



EURASIAN HOOPOE

INDIA

Birding and Wildlife

16 DAYS | Choose your dates

Explore the birds of India while journeying through the variety of landscapes this intriguing country has to offer. This 16-day adventure will provide insight into the unique avian species of India. From the rare Indian Skimmer to the migratory Siberian Cranes, there will be opportunities to observe an array of species including pelicans, spoonbills, darters, cormorants and more. This adventure includes a mix of boat tours, rickshaw rides, nature hikes and jungle safaris, designed to enrich your understanding of the natural and cultural history while witnessing the exotic birds of India.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Take a rickshaw ride through the Keoladeo Ghana National Park, which is home to more than 400 species of birds.
- Visit renowned landmarks such as the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and the Laxminarayan Temple.
- Keep an eye out for the rare Indian Skimmer, marsh crocodiles, and Ganges river dolphin while cruising on a river safari along the Chambal River.
- Witness some of the 150 bird species of the Bandhavgarh National Park while on a jungle safari in a 4x4 open Jeep.
- Enjoy a boat ride through the wetlands of Bharatpur to witness the heronries.
- Explore the grassy plains of Kanha National Park, home to tigers, chitals, leopards, and a variety of avian species.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting
- Travel protection



QUTAB MINAR BY ALEKSANDR ZYKOV



ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - DEPART THE U.S.

Depart the U.S. for your overnight flight to India.
Overnight flight.

DAY 2 - DELHI

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be greeted and taken to your hotel. Please note that this is an arrival day and no activities or meals are included. *Overnight at The Claridges (Deluxe Room).*

DAY 3 - DELHI

After breakfast enjoy a full day of sightseeing in the walled city, Old Delhi, and the cosmopolitan New Delhi. In Old Delhi, visit Jama Masjid and have the opportunity to ride in a rickshaw. New Delhi is a city known for its formal parks, magnificent Parliament Building, the Rashtrapati Bhavan (the official home of India's president), and the India Gate. In New Delhi visit Humayun's Tomb and Qutab Minar, the 73-meter-high tower dating back to the 13th century. *Overnight at The Claridges (Deluxe Room). (BLD)*

DAY 4 - BHARATPUR

After breakfast, begin your transfer to Bharatpur (approximately five hours). Upon arrival to Bharatpur, check in at the hotel and transfer to Keoladeo Ghana National Park. Here you can spot a wide variety of animals, including three types of wild cat (jungle cat, leopard cat, and fishing cat), sambar, chital, blackbuck, nilgai, and wild boar, among many others. The sanctuary is also home to a variety of reptiles and is home to more than 400 species of birds. The most prominent birds are

the migratory Siberian Crane, the Gray Heron, pelicans, cranes, ibises, spoonbills, egrets, darters, cormorants, storks, ducks, eagles, hawks, pipits, warblers, wheatears, wagtails, flycatchers, buntings, larks, shanks, and stints. During the afternoon, explore the park by rickshaw/boat ride (boat ride is subject to water level in the lake). *Overnight at Laxmi Niwas Palace (Charming Room). (BLD)*

DAY 5 - BHARATPUR

This morning set out on an optional boat ride in the wetlands to see the heronries. Spend the rest of the day birding with your expert guide. *Overnight at Laxmi Niwas Palace (Charming Room). (BLD)*

DAY 6 - CHAMBAL

This morning transfer to Chambal Safari Lodge with a stop en route to the city of Fatehpur Sikri and the Buland Darwaza, or "Gate of Magnificence." Arrive in Chambal in time for lunch and check in at the lodge. The Chambal Valley is a world far removed



from the chaotic madness of modern Indian cities. A birdwatcher's paradise, the sanctuary currently boasts 264 species of resident and migratory birds including large numbers of the rare Indian Skimmer, Great Thick-knee, Small Pratincole, and lapwings. The Chambal is also home to marsh crocodiles (also known as muggers), gharials (or gavials), eight species of turtles, smooth-coated otters, and the rare and endangered Ganges river dolphin. This afternoon go birding around the lodge's property and along the bank of Chambal River. *Overnight at Mela Kothi Chambal Safari Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - AGRA

This morning enjoy a river safari on the Chambal River. Afterwards, begin your transfer to Agra. Here you will visit Agra Fort, a massive structure with 70-foot-high, 1.5-mile-long walls encompassing an astounding collection of well-preserved buildings. Next visit the Taj Mahal at sunset. Built by Shah Jahan, the Taj is a white marble memorial to his wife that took 22 years to complete. Apart from its stunning design and perfect symmetry, the Taj is also noted particularly for its elegant domes, intricately carved screens, and some of the best inlay work ever seen. *Overnight at ITC Mughal (COE). (BLD)*

DAY 8 - KHAJURAHO

Transfer to the railway station to board your train to Jhansi. Upon arrival, proceed to Orchha. In this medieval city, palaces and temples built in the 16th and 17th centuries retain much of their pristine perfection. In the Laxminarayan Temple and Raj Mahal, vibrant murals encompassing a variety of religious and secular themes bring the walls and ceilings to rich life. After lunch at Orchha, transfer to Khajuraho. Khajuraho is well-known for its magnificent temples built between 950 and 1050 A.D. *Overnight at Radisson Jass. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - BANDHAVGARH

This morning enjoy a tour of Kamasutra Temples, followed by an early lunch and an afternoon drive to Bandhavgarh (approximately five hours). Upon arrival, check in at the lodge. Bandhavgarh National Park is set amongst the Vindhya Hills in Madhya Pradesh and is home to at least 150 species of birds, as well as mammals such as tigers, sloth bears, langur monkeys, wild boars, mongooses, and three different species of deer: chital, sambar and barking deer. The rest of the evening will be at leisure. *Overnight at Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*



GREEN BEE-EATER BY TODD GUSTAFSON, GUSTAFSON PHOTO SAFARI

DAY 10 - BANDHAVGARH

Depart early this morning for your jungle safari accompanied by a resident naturalist and forest park guides in 4x4 Jeeps. After lunch continue your jungle safari before returning to the lodge for evening tea and time to relax. *Overnight at Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - BANDHAVGARH

Go on a morning and afternoon safari in an open 4x4 Jeep. *Overnight at Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 12 - KANHA

Early this morning, set out on a jungle safari. After breakfast transfer to Kanha (approximately six to seven hours). Enjoy the scenery while you drive through the rural countryside and colorful towns and villages before stopping at Mandla, the sacred city of the Gond tribe. After a picnic lunch continue your transfer to Kanha. Kanha National Park is located on the Chota Nagpur Plateau in Madhya Pradesh and provides 366 square miles of breathtaking views of grassy plains and Sal forests. The park offers the chance to see a variety of species, including tigers, leopards, chital, gaur, barking deer, sambar, and the endangered barasingha deer. *Overnight at Kanha Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 13 - KANHA

Depart early this morning for a jungle safari, accompanied by a resident naturalist and forest park guides in 4x4 Jeeps. After a picnic breakfast in the jungle enjoy the rest of the morning at leisure to go for a nature walk or participate in a cooking demonstration. After lunch go on another safari by 4x4 open Jeep. *Overnight at Kanha Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 14 - KANHA

Morning and afternoon safari in an open 4x4 Jeep. *Overnight at Kanha Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 15 - DEPARTURE

Begin your morning with a game drive in the park. After lunch proceed to the city of Jabalpur to board a flight to Delhi. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel for the opportunity to freshen up before returning to the airport for your flight back to the U.S. *Day room at the Radisson Blu. (BLD)*

DAY 16 - ARRIVAL HOME

Arrive home to the United States.

LAND PRICING

\$5,895 (10 participants + 1 leader)

\$6,150 (12 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2020.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.

MORE FROM HOLBROOK

Holbrook was founded on the principle that travel fosters a greater understanding of our world's cultural and natural treasures and that these experiences allow individuals to become agents for global change. We hope that your experiences in Australia will remain with you forever and will challenge you to make a difference in the world we share!

Please join our Facebook page and share photos of your program. Visit us at www.facebook.com/holbrooktravel. We hope to hear from you.



JUNGLE BABBLER BY VIPUL MATHUR



BLACK-NECKED STORK BY TODD GUSTAFSON, GUSTAFSON PHOTO SAFARI

