

# India - Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BM)

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 20 February 2010

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Report compiled by Bharat Mandhyan



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour Leader: Bharat Mandhyan (Bunty)

Participants: Stephen O'Donnell  
Michael Gledhill  
Valerie Gledhill

## Day 0

Friday 12th February

Travel from the UK

## Day 1

Saturday 13th February

Open, bright and sunny day, moderately cold weather

Stephen arrived by EK 510 flight that landed on time at 0915 hrs. We met him at Delhi International airport, while Valerie and Michael were in Jaipur on their private tour and were to join us at the railway station. The first birds to be seen on Indian soil were a pair of Rock Pigeons (of feral origin) that found the top of a drive way of the airport to be a suitable place for nesting. After lunch we headed for the railway station to board the overnight train to Katni. Our train was running late unfortunately. Dinner was served on the train before we retired for the night.

## Day 2

Sunday 14th February

Open, bright and sunny day mostly, moderately cold, with traces of clouds

Arrived late at Katni railway station then drove two and half hours to Bandhavgarh, and since we arrived late we were unable to do the afternoon safari, but the highlight of the day was the Leopard sighting right on the main road in the evening as we were driving from Katni to Bandhavgarh near the Khitouli area of Bandhavgarh National Park.

## Day 3

Monday 15th February

Pleasant morning, warm afternoon, cool at night

After having our tea, coffee and biscuits before dawn we started the drive from the hotel at 5.30am to queue up at the park entrance to enter at 6.15 am. Mammals seen were Sambar, Chital, Wild Boar and Jackal. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served at the hotel

## Day 4

Tuesday 16th February

Windy and cloudy morning, hazy conditions, sunny afternoon and cool and cloudy evening

After an early breakfast we did our game drives - mammals seen were Sambar, Chital, Wild Boar and Jackal. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served at the hotel

**Day 5****Wednesday 17th February**

Dry and bright, cold in the evening

Luckily today we managed to see a male Tiger! Another highlight of the day was later in the evening when we watched melodious Folk-dance and Lore performed by the Gonds tribesmen and women accompanied by beer and barbequed chicken, vegetables etc.

**Day 6****Thursday 18th February**

Cold in the morning, dry and bright,

Today we did the elephant ride and saw a male Tiger lying very close to the track near Ghoda Daman.

After having early dinner at the hotel we left for the railway station and boarded the overnight train which was on time.

**Day 7****Friday 19th February**

Cool and foggy later windy

We had our breakfast at Gwalior railway station supplied to us by our agent. We reached Delhi at 1600 hrs, after taking a little tour to India Gate and the President's Palace, and checked in at The Hans Plaza Hotel.

**Day 8****Saturday 20th February**

Arrival back in the UK

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## Mammals seen

Mammal Species	Scientific name	No. of sightings	Remarks
Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	3	
Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	2	
Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	6	Fairly common and widespread
Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>	4	Fairly common and widespread, commoner in heavy woodland than the previous species
Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>	2	
Black-naped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>	1	
Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	2	
Five-Striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>	4	
Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	5	
Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	2	
Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>	5	
Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	2	
Indian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	4	