

India - Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Naturetrek Tour Report

2 - 13 May 2012

Report compiled by Indrajit Latey



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Day 1

Wednesday 2nd May

The guests arrived at the Delhi Airport and were transported to The Westin in Gurgaon. After freshening up we all left for the station to board the train for Katni. En route we saw some Nilgai and birds like Black winged Stilts and herons. After some basic discussions of the tour we all had dinner and slept.

Day 2

Thursday 3rd May

On arriving at the Katni railway station we all left for a short road journey to Bandhavgarh– our first destination. On arriving there we were greeted with the news of some great tiger sightings. Pleased we all got comfortable in the beautiful Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge. After lunch we left for our first drive to Magdi zone. Lots of deer and birds like Racket-tailed Drongo, and jungle fowl were seen. We heard that there were two tigers in that area and so expectedly we waited for them. Sure enough the tigress with her 17-month male cub made an appearance! The tour had started with a bang!

Day 3

Friday 4th May

The next day we left for the Tale zone. This zone promised many things besides tigers. After seeing some Lesser Adjutant Stork, Honey Buzzard, 3 different types of parakeets and many vultures later, we saw a mother with her 3 cubs playing in the water. In the afternoon we all saw them again but in very heavy undergrowth.

Day 4

Saturday 5th May

Today we were to spend the day in Magdi zone. The morning was not so fruitful as the afternoon. We saw a Jungle Cat and were very excited with the sighting. Lots of birds were also seen in the lake in Magdi. Alas no tiger! After the evening checklist we all went to bed with many expectations for the following day.

Day 5

Sunday 6th May

Tale zone. Today we knew that it was going to be good, as we had heard that there were good sightings the previous evening. We were not disappointed as we saw 2 sets of tigers! The first one was a tigress with her 3 cubs, which were 6 months old. Later on we saw another tigress with her 3 cubs, which were 16 months old. We had ample time with them and got some amazing pictures. In the afternoon we saw the small cubs again! What a day...

Day 6**Monday 7th May**

Magdi zone always comes up with the unexpected. We saw a tigress ambling down the road for a good 3 kms! She was walking in her territory spray marking the trees and calling out to the male. The photo opportunities were not that great as the sun was in front of us. But nevertheless we were so amazed to see her. That afternoon we all saw a solitary tiger cub. Lots of birds like Paradise Flycatchers were also seen.

Day 7**Tuesday 8th May**

Our last 2 drives in Tala; we were really looking to going to the park today as there were 9 tigers seen the previous evening! And were not let down...we saw 7 tigers!! The afternoon we all went to the park and that drive especially was very memorable as we spent 2 hours photographing 2 cubs. This was definitely the highlight on the tour. With great reluctance we bid good-bye to the park.

Day 8**Wednesday 9th May**

Two of the clients bid us farewell and departed for the airport to Jabalpur. We continued our journey to Satpura. After a short train journey we arrived at the Forsyth lodge and left for the afternoon drive. Water birds were the order of the day. Lots of storks, stilts, plovers and snipes were seen. Mammals like the giant squirrel were also seen.

Day 9**Thursday 10th May**

We went for a drive in the morning looking for Sloth Bears. There were lots of signs of them being active but none could be seen. We all returned from the drive. In the afternoon we saw many various waders and also had great sightings of Gaur and Sambar deer. In the evening we saw a hare in the premises of the lodge.

Day 10**Friday 11th May**

We planned to go to a special area in the park to see some old temples and rock paintings. The road to the temples was very nice for birds. We saw over 42 different species of birds! The temple was very beautiful. Nearly 1500 years old, it left us all wondering as to how it was built here! In the afternoon we went by boat to see some water life. We saw some very big crocodiles and also some special birds like the Great Thick-knee with 2 chicks. After an evening bush dinner and the checklist we all went to bed.

Day 11**Saturday 12th May**

Elephant ride! We boarded 2 elephants and saw the forest up close and personally! It was a very special experience and we all loved it. After brunch we left for Bhopal to board the train for Agra. Our wildlife holiday was nearing the end! On arriving in Agra we checked in to the Raj Palace and rested.

Day 12**Sunday 13th May**

Taj at Sunrise. Its always memorable to see the Taj and especially with the colour changes at sunrise.

We also saw some Ruddy Shelducks on the banks of the Yamuna River. We saw the Agra Fort followed by the 'Baby Taj' and left by train for Delhi. On arriving in Delhi the clients were given fond farewells at Delhi Airport.

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Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				✓				
2	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>	✓			✓			✓	✓
3	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>								
5	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>						✓	✓	
6	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	
7	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
11	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>							✓	✓
12	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>						✓	✓	✓
13	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>						✓	✓	✓
14	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
16	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
17	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>							✓	✓
18	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>							✓	
19	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>						✓	✓	
20	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
21	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>							✓	✓
22	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓					✓		
23	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>			✓	✓				
24	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
25	Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
26	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>			✓	✓	✓			
27	Crested Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
28	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>							✓	
29	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
30	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatu</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			
31	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>							✓	
32	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>								✓
33	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>							✓	✓
34	Jungle Bush-quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>					✓			
35	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>		✓			✓			
36	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Red Jungle Fowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			
38	Grey Jungle Fowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>						✓	✓	✓
39	Small Buttonquail	<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>						✓		
40	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>						✓		✓
41	Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>						✓	✓	
42	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						✓	✓	✓
43	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
44	Great Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus recurvirostris</i>							✓	
45	Small Pratincole	<i>Glareola lactea</i>							✓	✓
46	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>						✓	✓	✓
47	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	✓							

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			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
48	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Little -ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>						✓	✓	✓
50	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>								✓
51	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>							✓	
52	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>						✓		✓
53	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>						✓	✓	✓
54	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>						✓	✓	✓
55	Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>								✓
56	Painted Sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles indicus</i>	✓							
57	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>							✓	✓
58	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
59	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>							✓	
60	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>						✓	✓	
62	Yellow-footed Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
65	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Common Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>	✓							✓
68	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>			✓	✓			✓	
69	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Brown Fish-owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>							✓	
71	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>				✓		✓		
72	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>								✓
73	Savannah Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>			✓	✓				✓
74	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>					✓	✓	✓	
75	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				✓			✓	✓
76	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>				✓			✓	✓
77	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
78	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>							✓	
79	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>								✓
82	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>					✓			
84	Brown-capped Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos moluccensis nanus</i>								✓
85	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>							✓	
86	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>			✓	✓			✓	✓
87	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>				✓			✓	✓
88	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>			✓	✓	✓			
89	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>							✓	✓
90	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>							✓	✓
91	Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>								✓
92	Dusky Crag-martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>	✓				✓		✓	
93	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>							✓	
94	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>							✓	✓
95	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla madaraspatensis</i>						✓	✓	✓
96	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>							✓	
97	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>							✓	
98	Large Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
99	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>							✓	✓	
100	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>								✓	
101	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>									✓
103	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>				✓				✓	✓
104	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>								✓	
105	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	✓	✓							
106	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>									✓
107	Tickell's Blue-flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>					✓			✓	✓
108	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>			✓						
110	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
111	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	✓								✓
112	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>								✓	
113	Asian Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>			✓	✓	✓			✓	
114	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>								✓	✓
116	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>		✓							
118	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>									✓
119	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	✓	✓	✓						
120	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
121	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>								✓	
122	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>					✓			✓	✓
123	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>								✓	✓
125	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
126	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
127	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓							✓	
128	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
129	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
130	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>							✓	✓	
131	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
132	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
133	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Mammals

1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
2	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus kelaarita or kutas</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓			
3	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Indian Small Mongoose	<i>Herpestes auropunctatus</i>		✓	✓						
6	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓	
7	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	✓	✓		✓					
8	Indian Tree Shrew	<i>Anathana ellioti</i>			✓						
9	Indian or Black-naped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>								✓	
10	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennarum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
11	Gaur (Indian Bison)	<i>Bos guarus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>		✓		✓			✓		✓

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	Black Buck	<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>								✓
16	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>				✓			✓	✓
17	Indian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Indian Fox					✓				
19	Indian Giant Squirrel									✓
20	Indian Palm Civet									✓

Other fauna

1	Unnamed Lizard	<i>Varanus griseus koniecznyi</i>			✓	✓				
2	Marsh Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>							✓	
3	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
4	House Gecko species	<i>Hemidactylus or Gehyra etc sp</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	