



A guide to: *The Great Tiger Project*







# *The Great Tiger Project*

**Focus:** Tigers  
**Location:** India

**Start Dates:** Various - Please Enquire  
**Arrival & Starting Point:** Delhi

Situated deep in the heart of one of India's most iconic forest reserves lies the prestigious Kanha National Park. Known for being one of the best locations in the world in which to see regal Bengal tigers, Kanha is a spectacular setting for any visitor: with its picturesque blend of Sal forest, lush meadows and open water, it is no wonder that writer Rudyard Kipling found the inspiration here to write his beloved novel, *The Jungle Book*. As well as being one of the best managed parks in all of Asia, Kanha is home to not only a significant population of tigers, but also a myriad of bird species, leopards, sloth bears and a further array of majestic jungle dwellers. Indeed, this famous park is a charmed destination in which to join a wildlife conservation experience, yet it is just one of two locations visited during The Great Tiger Project.

As well as finding yourself in the fairytale surroundings of Kanha, you will also pay a visit to the stunning Pench National Park. At 758 km<sup>2</sup>, Pench is home to a breathtaking array of wildlife species, from the delicate deer to a range of big cats. Similarly, ten villages can be found throughout the national park, each with their own communities who wish to live in harmony with the forest. However, an element of

human-animal conflict persists throughout both parks, and by joining The Great Tiger Project you will see first-hand how these issues are being tackled.



As a volunteer, you will have the opportunity to take part in a range of wildlife monitoring exercises over a series of incredible jungle safaris, helping the wildlife biologists and forest officials at both parks to set up camera traps in the hopes of learning more about India's wildlife species. You will also work closely with an expert naturalist, who will teach you all there is to know about tiger conservation efforts in particular. What's more, your time on this project will lend support to one of the world's leading tiger organisations, TOFT Tigers, by way of a financial donation making your time in India both memorable and rewarding.



## Jungle Safaris

Embark on a series of jungle safaris through both the Kahna and Pench national parks in search of the world's most remarkable wildlife species, including the beautiful Bengal tiger. The safaris will take place during both day and night, maximising your chances of seeing a wider range of Indian wildlife, including leopards, sloth bears, wild dogs and birds. Of course, the parks' tigers are what most visitors have dreamt of seeing, and should you catch a glimpse of one of these gorgeous big cats in the flesh, you're sure to have your breath taken away.



## School & Nursery Visits

Whilst India's wildlife truly is spectacular, the opportunity to step out and meet its people is something that should not be missed. As a volunteer, you have the ability to leave a positive impact on the youngest members of the community, and this will be made possible by two visits to the local schools. Here, you will interact with the teacher and aid them in teaching the children about the importance of wildlife, imparting your knowledge onto these young minds and instilling in them a sense of responsibility and motivation to protect the world around them. (Please note that the schools are closed between March and June due to exam season, so if you join the project during this time, you will work with children aged 3-6 in the local primary schools instead.)



## Tiger Conservation & Camera Trapping

Your time on this project will allow you to discover many aspects of tiger conservation in India. Elements of conservation can range from nature treks to the setting up of camera traps, and you will learn about these important efforts by taking part in discussions with wildlife experts. You will have the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of tiger conservation efforts by helping to set up and analyse camera traps, i.e the motion-sensitive cameras which are situated around the national park in the hopes of capturing images of wild animals for research purposes. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about what is being done to mitigate human-animal conflict in both the national parks, and across India as a whole.







## Visit The Baiga Tribe

The Baiga tribe are one of India's indigenous communities, with a cultural history stemming back some 20,000 years. Interestingly, the Baiga people view tigers as a good omen (particularly when they appear in dreams), and this – paired with their unwillingness to sully the land by ploughing – may be a driving force behind their willingness to conserve the world around them. The tribe work closely with park officials to identify potential poachers, and they also help to track tigers in the area around Kanha National Park. As well as learning more about the Baiga tribe's conservation efforts, you will interact with members of the community and will also be treated to a performance of a traditional dance. Watch and enjoy, or feel free to get involved in the fun!

## Visiting Local Villages

Your time on the project will allow you to visit several different villages, where you will have the chance to interact with the many different residents you meet along the way, taking the opportunity to learn about their cultures and lifestyles. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to listen to members of the local community as they talk to you about what it means to live in and around a national park, particularly with regards to the human-animal conflict. One of the visits will take you to the Pottery Village, where you will watch a live demonstration before rolling up your sleeves and having a go yourself!





# Itinerary

## Day 1

After arriving at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, you will be met by a project representative and transferred to your hotel. Once you have checked in, you will have the opportunity either to relax, or to head out into Delhi to admire the city's seamless blend of historical and modern sites.

## Day 2

After breakfast at your hotel, you will fly to Nagpur, transferring to Kanha National Park upon arrival. In the afternoon you will visit the Corbett Foundation and a tribal museum before heading back to Kanha in the evening, where you will watch a wildlife film and discuss the issues of tiger conservation with an expert. At the end of the night, you will retire to your room at the Chitvan Jungle Lodge.

## Day 3

In the morning, you will embark on your first jungle safari as you go in search of sloth bears, leopards and dholes (a type of wild dog), as well as the glorious Bengal tiger. In the afternoon, you will visit Chitvan's organic farms, where you will discover the concept of solar cooking, vermi composting, rainwater harvesting and other activities designed to reduce both carbon and water footprints.

## Day 4

After breakfast, you will visit a local school and begin to understand their education patterns and routines. You'll get the chance to educate the children about their role in maintaining the ecosystem and the importance of wildlife conservation, and will also interact with the teachers and the principal. In the afternoon, you will join another tiger safari in the national park.

## Day 5

The morning will see you head out on another safari in Kanha National Park in the hopes of seeing wild tigers. Later in the day, you will head to the park's 'buffer zone', where you will learn the process of tiger census (population counts) as well as other methods from days gone by, such as pugmark tracing. This activity will be carried out alongside a wildlife biologist/forest official.

## Day 6

You will head to the Baiga village to meet the members of this ancient tribe, gaining an understanding of their concerns regarding animal conflict, their dependence on the forest, and how to work in their fields. You will then take a trip to the local 'Anganwadi', a type of nursery school, where you will spend time with the children. Your day will finish with an evening safari in the Mukki zone.

## Day 7

After a leisurely breakfast, you will bid farewell to Kanha before making your way to Pench National Park. You will enjoy a delicious lunch before heading off on a nature walk in the 40-acre Eco Park. In the evening, you will engage in a discussion in the bonfire area of the lodge with Pench's in-house naturalist, who will teach you about the national park and the conservation activities of the forest department.

## Day 8

Today you will embark on your first safari in Pench National Park, taking a packed breakfast with you. In the afternoon, you will visit the Avargani Village to learn about local culture and the sources of livelihoods for the locals. You will then go into the Eco-Park and assist with setting up camera traps. In the evening, there will be a wildlife documentary shown before dinner at the lodge.

## Day 9

Today you will travel to Kohka Lake, where you will enjoy breakfast before joining a bird watching excursion. You will spend the afternoon at the Potters Village where you will watch a live demonstration and try your hand at the craft too! Later, you'll join a night safari at the wolf sanctuary, where you can hope to see leopards, wolves, jackals and more, taking part in an interactive session as you look at the camera trap recordings.



# Itinerary

## Day 10

Enjoy a hearty breakfast before visiting a local school to interact with the children and their teachers. You will then have an early lunch before heading out on another exciting safari in the national park before receiving a wildlife talk from the naturalist, who will gladly share his stories and experiences with your group. You will then review camera trap recordings before enjoying a picturesque dinner by the lake.

## Day 11

Today will see you join yet another early-morning safari, whilst you will review camera trap recordings afterwards. Your afternoon will be spent at leisure, offering the perfect opportunity to relax in the pool or at the spa. You will attend a talk in the evening, led by Mr Ajay Ghale, a local expert in flora and fauna who works closely with the forest department. After this, you will help to set up camera traps before having a farewell dinner.

## Day 12

After breakfast, you will take part in your final safari in Pench National Park before departing for Nagpur Airport to catch your flight back to Delhi. Upon arrival into Delhi, you will be met by a member of the team and transferred to your accommodation. Dinner will be provided but the evening will be yours to explore Delhi for a final time or to relax before your departure the following day.

## Day 13

After breakfast at your hotel, you may wish to spend your final day admiring Delhi itself, before saying a fond farewell to India and either transferring back to the airport for your flight home or commencing your onward travel plans.





# Accommodation

Your first and final night will be spent in either the Pride Plaza Hotel or the Holiday Inn. Both hotels are located next door to the New Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport, allowing for easy airport transfers on arrival and for your departure.

Whilst visiting Kanha National Park, you will stay in the luxurious Chitvan Jungle Lodge. Here, you will have your own private terrace upon which to take in the ambience of the jungle. You will also have access to private bathroom facilities, including an open shower. Each room is air conditioned.

Afterwards, you will spend 5 nights at the Pench Jungle Camp, located just one kilometre away from the famous Turiya gate of the national park. You will have access to a private bathroom and air conditioning.

All rooms throughout your stay are shared on a same-sex, twin-bed basis, however double rooms may be available. Each accommodation has a pool, as well as a spa (treatments are available at an additional cost).



# Food & Drink

Your time in Delhi will see you stay under a B&B meal plan, whilst your time at either the lodge or jungle camp will provide you with three meals per day.

During your stay at the Chitvan Jungle Lodge, you will eat organic fruits, vegetables and oils cultivated from their very own farm, with your meals being cooked in a true Indian style. Elsewhere, the Pench Jungle Camp will serve up an array of Indian and continental meals in their on-site restaurant. Both sites are able to accommodate those with dietary requirements; all we ask is that you let us know in advance.





## What's Included

- Full board basis for 11 nights, and bed and breakfast in Delhi
- Airport transfers using air-conditioned vehicles
- 9 Jeep safaris (shared basis)
- Naturalist fees
- Domestic flights between Delhi and Nagpur
- A donation to the project

## Not Included

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Any expenses of a personal nature, such as laundry & bar bills etc.
- Vaccinations
- Visa fees

## Volunteer Reviews

### Tom

"The whole experience was unforgettable, seeing the tigers was awesome and seeing them in their own habitat will always stay with me."



### James

"Seeing the tigers on safari was such a highlight, and I loved going to the nature reserve too! Great trip, stunning location, very magical!"



### Jeffrey

"I got some incredible sightings of a tiger up close and I loved seeing all of the smiling school children."







## What Next?

Becoming a volunteer on The Great Tiger Project is simple, and you can help make a difference to tiger conservation efforts in just a few simple steps...



Visit the website to select your start date and how long you would like to volunteer for.



Secure your place online by paying a deposit of £195. You'll have up to 60 days before your start date to pay your remaining balance.



Prepare for your trip and ask your dedicated travel expert any questions before packing your bags and heading off to India!



Finally, have an incredible time and don't forget to send in or tag us in your photos!

**#thegreatprojects**



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