

TRACKS SAFARIS

WE GET YOU CLOSER



14 DAY CLOUD FORESTS & TIGER GRASSLANDS

Best time to Travel – November - May



From the misty forests of Nepal's eastern Himalayas to the wild grasslands of the Terai, this journey showcases two of the country's most iconic wildlife experiences. Track the elusive Red Panda in its mountain habitat before heading to Bardia National Park in search of Bengal tigers, Asian elephants, leopards, sloth bears, one-horned rhinoceros, gharial crocodiles and a remarkable diversity of birdlife. Together, these contrasting landscapes offer an unforgettable exploration of Nepal's extraordinary natural heritage and wildlife.

→ Flight
..... Road Transfer

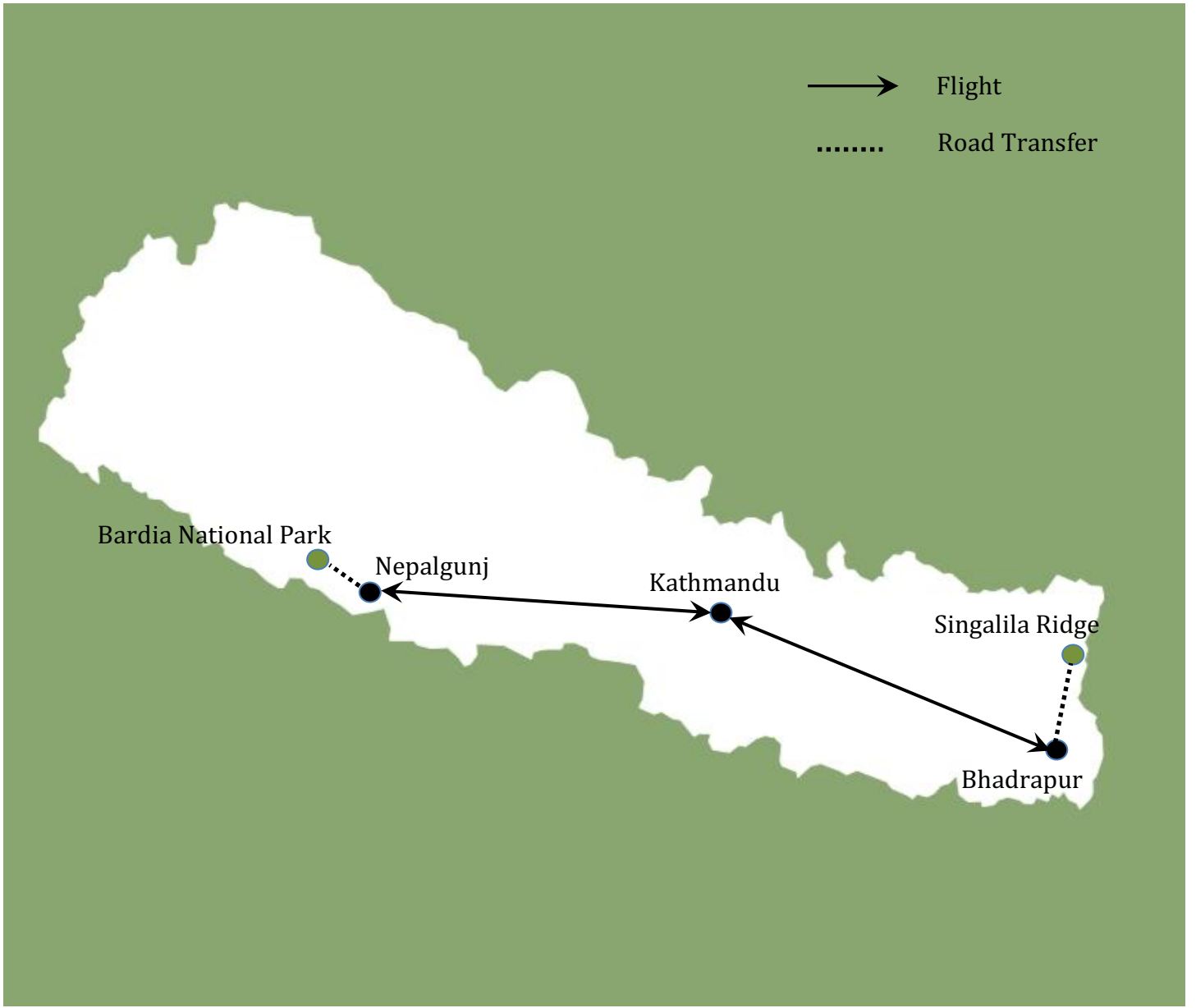
Bardia National Park

Nepalgunj

Kathmandu

Singalila Ridge

Bhadrapur





Day 1: Arrival in Kathmandu

Upon arrival at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport, you will be met by our representative, who will assist with your luggage and accompany you to your hotel.

Your accommodation for the night is one of Kathmandu's most celebrated heritage hotels, renowned for its remarkable collection of traditional Nepalese woodcarvings, terracotta artwork and architectural details. Created as a tribute to Nepal's rich cultural heritage, the property feels less like a hotel and more like a living museum, seamlessly blending history, craftsmanship and luxury.

The spacious rooms and suites are thoughtfully designed with traditional Nepalese textiles, handcrafted furnishings and elegant local décor, offering a refined sense of place. The hotel also features an excellent spa, a beautifully designed swimming pool and a choice of outstanding restaurants, making it the perfect place to relax and recover after your international journey before beginning your wildlife adventure in Nepal.

Once settled, this afternoon, you'll explore two of Kathmandu's most important spiritual landmarks: Pashupatinath Temple and Boudhanath Stupa.

Your first stop is Pashupatinath Temple, Nepal's most sacred Hindu shrine and one of the most important temples dedicated to Lord Shiva anywhere in the world. Set on the banks of the holy Bagmati River, the

temple complex has been a centre of pilgrimage for centuries and is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The atmosphere here is deeply spiritual, offering a fascinating insight into Nepal's living Hindu traditions.

You will then continue to Boudhanath Stupa, the largest stupa in Nepal and one of the most important centres of Tibetan Buddhism outside Tibet. Surrounded by monasteries, prayer wheels and vibrant cafés, the stupa is the heart of Kathmandu's Tibetan community. As monks and pilgrims circle the monument in prayer, you'll experience the unique blend of spirituality, culture and daily life that makes this site so captivating.

Overnight will be at the Dwarikas, Kathmandu.



DAY 2: Explore Kathmandu

Today is devoted to exploring two of the Kathmandu Valley's most remarkable UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Patan Durbar Square and Bhaktapur Durbar Square, both of which offer a fascinating insight into Nepal's rich artistic, cultural and architectural heritage.

Your morning begins in Patan, the ancient city of fine arts, renowned for its exquisite Newari craftsmanship and elegant temples. As you wander through the atmospheric palace square, you'll discover intricately carved wooden windows, bronze statues and beautifully ornamented courtyards that showcase the extraordinary skill of Nepal's master artisans. The former royal palace, along with its temples and shrines, represents some of the finest examples of traditional Newar architecture found anywhere in the Himalayas.

Later, continue to Bhaktapur, the best-preserved of the Kathmandu Valley's medieval kingdoms. Often described as an open-air museum, the city's historic centre is a wonderful collection of palaces, courtyards and temples dating back to the Malla period.



Among the highlights is the magnificent 55-Window Palace, famous for its intricate wood carvings, and the ornate Golden Gate, regarded as one of the finest examples of Nepalese metalwork and architecture. You'll also visit Kumari Chowk, the courtyard associated with Nepal's Living Goddess tradition, and admire the impressive Bhairavnath Temple, dedicated to Bhairav, the fierce manifestation of Lord Shiva. The temple's distinctive pagoda architecture and richly decorated façade are among Bhaktapur's most recognisable landmarks.

As you stroll through the narrow lanes and bustling squares, you'll encounter local artisans, centuries-old traditions and beautifully preserved architecture that together create one of the most authentic cultural experiences in Nepal. The day offers a captivating journey into the history, religion and artistic heritage of the Kathmandu Valley.

Overnight will be at the Dwarikas, Kathmandu.

Day 3: Kathmandu – Singalila Ridge

This morning you make your way to the east to the cloud mountains around the Singalila Ridge. Early this morning you transfer to the airport to fly to Bhadrapur. You will be received by the team from the Red Panda Outpost, who will accompany you as you make your way by road to Jaubari village – a 3 ½ hour drive from Bhadrapur airport in a 4X4 vehicle.

The forests of the Singalila Ridge form one of the most enchanting wilderness areas in the Eastern Himalayas. Stretching along the border of India and Nepal, these mist-laden cloud forests are home to towering rhododendrons, magnolias, bamboo and ancient oak woodlands. Renowned as one of the best places in the



world to search for the elusive Red Panda, the region also supports Himalayan black bear, barking deer, yellow-throated marten and an exceptional diversity of birdlife. On clear days, the forested ridges are complemented by breathtaking views of Kangchenjunga, Everest, Lhotse and Makalu, creating a spectacular backdrop for wildlife exploration.

Your home in the Singalila region will be the Red Panda Outpost; an intimate mountain retreat nestled in the peaceful village of Jaubari on the edge of Singalila National Park. Perched at 2,800 meters in prime red panda habitat, the lodge offers a comfortable and authentic base from which to explore the Eastern Himalayas. Originally a traditional family-run teahouse, it has been thoughtfully transformed into a charming wilderness outpost that remains deeply connected to the local community and landscape.

With just seven cozy guest rooms, warm Himalayan hospitality, hearty home-cooked meals and a welcoming bukhari fireplace, the Outpost provides a genuine sense of place. Sustainability and conservation are at the heart of the experience, with the lodge supporting community-based tourism initiatives that help protect both the fragile mountain ecosystem and the endangered Red Panda. After a day spent searching for wildlife in the surrounding cloud forests, there is no better place to relax and soak in the atmosphere of this remarkable corner of the Himalayas.

Once you've had time to settle in, the lodge naturalist will provide an introduction to the unique wildlife and ecosystems of the Eastern Himalayas. Later, you'll set out on your first guided walk through the surrounding mountains, offering an excellent introduction to the region's spectacular landscapes, rich birdlife and pristine forests. This gentle excursion is designed to help you acclimatize, while immersing you in the beauty and atmosphere of the Singalila Ridge.

Overnight will be at the Red Panda Outpost.



Day 4-7: Explore Singalila Ridge

The next few days are devoted to exploring the forests of the Singalila Ridge in search of one of the Himalayas' most sought-after and elusive mammals, the Red Panda. Unlike a traditional safari, tracking red pandas is a far more immersive and active experience, combining nature walks, birdwatching and forest exploration with the expertise of local trackers who know these mountains intimately.

The success of the programme is built upon a unique community-led conservation model in Nepal. The forests surrounding the lodge are divided into several community-managed areas, including Choita, Chipchipe and Lamadhaura, each cared for by local villages. Every forest tract has its own team of dedicated trackers who spend their days monitoring wildlife and searching for red pandas. These trackers are the only people permitted to operate within their designated forest areas, ensuring both effective wildlife monitoring and meaningful benefits for local communities.

Each morning, while the trackers set out into the forests at first light, you'll enjoy a relaxed start to the day with tea or coffee beside the warmth of the bukhari before breakfast. Accompanied by the lodge naturalist, you'll then head out on foot to explore nearby trails, forests and ridgelines, searching for birds and enjoying the spectacular Himalayan scenery while awaiting updates from the tracking teams.

Should one of the trackers locate a red panda, a vehicle will take you to the nearest access point, from where you'll continue on foot to the sighting. Encounters with red pandas are conducted with great care and respect. To minimize disturbance, viewing time is generally limited to around 25-30 minutes, and once an individual has been observed, future searches focus on locating different animals rather than repeatedly revisiting the same panda.

A reasonable level of fitness is required for these explorations. The terrain is often steep and uneven, and in some areas, there may be no defined trails. Trackers occasionally create temporary paths through dense



bamboo and forest vegetation, and participants should be comfortable walking on inclines and navigating natural terrain. Hiking poles are highly recommended, and your guides will always be on hand to assist. For those preferring a gentler pace, alternative walks with a greater focus on birdlife, scenery and local culture can usually be arranged.

While the red panda is undoubtedly the star attraction, the forests support a remarkable range of wildlife. Himalayan black bear, clouded leopard, marbled cat, Asiatic golden cat, Himalayan serow, barking deer and yellow-throated marten all occur here, although most are highly elusive and rarely seen. Birdwatching is often exceptional, particularly in spring and autumn, with species such as Satyr Tragopan, Blood Pheasant, Himalayan Monal, Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, laughingthrushes, parrotbills, sunbirds and rosefinches among the highlights.

The rhythm of the experience is deliberately unhurried. Mornings are spent walking and exploring the forests, often followed by a picnic lunch in a scenic location. As clouds build across the mountains during the afternoon, you'll typically return to the lodge to relax. Those with energy to spare can join a short village walk, perhaps visiting the local monastery, church or tea stall, before returning to the lodge as dusk settles across the ridge.

This is not a destination for ticking off species quickly. Rather, it is an opportunity to immerse yourself in the landscapes, wildlife and communities of the Eastern Himalayas, where every sighting feels earned and every day spent in the mountains becomes part of the adventure.

Overnight will be at the Red Panda Outpost.

**Day 8: Singalila Ridge - Kathmandu**

After breakfast this morning you check-out and make your way back to Bhadrapur airport from where you fly back to Kathmandu. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight will be at the Dwarikas, Kathmandu.

Day 9: Kathmandu – Bardia National Park

Today we continue our journey towards the terai landscape to Bardia National Park. After breakfast you check out and transfer to the airport and catch your flight to Nepalgunj. The journey to Bardia take 2 ½ hours from the Nepalgunj. You should arrive in time for lunch.

Your home in Bardia will be Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge, one of Nepal's most respected wildlife lodges and a pioneer of conservation-led tourism in the region. Set on the edge of Bardia National Park, the lodge offers a tranquil retreat surrounded by rewilded landscapes, with comfortable rooms, excellent naturalist guides and a strong focus on sustainability. Guests can explore the park on foot, by jeep or by boat, experiencing one of the finest tiger habitats in Nepal.

What makes a stay here particularly special is the legacy of Tiger Tops, a name synonymous with wildlife conservation and responsible tourism in Nepal. Since the 1960s, Tiger Tops has played a pioneering role in developing nature-based tourism in the country, helping to demonstrate the economic value of protecting wildlife and natural habitats while supporting local communities. Over the decades, the organization has contributed significantly to raising awareness of Nepal's extraordinary biodiversity and promoting sustainable conservation practices.

Today, that commitment remains central to the lodge experience. The property incorporates environmentally responsible practices, sources fresh produce from its own organic farm and has rewilded large areas of land around the lodge, creating additional habitat for wildlife. Combined with expert guiding, warm hospitality and access to one of Nepal's most pristine wilderness areas, Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge provides an exceptional base from which to explore the rich wildlife of Bardia National Park.

Once settled into the lodge, post lunch you begin exploring Bardia National Park. This afternoon take a jeep safari into the park to familiarize yourself with the sight, sounds and smells of the jungle and learn from your lodge naturalist the tricks to tracking various wildlife in this wonderful landscape.

Overnight will be at the Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge.



Day 10,11 & 12: Explore Bardia National Park

The next three days are dedicated to exploring the untamed wilderness of Bardia National Park, Nepal's largest national park in the Terai lowlands and one of South Asia's most rewarding wildlife destinations. Encompassing vast tracts of Sal forest, expansive grasslands, riverine woodland, and the braided channels of the Karnali and Babai river systems, Bardia offers an authentic safari experience in a remarkably pristine and uncrowded setting.

Unlike most Indian national parks, where wildlife viewing is primarily vehicle-based, Bardia offers the rare opportunity to experience the jungle both on foot and through open jeep safaris. Accompanied by experienced naturalists and trackers, guests can explore the forest along quiet trails, moving through towering Sal woodlands and following animal tracks across sandy riverbanks. This immersive style of exploration



provides a deeper connection with the landscape and often reveals signs of wildlife that would otherwise go unnoticed.

Open jeep safaris allow access to the park's diverse habitats in search of its extraordinary wildlife. Bardia is among the finest places in the region to look for the elusive Royal Bengal Tiger, while also supporting populations of one-horned rhinoceros, Asian elephants, leopards, sloth bears, wild boar, sambar deer, hog deer, spotted deer, and nilgai. The rivers are home to mugger crocodiles, the critically endangered gharial, and a rich variety of aquatic and wetland species.

The park is equally renowned for its birdlife, with more than 400 recorded species inhabiting its forests, grasslands, and waterways. While walking beneath the forest canopy or pausing at one of the park's strategically positioned wildlife hides, there are opportunities to observe great hornbills, oriental pied hornbills, raptors, kingfishers, woodpeckers, bee-eaters, and numerous migratory birds.

Together, these three days offer an immersive exploration of Bardia's diverse landscapes and rich wildlife, combining the excitement of open-jeep safaris with the unique privilege of walking through one of South Asia's last great wilderness areas.

Overnight will be at the Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge.



Day 13: Bardia - Kathmandu

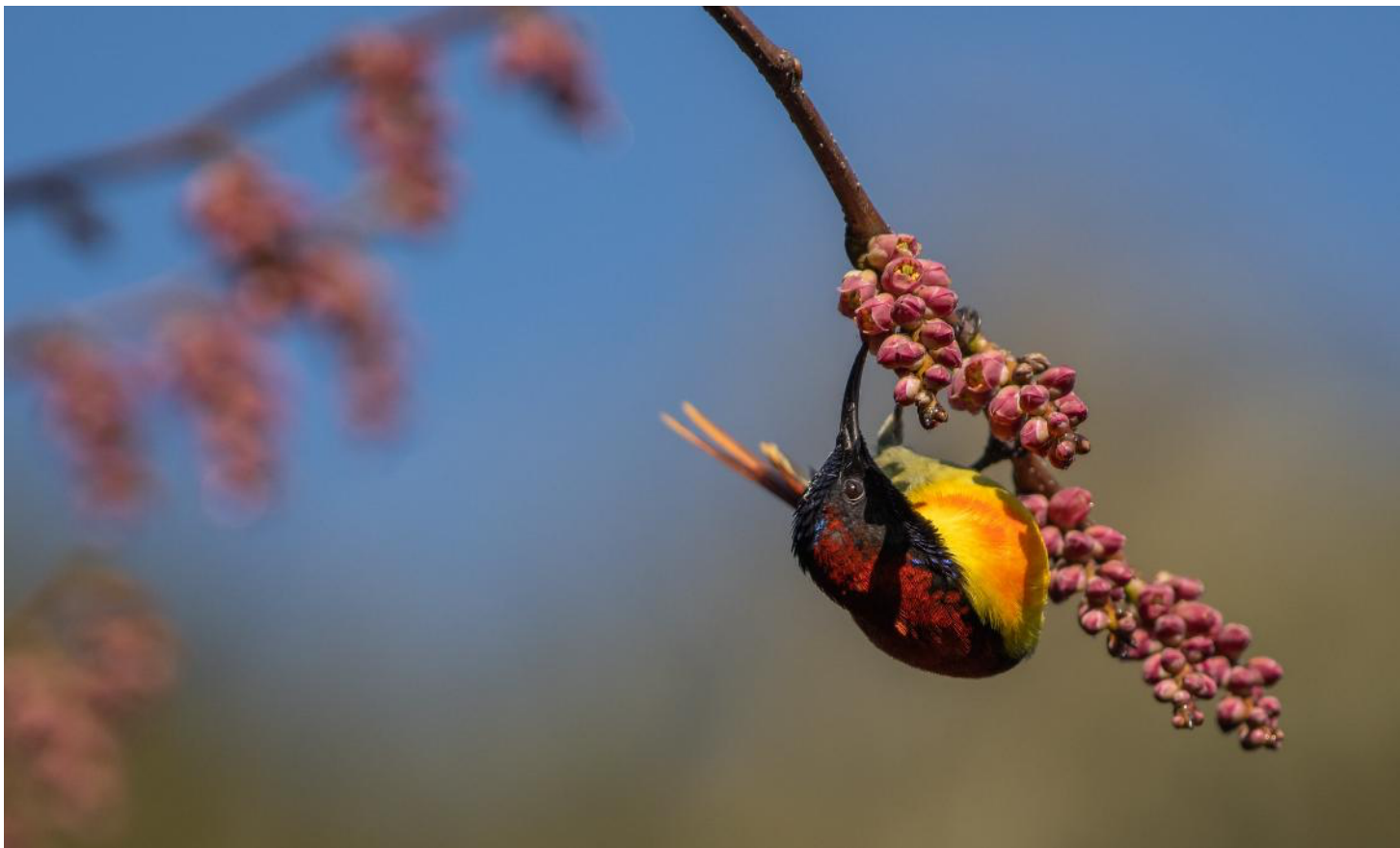
As your wildlife adventure in Nepal draws to a close, this morning begins with an early breakfast followed by a road transfer to Nepalgunj Airport for your flight to Kathmandu.

Upon arrival in Kathmandu and after checking into your hotel, the remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure. You may choose to continue exploring the city's rich cultural heritage, vibrant markets, and historic landmarks, or simply relax and enjoy the comforts of your hotel. This final evening provides an opportunity to reflect on your remarkable wildlife experiences and prepare for your onward journey home the following day.

Overnight will be at Dwarikas, Kathmandu.

Day 14: Departure

After a leisurely breakfast this morning, check out of your hotel and transfer to the international airport in time to connect with your onward flight home, bringing your memorable journey through Nepal to a close.

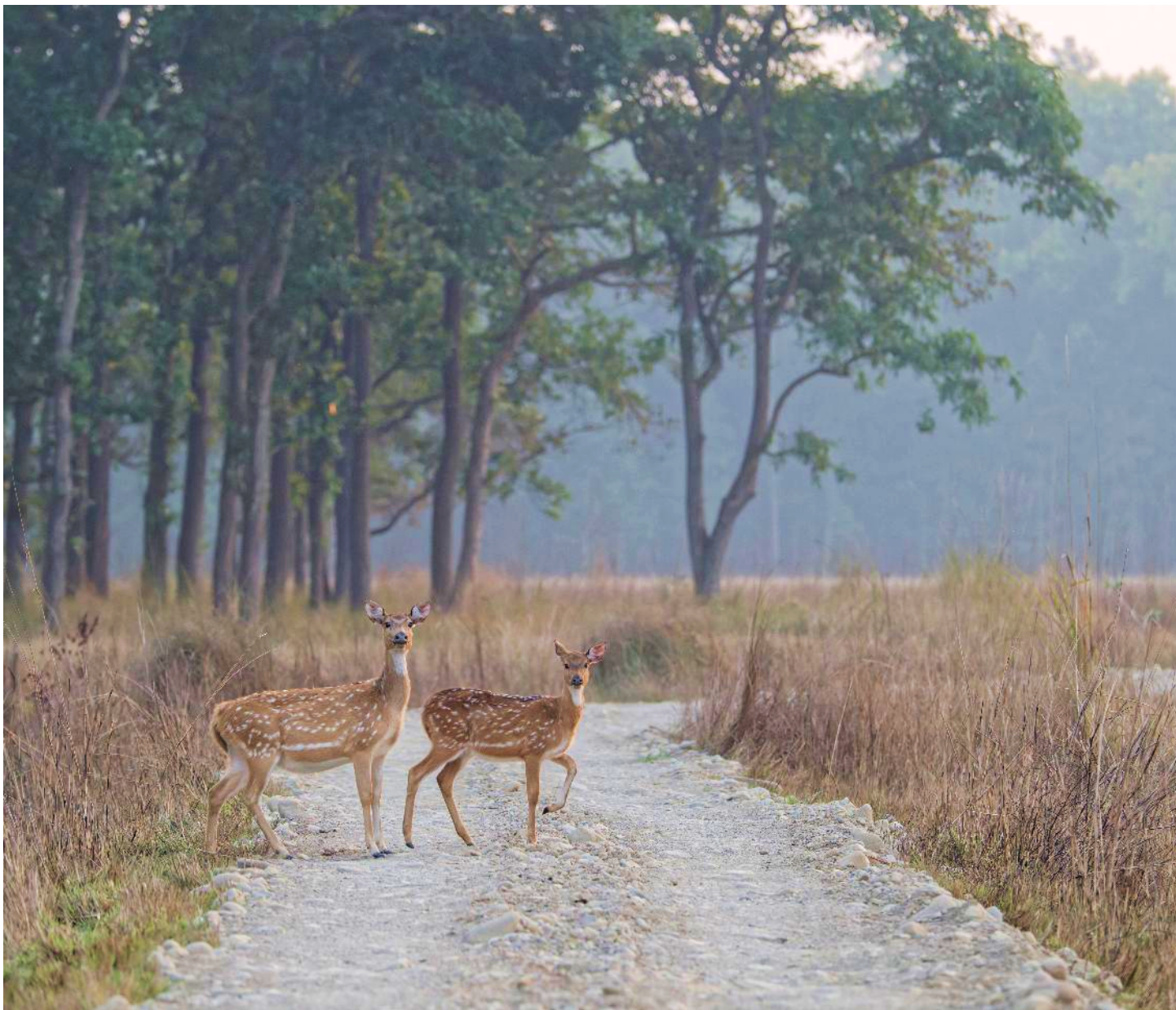


Wildlife Highlights:

- Red Panda
- Tiger
- Asiatic Elephant
- One-horned Rhinoceros
- Leopard
- Yellow-throated Marten
- Swamp Deer (Barasingha)
- Hog Deer
- Great Hornbill
- Greater Slaty Woodpecker
- Satyr Tragopan

Why Choose This Safari Experience?

- It combines the unique with the popular.
- It gives you an opportunity to explore the jungle on foot and not just in open jeeps.
- It showcases the Himalayan landscape.
- Add wonderful elements of culture along with wildlife.



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