

## Kipling Camp, Kanha Supporting Local Cultural Traditions and Livelihoods



*Dances about the seasons in the jungle performed by the local Baiga troupe.*

Kipling Camp's cultural activities are rooted in their philosophy of supporting local communities whilst at the same time giving their guests an insight into the vibrant culture of local Gond and Baiga tribes. A local Baiga tribal cooperative formed with the help of lodge owner Belinda Wright performs traditional dances for lodge guests and has helped to revive and keep local cultural traditions alive whilst supporting their livelihoods.



*Local Gond artist demonstrating his work at Kipling Camp.*

The lodge supports local Gond artists with materials and encourages them to come and show and sell their work to guests. Gond painting and other regional handicrafts are displayed throughout the lodge and are on sale in their shop. Demonstrations of their art technique are also arranged at the lodge.



*A visit to the local market to experience local life.*

Most recently over the summer of 2020, an online sale of this vibrant Gond tribal art was organised to provide much needed income to the artists during the Covid-19 lockdown. All proceeds go to the artists; no commission is taken.

Guests are provided with opportunities for guided visits to local markets and villages. The lodge also pays villagers to host lunches and teas at local homes. Interactions with local farmers are arranged to give an insight into traditional farming. Demonstrations of jaggery-making, a concentrated juice made from sugar cane, are also arranged.

Diwali is celebrated with traditional decorations at the lodge, pictured here, made by local schoolchildren.



*Guests helping to make jaggery on a local farm.*



*Traditional Diwali decorations by local schoolchildren.*



*Guests visiting a village house.*