

TRACKS SAFARIS

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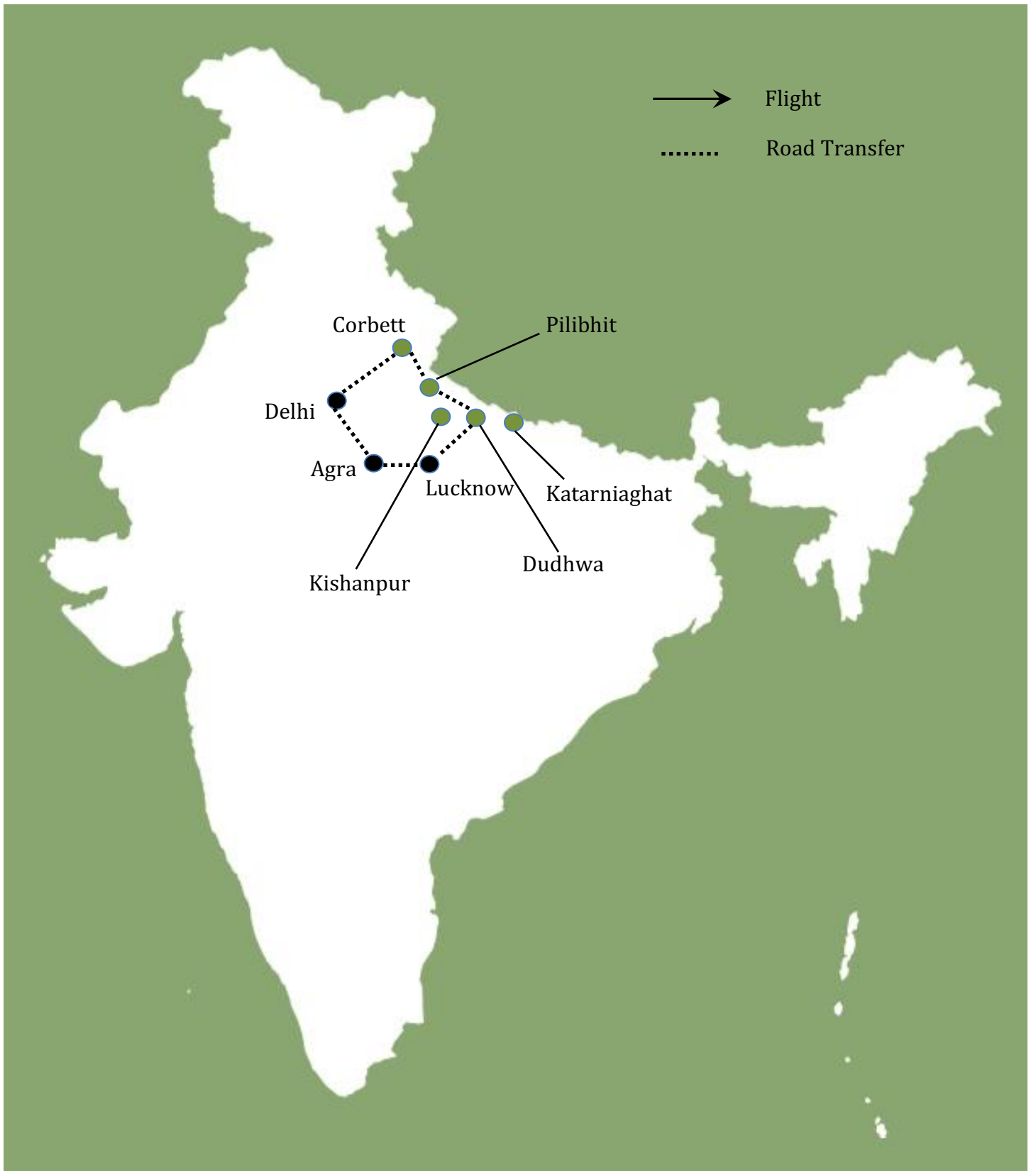
11 NIGHTS - THE GREAT TERAJ EXPEDITION

Best time to Travel – November - May



The Great Terai Expedition is designed for wildlife photographers and nature enthusiasts seeking to explore the wilderness of India's Himalayan foothills and Terai grasslands.

Combining Corbett and Dudhwa National Parks, this journey offers exceptional opportunities to photograph tigers, elephants, one-horned rhinoceros, swamp deer and a remarkable diversity of birdlife across two of North India's most celebrated wildlife landscapes.



THIS ITINERARY CAN BE ADPATED TO OFFER MID PRICED OR LUXURY ACCOMMODATION!



Day 1: Arrival in India

Early this morning arrive in Delhi. Our team will receive you at the airport and shall transfer you to a hotel near the airport. The remainder of the morning is at leisure. After some time to settle in, you'll head out to explore New Delhi on a half-day city tour.

Your afternoon begins with a drive through Lutyens' Delhi and the grand Central Vista, including stops at the impressive Presidential Palace (Rashtrapati Bhavan) and India Gate, the city's iconic First World War memorial.

You'll then visit Humayun's Tomb, a magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the finest examples of Mughal architecture, before concluding your tour at Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, Delhi's most prominent Sikh temple, renowned for its serene atmosphere, sacred pool and community kitchen.

Overnight will be at the Roseate House, Aerocity.

DAY 2: Delhi – Corbett National Park

After an early breakfast, you'll depart by road for Corbett Tiger Reserve, a journey of approximately 5½ hours.

Nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand, Corbett is India's oldest national park and was the first reserve to come under the landmark Project Tiger conservation programme. Renowned for its beautiful landscapes of Sal forest, riverine habitats and expansive grasslands, Corbett is home to a remarkable diversity of wildlife, including tigers, Asian elephants, leopards and more than 500 species of birds.

The drive takes you through the fertile plains of northern India before reaching the forests of the Terai Arc Landscape, one of the most important wildlife regions on the Indian subcontinent. Upon arrival, check in to your lodge and spend the remainder of the day at leisure, enjoying the natural surroundings and preparing for the wildlife adventures ahead. Should you feel up for it this evening venture out with the lodge naturalist birding in and around the lodge.

Your home in Corbett will be Jim's Jungle Retreat, a charming wildlife lodge set within 15 acres of restored forest on the edge of the tiger reserve. Nestled between the Himalayan foothills and the Shivalik Hills, the retreat combines comfortable accommodation, excellent naturalist-led experiences and a strong conservation ethos. With abundant birdlife, guided walks and easy access to Corbett's safari zones, it provides the perfect base for an immersive wilderness experience.

Overnight will be at Jim's Jungle Retreat.



Day 3 & 4: Exploring Corbett Tiger Reserve

The next two days are dedicated to exploring Corbett Tiger Reserve, with a morning and afternoon jeep safari scheduled each day, accompanied by an experienced lodge naturalist. These drives provide an excellent opportunity to discover the reserve's diverse habitats and search for its remarkable wildlife.

Nestled in the Himalayan foothills, Corbett is one of India's most scenic national parks, with a landscape of dense Sal forests, open grasslands, winding rivers and shingle riverbeds. This rich mosaic of habitats supports an extraordinary variety of wildlife and makes every safari a unique experience.

While tigers are undoubtedly the star attraction, Corbett is equally renowned for its impressive biodiversity. The reserve is home to Asian elephants, leopards, otters, wild boar, sambar, chital, hog deer, langurs and rhesus macaques, along with an exceptional variety of birdlife. With over 500 recorded bird species, Corbett is considered one of India's premier birdwatching destinations.

Each safari offers the chance to experience a different side of the park, whether tracking fresh tiger pugmarks along a forest trail, watching elephants emerge from the grasslands, or photographing colourful birdlife along the riverbanks. The combination of spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife and expert guiding makes Corbett one of the finest safari destinations in the Indian subcontinent.

Overnight will be at the Jim's Jungle Retreat.



Day 5: Corbett to Dudhwa via Pilibhit

After breakfast, you'll check out and continue your journey to Jaagir Manor, your base for exploring the rich Terai landscapes of northern India. Leaving the Himalayan foothills behind, you'll descend into the fertile Terai belt, a mosaic of grasslands, wetlands and forests that supports some of India's most spectacular wildlife.

Over the coming days, you'll explore three of the region's most important, protected areas: Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and Dudhwa National Park. Together, these reserves form part of the wider Terai Arc Landscape, one of the most significant wildlife conservation areas in the Indian subcontinent. A fourth reserve, Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, can also be visited, although its greater distance from the lodge makes it a more ambitious excursion.

Please note that this will be one of the longest travel days of the journey. The drive from Corbett to Pilibhit Tiger Reserve takes approximately 4½ hours, with arrival planned around lunchtime. Lunch will be arranged at a hotel near the reserve, where you will meet the resident naturalist from Jaagir Manor.

Following lunch, you'll head into Pilibhit Tiger Reserve for an afternoon jeep safari. Once relatively unknown, Pilibhit has emerged as one of India's most exciting tiger reserves in recent years, with an increasingly healthy tiger population and excellent sighting opportunities. Its vast grasslands, dense forests and riverine habitats also support a wide range of other wildlife and birdlife.

After your safari, you'll continue by road to Jaagir Manor, a further journey of around 2½ hours. You should arrive at the lodge in time for dinner and a chance to relax after a rewarding day of travel and wildlife exploration.

Overnight will be at the Jaagir Manor.



Day 6,7 & 8: Explore Dudhwa National Park (Kishanpur / Dudhwa / Katarniaghat)

The next three days are dedicated to exploring Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, one of India's most important wilderness landscapes. The reserve comprises three protected areas: Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary, together forming a vast mosaic of forests, grasslands and wetlands along the Indo-Nepal border.

Over the first two days, we have planned morning and afternoon safaris in Dudhwa and Kishanpur, with a particular focus on searching for tigers, Asian elephants, one-horned rhinoceros and the elusive fishing cat.

These Terai habitats are among the finest remaining examples of their kind and support an exceptional diversity of wildlife and birdlife.

One of Dudhwa's greatest conservation success stories is the reintroduction of the greater one-horned rhinoceros. The original breeding population was established within a large 32 sq km protected enclosure inside the reserve, where the animals thrived and multiplied. Thanks to the success of this programme, rhinos have now been released into the wider park and can regularly be seen beyond the fenced area during safaris. The enclosure itself remains an important conservation zone, and visitors may still obtain a special permit to access it during afternoon drives, offering a unique opportunity to observe these magnificent animals while learning about one of India's most successful wildlife restoration projects.

On the third day, we can remain focused on Dudhwa and Kishanpur, choosing the reserve that has been most productive based on recent wildlife activity and sighting reports. Alternatively, for those wishing to explore a different corner of the Terai landscape, there is the option of a full-day excursion to Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. This remote and lesser-visited reserve offers the opportunity to take a short boat safari in search of the endemic gharial, along with a variety of riverine birds and wildlife that come down to the water's edge to drink. An afternoon jeep safari can then be combined with the visit before returning to the lodge.

Please bear in mind that Katarniaghat lies approximately two hours from the lodge in each direction, making this a long but rewarding day. We recommend deciding once at the lodge, allowing us to assess current wildlife activity and choose the option that is likely to offer the most rewarding experience. (As of August 2026, this excursion remains possible and can be arranged locally).

NOTE: Pilibhit remains closed for safari on a Monday, Dudhwa remains closed on a Tuesday, Kishanpur on a Wednesday and Katarniaghat on a Thursday.

Overnight will be at Bamboo Forest Nature Conservancy, Umred.



Day 9 & 10: Dudhwa to Lucknow

Your wildlife adventure draws to a close today as you leave the Terai behind and travel to Lucknow, the historic capital of Uttar Pradesh. After a leisurely breakfast, you'll check out and drive to the city, a journey of approximately 4½ hours, arriving in time for lunch.

Often referred to as the City of Nawabs, Lucknow is renowned for its refined culture, elegant architecture and rich culinary traditions. Once the capital of the Kingdom of Awadh, the city flourished under its Nawabi rulers, leaving behind an impressive legacy of grand monuments, beautiful gardens and a distinctive way of life that continues to shape the city's character today.

Lucknow is equally celebrated for its exquisite Chikankari embroidery, a centuries-old craft that remains one of India's finest textile traditions. The city's vibrant bazaars and historic neighborhoods offer a fascinating glimpse into this living heritage, while its celebrated Awadhi cuisine is regarded as among the finest in the country.

To help you discover the many facets of this remarkable city, we have arranged approximately one and a half days of sightseeing over the next two days. Your explorations will be led by an expert English-speaking guide, who will meet you at your hotel after you have checked in and settled into your room.

Overnight will be at the Taj Mahal, Gomti Nagar.





Day 11: Lucknow - Agra

This morning, you'll leave Lucknow behind and travel by road to Agra, a journey of approximately 4½ hours. Arriving around lunchtime, you'll check in to the luxurious Oberoi Amarvilas, renowned for its uninterrupted views of the Taj Mahal and widely regarded as one of India's finest hotels.

After some time to relax and settle in, you'll begin exploring the rich Mughal heritage of Agra. Your afternoon starts at the magnificent Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the principal residence of the Mughal emperors for generations. Behind its imposing red sandstone walls lies a fascinating complex of palaces, audience halls, courtyards and mosques, offering a remarkable insight into the splendour of the Mughal court.

You will then visit Itmad-ud-Daulah, often affectionately referred to as the "Baby Taj". This elegant marble mausoleum is considered a precursor to the Taj Mahal and is renowned for its delicate inlay work, intricate lattice screens and exquisite riverside setting.

Your day concludes at Mehtab Bagh, a peaceful Mughal garden located on the opposite bank of the Yamuna River. As the afternoon light softens and the sun begins to set, you'll enjoy one of the finest panoramic views of the Taj Mahal, an ideal opportunity for photography and a memorable introduction to India's most iconic monument.

Overnight will be at the Oberoi Amarvilas.



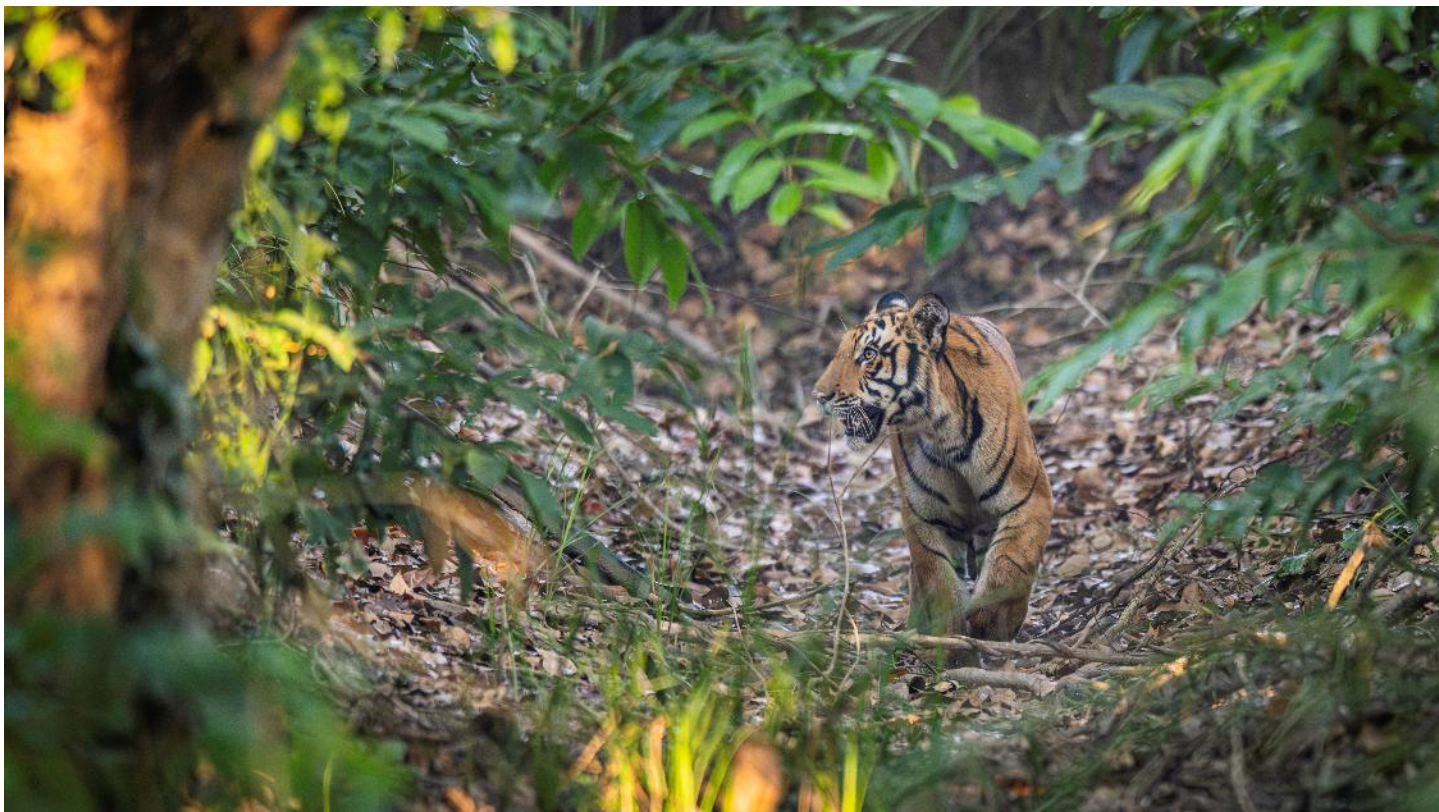
Day 12: Agra – Delhi - Departure

This morning, you'll rise before dawn for one of the highlights of your journey: a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal. Arriving in the early morning light, you'll have the opportunity to watch this magnificent marble monument gradually illuminated by the rising sun, as its colours shift from soft pinks and golds to brilliant white. The peaceful atmosphere and beautiful light make this one of the most memorable times to experience India's most iconic landmark.

Following your visit, return to the hotel for a leisurely breakfast and some time to relax before checking out.

Later, you'll depart by road for Delhi, a journey of approximately four hours. On arrival, a day-use room will be available for you at Roseate House, Aerocity, providing a comfortable place to freshen up, relax and enjoy a final dinner before your international flight.

This evening, you'll be transferred to Delhi's international terminal in time to connect with your onward flight home, bringing your journey through India's great wildlife reserves and cultural treasures to a close.



Wildlife Highlights:

- Tiger
- Asiatic Elephant
- One-horned Rhinoceros
- Leopard
- Fishing Cat
- Sloth Bear
- Great Hornbill
- Greater Slaty Woodpecker
- Ibisbill (winter months only)

Why Choose This Safari Experience?

- Showcases the big five – tiger, elephant, rhino, gharial crocodile and the leopard.
- Diverse wild landscapes – grasslands, wetlands, wet & dry deciduous forests along with a riverine experience.
- Cultural insights showcasing heritage, architecture, textile and culinary experiences.
- Ideally for the repeat traveller to India who has already explored Rajasthan.



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