

EXPLORE!



Indian Wildlife Adventure

13 days

India - Trip code WSI

Indian Wildlife Adventure

This adventure takes us deep in to the heart of India, discovering magnificent wildlife and scenery in four different national parks that have one wonderful thing in common: Bengal tigers! In Satpura we venture out by boat, four-wheel drive and on foot in search of sloth bear, leopard and crocodile, while Chital, Sambar and Neelgai are often spotted in Kanha. Pench is the delightful inspiration for Kipling's Jungle Book and Tadoba takes us off the beaten path to a rarely visited park and tiger reserve. An ideal trip for lovers of wildlife, nature or India.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Sanchi** - Visit the oldest Buddhist sanctuary in existence, and Udayagiri Caves.
- ★ **Satpura** - Search for the magnificent Bengal tiger by jeep, boat and on foot
- ★ **Kanha** - Three jeep safaris to find tigers and other animals in the park
- ★ **Pench** - The inspiration for Kipling's 'Jungle Book' and another chance to spot tigers
- ★ **Tadoba** - Three game drives in the reserve for more tiger spotting and beautiful scenery
- ★ **Mumbai** - Experience a city like no other - vibrant, chaotic and colourful Mumbai

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

GROUP SIZE:

8 - 14

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip in Bhopal

Our trip starts in Bhopal. Known as the City of Lakes for its various natural and artificial lakes, it is one of the greenest cities in India and the capital of Madhya Pradesh.



Accommodation: Jehan Numa Palace (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Visit Sanchi Buddhist sanctuary and Udayagiri Caves

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sanchi is our first port of call. On a hill a short drive from Bhopal, the site comprises Buddhist monuments dating back almost to the time of the Buddha, giving it the unique distinction of being the oldest Buddhist sanctuary in existence. The most ancient and best known structure is the 'Great Stupa' built by the emperor Ashoka the Great in the 3rd century BC. There are around fifty monuments to explore including several stupas, temples, palaces and ancient inscriptions.

Next we visit the Udayagiri Caves, early Jain rock-cut shelters dating from the 4th century and one of India's most important archaeological sites from the Gupta period. Retreats of Jain hermits, the interiors are deliberately austere, but their facades are adorned with elaborate sculptures depicting court scenes, royal processions, and the daily life of the period. We return to Bhopal in the late afternoon and the rest of the day is free to relax.



Accommodation: Jehan Numa Palace (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - Drive to Satpura via the temples of Bhojpur

After breakfast we leave Bhopal and make our way to Bhojpur, famous for the incomplete Bhojesvar temple dedicated to Shiva. The temple consists of the inner sanctum which houses one of the largest lingas (a phallic symbol that represents the god Shiva) in India, crafted from a single rock. It is topped with an elegant dome supported by massive pillars as the outer walls and superstructure of the temple were never built.

We continue on our journey, stopping to visit the Stone Age Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka, named after the mythological hero Bhima. The shelters are the site of the earliest traces of human life on the Indian subcontinent, and mark the beginning of the South Asian Stone Age. At least some of the shelters were inhabited by Homo Erectus more than 100,000 years ago and the oldest rock paintings are around 30,000 years old. A short drives brings us in to Satpura National Park, our base for the next two days.



Accommodation: Denwa Backwater Retreat (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 4 - Take a jeep and walking safari in Satpura National Park

Today we begin our search for wildlife with a visit to Satpura National Park with its rugged hills, sandstone peaks and deep gorges. The park is visited less than many in India and gives us a real sense of being out in the wilderness. We'll take a jeep safari in the morning seeking Bengal tigers, Sloth bears, Leopards and Malabar giant squirrels, amongst the many types of deer that inhabit the park. In the afternoon we will go on a guided walk in the park's buffer zone. Being on foot offers us the chance to take in the smaller residents of the park, from butterflies to ants, and gives us time to stop and smell wildflowers or appreciate the knarly trees of the native sal and teak forests.



Accommodation: Denwa Backwater Retreat (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5 - Morning boat ride and afternoon jeep safari

This morning we head out by boat on Tewa Lake which has some delightful coves and bays. We glide silently along the lake, scanning the shore for leopards and the large Mugger crocodiles that bask alongside the lake. In the afternoon we take to jeeps and head in to the park in the hope of spotting a Bengal tiger, leopard or perhaps a pack of wild dogs.



Accommodation: Denwa Backwater Retreat (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 6 - Drive to Kanha National Park

Today we leave Satpura and make our way to Kanha National park. The drive will take us most of the day but there will be plenty of opportunities along the way to stretch our legs.



Accommodation: Wild Chalet Resort (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 7 - Morning and afternoon safaris in Kanha National Park

Kanha is one of India's larger parks and offers a very high chance of spotting tigers and their favourite prey, Chital and Sambar deer -The park is very different to Satpura, consisting of open grassland areas, meadows, bamboo forests and some hills covered with tropical forests. We take jeep safaris both in the early morning and late afternoon - the best times for seeing wildlife. While we hope to spot tigers many other species can be spotted including gaur, barking deer, sloth bear, jackal, macaques, mongoose and leopard.



Accommodation: Wild Chalet Resort (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 8 - Early morning jeep safari. Drive to Pench

After a final early morning safari in Kanha we drive to Pench National Park. The drive will take us approximately five hours, depending on the road conditions, but we will take plenty of opportunities to stop along the way.



Accommodation: Village Machaan (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 9 - Take two jeep safaris in Pench National Park

Named after the River Pench which flows through the park, this beautiful area is generally considered to be the inspiration and setting for Kipling's 'Jungle Book'. Although Kipling himself never actually visited the area, he was an avid reader of the works of the British explorers that did. The park's teak forests have an unusually high density of wildlife including a good number of tigers and wild dogs known as Dholes. Pench sees quite a low number of visitors and offers a very good chance of spotting tigers.



Accommodation: Village Machaan (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 10 - Final safari in Pench and drive to Tadoba

We take one last early morning jeep safari in Pench National Park before we move on to Tadoba National Park. Again the drive between national parks is approximately five hours. On arrival in Tadoba we are free to relax ready for an early start in the morning ready to explore the park. For our two nights here we'll be sleeping under canvas. The tents are well equipped with tiled floors, proper beds, air-conditioning, en suite bathroom with hot and cold water and tea and coffee making facilities.



Accommodation: United 21 Tiger Camp Resort (or similar)



Standard Tented Camp



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 11 - Morning and afternoon jeep safaris in Tadoba National Park

Tadoba is off the beaten track for most visitors to India, yet it is well worth visiting as tigers, honey badgers and leopards all thrive in the park. Predominantly teak and bamboo forest with a large lake lying to the south west, the park's densely forested hills are interspersed with meadows which are the favourite hunting grounds of the park's tiger population. We take an early morning jeep safari and a second afternoon safari to increase our chances of spotting the park's famous inhabitants.



Accommodation: United 21 Tiger Camp Resort (or similar)



Standard Tented Camp



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

DAY 12 - Morning safari in Tadoba; fly to Mumbai

We head out early morning for our final safari in Tadoba before driving to Nagpur, approximately three hours away, where we board a flight to Mumbai. We arrive in early evening and, after checking in to our hotel, there is free time to explore.



Accommodation: Hotel Vits Mumbai (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Single room available

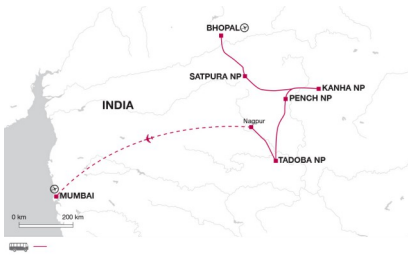


Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 13 - Discover the incredible city of Mumbai

This morning we experience the vibrant, bustling and chaotic city of Mumbai. We'll explore the narrow alleys and ramshackle houses of the Dharavi slums, a thriving community made famous by the film 'Slumdog Millionaire' and the Mahatma Gandhi Museum where we'll discover fascinating remnants from the great man's life. We'll also visit the eerie Towers of Silence where the Parsis laid out their dead for birds to dispose of, thereby returning them to nature in line with their Zoroastrian belief, and the Dhobi Ghats, the world's largest outdoor laundry where clothes are cleaned by beating them on a huge stone. Finally we'll see the impressive Prince of Wales Museum which will take us through the natural and archeological history of India, and the nearby Gateway of India arch, built to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary's visit in 1911 but not completed until 1924, and famously the exit point for the final British troops from the sub-continent after independence.

Our trip ends in the early evening after our city tour.



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 12
Lunch: 3
Dinner: 9



Transport

Bus
4WD



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Local Guide(s)
Naturalist(s)
Safari Guide(s)



Accommodation

10 nights standard hotel
2 nights standard tented camp

Trip information

Country information

India

Climate

There is considerable variation between the different regions of India but, in general, the climate is tropical. Summer temperatures on the plains are very hot, but cooled by the South-West Monsoon, which lasts from June- September. During these months it can be very wet and therefore very humid. At altitude, temperatures can become quite cool at night even in the summer and may drop below freezing between December and February so warm clothing is necessary. In the winter, northern and mid India can be very cool, with cold evenings, so warm clothing, including plenty of layers, are essential. The south of India remains warm and sunny during the winter months.

Time difference to GMT

+5

Plugs

3 Pin Round

Religion

Catholicism, Hindu, Islam and Sikhism

Language

Hindi and English.

Budgeting and packing

Clothing

In general only lightweight clothing is needed during the day, but bring a warm jumper for early morning game drives and during winter evenings November to mid March, (especially December and January) when a windproof jacket, several warm layers, gloves and hat are also recommended. Hotel heating arrangements are not on a par with UK standards and from December to February thermals are also recommended. Natural coloured clothing is required for the game drives, avoid wearing bright colours. Local people may be offended by western styles of dress. Brief shorts, tight fitting clothing etc, should be avoided by both men and women.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes and sandals.

Luggage

15Kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a daysac.

Equipment

A torch, water bottle, good quality sunglasses, insect repellent and high factor sunscreen are all essential. You may also find binoculars a bonus for the game viewing.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

You should allow approx £35 for the tour.

Country Information

India

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£6

Dinner price

£8

Beer price

£1.4

Water price

£0.5

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Indian Rupee Recently new 500, 1000 and 2000 rupee notes have been bought in to circulation and as the old notes are no longer accepted there have been some cash flow issues. You don't need to worry about being given old notes as it's very easy to tell the difference, the new notes are pristine in comparison with most Indian money which is fairly tatty.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

GBP/US\$ are the best currency to change into local currency.

Where To Exchange

The Indian rupee is a restricted currency and it is best not to obtain in the UK as rates are very poor. You can either change money at the airport on arrival or in major towns during the tour. Your Tour Leader will advise you on the best places in each town. Both GBP and USD cash are easy to exchange at the airport and at hotels however you will be restricted to changing £60 cash at a time and it's not possible to change money at these locations using a credit or debit card.

ATM Availability

ATMs are available in most large cities in India but they are very limited elsewhere so please do not rely on this.

Credit Card Acceptance

Very rarely, only in the larger outlets.

Travellers Cheques

Opportunities to exchange are limited.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, 4WD

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Accommodation in India is as varied as the country itself. On our tours we stay in a mix of hotels, heritage properties, camp sites and homestays. Standards do not equate to standards in the UK and it's best to approach each type of accommodation with an open mind. Service can be slow in places especially when travelling with a group. For the most part hotels do not have heating so in the winter months it can be chilly and if you feel the cold you may wish to ask for extra blankets. Hot water is not always available 24 hours a day in some of the smaller properties, and with a group staying you might find if you are showering last you may miss out on the hottest water.

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking

please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

India: Holders of passports endorsed 'British citizen' may be eligible for the e-Tourist Visa to enter India.

The visa can be applied for through the official Indian government visa website only - <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>. Please check all eligibility criteria that can be found on the website but important points are listed below -

You must be arriving into one of 24 selected entry points which can be found via the official Indian Government website link above. However, you can exit from any of the authorised immigration check posts in India.

Passports must have at least 6 months validity from the date of arrival in India and at least two blank pages for stamping. The visa application will take approximately 4 days to process. It is valid for 60 days from the date of arrival in to India, and double entry is permitted on the e-Tourist visa. You can only obtain 2 e-visas for India in a calendar year.

The visa costs \$75. Biometric data will be collected on arrival in India.

Whilst the online form offers a relatively quick way to apply for a visa, a number of applicants have reported difficulty in completing the form. Travcour will complete the on-line visa on your behalf for a fee of £30 + the visa cost. Please contact them directly if you wish to take up this service.

If you are not eligible for the e-Tourist Visa, please refer to VFS Global to apply for your Indian visa - http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk/how_to_apply.html.

Please note that when flying to India you will usually pass through customs and immigration at the first point that you enter the country, even if you have an onward connecting flight to another Indian airport. However, this is not always the case. Therefore if your final destination airport in India is not one that is included on the list of eVisa entry points then it is advisable to obtain a full visa. We recommend you obtain a full visa for this trip.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

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It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom. Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Included activities

Tiger Safari permit requirements

National Parks and Tiger Reserves are closely managed by the Indian Authorities. The number of vehicles permitted to enter the park at any one time is restricted and all game drives must be booked and paid for well in advance. We recommend you book as early as possible in order to have the best chance of securing a space on a game drive.

In order to secure a booking we must provide your passport copy and full payment for the safari at the time of booking.

Once a game drive has been booked no changes are permitted and the payment is non-refundable. In order to proceed with bookings we require the following: A scanned copy of your passport - you must carry your passport during the game drive and if you renew your passport before travelling then you will need to take both passports with you.

We book all of our game drives in shared jeeps, with a maximum of 6 passengers per jeep with a driver and naturalist guide. On occasion we will be sharing jeeps with non-Explore passengers. We will purchase seats for all passengers as soon as permits become available, usually 4 months prior, after this point it is not always possible to secure additional spaces.

We cannot guarantee the operation of any game drives until the necessary permits have been purchased. We aim to purchase the permits as soon as they are put on sale, whilst this is usually at 120 days before the date of the game drive on going changes to the booking system means that we cannot guarantee this.

India

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis, Typhoid and Polio. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.