

INDIAN WILDLIFE SAFARI

- DURATION – 12 days
- DEPARTURE – Flexible
- PRICE pp share twin
2pax/NZD4785 3>4pax/NZD4520; 5>6pax/NZD4420
(prices current at the time of publication (09/02/2009))
- INCLUDES – **Mumbai, Nagpur, Pench, Kanha NP, Delhi, Guwahati, Kaziranga NP, Kolkata**

These 3 National Parks present the greatest diversity of India's mega fauna able to be found in accessible natural forest ecosystems. The tour provides adequate time to get out and about in the Parks with local naturalist guides to observe wildlife and botany. Best time to visit mid March to Mid- May and Mid Oct to Dec.

Day 01 Arrive Mumbai

Arrival and transfer to hotel near airport

Day 02 Mumbai – Nagpur – Pench National Park

Early morning transfer to Domestic airport for flight to Nagpur (0705 / 0825 hrs). Drive to Pench (3 hrs) Transfer to Hotel. Afternoon Jeep Safari with Naturalist guide.

Day 03 Pench National Park

Morning and Evening Jeep safari with naturalist. The park is home to large numbers of Chital, Four Horned Antelopes, Gaur, Muntjac, Nilgai and also many other endangered species. Occasionally a tiger can be spotted. There are more than 125 species of bird eg Barbets, Blue Kingfishers, Bulbuls, Minivets, Munias, Mynas, Orioles, Wagtails and Waterfowls.

Day 04 Pench – Kanha National Park

Morning wildlife viewing before driving to Kanha (6 hrs).

Day 05 Kanha National Park

Morning and Evening jeep safari with naturalist Guide. Rudyard Kipling based his tale *The Jungle Book* on the wildlife of Kanha in the late 19th century and thus Kanha is also known as 'Kipling Country'. The grassy plateaux, wooded hills and valleys of Kanha are home to the legendary *Shere Khan* the Tiger, *Baloo* the Bear, *Bagheera* the Panther and the Rock Python *Kaa*. Besides them several great and small mammals, reptiles and birds inhabit the Park including the largest ox in the world – the *Gaur*. The Park is also home to the southern or Central Indian race of the Swamp Deer – the *Hard-ground* or the *Branderi Barasingha*.

Day 06 Kanha National Park

Morning and evening jeep safaris with naturalist guide.

Day 07 Kanha National Park - Jabalpur

Morning wildlife viewing with naturalist guide. After breakfast drive to Jabalpur (4 hrs); transfer to railway station for train to Delhi. (18.05-11.40) Overnight on Train.

Day 08 Jabalpur – Delhi

Transfer to hotel. Late afternoon visit old Delhi.

Day 09 Delhi – Guwahati – Kaziranga

Transfer to airport for flight for Guwahati.(9.00hrs-1205) Drive Kaziranga (5hrs)

Day 10 Kaziranga National Park

Early morning Elephant ride (1hr) to see the Bengal Florican. Return for breakfast, then a 30min drive to the Western Range of the Park. The route traverses the southwest portion of the Park through open grassy areas, to see Rhino and Water Buffalo. After lunch drive to the Eastern [Agaratuli] range for bird watching. This area is home to Pallas's Fish Eagle and a colony of Spot-billed Pelicans. Migrant waterfowl may be observed at Sohola Beel, also woodland birds as we drive through the Dillenia Swamp Forest. Water Buffalo and Swamp Deer are also in this area.

Day 11 Kaziranga National Park

Drive to the central region of the park, the route (35km) passes through the entire spectrum of habitat types with possible sightings elephants as well as the other herbivores. There are opportunities to observe the area's diverse vegetation and bird life.

Day 12 Kaziranga National park- Guwahati - Kolkata

After breakfast drive to Guwahati for flight to Kolkata (16.00-17.10) Transfer to hotel to freshen up before transfer to airport for departure flights.