To ensure you get the most out of your visit to India or Nepal’s wild places with us, we have signed up as members of TOFTigers and agreed to some eco tourism best practice guidelines with regard to our own operations and those of our providers. This is part of a campaign to better support and conserve the very wilderness you will enjoy as part of your tour itinerary.

As part of this commitment we would ask you to read and observe the Traveller’s Code in this leaflet.

The Travel Operators for Tigers (TOFTigers) campaign is a ground breaking initiative to support wildlife conservation efforts more effectively through the collective support and actions of all international and domestic companies and services involved in India and Nepal today. This, by association, includes all nature travellers and other visitors, who enjoy these countries’ unique and rich natural heritage.

Who are we?
The TOFTigers campaign is a voluntary wildlife tourism based initiative, that over a decade has advocated, supported and funded better wildlife tourism practices across the Indian park network. We now also cover Nepal. With the support of a large number of international travel and local lodge businesses, park visitors, park staff and those supplying services to the industry, including guides and naturalists, our objective is to ensure better protection and support for wilderness and wildlife in the Indian subcontinent. Funded by contributions from visitors, and membership and sponsorship from businesses, we have been able to effect nature training programmes, run workshops, advise parks and businesses, run eco rating audits on lodges, and the TOFT Wildlife Tourism Awards, as well as putting funds into local environmental and community projects on the borders of parks. TOFT India Wildlife Association is a registered charity based in Delhi with an international office in the UK.

Want to do more?
Support the TOFTigers campaign by making a donation or joining our campaign. Email us for further information (info@toftigers.org), visit our website (www.toftigers.org), or join us on Facebook and Twitter.

Also speak to your lodge owner about local projects that need support.

For more information
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TOFT India Wildlife Association is a registered charity. The TOFTigers Initiative is a not-for-profit company (Limited by guarantee) registered in England (company no: 8299072).

TOFTigers Sustaining the wild

TRAVELLER’S CODE

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Please recycle this leaflet by passing it onto a friend or fellow traveller when you have finished with it.
Tigers have disappeared from 40% of their entire home range in just the last fifteen years, even though tiger numbers from the 2015 census in India are up to 2,226 individuals, a 30% increase in a decade.

Three of the nine subspecies of tigers have already become extinct, and the other populations are at very high risk.

20% of the world’s total population live in or near the range of Asia’s elephants.

Did you know that India and Nepal have the ‘Big Six’? Elephant, lion, buffalo, leopard, rhino and tiger.

There are 48 Project Tiger reserves in India and 3 main parks in Nepal that harbour tigers.

Only 4.9% of India’s geographical area is protected, much less than is required to ensure ecological security for its future. The ideal is 10%.

The Indian and Nepalese forests are home to about 17,000 flowering plants and over 8,100 faunal species.

Visitors to India and Nepal’s wild places will help to conserve the natural environment and assure their safe and enjoyable stay by following these simple rules:

- Do not disturb wildlife or ask your guiding staff, mahout or driver to get you closer than is necessary or advisable to wild animals. Off road driving is illegal in the parks.
- Make as little noise as possible when in park areas, especially while watching wildlife.
- Avoid litter at all times.
- Use water sparingly and do not pollute with harmful detergents.
- Turn down or switch off your lights, air conditioning or heating when leaving your room to go into the park.
- Ask for and experience other activities offered by the lodge, including walking trails, bike rides, village visits or overnight camping.
- Dress appropriately and in subdued colours when wildlife watching.
- Do not be intrusive when taking photographs and always ask permission.
- Endeavour to learn a few key phrases of the language of your hosts. It’ll make everyone smile!
- Do not buy, collect or trade in wildlife products. It is frequently illegal and can lead to prosecution.
- Adhere to national and local regulations both inside and outside protected areas.
- Your park guide is local and knowledgeable. Please ensure your driver obeys him, as he is enforcing the park laws.

Have a pleasant stay!