

# India - Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Naturetrek Tour Report

26 December 2012 - 3 January 2013

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Golden Jackal



Tiger



Indian Pond Heron



Wild Boar

Report compiled by Chandravijay Hada  
Images Courtesy of Susan Shemilt



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: Chandravijay Hada

Participants: Debbie Jones  
Robert Harvey  
Valerie Shemilt  
Susan Shemilt

## Day 1

Wednesday 26th December

Departed from UK

## Day 2

Thursday 27th December

Cool and fog

The flight was on time, and on arrival the guests were transferred and checked in at the Westin, Gurgaon. After a wash and change with a hearty meal at the hotel we were off to the railway station where the train started on time. We had our dinner and stayed overnight on the train.

## Day 3

Friday 28th December

Cold morning, day sunny

Our expected time of arrival at Katni was in the morning. We were transferred to Bandhavgarh where we checked into the Jungle lodge. We had a quick lunch and headed to the national park. We had a good orientation of the park as the light was good in the evening. We did some bird watching and later returned for dinner and went to bed early.

## Day 4

Saturday 29th December

Cold morning and day sunny

Our day began early with a wake up call at 5.15am, we set off for our jungle safari and though it was drizzling a bit, we saw some good birds like Malabar Pied Hornbill, Adjutant Stork, Red-headed Vulture, Indian Roller, and mammals like the Chital, Langur, Sambar etc. We had our breakfast in the park and visited an historical site (the Vishnu statue). We came back to the lodge at 10.30am and later went for a small walk in the lodge where we saw a few birds, butterflies like pansy, leopard, crow, eggfly etc and dragonflies. At 1pm we ate lunch and then set off for the afternoon safari seeing the common mammals and some birds. When returned to the lodge and joined up later where I showed some of my photographic work from Central India. After a hearty meal we went to bed.

## Day 5

Sunday 30th December

Cold am and sunny pm

We started the morning safari following tiger pugmarks - it got even more interesting when we heard alarm calls.

We knew that the Tiger was on the move and were all very excited to catch a glimpse of it! After waiting patiently for 30 minutes we saw this dominant male Tiger walking in the open meadow. We were thrilled to see him as this male is one of the biggest Tigers in Bandhavgarh. Luck favoured us as the tiger crossed the road in front of our jeep. We had our breakfast in the park and headed slowly toward the lodge. In the afternoon 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 more butterflies. We learnt about the forest department and how active they are in the park. Recently Gaurs have been relocated in the park which we looked for but could not find any this time. Everyone was overwhelmed with the sighting of the Tiger in the morning and we got great photos and video footage. It was celebration time at the lodge – they had organised for folk dancers from the local community and a barbeque which we all enjoyed.

## Day 6

**Monday 31st December**

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. It got exciting when we again saw a few tiger pugmarks, and heard few deer distress calls and a Tiger roar. We waited for a few hours but it did not show up. We had our breakfast at an elephant camp. After lunch we again went to the jungle with sightings of a few more birds and mammals.

## Day 7

**Tuesday 1st January**

Cold and cloudy am and sunny pm

Our last day at Bandhavgarh - we went on the morning safari hoping to get a last glimpse of a tiger. We heard lot of alarm calls and just before coming out of park we got a glimpse... We also visited one of the old caves where we sighted Horse-shoe Bats. After this interesting adventure we came back to lodge, packed up, and left for Umaria to catch the train back to Agra. 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

**Wednesday 2nd January**

Cold and fog

We had our breakfast in the train and reached Agra at 11:15 am. After a quick wash and change we headed to a restaurant where we had our lunch. Our all tiredness from the long train journey was taken away when we visited the Taj Mahal! We did a detailed Taj visit with our guide. After dinner we took the train to Delhi and started the journey back to the UK.

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## Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	Dec/Jan				
			28	29	30	31	1
1	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓		✓		
3	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓			
4	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			✓		
5	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	✓				
6	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>		✓			
7	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>			✓	✓	✓
8	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	✓	✓			
9	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	
10	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓				✓
11	Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	✓				
12	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>		✓			✓
13	Crested Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓
14	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>		✓			
15	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	✓				✓
16	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatu</i>		H	✓	✓	✓
17	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>		H	H	H	
18	Jungle Bush-quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>	H				
19	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>			✓		
21	Painted Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>			✓		✓
22	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			✓		
24	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓			
25	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Yellow-footed Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
30	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>		✓		✓	
31	Mottled Wood-owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>				✓	✓
32	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	✓	✓	✓		
33	Asian Palm-swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>			✓		
34	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	✓		✓		
35	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>				✓	✓
36	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			✓	✓	✓
37	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓			✓	✓
39	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓
40	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓	✓		
42	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrocus birostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
43	Malabar Pied-hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>		✓		✓	
44	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	H	H	✓	H	
45	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	H	H	✓	H	
46	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
47	Dusky Crag-martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>				✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	Dec/Jan				
			28	29	30	31	1
48	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>				✓	
49	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
50	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓		✓	
51	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓		
52	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	✓	✓			
53	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>		✓	✓		
54	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
55	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>		✓			
56	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>		✓			
57	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>		✓			
58	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>				✓	
59	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		✓	✓	✓	
60	Sulphur-bellied Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i>			✓		
61	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		✓	✓		
62	Tickell's Blue-flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>		✓			✓
63	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>		✓	✓	✓	
65	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓		
66	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>				✓	
67	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>		✓			✓
68	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>		✓	✓		✓
70	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>		✓	✓		
71	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>			✓		✓
72	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	
74	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>				✓	✓
75	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	
76	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓
77	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓	✓		✓	
78	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
79	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	✓				
80	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓				
81	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>		✓			
82	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>		✓			
83	Paddyfield Pipit		✓	✓			

## Mammals

1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>			✓	H	✓
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	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓
8	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Indian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Horse shoe Bat						✓

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