

India: Tigers, Taj Mahal, and Himalaya foothills

April 3rd - 19th, 2019

Cost: \$5800.00 CAN from Delhi

Services includes:

Accommodation on twin / single sharing basis; All Meals as per the itinerary (from Day 02 Breakfast till Day 17 breakfast); Overnight train ticket (Agra – Katni) in 02 Tier; Domestic flight (Jabalpur – Delhi); Monument guide in Agra; Monument entrance fee of Taj Mahal and Red Fort; 07 Jeep safaris in Bandhavgarh; Bandhavgarh Park entrance fee; Birding in Sat Tal & Pangot; 04 Jeep safaris in Corbett NP; Corbett Park entrance fee; Birding guide; All surface transfers by air-conditioned vehicle; All taxes

Services does not include:

International air fare, visa, insurance, optional tours, Tips, laundry, alcohol, bottled water, elephant ride, camera fee, personal expenses



Overview

- A large list of bird species
- Farm fresh Indian meals
- Quaint lodges and camps
- Great birding experience
- Tiger Tracking
- A large variety of other mammals
- High success rate with Tiger sightings and other Mammals
- Glimpses of the beautiful landscape, architecture and lifestyle of central & North India

Overview: 17 days visiting - Delhi, Taj Mahal, Bandhavgarh National Park, Sat Tai (Himalayan foothills), and Corbett National Park

Description & Species

This tour takes you to the best birding sights and excellent Tiger safaris along with the iconic Taj Mahal. We start the trip from Delhi and from there; we'll take you to Agra to visit Taj Mahal and Red Fort. From Agra on Day 02 evening, we'll take an overnight train to Katni to reach Bandhavgarh National Park.



A great National Park to sight the revered but endangered Tigers among other mammals and birds. A beautiful drive from Katni with lovely views of rural Madhya Pradesh, you get to see a glimpse of typical central Indian flora, vistas, architecture and way of living. It is a perfect start to the adventure ahead. Serenity will seep into you as you check into Monsoon Forest, a unique eco-lodge with luxury tents and cottages and indigenous central Indian mud house styled architecture. With beautiful grasslands, views of

the forest and the Bandhavgarh Fort in the distance, it's an ideal base to explore the magic of tiger spotting. Be prepared to have a fabulous stay as they go out of their way to make your stay most memorable. Special romantic dinners and traditional massages are worth indulging at this resort.

Bandhavgarh is uniquely famous as a forest offering best tiger sightings. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is one of the highest known in India.



After spending 04 nights in Bandhavgarh, we'll transfer you to Jabalpur airport to connect domestic flight back to Delhi and will spend one night in Delhi / Noida before heading towards Himalayan Foothills.

Next morning from Delhi / Noida, we'll take you to Sat Tal with an interesting drive. Crossing fields of yellow mustard and sugarcane, small villages, bustling towns of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, you get a glimpse of the diversity India has to offer. Be it natural vistas, architecture, dressing or culture, it is a quick view of the everyday life of India's common man, sitting in the comfort of your car. Chat with your

knowledgeable driver and find out interesting insights into your observations. Before you know it, you'll already be at foothills of Himalayas to reach Sat Tal.

After spending 02 nights in Sat Tal, we'll drive further up to Pangot.

Pangot is one such beautiful hamlet in the state of Uttarakhand that lies just 15 km from the city of lake, Nainital. Walking into Pangot is like stepping into a remote Himalayan village. This birdwatchers' paradise has more than 250 species of birds in and around as recorded by Jungle Lore Birding Lodge. This Lodge is India's first and foremost birding lodge and has been key to birding success in the region. The entire drive is through the forested area of Cheena Peak Range via Snow View Point and Kilbury, the main habitats for excellent birding. The forests of Pangot and surrounding areas are dominated by thick Oak, Pine and Rhododendron. The streams passing by the area makes it even more attractive place. The district of Nainital covers the tropical, sub-tropical, temperate, sub-alpine and alpine zones. The terai & bhabar belt presents the climate of the plains while the deep valleys with elevation up to 1000 Mts. play host to varied types of animal, birds, trees typical of hills as well as plains

From Pangot, we'll drive down for entry to the Corbett National Park. Established in 1936, Jim Corbett National Park is the first wildlife reserve of India and the first reserve to come under Project Tiger in 1973.

It was named in the honor of Jim Corbett, legendary hunter-turned- conservationist, best known for hunting man-eating tigers and leopards in the Kumaon and lower Garhwal in the 1920s. Away from the urban concrete jungles, within easy driving distance of Delhi (7 hrs), Corbett is a popular retreat for wildlife and nature enthusiasts. It provides a great opportunity for viewing wildlife, especially the tiger in its natural habitat. Aboard the 4WD, accompanied by an expert guide, the Jeep takes us through the stately dense Sal jungle of Corbett along the Ramganga River.

From Corbett, we'll take you back to Delhi to spend the last night of your Indian trip. Next morning you will be transferred to Delhi airport to connect flight back to home with best trip memories.

TOP Birds of the Tour

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve: 4 species of vulture, Indian Roller, Changeable and Crested Serpent Eagle, Savanna Nightjar, Barred Buttonquail, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Indian Grey & Oriental Pied Hornbill, Black Ibis, Brown & Long Tailed Shrike, Common Iora, Woolly Necked Stork, White Eyed Buzzard, Black Shouldered Kite, Rufous Treepie, Paddy Field Pipit, Richard's Pipit, Tawny Pipit, Indian Moorhen, Honey Buzzard, Plum Headed & Alexandrine Parakeet, White Browed Fantail Flycatcher, Black-Naped Monarch, Black-Rumped Flameback, Tree & Olive Backed Pipit, Black Headed & Golden Oriole, Eurasian Thicknee, Jungle & Bank Myna, Grey Headed & Crimson Breasted Barbet, White-Naped Woodpecker, Crested Tree Swift, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Red Turtle Dove, Peacock, Red Jungle Fowl, Pale Billed & Thick Billed Flowerpecker, Common & Indian Hawk Cuckoo, Racket Tailed & White Bellied Drongo, Brown Fish & Barn Owl, Short Eared & Indian Scops Owl, Barred Jungle & Mottled Wood Owl etc.

Nainital Region - Himalayan Foothills: Cheer Pheasant, Koklas Pheasant, Mountain Hawk Eagle, Emerald Dove, Pin-tailed Green Pigeon, Slaty-headed Parakeet, Blue-throated Barbet, Lineated Barbet, Speckled

Piculet, Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, Himalayan Flameback, Long-billed Trush, Himalayan & Siberian Rubythroat, Spotted, Black-backed & Little Forktail, Streaked & Striated Laughingthrush, Chestnut-crowned & Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, White-throated & Chestnut-crowned Laughing thrushes, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler, Red-billed Leiothrix, Grey-bellied and Chestnut-headed Tesia, Rufous Sibia, White-browed Shrike-babbler, Spot-winged & Black-throated Tits, White-tailed Nuthatch, Slaty-backed & Little Pied Flycatcher, Long-tailed & Short-billed Minivet, Rufous-bellied & Small Niltava, Green-tailed & Black-throated Sunbirds, Griffons & Lammergiers, Grey-hooded & Golden-spectacled Warbler, Slaty-backed & Little Forktail, Eurasian & Black-headed Jays, Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon, Hill Partridge, Red-billed Blue Magpie, Great Barbet, Hill & Grey-crowned Prinia, Chestnut-bellied Thrush, Himalayan, Black & Ashy Bulbul, Tickell's Thrush, Greater & Lesser Yellow-nape Woodpecker, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, Green-backed & Black-lored Tit, Upland Pipit

Corbett National Park: Tawny Fish Owl, Hogsons Bushchat, Collared Falconet, Sirkeer Malkoha, Lesser Coucal, Brown Fish Owl, Crested Kingfisher, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Great Hornbill, Great Slaty Woodpecker, Black-crowned Sparrowlark, Ashy Bulbul, Orange-bellied Leafbird, White-tailed Stonechat, Little Pied & Snowy-browed Flycatcher, Scaly-breasted & Nepal Wren Babbler, Green Magpie, Spot-winged Starling, Drongo Cuckoo, Long-tailed Broadbill, Dollarbird, Brown Crake, Rosy Minivet, Black-chinned Yuhina, White-capped Bunting, Rufous-bellied Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Lesser Fish Eagle, Sulphur-bellied Warbler, Black Stork

TOP Mammals of the Tour

Tiger, Common, Leopard, Leopard Cat, Jungle Cat, Asian Elephant, Sloth Bear, Golden Jackal, Striped Hyena, Indian Fox, Himalayan Palm Civet, Small Indian Civet, Common Palm Civet, Small Indian Mongoose, Grey Mongoose, Honey Badger, Terai Langur, Himalayan Langur, Northern Plains Langur, Rhesus Macaque, Indian Wild Pig, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Hog Deer, Indian Muntjac, Blue Bull or Nilgai, Himalayan Brown Goral, Himalayan Serow, Indian Gazelle (Chinkara), Blackbuck, Indian Hedgehog, Yellow-bellied Himalayan Weasel, Yellow-throated Marten, Smooth-coated Otter, Indian Hare etc



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Day 01 (Tuesday): Arrive Delhi

Meals: On own (in your flight)

Arrive Delhi in the late evening. You will be met and transferred to Hotel Park Inn by Radisson for overnight stay.

Day 02 (Wednesday): Delhi – Drive to Agra

Meals: Breakfast in Delhi, lunch in a restaurant in Agra & Dinner in Jaypee Palace

Breakfast will be served at 0800 hrs. Check-out at 0900 hrs and drive to Agra. Arrive Agra at 1330 hrs. Lunch will be served in city restaurant. Evening free for rest or visit local market. Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel Jaypee Palace.

Day 03 (Thursday): Agra – Overnight train to Katni

Meals: Breakfast in Jaypee Palace, lunch & early dinner in a restaurant in Agra

Morning guided tour of Taj Mahal. Return to the hotel at 11 AM. Check-out at 12 noon and transfer to Indian city Restaurant for lunch (will leave with your luggage). After lunch, guided tour of Red Fort. Early dinner will be served in a restaurant. Evening transfer to Agra station to connect overnight train to Katni at 2027 hrs. Overnight in air-conditioned sleeper train.

Day 04 (Friday): Katni to Bandhavgarh

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner in Bandhavgarh

Arrive Katni station in the morning 0635 hrs. You will be meet and transferred to Bandhavgarh National Park (2-2.5 hrs drive). Arrive Monsoon Forest late breakfast (you might have to wait to get the room if not available upon arrival in the morning. Rooms will be allotted on top priority basis). Afternoon jeep safari to the national park for tiger tracking and wildlife viewing. Overnight stay in Monsoon Forest.

Day 05 – 07 (Saturday to Monday): Bandhavgarh National Park**Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner in Bandhavgarh**

Morning and afternoon jeep safaris to Bandhavgarh National Park for tiger tracking and birding. Overnight stay at Monsoon Forest (www.monsoonforest.in)

Day 08 (Tuesday): Bandhavgarh – Jabalpur – Delhi – Noida**Meals: Breakfast, packed lunch from Monsoon Forest, dinner in Noida**

Morning at leisure. After late breakfast, drive to Jabalpur airport at 0930 – 1000 hrs (3.5 to 4 hours) to connect flight to Delhi at 1610 hrs (check-in time for this flight will be 1410 hrs / 15 KG luggage + 7 KG hand carry is allowed in all Indian domestic flights). Arrive Delhi at 1755 hrs. You will be meet and transferred to Hotel Savoy Suites in Noida. Dinner and overnight stay in Hotel Savoy Suites in Noida.

Day 09 (Wednesday): Delhi – Sat Tal**Meals: Breakfast in Noida, lunch and dinner in Sat Tal**

Breakfast will be served at 0600 hrs. Check-out at 06:30 hrs and drive to Sat Tal. Arrive Sat Tal for late lunch. Rest of the day birding in Sat Tal. Overnight stay at V Resort.

Day 10 (Thursday): Sat Tal**Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner**

We spend one more day here for excellent birding with a guide. You will visit the hotspots and stake-outs of the key species. Overnight stay at V Resort

Day 11 (Friday): Sat Tal to Pangot**Meals: Breakfast in Sat Tal, lunch and dinner in Pangot**

Morning birding in Sat Tal. After breakfast, check-out at 0900 hrs and drive to Pangot (02 hours drive). Arrive Pangot for lunch. Evening birding in Pangot. Overnight stay at Jungle Lore Birding Lodge.

Day 12 (Saturday): Pangot**Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner in Pangot**

Another day of birding at Pangot village, Baggar and Gughu Khan. Overnight stay at Jungle Lore Birding Lodge.

Day 13 (Sunday): Pangot to Corbett National Park**Meals: Breakfast & lunch in Pangot, dinner in Tiger Camp**

Morning birding in Pangot. After lunch, drive to Corbett National Park (Tiger Camp) stopping en route at few birding points. Arrive Tiger Camp in the Evening. Overnight stay in Tiger Camp

Day 14 & 15 (Monday & Tuesday): Corbett National Park**Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner in Tiger Camp**

Morning and afternoon jeep safaris to the national park for tiger tracking and birding. Duration of each ride will be 03 to 04 hours and will be conducted in the morning and afternoons. Both rides on each day will be with the best possible combination of safari zone and will be productive for birding too. All meals will be served in the restaurant of Tiger Camp. Overnight stay at Tiger Camp.

Day 16 (Wednesday): Corbett to Delhi**Meals: Breakfast and lunch in Tiger Camp & dinner in Delhi**

Morning birding in Kumeria (outside the park). Early lunch and check-out. Post lunch, drive back to Delhi (7-8 hours' journey). Arrive Delhi in the evening. Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel Pride near airport.

Day 17 (Thursday): Delhi - Departure**Meals: Breakfast**

After breakfast, transfer to Delhi airport to connect flight back to home. Tour ends.

General

Lodgings are selected with comfort in mind, combined with beautiful surroundings. Birding and nature study will be conducted along roadsides and good trails/ into forest with trails considered easy to moderate walking. Walks will be at a slow and leisurely pace that is best for locating birds and allowing nature study and photography.

Participants will enjoy great Indian food at some of the lodgings.

Trip Booking:

Interested participants **must book prior to Oct 15, 2018** due to the very high demand for accommodation at some localities.

To reserve the trip we require a \$700 CAN per person deposit. When we receive a deposit further trip specific information will be sent. The balance of payment is 150 days before your trip departure. Payments are accepted through personal cheque or e-transfer.

Cancellation and Refund:

We receive your notice of cancellation more than 120 days prior to your trip departure: you will receive 100% of your refund; between 90-120 days you receive 50% of your final payment; after 90 days no refund.

Please note: Thomas Plath Environmental Services reserves the right to cancel your trip at any time, purchasing cancellation insurance on your flight is essential. This policy protects us from unforeseen emergency events i.e. sickness, death in family.