

India - Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Naturetrek Tour Report

13 - 20 November 2009

Report compiled by Himanshu Rathore



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Participants: Keith Pitches
Frank Accili
Helen Accilli
Alun Kerslake
Kay Kerslake
Alon Horn
Barrie Williams
Olwen Williams

Day 1

Friday 13th November

Departed from UK

Day 2

Saturday 14th November

Cool and cloudy

The flight was on time, and on arrival the guests were transferred and checked in at the Ashok Country Inn. After a hearty meal at the hotel we were off to the railway station where we found out that the train was delayed, so we all sat at Comesum Restaurant and also arranged packed dinner. We finally boarded the overnight train for Katni; and at Agra two of our guests Barrie and Olwen joined us.

Day 3

Sunday 15th November

Cloudy and partly sunny

Our expected time of arrival at Katni was in the morning but we only reached there in the afternoon. Later on I found out that the trains were running late as there was a train accident near Jaipur. We were transferred to Bandhavgarh where we checked into the Tiger Trails Resort. By now it was already getting dark and we were all tired because of the journey, so we ate dinner and went to bed early.

Day 4

Monday 16th November

Rain

Our day began early with a wakeup call at 5.15am, we set off for our jungle safari and though it was drizzling a bit, we saw some good birds and mammals like the chital, langur, sambar etc. We came back to the lodge at 10.30 and had breakfast and then everyone relaxed. At 1pm we ate lunch and then set off for the afternoon safari at 1.30. Though it was still raining we enjoyed the safari and sighted the common mammals and some birds. When we reached the lodge most of us went for a hot bath and joined up later where I showed some of my photographic work from Bandhavgarh. And after a hearty meal we went off to sleep.

Day 5**Tuesday 17th November**

Rainy am and sunny pm

Rain in the morning was heavy and all guests decided not to go on safari, so after a bit extra sleep and breakfast, we left the lodge for a nature walk where we saw lots of new birds and a variety of flora. We also saw giant wood spiders and some small reptiles. In the afternoon the sun was out and on safari we saw lots of birds and mammals but the tiger was still eluding us...but it was still exciting. After our safari we came back, had dinner, and then we saw an interesting documentary on the Tigers of Bandhavgarh by Simon King.

Day 6**Wednesday 18th November**

Cold and misty am and sunny pm

The morning was beautiful with mist covering the mountains and we set off on safari where we saw the usual mammals and birds. After lunch we again went to the jungle and had a magnificent sighting of a large male tiger as he walked straight towards our vehicle and came as close as 10 metres from us! Everyone was overwhelmed with this sighting and got great photos and video footage. After this it was celebration time and the lodge had organised for folk dancers from the local community and a barbeque which we all enjoyed.

Day 7**Thursday 19th November**

Cold am and sunny pm

Our last day at Bandhavgarh - we set off for the morning safari with both jeeps were on different routes. The vehicle in which I was in with Alun, Kay, Barrie and Olwen saw the dominant male tiger walk by the side of our vehicle!!! Others were not so lucky but they also came close to a tiger and heard lot of alarm calls. In the evening there was more adventure to come when our vehicle broke down...we called in for another vehicle from the lodge which was soon there as a replacement. After this interesting adventure we came back to lodge, packed up, and left for Umaria to catch the train back to Delhi. We carried a packed dinner from the lodge with us. The train was on time and we all were comfortable and everyone enjoyed the rail journey as there is so much to see.

Day 8**Friday 20th November**

We reached Delhi at 3pm and the guests were transferred and checked in at Hans Plaza Hotel where we bid goodbye to them before their journey back to the UK....

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Species Lists

Mammals

	Common name	Scientific name	November			
			16	17	18	19
1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>			✓	✓
2	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>	✓			
5	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	✓	✓		✓
6	greater horse shoe bat	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>		✓	✓	✓
7	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>				✓
11	Indian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓

Birds

1	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>		✓		✓
2	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓		✓	
3	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>		✓		
4	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>		✓		✓
6	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>		✓	✓	✓
8	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	✓	✓		
9	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓			
10	Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>		✓	✓	✓
11	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Crested Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>			✓	✓
13	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>		✓	✓	
14	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatous</i>			✓	✓
15	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>			✓	
16	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	
19	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Yellow-footed Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓	✓	✓
23	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓
24	Common Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>	✓	✓		✓
25	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	✓			
26	Indian Scops-owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>		✓	✓	✓
27	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>		✓		
28	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓	
29	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>		✓	✓	
30	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>				
32	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
33	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyroceros birostris</i>		✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	November			
			16	17	18	19
35	Malabar Pied-hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>				✓
36	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	✓	✓		
37	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>		✓		
38	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓	
39	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>		✓		
41	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>			✓	✓
42	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		✓	✓	✓
43	Tickell's Blue-flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>		✓	✓	✓
44	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
45	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>		✓	✓	✓
46	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓
47	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>		✓		✓
48	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>		✓		
50	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>			✓	✓
51	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>		✓	✓	✓
53	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓			
55	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓		✓	✓
56	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	✓			
57	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>			✓	✓
58	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	✓			
59	Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>			✓	

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