



INDIA'S TIGER LANDS

Beyond India's dazzling cities are more than a hundred national parks, teeming with spectacular wildlife and home to the iconic and endangered Bengal tiger — India's national animal.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Indian Subcontinent, India



12 days from AU\$13,760 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Beyond India's dazzling cities are more than a hundred national parks, teeming with spectacular wildlife and home to the iconic and endangered Bengal tiger — India's national animal. Discover India's tiger lands through the eyes of Rudyard Kipling, on your very own jungle adventure. This luxury wildlife journey takes you deep into the heart of tiger country, viewing remarkable feats of nature through daily jungle drives, all while staying in some of the country's most luxurious camps.

Journey Highlights

- Keep your eyes peeled for the Bengal tiger, with excellent sighting opportunities across three famous tiger reserves
- Glimpse an impressive array of other wildlife including leopard, monkey, deer, wild boar, sloth bear, Indian bison, hyena, jackal and Indian gazelle
- Experience an ornithologist's paradise with more than 1,200 species of bird as your naturalist discusses the diversity of these 'Einsteins of the air'
- Savour a Chef 's Table experience with an Indian cooking demonstration of local delicacies, before a delicious feast for the senses
- Immerse yourself in the unforgettable spiritual *aarti*, a prayer led by saffron-robed gurus on the banks of the holy River Ganges
- Discover hundreds of temples and shrines in the sacred city of Varanasi, wandering through its narrow lanes and vibrant, bustling markets



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Delhi

Arrive in Delhi this evening, where you are met by your private A&K representative and transferred to your hotel.

The Oberoi Gurgaon

Day 2: Delhi – Jabalpur – Kanha

Take to the skies for Jabalpur, where you'll pause for a delicious local lunch before continuing overland into the jungles of Kanha National Park — India's most famous tiger reserve and the inspiration behind Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. With over 200 bird species, Kanha is also an ornithologist's paradise. Settle into your tented suite where wide glass doors offer a panorama of the wilderness beyond. Relax on the deck, with stunning views of the Banjar River.

Banjar Tola / Meals: BLD

Days 3-4: Kanha National Park

For the next two days Banjar Tola will be your base as you set out on early morning and afternoon 4WD safari drives (or walks) with your expert naturalist. Among the sal and bamboo forests and grassy plains, you'll search for the elusive Bengal tiger as your guide unravels mysteries of the jungle. You'll see plenty of langurs, the odd gaur (Indian bison) and may also encounter chital, blackbucks, leopards, hyenas, sloth bears, barasingha, wild boar, and a lonesome jackal or two.

Banjar Tola / Meals: BLD

Day 5: Kanha – Bandhavgarh National Park

After another morning safari in Kanha and an early lunch, continue overland to Bandhavgarh, nestled among the tropical forests, woodlands, rocky hills and flat grasslands of the Vindhya and Satpura ranges. Settle into your luxury cottage amid 45 acres of private forest on the edge of the national park. Keep a look out for monkeys that play and dart around the serene property, as you get ready for two days ahead exploring Bandhavgarh National Park.

Mahua Kothi / Meals: BLD

Day 6: Bandhavgarh National Park

Enjoy two whole days exploring this stunning paradise with your expert naturalist. While renowned as a Bengal tiger reserve, Bandhavgarh National Park also harbours dense populations of gaurs, leopards, wild boars, Indian gazelles, common langurs, rhesus monkeys and sloth bears.

Enjoy thrilling morning and afternoon 4WD safaris, looking out for the Bengal tiger, and keep an eye on the canopy above, as your guide discusses the diversity and behaviours of exotic bird life.

Mahua Kothi / Meals: BLD

Day 7: Bandhavgarh National Park

Today you'll enjoy morning and evening game drives. For those wanting the next level of adventure, gear up for a stunning aerial perspective. A hot air balloon safari offers a completely unique experience, with even greater odds of seeing game in its natural habitat. Experience a tapestry of greens and catch wildlife unawares, while also floating over densely hidden temples from the sky (additional cost).

Mahua Kothi / Meals: BLD

Day 8: Bandhavgarh – Panna

Travel overland to Panna National Park, a haven to a great variety of wildlife species, such as the Bengal tiger, leopard and chinkara, and other exotic animals like chital, nilgai, sloth bear and sambar. The stunning biosphere is also home to more than 200 species of birds including the king vulture, Indian vulture and bar-headed goose. Check into your wilderness lodge, home for the next three nights, before embarking on a water safari down the gushing waters of the Ken River — lifeblood of the forest. Glimpse rare wildlife along the water banks, as you cruise the crocodile-infested waters from the safety of your boat, an adventurous yet serene way to experience the wild.

Alternatively, spend your afternoon on an A&K-exclusive meeting with a member of the nomadic Pardhi community. Learn about their incredible project to repopulate Panna National Park with the majestic Bengal tiger.

Pashan Garh / Meals: BLD

Day 9: Panna National Park

Rise early this morning for a 4WD safari into the park spotting crocodiles and keeping your eyes peeled for the elusive Bengal tiger. Learn how a successful conservation program has grown the park's tiger population, before returning to the lodge to savour a Chef's Table experience. Enjoy an Indian cooking demonstration, as your lodge's chef prepares local delicacies for lunch. This afternoon set out into the wild for another stunning afternoon safari. Tonight, perhaps take to the decking for some incredible star gazing.

Pashan Garh / Meals: BLD

Day 10: Panna – Khajuraho – Varanasi

Continue overland to Khajuraho, home to some of the finest temple art in the world. See Hindu stories of joy, love, divinity and war depicted across every inch of its 85 Hindu and Jain temples. This afternoon, take to the clouds again for sacred Varanasi, a city of more than a thousand temples.

Settle into your intimate palace hotel and prepare yourself for the experience of a lifetime.

At dusk, be enveloped in the unforgettable spiritual immersion of an *aarti*, a prayer led by saffron-robed gurus on the banks of the holy River Ganges. Hear the prayerful hymns and rhythmic drumming, smell the incense and watch hundreds of flowers and candles float downstream, as disciples sway, and lantern-bearing priests bid the gods and goddesses a restful slumber.

Nadesar Palace / Meals: B

Day 11: Varanasi

Awaken early for a magical dawn boat-ride on the Ganges to watch devotees at prayer as the sun slowly rises. Then, set out to explore the city with your expert A&K guide, taking in its more than a thousand temples and shrines. Wander through the old town with its narrow lanes, bustling markets and vibrant temples. Step inside a traditional Akhara, a gymnasium where men of all ages practise a traditional form of wrestling known as Kushti or Pehlwani.

After time to relax, journey to the Sarnath to see where Lord Buddha is said to have preached his first sermon. Then, discover Buddhist art treasures in the Archaeological Museum before watching the talented handloom weavers creating exquisite silk Banarasi saris at a local weavers' colony.

Nadesar Palace / Meals: B

Day 12: Depart Varanasi

Today your Indian wildlife adventure comes to an end. Enjoy a private A&K transfer for your onward flight.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

The Oberoi, Gurgaon



Innovative and meticulous in its design, The Oberoi Gurgaon is a contemporary hotel oozing style and luxury. Sitting within the prime business and shopping districts of Gurgaon, and just 15 minutes from the airport, the Oberoi is an oasis of calm and tranquillity, enclosed by landscaped gardens featuring sleek pools, reflecting its unique surroundings. The convenient location means bars and restaurants are just a short walk while the cultural heart of Delhi is just a 30-minute drive.

Why we like it

- 202 spacious and light-filled guestrooms
- Range of dining opportunities, fresh seafood and mouth-watering patisseries
- 9 acres of private landscaped gardens and Olympic-size swimming pool
- 24-hour spa and gym

Banjaar Tola Tented Camp, Kanha National Park



Extending across a 90-acre private concession and overlooking the core zone of Kanha National Park, Banjaar Tola lodge, a Taj Safaris lodge hotel, boasts two elegant camps of nine suites each, as well as a lavish tented guest area.

Built in a chic, glamorous camping style, each tented suite features glass doors leading out onto a floating verandah, and overlooks a tranquil river. The tented guest area is equipped with a magnificent swimming pool, dining decks with a stunning river backdrop, library, interpretive space and a Safari Shop.

Located close to the Kanha National Park entrance, in the Maikal Hills of the Satpura Range. The park is one of the first nine tiger reserves aimed at protecting tigers and their ecosystems. Covering 1,945 sq km of pristine wilderness, it is one of the largest and best-maintained national parks in India. The spectacular landscape features vast sal forests, flourishing green meadows and lush bamboo growth. Savour delightful local delicacies like kathi rolls, pao bhaji and raj kachori for breakfast.

Enjoy breakfast in the park while on safari, relish a sumptuous lunches by the pool, on your private deck or in your suite and experience a bush dinner in the midst of the sal forest, lit by hundreds of lanterns, and accompanied by traditional dancing and singing.

Naturalists at the resort are deeply experienced in the ways of the wild and will be your guides on exciting game drives twice a day, in specially modified Tata open 4x4 vehicles. They reveal the secrets of the park, and

ensure you have a deeply satisfying experience. Learn about the rich biodiversity, especially barasinghas which are unique to Kanha. Experience the thrill of spotting tigers, great gaurs and the star birds of Kanha.

Why we like it

- Peaceful location on the banks of the Banjaar River
- Each tent has its own deck overlooking the river
- 4x4 safaris into Kanha National Park

HOTEL FACILITIES:

- 18 tented suites in two campsites with breathtaking river & park views
- Air conditioning & power backup facility
- Complimentary Wi-Fi in public areas
- Anywhere, anytime dining concept
- Private & unique dining options
- 24-hour in-room dining

WELLNESS AMENITIES:

- Jiva Spa therapies
- Large outdoor pool
- In-room gym equipment
- Private massage decks
- 24-hour on-call doctor & nurse

Wildlife: Tiger, leopard, jackal, striped hyena, the highly endangered barasingha (swamp deer) and over 200 recorded bird species.

Mahua Kothi, A Taj Safari, Bandhavgarh National Park



This beautiful 12 suite lodge sprawls over 40 acres with private courtyards, shaded seating and traditional mud floors. The charming guest suites make good use of the lovely rich local textiles, sculptures and ornaments. En suite bathrooms are simply dreamy and there are bikes for exploring the area and a swimming pool.

The lodge features a magnificent swimming pool, traditional garden, interactive kitchen and a Safari Shop. Nestled among the picturesque Vindhya Hills and lush tropical forests, Bandhavgarh National Park is a 173-square-mile (448 sq km) renowned tiger reserve and one of the most beautiful parks in India.

The dramatic landscape is home to a dense Sal forest brimming with exotic flora and fauna, an ancient 1,000-year old fort and a reclining statue of Lord Vishnu. Located just 10 minutes from the Park entrance, Mahua Kothi is close to major airports—Khajuraho (143 miles, 230 km) and Jabalpur (118 miles, 190 km), and is 143 miles (230 km) away from the Kanha Tiger Reserve. Small eight- to nine-seater turboprops can land at the Umaria Airstrip 28 miles (35 km) away from Bandhavgarh.

Out in the wild, trained naturalists by our partner &Beyond ensure an intimate and meaningful interaction with Bandhavgarh's flourishing biodiversity. Adults and children can hone their spotting skills on twice-daily jungle safaris in specially modified open 4x4 vehicles.

Enjoy a sumptuous breakfast during your morning safari, picnic lunches under the beautiful mahua trees and 'chowki' rooftop dinners under a spectacular star-strewn sky. Savour live spit roasts, customary 'khud'

cooking, and 'thali' dinners as Baiga dancers sway to folk music. Explore a Baiga tribal village. Discover incredible Indian wildlife through exciting safaris twice a day. Try your hand at traditional Indian games like marbles and 'chaupad'.

Unwind with a blissful in-room Ayurvedic massage! Indulge yourself.

HOTEL FACILITIES:

- 12 kutiya cottages with sweeping bamboo thicket views
- Air conditioning & power backup facility
- Complimentary Wi-Fi in public areas
- Anywhere, anytime dining concept
- Private & unique dining options
- 24-hour in-room dining

WELLNESS AMENITIES:

Jiva Spa therapies
Large outdoor pool
In-room gym equipment
Private massage decks
24-hour on-call doctor & nurse

Wildlife: Tiger, leopard, gaur (Indian Bison), chital (spotted deer), Sambar deer, dhole, nilgai, wild boar, chinkara, sloth bear, rhesus macaque, black faced langur, jungle cat, hyena, porcupine, jackal, fox and wild dog.

Why we like it

- Just 20 minutes from the gate of Bandhavgarh National Park, famous for its tiger population
- A bird watchers paradise
- Guided nature walks and village tours

Pashan Garh, Panna National Park



Tucked into a rocky outcrop with views of the Vindhya Hills and 200 acres of private jungle, the opulent Pashan Garh lodge, a Taj Safari lodge, offers 12 luxury stone cottages as well as an intimate guest area. Built with dry-packed stone in the local Panna style, each suite has a private verandah and gazebo.

The guest area features a cosy sitting room with a shaded deck area overlooking the wilderness, a Safari Shop with a library. The exotic lodge is a mere seven miles (40 km) from the Panna National Park entrance and a 60-minute chauffeured drive from Khajuraho. Our expert chefs prepare divine Indian cuisine, served to you at the location of your choice.

Unique palanquin dining displays a bush dinner on an ox cart, while our 'haandi' dinner is served in traditional earthenware pots. Try an al fresco lunch by the pool, or opt for in-room service, discreetly delivered using butler hatches. Our experienced naturalists trained by &Beyond ensure you have an intimate and meaningful interaction with nature.

Exciting safaris, held twice a day, let you explore the thick teak forests and rocky terrain from the comfort of a specially designed Tata open 4x4 safari vehicle. Learn about the rich flora and fauna while keeping your eyes open sightings of tigers, crocodiles and Panna's 10 Star Birds! Situated in the Vindhya Hills along the pristine Ken River, Panna National Park is an important protected wildlife area and a base to explore Khajuraho—a famous World Heritage Site.

A vast plateau dominated by tropical forests, deep ravines, cascading waterfalls and thick teak forests, the famous national park links the eastern and western populations of resident wildlife. Take a leisurely stroll through

the village of Khajuraho, and discover the charm of its tiny trinket shops and famous temples. Panna town, renowned for its diamond mines and historic temples is also well worth exploring. Come, discover the wild while nestled in luxury.

Why we like it

- Stone cottages within the forest
- Just 50km from the temples of Khajuraho
- Surrounded by 200 acres of pristine forest

Abercrombie & Kent

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