



WILDLIFE OF INDIA

Go Beyond Tour | 15 Days | Physical Level 2

Delhi – Agra – Khajuraho – Bandhavgarh – Kanha - Delhi

This tour offers a complete immersion into India's extraordinary blend of natural wonders, wildlife, historical richness, and cultural heritage, ensuring a fulfilling journey. Delve into the diverse landscapes of India and cultural gems, and witness magnificent wildlife in various national parks while admiring awe-inspiring architectural marvels.

- Rickshaw ride to the market
- Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- Visit the temples of Khajuraho
- Spot the majestic Bengal tiger
- Explore Panna National Park

TOUR MAP



WILDLIFE OF INDIA TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation, train tickets and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- India e-visa fees for New Zealand passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Safe and secure with IATA

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, meals not included, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

GO BEYOND TOURS:

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward with unique culture, interactions with local people the experiences of a lifetime.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Wildlife of India' is rated 2 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and trains, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing several steps, often without handrails
- You will be required to get on and off various trains and rickshaws throughout the tour
- The tour involves early morning starts and long drives

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 15 days in duration including return international flights or 13 days in duration based on 'Land Only'.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Delhi and end the tour on Day 14 in Delhi.

DETAILED TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1-2: Arrive Delhi

Meals: D

Fly overnight to Delhi, where on arrival you will be met and transferred 45 minutes to your hotel. You have the rest of the day at leisure.

Early check-in is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.



Destination Information

Delhi - As the capital of India, Delhi is the third largest city with a population of approximately 18million people. Its strategic location along the north-south, east-west route has given it a focal position in Indian history and many great empires have been ruled from here. The monuments and ruins of these are scattered throughout the city, often side by side with modern structures and high-rise towers.

Day 3: Explore Delhi

Meals: B,L,D

After breakfast embark on a whirlwind journey through the heart of Delhi, beginning with a drive past the iconic Red Fort, visit the majestic Jama Masjid and then explore Old Delhi with a rickshaw ride through the bustling streets. Drive past India Gate, President House and Parliament and pay a visit to Gandhi Smriti before ending the day with a visit to Humayun's Tomb, an elegant Mughal mausoleum surrounded by formal gardens.



Sightseeing today will last approximately 7 hours. Expect steps, uneven paving and busy streets in Old Delhi.

Destination Information

Jama Masjid – Jama Masjid is the largest mosque in India, with a courtyard capable of holding 25,000 devotees. Built between 1644 and 1658, the mosque was Shah Jahan's final architectural achievement.

India Gate - Located at the end of the Rajpath, India Gate is a moving memorial to the 90,000 Indian servicemen who died in World War 1.

Gandhi Smriti – A museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. It is the location where Mahatma Gandhi lived the last 144 days and was assassinated on January 30, 1948.

Rashtrapati Bhavan – The official residence of the President of India.

Humayun's Tomb - One of Delhi's most impressive Mughal monuments, built in the 16th century as the final resting place of Emperor Humayun. Set within beautifully symmetrical gardens, its striking red sandstone, white marble dome and elegant arches showcase the grandeur of early Mughal architecture.

Day 4: Travel to Agra**Meals: B, L, D**

An early start today as you transfer to Delhi railway station to board the 1 hour 40 minute Gatiman Express to Agra. On arrival, head straight to magnificent Agra Fort, exploring its courtyards, palaces and imposing red sandstone walls. After lunch, visit a marble inlay workshop to see the intricate craftsmanship associated with Agra's Mughal monuments. Later this afternoon, visit the incomparable Taj Mahal, where you can admire the exquisite white marble mausoleum commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.



Today's sightseeing is approximately 5 hours.

Destination Information

Agra Fort - Situated on the west bank of the Yamuna River and built by Emperor Akbar between 1565 and 1573. Its imposing red sandstone ramparts form a crescent along the riverfront and encompass an enormous complex of courtly buildings, ranging in style from the early eclecticism of Akbar to the sublime elegance of Shah Jahan. The barracks to the north are British additions from the 19th century. A deep moat, once filled with water from the Yamuna River surrounds the fort.

Taj Mahal - One of the most recognisable monuments in the world, The Taj Mahal is a white marble monument found on the southern bank of the Yamuna River. The Taj Mahal was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan between the years 1631 -1648 in memory of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631.

Day 5: Travel to Khajuraho**Meals: B, L, D**

After an early breakfast, transfer to the railway station and board the Vande Bharat Express for Khajuraho, with a packed lunch provided for the journey. This train journey is 6 hours and 30 minutes. Arrive in the afternoon and explore the remarkable Khajuraho Temples, renowned for their intricately carved sandstone architecture and considered among India's finest surviving examples of medieval temple art.



Today is a long travel day with an early start to the morning.

Destination Information

Western Group of Temples - The Khajuraho temples were built by the Chandella rulers between AD 900 and 1300 and are scattered over 23km sq. Originally a group of 85, they are the largest group of Hindu and Jain temples in the world, although only about 25 of them remain today. Tour the Western Groups of temples, the most important is the Kandariya Mahadevo Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Eastern Group of Temples - The Eastern group represent some of the finest Jain temples including Parsvanatha which is known for its carvings of celestial beauties (sura-sundaris), along with the Adinath and Ghantai temples. We also see the Hindu temples including the Vamana Temple, dedicated to Lord Vamana, the dwarf incarnation of Lord Vishnu, as well as the Javari Temple.

Day 6: Panna National Park

Meals: B, L, D

Travel to Panna this morning and take to the tranquil waters of the Ken River for an approximately 1 hour boat ride, enjoying the surrounding forest landscapes and opportunities to spot birdlife and other wildlife along the riverbanks. After lunch venture into Panna National Park on a 3 hour jeep safari. Explore its forests, grasslands and rocky landscapes in search of wildlife, which may include deer, antelope, monkeys and, with luck, the elusive Bengal tiger.



Destination Information

Panna National Park – Known for its rich biodiversity, featuring diverse flora and fauna. The park is famous for its tiger population and is part of the Project Tiger initiative, focusing on the conservation of this majestic species. Besides tigers, Panna National Park is home to leopards, sloth bears, sambar deer, and numerous bird species.

Day 7: Travel to Bandhavgarh National Park

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast you depart for Bandhavgarh National Park. This is a 5 hour drive and passes through the lush and picturesque landscapes of central India, a mix of forests, hills, and open plains. The highway connecting the two national parks is well-maintained, however there are some stretches of narrow and winding roads. Along the way, you will have several opportunities to stop at small towns and villages, offering a glimpse into the local culture. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure before joining a naturalist for a Tiger Talk, learning more about Bengal tiger behaviour, conservation and what to look out for during your upcoming safaris.



Please note: You will need your passport to gain entry to the national park.

Destination Information

Bandhavgarh – Located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh, India. It is one of the country's most renowned tiger reserves and is known for its rich biodiversity, particularly its population of Bengal tigers, making it a crucial hub for tiger conservation efforts.

Day 8: Bandhavgarh National Park

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a relaxed morning at your lodge or join your guide for an optional nature walk around the surrounding area, discovering some of the smaller wildlife, plants and birdlife often missed from a safari vehicle. After lunch, head into Bandhavgarh National Park on your first 3 and a half hour jeep safari. Travel through dense forest and open grasslands with your naturalist in search of the park's diverse wildlife, including spotted deer, langurs, wild boar and, if fortunate, Bengal tiger.



Day 9: Bandhavgarh National Park

Meals: B, L, D

Rise before dawn for an early morning jeep safari in the park, taking a packed breakfast with you. Early morning is often one of the most atmospheric times to explore the park as the forest awakens and wildlife becomes active. Return to your lodge for time to relax and enjoy lunch before heading back into the park for a second safari during the afternoon, offering another opportunity to search for Bengal tigers and other native wildlife.



Day 10: Bandhavgarh to Kanha

Meals: B, L, D

After an early breakfast, leave Bandhavgarh and travel by road through rural Madhya Pradesh to Kanha National Park, taking approximately 6 hours. Arrive around lunchtime and settle into your safari lodge, with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. This evening, join a naturalist for a Tiger Talk to learn more about Kanha's ecosystem and resident wildlife. Later, there is also the option to enjoy stargazing from the lodge.



Destination Information

Kanha National Park – Also known as Kanha Tiger Reserve, the National Park is most famous for its Swamp Deer population, and has been instrumental in the survival and protection of species against extinction. The jungles of Kanha inspired Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book". The award-winning 'Land of the Tiger' by National Geographic was shot here, and the park won global acclaim for saving the endangered Barasingha (swamp deer).

Day 11: Kanha National Park

Meals: B, L, D

Rise early for a morning jeep safari through Kanha National Park, taking a packed breakfast with you. Explore its beautiful sal forests, meadows and woodland in search of wildlife including barasingha, spotted deer, langurs, wild dogs and Bengal tigers. Return to your lodge for lunch and some time to relax. Later this afternoon, travel by jeep to a local tribal village, offering an insight into rural life and the communities that live around the reserve.

**Day 12: Kanha National Park**

Meals: B, L, D

Another early start takes you back into Kanha National Park for a morning shared jeep safari, with a packed breakfast provided. Enjoy another opportunity to explore different areas of the reserve and search for its diverse wildlife. After lunch and time to rest at your lodge, venture into the park again for an afternoon safari, maximising your opportunities for wildlife encounters and experiencing the changing atmosphere of the forest as the day cools.

Day 13: Return to Delhi

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, leave Kanha and travel by road for 5 hours to the airport for your flight back to Delhi, with a packed lunch provided for the journey. On arrival in Delhi, transfer to your hotel for your final night.

**Day 14-15: Depart Delhi**

Meals: B

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home, arriving the same day.

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your international flight.

Late check-out is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.



WILDLIFE OF INDIA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders currently do require a visa to enter India. Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. We will supply you with all paperwork if applicable and submit the visa application on your behalf. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

All guests travelling to India must complete a mandatory digital e-Arrival card 72 hours prior to their arrival. The form can be completed and submitted online at indianvisaonline.gov.in/earrival/. Once completed, Travellers will receive a QR code to display upon arrival.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. On Go Beyond Tours, there will be no more than 18 passengers in each group, although you may encounter other Wendy Wu groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

EATING IN INDIA:

Indian cuisine is one of the most influential, diverse, and flavoursome culinary styles in the world. Indian dishes incorporate many spices and seasoning to create an explosion of flavours. Though Indian cuisine can vary greatly from the Indian food we get in the NEW ZEALAND, it is important to keep an open mind and be adventurous. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our classic group tours, from dinner on the arrival day until breakfast on the day of departure.

Please be aware that dishes selected for your meals reflect the cooking styles and signature dishes of the local area you are in.

Dishes served in restaurants on our group tours are varied. Some will be vegetable-based with meat mixed in, and a few will be meat-based. Our restaurants are aware of the western palate – there are plenty of non-spiced options. When eating meals on group tours, you will usually be seated around a large table with other tour members. Dishes will be served in the traditional ‘family style’; meaning that various dishes will be laid out in the centre of the table. These dishes are intended to be shared amongst the group – there is always more than enough to feed everybody.

Please read your travel guide, which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in India. We recommend that when it comes to Indian food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA:

Although India is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in the NEW ZEALAND. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the NEW ZEALAND; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday, so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your guide.

ACCOMMODATION:

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, TV, and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide or National Escort.

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort, or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between NEW ZEALAND and India. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

Please be aware that there are heightened security measures being carried out at all hotels, on guests and vehicles entering the properties.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Sri Lanka is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. To avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides and drivers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner-city roads in India have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in India have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Safaris: Specialized vehicles designed for use in wildlife safaris and are adapted to provide a safe and comfortable experience for tourists and wildlife enthusiasts while allowing for close-up views of animals in their natural habitats.

Open-Air Safari Jeeps: These are typically open-roofed, four-wheel-drive vehicles with raised seats in the back for better visibility. Open-air jeeps provide an unobstructed view of wildlife. Please always keep your arms/hands inside the vehicles.

Boats: In areas with water-based wildlife, such as wetlands and river deltas, boats are used for safaris. These can be small, open boats that you are required to climb in and out of.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and trousers or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at mosques. When visiting Jain temples, you must not wear or take in any leather items such as belts, watches, camera straps, purses and shoes.

Religious sites and homes throughout India – for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims, or Buddhists to name a few – require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside. We recommend shoes that easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your day pack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms due to domestic flight luggage restrictions. Excess luggage can be paid locally. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

PARK INFORMATION:

Kanha:

Terrain: Kanha is characterized by lush sal and bamboo forests, sprawling meadows, and the meandering Banjar River. Its diverse topography includes plateaus, valleys, and dense woodlands. The park's serene and expansive landscapes make it an idyllic setting for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers.

Wildlife: Kanha is renowned for its thriving populations of Bengal tigers, along with leopards, deer species, and diverse birdlife. It is also known for the elusive barasingha, or hard-ground swamp deer, which is found here and nowhere else in the world.

Scenic Beauty: The park's picturesque vistas, particularly during the monsoon when the landscape turns a vibrant green, are a distinguishing feature. Kanha's natural beauty and tranquillity offer a unique and serene wildlife experience.

Bandhavgarh National Park:

Terrain: Bandhavgarh boasts rugged terrain, with rocky hills, dense forests, and steep cliffs. Its undulating landscapes and ancient fort ruins create a dramatic backdrop for safaris.

Wildlife: Bandhavgarh is famous for having one of the highest densities of Bengal tigers in India. The park is also home to a variety of wildlife, including leopards, sloth bears, and various deer species. The presence of the ancient Bandhavgarh Fort adds a historical and mystical element to the park's character.

Intimacy: Bandhavgarh's smaller size compared to Kanha allows for a more intimate safari experience. The rugged terrain can lead to exciting wildlife sightings in unexpected places.

Panna National Park:

Terrain: Panna is distinguished by its unique mix of dense forests, lush riverbanks, and rocky plateaus. The Ken River flows through the park, creating a picturesque and diverse landscape.

Wildlife: While tigers are present in Panna, the park is known for its successful reintroduction of the species after a period of local extinction. Panna is also home to leopards, wolves, and various species of deer, as well as a rich variety of birdlife.

River Safaris: Panna offers the unique opportunity to explore its wilderness by boat, providing a different perspective and a chance to see wildlife congregating along the riverbanks.

DO'S AND DONT'S:

- Entry is allowed only with valid Id Proofs – Please carry your passport while visiting the National Parks
- Do not get down from the vehicle unless advised by the naturalist.
- Carrying alcohol and entering the park in an intoxicated condition is prohibited.
- Use of plastic is prohibited inside the protected area.
- Creating noises using transistors, tape recorders or blowing horn is prohibited.
- Lifting of any forest produce plants or animal article inside the protected area is prohibited.
- Allow the animals to have the right of the way. Maintain safe distance from animals.
- Teasing, chasing or feeding animals is strictly prohibited.
- Misconduct, bad behaviour and shouting is prohibited inside the protected area.
- Except for camera, use of mobile phones is strictly prohibited.
- Maintain silence and discipline during excursions.
- It is advised to wear clothes with colours that match the natural surroundings like browns or greens, khaki
- among other dull colours.
- Follow the instruction given by park officials.
- Report incidences of breaking of rules, forest fires and any damage to habitat or wildlife, if any, to the park officials.
- Smoking and lighting any kind of fire is strictly prohibited
- Driving after sunset is strictly prohibited inside the reserve

- Cooking is not allowed inside the park

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

Wendy Wu does not give specific health advice, but we do recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you. Safe travel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements. You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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