

A tryst with the Wildlife & Tribes of Central India

Safaris, Nature Walks, Tribe visits and Boat Ride.

Trip overview

The state of Madhya Pradesh is known as the “Heart of India” because of a lot many things that it has to offer. It has been home to cultural and spiritual heritage of almost all the religions. Innumerable monuments, intricately carved temples, stupas, forts and palaces are dotted all over the State. The natural beauty of the state is equally varied. Consisting largely of a plateau, the State has everything, from mighty mountain ranges to meandering rivers to miles of verdant forests. In fact a large part of it is under the forest cover, offering a unique and exciting panorama of wildlife. In the National Parks of Kanha, Bandhavgarh and Satpura you can spot the tiger, bison and a wide variety of deer and antelope.

Our tour introduces the visitors to some of the best habitat of wildlife, especially Tigers available in the country. Carpeted over the hills of central Indian highlands these jungles and hills are sources of some of the most important rivers of peninsular India. On this tour you will also visit a local village. Be a guest in a tribal home, see cow dung patty cakes being made for fuel wood, kitchen gardens and local produce being dried in the sun, watch the women work in the fields, paint intricate designs on their walls and floors, see the temple, and understand the harmony of their lives with nature.

The trip, hosted by **LE PASSAGE TO INDIA**, is proud to have **Prabhat Verma** leading this tour. Prabhat brings with him his vast experience selling Wildlife Tourism in India. He is an expert in spotting and identifying the wildlife & birds as well as a passionate wildlife photographer. The tour will be led if there are minimum 10 participants.

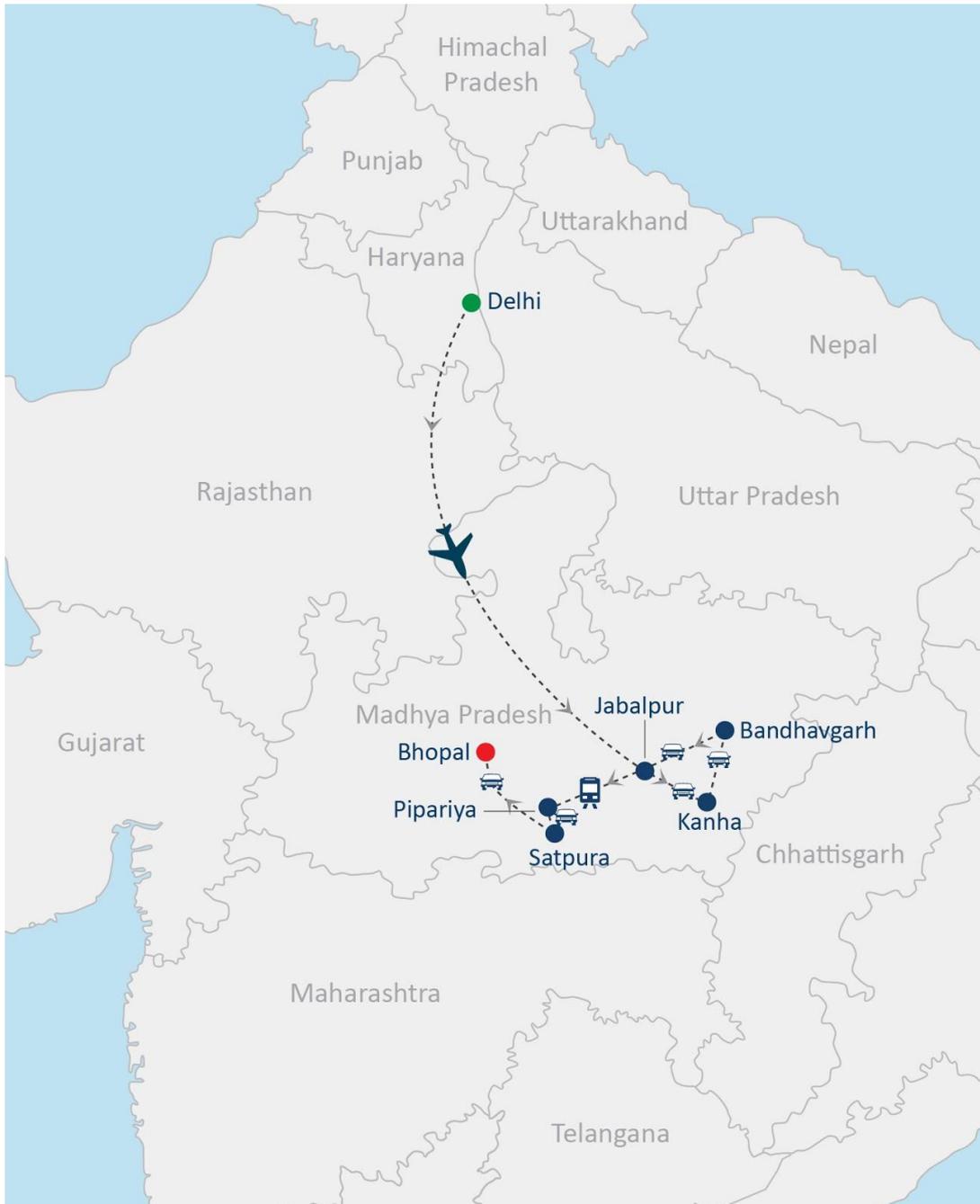
Trip highlights:

- Private Jeep Safaris in Kanha, Bandhavgarh & Satpura National parks.
- Nature Walks
- Full time Tour Manager for the entire trip
- Walking tour of the village and interaction with tribal
- Boat ride in Satpura
- Trained naturalists during the Safaris.

Route: Jabalpur – Kanha – Bandhavgarh – Satpura – Bhopal

Duration: 7 Days

Level: Moderate



Detailed itinerary

Day 1 | Arrive in Jabalpur and drive to Kanha

We will start very early and fly to Jabalpur, the gateway to Kanha. Drive for roughly 4 hours through rural countryside to arrive at the beautiful lodge that has been reserved for you for two nights.

At lunch, get oriented about the area and the lodge by resident naturalist.

Take the afternoon safari, which is our first foray in to the dense forest. Kanha is renowned as being 'the best managed Wildlife Park in Asia' and you are more than likely to have an excellent few days spotting wildlife here.

Safaris into Kanha offer excellent opportunities for wildlife photography and bird watching and it is considered one of the best places in the world to see wild tigers. Kanha National Park is one of India's largest parks, covering almost 2000 kilometres of pristine Indian wilderness. Situated in the Maikal Hills of the Satpura range, Kanha boasts a spectacular landscape of vast Sal tree forests, interspersed with flourishing green meadows and beautiful stretches of lush bamboo growth. This national park is one of the first nine tiger reserves established with the initial launch of Project Tiger in 1973, aimed at protecting tigers and their ecosystems. Kanha is prime tiger wilderness, and it remains Project Tiger's greatest success story.

Return to your lodge in the evening for dinner, over a slide show.

· Activity	Jeep Safari in the jungle
· Duration	3 hours
· Distance covered	8 – 10 kms.
· Accommodation:	Lodge
· Meals Included	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
· Transfer time:	4 hour's drive to the lodge.
· Itinerary difficulty rating	3 (Moderate)

Day 2 | In Kanha

Today is an exciting day in Kanha, and you will be able to have a morning jungle drive (our second safari) through the stunning Sal forests and meadows looking for sloth bear, jackal, the rare hardground Barasingha (swamp deer), sambar, and of course Sher Khan himself! Breakfast will be in the park during our Safari break.

There are many success stories of wildlife conservation are associated with this Kanha Tiger reserve and most prominent among them is the revival of population of hard Ground Barasingha. Kanha was declared a National Park in 1955 and Tiger reserve in 1973. The mammal and bird diversity of the park is fabulous having almost the entire faunal element of central India including Tiger, Leopard and Wild Dogs. 5 Types of Deer including the smallest one Mouse deer with Indian Gaur constitute the prey species for the carnivores. The beautiful mosaic of habitat of Sal forest and savannah grasslands are ideal for survival of the big mammals specially Tigers. Two perennial rivers flowing through the reserve ensures the water supply to the wildlife and forest throughout the year.

Return to the lodge for lunch.

Later, visit the tribes of GOND and BAIGHA to see their lifestyle and way of living. Interact with the villagers and also see a tribal museum for an insight into their uniqueness and art. During the afternoon tour today, we will walk in the villages and meet interesting tribal people, often displaying beautiful jewelry and tattoos. Besides their unique lifestyle, which makes an interesting subject, their smiling faces are a photographer's delight. The ancient Baiga tribe is indigenous to central India. Many of them can be found in the Mandla district, near Kanha National Park, in Madhya Pradesh. They live traditionally, in villages with mud huts and no electricity, completely untouched by modern development. They cook using primitive implements, cultivate and store their own rice, and brew potent toddy from the flowers of the sacred mahua tree. Throughout various phases of their life, Baiga women get tattoos on their head, arms, chest and legs, representing aspects of nature integral to the Baiga way of life. The Baigas still coexist with the Gonds. Yet, the Gond villages tell a different story of how this community has prospered while the Baigas have not. Artwork, which the Gonds have become well known for, has provided them with a lucrative source of income. Their homes have more facilities, often including electricity.

Sunset walk and tribal bush dinner.

· Activity	Jeep Safari in the jungle & a walking tour.
· Duration	3.5 hours
· Distance covered	8 – 10 kms.
· Accommodation:	Lodge
· Meals Included	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
· Itinerary difficulty rating	3 (Moderate)

Day 3 | Kanha - Bandhavgarh

This morning again you have to wake up early to explore the wildlife of Kanha by Jeeps- our 3rd and final safari in Kanha. Most of the animals and birds are active during early morning and late evening. So don't miss the chance and be first in the queue for entry into the park. Though sightings of charismatic animals like tiger leopard are a matter of luck but from our side we don't wanted to miss any chance.

Return to the lodge for a brunch and set off for our second National Park i.e. Bandhavgarh, which is an interesting 5- hours' drive.

Reach Bandhavgarh and have an orientation tour of the lodge. Bandhavgarh National Park is one of the finest Tiger reserve in Central India having the largest density of tigers in the world in its tourism zone. This famous tiger hunting area was once owned by the erstwhile Maharaja of Rewa. It was handed over by him to the Government in 1968. Once it came under the control of the Forest Department, Bandhavgarh's fortune took dramatic turn. It was declared a protected area, and the animal population began to flourish. The Park has extensive Sal forest, hills, valleys, rivers, marshes and meadows, resulting in varied floral and faunal diversity. The forest is dominated by Sal and Bamboo. The vegetation of the Park is tropical moist deciduous. There are dry mixed forests in the higher reaches of the hills. All meals and overnight stay is at the lodge.

- Activity Jeep Safari in the jungle
- Duration 3 hours approximately.
- Distance covered 230 kms.
- Accommodation: Lodge
- Meals Included Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Transfer time: 5 hours to Bandhavgarh (230 kms approximately)
- Itinerary difficulty rating 3 (Moderate)

Day 4 | In Bandhavgarh

Enjoy morning and afternoon safaris in the Park. The Bandhavgarh National Park is the place where the famous White Tigers of Rewa were discovered. The last known capture of a white tiger was in 1951. Bandhavgarh is densely populated with other animal species too. This sprawling 437 sq. km. of protected reserve was once the preferred hunting ground of erstwhile Maharajas. It was later declared a national park in 1968 and became Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve under the Project Tiger in 1993. The faunal assemblage constitutes typical central Indian species. Bandhavgarh National Park holds about 242 species of birds. Besides the two critically Endangered Vulture species, the Lesser Adjutant and Sarus Crane are also found.

- Activity 2 Jeep Safaris in the jungle
- Duration 4 hours per safari
- Distance covered 8 – 10 kms per safari
- Accommodation: Lodge
- Meals Included Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Itinerary difficulty rating 3 (Moderate)

Day 5 | Bandhavgarh – Satpura

After breakfast we will set out on foot and explore a bird trail with the lodge's in house naturalist. The trail runs close to a tribal village, where we will spend an hour or so to see the way of life. It is a perfect opportunity to take some stunning portraits as well, and to see their local art.

After lunch, we will leave for the final National Park in our itinerary, SATPURA. This is a unique one with Denwa river flowing through it offering an opportunity to explore the park on a boat. Drive 176 kms (4 hours) to JABALPUR to connect a short train ride (1610 / 1827 hrs) to PIPARIYA, the gateway to Satpura National Park. From here, it is only at 40km journey of approximately 1 hour to our lodge.

Train : *Intercity Express*
Departure from Jabalपुरi: @ 16:10 hrs
Arrival in Pipariya: @ 18:27 hrs

- Activity: Birding & Village Walk
- Duration: 1.5 hours
- Distance covered: 2 kms.
- Accommodation: Lodge
- Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Transfer time: 4 hours' drive + 2 hours train ride + 1 hour drive.
- Itinerary difficulty rating: 3 (Moderate)

Day 6 | In Satpura

Nestled in to the beautiful forested hills of Satpura landscape, the Satpura Tiger Reserve is one of the most biodiversity rich areas of Central India. From the small insectivores plants to the Indian Gaur and Tiger, every flora and fauna typical to Central Indian Highlands are found here. The reserve was formed after merging Satpura National Park, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary and Pachmarhi Wildlife Sanctuary together in the year. This is also a part of the Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve which covers almost 4927 sq. km.

We will enjoy two safaris in the park today looking for big cats as well as the Sloth bear, which is another attraction here.

- Activity: Morning & Afternoon Safaris
- Duration: 2.5 hours each
- Distance covered: 4 kms.
- Accommodation: Lodge
- Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Itinerary difficulty rating: 3 (Moderate)

Day 7 | To Bhopal

This morning we will go for canoeing in the river, as it offers a unique way to watch the water birds especially Indian Skimmer, Grey Heron, Purple Heron, River Tern, Bar headed Geese etc. We will canoe will run parallel to the dense Jungle. The terrain of the national park is extremely rugged and consists of fascinating deep valleys, sandstone peaks, narrow gorges, rivulets, waterfalls, thick dense green forest of Sal and other medicinal herbs, it also has large tracts of Teak forests.

08 – 9 Paying Pax	INR 54302 Per Person	INR 64705 Per Person	INR 99195 Per Person
10 – 12 Paying Pax	INR 52491 Per Person	INR 62894 Per Person	INR 97988 Per Person
Single Room Supplement	INR 14978 Per Person	INR 25215 Per Person	INR 57816 Per Person
Supplement for accompanying Naturalist with group (minimum 10 guests)	INR 6030 Per Person	INR 6700 Per Person	INR 10050 Per Person

City	Budget	First Class	Deluxe
Kanha	Camp Dev Vilas (cottage)	Chitvan Jungle Lodge (Jal cottage)	Singinawa Jugle Lodge (cottage)
Bandhavgarh	Tiger Den (cottage)	Bandhav Vilas (cottage)	King's lodge (deluxe cottage)
Satpura	Tawa Resort (cottage)	Forsyth Resort (cottage)	Reni Pani Jungle Lodge (cottage)

Inclusions

- 06 nights on twin sharing at the hotels mentioned above or similar.
- All meals are included
- All transfers will be provided by AC Vehicle ☐ 1-3 Pax: AC Innova; 4-12 Pax: AC Tempo Traveller.
- All Safaris and jungle activities mentioned in the itinerary
- AC Chair car train ticket from Jabalpur to Pipariya
- Road taxes, parking fee, fuel charges, interstate taxes at all hotels & airports
- An Indian Escape representative for assistance on all arrival and departure transfers.
- All currently applicable taxes

Exclusions

- Expense of personal nature like tipping, laundry, and telephone / fax calls, medical expenses, airfare, airport departure tax etc.
- Any Beverage during meals.
- VISA fee, any Insurance
- Our rates are not valid for any other period than the mentioned above

Note

- Hotel Check-In, Check-out time 1200 NOON.
- Prices are subject to change with any increase in the cost.
- Please note, the names of hotels mentioned above only indicate that our rates have been based on usage of these hotels. It is not to be construed that accommodation is confirmed at these hotels until and unless we convey the confirmations to you on receipt of your acceptance. However in the event of any of the above mentioned hotels not becoming available at the time of initiating the reservations, we

shall book alternate accommodation at a similar or next best available hotel and shall pass on the difference of rates (supplement/reduction whatever applicable) to you.

- In case on any currency fluctuations or amendment in local Government taxes, or any fuel hike, we reserve the right to adjust the tour price accordingly. The due increase or decrease will be communicated accordingly.

END OF SERVICES
