natural habitat ADVENTURES

Discovering Our Planet Together



The Grand India Wildlife Adventure

An In-Depth Nature Odyssey in Search of Bengal Tigers & Other Rare Wildlife

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Trip Details:

Days
13 Days / Jan–May

Price
From $13895 (+Air)

The Grand India Wildlife Adventure

An In-Depth Nature Odyssey in Search of Bengal Tigers & Other Rare Wildlife

The Indian subcontinent is one of the world's most stimulating destinations. While its melange of cultures has long drawn the attention of historians and travelers, its wild habitats offer rare treasures for those who are passionate about nature. This comprehensive safari gets you far away from India's intense cities and into its natural realm, a landscape of powerful rivers, fabled jungles and intriguing wildlife. This is the native territory of the Bengal tiger, whose numbers are on the rise after a century of decline. Conservation travel is integral to protecting wildlife in India, and our presence directly benefits the continued existence of tigers and other precious endangered species, like the one-horned rhinoceros, which we go in search of on daily 4x4 wildlife drives. Join us for the grandest Indian wildlife safari we know of!

Trip Highlights

Take a Deep Dive into Three Top Wildlife Parks

Explore three diverse national parks and tiger reserves on extended safari drives in open 4x4s—you won't find a richer itinerary focused on India's varied wildlife

With Expert Guides, Search for Tigers & Much More

Join our naturalist Expedition Leaders in search of tigers, one-horned rhinos, Asian elephants, sloth bears, barking deer, Indian wild dogs, elegant peacocks and more

Stay at Secluded Ecolodges for an Immersion in Nature

Relax in well-appointed comfort at premier ecolodges tucked next to India's best wildlife reserves, and avoid crowds in our quiet, set-apart locations

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



The Grand India Wildlife Adventure Itinerary

An In-Depth Nature Odyssey in Search of Bengal Tigers & Other Rare Wildlife

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	New Delhi
Day 2	Jabalpur / Bandhavgarh National Park
Days 3–4	Bandhavgarh National Park
Day 5	Bandhavgarh / Kanha National Park
Days 6–7	Kanha National Park
Day 8	Kanha National Park
Day 9	Kanha / Raipur / Lucknow
Day 10	Lucknow / Dudhwa National Park
Days 11–12	Dudhwa National Park / Tharu Village
Day 13	Lucknow / Delhi



Day 1

New Delhi

Arrive in Delhi before your journey into India's tiger country

- Visit luminous Bangla Sahib and learn about the Sikh tradition of serving free community meals
- Explore the descending arches of Agrasen ki Baoli stepwell

Arrive in India's capital and transfer to the 5-star Taj Mahal Hotel, optimally located in the leafy heart of the Lutyens Delhi district with its broad boulevards, historic homes and government enclaves. The district is named after British architect Edwin Lutyens, who was responsible for much of the architectural design and building during the period of the British Raj, when India was part of the British Empire from the 1920s to 1940s.

This afternoon, discover some of the city's highlights on a tour of New Delhi. We'll drive past the India Gate, the President of India's residence and the vast new Parliament building erected in 2023. Gurudwara Bangla Sahib—one of the country's most revered Sikh temples—is a special stop, with its large community kitchen that generously prepares over 10,000 free meals each day, all cooked by volunteers using donated ingredients from Sikh farmers. At the National Gandhi Museum, we learn about the life and principles of Mahatma Gandhi via a rich collection of original relics, books, journals and documents, photographs, audio-visual materials and other memorabilia closely connected with Gandhi and India's struggle for independence. If the museum is closed on a Monday, we will visit Humayun's Tomb instead, a 16th-century Mughal architectural masterpiece and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to our hotel with time to refresh before a welcome dinner this evening, with an orientation to our India wildlife safari by our Expedition Leader.

Day 2

Jabalpur / Bandhavgarh National Park

Journey into one of India's richest Bengal tiger reserves

- Drive through rural Madhya Pradesh to Bandhavgarh National Park
- Settle into a deluxe ecolodge on the edge of tiger habitat
- Set out on your first 4x4 safari in search of Bengal tigers, time permitting

Transfer to the airport very early this morning for our flight south to Jabalpur. Continue on a half-day's drive through the countryside of Madhya Pradesh to reach Bandhavgarh National Park. An essential stop on any serious India safari, Bandhavgarh is renowned for one of the country's highest concentrations of Bengal tigers. Originally established as a national park in 1968, Bandhavgarh was declared a protected tiger reserve under Project Tiger in 1993. At 444 square miles, it is a relatively small park with a thriving tiger population, offering visitors a good chance of encountering them, as well as other distinctive Indian wildlife. Check in to Kings Lodge, a leading ecolodge surrounded by wild natural forest just outside the park boundary. Then, time permitting, we'll set out on our first wildlife drive in open 4x4 safari vehicles.

Days 3–4

Bandhavgarh National Park

Twice-daily safari drives in search of Bandhavgarh's tigers

- Search for Bengal tigers in one of the world's highest-density tiger habitats
- Watch for spotted deer, langurs and colorful birdlife across sal forests and grasslands
- Learn how experienced naturalists track tigers and other elusive wildlife

Over the next two days, explore Bandhavgarh's varied habitats on morning and afternoon wildlife drives. Covered predominantly with sal and mixed deciduous forest, thickets of bamboo and expansive grasslands that line the stream valleys, the park's hilly terrain harbors one of the world's highest densities of tigers. Bandhavgarh was once a prime hunting reserve for the Maharajas of Rewa, where Maharaja Raman Singh alone shot an astounding 111 tigers by 1914. Today it is a pacesetter in tiger protection. With tigers at the apex of the food chain, Bandhavgarh's rich biodiversity includes a multitude of other wildlife. We expect to see a sampler of its 37 mammal species, among which are leopard, jungle cat, civet, wild boar, sambar, spotted deer, muntjac (barking deer), gaur, sloth bear and Asiatic jackal. Some 250 bird species, 70 different butterflies and various reptiles round out the diverse wildlife population.

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Day 5

Bandhavgarh / Kanha National Park

Enter Kanha's sal forests, bamboo thickets and open meadows

- Travel through rural Madhya Pradesh en route to Kanha National Park
- Explore the landscapes associated with Kipling's The Jungle Book
- Discover a mosaic of forest and grassland supporting abundant wildlife

Embark this morning on a half-day drive to Kanha National Park. Situated in the Satpura Hills of central India, the park covers 750 square miles of rich and varied wildlife habitat. Its lush sal and bamboo forests, grassy meadows and ravines provided inspiration to Rudyard Kipling for his famous collection of stories in *The Jungle Book* . Kanha was established as a national park in 1955 and forms the core of the Kanha Tiger Reserve, created in 1974 under India's Project Tiger. The park's landmark achievement is the preservation of the rare barasingha, an endangered swamp deer with 12-point antlers, saving it from near-extinction. Strict conservation programs for the overall protection of the park's fauna and flora make Kanha one of the most exemplary national parks in Asia. From our luxurious ecolodge base in the tiger heartland of the world, learn in depth about the Bengal tiger and its habitat and observe how conservation travel directly benefits local communities and the tiger reserve. Following lunch on arrival, gain an introduction to the region on an initial safari drive, where we may spot our first Bengal tiger among other abundant wildlife.

Days 6–7

Kanha National Park

Track Bengal tigers across Kanha's forests and meadows

- Search for tigers on morning and afternoon wildlife drives
- Look for endangered barasingha grazing in Kanha's open meadows
- Watch for leopards, dholes, gaur and other wildlife across varied habitats

Scenic Kanha, once a hunting ground for imperial rulers and viceroys, is now one of India's most important conservation reserves. We spend three days exploring this premier national park in search of Bengal tigers and other wildlife on excursions in open 4x4 vehicles. With ideal habitat for tigers and their prey, it offers some of India's best tiger viewing, though it can take effort to locate them in the sun-dappled forest that provides superb camouflage for many species. On our first two days, we greet the dawn with an early wildlife drive, entering the park just as the sun's rays are breaking over the jungle. The open meadows where herbivores graze attract tiger, leopard and dhole (wild dog) to the edges of the clearings, and we'll hope to see some of these predators on the hunt. The Banjaar River bordering the park provides a steady water source for wildlife. Dense jungle interspersed with vast grassy meadows called *maidans* support a range of species similar to those in Bandhavgarh. Other mammals we might see include barasingha (swamp deer), common langur, gaur (the world's largest wild ox) and rhesus monkeys. After returning to our ecolodge for lunch, we head back out for afternoon wildlife drives, anticipating more chances to search for tigers and other wildlife.

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Day 8

Kanha National Park

Walk Kanha's sal forest before another wildlife drive

- Follow the Bahmani Nature Trail through shaded sal woodland
- Look for sambar, spotted deer, wild boars and forest birds from an open 4x4
- Enjoy a traditional cultural performance in the evening

As the morning mists lift, walk with our Expedition Leader in the buffer zone on the edge of the park's core area, following the Bahmani Nature Trail through pristine sal forest along the Banjar River. To be on foot in the jungle offers an intimate, primal encounter with this dense habitat and its wild inhabitants, in a manner that engages all five senses. Feel the leathery texture of a tendu leaf or size up a tiger's pugmark with your hand. Smell the medley of fragrances, from blooming flowers to the aromatic herbs trampled by herds of deer. Hear birdsong, taste wild berries, and feel the thrill of walking on paths imprinted by predators as we listen for alarm calls that resound through the jungle. Our guide shows us how to interpret tracks and other signs of animal activity, and it's especially exciting to find fresh pugmarks on the sandy riverbank. Look, too, for scratch marks, scat, droppings and scent marks that enhance awareness of the multitude of hidden creatures that surround us. Get a glimpse into the ancient geological history of the region, standing on metamorphic rocks near the edge of the river, with gneiss, basalt and quartz exposed by the erosive power of water flowing over millions of years. We also learn more about the Indigenous people who have been hunter-gatherers in this jungle for millennia, part of the intricate web of life here.

This afternoon, a final game drive in Kanha National Park offers one last chance to spot tigers and other wildlife amid the photogenic landscape of rolling hills, dense forest and grasslands. Later this evening, after we gather for dinner, join in some festive dancing around the campfire during a cultural presentation at our lodge.

Day 9

Kanha / Raipur / Lucknow

Travel from Kanha to the historic city of Lucknow

- Drive to Raipur as village and agricultural landscapes unfold along the road
- Fly to Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh
- Settle into a hotel overlooking the Gomti River

Depart Kanha this morning and drive a half-day to Raipur, watching scenes of daily rural life unfold along the roadside, then fly to Lucknow, the capital and largest city in the state of Uttar Pradesh in northeast India. We arrive early this evening and check in to the 5-star Taj Mahal Hotel. This regal property on the Gomti River provides a restful oasis after a long day of travel as we transit from one region of the country to another.

Day 10

Lucknow / Dudhwa National Park

Reach Dudhwa's grasslands and forests along the Nepal border

- Drive to a national park well beyond India's conventional safari circuit
- Watch for swamp deer across the Terai grasslands
- Stay at Jaagir Manor, an 80-year-old hunting lodge converted into a retreat

Drive a half-day from Lucknow to Dudhwa National Park, a thriving wildlife enclave well off the conventional safari circuit. The 190-square-mile park in the state of Uttar Pradesh lies on the Indo-Nepal border, protecting some of the last pristine expanses of Terai forest and grasslands in the Upper Gangetic Plains. Originally established as a wildlife sanctuary for the endangered swamp deer (barasingha), with its magnificent 12-point rack, it later became a tiger reserve in 1987. Today, tigers, leopards and many deer species abound, and the park has also successfully reintroduced a healthy population of one-horned Indian rhinoceros from Assam and Nepal, once hunted nearly to extinction. Other mammals include Asian elephant, sloth bear, wild boar, honey badger, langur, rhesus monkey, golden jackal, jungle cat, fishing cat, and more than 400 bird species. Among the avian highlights are hornbill, red jungle fowl, Bengal florican, fishing eagle, serpent eagle and paradise flycatcher.

On the outskirts of the park, we stay at Jaagir Manor, an 80-year-old former hunting lodge turned heritage eco-retreat. The colonial manor house offers luxury accommodations in period-1940s style, its focus today on hosting guests keen to conserve the wild species that were formerly targets.

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Days 11–12

Dudhwa National Park / Tharu Village

Search for tigers and rhinos in Dudhwa's Terai landscape

- Set out on multiple wildlife drives through forest, wetlands and tall grass
- Look for one-horned rhinos reintroduced to Dudhwa's grasslands
- Visit a Tharu village and learn about Indigenous culture and daily life

Multiple game drives reveal the prolific wildlife of Dudhwa National Park, part of an extensive arc of protected areas in the marshy lowlands along the Indo-Nepal border. This relatively undiscovered gem among Indian safari-goers is one of three large interconnected forested sanctuaries that form the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, and the lush area today is the core of a viable tiger population. Some of the land was formerly used to grow sugarcane and returned to its natural state, while other tracts of native forest, predominantly sal and teak, are intermixed with extensive tall grasslands and wetlands inundated by rivers flowing down from the Himalaya.

The inspiring force behind the creation of the reserve was Billy Arjan Singh, a famous hunter-turned-conservationist who had a vision in the 1960s to introduce several zoo-born tigers and leopards back into the wild. Ultimately, his efforts led to the establishment of Dudhwa National Park by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1977, and Singh was awarded World Wildlife Fund's gold medal, its premier award, in 1996 for his conservation work. During our time, we will visit a local Tharu village, one of several in the area that are home to the Indigenous tribal people of the region. We'll also take a nature walk in the forests surrounding our lodge for an intimate view on our environs, looking for smaller wildlife species and birdlife with our Expedition Leader. On our final evening, revel in memories of our Indian safari adventures as we gather for a farewell dinner.

Day 13

Lucknow / Delhi

Return to Delhi after your India wildlife adventure

- Fly from Lucknow to Delhi
- Relax at your hotel before homeward flights

It's time to make the return drive to Lucknow this morning, then catch a 75-minute flight back to Delhi. Upon arrival at the Delhi airport, we transfer to our nearby hotel, just minutes away. An overnight stay is included along with a transfer to the international airport to meet departing flights, most of which leave late this evening.

Please Note: *National parks in central India are closed on Wednesday afternoons and on Holi, which typically falls in March. If any portion of our visit to Kanha or Bandhavgarh coincides with these closures, we will have alternate activities planned in place of scheduled safari(s). When closures occur on Holi, guests may have the opportunity to experience this vibrant and culturally significant festival.*

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The Grand India Wildlife Adventure Accommodations

An In-Depth Nature Odyssey in Search of Bengal Tigers & Other Rare Wildlife



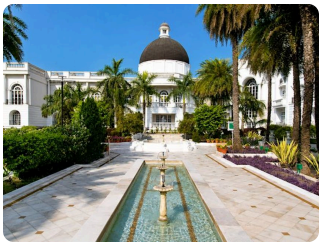
Kings Lodge

Nestled with the sal and bamboo forest on a large estate minutes from Bandhavgarh National Park, this esteemed ecolodge feels at one with nature and is a pacesetter when it comes to sustainable practices.



Singinawa Jungle Lodge

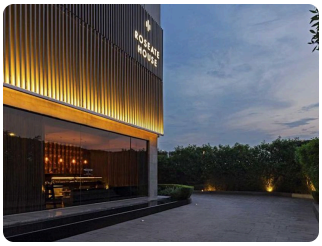
This lodge reflects the practice of the Sherpa philosophy of *singinawa*—protection of the sacred forest—and offers all the comforts of a full-service resort within the wild environs of India's tiger heartland.



Taj Mahal Lucknow

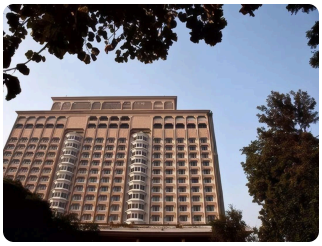
Set along the Gomti River, this elegant retreat combines grand domed architecture, formal gardens and spacious rooms with textile-inspired interiors, marble bathrooms, a full-service spa and outdoor pool.

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Roseate House New Delhi

A modern sanctuary in New Delhi’s vibrant Aerocity, Roseate House is a luxurious urban retreat, offering contemporary rooms, world-class dining, and personalized service—all just minutes from the airport and metro station.



Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi

One of the most distinguished in India's leafy capital district, this 5-star hotel is a New Delhi landmark, with elegant interiors and finely appointed rooms reflecting traditional Mughal heritage in art, antiques and ambiance.



Jaagir Manor

A restored 80-year-old hunting lodge at the edge of Dudhwa National Park, where exposed brick, arches and antique-filled interiors meet jungle stillness, sprawling gardens and refined safari-style hospitality.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/asia-adventure-travel/wild-india/accommodations.

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Experience India's Wild Side, the Nat Hab Way

The Grand India Wildlife Adventure

India is one of the world's most captivating travel destinations. But choosing a trip can be overwhelming if you're looking to maximize your time in nature, up your odds of seeing tigers, avoid crowds wherever possible, and travel with a superlative guide. That's why we've designed the ideal India odyssey for nature lovers. Our Grand India trip is a comprehensive adventure that is simply the best way to experience India's outstanding wildlife. Here's why:

1 **An All-Encompassing Wildlife Itinerary...in Less-Traveled Parks**

This is the ultimate India experience for nature lovers. Boost your chances of seeing Bengal tigers—plus a host of other Indian wildlife—on visits to three different national parks that are home to some of India's most concentrated tiger populations. Most travelers go to Ranthambore National Park at peak season, which is heavily advertised and very crowded. We visit equally appealing Bandhavgarh National Park instead, plus Kanha and Dudhwa, which are more remote with fewer tourists and feature excellent chances to see Asian elephant and one-horned rhinoceros.

2 **India's Finest Naturalist Guides**

Our India Expedition Leaders average more than 15 years' experience—with top-level training including resources from WWF scientists. You won't find more knowledgeable, personable or enthusiastic guides than those who are proud to work for us. Our philosophy is simple: a nature adventure is only as good as the guide who leads it, so we provide the very best! **See Expedition Leader bios** with traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

3 **A Small Group Means More Authentic Nature Experiences**

Most visitors to India travel in large groups aboard tour buses, focusing on cities and crowded cultural monuments. But that's no way to experience India's rich nature, which is our focus. We take just 11 guests, for a lower impact in nature reserves and more personal encounters with wildlife and local people.

4 **In-Depth Days of Wildlife-Focused Activities in Varied Habitats**

Spend extended time in three premier wildlife reserves as we explore contrasting Asian habitats. Morning and afternoon safari outings provide a variety of perspectives.

5 **Distinctive Accommodations Enhance Your Safari**

When you travel with us to India, our accommodations ensure your every comfort. Environmentally sensitive ecolodges, while secluded, offer exceptional amenities. Each is selected for proximity to wildlife and the high quality of the guest experience. India's luxury urban hotels are renowned worldwide, and the 5-star hospitality of the landmark Taj Mahal Hotel in Delhi and the Taj Mahal Lucknow offer welcome indulgences before and between our safari adventures.

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6 **Our Presence Directly Helps to Protect Tigers**

After years of precipitously declining tiger numbers, India is charting steady increases. Its 2022 quadrennial tiger census counted 3,682 tigers, up from 2,967 in 2018, an annual rise of 6%. Conservation groups attribute a share of the increase to responsible ecotourism. The economic value of visitors to India's tiger reserves benefits local communities, offering people an incentive to protect the wildlife they share the land with. Given that India is home to 75% of the world's remaining wild tigers, our presence here for wildlife tourism here is integral to that continued success.

7 **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding India Wildlife Safari**

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive quality value guarantee that promises we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. **Read our important promise.**

8 **Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey**

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $13895 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 11 Travelers

The Grand India Wildlife Adventure Dates, Pricing & Info

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2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Jan 3 - Jan 15, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Jan 7 - Jan 19, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	
Jan 11 - Jan 24, 2027	**$16495** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Jan 16 - Jan 28, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	
Jan 20 - Feb 1, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	
Jan 24 - Feb 5, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	
Feb 1 - Feb 13, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	
Feb 10 - Feb 22, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Feb 14 - Feb 26, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	
Feb 17 - Mar 2, 2027	**$16495** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Feb 25 - Mar 9, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	
Mar 5 - Mar 17, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	
Mar 9 - Mar 22, 2027	**$16495** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Mar 13 - Mar 25, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	
Mar 17 - Mar 29, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	
Mar 21 - Apr 2, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Mar 29 - Apr 10, 2027	**$13895** +internal air	
Apr 7 - Apr 19, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	
Apr 10 - Apr 23, 2027	**$16495** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Apr 15 - Apr 27, 2027	**$13895** +internal air	
Apr 19 - May 1, 2027	**$14295** +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Apr 27 - May 9, 2027	**$13895** +internal air	

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Jan 4 - Jan 16, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Jan 8 - Jan 20, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Jan 12 - Jan 24, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Jan 16 - Jan 28, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	

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Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Jan 20 - Feb 1, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Jan 24 - Feb 5, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Jan 28 - Feb 10, 2028	**From $15995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Feb 1 - Feb 13, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Feb 5 - Feb 17, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Feb 11 - Feb 23, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Feb 15 - Feb 27, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Feb 19 - Mar 2, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Feb 22 - Mar 5, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Feb 25 - Mar 8, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Feb 29 - Mar 12, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Mar 4 - Mar 16, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Mar 9 - Mar 21, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Mar 13 - Mar 25, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Mar 17 - Mar 29, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Mar 21 - Apr 3, 2028	**From $15995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Mar 25 - Apr 6, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Mar 29 - Apr 10, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Apr 8 - Apr 20, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Apr 12 - Apr 24, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	

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Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2028		
Apr 15 - Apr 28, 2028	**From $15995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Apr 22 - May 4, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Apr 26 - May 8, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
Apr 30 - May 13, 2028	**From $15995** +internal air	Photo Expedition
May 4 - May 16, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
May 8 - May 20, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	
May 12 - May 24, 2028	**From $13895** +internal air	

2029 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2029		
Jan 24 - Feb 5, 2029	**From $13895** +internal air	
Mar 23 - Apr 4, 2029	**From $13895** +internal air	

See https://www.nathab.com/asia-adventure-travel/wild-india/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Trip price includes: Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), local guides, lodge and park staff, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through lunch on final day, some gratuities, still camera fees, VIP airport arrival and departure service, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees, optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline baggage fees, required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance. Note: India requires additional fees for video camera usage in parks, which is not included in your trip fee.

Internal air: All flights within the itinerary (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

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Important Information About This Trip

Wildlife Encounters

Our guests choose a trip to India to encounter the country's unique wildlife. And while wild India is captivating, there is a significant difference between wildlife experiences in the Indian jungle and a typical African safari. Sometimes, guests attracted to India for a "tiger safari" can be disappointed to see fewer animals than expected, or at least fewer than they might typically see in Africa, if we are comparing tiger sightings to lions, for example. It is not that India's jungles are thinly populated with wildlife, but, similar to places like Costa Rica where the forest vegetation is dense, animals have mastered the art of camouflage in thick cover and can be very difficult to spot. We design our itineraries to capitalize on the best places and seasons to see tigers. But various factors can affect potential sightings, including inclement weather, which creates small pockets of water that allow the animals to remain hidden in the forest, rather than being driven into the open to drink. There is no doubt that the Indian jungles Kipling immortalized, offer wondrous discoveries. And the secret to uncovering them lies with the value of expert guides—and ours are second to none! With realistic expectations, an Indian safari holds plenty of rewards.

The Seasons

We schedule our departures at the best times of year to see wildlife. While tiger sightings do take a while to fully pick up after the long monsoon off-season (April–September), they become more frequen from mid-November onward. Water begins to evaporate from deep forest pools and streams, vegetation starts to dry up, and, most importantly, tiger activity accelerates, including mating, which mostly occurs in December and January. During this season, tigers are consistently on the move, walking game trails extensively, which makes sightings more probably and more exciting. They are also at their most vocal as they call out to mates and spray and mark their territories, stepping up their breeding efforts. In the fall and early winter, tigers (and many other animals) grow a brilliant winter coat that makes them look their most alluring. Other species, like the hardground swamp deer, also enter their rut in December, and males are extremely vocal with bugling. Winter is also the best time for birdwatching in India's tiger habitats, as large numbers of palearctic migrants arrive. Landscapes are also stunning in winter—frost on the grasslands and mist rising until late in the morning create an ethereal atmosphere, with shafts of sunlight filtering through the canopy. Weather-wise, winter is the most pleasant time of the year to travel in India. Cooler temperatures provide more comfort, and the previous season's rains create lush green scenery, though, it's important to keep in mind that thick jungle vegetation can impede wildlife sightings.

Safari Vehicle Routes & Seating Allocation

In contrast to nearly every other safari country we travel to, in India the driving routes in national parks are pre-assigned and must be followed. This is generally not a problem, but when searching for tigers, it can be frustrating, as they simply may not be visible on a particular route on a given day. We always hope to follow different routes on different days. However, the park service allocates routes at random for each vehicle, so there is no guarantee that vehicles will get a different route for each wildlife drive. Please understand that your assigned vehicle could take the same route multiple times, and we have no control over this situation, although our Expedition Leaders and local guides do all they can to facilitate rewarding animal sightings.

Also, on rare occasion you may see film crews inside the parks. They hold special permits to film inside park bounds with certain advantages over regular tourist vehicles, such as spending the entire day inside the park with access to places others cannot go.

Indian park regulations are also extremely strict with regard to seating arrangements on wildlife drives. Requirements dictate that guests be confirmed in specific vehicles upon booking, well in advance of the departure date, and we are unable to change vehicles while we are exploring each park. To the best of our ability, we attempt to ensure that guests who are traveling with a

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partner or friend will have seats together during wildlife drives. Because couples or friends are booked together in the same vehicle and are unable to split up during drives, it may mean that in some instances, certain vehicles will contain fewer guests than others.

It is also important to understand the limitations based on available vehicle space. Each open safari vehicle has two front seats and two rows of bench seats. Regulations require that the front two seats be occupied by a park ranger and registered driver. Our Expedition Leader and local guides are allowed more flexibility and will switch among vehicles for each drive so all guests are able to spend equal time with them. However, this means that since our Expedition Leaders and local guides rotate vehicles, there may be times when there will be three people (two guests and one Expedition Leader or local guide) to a row—our Expedition Leader/local guides may be required to sit in the rear left seat of the vehicle.

Please know that while there are indeed limiting factors to the tiger viewing experience in India, we have gone to every effort to ensure that your Grand India Wildlife Adventure India with Nat Hab provides the best tiger and wildlife viewing potential possible.

Cell Phone Ban in Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Parks
Tiger reserves in the state of Madhya Pradesh, which includes Bandhavgarh and Kanha national parks, have a strict ban on the use of mobile phones by all visitors within the parks' Core Zone, with no exceptions. Guests are not allowed to use cell phones for *any* purpose, including photography and taking videos, anywhere within the park. This ban is in place to reduce disturbance to wildlife, enhance the safari experience, and combat the use of location tags by poachers to track tigers. It also supports traditional tiger-tracking methods through word of mouth, which minimizes the number of vehicles at sightings. Tiger sightings take on a whole new level of intimacy when cell phones are set aside, ensuring a more respectful and less intrusive encounter for both humans and wildlife.

To facilitate photography in the park, Nat Hab has developed an exclusive program with Lensrentals, a premier lens rental company. Through our special arrangement, Nat Hab travelers can rent top-quality cameras, lenses, spotting scopes, tripods, flashes, backpacks and other equipment at a 15% discount. To review the available options, visit lensrentals.com. To obtain the discount, add the code “NATHAB15” to the “Promo Code” box and hit “Apply” upon checkout.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to on this trip are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require medical evacuation insurance for our guests' safety. If you decline the medical evacuation insurance coverage offered by Natural Habitat, we request that you send us documentation of the independent coverage you have selected. We will add the cost of a medical evacuation policy to your tour invoice until you provide our office with proof of coverage including your insurance company's name, contact number and your individual policy number. Thank you for understanding that our policy exists exclusively in the interest of our guests' safety.

Getting There & Getting Home

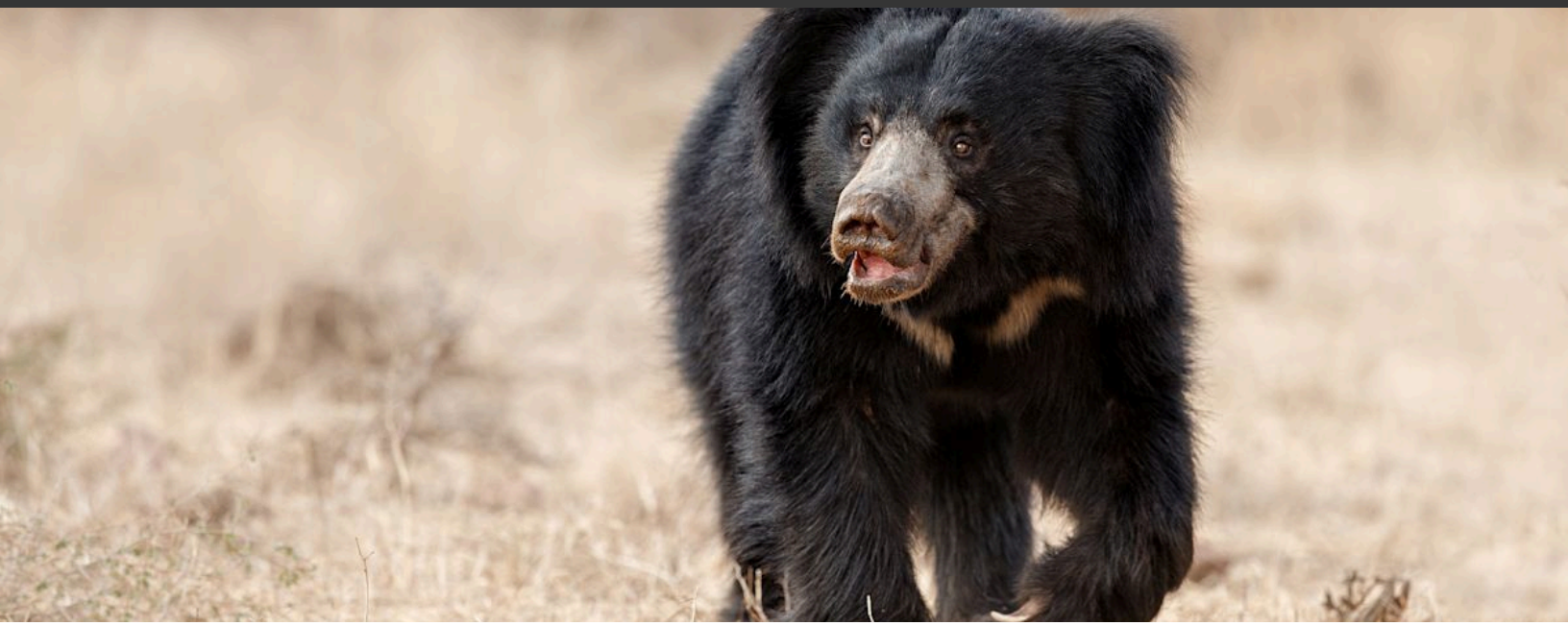
This trip begins and ends in Delhi. Because this is a long international journey with considerable travel time and time-zone adjustment, **we recommend that you arrive the night before Day 1** to rest from your travels and begin the trip refreshed. For guests who come in early, our recommended hotel will be included in your pre-departure materials.

If you plan to arrive on Day 1, you must arrive in Delhi by 9 am in order to participate in a guided city tour beginning at approximately 1 pm.

You may depart Delhi any time after 9 pm on the final day.

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Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



The Grand India Wildlife Adventure Extensions

An In-Depth Nature Odyssey in Search of Bengal Tigers & Other Rare Wildlife



Agra & the Taj Mahal Extension

Extend your India wildlife adventure with this cultural journey to the fabled Taj Mahal and Agra Red Fort, elaborate monuments to the splendors of the Mughal imperial age.

$2395



Wild & Ancient Himalaya: Nepal & Bhutan

Explore mountain heights and jungle lowlands on this soulful journey through the cultural and wildlife treasures of two neighboring Himalayan nations—including rhino tracking in Chitwan National Park.

$15095 (+air)



Land of the Snow Leopard

On a winter adventure in far-north India, join a quest to view one of the world's most elusive cats. Stay in the very midst of its high alpine habitat at our private, deluxe ecolodge in a small village in Ladakh.

$10995 (+air)



Snow Leopard Quest Photo Expedition

In the company of expert spotters, track the world's most elusive big cats in their native Himalayan habitat on our small-group winter photo safari to the remote alpine heights of Ladakh in far-north India.

$13395 (+air)



India Tiger Safari

As spring gives way to early summer, temperatures rise, crowds dissipate, and tigers appear more readily. Explore Tadoba National Park, a rising star in India’s renowned collection of tiger parks.

$9895

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