PUGDUNDEE SAFARIS

Our Sustainability Journey & why we believe it works for us and for our lodging business

April 2019 © Pugdundee Safaris

First shown at the TOFTigers ‘Driving the Change’ Event, New Delhi 2019
PUGDUNDEE SAFARIS

KINGS LODGE, BANDHAVGARH
PENCH TREE LODGE, PENCH
DENWA BACKWATER ESCAPE, SATPURA

TREE HOUSE HIDEAWAY, BANDHAVGARH
KEN RIVER LODGE, PANNA
KANHA EARTH LODGE, KANHA
5 Cs OF AN ECO LODGE

CONSTRUCTION

COMMUNITY

CUSTOMER

CONSERVATION

?
The vernacular architecture of the Kanha region was the dominant factor in shaping the built form, characterized by verandahs, pitched roofs, deep overhangs, large openings owing to a concern for shade & cross ventilation. Light falling on undulating stone surfaces produce shadows, thereby the joints acquire a pronounced effect. The walls transmit a simple primitive image.

Site Plan:
- **Location**: Kanha National Park
- **Site Area**: 16 acres
- **Contracted area**: 17000 sq.ft.
- **Soil Type**: Soil
- **Lat. & Long.**: Climate: Hot Temperate Climate

The existing trees around which the cottages are planned.

The area digged for creation of wet land. This is ultimately creating a natural Habitat within the site and recharging ground water lable.
REWILDING

Then

Now
GOOGLE EARTH SCREENSHOTS (2009 & 2018)
SENSITIVE CONSTRUCTION

Use of natural light | Local material usage | Local manpower

Cottage unit
Each cottage is oriented adjacent to a tree such that the shadows cast remains over the cottage for the better part of the day. This helps in reducing radiant heat gain. The basic concept has been derived from the vernacular architecture of the area, including the usage of mud plaster, stone, terracotta tiles & rough hewn timber beams & columns. All these elements are orchestrated to present a harmonious design. The footprint is kept to a minimum & the visual impact of cottages is greatly reduced by the use of locally available materials.

Highlights
- Sky Light.
- No Trees Cut, Construction around the existing vegetation.
- Most material sourced from neighbouring villages.
- Sewage disposal by President Awardee Shankar Balram Septic Tanks.
- Dual cisterns and water saving devices.

Building a Green Cottage
Kanha Earth Lodge
GREEN FURNITURE

COFFEE TABLE
Constructed from old Tamind tree wood having a sand blasted glass at the top.

CENTER TABLE
Completely constructed from hard wood 'SAJA', displays grains of natural contrast.

MIRROR
Completely constructed from old tamind wood showing natural heartwood & outer sap wood.

PEG TABLE
Completely constructed from monolithic hard wood. The peg table displays natural contrast of inner heartwood & outer sap wood, showing graceful surface sun cracks.

SOFA - 2 SEATER
Completely constructed from old tamind tree wood showing natural contrast of heartwood.

WARDROBE
Completely constructed from solid hard wood. The unit consists of drawers for footwear at the bottom, space for hanging clothes & cabinet to house the safe.

DOOR
Completely constructed from solid hard wood frame. Thin wood teak biscuits of wood have been pasted on top of a 12 mm ply.

MASTER BED
Frame constructed from seasoned SAJA wood to display the most amazing colours & grain variation. It is extremely dense hardwood yielding a beautiful rich texture & deep grain.

Green Furniture - Hand Crafted From Waste Wood & Railway sleepers
OTHER CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES

Sustainable Features: - An effort to bring the sustainable design, renewable & recycled building materials.

• The Buildings are located such as not to disturb vegetation. - Not a Single tree was felled during construction.

• Buildings are sited around existing trees, such that they remain protected from the solar radiant heat.

• The natural hygroscopic materials are used which absorbs & release moisture readily, filtering out the air pollution & releasing clean air in the transaction between interior & exterior spaces.

• Natural ventilation to avoid radon build up & also to increase natural day lighting through fenestration.

• 3 layered roof systems: The air Trapped between the layers provides ideal insulation that keeps the interior cool against the heat.
NEW CONSTRUCTION - WAGHOBA ECO LODGE
ARCHITECTS BIOME ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS
INDIA’S LEADING SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE FIRM

USING SUN DRIED ADOBE BRICKS

GUNA VAULT ROOFS
COMMUNITY

Our strength comes from our team, more than 70% of whom are from the nearby villages. Many young ones have grown with us to become managers, inspiring a brigade of fellow villagers. We regularly conduct trainings to enhance their skills and for capacity building. Many casual workers who joined us during construction are now an integral part of the team. The villagers are the true bastions of these forests and we all have united for a sustainable tomorrow. To conserve our wild spaces it's important that the locals be a part of the emerging tourism industry and are not alienated.

Though a drop in the ocean we work with the village school and community for many programs.

HIGHLIGHTS

• Good salary standards
• Good accommodation, recreational facilities & nutritious food.
• Medical insurance coverage & domiciliary for the complete team.
• Workmen compensation for the complete team
• Regular training, capacity building and supporting entrepreneurship.
• Extremely low attrition rate especially among locals.
• Working closely with the village school & Panchayat.
• Major part of purchases & local manpower requirements from neighbouring villages.
A few examples from our team from major departments of the Lodge. We count our success in the lives we have improved around our Lodges.

ROHIT PATLE

Rohit Patle - From the neighbouring tribal village of Dhanwar (1 km from our lodge) he joined our team during construction in 2008 as an errand boy. With his commitment, hard work, training by the lodge & experience he is part of the management team today. He is well trained to handle accounts, supervision, guest handling, front office and in need can easily don the hat of a naturalist. He also led the walking safari outfit handling more than 40 guests & supervising 25 local boys. He was promoted as assistant manager of a luxury lodge in October 2016 & god willing a manager some day of one of our lodges.
**Change Makers**

**Hanumat Uikey**

Hanumat Uikey – From our own small & quaint village of Narna he joined the newly opened lodge in 2009 as a house boy. His attention to detail, meticulous room making, commitment & dedication paved his way to become housekeeping supervisor in 2013. Today he leads a team of 7 and we use him across different lodges for training new house boys.

**Rajan Chouhan**

Rajan Chouhan – From the neighboring village of Dhanwar he joined the lodge as a U.T. helping with dishes in the kitchen. Today he is the assistant captain in the restaurant.

These are just a few examples, more than 70% of our staff is from neighbouring villages. Their commitment, dedication, support by lodge & the belief in them has moved them to senior positions in a luxury lodge.
Naresh Singh or Gudda as he is popularly known in Bandhavgarh and in the wildlife circles from a humble rural background. Gudda is from Tala Village, Bandhavgarh – an address known to every Tiger enthusiast.

His is an inspirational story for every common villager who stays on the fringe of our Tiger reserves which are booming with tourism and most fail to find a connect to such repute. Gudda is an icon amongst the local & a top rated naturalist, requested by guests by name.
Narna is a small tribal village with a population of 567 people and we are the only lodge there. Our approach has been simple with the village - communicate, engage & support. We also have a message in our literature requesting guest to contribute generously. Also the lodge works closely with the local school, Panchayat and village bodies. We run a small cooperative farming venture (Baadi Project) with 4 families and what they grow is purchased by the lodge. Seeds, technical assistance and supervision are provided by the lodge. Regular contributions for organizing small sport meets, temple work & village function is taken care by the lodge.

Stationery and bags distribution at Narna Village - Contributed by Guest at Kanha Earth Lodge
Visit to a local school in Sarahiri Village near Pench National park

Every child is born a naturalist. Their eyes are, by nature, open to the glories of stars, the beauty of the flowers, and the mystery of life'. - Ritu Ghatourey.

We took this special occasion of Children’s Day, to organize a sketching competition for the school kids of Sarahiri village where they sketched their favorite side of nature.
Pugdundee safaris strongly believes in inclusiveness of local communities that inhabit the areas around our lodges. Involving the local communities in our sustainable conservation journey has been one of the key pillars of our ecotourism model.

Recently our Kanha Earth Lodge team invited school children of the Narna village government school to savour and experience our Eco-tourism flavours.
LOCAL SUPPLY CHAIN

Supply Chain Overview

- More than 70% supplies are locally sourced from locals.
- Many marginal farms part of the supply chain and also regular buying from tribal village markets.
- Products sourced - dairy products, fruits & vegetables, bulk items like wheat, rice and pulses.
Customer

A customer by his visit is not only contributing to the lodge & the multiplier effect around all services, but is also giving us an opportunity to introduce him to wildlife, conservation & holistic activities. As a lodge we cash on to this opportunity of having the guest with us for more than 3 days on average. Good briefing, reading material, presentations have converted many a regular leisure tourists into ambassadors for wildlife & conservation, for sure also regular repeat guest for our lodges by providing them this insight, vision & differentiation.
Holistic Activities

• Nature Walk
• Cycling Tours
• Picnics
• Village Visits
• Local Haat Visits
• Special Bush Dinner
• Presentation
• Wildlife Documentaries
• Local School Visits
• Cultural Performances
• Workshops
CONSERVATION

ORGANIC KITCHEN GARDEN
NO TO PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES

We work to replace plastic with environment healthy alternatives. We are quickly turning to eco friendly options of providing filtered water at all times rather than going for easy to avail packaged water bottles. Starting this season we have started offering stainless steel bottles which can be refilled anytime from the refueling station. A onetime use and throw plastic bottle takes around 450 years to completely degrade.
Reduction of Plastic Bottled Water

We had shared earlier that 4 of our lodges did away with packaged plastic water bottles from October 2015. We are delighted to add that our 5th lodge joined the bandwagon from October 2016, thus reducing the consumption of bottled water in these lodges upto 96%.

At arrival, our guests are gifted with a food grade stainless steel bottle which can be refilled from the water filters in the common areas. The guests get to keep the bottle for further use, thus helping in spreading the message further.

Sharing some details on how we have done till now.

- **2015-16**  Saved 27,000+ Plastic bottles
- **2016-17**  Saved 36,000+ Plastic bottles

So, in only 2 Seasons

63,000 less one-litre bottles in our waste streams

“**We had a great stay at Kings Lodge. We were also very impressed with their commitment to conservation, my water bottle now sits on my desk, reminding me of our wonderful trip to India and Bandhavgarh.”**

“This is also an eco lodge and they avoid using plastic water bottles instead we were given steel bottles which we could fill from various water stations – this is a great practice.”

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do”

- Edward Hale
Green Practices at the Lodge

- Proper Waste Management
- Filtered Water
- Garbage Composition
- Use of Solar Cookers
- Organic Farming
- Filtered Water
- Low Flow Taps & Showers
- No Television, Music & DJs
- 100% LED & CFL lightings
- Other Green Practices
“NATURE LOVES COURAGE. WE MAKE THE COMMITMENT AND NATURE WILL RESPOND TO THAT COMMITMENT BY REMOVING IMPOSSIBLE OBSTACLES.”
Launched our own logo to fight single use plastic
USING OF GLASS MADE DISPENSERS
INITIATIVE BY PUGDUNDEE

Using Wooden Toothbrushes and Earbuds
INITIATIVE BY PUGDUNDEE

USING WOODEN SPOONS
INITIATIVE BY PUGDUNDEE

Using Containers for Tea, Coffee and Milk
INITIATIVE BY PUGDUNDEE

Using Of Newspaper Made Carry Bags
INITIATIVE BY PUGDUNDEE

Plastic free Breakfast On Jeep
INITIATIVE BY PUGDUNDEE

Using Of Plant Based Food Packaging Boxes
INITIATIVE BY PUGDUNDEE

Tetra pack replaced with sippers containing fresh lemonade or ice tea
**Jyoti** wrote a review 2 Mar

dahil • 22 contributions • 10 helpful votes

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**Lovely stay in a lovely place**

"Stayed for three nights in the first week of February.

The start was a disaster for I took well over an hour or maybe more to find the place because the sign board had been painted over the previous day and my phone internet was not working in that entire area. So after reaching almost till the gate and then back and forth in between, somehow managed to find the place. After that, it was an almost perfect stay.

The architecture and the cottages are really stunning! Beautiful stone, mud and wood.

I loved the location since it was amongst a well wooded forested area at a distance from the village.

The staff is warm and gracious. Housekeeping is great, with the room cleaned every time one steps out.

Since I am quite finicky about cleanliness, I really appreciated them for this.

Food is great too with a variety of things at different meals (Indian, tribal (which was delicious), continental - all was equally good). Vijay in the restaurant was especially careful about ensuring that guests are happy after each meal.

Safaris with Samrat (naturalist) were something I really enjoyed. Since I am not totally focused only on tigers, I was happy to note that Samrat was interested and knowledgeable about the other small and big things in the jungle. So even though we didn't get to see any tigers, the safaris were enjoyable because of all the titbits he kept on sharing throughout.

One fact that is praise worthy is that the lodge is very eco friendly and uses no plastic. So no ugly plastic bottles in rooms!! Filtered bottle is provided as much as one needs.

Food is packed in eco friendly material and not cheap clingy plastic. This is very very commendable! One sees all hotels making token gestures about sustainability but rarely anyone walking the talk. Most of their measures are limited to asking guests not to throw towels for washing etc etc. So full marks to the lodge on this point.

The kitchen garden patch is also very nice.

One point - The room doesn't have a full length mirror. Would have been nice if it had. And it's difficult to close the doors to the back sitting area without a handle to pull it in. That needs to be remedied I think. But these are really minor points.

All in all a wonderful stay!!"

[Read less]
**Madeleine L** wrote a review 13 Mar

**A beautiful, secluded starting-point for your safaris**

"Kanha Earth Lodge is one of the most beautiful lodges I've ever stayed. And the best part about it is that it's an eco-lodge. Or maybe the best part is the food (traditional regional cuisine). Actually the best part are the great naturalists who accompanied us on our drives in the park. I can highly recommend Sanjay, who was knowledgeable and courteous."

Date of stay: March 2019

Trip type: Traveled with friends

Rooms ★★★★★

Service ★★★★★

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**Astrid P** wrote a review 13 Mar

**A wonderful place to stay - In tune with Nature**

"Close to the Banhavgarh Tiger Reserve this beautiful lodge is the ideal starting point for getting in touch with Nature's treasures. As an eco-lodge it not only contributes to sustainability but sets an example for living in tune with nature. Beautiful cottages in a lovely setting, great food, friendly people and lots of valuable information make the stay at Kings Lodge unforgettable. Whatever questions you might have, Amit and his staff are there to help and Pugdundee's knowledgable naturalists (especially Gudda) will make you safaris to the park a great experience."

Date of stay: March 2019

Trip type: Traveled with friends

Rooms ★★★★★

Service ★★★★★

Location ★★★★★

This review is the subjective opinion of a TripAdvisor member and not of TripAdvisor LLC.
In harmony with Nature - Balm for the soul

"One of the most beautiful places to stay - that was my first thought when I arrived at Kanha Earth Lodge. I spent four days at the lodge from where we made various trips to the Tiger Preserve with Puodundee Safaris. As an eco-lodge Kanha Earth lodge is devoted to sustainability and the preservation of the treasures of Nature. Delicious Food, warm hospitality, great safaris and above all the wonderful knowledgable naturalists made this stay perfect. Thank you for an unforgettable experience!"

Date of stay: March 2019
Trip type: Traveled with friends

Value: 4.5 / 5
Service: 4.5 / 5
Sleep Quality: 4.5 / 5
FEW BENEFITS OF BEING SUSTAINABLE

LOWER COST OF OPERATIONS
GREAT FOR ENVIRONMENT
HIGHER GUEST SATISFACTION
HIGHER REPEAT GUEST
LOW TURNOVER OF STAFF
PROUD TEAM
“No matter how far you journey, you are always on Mother Earth. And for her hospitality, she demands so little. That wherever we travel, we respect her landscapes, conserve her resources, value her local traditions. It is only if we travel this way that we can gift our children the same green, generous planet to explore.”