

# Central India: In the Realm of the Tiger

WILDLIFE SAFARI IN KANHA, PENCH, BANDHAVGARH AND BEYOND



Wilderness Travel



## Central India: In the Realm of the Tiger

### TRIP DATES

#### 2024

November 2-16, 2024

#### 2025

January 21-February 4, 2025

January 24-February 7, 2025

February 12-26, 2025

March 26-April 9, 2025

November 5-19, 2025

#### 2026

January 14-28, 2026

February 7-21, 2026

March 7-21, 2026

October 24-November 7, 2026

This one-of-a-kind safari visits four of India's Project Tiger reserves, where we'll search not only for tiger, but also for leopard, sloth bear, dhole (Indian wild dog), and the endemic barasingha deer. We begin in Bandhavgarh, a small national park with a thriving tiger population, then head to renowned Kanha, which became part of Project Tiger in 1973. Moving to the lush "Kipling country" of Pench National Park, we might, with luck, catch a glimpse of its leopards and jungle cats, and we finish our safari at Reni Pani, a luxury property at Satpura National Park, for village and school visits and canoe safaris. As we travel, we'll be welcomed by our local hosts and the communities they are connected to.





## Itinerary



### TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 15 days
- Arrive:** Delhi, India
- Depart:** Delhi, India
- Lodging:** 14 nights hotels and lodges
- Meals:** All meals included except 2 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Activity:** Cultural Adventures, Safaris, Wildlife and Natural History
- Trip Level:** 1 2 3 4 5 6  
4WD game viewing, evening game drives, some long drives from lodge to lodge

**Special Note:** All National Parks in Madhya Pradesh (Central India) are closed on Wednesday afternoons, meaning game drives will not be available. If our departure falls over a Wednesday, we will enjoy activities at our lodge, including nature walks and cooking demonstrations, or visit a nearby school in the afternoon.

### DAY 1 DELHI, INDIA

Arrive in Delhi, India, where you are met and transferred to the Andaz Delhi, a luxury Hyatt property minutes from the airport...meals on your own

### DAY 2 JABALPUR / BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK / BANDHAVGARH JUNGLE LODGE

After a morning flight to Jabalpur, we embark on a drive to Bandhavgarh National Park, set among the Vindhya Hills in Madhya Pradesh, and check into Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge in time for lunch. The lodge is set in a pristine forest environment on the periphery of the park and staffed by a team of naturalists who have a passion for the wildlife and the local community. Since we have had a day of travel, we'll take it easy this afternoon. A guided nature walk will be offered, along with a discussion about the wilderness parks of Central India and their role in successfully protecting the highest number of tigers anywhere in the world.

This lodge and two others on our journey (Kanha Jungle Lodge and Jamtara Wilderness Camp) are owned by the Sankhala family, which has a 50-year history in conservation. Kailash Sankhala, known as the "Tiger Man of India," was the first Director of Project Tiger, launched in 1973 to establish the national parks of India. Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge was set up by Kailash's son, the late Pradeep Sankhala, a strong advocate of wildlife tourism. Pradeep's son, Amit Sankhala, a close partner of Wilderness Travel, continues the legacy. The Sankhala family, and the lodges they operate, remain the pioneers of wildlife conservation in India and help local communities become involved in the conservation efforts that surround



them. We enjoy our Welcome Dinner tonight. Overnight at Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge...BLD  
Approximate Flight Time: 1.5 hours  
Approximate Driving Time and Distance: 3 hours, 99 miles

### DAYS 3-4 BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK / 4WD WILDLIFE SAFARIS

Steeped in history with 10th century shrines, temples, and hermit caves within its tropical forests and valleys, Bandhavgarh is one of India's most beautiful parks and has been the backdrop of numerous wildlife documentaries. The park boasts one of the highest density of tigers anywhere in the world and protects 168 square miles of mixed forests and grasslands that are also home to sloth bear, langur monkey, mongoose, and more than 150 species of birds, among them golden orioles and purple sunbirds.

Our days begin with an early wake-up call (5:00-5:45 am), when tea and coffee are brought to our rooms in the mists of the morning, with the sounds of bird calls all around. Dawn is the best time to see wildlife and the light is absolutely beautiful at this hour. We head out by 4WD vehicle, accompanied by our Trip Leader, resident naturalists, and park guides (it can be chilly in the early morning, so warm clothes, hats, and gloves are important for protection from wind-chill in the open-roofed jeep). During our explorations in this park (as well as at the other parks we visit on our journey), we'll stop at a scenic spot for a picnic-style breakfast, and return to the lodge for lunch, with a second 4WD safari in the afternoon (or enjoy other lodge activities).

Before dinner most nights, we'll enjoy presentations by the resident naturalist and our Trip Leader. Topics will vary

throughout the trip, but will include: the story of the Indian tiger today, the challenges imposed by poaching and loss of habitat, the varied effects of tourism, recent developments in conservation, the creation of community partnerships and community empowerment as a solution to reducing human-wildlife conflict, and much more! Overnights at Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge...BLD each day

### DAY 5 KANHA NATIONAL PARK / KANHA JUNGLE LODGE

After a morning safari in Bandhavgarh and an early lunch at the lodge, we head out for a day's drive through rural countryside dotted with colorful towns and villages. En route, we'll make a stop at the sleepy town of Mandla, located on the Narmada River, one of India's holy rivers and long associated with Lord Shiva.

In the late afternoon, we arrive at lovely Kanha Jungle Lodge, where we are welcomed by our hosts Tarun and Dimple Bhati and their son Jai. Tarun, the lodge's manager, is an encyclopedia of knowledge with 20 years of experience in wildlife tourism. Dimple was the first person to publish a book on Kanha's wildflowers and continues to document information on common butterflies in the area. When Dimple isn't taking you on a bird and butterfly stroll, she is showing you the wonders of the stars through her telescope or teaching you about the flavors of Indian cooking.

Their son Jai, great grandson of Kailash Sankhala, was born and raised at Kanha Jungle Lodge, receiving an education in tracking skills that no classroom could teach him. The UK's Telegraph newspaper called him "India's 15-year-old answer to David Attenborough." He was one of the stars of the





Sundance Discovery Channel documentary Tigerland, which we'll see before dinner. Overnight at Kanha Jungle Lodge...BLD

Approximate Driving Time and Distance: 6 hours, 150 miles

## DAYS 6-7 KANHA NATIONAL PARK / 4WD WILDLIFE SAFARIS

Kanha National Park is vast—350 square miles of mixed forests interspersed with meadows watered by perennial streams that provide a source of water for the wildlife. The royal Bengal tiger, India's proud symbol and an integral part of Indian mythology and culture, is the draw at Kanha, but the lush sal and bamboo forests, grassy meadows, and ravines shelter a significant population of rare species such as leopard, sloth bear, and wild dog, to name a few. Kanha is also well known for its endangered swamp deer, or hard-ground barasingha, which populate the large open tracks of grassland. Brought back from the brink of extinction, these handsome animals are a remarkable conservation success story for Kanha.

One of Project Tiger's initiatives is to control human-animal conflict by incentivizing villages to move from core areas of the reserves into the buffer zones, so that wildlife corridors can be linked once again. The open grasslands of the park are the result of Project Tiger having created corridors. Habitat corridors have allowed movement between isolated populations, promoting increased genetic diversity and allowing the successful growth of a prey base for predators.

Kanha's landscapes are quite varied and very beautiful, from dense jungle to rocky, hilly terrain. We'll have early morning and late afternoon safaris each day by open 4WD vehicles, with additional time for nature walks, visits to the nearby

school or village, a cooking demonstration, and sharing stories of sightings of the day over drinks by the fire pit. On one day, we'll stretch our legs with a walk down to the Banjar River as our naturalists identify the local flora and fauna. The termite mounds, flying squirrels, and butterflies are enchanting here. Evenings are for relaxed dinners and stargazing, as well as talks by our naturalists. Overnights at Kanha Jungle Lodge...BLD each day

## DAY 8 PENCH NATIONAL PARK / JAMTARA WILDERNESS CAMP

After a final morning safari drive at Kanha and an early brunch, we drive to Pench National Park and check in at Jamtara Wilderness Camp, set at the remote north gate. Pench is the 19th reserve of Project Tiger and is dominated by a fairly open canopy of mixed forest, predominantly teak, with open grassy patches. It boasts the highest density of herbivores of any Indian park, along with leopard, tiger, jungle cat, dhole (wild dog), sloth bear, wild boar, and mongoose. Award-winning Jamtara has 10 safari-style tents with king or twin beds and private bathrooms, and there is an infinity pool for a refreshing dip. Each tented room overlooks the forest, offering a scenic background for the wildlife experiences. Overnight at Jamtara Wilderness Camp...BLD

Approximate Driving Time and Distance: 4-5 hours, 125 miles

## DAYS 9-10 PENCH NATIONAL PARK / 4WD WILDLIFE SAFARIS

Named after the pristine River Pench that flows through the park, Pench is known as the setting of Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book. Kipling was born in British India, and although it is likely he never visited a central Indian jungle,







he was inspired by tales he had heard of a boy raised in the jungle by wolves. He was a man of his time and a full-throated supporter of British colonialism, yet his classic tale of the jungle boy Mowgli and of Akela (the Indian wolf), Baloo (the sloth bear), and Shere Khan (the royal Bengal tiger) still resonates today.

The Kanha-Pench landscape has been the focus of extensive research as well as active government support to establish a wildlife corridor, making it an ideal case-study for other areas throughout India. The park has 39 species of mammals, 13 species of reptiles, and three species of amphibians. It is an important ecosystem because of its hydrology (part of the area is a watershed for the Narmada River) and biodiversity (it supports endangered and vulnerable species such as tiger and hard-ground barasingha).

We enjoy morning and afternoon safaris each day. Before dinner in the evenings, there will be talks with our naturalists about what we saw during the day as well as discussions about the innovative conservation efforts in the area. Overnights at Jamtara Wilderness Camp...BLD each day

The “Star Bed” Concept: Jamtara Wilderness Camp believes in supporting the local community, so one special option at Jamtara is spending a night in a private machan—a “star bed”—on the land of a local farmer. Set on a raised platform, it is complete with a four-poster bed enclosed in mosquito

netting! It’s a great way to stargaze and truly experience the Indian night. There is only one “star bed” at the camp, which we will offer as a single night stay on a first-come first-serve basis when participants sign up. This comes with an extra fee, but gives you the opportunity to sleep out amid the live orchestra of crickets, owls, frogs, and jackals, punctuated by the alarm calls of the spotted deer. Please call for pricing.

## DAY 11 SATPURA NATIONAL PARK / RENI PANI JUNGLE LODGE

After a morning safari and lunch at camp, we drive to our lodge at Satpura National Park. Satpura, under Project Tiger, is one of central India’s lesser-known jewels, with an extremely biodiverse central Indian highland ecosystem. Satpura is an emerging tiger reserve (there are tigers, but they tend to stay in remote areas during the day). It is better known for frequent sightings of the elusive sloth bear, leopard, wild dog, Indian giant squirrel, gaur (Indian bison), and other classic central Indian fauna. There are also over 250 species of birds recorded here. Satpura is unique because in addition to game drives, we are allowed to enjoy game walks and take a canoe safari on the beautiful Tawa Reservoir.

Reni Pani Jungle Lodge is a conservation-focused luxury property surrounded by 30 acres of forest close to the park. Accommodation is in 12 air-conditioned cottages with private decks. A lot of wildlife visits the lodge grounds, including spotted deer, wild pig, langur monkey, rhesus macaque, jungle





cat, palm civet, and occasionally wild dog, leopard, and sloth bear.

Reni Pani has adopted the local village's primary school, sending their naturalists there to conduct wildlife awareness workshops with the children. In a highly populated country like India, acceptance of wildlife among forest dwelling communities plays a crucial role in the conservation process. After checking in, we can walk to the local village to see its market and shops, watch the cows coming back into town at sunset, or just relax at the lodge. Before dinner, there will be a talk on the biodiversity of Satpura and how it is emerging as an important tiger landscape. Overnight at Reni Pani Jungle Lodge...BLD Approximate Driving Time and Distance: 5 hours, 135 miles

#### **DAYS 12-13 SATPURA NATIONAL PARK / 4WD WILDLIFE SAFARIS / CANOEING OR BOATING**

On these final two days, we explore in several different ways. On our first day, we set out for a morning game drive in search of sloth bear, leopard, Indian wild dog, and great birdlife, then a late afternoon game drive. We will then head back to the lodge and do a nature walk around the area.

The following day, we enjoy canoeing or boating at the Tawa Reservoir, a wonderful way to soak up the magical landscape of Satpura, and it's great for seeing water birds. We'll leave the choice of activities up to the Trip Leader and preferences of the group. There will be an opportunity to visit the local

primary school and engage with the children and teachers to understand the local education system in these forest areas of India. A festive Farewell Dinner on Day 13 caps off our adventure. Overnights at Reni Pani Jungle Lodge...BLD each day

#### **DAYS 14-15 BHOPAL / DELHI / DEPART**

After a final morning safari and an early lunch on Day 14, we drive to the Bhopal airport for a late afternoon flight to the Delhi international airport, arriving in the early evening. You can depart this evening after 10:00 pm, or spend the night and depart on Day 15 (all transfers are included to/from the Delhi airport)...BL (Day 14) / B (Day 15)

Approximate Flight Time (Day 14): 1.5 hours

Approximate Driving Time and Distance (Day 14): 3 hours, 88 miles

# Trip Details

## DATE AND PRICING INFORMATION

### TRIP COST

#### Prices are per person, valid through Spring 2025

\$7,595 (12-16 members)

\$7,995 (8-11 members)

\$8,395 (4-7 members)

Single supplement: \$2,685

Internal airfare: \$425 (subject to change)

*Please contact us for future years' pricing*

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

### CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

### TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations
- All meals included except 2 dinners
- Ground transportation
- Airport transfers

### TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, internal airfare, airport departure taxes, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, hotels en route to or on return from Delhi or additional hotel nights that may be necessary due to airline schedule changes or other factors, visa fees, cost of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

### CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 121 days prior to departure: No charge!

91-120 days prior to departure: \$600 per person

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

60 days or less: 100% of trip cost

\*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

[www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance)



# Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

## ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Andaz Delhi  
Delhi, India

**Suggested Airport:** Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 1, afternoon

**Meeting Place:** A complimentary transfer is provided from the Delhi airport to the group hotel, no matter when you arrive. Check-in begins at 2:00 pm. There are no scheduled activities on Day 1.

If you have booked extra services for early arrival, a voucher for your transfer and extra hotel nights will be sent with your final documents.

## DEPARTURE

Delhi, India

**Suggested Airport:** Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL)

**Suggested Date & Time:** Day 14, after 10:00 pm, or Day 15, anytime

A complimentary transfer is provided from the group hotel to the Delhi Airport, no matter when you depart.

Check-out time from the hotel is 12:00 pm on Day 15.

If you are departing on a different day, extra hotel nights can be arranged at additional cost.

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from India. There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 970-818-8459 in the US or Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com).

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

**Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip.** Once tickets are purchased, please forward a copy of your email flight confirmation from the airline. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

# Accommodations



## ANDAZ DELHI

*New Delhi, India*

*Day 1 (1 night), Day 14 (1 night)*

Located just a few miles from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, you can watch the planes come and go from this contemporary city hotel. Grab a gin and tonic at the Juniper Bar (India's first gin bar), which offers 35 types of gin and tonic infusions, or if you feel like jumping into an even livelier scene, you can head to the multilevel Hong Kong Club for Cantonese food and a Chinese zodiac-inspired cocktail. The hotel restaurant serves a range of European and Indian food using locally-sourced produce, and there is a small café where you can get a seasonal salad or flavored flatbread. There is also a spa, fitness center, and an outdoor swimming pool.



## BANDHAVGARH JUNGLE LODGE

*Bandhavgarh, India*

*Days 2 to 4 (3 nights)*

With 14 spacious cottages set around an inner courtyard, Bandhavgarh has the welcoming feel of a village. Each cottage has a private bathroom and a spacious deck. The common area features a comfortable lounge warmed by a fire, and meals are served in a spacious thatched dining room that becomes the center for activities such as lectures and star gazing. In the mornings, guests wake up to a symphony of bird songs, while at night the alarm calls of deer can alert you to a tiger on the prowl!



## KANHA JUNGLE LODGE

*Kanha National Park, India*

*Days 5 to 7 (3 nights)*

Kanha Jungle Lodge, built in 1987 and family-run, provides an environmentally friendly experience of the untamed beauty of Kanha, with 18 well-appointed rooms. It is close to the Mukki entrance gate to the park, so the sounds of wildlife, including the occasional roar of a tiger or alarm call of a deer, can be heard right from the lodge.





## JAMTARA WILDERNESS CAMP

*Pench National Park, India*

*Days 8 to 10 (3 nights)*

Jamtara has 10 safari-style tents with king or twin beds, and each tent has a private bathroom. The tents are designed to feel light and open-air, with the option of rolling up the front panels for optimum views of nature while still maintaining privacy. The camp has an infinity pool for a relaxing splash between safari outings. Jamtara offers the option of a night in a private machan, a “sky bed” on a raised platform. The sky bed is a comfortable four-poster enclosed in mosquito netting.



## RENI PANI JUNGLE LODGE

*Satpura, India*

*Days 11 to 13 (3 nights)*

At Reni Pani, named for the neighboring tribal village, guests are accommodated in 12 stylish air-conditioned cottages featuring large bay windows and shaded private decks. Each cottage has a luxurious bathroom as well as a private outdoor shower. Common areas at the lodge include a comfortable bar and lounge, a library, and a seasonal swimming pool for a refreshing dip. The lodge's massage facility offers five different types of massages to soothe tired muscles after a day's outing.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Central India: In the Realm of the Tiger* webpage and click on “Accommodations.”

# Our Guides

## MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Our India Trip Leaders are the best and most experienced guides in the country, with a gift for bringing the natural world to life. They focus on all the details, from finding wildlife in places our untrained eyes would miss to answering your every question. They have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey, and we are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible.



### AVIJIT DUTTA

Originally from the bustling city of Calcutta, Avijit felt his true calling in India's wild landscapes and is the perfect travel companion to explore wildlife, tribes, and local cuisines across the country. He spent his childhood in the mountains of Kalimpong and later worked as a naturalist guide in the Pench Tiger Reserve. Avijit holds a degree in history and tourism and his writing and photography have been featured in a number of publications, including National Geographic Traveller India. When not leading trips, he creates teaching courses about wildlife and nature for kids.



### INDRAJIT LATEY

Indrajit Latey has worked in the fields of wildlife management and nature tourism for the past 19 years. His interest in wildlife was ignited during his childhood years, when he spent summers in Melghat Tiger Reserve in India's northern state of Maharashtra. He later worked as a naturalist for the World Wildlife Fund in Pune, and for six years lived and worked in Kanha National Park. Whether he is guiding wildlife groups, diving in coral reefs, or skiing in the Himalayas, Indrajit is at home in all terrain. He is passionate about photography and realized a childhood dream a few years ago when he visited Africa's Masai Mara and Serengeti as leader of a group of professional photographers. In 2017, he used his conservation and wildlife knowledge on a month-long stint to explore the northeastern rainforests of India.



### SURYA RAMACHANDRAN

Surya Ramachandran trained as an electrical engineer but his lifelong fascination with nature led him to switch careers and become a professional naturalist in the wilds of Central India, where he spent time in Satpura, Kanha, and Panna national parks and authored the Photographic Guide to Central Indian Wildlife. He is widely traveled in India, with a focus on the deserts of Ladakh, Western India, and the Western Ghats. For the last six years, Surya has traveled in the Trans-Himalaya of India exploring the possibilities of working with local communities to set up snow leopard and brown-bear tracking operations.





### ALLWYN D'SOUZA

Born and brought up in the coastal belt of Goa, Allwyn acquired his interest in nature while walking through the hills near his home. After completing junior college in Goa, he followed his passion and worked as a naturalist in Bandhavgarh National Park, as well as in Ranthambhore and Kanha national parks and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary. In 2012 he became the Head Naturalist at Mahua Kothi Lodge in Bandhavgarh, and since 2016, has been allied with Jamtara Wilderness Camp. Along with his passion for wildlife, Allwyn also has a keen interest in birds and photography. He's also a big foodie and loves to share his cooking skills with colleagues and guests.



### HARENDRA SINGH

Harendra Singh grew up on the edge of India's Keoladeo National Park, where he first developed his love for nature. He is a licensed cultural and naturalist guide, and has worked for the Ministry of Tourism in northern India as well as spent four years leading wildlife safaris in Bandhavgarh, Kanha, and Pench national parks, where he enjoys tracking tigers. An avid birder, Harendra loves to introduce travelers to the wonder of India's diverse ecosystems. In his spare time, Harendra enjoys photography and studying India's history.

# What the Trip is Like

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 2 (Easy to Moderate) according to our trip grading system. This is a lodge- or tented camp-based safari with game viewing by open 4WD vehicle. Although the trip is not rigorous, it does involve some long driving days over rough roads and rugged game tracks—you will enjoy it more if you are in good shape and good health. Any safari is an adventure, and the traveler to India should bring along flexibility, a sense of humor, curiosity about new peoples and places, and an openness to the unexpected.

**Average Day:** Our days begin with an early morning wake-up call (5:00-5:45 am), when tea and coffee are brought to our rooms. We head out by 4WD vehicle for a morning safari. We'll stop at a scenic spot for a picnic-style breakfast, and return to the lodge for lunch, with a second 4WD safari in the afternoon.

## WEATHER

In the Central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, February-March are warm months, with average temperatures ranging from highs of 91F to lows of 60F, sometimes dropping into the 40s at dawn. Because water sources are more scarce during this time, it can be easier to find the wildlife.

October-November, the last months of the post monsoon-autumn, it is slightly less hot, with temperature averaging highs of 82F and lows of 50F. The forest is generally more beautiful at this time, but the wildlife may be a bit harder to spot among the greenery.

In the early dawn, when we start our morning safari drives, it can often be quite cold (40-45F) and you will need a warm jacket, hat, and gloves for these early drives in an open jeep. By 11:00 am, it will warm up considerably, and by mid-day, it will be 80-90F, with high humidity. Again in the evening, it

cools off and you will need a light jacket. Because of the varied temperatures each day, it is best to dress in layers.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Our accommodations are top-notch wildlife lodges ideally located for wildlife viewing. Each lodge is unique and comes with its own special touches, but delicious food and comfortable sleeping arrangements can be expected throughout your journey.

## CUISINE

Fresh food, much of it locally sourced, is prepared daily at each of our lodges. It will be a mix of Indian and Western cuisine, customized for the Western palate. It will be mild and not spicy (unless requested). A few of our dinners will be al fresco, served by candlelight in lovely settings. Because we start our safari drives very early, we will generally have picnic breakfasts on our drives—they may include fresh muffins, cookies, eggs, samosas, sandwiches, juice, tea, and coffee. Cooking classes at some of our lodges will offer lessons and tips in preparing Indian cuisine. Special diets (gluten-free, dairy-free) can be accommodated but please advise us in advance.

## TRANSPORTATION

Our safari vehicles have two rows for travelers, with two passengers per row, for a maximum of four trip members per vehicle. Each vehicle is attended by a certified driver as well as one of our expert naturalist guides. Our vehicles are open-roofed, so travelers can turn around for 360-degree wildlife viewing. In Delhi and on transfers between parks, we use comfortable vehicles with AC. Depending on the group size, vehicles range from a minivan that can accommodate up to three travelers and their luggage, to a minibus that can accommodate up to fourteen travelers and their luggage.

### Average Daily Max/Min °F

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bandhavgarh	77/48	82/54	91/61	100/72	106/79	99/79	88/75	84/73	88/73	90/66	84/55	77/48
Kanha	79/52	84/55	91/64	100/72	104/79	97/77	86/73	84/73	86/72	88/66	82/57	79/52
Delhi	69/45	74/50	84/59	96/70	102/78	101/82	94/80	92/79	93/76	91/67	82/55	73/47

### Rainfall - Inches

Bandhavgarh	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.4	5.3	15.7	17.1	7.8	1.0	0.4	0.6
Kanha	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.6	7.0	16.7	17.8	8.6	1.7	0.4	0.8
Delhi	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	1.0	2.8	9.3	9.3	4.5	0.7	0.4	0.4



# What the Trip is Like (cont'd)

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Asia Manager or email us at:

[asia@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:asia@wildernesstravel.com).

## REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.







## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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