

India - Tiger Direct!

Naturetrek Tour Report

8 - 15 November 2011

Report compiled by Indrajit Latey



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Day 0

Sunday 7th November

Travel from the UK

Day 1

Monday 8th November

Weather: Rain and clouds

Group arrived by Jet Airways flight from Mumbai that landed at 1930 hrs. After a drive to Pench we arrived and checked in at the Tiger Corridor. A presentation by the local naturalist Dr. Shiva on Pench had us all looking forward to the next day. After our 8 pm checklist and 9 o'clock dinner we went off to bed.

Day 2

Tuesday 9th November

Weather: Cloudy morning and sunny evening

After a 5:30 wake up call we boarded the vehicles for the first safari in Pench. Our drive was to a part of the park called Karmazhari. Arriving at the gate after a long drive we were welcomed by a pair of Racket-tailed Drongos doing their display act. Lots of birds and mammals but alas no Tiger in the morning! We had the first good viewing of the Nilgai, Chital, Sambar and Barking deer or Muntjac. The afternoon drive was also a good one especially for birding and lots of Parakeets, Koels, Stone Curlews and Peafowls were seen. After the 8 pm checklist we had dinner at 9 o'clock and went to bed.

Day 3

Wednesday 10th November

Weather: Sunny day and a cold rainy evening

We woke up at 5:30 and knew we were going to be lucky with the striped cat! After driving around looking for tigers we got news that the elephants had found a mating pair of tigers and soon we were on our way! As soon as we arrived on the scene we were dismayed to know that they had moved off to the mountains and hence we could not see them. So near but yet so far! Disheartened we left for Kanha post lunch hoping for some better luck. Arriving in Kanha the rain did dampen our spirits. A Tribal dance at The Kanha Jungle Lodge got our spirits up again and after the checklist we had dinner and went off to bed.

Day 4**Thursday 11th November**

Weather: Cloudy and humid day, cool evening

Waking up at 5:15am we were quickly on our way for our first safari to Kanha National Park. Since there was a lot of mist and some rain we were wondering if it was going to be another day without the big cat! But we were very lucky when as soon as we entered we had just a glimpse of a Tigress in the bush looking straight back at us. With the bird life nearly non-existent we looked out for Barasingha and other mammals. The afternoon was the same. After our checklist we had dinner at 9pm and retired to bed.

Day 5**Friday 12th November**

Weather: Rain and sun intermittently

The morning was rainy and hence we decided to drive to a different part of the park. One of the jeeps was lucky when we heard 2 tigers fighting/mating. We were hoping to get a glimpse of one of them when lo and behold we saw a female walk out of the undergrowth straight towards us. Abruptly she turned around and disappeared into the other side of the undergrowth! What a sight. The evening drive did not disappoint us as we saw a tigress in the meadows, which kept roaring and roaming across the whole meadow. She crossed the road just in front of one of our vehicles and those guests were very happy to see her. She had 2 cubs, which were hidden in the grass! Alas it was time to leave the park at sunset and we left. After our checklist we had dinner and then bed.

Day 6**Saturday 13th November**

Weather: Warm and rainy day

With the weather playing spoilsport we had to be content with only the main road open. The sun did make a very brief appearance. Barasingha and Sambar deer were seen in plenty as were Wild Boars. The afternoon drive was uneventful as the weather was dull, dark and gloomy. Very unlike the November weather we are used to. After an 8 pm checklist we had dinner at 9pm and then bed, as usual.

Day 7**Sunday 14th November**

Weather: Rain and sunshine, cold morning

The last drive was also rainy. Over the last 2 days we were hoping for some good news from the elephants and at last we heard that they had found a tigress in the undergrowth. We raced off to take the short elephant ride into the bush and all members of the group were rewarded with a brief glimpse of her. We then left for Nagpur. The drive took about six hours with some stops en route, and some good birds were seen on the way. Overnight was at Tuli Imperial in Nagpur.

Day 8**Monday 15th November**

Weather: Pleasant but cold

Breakfast was served at the hotel before checking out. We then dropped everybody at Nagpur Airport to catch the flight to Mumbai and onwards to the UK...

Species Lists

Birds

	Common name	Scientific name	November						
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Indian Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax fuscicollis</i>						✓	
3	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓			✓
4	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>				✓			✓
5	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>						✓	✓
6	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>							✓
7	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓			✓
8	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓				
9	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓			✓		✓
11	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>							✓
12	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				✓			
13	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>		✓					✓
14	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>						✓	✓
15	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>							✓
16	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>				✓			✓
17	Cotton Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>				✓			✓
18	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</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	Grey-headed Fish-eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</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	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓
28	Crested Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>		✓					✓
29	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			✓				✓
30	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>				✓			✓
31	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>			✓				✓
32	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>					✓		✓
33	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
34	Painted Francolin	<i>Francolinus pictus</i>					✓	✓	✓
35	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓
36	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Red Jungle	<i>Gallus gallus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>		✓					✓
39	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>				✓			
41	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>				✓			
42	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>				✓			
43	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				✓			
44	Great Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus recurvirostris</i>				✓		✓	✓
45	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>						✓	
46	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>							✓
47	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	November						
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14
48	Little-ringed plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					✓		✓
49	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>							✓
50	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓				✓	
51	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>							✓
52	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		✓		✓		✓	
53	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							✓
54	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		✓			✓		✓
55	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>		✓	✓				
56	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>		✓		✓			✓
57	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>							✓
59	Yellow-footed Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
60	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
61	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Common Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>				✓			✓
64	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>		✓		✓			
65	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopacea</i>			✓	✓			✓
66	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
67	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>					✓	✓	✓
68	Indian Scops-owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>							✓
69	Brown Fish-owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Mottled Wood-owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>		✓					
71	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</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	Malabar Pied-hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>			✓			✓	
84	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>						✓	
85	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>			✓	✓		✓	
86	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	
87	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>			✓		✓	✓	
88	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>		✓					
89	Indian Lark	<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>			✓		✓	✓	
90	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>				✓	✓	✓	
91	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>					✓	✓	
92	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	
93	Dusky Crag-martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>						✓	
94	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</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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99	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>				✓	✓		
100	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>							✓
101	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>				✓	✓		✓
102	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>							✓
103	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>					✓	✓	✓
105	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>				✓	✓	✓	
109	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Booted Warbler	<i>Hippolais caligata</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
112	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
113	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
115	Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula supercilialis</i>			✓	✓			✓
116	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>							✓
117	Tickell's Blue-flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>							✓
118	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>		✓			✓		✓
119	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
120	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>					✓		✓
121	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>							✓
122	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓
123	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>							✓
124	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
125	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>							✓
126	Indian Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>				✓		✓	✓
127	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>						✓	✓
128	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
129	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>					✓		✓
130	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>				✓		✓	✓
131	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>			✓	✓			✓
132	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>					✓	✓	✓
133	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
134	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>					✓		
135	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
136	Southern Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>					✓		
137	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
138	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
139	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
140	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
141	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
142	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>							✓
143	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>		✓					✓
145	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
146	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>							✓
147	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>							✓
148	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓
149	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>					✓		✓

	Common name	Scientific name	November						
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150	Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>				✓	✓		✓
151	White-throated Munia	<i>Euodice malabarica</i>					✓		✓
152	Nutmeg Mannikin	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>			✓	✓			✓
153	Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</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	'Northern Plains' Grey Langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓
6	Indian Small Mongoose	<i>Herpestes auropunctatus</i>			✓				✓
7	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>						✓	
9	Smooth-coated Otter	<i>Lutra perspicillata</i>				✓			✓
10	Indian Porcupine	<i>Hystrix indica</i>		✓			✓	✓	
11	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>		✓				✓	
12	Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista philippensis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Gaur (Indian Bison)	<i>Bos guarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Barasingha (Swamp Deer)	<i>Cervus duvauceli branderi</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>					✓		✓
17	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>		✓	✓				
18	Indian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>				✓	✓		✓

Other fauna

1	Indian Flapshell Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>		✓					
2	Indian Rock Python	<i>Python molurus</i>			✓				
3	Water Snake species	<i>Natrix sp</i>				✓			
4	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>				✓			
5	House Gecko species	<i>Hemidactylus or Gehyra etc sp</i>		✓	✓				
6	Skink					✓			

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