



BENGAL TIGER

# INDIA

## The Wild India: In Search of Tigers

**14 DAYS** | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: **OCT 1 - APR 15**

*More than 2,500 tigers—an estimated 70 percent of the world's remaining population—live in India. Glimpsing one of these majestic but elusive big cats in the wild is an intense and thrilling experience unlike any other. Journey to three of the country's best reserves for tiger sightings—Pench, Kanha, and Satpura—for daily safaris amid grassy plains, sheltered valleys, and sal and teak forests. Along the way, look for other wildlife like Indian wild dogs, spotted deer, barking deer, sambhar, Indian bison, leopard, and sloth bear, hundreds of resident and migratory bird species, and more than a thousand rare and endangered kinds of plants.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- View Delhi from a perspective seldom seen by outsiders during a walking tour with the nonprofit Salaam Baalak Trust, whose adolescent and young adult guides are former street children.
- Learn about ancient Sufi traditions during visits to a fort and dargah (mausoleum) with a local historian in Delhi.
- Take game drives accompanied by a resident naturalist and forest park guide for the best chances of spotting tigers and other wildlife.
- Explore the sandstone mountains, narrow gorges, ravines, waterfalls, streams, and dense forests of Satpura National Park by foot, boat, Jeep, and even elephant.
- Stay at wildlife lodges that promote conservation, sustainable development, and support for local communities.



### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Internal flights
- Bilingual local guide
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



SPICE VENDOR BY SARA MARLOWE

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### DAY 1 - DEPART U.S.

### DAY 2 - DELHI

Upon arrival at the international airport in Delhi, after clearing customs and immigration, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Check-in is available beginning at 2 pm. *Overnight at The Claridges.*

### DAY 3 - DELHI

Delhi, India's bustling capital, is simultaneously modern and ancient, chaotic and serene. Today you'll become acquainted with two aspects of this complex and multifaceted city, beginning with a transformational walk with the Salaam Baalak Trust. This non-profit NGO provides outreach and support for children who live and work on the street, offering education, shelter, vocational training, counseling, and other services. The City Walk aims to make the story of these street children heard and to give a view of the world through their eyes. Your adolescent or young adult guide, a former street child, will share his or her personal story of survival as you journey through the backstreets of Delhi in the inner city of Paharganj and the area around New Delhi railway station. It's a unique way of providing insight into the lives of these children and an opportunity for former street children to improve their communication and speaking skills. After lunch, you'll be joined by a historian for a look into Delhi's past. First visit Feroz Shah Kotla Fort. Located between Old and New Delhi and dating to the 14th century, the fort's ruins include palace rooms, mosques, an Ashokan-era stone pillar, and a step-well. Worshipers come to the fortress to pray, offer gifts, and write letters seeking help from the Djinns, supernatural beings of Islamic mythology, believed to reside here. Next, visit the dargah (mausoleum) of

Nizamuddin Auliya, a Sufi saint. In the evenings, singers perform Sufi devotional music known as Qawwali. Also wander through the adjacent market, where vendors sell everything from kaftans and kebabs to flowers and fragrances. *Overnight at The Claridges. (BLD)*

### DAY 4 - KANHA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and fly to Raipur. Upon arrival, drive to Kanha (est. 4-5 hours). Kanha National Park on the Chhota Nagpur Plateau in the state of Madhya Pradesh offers breathtaking vistas of grassy plains and strands of mixed sal and teak forests. Kanha also has the distinction of being the main inspiration for Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book." The 366-square-mile park's conservation history is particularly noteworthy, as it successfully reintroduced a herd of critically endangered barasingha (swamp deer), virtually saving the species from the brink of extinction. It's now the only place in the world where you can see swamp deer in the wild. Check in at Kanha Jungle Lodge. The lodge is designed to have minimal impact on the land and practices sustainable policies. Together with Jamtara Wilderness Lodge, it supports Tiger Trust, a non-profit organization that unites local communities



TIGER IN KANHA NATIONAL PARK BY ROHIT VARMA

in conservation. After lunch, leave for your jungle safari in 4x4 Jeeps accompanied by a resident naturalist and forest park guides. In addition to tigers, you will have an opportunity to see Indian wild dogs, more commonly known as dhole, as well as cheetah (spotted deer), gaur (Indian bison), muntjac (barking deer), sambhar, leopard, and sloth bear. Approximately 300 bird species have been recorded here, plus numerous reptiles and amphibians and 1,000 species of flowering plants. *Overnight at Kanha Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

#### DAYS 5-6 - KANHA NATIONAL PARK

Over the next two days, make early morning and afternoon visits to the park in 4x4 Jeeps with an English-speaking naturalist. Enjoy a picnic breakfast in the middle of the jungle with a cup of hot tea or coffee; lunch will be at the lodge. In the winter months, morning safaris require warm clothes, woolen caps, and gloves to keep you warm in your open Jeep. Blankets will be provided to protect you from the wind and keep you comfortable. *Overnight at Kanha Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

#### DAY 7 - PENCH NATIONAL PARK

This morning, check out and drive from Kanha to Pench (est. 4-5 hours). Located in the southern region of the Satpura Hills in Madhya Pradesh, Pench National Park is named after the Pench River, which bisects the park from north to south. The park extends over 294 square miles, 115 of which form the core area of Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park and the Mowgli Pench Sanctuary, while the remaining 179 serve as a buffer area. The undulating topography supports a mosaic of vegetation ranging from moist, sheltered valleys to open, dry deciduous forest. It is dominated by fairly open canopy, mixed forests with considerable shrub cover, and open grassy patches. More than 1,200 species of flora have been recorded in the area, including several rare and endangered plants and plants of ethnobotanical importance. The area has always been rich in wildlife. In addition to tigers, the reserve boasts the highest density of herbivores in India, with the variation in habitats supporting large populations of cheetah and sambhar. Check in at Jamtara Wilderness Lodge. Designed to have a minimal impact on the land, the lodge also promotes a unique initiative whereby its outdoor tented "star beds" (available at additional cost) compensate villagers for the use of their land and for letting wildlife pass through undisturbed, with the aim of re-establishing a wildlife corridor. *Overnight at Jamtara Wilderness Lodge. (BLD)*



GRAY LANGUR BY PELIN KARACA

#### DAYS 8-9 - PENCH NATIONAL PARK

As soon as dawn breaks, embark on a jungle safari in 4x4 Jeeps accompanied by a resident naturalist and forest park guide. After lunch, set out again in the afternoon on another jungle safari. *Overnight at Jamtara Wilderness Lodge. (BLD)*

#### DAY 10 - SATPURA NATIONAL PARK

Head out on one last safari drive in Pench this morning. After breakfast, depart for Satpura National Park (est. 5 hours) in the Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. The 202-square-mile park is the core area of the Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve, which includes Bori Wildlife Sanctuary to the southwest and Pachmarhi Wildlife Sanctuary to the northeast. The park sits at an elevation of 1,050 to 4,435 feet, with tall sandstone mountains, narrow gorges, ravines, waterfalls, streams,

and dense forests near the Mahadev hills in the Panchmarhi Plateau. The area is known for its sal and teak trees, plus wide varieties of ferns, mango trees, butterflies, and birds. *Overnight at Reni Pani Jungle Lodge or Forsyth Lodge. (BLD)*

#### DAYS 11-12 - SATPURA NATIONAL PARK

In the mornings and afternoons, visit the park in 4x4 Jeeps with an English-speaking naturalist. You will have an opportunity to explore the park not only by Jeep, but also on foot, elephant-back, and boat. Satpura is the only tiger reserve that allows walking safaris in small groups (four people plus a guide) through the heart of the park and encourages a wide variety

of activities that give much deeper insight than is possible only by Jeep. Forsyth Lodge and the park management are involved with training local boys as naturalist guides in the belief that skilled work must be accessible to local people and that every well-trained guide is potentially one less poacher. *Overnight at Reni Pani Jungle Lodge or Forsyth Lodge. (BLD)*

#### DAY 13 - DEPART

Leave for your final jungle safari in 4x4 Jeep accompanied by a resident naturalist and forest guide. Return back to lodge and enjoy breakfast. After lunch drive to Bhopal (est. 4 hours). On arrival, transfer to the airport and board your flight to Delhi. From here, connect with your international flight back home. *(BL)*

#### DAY 14 - ARRIVE IN U.S.

Arrive home following your international flight.

## LAND PRICING

**\$5,965** (15 participants + 1 leader)

**\$6,635** (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, internal flights, 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 through April 15, 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

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ASHOKAN PILLAR AT FEROSH SHAH KOTLA BY VU2SGA - OWN WORK, CC BY-SA 3.0



SLOTH BEAR BY SHANNON KRINGEN



KANHA NATIONAL PARK BY ANKUR P.