

# India's Wildlife - A Photography Tour

Naturetrek Tour Report

4th – 15th March 2026

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Tiger



Tiger



Leopard



Tiger

Tour report by Anurag Yadav  
Photos by Anurag Yadav, Louise Donovan and Andrew Farrow

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Tour participants: Anurag Yadav (leader) with seven Naturetrek clients

## Summary

A group of seven Naturetrek clients travelled through northern India on this wildlife photography tour led by Anurag Yadav. The journey began in Delhi, from where the group travelled by train to Bandhavgarh National Park, one of India's most celebrated tiger reserves.

Over several days of safaris across the Tala, Magdhi and Khitauli zones, the group enjoyed remarkable wildlife encounters. The forests were alive with Chital, Sambar, Gaur, langurs and a rich variety of birds, including Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Red-headed Vulture and Greater Racket-tailed Drongo. The highlight of the tour was the exceptional number of Tiger sightings. The group recorded around thirty-two individual tiger sightings, including dominant males, females with cubs, and several sub-adults. Memorable moments included a female walking straight towards the vehicles, a Tiger swimming across a water body, and extended observations of the famous Siddhibaba female and her cubs. Jackals, a civet and even a hunting attempt by a Leopard added further excitement to the safaris.

Beyond wildlife, the group also enjoyed a village walk near the park, birdwatching opportunities and a lively tribal dance performance.

After the safari portion of the trip, the group travelled to Agra to visit the iconic Taj Mahal and the historic Agra Fort, before returning to Delhi. The tour comprised outstanding wildlife sightings, excellent photography opportunities, and a rich cultural experience of India.

## Day 1

**Wednesday 4th March**

Clients departed from the UK for India.

## Day 2

**Thursday 5th March**

The clients arrived at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, met their guide and were escorted to the Pride Plaza Hotel. At 4.00pm we started for Nizamuddin Railway Station, and boarded our train to Katni.

## Day 3

**Friday 6th March**

We reached Katni on time and were driven to Bandhav Villas, near Bandhavgarh National Park. After breakfast and a short rest, we headed out for our first game drive. One vehicle went to the Magdhi Zone, while two vehicles explored the Tala Zone.

During the drive, we encountered several common mammals, including Chital, Sambar, Gaur and Bengal Sacred Langurs. There were also excellent birds for photography, such as Asian Green Bee-eaters, Greater Coucals, Painted Spurfowl and Jungle Babblers.

Towards the latter part of the drive, the vehicle in Magdhi came across a huge male Tiger strolling through the thickets. Eventually, the Tiger walked onto the road and paused, looking back over his shoulder, giving us a spectacular landscape shot with the magnificent forests of Bandhavgarh in the background.

Meanwhile, the vehicles in Tala had an equally thrilling sighting of a female Tiger with two sub-adult cubs in a grassland patch. The trio was seen moving energetically, and even chasing a Gaur into the forest. It was a very successful first drive, with exciting Tiger sightings in both zones.

## Day 4

## Saturday 7th March

Today was our first full day in the park, and all vehicles headed to the Tala Zone. Soon after entering, we were informed that two Tigers had been seen nearby, so we decided to wait in the area. After about twenty minutes, we caught our first glimpse of a Tiger moving through the thickets. Moments later, it jumped over the fence, giving us some great photographic opportunities. The Tiger then came close to the main track, briefly mock-charged a vehicle, and ran towards the fence again, before crossing it and disappearing into the forest. It was a fantastic sighting.

We later drove towards the area known for sub-adult cubs, and came across a female Tiger moving quietly in the thickets. Not long after, we also spotted another female resting along the edge of a water body. It turned out to be a very rewarding morning safari.

In the afternoon, we again explored the Tala Zone. This time, we found two Tigers resting along the banks of a water body. After a while, one of them (a large male) got up, walked in our direction, and then entered the water, swimming calmly towards us. A female Tiger was also present nearby. It was an incredible end to a truly amazing day.

## Day 5

## Sunday 8th March

In the morning, we were again exploring the Tala Zone, and almost immediately after entering the park we were in for a treat. A Tiger was sitting right on the road, and moments later another Tiger crossed just behind it. Soon after, two more Tigers appeared in the same area. It turned out to be two litters together, along with an adult female Tiger, which we also managed to see. It was a wonderful and rare sighting, and we spent a good time enjoying the moment. Later, we drove towards Shesh Shaiya, where we spent some peaceful time soaking in the forest atmosphere.

For the second safari of the day, our vehicles were divided between the Khitauli and Magdhi Zones. The drive began quite slowly, but eventually we came across a huge male Tiger sitting beside the road. After waiting for about twenty minutes, he got up, walked towards a nearby water body, and settled there for a while. We had excellent views as he later got up to drink, and then slowly walked along the road, giving us some fantastic photographic opportunities.

Meanwhile, the vehicle in the Magdhi Zone had a great sighting of a female Tiger with two cubs, along with an Asian Elephant. Altogether, it turned out to be another amazing day in the forests of Bandhavgarh.

## Day 6

## Monday 9th March

This morning, we had a safari in the Khitauli Zone. Soon after entering the park, we found some fresh Tiger pugmarks, but it appeared that the animal had moved towards the nearby village. After tracking the signs for some time, we eventually came across a female Tiger resting in the river. We waited patiently in the hope that she might come out. While waiting, we spent some time birding, and recorded several interesting species including Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Black-naped Monarch, White-rumped Munia, Indian Pond Heron and Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, among others. After a while, the Tiger woke up and quietly moved away into the forest.

In the afternoon, two vehicles again explored the Khitauli Zone. One of the vehicles had an exciting sighting of a Leopard attempting to hunt, which was a fascinating behaviour to observe. Meanwhile, the other vehicle went to the Tala Zone and enjoyed an excellent sighting of a magnificent male Tiger sitting beside the road. Later, they also tracked down a female Tiger, which appeared exclusively for them right next to the track. It was truly a remarkable sighting, and a wonderful way to end the day.

## Day 7

## Tuesday 10th March

In the morning, we had safaris in the Tala and Magdhi Zones. The vehicle in Tala saw a sub-adult male Tiger, while the vehicle in Magdhi had sightings of a Leopard and an Asian Elephant, but unfortunately no Tigers. At one point, we waited for quite some time at a spot where there was some activity, but nothing eventually showed up. However, while entering the park earlier in the morning, we had had a wonderful surprise when a Large Indian Civet crossed the road in front of us: a rare and delightful sighting.

In the afternoon we again explored the Tala Zone, knowing that Tigers were moving around in the area. We decided to stay patient at one spot, and were rewarded when a sub-adult male cub appeared right in front of our jeep. Soon after, a female Tiger also emerged at the same location, giving us excellent photographic opportunities. As if that was not enough, while exiting the zone we came across another Tiger sitting right next to the road. It was a fantastic end to another memorable day in the forest.

## Day 8

## Wednesday 11th March

This morning, we explored the Khitauli Zone. The drive started quite slowly, although we did find fresh pugmarks and heard alarm calls in the forest. Despite the signs, nothing appeared for a long time. We eventually headed towards the breakfast area, where we received information about a female Tiger nearby. We quickly drove to the location and waited patiently.

After about thirty minutes, the Tiger finally emerged from the forest and walked straight towards us, head on. It was truly a sighting of a lifetime. After a few moments, she disappeared back into the jungle, but we decided to continue waiting. Soon she appeared again, this time snarling as she walked right beside our vehicle. As she moved through a wetland patch, she suddenly bounced back, and we heard a sharp hissing sound from the grass, most likely from a King Cobra. It was an intense and unforgettable encounter in the wild.

In the afternoon, the park was closed, so we decided to go for a village walk around the buffer areas. It turned out to be a wonderful experience for photography, with many interesting subjects and scenes from daily village life. We also visited a local home, and interacted with the residents.

During the walk we saw several birds, including Red-vented Bulbul, Purple Sunbird, Shikra and Common Myna, among others. Later in the evening we returned to our lodge, where we enjoyed a lively tribal dance performance, and celebrated Lu's birthday together. It was a perfect way to end a memorable day.

## Day 9

## Thursday 12th March

Today was our final full day in the park, with safaris planned in the Magdhi Zone in the morning, and the Tala Zone in the afternoon.

The morning in Magdhi was rather quiet. We saw a few Golden Jackals, along with some excellent birds including Red-headed Vulture and Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, along with several other common species. However, there were no signs of any large predators during the drive.

In the afternoon, we explored the Tala Zone. After searching for some time, we came across a sub-adult female Tiger resting on a large rock. It was a beautiful sight as she calmly groomed herself, completely at ease in her realm. Watching her relaxed and comfortable in the forest was truly special.

About five hundred metres further along the track, we encountered another female Tiger resting quietly in the grass. Having two Tiger sightings during the same drive was a wonderful way to cap off our final full day in the forests of Bandhavgarh.

## Day 10

## Friday 13th March

Today was our final safari in Bandhavgarh National Park, and we set out early to be among the first vehicles to enter the park. It turned out to be an extraordinary morning. In total we saw around nine Tigers: six in the Tala Zone and three in the Magdhi Zone.

In Tala, we first encountered a huge dominant male Tiger walking straight towards us on the track: it was an incredibly powerful and impressive sight. Later we spent time with the famous Siddhibaba female and her three sub-adult cubs. The family kept moving around the area and we enjoyed repeated sightings for nearly four hours, watching them play, move through the forest, and interact with each other.

In the Magdhi Zone, the other vehicle had equally exciting sightings, encountering another dominant male Tiger along with two sub-adult cubs. The views were excellent, with the Tigers appearing right in front of the vehicle and allowing everyone to enjoy some remarkable moments.

After such an unforgettable final safari, we returned to the lodge, rested for a while, and later departed for the railway station to begin our journey to Agra. It was a perfect conclusion to an incredible time in the forests of Bandhavgarh.

## Day 11

Saturday 14th March

We reached Agra on time and went straight for breakfast before freshening up at a hotel. After that, we visited the magnificent Taj Mahal, the beautiful symbol of love built by Shah Jahan. We spent time admiring its incredible architecture and the serene atmosphere around this world-famous monument.

After the Taj Mahal, we continued to the historic Agra Fort, another remarkable Mughal monument. While exploring the fort, we also saw the area where Shah Jahan was imprisoned by his son Aurangzeb, from where he is said to have spent his final years looking at the Taj Mahal across the river.

After completing our sightseeing, we had lunch in the city and later caught our train back to Delhi, bringing a wonderful journey to a close.

## Day 12

Sunday 15th March

Clients caught their flights home very early in the morning, arriving around breakfast time in the UK.

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## Species lists

### Birds

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	Common name	Scientific name	March 2026							
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>								✓
	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Red Spurfowl - E	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓
	Painted Spurfowl - E	<i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>			✓	✓				
	Grey Junglefowl - E	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>				✓				
	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>		✓				✓		
	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>				✓				✓
	Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>		✓						
	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>		✓	✓					
	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>						✓		
	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>						✓		
	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>				✓			✓	
	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>		✓						
	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓	✓					✓
	Indian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>	✓							✓
	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							✓	
	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓
	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								✓
	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>				✓			✓	✓
	Asian Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>		✓		✓				✓
	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓
	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓	✓				✓
	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓				
	Medium Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>				✓				✓
	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓					
	Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>						✓		
	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			✓					
	Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>			✓	✓				✓
	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>		✓		✓				✓
	Indian Vulture - N	<i>Gyps indicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>		✓						
	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓				✓		
	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>				✓			✓	
	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>			✓	✓	✓			
	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓
	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>			✓	✓	✓			
	Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic		March 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓		✓				✓
Malabar Pied Hornbill - N	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>	✓	✓			✓		
Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>			✓				✓
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>			✓	✓			
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis attertoni</i>		✓		✓			
Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>	✓						
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>							✓
White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>		✓	✓				
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓	✓	✓				
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>		✓	✓				
Indian Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>					✓		
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>				✓			
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>				✓		✓	
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>				✓			
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>				✓			
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>							✓
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			✓	✓			
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>						✓	
Large Grey Babbler	<i>Argya malcolmi</i>						✓	
Jungle Babbler	<i>Argya striata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>						✓	
Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>							✓
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓
White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>		✓		✓			
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>				✓			
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>				✓			
Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>				✓			
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>		✓		✓	✓		
Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris xanthocolis</i>		✓	✓	✓			
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>						✓	
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>			✓				
White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>				✓			
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓		✓	
White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>				✓			

## Mammals

E=Endemic	Common name	Scientific name	March 2026						
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>			✓		✓		✓
	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Bengal Sacred Langur - E	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Northern Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>	✓	✓					✓
	Hoary Bamboo Rat	<i>Rhizomys pruinosus</i>					✓		
	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus medius</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓
	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>				✓	✓		
	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Indian Gray Mongoose	<i>Urva edwardsii</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		
	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Urva smithii</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
	Large Indian Civet	<i>Viverra zibetha</i>				✓	✓		
	Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	✓		✓	✓			✓
	Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
	Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Northern Red Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus vaginalis</i>		✓				✓	✓

## Amphibians

Common name	Scientific name	March 2026						
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Skittering Frog						✓		✓

## Reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	March 2026						
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Indian Flapshell Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>			✓				✓
Common House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓