, within the surrounds of the Tadoba Tiger Reserve, lies Limban – a nature retreat amidst a canvas of bamboo thickets and seasonal ponds. Strategically located, Limban is just a 10 minute drive from Khutwanda gate and 20 minutes from Mohurli. A boutique lodge, designed to detail by its architect owners, it strives to synergise unique sustainable practices with quality comfort and hospitality.

Envisioned to create a holistic and true wildlife experience, be it a walk in the farm, a jungle trail or sunset at the machan, this four-acre property with its own watering hole extends seamlessly into 15 acres of fenceless pastures frequented by wildlife. Limban Resort has been recognised by Conde Nast Traveller as one of the top accommodation providers in Tadoba.

Activities / Special Features:

Swimming and yoga; watching wildlife from the machaan; farming sessions; birdwatching; bicycling; bonfires; bullock cart rides; art workshops; pottery; village walks; boating at Irai; jungle safaris; wildlife documentary screening and talks with naturalists.

Accommodation:

With a capacity of 14 guest units, Limban provides four types of accommodation options, each with ensuite bathrooms and powder toilets - 'Cabins', 'Cottages', 'Tents', 'Canopy Tent Suite' and 'Canopy Tent'.

Food:

Limban Resort has taken the 'Farm to Table' approach to fix menus based on seasonal availability. Local, pan-Indian, Asian and continental dishes form part of a varied spread cooked with care and hygiene.



Opening Times:

The lodge remains closed from 1st July to 25th September.



Location:

Nearest airport - Nagpur (125 km)
Nearest railhead - Chandrapur (49 km)
Nearest park gate - Khutwanda (3 km), Mohurli (10 km)



Children's Policy:

We recommend it suitable to bring children above 4 years.



Further Information and Booking:

www.limbanresorts.com
reservations@limbanresorts.com
+91 95 5258 5845



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.



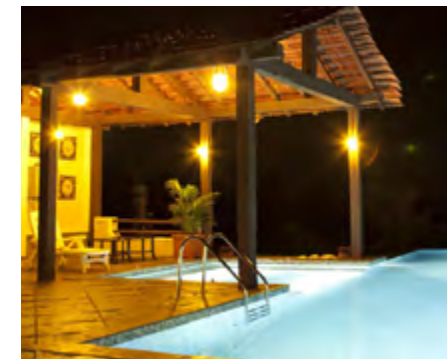
Location:

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.



Further Information and Booking:

www.iraisafariretreat.com
reservations@iraisafariretreat.com
+91 93726 35294



TOFTigers funded Tigerwatch's Village Wildlife Volunteers programme in Ranthambhore.



Aditya Singh

**TOFTigers MEMBERS
INDIAN TRAVEL COMPANIES & GROUND AGENTS**

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

TOFTigers MEMBERS - INDIA



&Beyond
 & BEYOND



&Beyond is one of the world's leading luxury experiential travel companies, designing personalised safaris in India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives, 16 African countries, and South America. The company owns and operates four lodges in the jungles of India, and 29 lodges and camps in Africa. Globally recognised and respected for its achievements in conservation, &Beyond was awarded the Conservation Award at the 2013 World Tourism for Tomorrow Awards in recognition of our position as a leader in responsible tourism and conservation policies.

2nd Floor, No. 13 Community Centre, Basant Lok Market, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi 110057, India
 T: +91 11 4626 9004, +91 11 4626 9006
 E: suhail.gupta@andbeyondindia.com
www.andbeyondindia.com



Abercrombie & Kent



Abercrombie & Kent was founded nearly 60 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.

Suite #506, 5th Floor, COPIA Corporate Suites, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India
 T: +91 11 4600 1600
 E: info@abercrombiekent.co.in
www.abercrombiekent.co.in



Active India Holidays

With a dedicated focus on active, experiential tours and exciting new destinations, Active India specialises in crafting safe, authentic and memorable holidays for families, small groups and independent travellers. Our operations span the rich cultural tapestry and natural diversity across India. Winner of the National Tourism Award for Best Adventure Tour Operator in 2015-16, we consider ecological sustainability and conservation as integral aspects of our operations. Partnering with TOFTigers and similar organisations only goes to strengthen our ongoing commitment to responsible tourism initiatives.

803-804, Kirti Shikhar, District Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058, India
 T: +91 11 2554 5339/ +91 11 2561 3968
 E: ravi@activeindiaholidays.com
www.activeindiaholidays.com



Alive Tours & Travels

Alive India Tours & Travels is an inbound tour company handling tours to India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives, conceptualised first in 1999. Over the years, we have won the confidence of a large clientele from the UK, Germany, France, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Switzerland and the US. We provide clients and associates with value for their money, while ensuring no corners are cut. We strive to achieve sustainable tourism standards in operations, and support TOFTigers in its efforts to promote the PUG eco-rating.

Reg. Office: 285, Mantola, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi - 110055, India
Corp. Office: 804, 8th Floor, Deepali Building, 92 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019, India
 T: +91 96 5071 1507 / +91 88 6007 2717
 E: aliveindiatours@gmail.com
www.aliveindiatours.com



So much more
to spot in Asia

Explore richly diverse Asia

Ignite the adventurer in you. Combine Asia's extraordinary wildlife destinations with her iconic cultural attractions by embarking on an expertly guided Small Group Journey – our most popular being our Snow Leopard Expedition or Endangered Eight Small Group Journey.



& BEYOND

andBeyond.com
 Together we are leaving our world a better place.



Alluring India Destination

At Alluring India Destinations, we create experiences and not just itineraries. Our brochures come to life with our personal management, which takes into consideration your personal preferences. We know that a traveller desires luxury but doesn't want to miss out on the experiences that the place has to offer, and we have mastered the art of presenting both in a balanced way. We deliver adventure and personal challenge, with a sense of fun and safety, using sustainable business practices to minimise our impact on the environment.

190, Vardhman Crown Mall, Sector 19,
Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075, India
T: +91 99 1006 5354
E: contact@alluring-travel
www.alluringindiadestination.com



Bharatiyam Tours

Bharatiyam Tours is a Delhi-based travel company that focuses on customised and experiential tours. Our trips include leisure/family holidays, wildlife safaris, wellness tours, adventure trips, and conferences and incentives; to India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. Our seasoned professionals will manage all elements of travel in an efficient and cost-effective manner. We strive to ensure that all tourism services provided bring maximum positive benefits to local host communities. We also focus our efforts on protecting and enhancing environmental and social sustainability.

T-304, Arjun Plaza, Plot No. 7, Sector-5, Main
Market, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075, India
T: +91 11 4550 7975
E: deepak@bharatiyamindia.com
www.bharatiyamindia.com



Asian Adventures

Since its inception in 1994, Asian Adventures has supported conservation of the environment and responsible tourism through expeditions and trips. We offer carefully-curated wildlife, photography, wellness and other tours to a range of destinations, including the Himalayas, Andalusia, Cambodia, Nepal and Bhutan. Since conservation is key philosophy at Asian Adventures, we have supported the electronic fencing at Kaziranga, sponsored the Oriental Bird Club with a vision to promote traveller interest in birds and their protection, and initiated some measures for wildlife protection at Corbett Tiger Reserve.

B-9, Sector 27, Noida - 201301, India
T: +91 98 1112 4222, +91 12 0422 2797
E: info@asianadventures.in
www.asianadventures.net



Bloo Nimboo Voyages

Bloo Nimboo Voyages offers customised trips to India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Tibet and the Maldives. With a specialisation in certain segments like brochure programmes or themed voyages, we provide travel solutions for pilgrimages, wellness trips, culture and heritage trips, CSR events, honeymoons, participation in local festivals, adventure trips, slow tourism circuits, wildlife safaris, and much more. We do our best to respect the environment, local cultures and communities during trips by promoting PUG-rated properties and avoiding activities related to tourism using animals.

F 14, 2nd Floor, Kalkaji,
New Delhi - 110019, India
T: +91 11 4307 0304
E: info@bloo-nimboo-voyages.in
www.bloo-nimboo-voyages.in



Blue Planet Wild Safaris

Blue Planet Wild Safaris is a Pune-based DMC specialising in tailoring private guided tours to India and Kenya. Owned by a seasoned traveller, our company has been able to cultivate relationships with expert guides and properties across these destinations, gaining guests unprecedented access to unique experiences. Wherever possible, Blue Planet Wild Safaris relies on local people and businesses. This ensures that guests get an authentic experience, while also bringing benefits to the local communities. We are committed to respecting and supporting human rights and conservation throughout our operations.

At Kawadi Pat, Opp. Dream City, Pune,
Maharashtra - 412307, India
T: +91 88 0600 8888
E: blueplanetwild@gmail.com
www.blueplanetwild.com



Cholan Tours

Cholan Tours is a premier destination management company with 15 offices spread across the country. Part of Lufthansa City Center, we are specialists in designing tailor-made tour packages for India. We won the Green Award from Lufthansa City Center for outstanding green initiatives and activities that we undertook in 2019. We are the only travel company to go sun-smart. We are also paper-free. We contribute positively to eco-friendly environment, promote sustainability in our organisation and being a member of TOFT Tigers, are committed to conserve wildlife as well.

No.4, Annai Avenue, Kollidakkara, 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 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



Contes Asia

At Contes Asia, every holiday is planned around interests of their clients. From personalised trips to India to curated travel experiences in Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Nepal, we have packages on offer for houseboat rides, bicycle trails, treks, jungle safaris, and majestic journeys on the 'Palace-on-Wheels', among others. With shared responsibility, comes shared benefits. This is at the core of Contes Asia's initiatives. We aim to present a destination in a way that is respectful and mutually-beneficial to both hosts and guests.

396 / 9, Thathur Road, Amer,
Jaipur- 302028, Rajasthan, India
T: +91 98 8771 7868
E: info@contesasia.com
www.contesasia.com



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



Discovery Journeys India

Discovery Journeys has been organising active nature holidays for over two decades. We offer professionally-guided authentic tours for the discerning traveller. Drawing on our own 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 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, locations and lodges.

88 Chapri House, Sector 23, HUDA Gurugram,
Haryana - 122017, India
T: +91 124 407 6965, +91 124 407 6966
E: info@discoveryjourneysindia.com
www.discoveryjourneysindia.com



Dravidian Trails Holidays

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



Dynamic Tours (P) Ltd

Dynamic Tours

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,
Gurugram - 122016, India
T: +91 124 421 7830 | F: +91 124 421 7849
E: info@eastboundgroup.com
www.eastboundgroup.com



Eastern Risen Expedition

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



Bharat Goel



Eastern Routes

Eastern Routes offers an inspiring passage into the heart of North-east India. Our journeys will not only lead you into the region's distinct geographic location, but also allow you to explore its striking topography - home to a variety of flora-fauna, avian life, and unique tribal communities. With Eastern Routes, you will walk their lands, live in their homes, relish their cuisine, celebrate their festivals, and witness their way of life. We work with other organisations to achieve sustainable development, while preserving local communities and the wilderness.

Lake Drive, GS Road, Umsaw Nongkharai, Ri-bhoi District, Nongpoh-793102, Meghalaya, India
T: +91 98 9902 0227
E: contact@easternroutes.com
www.easternroutes.com

Elegant Journeys **Elegant Journeys**

Elegant Journeys is a dedicated destination management company specialising in organising customised and small group tours to India, Nepal and Bhutan. Catering to traveller segments such as groups, couples, individuals and corporate clients, our trips are facilitated by travel experts with first-hand knowledge of chosen destinations. We offer package tours that cover the Golden Triangle, Kerala, and other destinations like Varanasi and Rajasthan. We also plan customised tours based on the travellers' specific needs and interests.

Fourth Floor, Avanta, Worldmark 2, Asset 8, Aerocity, New Delhi - 110037, India
T: +91 11 4253 1515 / +91 99 1007 8975
E: sales@elegantjourneys.com
www.elegantjourneys.co



Eco Tourism & Wildlife Travel

ECOWILDLIFE specialises in ecotourism, wildlife and nature trips for individuals, companies and retail agencies. Twenty years of experience have allowed us to develop a selection of expertly-crafted trips, offering spectacular experiences that nature offers. We curate trips with rich experiences of dense jungles, intrepid safaris, wild migrations, mighty rivers and the bluest oceans accompanied by professional and creative staff. Our tours aim to inspire travellers to focus on wildlife and engage with nature with a conscious and responsible attitude.

Basement of Hotel White Lily, Sawai Mansingh Road, Dusadon Ka Bag, Sangram Colony, Ashok Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan -302004, India
T: +91 96 5027 5937
E: ecowildlife@ecowildlife.es
www.ecowildlife.es

enchanting **Enchanting** TRAVELS **Travels**

At Enchanting Travels, we believe that travel can be inspiring and transformational - our vacations are designed to not just help you see each destination but also make positive contributions along the way. Each trip is unique tailored to your interests by experts who share your love for our world. We have crafted private tours for over 40,000 travelers with a 98% guest satisfaction rate. In 2019, we received the Travel Weekly Magellan Gold Award for being the World's Leading Tour Operator - Overall.

660/1, Akshaya, 2nd Floor, 100 Ft. Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560038, Karnataka
T: +91 804048 7777
E: contact@enchantingtravels.com
www.enchantingtravels.com





Since inception in 2013, Enriching Journeys has striven to put in place practices to make tourism more sustainable and to minimise negative social, economic and environmental impacts; generate greater economic benefits for local people; and enhance the well-being of the host communities. Alok and his team of experienced and well-travelled holiday designers have spread their passion for experiential travel across India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan. Experience with heart, experience with Enriching Journeys. We have a firm stance against visiting zoos, elephant back rides or any activity that exploits animals unnecessarily.

323, Vardhman Crown Plaza, Sector-19,
Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075, India
T: +91 11 2804 3153
E: sachit@enrichingjourneys.com
www.enrichingjourneys.com



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

ETERNAL JOURNEYS

Eternal Journeys

Eternal Journeys is a tour operating company that has been enabling travellers to discover an array of destinations across the Indian subcontinent. Our offers include bespoke and special interest trips encompassing the many facets of the subcontinent's vibrant culture and golden history, colourful fairs and festivals and vast expanses of flora and fauna. We arrange adventure tours across the Himalayas, Thar Desert, the Ganga and wildlife parks, as well as luxury train journeys and river cruises. We also help address the greater challenges of tourism like carbon footprint and negative impacts on local society and culture through unique initiatives.

Suite 8, 3rd Floor, Mahaluxmi Square, C-1,
Abhay Khand-2, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad,
Uttar Pradesh - 201010, India
T: + 91 120 4121 692, +91 88 0070 0112
E: office@eternaljourneys.in
www.eternaljourneys.in



Exotique Expeditions

Exotique Expeditions is an award-winning DMC recognised by the Ministry of Tourism that specialises in in-bound tourism to India, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, Sri Lanka and Maldives. We organise wildlife and adventure trips, backwater holidays, day excursions, and heritage and culture tours, among others. While bearing in mind that an increase in the number of tourists to a spot puts immense pressure on local resources and increases pollution, we have paid attention to promote lesser-known holiday destinations to generate jobs for the local population.

Suite 207 - 208, R.G. Complex, Plot 8, Sector 5,
Central Market, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, India
T: +91 11 2808 1341
E: info@exotique.in
www.exotiqueexpeditions.com



Experience India Tours & Travels

Experience India is a destination management company offering a range of travel products from sunshine packages to backwater holidays, wildlife safaris, gastronomic journeys, honeymoon escapades, adventure tours and much more. We tailor make holiday experiences to a range of destinations across India through a network of regional teams combining the best of knowledge, price, environmental awareness, and service standards. We believe in inspiring people to care about the planet, and we aim to bring travellers closer to the environment and local communities in each destination.

Shop No. 16, 2nd Floor, Shri Ram Mandir
Complex, H-Block, Palam Vihar,
Gurugram -122017, Haryana, India
T: +91 12 4236 5409
E: a.rah@experienceindia.co.in
www.experienceindia.co.in



Explore MP

Explore MP is a Mumbai-based DMC specialising in curated tours to off-beat and regular destinations across the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. They offer tailor-made and package tours for MICE, special interest groups, honeymooners and individuals, among others. With something to offer every type of traveller, their trips are usually centred around pilgrim centres, wildlife reserves and breathtaking views, heritage spots, and Madhya Pradesh's charming cities. We are committed to sustainable tourism practices and aim to promote TOFTigers PUG-rated lodges wherever possible.

103, 1st Floor, RB Patel Marg, Ghatkopar East,
Mumbai-400077, Maharashtra, India
T: +91 84 2488 1169
E: info@exploremp.com
www.exploremp.com



Greaves Travel

Greaves Travel is a specialist in bespoke private tours to India with worldwide offices in the UK, USA 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: info@greaves-travel.co.in
www.greavesindia.com



Bharati Coel



Help Tourism

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.help tourism@gmail.com;
info@helptourism.com

www.helptourism.com
www.helptourism.net



Hidden Treasures of India

Hidden Treasures India Destination Management is a travel company based in Jaipur offering tours to offbeat destinations from the Himalayas in the north to Kerala in the south. What makes our tours special is the range of handpicked and remote holiday spots on our map. Our packages are centred around tribal visits, festival celebrations, major and minor tourist attractions and state-specific highlights. We strive to achieve sustainable standards in our operations and are committed to promoting TOFTigers PUG-rated lodges.

404, Elements Mall, DCM Market, Ajmer Road, Jaipur - 302006, Rajasthan, India
T: +91 98 2948 8511
E: sheesh@htoindia.com, htoindia@gmail.com

www.insideindianjungles.com
www.htoindia.com



Holiday Charme India

Holiday Charme India is a Delhi-based travel company offering exclusive wildlife safari tours across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala and Maharashtra, among other destinations. We also offer culture and heritage tour packages. Its our aim to give our guests a taste of real India – its mesmerising cultures, foods, festivals and traditions. We believe in working closely with the local population so as to help boost the region's economy and preserve its culture, environment and heritage, while providing our guests with authentic experiences.

28/10, Ground Floor, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi – 110008, India
T: +91 999 990 9615
E: holidaycharmeindia@gmail.com

www.holidaycharmeindia.com



Holiday Wildlife offers services for accommodation, sightseeing, guides, transfers, and wildlife holiday packages in destinations across India. We focus on organising tiger safaris, birding trips, wildlife photography tours, camping, canoeing, elephant safaris, boat safaris, tribal culinary tours, among others. We specialise in three key areas - where to go, what to do and what to see. Holiday Wildlife is committed to promoting responsible tourism practices, and makes a conscious effort to generate awareness in clients on the preservation of India's wildlife.

50/D, Main Street, 01 Salapurkheda, Near Mother Dairy, Bijwasan, New Delhi-110061, India
T: +91 98 6859 9892
E: holidaywildlife@gmail.com

www.holidaywildlife.com



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



IDMS Tours

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 Indian Tours

Set up by non-nationals in 2006, who now call India 'home', Incredible Indian Tours cover India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Burma. We take only very small groups of four to ten to ensure our guests visit the must-sees, as well as the hidden treasures of the subcontinent 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



India Travel With Leisure

India Travel With Leisure is a destination management company providing various travel solutions for holidays in India. With branch offices and partners across India, Sri Lanka and Nepal, our network comprising travel professionals puts us in a position to respond to clients' needs and queries immediately. Since the company's inception in 2011, we have made a niche for ourselves in the corporate and leisure travel segments with quality services at competitive prices.

4th Floor, Handicraft Store Fatehabad Road,
Agra-282001, Uttar Pradesh, India
T: +91 56 2406 3344
E: anuj@indiatravelwithleisure.com
www.indiatravelwithleisure.com



India Someday Travels

Specialists in providing end-to-end services for travellers wanting to explore India independently, India Someday Travel assists in planning trips, choosing places to stay, figuring out pricing and booking your trip. Devoid of any hidden costs, we provide highly personalised services while acting as a single point of contact for all your bookings. We prefer using local companies for activities, avoiding animal related activities, booking and working with more homestays and yes for every passenger that travels with us we plant trees in their name.

A wing, 4th Floor, Kakad House, Opp liberty
Cinema, New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 400030,
India | T: +91 98 2006 5219
E: harsh@indiasomeday.com
www.indiasomeday.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.rajasthanpackage.co



Indian Vistas

Established in 2008, Indian Vistas aims to provide travellers to India with experiential vacations backed by the support of an efficient team. Our holiday packages include art and architecture, culture and heritage, festivals, cuisine, religion, Ayurveda and wellness, wildlife and nature, and train travels to India, Nepal and Bhutan. The family at the heart of Indian Vistas' operations supports Baigya – a school for underprivileged children – both with their time and other resources. Indian Vistas also partner with our customers to support social causes.

310, Tower C, Nirvana Courtyard, Nirvana Country, Sector 50, Gurugram - 122018, Haryana
T: +91 124 4255066, 4235077
E: sanjay@indianvistas.in
www.indianvistas.in



Indiantryst Tours

Passion for travel runs in our veins. Having spent many years in the industry, we developed an underlying passion to organise flawless experiential holidays for our discerning travellers. Thus, we created Indiantryst Tours. We are ready to walk the extra mile to make our holiday extra special. Indiantryst's holidays aim to bring travellers closer to the local people, culture and nature in a respectful way such that benefits of tourism boost the local economy. At Indiantryst, we encourage guests to take away 'maximum experience' leaving behind 'minimum carbon footprint'.

12/21, Shop No 3 - Ground Floor, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi - 110 008, India
T: +91 11 4507 1677 / +91 98 91 450 150
E: abhijit@indiantryst.in / info@indiantryst.in
www.indiantryst.in

Indo Asia Tours

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, Gurugram - 122002, Haryana, India
T: +91 124 4534 526
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



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-knit 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 98 1083 2832
E: junglesafaritours@gmail.com
www.junglesafari.in



Aditya Singh



Jungle Travels India

JIT 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.jitgroup.co.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



Kalypso Adventures

Kalypso Adventures started out offering adventure travel in Kerala, and now covers the entire country, planning and executing adrenaline-fuelled tours to the furthest corners of India. Our trained professionals provide active holidays focusing on adventure, nature travel, charity challenges, corporate training activities, kayaking trips, family tours and much more – all while keeping in mind the importance of the fragile environment we work in and the local communities that depend on it. Our expert guides are arguably the best in their chosen fields be it birding, natural history safaris or entomological expeditions.

G 340, Panampilly Nagar,
Kochi - 682036, Kerala, India
T: +91 48 4401 2700, + 91 48 4231 2627
E: info@kalypsoadventures.com
www.kalypsoadventures.com



Korners of India

We, Korner's of India, are a young company specialising in exploring the untouched regions through our range of handpicked destinations that helps one make your vacations go beyond travel. With the commitment, integrity and dedication of our competent team and business partners, we encourage people to travel slow, live a legacy, have a taste of tradition, walk on the wild side, peddle through time on the scared trails and dwell in nature in every destination we take them to.

701, Progressive Cottage, Plot 107 / 108, Sector 11, Koparkhairane, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, India | T: +91 84 2508 5495
E: info@kornersofindia.in
www.kornersofindia.in



Kash Venture Travels

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@kvtholidays.com
www.kvtholidays.com



Koyeli Tours & Travels

Guwahati-based Koyeli Tours & Travels provides comprehensive ground handling services in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura. We offer tours focussing on wildlife, accessible tourism, nature tourism, cycling and motorcycling expeditions, tea estates, golfing tours, culture and heritage trips, river cruises, tribal culture, as well as art and craft of the region. We have a workforce of qualified travel planners, managers and tour escorts with our own fleet of vehicles and drivers. We are committed to contributing to TOFTigers' work in setting standards in wildlife tourism and making India a world-class wildlife travel destination.

Building No. 37, Rangamancha Path, Rukmini Nagar,
Near Housing Colony, Beltola-Basistha Road,
Guwahati - 781 006, Assam, India
T: +91 361 2226 656 / 2225 789, +91 99 5405 5553
E: info@koyelitravels.in
www.koyelitravels.in



Luxury India Holidays

Our prime objective is to provide high-end tailor-made holidays for discerning travellers across India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. We recommend boutique places to stay, top-class wildlife lodges, and bespoke guiding to ensure you enjoy memorable holidays under our care. We work Business 2 Business only (B2B) only. We engage with travel partners that promote safeguarding local heritage, culture and our natural world. We have a strict 'no single-use plastics' policy for ourselves and for clients. We are also working on off-setting travel carbon footprint by planting trees.

98 - P, Basement & Ground Floor, Sector - 30,
Gurugram - 122001, Haryana, India
T: +91 124 4114552 / 53 / 54
E: sales@luxuryindiaholidays.com
www.luxuryindiaholidays.com



Mileage Holidays

Mileage Holidays Private Limited is a Delhi-based DMC specialising in inbound tourism to the Indian subcontinent. Besides standard tours, we provide tailor-made itineraries for special interest tours - cultural, medical, ayurvedic, adventure, wildlife, photography, agricultural, festival and much more – to India, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet and Sri Lanka. We provide personalised services through experienced multilingual tour managers with deep knowledge of the areas of their operation. We strive to operate tours that are in line with sustainable tourism practices that benefit the wildlife.

506, Second Floor, Udhog Vihar Phase V,
Gurugram, Haryana, India
T: +91 98 7159 2708, +91 12 4437 5158
E: mahen@mileageholidays.com
www.mileageholidays.com



Mercury Travel

With a 70-year-old legacy, Mercury Travels, now part of Ebix, aims to provide quality hospitality and travel services to global travellers. We are a complete service for those travelling to the Indian subcontinent; including wildlife and adventure, luxury train journeys, beach and hill stations, cultural, heritage, spiritual and wellness destinations. Tailor-made travel with a personalised service to help you create life-long holiday memories. As part of our commitment to TOFTigers we aim to help them drive sustainable tourism across India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

B59/A, Sector 60,
Noida - 201307, India
T: 1800 266 2345
E: india@mercurytravels.in
www.mercurytravels.co.in



Atul Dharamkar

monkfoot **Monkfoot Travel**
Travel . Discover . Experience

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



Nature Safari India

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

MuddyBoots

MuddyBoots Vacations is an active vacation company that specialises in experiential holidays in Kerala, Coorg, the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, the Malabar coast and Rajasthan, with new locations in the offing. We are one of three adventure tour operators in South India approved by Union Ministry of Tourism. We offer outdoor experiences such as walking, cycling, hiking, kayaking, bamboo-rafting, zip-lining and camping, while retaining elements of traditional vacation packages such as sightseeing and exposure to local culture. We also take great care to minimise impact on the places we visit.

E 22, West Trinity Acres and Woods,
 Ambalipura Post, Sarjapura Road, Bengaluru,
 Karnataka, India | T: +91 95 4420 1247
 E: info@muddyboots.in
www.muddyboots.in

NATX **Naturextreme India**
naturextreme.com

Bangalore-based Naturextreme, popularly known as 'NATX' is all about the great outdoors. We are a one-stop-shop for your adrenaline-fuelled adventure fixes, arranging trips for adventure, scuba-diving, off-roading, wildlife safaris, culture and heritage appreciation, and much more. Our travel professionals will be there to guide you all the way. At the end of your tour, we aim to see you walk away with not just great memories but also a renewed sense of confidence! We are committed to the cause of sustainable tourism standards.

No. 924, Ground floor, 20th main, 14th cross,
 BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560070, India
 T: +91 9108 244 244
 E: info@naturextreme.com
www.naturextreme.com



Aditya Singh

Climbing World Nidus Enterprises (Climbing World)

Climbing World (Nidus Enterprises Pvt Ltd) is specialist in providing quality experiences for outdoor/adventure sports enthusiasts. We offer tour packages for rock/mountain climbers, zip-lining enthusiasts, camping and those wanting to explore wildlife. Adventure tours are handled by certified naturalists and mountaineers. Our cultural trips are coordinated by professionals from diverse fields. We provide training for rock climbing, industrial security and rescue, mountain rescue and other tactical exercises.

203 Benkesha Complex, Near Navrangpura Bus Stand, Ahmedabad 380 009, Gujarat, India
T: +91 79 2656 0166 / +91 79 4891 4904
E: nirat@climbingworld.com
www.climbingworld.com

Orange Orange Tours And Trips

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, Gurugram - 122002, Haryana
T: +91 124 4829 200
E: ishveen@orangedmc.com
www.orangedmc.com

Paradise Holidays India

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

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 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



Vinod Goel

Quality India Tours

Quality India Tours is a family-run tour operator based in New Delhi that is committed to delivering experiential travel to India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Established in 2008, we aim to provide a deeper understanding of Indian history, culture, wildlife and people to our travellers. At Quality India Tours (QIT), we focus on creating trips based around guests' desires, paying great attention to detail and personal preferences. As we believe the lap of Mother nature is not only for the human race, but also for its flora and fauna, we support the cultivation of a harmonious relationship between humans and animals.

102, Allied House 1, Local Shopping Centre, Opp Birla Vidya Niketan School, Madangir, New Delhi - 110062, India
T: +91 11 4645 2177
E: anil@qualityindiatours.com
www.qualityindiatours.com

RAJASTHAN ROUTES Rajasthan Routes Trails

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.

316, 3rd Floor, Sankalp Tower, Plot No. 7, Near Queens Road Turn, Sirsi Road, Vaishali Nagar, Jaipur - 302012, Rajasthan, India
T: +91 141 2354 414 / 15, +91 94 1404 8535
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 other 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 43022 802, +91 120 4222 771
E: info@rareholidays.com
www.rareholidays.com



Reliable Holidays

Reliable Holidays Pvt. Ltd. was established in 2008 as a one-stop shop for all your travel needs. We provide packages for wildlife tourism, pilgrimages, culture and heritage trips, business meetings, conferences, exhibitions, and cruises. Tour packages include airfare, sightseeing, accommodation, comfortable coach travel, tour escort and much more. While Kerala, Goa, and Nainital remain some of the most sought-after holiday spots in India; Dubai, Mauritius, Bali, Philippines and Hong Kong are some of the top international destinations on our map.

202, Satya Mension, Ranjit Nagar, Commercial
Complex New Delhi - 110008, India
T: +91 11 4163 5311 / 4277 0389
E: gaurav@reliableholidays.in
www.reliableholidays.in



Razdan Holidays

Razdan Holidays has been operating in the Indian tourism sector since 1957. We started off by organising adventure travel in Kashmir and Ladakh, becoming the first company to operate foreign expeditions in the region. We have since expanded to include other products managing destinations across India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Organising tours to all major wildlife parks in the Indian subcontinent is one of our specialisations and we aim to aid the parks' conservation through our purpose-built responsible travel initiative 'Enable Sustainable Program'.

308, Magnum House 1, Karampura Commercial
Complex, Delhi - 110015, India
T: +91 11 2592 0736
E: info@razdanholidays.com
www.razdanholidays.com



Royal Expeditions



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. We offer cycling and walking tours as part of our trips, besides the conventional jeep safaris.

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



R Ventures Holidays

At R Ventures, 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,
Gurugram - 122002, Haryana, India
M: +91 9810 4090 55 | T: +91 24 4203 022
E: rahul@rventuresholidays.com
www.rventuresholidays.com



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



Sacred Dot Tours

Sacred Dot Tours is a full-service Indian Destination Management Company. We cater to FIT leisure, group and incentive tours but also handle all manner of travel from business meetings and conferences to unique honeymoons and destination weddings. Our mainstay is sustainable travel with our philosophy being conscious luxury. This combines best green practices with opportunities to visit and experience different parts of our off-beat destinations. Through our partners, suppliers and NGO affiliations, we strive to protect natural and cultural resources, while showcasing destinations in a sustainable manner.

101, DT Mega Mall, Golf Course Road,
DLF Phase -1, Gurugram - 122002, India
T: +91 124 410 1122
E: parul@sacreddot.com
www.sacreddot.com



Vaibhav Mehta



Saiyu India

Saiyu India - the India office of Japan's Saiyu Travel - is an award-winning DMC operating tours to destinations in Japan and the Indian subcontinent for around a decade now. We offer tailor made itineraries and end-to-end travel solutions for wildlife safaris, backwater holidays, culture and heritage tours, and adventure trips, among others. With a wide service network throughout across India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, Saiyu offers exciting plans catered to meet our clients' holiday expectations.

230A, 2nd Floor, DLF City Centre Mall, Mehrauli,
Gurugram Road, Haryana - 122002, India
T: +91 12 4401 7901
E: rajbir@saiyuindia.com
www.saiyuindia.com



Sea Stone Travels

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 Travel

Shanti Travel is a local french travel agency based in India that organises tailor-made trips to 24 Asian destinations since 15 years. Our immersive itineraries are a great way to discover Asia's natural wonders and experience off-the-beaten-path trips with focus on local culture and traditions. We also organise thematic itineraries with yoga teachers, photographers or professional guides. We are committed to responsible tourism and are involved in a zero-carbon programme to protect the biodiversity of the destinations we are operating.

A-5, FIEE Complex, Okhla Phase II,
New Delhi-110020 - India
T: +91 11 4607 7800
E: contact@shantitravel.com
www.shantitravel.com/en



Shikhar Travels

Shikhar Travels was established in 1979 as a boutique tour operator providing customised tour packages for individual and group travellers. We have more than 45 associate offices around India and in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Nepal, and Bhutan. While catering to the needs of budget and luxury travellers alike, we organise tours for special interest groups and soft adventure enthusiasts. The Shikhar Group of Companies aims to ensure that no disturbance is made to the ecosystem where we operate tours.

O - 47, Lower Ground Floor,
Lajpat Nagar 2, New Delhi - 110024, India
T: +91 98 1108 3750
E: tours@shikhar.com
www.shikhar.com




**Silent Leopard
Tours & Travel**

SLTT, as we are fondly known now, specialises purely in B2B inbound tourism, covering India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Tibet. Recognised by the Union Ministry Of Tourism, we are an allied-member of IATO and member of PATA. We are also the preferred sales agent of the luxury train, Maharajas Express, as well as the Buddhist Circuit and Majestic Rajasthan trains. We are one of the very few destination management companies in India that enjoys a full-fledged indemnity insurance coverage.

UGF-1 To 4, Plot No. 1, Ansal Classique Tower,
Block J, Community Centre, Rajouri Garden,
New Delhi – 110027, India
T: +91 11 4263 1047/ +91 93 1198 7447
E: info@silentleopard.com
www.silentleopard.com


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@stripesholidays.com
www.stripesours.com


Soar Excursions

Soar Excursions specialises in curating birding and wildlife photography tours across destinations in India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. We are a team of birders and wildlife biologists who are passionate about designing tours that assure targeted sightings, sustainability, knowledgeable guides and comfortable retreats in the wilderness. We also specialise in tours centered around Gujarat's culture and heritage. Soar Excursions' journey began with conservation efforts to safeguard the last remaining population of white-rumped vultures in Gujarat. We also contribute towards promoting bamboo products made by Kotwalia tribals.

3rd Floor, Kanuj 2, Municipal Housing Society,
Memnagar, Ahmedabad – 380052, Gujarat, India
T: +91 98 7975 4204
E: reservations@soarexcursions.com
www.soarexcursions.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


The Offbeat India

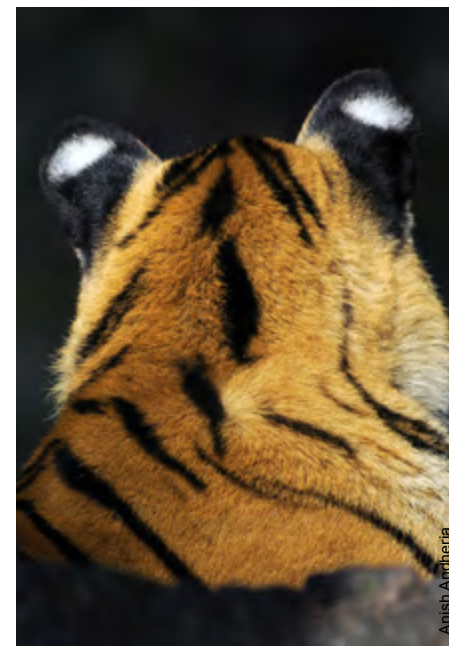
The Offbeat India offers trips to the less-explored parts of Uttarakhand. Based in Lansdowne, the venture started off as an attempt to generate local employment opportunities and curb migration to big cities. This gave birth to Lansdowne Trip Travel Café, a community-run café-cum-vintage store that has now grown to become a platform for exchanges between travellers and villagers. Host communities are at the heart of all activities and tours, giving you an authentic experience of Garhwal, its ways of life, cuisine, arts, culture and much more.

Devikhal, Lansdowne-246149,
Uttarakhand, India
T: + 91 98 1052 4448, +91 94 5619 3334
E: amit.ltte@gmail.com
www.theoffbeatindia.com


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

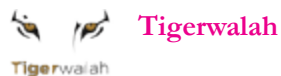


Anish Anandheria


**Tiger Trails
by Anthony**

Tiger Trails by Anthony is here to educate wildlife travellers, through experience, about the interdependence between man and nature, and how coexistence is not only possible but can be a thriving phenomenon. We offer tailor-made experiences of the wild in its most natural form so people can experience the rich diversity of the jungles and its inhabitants. Furthermore, we offer local culinary workshops, village walks, insights into local handicraft, folk musical evenings and expert photography sessions.

B/73, Defence Colony,
New Delhi -110024, India
T: +91 98 1870 7770
E: contact@tigertrailsbyanthony.com
www.tigertrailsbyanthony.com



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, Gurugram, Haryana - 122101, India
T: +919871431155
E: info@tigerwalah.com
www.tigerwalah.com



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



Total Holiday Options

At Total Holiday Options (THO), we see ourselves as specialised destination managers who work as 'travel agents for travel agents'. Our clients mostly include large and corporate travel partners around the world. We offer travel solutions for trips to India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan and cater to the needs of varied business segments. We have laid out a series of measures that aim achieve sustainability; including involving our guests in sapling planting activities and using nature-friendly eco-lodges and hotels that avail of locally-sourced organic produce.

No 97, Ground Floor, Sai Enclave,
Dwarka Sector - 23, New Delhi - 110077, India
T: +91 11 2530 8100
E: arun@totalholidayoptions.in
www.totalholidayoptions.co.in



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



Travel Inn (I) Pvt. Ltd. is a Delhi-based wildlife destination management company and six-time 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 birdwatching and wildlife 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.in
www.travelinn.in



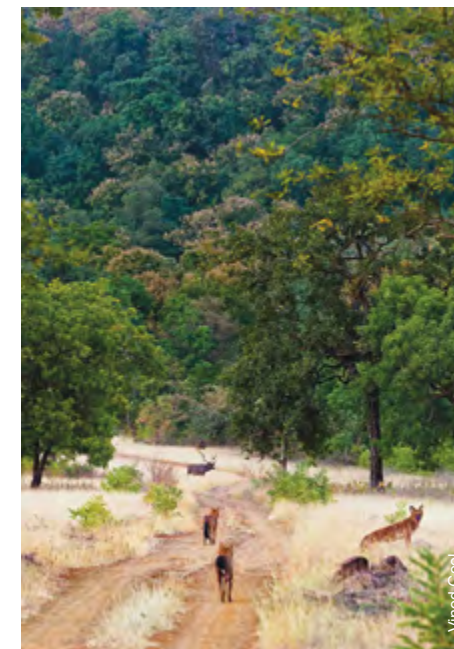
Oriental Bliss Tours is a destination management company with a team of professionals from varied backgrounds who are passionate travellers. Our objective is to facilitate responsible tourism that values biodiversity and ecological services. Use our services to discover India, a vibrant land filled with colour, warmth and incredible diversity. No matter where your interests lie, we assure you a journey of India like never before. We are members of TOFTigers as part of an overall portfolio of wildlife charity contribution.

C - 24/1, Opp. Kaushalya Tower, Turner Road,
Clement Town, Dehradun,
Uttarakhand - 248002, India
T: +91 13 5264 5640
E: travelstudioonita@gmail.com
www.orientalbliss.in



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 / +91 120 431 2200
E: praveen@untoldindia.in
www.untoldindia.in





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



Wander Globe

Wander Globe is an inbound tour company providing end-to-end solutions across Asia for bespoke travel experiences. Our tours are experiential, sustainable and sensitive to local cultures, climates and cuisines. We do our best to match client interests with local culture, cuisine, sights and activities. Our tours are competitively priced, and most of all we are passionate about India and the subcontinent. We are conscious that irresponsible travel can be damaging and therefore choose hotel chains and smaller properties that follow stricter environmental norms and practices.

A-139, DDA Sheds, 2nd flr, Okhla Phase II,
New Delhi-110020, India
T: +91 11 4166 0444
E: info@wanderglobe.in
www.wanderglobe.in



Wild Indian Safari

Wild Indian Safari was founded by two wildlifers with more than 15 years of experience in hospitality and conservation. Headquartered in Jabalpur, we're just a few hours' drive from all major tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh. We offer limited yet entertaining and comfortable tours along with professional services like naturalists, birding guides and sightseeing experts for our guests. It is a constant effort at Wild Indian Safari to practice responsible tourism to encourage awareness among travellers around the world.

811, Sneh Nagar, Kamla Nehru Ward,
Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India
T: +91 76 1400 4008
E: safaris@wildindiainsafari.com
www.wildindiainsafari.com



Wildlife Explorer India

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



Yatra Exotic Routes

Holidays at Yatra Exotic Routes are all about capturing the essence of life in itself – an incredible journey filled with exciting experiences. Backed by the expertise of seasoned travel professionals, we have branches and representatives equipped to cater to guests' every need for travel across India. Yatra is committed to crafting experiences that foster appreciation and conservation of local culture and communities. We strive to ensure that our operations conform to a responsible tourism policy.

'GULF ADIBA', 4th Floor, Plot No. 272, Udyog
Vihar Phase-2, Sector - 20, Gurugram - 122008,
Delhi-NCR, India
T: +91 12 4459 1700
E: info@yatraexoticroutes.com
www.yatraexoticroutes.com



ZiniGo | Sustainable Luxury Experiences

ZiniGo | Sustainable luxury experiences is a niche destination management company based in the foothills of the Himalayas. We specialise in experiential stays and crafted hideouts in north east India and Bhutan. At ZiniGo™, we are constantly in the process of building a local brand with the core value of providing quality hospitality services. We are a firm believer of using tourism a wider tool to be more responsible to preserve the culture, nature and heritage of each destination we visit.

2nd, Sevoke Road, Ward 43, Dasrath Pally,
Bhanu Nagar, Siliguri, Darjeeling,
West Bengal 734001, India
T: +91 35 3254 0778
E: sales@ziniGo.com
www.ziniGo.com



Anish Andheria

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

TOFTigers MEMBERS - INDIA



Go Wild

With a decade of experience in hand, Go Wild is known for its knowledge of the land. We specialise in arranging exclusive photo tours across some of the best wildlife destinations such as the tiger heartland of India, the great migration marvel, and the tropical forests of South America. We offer experiential tours coupled with expertise in photography and natural history. At Go Wild, we care about the impact of our travel and aim to be at the forefront of a sustainable and ethical tourism industry.

Flat no 3, Rasik Apartments, Opposite Paud Road Flyover, Near Dashabhuj Ganpati Mandir, Karve Road, Pune - 411038, Maharashtra, India
T: +91 89 7588 9191 | E: info@gowild.in
www.gowild.in



Nature Wanderers

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



Anish Anandharia

TOFTigers MEMBERS - INDIA



**Wild Nest Travel
And Photography**

With over fifteen years' experience of exploring and photographing wildlife in India, we at Wild Nest believe in sharing our first-hand knowledge to make your journey an unforgettable one. Our itineraries are entirely designed by our experts, keeping in mind all requisites for outstanding wildlife experiences and photography opportunities. We support and acquaint travellers with local communities and their culture to the best possible extent. Wild Nest has been nominated consecutively two times by TOFTigers at their tourism awards for the Wildlife promotion company of the year award.

B-40, Radha Krishna Lane, Kaushambi,
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201010
T: +91 9999 5353 50
E: tour@wildnest.in
www.wildnest.in



Wild Voyager

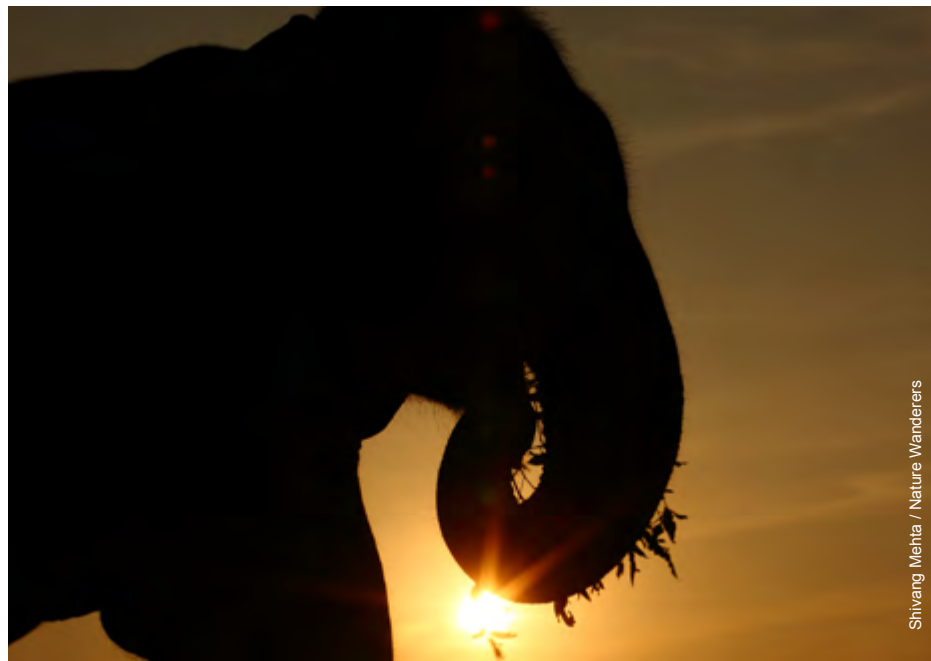
Wild Voyager is a designer of experiences who will help enable your inner explorer to embark on a voyage of your lifetime. We handcraft experiential holidays around adventure, luxury, wilderness, and culture to destinations across South America, Antarctica, the Balkans, Central America, Far East, Middle East and the Nordic region. Wild Voyager organises corporate programmes, and conservation and photography tours aimed at bringing people closer to nature. We are committed to conservation and follow a policy of 'leave no trace' at all the destinations we offer.

FF 01, Omaxe Square, Jasola District Centre,
Mathura Road, New Delhi - 10025
T: +91 11 3001 0207
E: info@wildvoyager.com
www.wildvoyager.com



Atul Dharamkar

TOFTigers MEMBERS - INDIA
SERVICE & MEDIA ORGANISATIONS



Shivang Mehta / Nature Wanderers



The Consortium is a hotel-marketing enterprise. Established in 2002, we represent and promote a bouquet of handpicked heritage hotels (palaces and havelis), wildlife destinations, luxury camps and boutique hotels both on B2B and B2C platforms. We cater to all market segments – leisure, corporate, and weddings, representing hotels across destinations like Deogarh, Dholpur, Bharatpur, Bandhavgarh, Ranthambhore and more. The Consortium promotes unique products in cultural and wildlife destinations. All our single-owned products focus on hiring local resources, talents, manpower while highlighting local culture and ethos.

D1/31 First Floor, Palam Extension, Sector 7,
Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075, India
T: +91 11 4566 5201
E: sales@consortiumhotels.org
www.consortiumhotels.com



Kunzum

Great travel can break manmade boundaries and help usher in world peace – this is at the heart of Kunzum founder Ajay Jain's journey to inspire people to cross geographical borders. Kunzum is his blog, and the brand behind all that he does, which includes the flagship Kunzum Travel Café – a real-world communities for travellers. We DO NOT sell any trips! Kunzum (the community) and Ajay Jain (personally) are committed to the cause of the planet. We voice our opinions strongly amongst travellers and the trade.

Kunzum Travel Café, T-49, Ground Floor, Hauz
Khas Village, New Delhi - 110016, India
T: +91 96 5070 2777, +91 9910044476
E: ajay@ajayjain.com
www.kunzum.com

NATURE **inFOCUS**® Nature inFocus

Nature inFocus is an inclusive and ardent voice for natural world storytellers from India and around the world. Our purpose is to create awareness and encourage thoughtful action through our portal, annual festival, and film and photography awards. We are the definitive platform for stories, photographs and films that enable relevant knowledge-sharing about the subcontinent's wildlife and its conservation efforts.

1174, 1st Floor, 12th 'B' Main Road, HAL 2nd stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru – 560008, India
T: + 91 80 4169 7737
E: info@natureinfocus.in
www.natureinfocus.in

RED CORAL Red Coral Travel Experiences

At Red Coral Travel Experiences, it's all about experiential travel. We associate directly or indirectly with providers, distributors and consumers of experience-based travel to bridge gaps among these three segments. We tie up with responsible businesses to focus all our efforts on supporting passion-driven standalone experience providers, be it a resort/lodge owner or curators who encourage responsible tourism and patronise community development alongside their business aspirations. We have also actively contributed to and supported wildlife and nature conservation, and community development initiatives.

C-21, 2nd Floor, Omaxe City Centre, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram, Haryana, India
T: +91 98 1009 3312
E: shobha@redcoral.in
www.redcoral.in

Rass RASS Destinations

Rass Destinations India, is a media and service organisation working as a support partner to standalone experience providers. Our teams reach out to business channels through strategized marketing for improvised sustainable business operations. We believe our brand reflects our partners, passion in their boutique resorts, lodges and curated experiences. Our marketing theme revolves around enhancing product experiences, curating local experiences, training locally-hired staff, enhancing the brand's digital presence and working together for environmental sustainability.

H. NO. 42 J, Block H, Palam Vihar Extension, Gurugram, Haryana - 122017, India
T: +91 88 6027 9222
E: reservations@rassdestinations.com
www.rassdestinations.com

Terra tales Terra Tales Unexplored Experiences

The name 'Terra Tales' signifies our company's objective of promoting earthen stories and unexplored experiences unfolding the description of beautiful locations and ethos of our resorts. We are a Delhi-based company with three verticals – designing and implementing marketing strategies for standalone hotels/resorts; helping travellers explore offbeat locations; and working towards promoting green tourism and an emerging concept which is a blend of eco-tourism, agro-tourism and rural tourism. Terra Tales contributes its bit towards the betterment and self-reliance of the community and the ecosystem.

C-6/6353, 1st Floor Gate No. 2, Vatika Apartment, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110070, India
T: +91 98 1036 2445
E: gita@terratales.in
www.terratales.in





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, Gurugram - 122002, Haryana, India
T: +91 124 4062 480
E: info@rareindia.com, shoba@rareindia.com
www.rareindia.com



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 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



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

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

Abercrombie & Kent was founded 60 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

**Black Tomato**

Black Tomato is a UK and US based award-winning, bespoke travel company that delivers imaginative and cutting-edge travel experiences around the world for a discerning and global clientele. We are well-recognised for handcrafting inspiring, immersive, and deeply personal itineraries for clients, constantly dreaming up new experiences and innovative services to enhance clients' travels, from private pop-up Blink camps to expedition adventures under our Epic Tomato brand. Black Tomato is committed to responsible tourism practices and to promoting the PUG eco-rating.

Lower Ground Floor, 4-14 Tabernacle Street,
London, EC2A 4LU, UK
T: +44 (0)20 7426 9888
E: info@blacktomato.com
www.blacktomato.com

AUDLEY Audley Travel

Audley Travel offers clients tailor made travel experiences by employing specialists with 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 for each itinerary. Working closely with welfare experts, all of the experiences we offer have been extensively reviewed. We also have a wide-ranging set of policies to ensure your trip isn't to the detriment of the wildlife in any way. We have been awarded the highest AITO 5 status 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

exodus Exodus Travels

Leading adventure tour operator Exodus Travels has been taking people on incredible wildlife adventures for over 45 years. From the Arctic to the African savannah, we operate global holidays to some of the world's most incredible destinations. Travelling in a small group of normally 8-16 people, our tours aren't disruptive to the places we visit. Plus, you'll travel with a local guide, giving you a unique insight into the local culture. We are committed to sustainable travel and are constantly looking at ways we can benefit local communities and environments. In March 2019, we founded the Exodus Travels Foundation to further support this mission.



DST House, St Mark's Hill,
Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4BH UK
T: +44 20 8772 3942 | E: sales@exodus.co.uk
www.exodus.co.uk

**Far Frontiers
Travel**

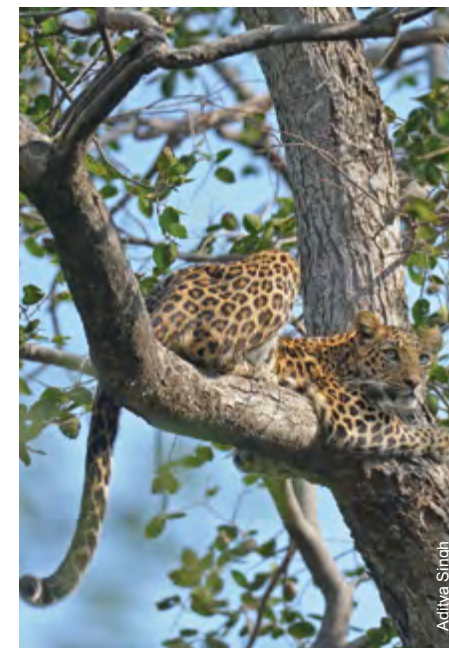
Fiona Brijnath, owner of Far Frontiers Travel, has 25 years' experience and a wealth of ideas she's bursting to share. Not one for shoehorning clients into a set itinerary, Fiona will personally chat around your desires and suggest trip highlights and possibilities uniquely tailored for you. With her 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

**Globe Travel Centre**

Globe Travel Centre began in 2005 when we launched our first specialist tour operation to Kerala, South India. We offer every destination under a dedicated 'Travel Centre' where your holidays are tailor made by local experts based in our regional offices. We currently offer tailor-made holidays to Kerala, the rest of India, Sri Lanka & Maldives, Vietnam, Cambodia and Burma. We strongly believe that travel businesses should ultimately benefit the destinations they promote. Our holidays are designed with a view of bringing maximum benefits to the destinations.

Globe Travel Centre Ltd, Blue Post House Office
128, Newland Street, Witham, Essex CM8 1BA, UK
T: +44 (0)808 178 9799
E: info@globetravelcentre.com
www.globetravelcentre.com



Aditya Singh

**Greaves Travel**

Greaves Travel 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 40 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 projects throughout India.

53 Welbeck Street, London
W1G 9XR, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 7487 9111
E: tours@greavesuk.com
www.greavesindia.co.uk





Imagine Travel is an award winning tour operator specialising in tailor made holidays to Africa, Asia and Latin America. We are passionate about wildlife and know the jungle provides so many wonderful adventures for our guests. 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 guests go in search of the wildlife of the Indian Subcontinent in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Riverbank house, 1 Putney Bridge Approach,
London SW6 3JD, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 3141 2800
E: info@imaginetravel.com
www.imaginetravel.com



INDIA CONNECTIONS

India Connections offers tailor made holidays to North India. We arrange 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 722440
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, Myanmar and the Kingdom of 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@travelmaxwellscott.com
www.travelmaxwellscott.com



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.

1st Floor Stafford Court 145 Washway Road,
Sale, Cheshire, M33 7PE, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 8584 1414
E: holidays@mysteriesofindia.com
www.mysteriesofindia.com



Natural World Safaris

An obsession with wildlife, exemplary destination knowledge and exceptional customer service defines Natural World Safaris. Delivering award-winning safaris for wildlife enthusiasts, we work closely with expert guides in Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Polar Regions. From one-off expeditions with leading photographers to bespoke safaris tailored for individual clients, every journey with us is well-crafted with adventure and conservation in mind. Be it encounters with gorillas, tigers, blue whales or polar bears, travelling with Natural World Safaris is a deeply transformative experience.

130A Western Road,
Brighton, BN1 2LA, UK
T: +44 (0) 1273 691 642
E: sales@naturalworldsafaris.com
www.naturalworldsafaris.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 experiences across South Africa, Uganda, Botswana, Zimbabwe, India and Brazil. 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.

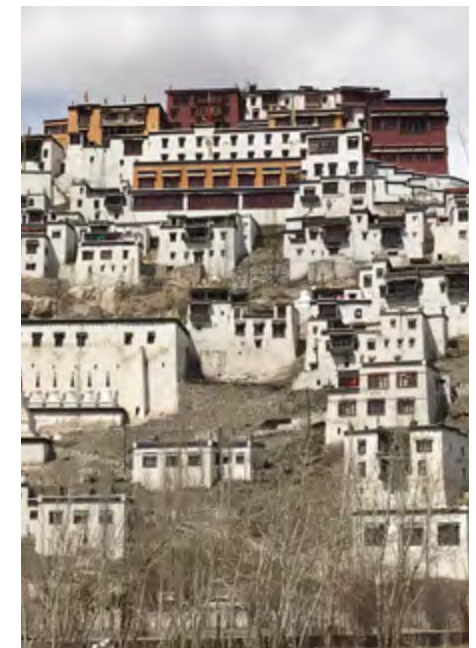
Field End, Streetway Lane,
Cheselbourne, Dorset - DT2 7NU, UK
T: +44 1258 837 455
E: mysafari@ontracksafaris.com
www.ontracksafaris.com



On The Go Tours

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.

Office 19, 4th Floor, 3 Shortlands Road,
Hammersmith, London W6 8DA, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 7371 1113
E: info@onthegotours.com
www.onthegotours.com





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



At Steppes Travel, we listen to what you want and create a personalised wildlife itinerary tailored just for you. While we know that you will want to see tigers in India, our itineraries are designed to give you access to the country's most pristine wilderness in the hope that you will see a diverse range of wildlife. Our aim is to create a sustainable and immersive Indian wildlife experience, working alongside local community tourism initiatives and supporting conservation.

Travel House, 51 Castle Street, Cirencester,
Gloucestershire GL7 1QD, UK
T: +44 (0) 1285 601 784
E: enquiry@steppestravel.com
www.steppestravel.com



Scott Dunn is an award-winning 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, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 8682 5000
E: info@scottdunn.com
www.scottdunn.com



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: +44 175 3201 201 / +44 175 3577 330
E: great-vacation@btconnect.com
E: tailormadejourney@btinternet.com
www.tailormadejourney.co.uk





Tears for Tigers Travel

TEARS FOR TIGERS
EXPERIENCE WILDLIFE

Tears for Tigers 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 Tears for Tigers 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

thegreatProjects The Great Projects

The Great Projects offers multi-award-winning wildlife volunteering projects and eco tours for volunteers worldwide. Our conservation projects and signature tours are designed to be memorable and rewarding; and through our 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, SG12 7DX, UK
T: +44 (0) 208 885 4987
E: info@thegreatprojects.com
www.thegreatprojects.com



The Explorations Company

A founding member of TOFTigers, The Explorations Company is dedicated to sustainable and responsible tourism, conservation and philanthropy. We specialise in unique tailor made safaris and holidays to Asia, Africa and parts of Latin America. We can also assemble private mobile camps in remote locations. A proportion of each booking we receive goes directly to vital charitable projects. We also enable our clients to make meaningful contributions to focused and deserving causes which are carefully selected through our rigorous process.

Fraser House, Wadham Close, Southrop,
Gloucestershire GL17 3NR, UK
T: +44 (0) 1367 850 566
E: N.Shepherd@explorationscompany.com
www.explorationscompany.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) 207 386 4646
E: enquiry@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk
www.theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk



Time for Travel

Time for Travel is all about tailor-made travel to the Indian subcontinent, Africa and selected worldwide destinations. We specialise in holidays combining wildlife and the beach or 'sand and safari' with an emphasis on quality boutique accommodation, wildlife and natural history. You have heard it all before... so what extra do we do? To name a few, all Time for Travel's power is sourced from green energy, we drive hybrid cars, recycle all our rubbish and try and encourage clients to offset carbon flight emissions.

South Ambersham, Ambersham, Midhurst,
West Sussex, GU29 0BY, UK
T: +44 1798 867750
E: sales@timefortravel.co.uk
www.timefortravel.co.uk



Travel the Unknown

As the country in which Travel the Unknown began its tours, India holds a special place in our hearts, and there are few more iconic symbols of India than the tiger. Our knowledge, experience and love for India is unsurpassed, reflected in the depth and variety of our small group tours as well as our vast array of extension options. We support all national parks in India where our tours operate and make it a personal mission to enhance the wildlife our tours encounter.

Riverbank House, Putney Bridge Approach,
London SW6 3BQ, UK
T: +44 (0)20 7183 6371
E: marketing@traveltheunknown.com
www.traveltheunknown.com



Bharat Goel



Wayfairer Travel

Wayfairer Travel is a UK-based tour operator that specialises in designing tailor made luxury holidays and safaris across Africa and Asia. Since 2012, we have harboured a passion for stylish, exciting holidays and adventure tours that also benefit local communities and conservation in the destinations we visit. We offer a wide range of holidays to India; from culinary tours to phenomenal wildlife encounters in India's top national parks. Our mission is to offer authentic and socially responsible travel experiences without compromising on comfort and quality.

5th Floor, Broad Quay House,
Bristol, BS1 4DJ, UK
T: + 44 117 313 3300
E: hello@wayfairertravel.com
www.wayfairertravel.com



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.

Power Road Studios, Unit G.09,
114 Power Road, London - W4 5PY, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 8741 7390
E: info@wildfrontiers.co.uk
www.wildfrontierstravel.com



Natural Focus

Natural Focus specialises in providing 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 35 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



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. A percentage of our profits is donated to small, local, visible charity initiatives around tiger reserves like Ranthambhore. The focus is children's education, tree planting, water harvesting and equipping park guards.

10 Islestone Drive, North Sunderland, Seahouses,
Northumberland, NE68 7XB, UK
T: +44 (0) 1946 841495, 0800 999 4334
E: asia@wildlifetrails.co.uk
www.wildlifetrails.co.uk



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. We like to think locally, tread lightly and wisely, and leave without a trace but thoroughly satisfied. We are a little on the wild side!

44 Lake View Drive,
Burrill Lake, NSW 2539, Australia
T: +61 2 4455 5047
E: viv@vivsindia.com.au
www.vivsindia.com.au



Daktari Travel

Daktari Travel is a Germany-based travel company offering tailor-made tours to India, Myanmar and destinations across eastern and southern Africa. We specialise in providing flexible travel solutions for luxury tours, group travel, and self-driven journeys focussing on a destination's wildlife, rural landscape, heritage and culture, and much more. Our packages are inspired by personal journeys and our love for the region and everything that comes with it. We are an environmentally-conscious company and a member of Forum Anders Reisen since 2010.

In der Maienkammer 19a Köln
Germany 50735
T: +49 221 9712079
E: anfrage@daktaritavel.de
www.daktaritavel.de



Tischler Reisen

Tischler Reisen specialises in tailor-made quality programmes for individual guests and small groups to wonderful destinations in Asia and along the Indian Ocean. Founded in 1976, we offer extensive India programmes that includes a wide range of roundtrips and selected hotels, nature experiences, cultural 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 its mission.

Tischler Reisen AG, Partnachstr. 50,
82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
T: +49 8821 93179612
E: indien@tischler-reisen.de
www.tischler-reisen.de



Taj Reisen is your specialist for well-organised individual and private tours to India. For over 19 years, we have been passionately designing extraordinary trips to the most diverse and colourful regions of India. Our tailor made tours are customised as per your wishes (such as budget, route, interests or hotels) with the best aspects of the country in mind, so you have a fascinating experience and can even indulge in the memories long after returning from your trip.

Grindelberg 60, 20144 Hamburg,
Germany
T: +49 40 51310847
E: info@rajasthan-reise.de
www.rajasthan-reise.de



Julian Matthews



All for Nature Travel

All for Nature Travel offers beautiful wildlife experiences around the world and is also specialised in wildlife in India and Nepal. We customise safari journeys for your every specific wish and offer group tours that will give a privileged insight into nature conservation. All our holidays directly contribute towards nature conservation and are conducted sustainably. All for Nature Travel is a Travelife Certified Tour Operator itself and is the 2018 winner of the TOFTigers Wildlife Tourism Award for International Wildlife Tour Operator.

Oudelandseweg 2, 3443 AA Woerden,
The Netherlands
T: +31 348 448 146
E: info@allfornature.nl
www.allfornature.nl

koningaap Koning AAP

écht op reis!

Koning Aap is a Dutch tour operator that organises adventurous group tours to over 80 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. We are a Travelife certified company since 2013.

Entrada 223, 1114 AA Amsterdam-Duivendrecht,
The Netherlands
T: +31 20 7887 700
E: info@koningaap.nl
www.koningaap.nl

SAWADEE Sawadee vakanties voor reizigers Reizen



For more than 35 years Sawadee Reizen has specialized in active and adventurous group tours. Our portfolio contains over 300 unique tours to destinations around the world. We travel in small groups with professional tour leaders and offer balanced itineraries where we go beyond the familiar highlights. We travel with respect for nature, the environment and local people. Since 2014 we have been a Travelife certified company.

Sarphatistraat 650, 1018 AV Amsterdam,
The Netherlands
T: +31 20 420 2220
E: info@sawadee.nl
www.sawadee.nl

shoestring Shoestring

hoe ver kun je gaan?

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. We are a Travelife certified company since 2013.

Entrada 223, 1114 AA Amsterdam-Duivendrecht,
The Netherlands
T: +31 20 6850 203
E: info@shoestring.nl
www.shoestring.com



Aditya Singh



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 Kareplein 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



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. We are a Travelife certified company since 2013.

Entrada 223, 1114 AA Amsterdam-Duivendrecht,
The Netherlands
T: +31 20 7 88 77 55
E: info@yourway2go.nl
www.yourway2go.nl



Wild Women Expeditions

Wild Women Expeditions (WWE) is a global eco-tour agency specialising in women's outdoor adventure travel. WWE is the largest women's travel company in the world by number of departures. Our adventures are for women, led by women! We are passionate about nature and the wilderness. We also know that every woman has a contribution to make and that in a supportive, celebratory and adventurous environment we can all share our strengths as equals.

P.O. Box 20031, Millbrook Mall Corner Brook,
NL A2H 7J5, Canada
T: 1 (888) 993 1222
E: info@wildwomenexpeditions.com
www.wildwomenexpeditions.com



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 practised 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@aventyrresor.se
www.aventyrresor.se



Indienresor

Indienresor is a travel operator specialising in tours from Sweden to India and neighbouring countries for those interested in exploring the subcontinent's wildlife, nature, heritage and culture. We offer packages that take travellers on a journey through the myriad sights, flavours and smells of the subcontinent. We also have tailor-made packages on offer. We provide knowledgeable Swedish guides as well. With more than 30 years' experience in the travel industry, we tie up with quality accommodation and service providers committed to sustainable tourism.

Hornsbruksgatan 19, 4tr Post code: 117 34,
Stockholm, Sweden
T: +46 8 545 95 200
E: info@indienresor.se
www.indienresor.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. All our trips are climate compensated.

Box 180, 40123 Gothenburg,
Sweden
T: +46 31 333 1730
E: info@polar-quest.com
www.polar-quest.com



Tiger Tops



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



Big Five Tours & Expeditions

Since 1973, Big Five Tours & Expeditions has crafted life-affirming journeys aimed at sustainability. We tailor make trips to more than 40 countries. Clients return to us for our knowledgeable destination specialists, award-winning adventures, and our premier 24-hour White Glove Service® guest assistance. Our vision encompasses innovations such as GIB 5.0, a proprietary AI application to match traveler's interests with select charitable projects across the globe regardless of guest's current travel plans. The result is more equitable giving to lesser known projects through the Spirit of Big Five.

1551 SE Palm Court, Stuart,
Florida 34994, USA
T: +1 772 287 7995
E: info@bigfive.com
www.bigfive.com



Wild Nature Photo Adventures

Wild Nature Photo Adventures is a travel company specialising in nature photo tours owned and run by nature-photographers Henrik Karlsson, Jan Pedersen, Brutus Östling and Staffan Widstrand. 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.

Lagmansgatan 5 C,
392 35 Kalmar, Sweden
T: +46 705 891 318
E: info@wildnaturephotoadventures.com
www.wildnaturephotoadventures.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% 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



Next Adventure

Next Adventure was founded in 1996 to exclusively provide customised safari arrangements for wildlife photography and wilderness travel. Through our personally-crafted itineraries, we have been connecting curious travellers with wilderness experiences in Africa and India for over 20 years. Next Adventure's depth of knowledge, quality relationships and an expert eye for detail brings you closer to the wildlife, the diverse cultures, and the secrets of the wilderness like no other expert can. While providing our clients personalised safari experiences we focus on conservation, connection and communication.

738, Gilman Street, Berkeley,
CA 94710, USA
T: +1 510 526 7027
E: safari@nextadventure.com
www.nextadventure.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 Hiking and Walking Trips' in Afar magazine's 2019 Travelers' Choice Awards, Top Five 'World's Best' Tour Operators by Travel and Leisure magazine, and Best Trips of the Year multiple times by Outside 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



Terra Incognita Ecotours

Terra Incognita Ecotours organises bespoke wilderness tours to destinations across the world by drawing on our legacy of adventure, experience and knowledge. Our commitment is to provide travellers with opportunities to participate in ecotours, which explore the world with a sense of discovery and wonder, and to preserve our environment for future generations. We pledge to engage in responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people. We were awarded the 2019 World's Best Award for Top 10 Tour Operators in the World by Travel and Leisure magazine.

4016, West Inman Avenue, Tampa,
FL 33609, USA
T: +1 855 326 8687
E: info@ecotours.com
www.ecotours.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



Chhattisgarh : Full of Surprises

Verdant greenery all around, water droplets bathing the leaves, birds going about their rituals after a refreshing natural shower and waterfalls cascading down into a mist – these are but a few visual treats Chhattisgarh offers. Winding ghats and rapidly flowing rivers will greet you in rich natural habitats.

Chhattisgarh is a natural beauty that is also recognized for its tribal culture, and is famous for its crafts. Among the most virgin and beautiful parts of India, it offers a quality of wildlife and ethnicity that is now rare in other parts of the country.

Eco Tourism -

With a phenomenal forest cover of 44%, Chhattisgarh can safely be termed as a Green State. The natural beauty of Chhattisgarh has potential to attract nature lovers from across the world.

Tribal/Ethno Tourism -

Some of India's oldest tribal communities live in Chhattisgarh and comprise one third of the total population of the state

Cruise/Adventure Tourism -

Chhattisgarh is coming up in a big way in the field of water sports, cruises, bike and bicycle rides on difficult terrain and much more.

Caving Tourism -

The stalactite and stalagmite formations in the caves of kutumsar, Kailash and Dandak have mesmerised geologists tourist and artists all alike.

Monumental Heritage -

Chhattisgarh is home to a wealth of sites, both ancient and modern, living and archaeological. The archaeological wealth of Chhattisgarh really defines its religious heritage.

Buddist Tourism -

Chhattisgarh is blooming as a major Buddhist centre in the country. Sirpur is home to several sacred sites for Buddhists. Mainpat in another important destination for Buddhist tourism.

Arts and Crafts of Chhattisgarh -

A large population of this state is following sustainable living practices through display and sale of traditional art and craft such as the Baster bell metal work, Kondagaon wrought iron work, Kosa Silk work, Bitthi Chitra murals work and exquisite terracotta work.

Chhattisgarh
full of surprises

Chhattisgarh Tourism Board

Website : <http://tourism.cg.gov.in>

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