



Truly India

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Tiger Trails : Tour 2

Duration: 12N/13D

**Key Sights: Delhi - Jaipur - Ranthambore - Agra - Katni - Bandhavgarh - Kanha - Pench
- Nagpur**

Day	Program	Mode	Distance/Time
Day 1	Arrived Delhi	By Surface	
Day 2	Delhi		
Day 3	Delhi – Jaipur	By Surface	280KM/05-06 Hours
Day 4	Jaipur		
Day 5	Jaipur – Agra	By Surface	240KM/04-05 Hours
Day 6	Agra – Katni	By Train	
Day 7	Katni – Bandhavgarh	By Surface	100KM/01-02 Hours
Day 8	Bandhavgarh		
Day 9	Bandhavgarh – Kanha	By Surface	206KM/04-05 Hours
Day 10	Kanha		
Day 11	Kanha – Pench	By Surface	186KM/03-04 Hours
Day 12	Pench		
Day 13	Pench – Nagpur	By Surface	95KM/01-02 Hours
	Nagpur – Delhi	By Flight	



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Day 1

Arrived Delhi

By Surface

Arrive in New Delhi, You will be received by our representative at international airport and assisted to your hotel. Upon arrival at hotel check-in before that our representative will hand-over travel documents and give a tour briefing. Overnight stay in Hotel.

Day 2

Delhi

Breakfast at hotel, this morning explore India's capital city by touring its magnificent monuments, start your tour by visiting - Old Delhi: An ancient walled city earlier known as Shahjahanabad. Take a photo stop at Red Fort: the most opulent red sandstone fort and palace of the Moghul Empire (1639-1648 built by Shah Jahan the 5th Mughal Emperor of India and the builder of the Taj Mahal in Agra), visit Jama Masjid, Largest mosque in India, the foundation of the historic Jama Masjid was laid on a hillock in Shahjahanabad by Emperor Shah Jahan in 1650 AD, this mosque was the result of the efforts of over 6,000 workers, over a period of six years (1650-1656 AD). The cost of the construction in those times was 1 million rupees. This Mosque has three great gates, four towers and two 40 m-high minarets constructed of strips of red sandstone and white marble. About 25,000 people can pray here at a time. The mosque has a vast paved rectangular courtyard, which is nearly 75 m by 66 m. The whole of the western chamber is a big hall standing on 260 pillars.

Visit Chandni Chowk, the bustling and colorful market of the old city, designed by Emperor Shah Jahan's daughter Jahanara Begum. Jahanara laid the foundation of Chandni Chowk, which is the largest trading center of Delhi as well as India. At present the street is a busy thoroughfare and is really congested. This area is renowned for 'Kuchas and Katras' also known as Alleys. These alleys house traditional Havelis, places of worship: Temples, Mosques, Church and Gurudwara, popular specialised markets and century-old eating joints. Enjoy a cycle-rickshaw ride.

Visit the Raj Ghat, the memorial site of Mahatma Gandhi - Father of Nation.

Later visit New Delhi designed and built by the British in the 1920's it's a city of wide boulevards impressive Government buildings, green parks and gardens. First drive past Connaught Place, the heart and main shopping district of the capital, then drive to Rajpath (King's Way), India Gate - the 42mt high stone 'Arch of Triumph', erected in the memory of Indian soldiers who died in First World War. Drive past Rashtrapati Bhawan (President Palace) and Parliament House.

Sightseeing will also include drive past the elegant Lodhi Garden and Safdarjung's tomb.

Visit the exquisite Humayun's Tomb, built in 1570 is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb in the Indian subcontinent, the structure was built inspired by Persian Architecture, it's architect was Mirak Mirza Ghiyath. This memorial of Emperor Humayun, second Mughal ruler of India was built by his widow, Hajji Begum 14 years after his death.

Later visit Qutab Minar 12th century minaret built by Qutub-ud-din Aibek of the Slave Dynasty - this building complex dates back to the onset of Muslim rule in India and is fine example of Afghan architecture which is graceful and well sculptured and stands 75 mt. Also visit the Baha'i Temple (Lotus Temple) Lotus being a symbol of peace and prosperity all



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around the world, the shape of the temple personifies the purpose for which the foundation of this marvelous man-made architectural was laid. Lotus temple is made of pristine marble blocks, cement, dolomite and sand and the entire ascetic value is coddled by the group of nine pools filled with crystal clear water. In accord with the mores of Baha'i religion, the temple is open to everyone from anywhere in the world who is looking for inner peace & tranquility.

Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 3	Delhi – Jaipur	By Surface	280KM/05-06 Hours
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After breakfast drive to Jaipur, the picturesque capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur is colour washed in Pink - the colour associated with hospitality in Rajput culture. Upon arrival check into hotel.

In the evening visit the Birla Temple, to learn more about the Hindu religion. Built recently in 1985, houses ornate statues including one of Lakshmi (Goddess of Wealth and Beauty) and Narayan dressed in gaudy robes, representing a Hindu vision of heavenly luxury. Witness the Aarti Ceremony (Prayer ceremony) which involves oil lamps being lit and waved, in order to awake and invoke the deity.

Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 4	Jaipur		
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Morning proceed on an excursion to Amber Fort with an Elephant ride upto the top of the Fort. Drive past Hawa Mahal, known popularly as the Palace of Winds, is a facade built for the Ladies of the Royal household in the 19th century. The Amber Fort, the capital of the erstwhile State of Jaipur until 1728 is perched on a hill. It has halls of Public and Private audience, a Sheesh Mahal (hall of mirrors) various marble palaces which are marvelous examples of ancient Rajput architecture. The Temple of Amba (Mother Goddess), the patron deity of the Royal family is at the entrance to the palace. Ride an elephant to ascend the hill on which the Fort is situated.

Later return to the city for the sightseeing, visit the City Palace located in the heart of Jaipur known for its blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture, the complex which houses the rare and rich collection of Ornaments, Arms, Royal Costumes, Carpets and Decorative Art objects of traditional Rajasthani and Mughal Art and Architecture.

Another monument near the City Palace is Jantar Mantar, a solar observatory - It is the largest of the five astronomical observatories an astrological and astronomical observatory built by Maharaja Jai Singh in the 18th century the founder ruler of Jaipur, which are remarkable for its accuracy even in the present times. It is an astronomical treasure house and is classified as UNESCO World Heritage Site. Later do a Photo-stop at Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), a seven storied facade of Pink sandstone and one of the most picturesque landmarks with semi-octagonal and delicately honeycombed windows overlooking the main street of the old city. It was built in 1799 so that veiled royal women could see the royal processions through its 593 stone screens without being seen by the outsiders.

Overnight stay at hotel.



Day 5	Jaipur – Agra	By Surface	240KM/04-05 Hours
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Morning after breakfast drive to Agra. Continue drive to Agra after visiting Fatehpur Sikri. Fatehpur Sikri - Built in 1571, it is a synthesis of the flourishing styles of the Persian courts and the prevailing Hindu Islamic trends. It was planned as a great town by Emperor Akbar with great care and planning, but it had to be abandoned after fifteen years due to scarcity of water in the town. Constructed mainly as a tribute to the great Sufi Saint Shaikh Salim Chisti who had blessed Akbar with a son. His son was named after the Saint as Salim and he succeeded the Emperor Akbar and was known as Emperor Jehangir. The town was originally named Sikri after the village, where it was founded but its twin city Fatehpur (Victory Town) was erected to celebrate Akbar's conquest of Gujarat. However, ruins of the temple dating back to 12th century suggest the reign of Rajputs in the area long before Mughals took over the area. The two mosques in the village of Sikri have inscriptions, which announce their conception in 1314 under Mohd. Khilji. There have been records that Babur renamed the village 'Sikri' as 'Shukri', meaning 'thanks to the god'. It was also the famous dwelling place and Khanqah of Shiekh Salim Chishti, the famous Sufi saint whom Akbar revered for blessing him with child. Built in Red Sandstone, an example of robust stability combined with originality each important edifice here represents a type by itself. Notable among them is the Buland Darwaza, Tomb of Shaikh Salim Chisti, Jama Masjid, Diwan-e-Aam, Diwan-e-Khas, Panch Mahal, Palace of Jodha Bai, Birbal Bhawan, Miriam's Palace, Karawan Serai and Hiran Minar.

After the tour continue drive to Agra, arrive and check-in at hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 6	Agra – Katni	By Train	
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In the morning: Proceed on a city tour of Agra. Visit the Agra Fort, built by three Mughal Emperors starting from Akbar the Great in 1565 AD, which is a masterpiece of design and construction. Within the fort are a number of exquisite buildings including the Moti Masjid, Jahangir's Palace, Khas Mahal and the Sheesh Mahal, Diwane-i-Am, Diwane-i-Khas and Musamman Burj.

Later visit the Taj Mahal - the inimitable poem in white marble. Built over a period of 22 years, by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in 1630, for his Queen Mumtaz Mahal to enshrine her mortal remains, it is one of the seven modern wonders of the World. [The Taj is closed on Friday.]

In evening take an 1st Class A/C Sleeper class overnight train to Katni near to (Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve). Packed dinner will be arranged for your overnight train journey. Bedding is provided by the Indian Railways within the train

Day 7	Katni – Bandhavgarh	By Surface	100KM/01-02 Hours
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Arrival in Katni in the morning. Drive to Bandhavgarh National Park. Arrive and check-in at resort. Afternoon game drive at the national park. Meals and overnight at Resort.

Day 8	Bandhavgarh		
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Morning game drive in National Park, remaining day at leisure. Meals and overnight at Resort. Bandhavgarh has been a center of human activity and settlement for over 2000 years, and there are references to it in the ancient books, the Narad-Panch Ratra and the Shiva Purana. Legend has it that Lord Rama, hero of the Hindu epic, the Ramayana, stopped at Bandhavgarh on his way back to his homeland after defeating the demon King Ravana of Lanka. Two monkey architects, who had engineered a bridge between the isles of Lanka and the mainland, are said to have built Bandhavgarh's fort. Later Rama handed it over to his brother Lakshmana who became known as Bandhavdhish "The Lord of the Fort". Lakshmana is the particular God of the fort and is regularly worshipped in a temple there. The oldest sign of habitation in the park are caves dug into the sandstone to the north of the fort. Several contain Brahmi inscriptions dating from the 1st century B.C. Various dynasties have ruled the fort, for example, the Maghas from the 1st century A.D., the Vakatakas from the 3rd century A.D., From that time onwards Bandhavgarh was ruled by a succession of dynasties including the Chandela Kings of Bundelkhand who built the famous temples at Khajuraho. The Baghel Kings, the direct ancestors of the present Royal family of Rewa, established their dynasty at Bandhavgarh in the 12th century. It remained their capital till 1617 when the center of court life moved to Rewa, 75 miles (120Kms) to the north. Without royal patronage Bandhavgarh became more and more deserted until forest overran the area band it became the royal hunting reserve. This helped to preserve the forest and its wildlife, although the Maharajas made full use of their rights.

At independence Bandhavgarh remained the private property of the Maharaja until he gave it to the state for the formation of the National Park in 1968. After the park was created poaching was brought under control and the number of animals rose dramatically. Small dams and water holes were built to solve the problem of water shortage. Grazing by local cattle was stopped and the village within the park boundaries was relocated. The Tigers in particular prospered and the 1986 extension provided much needed forest to accommodate them.

Bandhavgarh is justifiably famous for its Tigers, but it has a wide range of other game. The undergrowth is not as dense as in some northern terai forests, but the best time to see the park inhabitants is still the summer months when water becomes scarce and the undergrowth dies back.

There are two types of monkeys common in the park, the rhesus macaque and the black-faced langur. Drives can also reveal jungle cats, hyenas, porcupines, ratels, and a variety of other mammals. Bandhavgarh attracts many migratory birds in the winter months, including the birds of prey like the steppe eagle and a variety of wildfowl.

If the early morning Safari is a thriller then the late afternoon rendezvous to get another glimpse of the Tiger, and watch the shadows grow taller as dusk approaches and the cacophony of birds grows louder in the trees, is not to be missed experience.

Day 9	Bandhavgarh – Kanha	By Surface	206KM/04-05 Hours
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Morning after breakfast depart for Kanha, 250kms, 6 hours drive, Lunch at Resort and afternoon game drive to The National Park.

Kanha's sal and bamboo forests, rolling grasslands and meandering streams stretch over 940 sq km in dramatic natural splendour which form the core of the Kanha Tiger Reserve



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created in 1974 under Project Tiger. The park is the only habitat of the rare hardground Barasingha (Cervus Duvaceli Branderi).

This is original Kipling country of which he wrote so vividly in his Jungle Book. The same abundance of wild life species exists today in Kanha National Park, as it must have when Kipling roamed these parts.

Dinner and overnight at Lodge.

Day 10	Kanha		
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Breakfast at Lodge. Morning and afternoon Jeep safari to the National park. Overnight at Lodge.

Day 11	Kanha – PENCH		
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		By Surface	
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			186KM/03-04 Hours
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Morning game drive to the National Park and later drive to PENCH National Park 210/5 hrs. Lunch at Resort and evening game drive to the park.

This park is different located in the AVSM (Aravali, Vindhyanchal, Satpura and Maikal Ranges) belt, this teak forest is a different and a pleasant surprise to the normal and scenic parks of Kanha and Bandhavgarh. The tracks are smoother, the trees are thicker with dense undergrowth, perhaps one reason why the herbivore population here is more larger in size compared to Kanha and Bandhavgarh. There is a distinct silence here. You feel you are the King, when suddenly your driver halts seeing the Pugmarks of the actual King of the area. A Tiger has just crossed; he shows them to you, and suddenly an alarm call from one of the denizens of the forest. You, your driver, your naturalist are all alert. Looking in the direction of the call, eye balls much bigger than usual, heart pounding at 120 beats a minute. Ears as big as of an Elephant, you want to see the true King of PENCH. The drama, unfolds, and you are in PENCH, the true and original Kipling Country.

Dinner and overnight at Camps.

Day 12	PENCH		
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Breakfast, morning Jeep safari to the National park. Dinner and overnight at Camps.

Day 13	PENCH – Nagpur		
	Nagpur – Delhi		

		By Surface	
		By Flight	

			95KM/01-02 Hours
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Morning game drive to the national Park. Lunch at Resort and later transfer to Nagpur to board a flight to New Delhi. Arrive and transfer to international airport to board a flight back home