

North India Bird & Wildlife Tour - with Ranthambhore

Delhi, Sultanpur, Ranthambhore, Bharatpur, Chambal, Agra, Corbett, Pangot and Sat Tal

Best Time: Mid-November to March

Duration: 15 Days

Tour Pace: Easy to Moderate

Tour Dates: November 01 to 15, 2019

Birding guide: Asian Adventures Guides

Tour Code: JVD1-NIB-NOV2019

International Flight details

Nov 01, 2019: Arrive Delhi in the evening

Nov 15, 2019: Departure from Delhi in the morning

Domestic Train

Nov 02, 2019: Delhi to Ranthambhore (day train)

Description

This tour takes you to the best birding sites of North India (such as Sultanpur bird sanctuary, Keoladeo National Park and National Chambal Sanctuary and Himalayan Foothills) & best Tiger Park of Rajasthan & Uttarakhand (Ranthambhore and Corbett National Park) along with the must do visit to the iconic Taj Mahal. You can expect between 350 to 400 species of birds and between 20-25 Mammals on this trip.

Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary

Situated 48 km from Delhi, Sultanpur National Park is a haven for birds, both resident and migratory. During the winter months, it attracts more than 100 varieties of migratory bird species. Although the migratory birds are the prime attraction of the park, the sight of over 150 resident bird species also promise to enthrall bird watchers. The resident population of birds includes Black-necked Stork, Egrets & Herons in large numbers, Indian Roller, Kingfishers such as White-throated, Common and Pied, Grey Hornbill, Red-collared Dove, Red & Yellow-wattled Lapwing, Rose Ringed & Alexandrine Parakeet, Thick-billed Flowerpecker, Indian Courser, Sarus Crane, Spotted Owlet, etc.

Note: The park remains closed on every Tuesday

Ranthambhore National Park

Ranthambhore is a magical place full of romance of the wilds and intrigue of history. Once the hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur and the British, it was declared the Sawai Madhopur Wildlife Sanctuary in 1955 and a National Park in 1980. A famous Ganesh temple within the old fort inside park is still visited by worshippers walking through the forest. The tigers here have been reputed to be fearless of human company and are often seen during the daytime, hence increasing the sightings and popularity among visitors.

The days are dedicated to exploring Ranthambhore more. We will take you for an afternoon drive in a 4WD to the park for tiger-tracking and animal viewing. Regardless of animal sightings, there is something magically peaceful and tranquil about a safari journey, the opportunity to be at one with nature, surrounded by beautiful scenery is hard to beat.

Along with the scheduled morning and afternoon safaris, you can explore the ancient Ranthambhore Fort on whose name the National Park has been named, Ganesh Temple and the Jogi Mahal which is the home to the country's second largest Banyan tree and offers stunning views of the Padam Talo, pond with lilies blooming.

A visit to the local village may also be a good option for those interested.

Art lovers must also visit the Ranthambore school of Art for the wildlife paintings created by local artists. The school contributes towards tiger conservation.

Keoladeo National Park

Keoladeo Ghana National Park in Rajasthan was declared a World Heritage Site in 1985. It was one of the most outstanding wetland reserves in Asia. Especially during the winters, as monsoons refill the shallow marshes, it attracts thousands of waterfowl, herons, storks, cranes, waders, owls & raptors. Spotting scores of them together dotting the marshes is also an unforgettable visual treat. The compactness of the area makes it possible to see over a hundred species in a stay of just a few days. At Bharatpur, we will arrange a private cycle rickshaw guide for you to explore the park in a unique way.

National Chambal Sanctuary

River Chambal is one of the country's most beautiful and least polluted river systems. The National Chambal Sanctuary was formed to protect this pristine river eco-system. Over 290 species of resident and migratory bird species, including large nesting colonies of the rare Indian Skimmer, as well as Marsh Crocodiles (Muggers), Gharial (Gavials), eight species Turtles, and highly endangered Gangetic River Dolphin are found here. Best explored on boats, you will be impressed by the calm and serene beauty and the numerous sightings this river offers. The highlights usually are Indian skimmer, Black-bellied Tern, Flocks of migratory waterfowl, Cranes such as Common, Demoiselle and Sarus, etc.

Agra

A trip to India seems incomplete without a visit to the most iconic manmade structure in the world, the Taj Mahal, where we shall take you next. Built by Shah Jahan as the symbol for undying love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, the sight of the white marble structure does take the breath away.

Note: Taj Mahal remains closed on every Friday

Corbett National Park

It was named in the honor of Jim Corbett, a legendary hunter-turned- conservationist, best known for hunting man-eating tigers and leopards in the 1920s. Corbett Park is a popular retreat for wildlife and nature enthusiasts. It provides a great opportunity for viewing wildlife, especially the tiger in its natural habitat. The mammals include the Tiger, Leopard, Elephant, 4 species of deer, Nilgai, Gharial, Wild Boar, Hedgehog, Common Musk Shrew, Flying Fox, Indian Pangolin, 3 species of Civets, Himalayan & Sloth Bear, Jackal & Red Fox, Smooth Indian Otter etc. The park is very rich in reptiles including King Cobra. Nearly 600 species of birds dwell here such Long-tailed Nightjar, Jungle owlet, Spot-bellied Owl, Bristled Grassbird, Black Francolin, Purple & Crimson Sunbird, Golden-Fronted & Orange-Bellied Leafbird, Hen Harrier, Changeable & Mountain Hawk-Eagle, and many more etc.

Pangot

Pangot is a small hamlet in Uttarakhand which lies just 15 km from Nainital. Walking into Pangot is like stepping into a remote Himalayan village. This birdwatchers' paradise has 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. Nainital covers the tropical, sub-tropical, temperate, sub-alpine zones.

One can see Crested Serpent, Mountain Hawk & Black Eagle.

Woodpeckers are Brown-fronted, Stripe-breasted, Rufous-bellied etc.

Thrushes are Dark-throated, Mistle, etc.

Striated Prinia and a very rare Grey-crowned Prinia can be seen in the terraced fields. Warblers are Tickell's Leaf, Greenish, Grey-hooded etc.

Flycatchers are Asian Brown, Rusty-tailed, Ultramarine, Verditer. Rufous-bellied Niltava etc., Orange-flanked Blue Tail, Blue-capped Redstart.

Laughingthrushes such as Streaked, White-throated, Striated & Chestnut-crowned etc.

Look for Upland Pipit, Blue-winged Minla, Whiskered Yuhina etc. Slaty-headed & Red-breasted Parakeet, Grey Bushchat, Long-tailed & Grey-backed Shrike, Common Kestrel, Besra, Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush etc.

Black-headed Jay, Red-billed Blue Magpie, Rufous Sibia are common birds here.

Pheasants are Cheer, Koklas and Khalij.

Rare species that can be seen here: Grey-crowned Prinia

Sat Tal

At Sat Tal, the habitat offers species such as White-crested Laughingthrush, Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher, Red-billed Leothrix, Siberian Rubythroat, Rock Bunting, etc. This scattered and forested area is one of the most pleasant destinations. Look for Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush, Rufous-breasted Accentor, Greater Yellow-naped Flameback, Speckled Piculet, Golden Bush Robin etc.

Itinerary overview

Nov. 01 2019: Arrive Delhi

Nov. 02 2019: Delhi to Ranthambhore National Park

Nov. 03 2019: Ranthambhore National Park

Nov. 04 2019: Ranthambhore National Park to Bharatpur

Nov. 05 2019: Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur

Nov. 06 2019: Nov. 01 2019 Excursion to Chambal River & Agra

Nov. 07 2019: Bharatpur to New Delhi

Nov. 08 2019: New Delhi to Corbett

Nov. 09 2019: Corbett National Park

Nov. 10 2019: Corbett National Park

Nov. 11 2019: Corbett to Nainital (Pangot)

Nov. 12 2019: Nainital (Pangot)

Nov. 13 2019: Nainital (Pangot) to Sat Tal

Nov. 14 2019: Sat Tal to Delhi

Nov. 15 2019: Delhi to Departure

Highlights

- A large list of bird species of the Himalayan region
- Himalayan views
- Farm fresh Indian meals
- Quaint lodges and camps
- Easy birding
- A large variety of other mammals
- Great birding in scrubland, wetlands and Riverine Eco-system
- Option of visiting the iconic Taj Mahal
- Glimpses of the beautiful landscape, architecture and lifestyle of North India

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Nov 01: Arrive Delhi (Sultanpur visit)**Meals: Dinner in Delhi**

Accommodation: Hotel Shanti Palace.

Arrive Delhi at noon. You will be met and transferred to Hotel Shanti Palace. Drop your luggage there and leave for Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary (1.5 hours drive) which will be a very good introduction to many birds. Return to the hotel in the evening. Overnight stay.

Nov 02: Delhi to Ranthambhore National Park**Meals: Breakfast in Delhi, lunch and dinner in Ranthambhore**

Accommodation: Ranthambhore Heritage Haveli.

Morning transfer to Delhi Train station to connect day train to Ranthambhore at 0720 hrs. Arrive Ranthambhore at 1330 hrs. You will be met and transferred to Ranthambhore Heritage Haveli. Afternoon CANTER safari to the national park for tiger tracking, wildlife viewing and bird watching. Overnight stay

Nov 03: Ranthambhore National Park**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner in Ranthambhore**

Accommodation: Ranthambhore Heritage Haveli

Morning and afternoon CANTER safari to the national park for tiger tracking, wildlife viewing and bird watching. Overnight stay

Nov 04: Ranthambhore National Park to Bharatpur**Meals: Breakfast in Ranthambhore, lunch and dinner Bharatpur**

Accommodation: Hotel Kadamb Kunj.

After breakfast, drive to Bharatpur stopping en-route for birding. Arrive Bharatpur for late lunch. After lunch, birding in the field outside the park. Overnight stay

Nov 05: Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur**Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner**

Accommodation: Hotel Kadamb Kunj or similar

Full day of birding in Keoladeo Ghana National Park on foot and cycle rickshaws with a birding guide. Overnight stay

Nov 06: Day Excursion to Chambal River and Agra**Meals: Breakfast & Dinner in Bharatpur, Packed Lunch**

Accommodation: Hotel Kadamb Kunj or similar

Drive to National Chambal Sanctuary in the morning (2 hours) for bird watching. Return in the afternoon after visiting Taj Mahal at Agra. Overnight stay.

Nov 07: Bharatpur to Noida**Meals: Breakfast & Lunch in Bharatpur, Dinner in Noida**

Accommodation: Savoy Suites or similar

Morning bird watching in the park at Bharatpur. Check-out and proceed to Noida (a 5-hour drive). Arrive Noida in the evening. Overnight stay.

Nov 08: New Delhi to Corbett National Park.

Meals: Breakfast in Delhi, lunch & dinner in Corbett

Accommodation: Tiger Camp.

Morning drive from Delhi to Corbett National Park (7hrs). Arrive Hotel for lunch. Afternoon birding at Kosi river. Overnight stay

Nov 09: Corbett National Park

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner in Tiger Camp

Accommodation: Tiger Camp or similar

Morning and afternoon jeep safaris to the national park for Tiger tracking and wildlife viewing. Overnight stay.

Day 10: Corbett National Park

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner in Tiger Camp

Accommodation: Tiger Camp or similar

Morning and afternoon jeep safaris to the national park for Tiger tracking and wildlife viewing. Overnight stay.

Nov 11: Corbett National Park to Nainital (Pangot)

Meals: breakfast, lunch & dinner

Accommodation: Jungle Lore Birding Lodge

Morning walk at Kumeria. Return for lunch. Drive to Corbett Falls (1 hour). After birding at Corbett Falls continue to Pangot. Arrive for lunch. Overnight stay

Nov 12: Nainital (Pangot)

Meals: breakfast, lunch & dinner

Accommodation: Jungle Lore Birding Lodge

Full day birding at Cheena Peak, Kilbury & Timla Pani. Overnight stay

Nov 13: Pangot to Sat Tal

Meals: Breakfast and lunch in Pangot, dinner in Sat Tal

Accommodation: Mapple Hermitage Resort or similar

Morning birding in Pangot. Drive to Sat Tal after early lunch stopping enroute at various birding locations. Arrive Sat Tal in the late afternoon. Rest of the day birding. Dinner and overnight stay

Nov 14: Sat Tal to Delhi

Meals: Breakfast & lunch in Sat Tal, dinner in Delhi

Accommodation: Hotel Shanti Palace.

Half day birding in Sat Tal / Bhimtal with your guide. Overnight stay

Nov 15: Delhi to Departure

Meals: Breakfast

Transfer to airport in the morning to connect flight back to home. Tour ends.

Tour cost (per person) – UK £ 2650 (minimum 8 paying persons)

Single room supplement: UK £ 475

Validity: Nov 2019

Services includes only:

- Accommodation on twin sharing basis
- Meals as per the itinerary
- Canter safaris in Ranthambhore as per the itinerary
- Birding cruise on Chambal river in National Chambal Sanctuary
- Jungle visits: in Corbett National Park
- Birding in Bharatpur on foot and cycle rickshaw
- Birding in Nainital / Pangot per the itinerary
- Rail fare in air-conditioned trains
- All airport, railway station & surface transfers by a private air-conditioned car / coach
- Birding guides services
- Park entrance fees
- Taj Mahal Guided Tour with Entrance Fee
- All taxes

Above cost does not include:

- Optional tours/excursions, personal & incidental expenses, monument entrance fee
- Tips, laundry, phone calls, bottled water, alcohol, camera fee, elephant ride etc.
- Meals not specified, any other services not mentioned in cost inclusions