

Quest for Royal Bengal Tigers | 12 Days



Join us for the best of Indian wildlife Adventure!

The Indian subcontinent is one of the world's most stimulating destinations. While its melange of cultures has long drawn the attention of historians and travellers, its wild habitats offer rare treasures for those who are passionate about nature. This comprehensive Tiger Safari gets you far away from India's intense cities and into its natural realm, a landscape of powerful rivers, fabled jungles and intriguing wildlife. From Bandhavgarh to Kanha in central India in the Satpura Hills to the Brahmaputra Basin including the Andhari-Tadoba, the largest national park in the Indian state of Maharashtra. These three National parks are the native territory of the Bengal tiger, whose numbers are on the rise after a century of decline. Ecotourism is integral to conservation in India, and our travels directly benefit the continued existence of tigers and other precious vanishing species, which we go in quest on daily wildlife safaris.

In the late spring and early summer months there are very fewer visitors to India's tiger reserves and national parks, it is typically the best time of year to see and photograph wild animals. During the summer months, animals anticipate the monsoon that is still weeks away. During the heat of the day, tigers seek shelter from the often-oppressive heat, but they must feed and drink, moving from the dry underbrush into the open to water at least twice a day. Along with its famous tigers, Bandhavgarh, Kanha Andhari-Tadoba are home to sloth bear, caracal, jackal, striped hyena, desert fox, mongoose, peacocks and much more—an extravaganza for wildlife lovers and photographers!

Trip Highlights

- Exclusive theme-Man & Environment Conservation site visits
- Tiger, Sloth Bear & Leopard possible, Nagarhole, Bandipur, Kabini
- Lion-tailed Macaque & Nilgiri Langur, Athirappally
- White-bellied Treepie, Nilgiri Pipit & White-breasted Laughing-thrush, Munnar
- Visit tea plantations, Nilgiri Tahr, Munnar
- Malabar Trogon, Malabar Grey Hornbill &, if lucky, Sri Lanka Frogmouth, Thattekad Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary
- Stay on a houseboat & explore Kerala's famous waterways
- Evening trail in Mudumalai Sanctuary
- Kokkerabellur Pelicanery visit
- Tribal cooking session
- Riverside walks in Athirappally
- Mararyoor & Chinnar visits
- Wetland birding in Kerala Backwaters
- Drive through the Nilgiri Biosphere Sanctuaries
- Houseboat cruise followed by Overnight stay on board
- Beach experience
- Led by expert local naturalist guides

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Delhi

Welcome to India! Upon arrival in New Delhi *travel-to-nature Asia* representative will meet and transfer to hotel.

This afternoon, explore the new sectors of India's vibrant capital as we drive through Lutyen's Delhi, passing Rashtrapati Bhavan, India Gate and the Old Secretariat. Next we head to Humayun's Tomb, a complex commissioned by Humayun's wife, Hamida Banu Begum, in 1562 as the place of her husband's burial. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent and the first structure to use red sandstone on such a grand scale. We also visit the Qutub Minar, which at nearly 240 feet is the world's tallest brick minaret. Construction

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began in 1193 under the orders of India's first Muslim ruler, Qutub-ud-din Aibak. It is notable for being one of the earliest and most prominent examples of Indo-Islamic architecture and is also listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After this exhilarating introduction to the country, enjoy a welcome dinner this evening and an orientation to our India wildlife safari by our Tour Leader.

Accommodation: Jaypee Vasant Continental

Meal: Dinner

Day 2: Fly Delhi - Jabalpur | Transfer to Bandhavgarh National Park (166 km | 4 hrs)

Transfer to the airport early this morning for our flight south to Jabalpur. Upon arrival local representative will meet as come out of the airport and we continue by road through the countryside of Madhya Pradesh to Bandhavgarh National Park. An essential stop on any serious India safari, Bandhavgarh is renowned for one of the country's highest concentrations of Bengal tigers. Originally established as a national park in 1968, Bandhavgarh was declared a protected tiger reserve under Project Tiger in 1993. At 444 square miles, it is a relatively small park with a thriving tiger population, offering guests a good chance of encountering them, as well as other distinctive Indian wildlife. Check in to Kings Lodge, surrounded by wild natural forest just outside the park boundary, then, time permitting, we set out on our first wildlife drive in open 4x4 safari vehicles.

Accommodation: The Maharaj Royal Retreat

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3-4: Explore Bandhavgarh National Park

Over the next two days, we explore Bandhavgarh's varied habitats on morning and afternoon wildlife drives. Predominantly covered with Sal and mixed deciduous forest, thickets of bamboo and expansive grasslands that line the stream valleys, the park's hilly terrain harbours one of the highest densities of tigers in the world. Bandhavgarh was once a prime hunting reserve for the Maharajahs of Rewa, where Maharaja Raman Singh himself shot an astounding 111 tigers by 1914. Maharaja of Rewa, who caught a white tiger

cub here, brought to his court and later tried his hand at breeding white tigers. Mohan, the name of the Maharaja Martand Singh's tiger, was initially mated with a normal coloured Bengal tigress. However, the litter did not produce the desired white coat colour. This was only achieved by inbreeding with the mating of Mohan and one of his daughters. Today, all captive white tigers can be traced back to Mohan and his daughter.

Bandhavgarh National Park today is a pacesetter in tiger protection. With tigers at the apex of the food chain, Bandhavgarh's rich biodiversity includes a multitude of other wildlife. We'll hope to see a sampler of its 37 mammal species, among which are leopard, jungle cat, civet, wild boar, sambar, spotted deer, muntjac (barking deer), sloth bear and Asiatic jackal. Some 250 bird species, 70 different butterflies and various reptiles round out the diverse wildlife population.

Accommodation: The Maharaj Royal Retreat

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5: Drive Bandhavgarh - Kanha National Park & Tiger Reserve (242 km | 6 hrs)

Embark on a morning drive to Kanha National Park, situated in central India in the Satpura Hills, the park covers 750 square miles of rich and varied wildlife habitat. Its lush Sal and Bamboo forests, grassy meadows and ravines provided inspiration to Rudyard Kipling for his famous collection of stories in *The Jungle Book*. Kanha was established as a national

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park in 1955 and forms the core of the Kanha Tiger Reserve, created in 1974 under India's Project Tiger. The park's landmark achievement is the preservation of the rare barasingha, an endangered swamp deer with 12-point antlers, saving it from near-extinction. Strict conservation programs for the overall protection of the park's fauna and flora make Kanha one of the most exemplary national parks in Asia. From our ecolodge base in the tiger heartland of the world, learn in depth about the Bengal tiger and its habitat and observe how conservation travel directly benefits local communities and the tiger reserve.

Accommodation: Tuli Tiger Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 6-7: Explore Kanha National Park

Spend two full days in search of Bengal tigers and other wildlife on excursions in open 4x4 vehicles. Scenic Kanha, once a hunting ground for imperial rulers and viceroys, is now one of India's most important conservation reserves. With ideal habitat for tigers and their prey, it offers some of India's best tiger viewing, though it can take effort to locate them in the sun-dappled scrub forest that provides superb camouflage for many species. Greet the dawn each day with an early wildlife drive, entering the park just as the sun's rays break over the jungle. The open meadows where herbivores graze attract tiger, leopard and dhole (wild dog) to the edges of the clearings, and we'll hope to see some of these predators on the hunt. The Banjaar River bordering the park provides a steady water source for wildlife. Dense jungle interspersed with vast grassy meadows

called *maidans* support a range of species similar to those in Bandhavgarh. Other mammals we might see include chowsingha (four-horned antelope), common langur, gaur (the world's largest wild ox), rhesus monkeys and occasionally leopard.

Accommodation: Tuli Tiger Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8: Drive to Pench National Park (214 km | 5 hrs)

We set off to Pench National Park. After about two and hours we reach our destination. Upon arrival we check in at luxury jungle lodge situated directly in the park. After lunch we start our jeep safari. Together with our Tour Leader, we keep an eye out for tigers and other inhabitants of the national park.

Accommodation: Tuli Tiger Corridor Resort

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9: Drive to Tadoba-Andhari National Park (174 km | 3.5 hrs)

Embark on a morning drive to Tadoba-Andhari National Park. We should reach our hotel for lunch. After lunch we start our jeep safari.

Tadoba Protected area in the Indian state of Maharashtra currently offers the best chance of getting tigers and other shy wildlife in the best light in front of the camera. At the last count, 120 tigers were recorded in the reserve.

The Tadoba-Andhari National Park in the Indian state of Maharashtra currently covers an area of 1727 square kilometres. Further expansion is planned. The Tadoba-Andhari National Park is one of 43 Indian protected areas that are making special efforts to protect the striped big cats under the term Project Tiger. These are obviously particularly successful here. The national park is currently considered the best address for tiger observations.

Leopards can also often be seen when "setting out with tigers", as well as the extremely rare sloth bears,

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hyenas, jackals, mongooses and various smaller wild cat species. They all find a sumptuously laid table here, because their prey animals find plenty of food here: the mighty gaur, the largest wild cattle on earth, lives here, as do wild boars, various deer species and antelopes.

The 120-hectare Lake Tadoba is home to marsh crocodiles and various species of turtles. In addition, there are 260 species of birds and 74 species of butterflies in the park.

Accommodation: Camp Serai Tiger

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10-11: Tadoba-Andhari National Park - In quest of Tiger

We Spend two full days in quest of Bengal tigers and other wildlife on daily wildlife safaris, either by off-road vehicle or by bicycle, boat, raft or on foot. During the safaris, guests learn to recognize the signs of the jungle: They identify tracks, interpret sounds and learn what tasks animals and plants perform in the natural habitat.

Checking the camera traps clearly shows that all living creatures are "creatures of habit". Encounters with local villagers reveal how the people of this area have lived in and with the wilderness since time immemorial and what measures are necessary to reconcile their needs and the necessities of nature conservation.

There are several well-camouflaged hiding places in the park where you can lie in wait with your camera. During visits to indigenous villages in the national park, one meets inhabitants who are preparing with heavy hearts to relocate to the fringe areas.

They have to change their way of life and reorganize their livelihoods - only very few will be able to collect honey or plants and cut wood. Farming and animal husbandry have to be rebuilt in new settlements outside the national park.

Encounters with former poachers show that today they make an important contribution to the protection

of the forest as experienced trackers, excellent observers and caretakers of the camera traps. They know the routes of the big cats, see the birds and hear the sounds of the park long before excited city people, and so they are also excellent tourist guides.

In the evening there is a campfire and multimedia presentations from Tadoba and other national parks.

Accommodation: Camp Serai Tiger

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 12: Depart Delhi

In the morning, enjoy a hearty breakfast or a last lap around the pool. After leisurely breakfast, we return to Nagpur. 148 km. Here we have booked rooms for you in a hotel near the airport, which you can use to freshen up and relax until your departure for the airport.

Meal: Breakfast

Includes

- Airport (pick up/drop off) transfers by private A/C vehicle
- Twin-Sharing accommodation in all Hotel/Resort as mentioned or similar
- Daily breakfast throughout the trip, other meals as mentioned in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and long-distance transportation in a private air-conditioned

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vehicle (cars/SUVs or mini/micro-van etc. depending on group size). This includes toll taxes, parking, allowance for the driver, outstation overnight charges for the driver

- Services of a local guide for sightseeing tours
- Jungle activities in National Park/Reserves as mentioned
- 3 Game Drives into Bandhavgarh National Park by jeep/Jeeps on sharing basis including entry ticket
- 3 Game Drives into Kanha National Park by jeep/jeeps on sharing basis including entry ticket
- 1 Game Drive into Pench National Park by jeep/Jeeps on sharing basis including entry ticket
- 3 Game Drives into Tadoba National Park by Jeep/jeeps on sharing basis including entry ticket
- Entrance fees (national parks/conservation areas/monuments etc.)
- 2 Game Drives into Ranthambhore National Park by Canter bus on seat sharing basis including entry tickets to National Park
- Porterage of Baggage at all the hotels, train stations, airports
- Assistance of our representatives at all main cities

Excludes

- International flight tickets
- Visa fee
- Travel insurance
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Tips for trip leader/guide, driver, hotel staff and porters
- Items of personal nature such as alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, laundry, and other unforeseen expenses
- Items/services not listed in "included"
- Extra expenses/payment for 'Optional' activities/programs if participated

Accommodation

Jaypee Vasant Continental, New Delhi

A tribute to the cosmopolitan culture of New Delhi - Jaypee Vasant Continental is an exquisite blend of pleasure and business, it is the perfect place to confer, relax or pamper your senses. It is one of the finest boutique hotels in New Delhi. The abundant sweep of greenery sprawled across the entire hotel makes it extravagantly noticeable.

The Maharaja Royal Retreat, Bandhavgarh

Maharaja Royal Retreat is situated at Tala Village, it was the royal family's hunting lodge and is still owned by the Maharaja of Rewe. It is situated on a 16 acres land next to the tri-junction of the Park entry, this is the only heritage property, having an exclusive museum with heritage specialist guide and tress old as about 350 years!

Tuli Tiger Resort, Kanha

Located in one of the prominent places of Madhya Pradesh, Kanha, Tuli Tiger Resort is a 3-star property which offers a picturesque wildlife set up. The resort offers air-conditioned 26 cottages which are divided into Deluxe Double or Twin Rooms and Tents, offering stunning views of the lush green surroundings. It also provides attached bathrooms with essential toiletries.



Tuli Tiger Corridor Resort, Pench

Come and relish a wildlife tour at Pench National Park well-complemented by an elegant stay at Tiger

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Corridor Resort. In the heart of the park, the Resort has a lavishing accommodation for those who love to get pampered by luxury on their vacation. It is built in such a surreal setting that gives you a chance to actually live in the wild.

Camp Serai Tiger, Tadoba

Camp Serai Tiger is a private enterprise initiated by a team of wildlife enthusiasts that aims at providing comfortable and eco-friendly accommodation. The team aspires to benefit the indigenous people and locals by helping them in a modest way by providing employment and by honing their skills in conservation and wildlife tourism and support activities.



The Pride Hotel, Nagpur

Located on the prime location in Nagpur, our finest luxury hotel provides extraordinary services to all its patrons there for leisure or business. Pride Hotel Nagpur offers modern and luxurious rooms for a comfortable stay. Enjoy your stay with our lavish facilities such as Spa, Gymnasium, Swimming Pool and a Health Club.

Group/Individual

On this trip you will be traveling privately with your family & friends. Our representative/tour partner will look after your transfers to and from the airport and will be around to answer other questions you may have about your trip.

Accommodation – Hotel, Resort

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a fine heritage hotel in another or a family-run guesthouse or lodges in a smaller town. Accommodation in remote areas tend to be basic and may not have western amenities.

Single Accommodation

Single (room) supplement is provided on request (single supplement charge applies) and are subject to availability.

Food & Transport

All breakfast, 9 lunches and 11 dinners are included.

Generally, you can eat out very cheaply in India. Where food is not included, you should allow at least 1,800 rupees (approximately Euro 20 & US\$22) per day for lunch and dinner. However, if you choose to dine in fine/expensive restaurants please allocate more than our suggested amount.

Please note, service in restaurants can be quite slow.

For airport, sightseeing transfers, and for long drives we use a private air-con car, jeep, van depending upon group size. Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

Weather

Generally, the best time to visit India is from December to February, when it is warm during daytime and cool at night in most areas of India. December marks the beginning of the peak travel season with higher-priced accommodation and flights.

It starts to get hot from March and the temperature reaches its average high point of 45°C (113°F) in May. If you can bear the heat, traveling India from April to May, you can expect the benefits of smaller

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crowds as well as big promotions from hotels and airlines (usually 50% off).

India's rainy season starts from June and lasts until September. North India is less affected by downpours than central and southern parts. You could still enjoy a good experience if you visit north Indian destinations like Delhi, Agra, Jaipur and other Rajasthan areas. Many national parks are closed because of floods and landslides. Goa becomes a "ghost city", with few travelers and many beach resorts closed. Ladakh, located in the far north is cool, and little affected by the rainy season, and it starts to welcome its high travel time from June to August.

Rain starts to ease from the middle of September. In October, most areas of India have dry weather. Though it is still hot, it feels much more comfortable than in December-February. **Baggage Allowance** You will not be weighed, while enjoying better deals than in December-February.

At time of writing the standard weight limit is one checked baggage on Qatar Airways is 25kg (55lb) and hand baggage 7kg (15lbs). We recommend packing only one piece of checked baggage. Luggage allowances for both hand and checked luggage are subject to change, we suggest you check the airline's website for the latest information prior to your departure.

ESSENTIAL/PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Passport & Visas

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information below is primarily for EU passport holders, and other nationalities should check with the relevant

embassies. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

Visas are required if you are German and for most other nationalities. Visa information changes regularly for India; for the latest information on applying for a visa please follow these links for more information.

<https://indianembassyberlin.gov.in/pages?id=Mg,,&subid=MTQ>,

Please note: Visa regulations can change without notice, therefore please check the current regulations or contact us.

Vaccination & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

There are no mandatory vaccination requirements for this trip. Recommended vaccinations for this trip are: Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Typhoid, Hepatitis A. The risk of malaria on this trip is slight, but you may wish to consult your GP/Family Doctor or travel health clinic for further advice. Dengue fever and/or Chikungunya are known risks in places visited on this trip. Both are tropical viral diseases spread by daytime biting mosquitoes. There is currently no vaccine or prophylaxis available for either, and therefore the best form of prevention is to avoid being bitten. We recommend you take the usual precautions to avoid mosquito bites. The above information can change at short notice; as we are not qualified to answer all your questions about travel health we strongly recommend you contact your Medical Professional or a Travel Health Clinic prior to departure for up-to date information.

Local Time

GMT + 5 hours and 30 minutes

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Electricity

230/240 volts AC, 50 Hz. There are recharging facilities at most of the hotels, the electricity supply is not 100% reliable but it is usually only off for short periods of time.

Money

The national currency of India is the Indian Rupee (INR), with an exchange rate at the time of publication of approximately 89 to the Euro and 82 to the US\$. It is illegal to import or export rupees. Do not accept torn or (very) dirty Indian banknotes from banks or in change as they will almost certainly not be accepted as legal tender in India. Please ask for low denomination notes of 100, 200 or 500 Rupees as 2000 Rupee notes can sometimes be difficult to use out of Delhi. You can change money back from Rupees into Euro or Dollars at Delhi airport (before going through security), but you must produce an exchange receipt showing that you changed money in India. You are advised to bring most of your money in cash as you may have difficulty changing travellers cheques outside Delhi. It makes no difference whether you bring Euro or US Dollars. You should change your money on arrival at Delhi either at the hotel or airport (please note that the hotel often gives a better rate than the airport). It is possible to change cash in Ladakh. You will need approximately €200-€250 for extra meals and tipping for the whole trip.

ATM | Credit Cards

There are ATMs in Delhi and other major cities. We recommend you change most of the money you need for the trip before leaving Delhi. Please do not rely wholly on ATM machines as often they are broken or run out of cash. Credit cards are accepted in larger shops in Delhi and other major cities.

Extra Expenses & Spending Money

You will need to bring some extra money to cover drinks, laundry, souvenirs and any other personal expense, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Though it totally depends on individual but generally an approximate amount of US\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient (more if you

enjoy a few beers); however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount. Or if you are the one frugal with money probably allocating less would also suffice.

India has very good opportunities for shopping, especially for locally made goods, and in Delhi local guides may well offer to take you to emporiums as well as workshops where these goods are made. Many people find this a great opportunity to buy local handicrafts, silk, jewelry, carpets etc. Guides will often assume that visitors will want to go shopping, it is very much part of the culture, however if you do not wish to go, please make this clear to your local guide at the time.

Optional Tours may be offered in some city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each optional tour/activity will be arranged locally by our local partner/guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

Tipping

Tipping is of course entirely at your discretion, but it is customary in India. Tipping can be an awkward affair especially when you are not familiar with the country. Your leader will help with tipping and will provide a list of suggested tips. This will include tips for drivers, hotel porters and other hotel staff, local sightseeing guides, and if trekking will include camp staff such as guide, assistants, cooks and pony men. Sometimes your leader will collect a kitty during the trip and sometimes they will collect the tips towards the end of the trip (occasionally for very small groups the leader may need to collect a little more than the suggested amount). We suggest you allow Rs 6,000 (approx. €60 -70 / \$65-75) for this trip. Please try to tip in local currency.

Tipping of the local leader is not included in the above and is at your discretion. However, we suggest around Rs1000-2000 (approx.€11-25 /US \$12-25) per person for the leader depend upon the group size.

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Itinerary Change

In case of some unusual events/incidents the order of programs (sightseeing, excursions etc.) might have to change in order to accommodate the local situations. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements while maintaining the overall integrity of your trip.

The domestic airlines may change their schedule frequently and, in such cases, our local partner/guide will inform you about the changes.

Travel Insurance

We highly recommend to keep a copy of your travel insurance documents on your person while on tour. It's prudent to check thoroughly the inclusions and procedure to file claims prior to purchasing insurance coverage. travel-to-nature Asia will not be responsible for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to purchase appropriate travel insurance from the date of booking.

Public Holidays

During major Indian public holidays such as India's Republic Day 26th Jan, the Holi (Colors) Festival (generally falls around March), Diwali (sometime in Oct-Nov) etc. some business will be closed and air and ground transportation may be affected. Tourist attractions sites may get overly crowded. But it's a good trade off as you will get to experience India more intimately.

Dress Code

Though modern-day Indian have become more liberal to dresses they wear, however, as a tourist we advise you to follow dress codes specially while visiting temples or mosques. Just dressing modestly and wearing non-revealing cloths should be fine. Women might also consider carrying a shawl in their daypack (this could be a sarong or light scarf) which you can wear over your shoulders and heads as a courtesy or just show respects. Religious sites and homes throughout India – for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims or Buddhists to name a few – require all visitors to

remove their shoes to enter.

Important Information

On all guided trips although our leaders/guides are well trained to deal with different capabilities, if they have any concerns about someone's ability to safely partake in an activity, or their impact on other people's enjoyment, we authorize them to take necessary action which, in some circumstances, may involve asking someone to miss that activity.