

WILD ABOUT TRAVEL - INDIA

Taj Mahal and Tiger Tour with Crocodiles!

Best time to visit: November - March



Ref: BT9

10 Days Delhi – Agra (and Chambal) – Jabalpur – Kanha – Jabalpur – Delhi
Take in the beauty of the famous Taj Mahal at sunset and sunrise. Experience the thrill of heading out on jeep safari in search of Bengal Tiger, India's ultimate jungle predator. Here at Kanha National Park, your chance of seeing the 'King of the Cats' is very good. For three full days explore the kind of habitats where Rudyard Kipling found inspiration for his Jungle Book and with good luck you might come across a Sloth Bear (Baloo). Swamp Deer, Gaur (Wild Bison), Chital (Spotted Deer), Sambar Deer and Wild Boar are much easier to see and Kanha is one of the best places in India to look for Wild Dog (Dhole). Add to this a day excursion to the Chambal River (Dholpur) where, on a three-hour boat trip, you can relax and watch Gharials and Marsh Crocodiles at close quarters and see a wealth of amazing birdlife. We are confident you will take away many memorable moments to last a life-time. Tour extensions are available.



Taj Mahal © K Barnes



Bengal Tiger © M Eldridge



Kanha © C Bloomfield



Jungle Cat © C Bloomfield



Gharial © C Bradshaw

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 a local guest house/hotel. Your car and driver will be available for the remainder of the day. Meals are payable directly for today.

Day 3: Delhi – Agra (avoiding a Friday)

Leave after early breakfast for the drive to Agra (approx. 4 – 6 hrs) depending on rush hour traffic. Check in at your hotel (from 12 noon). Enjoy a mid to late afternoon visit to the Taj Mahal and learn all about its fascinating history with the help of a local guide. Stay until sunset, then your driver will transfer you to your hotel for the night. This evening we recommend you order a packed lunch to take with you to Chambal the next day. (B)

Day 4: Agra – Chambal – Agra

After breakfast, remember to collect a packed lunch (payable directly), then with a naturalist guide accompanying, your driver will take you to the National Chambal Sanctuary – approx. a 1½ to 2 hr drive. You'll travel through typical rural landscapes where local enterprise includes brick-making as well as farming. Arrive at Dholpur and board your boat for a three-hour trip along the Chambal River with your naturalist guide. Expect to get close views of Gharial, a rare fish-eating crocodile, also Marsh Crocodile, turtles and perhaps a glimpse of the rare Ganges River Dolphin (the Chambal is a tributary of the Ganges). Many species of birds are also present, including Indian Skimmer, Indian Black Ibis, Bar-headed Goose, Painted and Woolly-necked Storks. Have your packed lunch, then return to Agra and relax for the remainder of the day. Spend a second night at your hotel. (B)

Day 5: Agra – overnight train to Jabalpur

You could, if you wish, opt for seeing the Taj Mahal at sunrise, then return to your hotel for breakfast. You'll need to check out of your room on time, then spend the rest of the day exploring two other World Heritage Sites, Agra Fort and Sikandra. Later in the afternoon we recommend you take an early dinner before being transferred to the railway station to board the Gondwana Express train to Jabalpur departing at 1850 hrs (overnight sleeper) (B)

Day 6: Jabalpur – Kanha

Your train should arrive at 0715 hrs in the morning and a new driver will be waiting for you at the platform. You could stop for breakfast locally, then take a leisurely drive (approx. 4 hrs) to Kanha National Park where you will stay in a comfortable jungle resort. No activities are included this afternoon – see supplement for extra safari. (L) (D)

Day 7, 8 and 9: Kanha

On these days enjoy early morning and afternoon jeep safaris (six in total) in search of Bengal Tiger and many other species of mammals and birds which share their jungle home. Safaris are by open-sided and open-topped jeep (standard practice) with a park guide accompanying. 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. Nights at the same comfortable jungle resort. (B) (L) (D)

Day 10: Kanha – Jabalpur – Delhi

After breakfast, your driver will take you to Nagpur in time to check in for an internal flight back to Delhi (excluded from the price, but we can advise of a suitable flight to book). (B) **Tour ends.**

Please ask or visit the website to extend this tour to include other fabulous mammal, birdwatching or cultural destinations.

Price per person (Valid till 31st March 2012) in standard accommodation on twin-share basis for TWO travelling: £1110, for THREE travelling: £955 *, for FOUR travelling: £865. Single room supplement: £195. The booking of this itinerary is with Wild About Travel and their booking conditions apply. * Single Room supplement to be applied for extra room. £12 pp. supplement for 1st a/c sleeper train.

Price includes:

All land transport inc. 6 jeep drives on exclusive basis at Kanha National Park. Train ticket (priced for 2nd a/c sleeper class). Accommodation and meals as specified (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). National Park guide on each safari in Kanha and one boat trip per person (three hours duration) with guide on the Chambal River. Park, sanctuary and monument entrance fees (including two visits to Taj Mahal). Pre-travel information

Price excludes:

Flights, travel insurance and tourist visa. Elephant ride (subject to availability) – allow approx. £8 per person payable in rupees. Camera /camcorder fees where these are not included in entry ticket. Drinks (inc. bottled water), tips, laundry, phone calls and anything of a personal nature.

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