

TRACKS SAFARIS

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Highlands of Central India

Satpura Tiger Reserve



An Introduction

Satpura Tiger Reserve in Central India today offers one of the most diverse wilderness experiences in the country. The Satpura ranges is an important geographical landmark. It is part of the Deccan Plateau and literally is the dividing marker between north and south India.

Over a century and a half ago, an officer of the Bengal Staff Corps found himself captivated by the Central Highlands of Madhya Pradesh. A park was established in 1981, the Satpura Tiger Reserve was set up in 2000 under Project Tiger. Captain James Forsyth was one of the first Europeans to explore and fall in love with Satpura. The national park is part of the government's initiative to preserve and reclaim the dwindling forests of wild India.

The Satpura Tiger Reserve is 1,427sq.km in area. It was perhaps the charming landscape and the rich tapestry of flora and fauna that drew James Forsyth to the Central Highlands so many decades ago. Today it is per square kilometres comprising of Satpura National Park, Bori and Pachmarhi sanctuaries. The region is largely hilly, veined by a number of streams and nullahs that have gouged deep ravines in the land – a terrain that perfectly aps the only park in the country that lets you explore its boundless riches through walking safaris, canoe safaris, jeep drives as well as night drives. It also offers the option of camping in the buffer forest. A truly remarkable park.

Highlights of this tour

- ❖ Exploring the huge wildlife diversity of Satpura that includes: wildcats, wild dogs, gaur, crocodiles along with other lesser reptiles with its huge diversity of birdlife.
- ❖ Exploring the forest in different ways to get different perspective of wilderness.
- ❖ Dedicated team of naturalist that are one of the best in the industry who can showcase the impact and importance of even the smallest and seemingly the most insignificant of species.



DAY ONE

On arrival into Delhi International Airport our representative will meet you and transfer you to your hotel - check-in is at 1400 hrs. The rest of the day is at leisure. This evening our traveling naturalist will meet you and share an overview of the park / region that you will be exploring.

Overnight at airport hotel Delhi on a bed and breakfast basis

DAY TWO

This morning you will be accompanied to the airport in time for your flight to Bhopal. A Packed breakfast will be organised for you if your flight is very early.

On arrival into Bhopal airport you will be met and transferred to Forsyth Lodge, Satpura Tiger Reserve (drive time approximately 3 hours and 45 minutes). Lunch will be served at the lodge when you arrive. T

his afternoon you will explore Satpura Tiger Reserve. A jeep safari is ideal to cover ground in search for predators and Satpura is home to many: Bengal Tiger, Leopard, Asiatic Wild Dog, Golden Jackal, Fresh Water Crocodiles and Rock Monitor Lizard to name a few. These safaris are also excellent to search for Gaur (Indian Bison) and the endemic Sloth Bear.

Overnight at Forsyth Lodge on a full board basis



DAY THREE

This morning we explore the park on foot. This gives us a very different perspective on wildlife and the landscape. Walking safaris are also excellent to learn tracking and learning about lesser fauna that often camouflages well and most of us miss seeing them when in fast moving jeep safaris.

On returning to the lodge this afternoon we participate in an interesting lunch experience where village ladies come to the lodge premises to showcase cooking in a traditional meal in a rural kitchen created on the lodge grounds. One can participate in cooking with the ladies or just enjoy a rural meal cooked traditionally. This is an experience curated to empower the ladies of the surrounding villages.

The afternoon can be at leisure or one could explore butterflies and birds in the lodge ground with the naturalists. In the evening we embark upon a dusk drive that gives us the opportunity to explore nocturnal animals and birds. Our aim here is to search for Sloth Bears, Leopard, Nightjars, Owl species, Jungle Cat, Rusty-spotted Cat (world's smallest wildcat), Indian Civet, and Palm Civet to name a few. The safari takes us into the buffer forest and finally end at our campsite. After settling-in enjoy a wonderful meal and a night under the stars.

Overnight at Forsyth Lodge on a full board basis



DAY FOUR

After a night in the buffer forest wake up to the sounds of the jungle. Explore the buffer forest before returning to the lodge. This afternoon enjoy birding and herpetology within the lodge premises. Take another dusk safari this evening.

Overnight at Forsyth Lodge on a full board basis

DAY FIVE

Today we go on a day long safari into Satpura Tiger Reserve. In the morning safari we drive to the heart of the park – Churna. This was the site of a tribal village that was relocated a few years ago. Today there is a forest rest house at this location. This is where we break for the afternoon, while on the safari we are searching for larger mammals and birds. Later, naturalists will help you explore butterflies, dragonflies and other inhabitants in and around the nearby stream. Alternatively, should we get permission we can also explore some caves near Churna for ancient rock paintings.

In the evening safari we work our way back out of the park back to the lodge.

Overnight at Forsyth Lodge on a full board basis

DAY SIX

This morning we change the pace again by exploring the rivers and streams of Satpura in a canoe. There will be a forest department guide who will row and navigate the canoe while the guest enjoys the experience and the wildlife. A canoe safari gives one a different perspective on wildlife – you are now able to get eye level images of crocodiles basking on the river banks or swimming in the river. It also allows you to get close to aquatic birds. Photographers may also appreciate an extra low perspective of land mammals coming down to the water bodies for a drink.

We return to the lodge by 11am and after an early lunch we transfer to Pachmarhi – the highest point of the park. In Pachmarhi our focus is birding at a higher altitude than other parts of the park. This evening led by our team of naturalist we embark on a birding experience in Pachmarhi on foot.

Overnight will be in a guest house in Pachmarhi on a full board basis.



DAY SEVEN

This morning is spent birding in Pachmarhi. After a late breakfast we head back to Bhopal. Enroute we explore Bhimbetka Rock Shelters – a UNESCO world heritage site. These rock shelters house rock painting that date back more than 10,000 years.

Overnight in Bhopal on a bed and breakfast basis

DAY EIGHT

This morning after breakfast we head to Sanchi Stupa to learn about Buddhism and how it originated and spread through the country. This again is a UNESCO world heritage site.

Later we return to Bhopal to catch a flight back to Delhi. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your airport hotel for the night on a bed and breakfast basis.

Overnight at Delhi (airport hotel – Aero City)

DAY NINE

Today you are free until you are transferred back to the airport for your international flight home. If you have a little time before your flight we can offer you a number of options depending on time available and your interests – please ask!



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