



Birdwatching, Taj Mahal & Tiger Tour (includes Kanha)

Best time to visit: November - March

12 days Delhi – Bharatpur – Chambal (day trip) – Agra – Kanha– Delhi

Refer to BT8B for budget option and website for full version of this itinerary.

Enjoy some of India's sensational architectural wonders including the Taj Mahal. See spectacular birdlife in Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, take a boat safari along the Chambal river for Indian Skimmers, Gharials and maybe River Dolphins. Explore Kipling-country at Kanha in search of Tiger and a wealth of other wildlife.



Taj Mahal © K Barnes

Itinerary

Day 1: Flight (excluded, but easily booked via the internet)

Day 2: Delhi

Arrive at Delhi International Airport. You will be welcomed by our representative and taken to check in at local guest hotel. Spend remainder of day exploring Delhi sites with your driver. Meals: Payable directly.

Day 3: Delhi – Bharatpur

After breakfast your driver will take you to Bharatpur (5 hrs). Ideally leave 7am or earlier to avoid rush hour traffic. Check in to your hotel, close to Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary entrance. Explore Sanctuary for rest of the day with experienced guide. Night at hotel. (B) (L) (D)

Day 4: Bharatpur

Explore Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary for the whole day with an experienced guide for nightjars, owls, Black Bittern and even Siberian Rubythroat is possible. Have packed lunch inside the Sanctuary. Pack your bags tonight, as you'll be leaving early next day. Relax for the evening at your hotel. (B) (PL) (D)

Day 5: Bharatpur – Chambal – Agra

Leave for the Chambal River (Dholpur) after an early breakfast, with bird guide accompanying. The journey will take approx. 1¼ hours. Enjoy a three hour boat safari on the Chambal River. Species here might include Indian Skimmer, Gharial, Marsh Crocodile, many species of bird and a glimpse of the rare Ganges Fresh Water River Dolphin if you are lucky. After lunch drive to Agra and say goodbye to your bird guide. Check in at hotel and relax for the evening. Night in Agra. (B) (PL)

Day 6: Agra – o/n train to Jabalpur (near Kanha)

After breakfast spend several hours exploring Agra. First visit Agra Fort World Heritage Site (WHS). Then have lunch and consider ordering a packed dinner for the train journey later; we can recommend a restaurant. A stay in this bustling city is not complete without a visit to the Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays). A mid-afternoon viewing is recommended when the marble often turns from brilliant white to peach-tinted. You will then be transferred to the railway station to catch the Gondwana Express departing Agra at 1850 hrs. Night on first class air-conditioned sleeper train. (B)

Day 7: Jabalpur – Kanha

Your train should arrive in Jabalpur at 0715 hrs and your driver will meet you and take you for breakfast at a local hotel before continuing the drive to Kanha (3½ hrs). Check in at safari lodge (from 12 noon) and relax or enjoy birdwatching in and around the lodge environs with resident naturalist – please enquire on arrival. Or you may add an extra safari to increase your chance of seeing Tiger - see supplement. (B) (L) (D)

Days 8 and 9: Kanha

Enjoy morning and afternoon jeep safaris inside Kanha National Park, home to the ultimate of predators, the Bengal Tiger. Kanha is also an excellent place for Gaur, Swamp Deer, Wild Dog and Jungle Cat. Sloth Bear and Leopard are occasionally seen, but require more luck. Kanha boasts an impressive bird list and species might include Scarlet Minivet, Black-hooded Oriole, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Plum-headed Parakeet and Red Spurfowl. If a Tiger is found away from the tracks you may have the option of transferring to an elephant to have a sighting – as this is not guaranteed you need to pay for this directly. (B) (L) (D)

Day 10: Kanha – Jabalpur – o/n train to Delhi

Relax for morning or explore (on foot) locally with the lodge naturalist. Or you can add in an extra safari drive if you wish - see supplement. Later in the morning you will be transferred to Jabalpur station to connect with the 1555 hours Gondwana Express to Delhi. Night on train in first class air-conditioned sleeper carriage (pillow, sheet and blanket provided). (B) (PL) (PD)

Day 11: Delhi

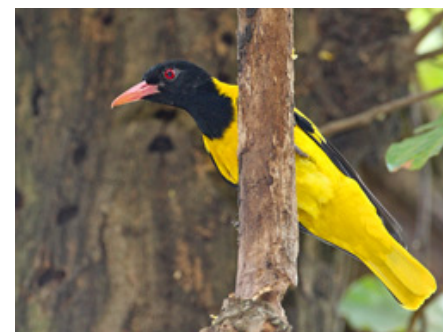
Your train will arrive in Delhi at 0725 hours. Your driver will meet you at the station platform (scan the placards for your name). You will have the car and driver at your disposal for the remainder of the day for local sightseeing in Delhi (monument/guide fees to be paid directly). Check in at hotel is after 12 noon. Night at hotel.

Day 12: Delhi

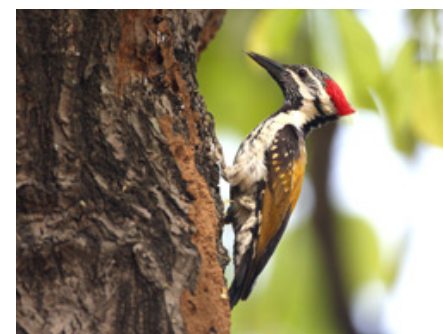
On this day we have included a departure transfer to the airport to connect with your international flight home (to be booked by you directly). (B) **Tour ends.**



Bengal Tiger © M Eldridge



Black-hooded Oriole © C Bradshaw



Black-rumped Flameback
© C Bradshaw

Price per person (valid till 31 March 2012) on twin-share basis (all jeep safaris by exclusive jeep) for TWO travelling: £1280 (standard) , £1380 (deluxe); for THREE travelling: £1115 * (standard), £1220 * (deluxe); for FOUR travelling: £1030 (standard), £1135 (deluxe). Single room supplement: Standard £265, Deluxe £345 * Single room supplement to be applied for extra room. Supplement for each extra safari in an exclusive jeep in Kisli zone: £95 per jeep (divided by number in jeep). Supplements may apply for the Christmas/New Year period (20th December – 5th January). Please enquire for details. Full itinerary with inclusions available on website. Please note that the booking of this itinerary is with Wild About Travel and their booking conditions apply.

Call or email Wild About Travel and we would be happy to assist. Tel: +44 (0)1480 370593 Mobile: +44 (0)7817 574235

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