

TRACKS SAFARIS

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Tadoba, Pench & Satpura Tiger Reserves

An Introduction to wildlife of Central India



Jungles of Central India

Growing up we have all heard of stories of Mowgli and his adventures. We all have either read them or better still caught some version of this marvelous adventure in form of an animation or motion picture. This experience we have planned for you takes you to these jungles of central India.

The Jungle Book was originally published in magazines in the form of a collection of short stories in 1894 and these contained illustrations by Rudyard Kipling's father John Lockwood Kipling. It is said that Rudyard Kipling initially wrote these for his eldest daughter Josephine who died at the age of 6 in 1899.

Jungles of Central India offer one of the most unique and diverse experiences in the subcontinent. The parks offer a diversity like none other – with about 350 species of birds and the region is an ideal destination to

look for the following key species – Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Dhole (Indian wild dogs), Gaur (Indian Bison), rusty spotted cat (the smallest wildcat in the world), Indian Skimmer and the Russell Viper to name a few.

Our selection of parks is based on giving you the best chance to see the Bengal Tiger, at the same time they let you explore the jungles using a variety of safaris options.

Jeep Safaris – these are excellent to track larger mammals for which one might need to cover a larger area.

Walking Safari – walking safaris helps you learn tracking techniques from naturalists. They also help you find, observe and learn about lesser fauna that is often too well camouflaged and is missed when on jeep safaris.

Dusk/ Night Safari - These safaris usually take place in the buffer forest. There is a lot of species that inhabit the buffer forest closer to human inhabitation than in the core park. These safaris are great for finding nocturnal species such as leopards, rusty spotted cat, jungle cat, and different species of civet, nocturnal birds and the endemic sloth bear.



DAY ONE

On arrival into Delhi International Airport our representative will receive you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel (check-in time is 1400 hrs). Time at leisure to rest from the long flight. After lunch, our tour expert shall meet you in your hotel and give you an overview of Delhi before taking you out to introduce you to the city. We will take you through Delhi chronologically starting at the Qutub Complex

that was built a 1000 years ago. Our tour expert will highlight how different cultures were introduced to this dynamic city that absorbed all cultures. After your city tour experience you should be back at your hotel by around 6pm. **Overnight stay will be at The Claridges, New Delhi.**

DAY TWO

After breakfast our tour expert will meet you again in the hotel and you continue your journey in history from last evening. Today's highlight will be the Mughal Dynasty and India under the colonial rule. Some key sites and areas this tour will take you to are: Shajahanabad (Delhi when the Mughals ruled the region), New Delhi – built by the British when the colonial capital was moved from Calcutta to Delhi and Gandhi Smriti (home of Mahatma Gandhi when he was visiting Delhi. It is also the place where he was assassinated). So that its not all about history, rulers and building we will take you to the Crafts Museum to introduce you to the arts & crafts of India.

Overnight stay will be at The Claridges, New Delhi.

DAY THREE

Today we begin our wildlife experience. After an early breakfast our representative will meet you at your hotel and take you to the airport from where you catch your flight to Nagpur. Our representative will meet you at the airport and you will be transferred to Tadoba Tiger Reserve (2.5hrs by road). You should arrive at Bamboo Forest Lodge for lunch (depending on time of flight). After some rest and a hearty lunch you embark on your first safari in search for the Bengal Tiger.

Overnight stay will be at Bamboo Forest Lodge, Tadoba.



DAYS FOUR, FIVE AND SIX

Today we spend the day exploring Tadoba Tiger Reserve. The safari will be conducted in two sessions 6am to 10am and 3:30pm to 7pm.

Overnight stay will be at Bamboo Forest Lodge, Tadoba.

DAY SEVEN

This morning you take your last safari into Tadoba. After an early lunch you will be transferred by road to Pench Tiger Reserve. It should take you about 5hrs to reach Pench. Check-in to Pench Tree Lodge. Evening will be at leisure. **Overnight stay will be at Pench Tree Lodge.**

DAY EIGHT

You explore Pench Tiger Reserve in morning and evening jeep safaris. The main attractions of the park are tiger, Asiatic wild dogs, leopard, rock monitor lizard and gaur (Indian bison).

Overnight stay will be at Pench Tree Lodge.



DAYS NINE AND TEN

Explore Pench Tiger Reserve. The safari will be conducted in two sessions 6am to 10am and 3:30pm to 7pm.

Overnight stay will be at Pench Tree Lodge.

DAY ELEVEN

This morning after breakfast you transfer to Satpura Tiger Reserve. This will be a 4.5hr drive. Satpura is an excellent park unique in how it lets you explore the park. One can do walking safaris, canoe safaris, night drives / dusk drives, camping & trekking through the park along with exploring it in jeeps. It is also a park that does not attract too many tourists. This is largely because being a larger park it has a relatively lower density of tigers. What this park offers is an excellent overall wildlife experience rather than being tiger centric. You arrive at Forsyth Lodge, Satpura by lunch time. After lunch and some rest you start by exploring the buffer forest in a dusk drive – ideal for searching nocturnal animals, some of which are found only in the buffer forest closer to human inhabitation and not in the core park. The wildlife that you will be searching for are: sloth bears, leopards, owl species, nightjars, small Indian civet, palm civet, jungle cat and the rusty spotted cat (world's smallest wildcat).

Overnight stay will be at Forsyth Lodge, Satpura.



DAY TWELVE

This morning we begin with a walking safari in Satpura Tiger Reserve. This experience will introduce you to the sights, smell and sound of the forest. It also helps you learn about signs left behind by various wild animals and how one can track them. Seeing wildlife on foot is a very different experience from a jeep safari – the pace is slow and lets you observe lesser fauna that is too well camouflaged to be seen on a jeep safari, it also gives you a different eye level perspective of the forest and it lets you go off the tracks and into the bush. Breakfast will be carried by the team of naturalist accompanying you and will be served in the park. A good break from the previous eight days of wildlife viewing from jeeps.

You return to the lodge around 11am. After catching up on some rest or unwinding in the pool you explore Satpura on a jeep safari searching for the big cats, Indian giant squirrel, endemic sloth bear, dhole (Asiatic wild dog) and the 300 species of birds that the park offers.

Overnight stay will be at Forsyth Lodge.

DAY THIRTEEN

Today we take you on a full day safari experience to Churna. This is in the heart of the park where a tribal village was located. This village was relocated outside the park a few years ago. However, they left behind a lot of their domestic cattle which became feral. These feral cattle became easy meals for tigers and leopards (the area offers a better chance of viewing these big cats – especially the tiger). How the day unfolds is that in the morning safari you drive to Churna, which is where you spend your afternoon birding, observing insects and butterflies by the creek the forest rest house, Churna. If we are able to procure permission (usually offered only last minute) we can take you on a short hike to the nearby hills, home to caves that houses ancient rock art some believe to date back 10,000 years. Most of these are yet to be documented. It is also an experience that most are not aware of and do not participate in. Lunch will be served at Churna forest rest house. At the time of evening safari, you make your way back out of the park.

Overnight stay will be at Forsyth Lodge.

DAY FOURTEEN

This morning we take another stab at jeep safari searching for the big cats. The afternoon however, is kept free to rest from all the safaris and travel. In the evening you again explore the buffer forest while on a dusk drive. **Overnight stay will be at Forsyth Lodge.**

DAY FIFTEEN

We take our last safari in the Indian jungles this morning. After lunch you transfer to Bhopal airport to catch your flight to Delhi to link with your international flight back home.



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