

Journey Idea to the Central Tiger Reserves of India

15 Days



The elusive tiger

Prepared for
Steppes Travel Clients

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly UK/Mumbai
Day 2	Mumbai
Day 3	Mumbai /Nagpur/ Pench
Day 4	Pench
Day 5	Pench
Day 6	Pench/Kanha National Park
Day 7	Kanha National Park
Day 8	Kanha National Park
Day 9	Kanha National Park/Bandhavgarh
Day 10	Bandhavgarh
Day 11	Bandhavgarh
Day 12	Bandhavgarh
Day 13	Bandhavgarh/Khajuraho/Delhi
Day 14	Delhi
Day 15	Fly Delhi/UK

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1

UK/Mumbai

Depart the UK on a flight to Mumbai, a flight time of approximately 9 hours, flying overnight (daytime flights are available).

Day 2

Mumbai

You will be met upon arrival by the Steppes Travel representative at the airport and transferred to your hotel. All transfers are private (unless stated otherwise) and included in your trip, however it will not detail every transfer on this itinerary.

Today is at leisure or we can arrange a guided tour of the city, depending on time of arrival.

Mumbai is located on India's central-western coast along the Arabian Sea. The city developed for 150 years in isolation from its hinterland and still seems to belong in a different world to the huge, predominantly Hindu state of Maharashtra, which encompasses a 500km (310mi) coastal strip, a portion of the Western Ghats and a significant part of the Deccan plateau.

Mumbai itself is an island connected by bridges to the mainland. The principal part of the city is concentrated at the southern claw-shaped end of the island. The southernmost peninsula is known as Colaba where you find most of the best hotels and restaurants and two of the city's best landmarks, the Gateway of India and the Taj Mahal Hotel. Directly north of Colaba is the area known as the Fort, since this is where the old British fort once stood. Further west is Marine Drive, which sweeps around Back Bay, connecting the high-rise modern business centre with Chowpatty Beach.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Mumbai on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 3

Mumbai/Nagpur/Pench

You will be picked up early this morning from your hotel and driven to the domestic airport, which takes approximately 15 minutes, to board your short flight to Nagpur.

You will be met at Nagpur airport and taken directly to Pench Tiger Reserve (1 ½ hours), perhaps arriving in time for a short game drive into the park.

Pench Tiger Reserve

Pench is one of the latest in the string of Project Tiger Reserves designed to protect key areas of India's tiger habitat. Located in the undulating terrain of the Satpura Hills and drained by the Pench River, this reserve supports a rich and diverse array of wildlife including gaur, nilgai, four-horned antelope, chital, sambar, wild dog, wolf, leopard and the tiger. These hills were once known as the Seoni forests and it was here that Kipling chose to locate his story of the wolf boy Mowgli. The pack that adopted him was the Seoni wolf pack. The Pench River has been



dammed and the resulting reservoir has added to the wealth of habitats of the reserve. The area of the reserve is 758 sq. kms with a core area of 293 sq. kms.



Ever since its inclusion in the Project Tiger system in 1991, the management of the park has been focused on relocating the two villages that remained within the reserve and initiating management and protection measures to improve the habitat. That these measures have borne fruit can be gauged by the fact that the populations of prey and predators have increased appreciably and in fact the mosaic of meadow and forest that characterise the landscape of Pench Tiger Reserve forms classic tiger country.

Today it is being developed for wildlife tourism and hopefully the lessons learnt from other tiger reserves in the state will be applied to control and modulate traffic. As in other reserves in Madhya Pradesh, elephants are being used to track tigers and improve the chances of seeing these highly elusive cats.

It enjoys the great advantage of being low profile and retains that sense of untouched wilderness that so many of the more famous parks have lost.

Overnight at your chosen lodge on a full board basis.

Day 4 - Day 5

Pench

During your stay in Pench, you will have 5 wildlife viewing excursions into the reserve by jeep, elephant and boat. Nature walks are also an option.

Overnight at your chosen lodge on a full board basis.

Day 6

Pench/Kanha National Park



Depart early morning for the 6-hour drive to Kanha Tiger Reserve. Arrive in time for lunch and an afternoon Game drive.

Kanha Tiger Reserve

Spread across almost 2000 sq. kms of rugged hills and wide valleys in the beautiful Maikal Hills of central India, Kanha is one of India's finest wildlife parks.



Created a Tiger Reserve in the first phase of 'Project Tiger', its mix of lowland grasslands and upland forest supports one of the largest populations of tiger and leopard of any park in Asia along with a wide variety of birds and mammals, including the highly endangered Central Indian race of the Swamp Deer or Barasingha. This is also one of the best places to see the Asiatic Wild Dog, quite different from its African counterpart.

Apart from game viewing by jeep and elephant-back it is also possible to walk along certain trails in the forest which provides an excellent opportunity for bird-watching, tracking and generally absorbing the atmosphere of the jungle.

Overnight at your chosen lodge on a full board basis.

Day 7 - Day 8

Kanha National Park

During your stay at Kanha Tiger Reserve you will have 5 wildlife viewing excursions into the reserve by jeep and elephant. Kanha is the last refuge of the central Indian race of the Swamp Deer.

Overnight at your chosen lodge on a full board basis.

Day 9

Kanha National Park/Bandhavgarh



After early breakfast, drive 8 hours to the north through hill forest and farmland to Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. This park is also famous for its dramatic plateau-fortress that dominates the landscape.

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Situated in hill country, this scenic park was once the hunting reserve of the Maharajas of Rewa and is famous for its high concentration of tigers. These are in turn supported by a diverse and abundant prey base consisting of chital deer, sambar, muntjac, wild boar, nilgai antelope, chowsingha or Four-horned antelope and Chinkara or Indian gazelle which inhabit the lowland forests and meadows. Besides these the park supports sloth bear, leopard, wild dog, wolf, hyena, jackal, jungle cats, rhesus macaques, grey langurs and other mammals and over 250 species of birds including the Malabar Pied Hornbills, Shahin falcons, Bonelli's eagles, Crested Serpent eagles, Crested Hawk-eagles, Blossom-headed parakeets and Green pigeons.



Spend the next 3 days looking for tigers, leopards, wild dog, wolf and other wildlife by jeep and elephant.

Overnight at your chosen lodge on a full board basis.

Day 10 - Day 12

Bandhavgarh

During your stay, you will have 6 wildlife viewing excursions by jeep and elephant and also an opportunity to visit the fort.

Overnight at your chosen lodge on a full board basis.

Day 13

Bandhavgarh/Khajuraho/Delhi

This morning you will be picked up early and driven to Khajuraho domestic airport, a journey of approximately 7 hours. From here, board your domestic flight back to Delhi.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Delhi on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 14

Delhi

A day at leisure to explore Delhi.

Delhi has been a centre of power almost continuously since the 13th century. No fewer than seven cities have been built on this site, side by side. The huge city is divided into Old and New



Delhi; the former also comprises the 'seventh' city, Shahjanabad and the areas further north; the latter has as its core the plan of the capital created by the British in 1911.

New Delhi has some of the finest museums in the country. Its boutiques and shopping arcades are windows to the skills of traditional craftsmen all over the country. It has enough restaurants to keep a gourmet in good spirits; pretty gardens and parks. Created by Hindu, Muslim and British builders, the city can transport you in a few minutes from the neo-classical architecture of one of the most beautiful and elegant garden cities of the world, to the ancient, twisting lanes that surround Chandi Chowk - 'Moonlight Square'.

As an optional extra, you may request a guide and driver today to show you the highlights and history of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight at your chosen hotel in Delhi on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 15

Delhi/UK

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

TRIP PRICE

In each location there is a variety of different category of hotels, lodges and guest houses, It is difficult to categorise each property as they vary so much, therefore, this is a general price guide only.

Price from £2,295 per person

The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, written confirmation and Steppes Travels terms and conditions.

The price includes:

- return flight from UK,
- internal flights,
- local transport,
- airport-hotel transfers and tours on a private basis,
- accommodation (twin/double with private facilities where available) and board.
- Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis, unless staying in a remote lodge when normally this will be on a full board basis.

The price excludes

- extra local excursions and guided tours,
- travel insurance,
- visas,
- single supplements (if applicable)
- items of a personal nature, such as laundry, drinks, etc.

Please note that the above is only a suggested journey, allowing in-depth visits to the highlights of the country and the chance to explore the wide range of possibilities this fascinating country has to offer. We have a separate list of escorted tours and specialise in tailoring individual itineraries to your particular interests and requirements. This journey idea serves more as a general guide on what there is to see and do, as well as a guide on price.

Why Travel with Steppes?

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

Financial Protection

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

Specialist Knowledge

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both

unique and special.

A Tailor-made Journey

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are welcome to call them at any time.

24 hour Emergency Service

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Recognition

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

Please contact the Steppes East team on 01285 651010 or visit our website www.steppestravel.co.uk for further information.

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