

INDIA

Into the Wilds of India: Tigers and Beyond

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

Often overlooked in favor of its cultural treasures, India's resplendent natural heritage is equal part of the country's identity. Go deeper into the heart of wild India through the stories of its conservationists and its most beloved resident: the Bengal tiger. Along with game drives to spot one of these elusive creatures, learn about the efforts to protect their dwindling populations, including those of Kailash Sankhala, who founded Project Tiger in 1973. You'll witness his family's conservation legacy firsthand during your stay at their ecolodge in Kanha, and discover their connection to Indira Gandhi. Along the way, get to know other wildlife like barasingha deer, Indian bison, langur monkeys, and sloth bear, plus experience bustling Delhi and its rich history of pre-colonial empires and cultures.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Go on game drives accompanied by a local naturalist and park guide for the best chances to spot tigers and other wildlife in three of India's best parks and reserves.
- Discover the conservation story of the Bengal tiger at Kanha Jungle Lodge, operated by the family of Kailash Sankhala, India's "Tiger Man" and pioneering conservationist.
- Gain a new perspective on the safari experience as you hike through Satpura National Park on foot, a rare opportunity.
- Learn about Indira Gandhi, India's first female prime minister and champion of tiger conservation.
- Take a rickshaw ride through Old Delhi to get a glimpse into India's cultural past and present.



NATURE SAFARI

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 US

DAY 2 - DELHI

Arrive at the international airport in Delhi, clear customs and immigration, then meet your representative and transfer to the hotel. Check-in is available beginning at 2 pm. Delhi, which has served as the capital of different kingdoms and empires over the centuries, is now a sprawling metropolis encompassing a fascinating blend of past and present. It is a perfect introduction to the composite culture of this ancient land. *Overnight at The Visaya.*

DAY 3 - DELHI

After breakfast, be transported back in time to the grandeur and subsequent ruin of the Mughal Empire, which ruled from the 16th century to the mid-19th century. Visit Jama Masjid, India's second largest mosque, known for its tapering minarets and marble domes. Walk through streets and markets where royalty once roamed, savor the fragrances of boisterous spice markets, be dazzled by India's largest jewelry markets, and glimpse the once-glorious havelis (royal mansions) of Old Delhi. With a mix of walking and rickshaw rides, discover hidden gems while exploring the narrow alleys and 350-year-old markets of this city built at the height of the Mughal Empire. Afterwards, visit the Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum, once the residence of the former Prime Minister of India. See the collection of rare photographs documenting the Nationalist Movement, personal moments of the Nehru-Gandhi family, and Indira's childhood. Photographs, newspaper articles and clippings related to Indira Gandhi's assassination, the clippings of Rajiv Gandhi's funeral pyre, awards, and personal objects belonging to Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi are all part of the collection.

Indira Gandhi's book collection and the gifts she received from various people have also been preserved. Learn about her work as a champion of tiger conservation, and later hear a lecture about Project Tiger. This tiger conservation program was launched in 1973 by the government of India during Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's tenure. *Overnight at The Visaya. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - KANHA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Raipur. Upon arrival, transfer to Kanha (about a 4-5 hour drive). Kanha National Park, on the Chhota Nagpur Plateau in Madhya Pradesh, provides breathtaking vistas of grassy plains and strands of mixed sal/teak forests. This 366-square-mile preserve was planned to save two endangered species, the tiger and the barasingha. This evening, watch the award-winning Discovery Channel documentary, "Tigerland." The film focuses on two passionate people trying to save the tiger



TIGER IN KANHA NATIONAL PARK BY ROHIT VARMA

from extinction, one of whom is Kailash Sankhala, Project Tiger's founder. His grandchildren run and manage Kanha Jungle Lodge, your accommodation for the next three nights. Spend the evening getting to know this family whose heritage in tiger conservation dates back three generations. *Overnight at Kanha Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - KANHA NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy early morning and afternoon visits to the park in a 4x4 Jeep with an English-speaking naturalist. You will have an opportunity to see wild dogs (more commonly known as dhol), cheetal (spotted deer), gaur (Indian bison), munjak (barking deer), sambhar (deer), leopard, and sloth bear. Enjoy a picnic breakfast in the middle of the jungle with a cup of hot tea or coffee, and later lunch at the lodge. In the winter months, warm clothes, woolen caps, and gloves are needed for morning safaris in the open 4x4. Blankets are provided for extra comfort. *Overnight at Kanha Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - KANHA NATIONAL PARK

Continue with morning and afternoon visits to the park in 4x4 Jeep with an English-speaking naturalist. *Overnight at Kanha Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - PENCH NATIONAL PARK

This morning, drive from Kanha to Pench (4-5 hour drive). Pench National Park, located on the southern boundary of Madhya Pradesh bordering Maharashtra, is nestled in the lower southern reaches of the Satpura Range. It is named after the Pench River, which meanders through the park from north to south. The park covers 295 square miles, 115 of which form the Pench National Park core area and Mowgli Pench Sanctuary. The remaining 180 square miles form a buffer zone. The present tiger reserve area has a glorious history. Pench Tiger Reserve and its surroundings are the original setting for Rudyard Kipling's most famous work, "The Jungle Book." 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. Over 1,200 plant species have been recorded, including several rare and endangered plants and plants of ethno-botanical importance. The area is also rich in wildlife. The high habitat heterogeneity favors large populations of chital and sambar. In fact, Pench Tiger Reserve has the highest density of herbivores in India. *Overnight at Jamtara Wilderness Lodge. (BLD)*



DAYS 8-9 - PENCH NATIONAL PARK

As soon as dawn breaks, leave for a jungle safari, accompanied by a resident naturalist and forest park guide in 4x4 Jeeps. After lunch, take an afternoon jungle safari by 4x4 open Jeep accompanied by a resident naturalist and forest park guide. *Overnight at Jamtara Wilderness Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - SATPURA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, depart Pench and drive to Satpura National Park. The park is located in south Hoshangabad district in Madhya Pradesh. The 820-square-mile park is the core area of the Panchmarhi Biosphere Reserve that includes Bori Wildlife Sanctuary to its southwest and Panchmarhi wildlife sanctuary to its northeast. The park has an elevation of 1,050 to 4,350 feet, with tall sandstone mountains, narrow gorges, ravines, waterfalls, streams, and dense forests

near the Mahadeo Hills in the Panchmarhi Plateau. The area boasts two distinctive species of trees, the sal and the teak, as well as many varieties of ferns, mango trees, butterflies, and birds.

Overnight at Reni Pani Jungle Lodge or Forsyth Lodge. (BLD)

DAY 11 - SATPURA NATIONAL PARK

Make morning and afternoon visits to the park by 4x4 Jeep with an English-speaking naturalist. You will have an opportunity to explore the park on foot and by elephant, boat, and Jeep. Satpura is the only tiger reserve that permits walking safaris in small groups (4 + guide) through the heart of the park and encourages a wide variety of activities that give you a much deeper insight into tiger country than is possible

only by Jeep. Forsyth Lodge and the park management are involved with training local boys as naturalist guides in the conviction that skilled work must be accessible to local people and that every well-trained guide is one less potential poacher. *Overnight at Reni Pani Jungle Lodge or Forsyth Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 12 - SATPURA NATIONAL PARK

Continue with morning and afternoon visits to the park by 4x4 Jeep with an English-speaking naturalist. *Overnight at Reni Pani Jungle Lodge or Forsyth Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 13 - DEPART

This morning is at leisure. After lunch, drive to Bhopal (4 hours). On arrival, transfer to the airport and board your flight to Delhi to connect with your international flight home. *(BL)*

DAY 14 - ARRIVE US

Arrive home following your international flight.

LAND PRICING

\$5,495 (15 participants + 1 leader)

\$6,125 (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, full-time guide for duration of program, and carbon offset.

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

Valid for travel through April 15, 2021.

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. Non-refundable final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe



ACTIVITY LEVEL **2** EASY-MODERATE

WHAT TO EXPECT

This 14-day journey has a natural focus with some urban exploration. It is leisurely paced, with 2–3-night stays at 4 locations, and easy physical activity—mainly 3–4-hour safari drives in 4x4 vehicles over sometimes bumpy tracks. You'll also enjoy a boat safari and the rare chance to seek game on foot. Safari drives begin at dawn, return you to the lodge for midday relaxation, then resume in the late afternoon. Aside from tigers you'll seek diverse species in variable terrain that includes sandstone canyons, dense forests, and grassy plains. In Delhi you will visit the Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum, the former residence of one of India's most powerful prime ministers. There are several overland transfers of 4–5 hours aboard air-conditioned, private motorcoaches; plus one internal flight. Expect humid and warm weather, but early morning safaris can be cold so dress in layers. April–July are the hottest months; August is the rainiest; and November–February are the coolest and driest.

