

# India - Tiger Direct!

Naturetrek Tour Report

18 - 25 April 2011

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Report compiled by Indrajit Latey



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David Kendall  
Denise Kendall  
Michael Deakin  
Mary Deakin

## Day 0

Sunday 17th April

Departure from the UK

## Day 1

Monday 18th April

The group arrived at the airport on time and after a quick brief we left for Pench. An uneventful drive lasted two hours and we were received at Tui Corridor by the general manager and his team. We had a quick brief about the next day, and then dinner, and all the guests went off to sleep.

## Day 2

Tuesday 19th April

An early departure to the gate for the first safari at 5:00am... With a lot of expectations we feasted on the variety of mammals and birds that the park had to offer. The elephants were not that lucky today and hence we could not avail of an elephant ride to see a tiger. Post a sumptuous lunch we were driving again. A lot of birds were seen, amongst them were the dancing Racket Tailed Drongos and the musical Magpie Robins. With lots to look forward to we ended our drive with three Jackals. Dinner was taken after doing a checklist and then lights out.

## Day 3

Wednesday 20th April

Getting used to an early morning drive did not take too long. Lady luck smiled on one of our vehicles with three tigers (a mother with her two, 16 month old cubs). Walking towards the vehicle they moved into the undergrowth and then disappeared into thin air! Truly a good days beginning... The elephants tracked a tigress with her 5 cubs. We were all lucky to see the tigress but the cubs kept away.

Post lunch we left for Kanha. Reaching Kanha Jungle Lodge we were welcomed and after a quick brief about the lodge and we went off on a nature trail along the river bank. At 6:45 we were back to witness the amazing Flying Squirrel showing off in the canopy of the Sal trees in the lodge premises. After doing a check list we had dinner and went off to bed.

## Day 4

Thursday 21st April

An early morning wake up call was followed by rain! Not to be deterred by this we left for a safari and were rewarded by a tiger from elephant back. We also saw lots of Barasingha, Sambar and Muntjac. Later we headed back to the lodge. The evening looked promising and we saw a tigress. One group even had a lucky sighting of Wild Dogs gorging on a Chital kill. The day ended on a high.

## Day 5

Friday 22nd April

The rain from last night made the temperature drop by about 5 degrees. A cold wet morning was never good for bird watching but for mammals it was good! A tigress sitting in the water and later on crossing the road was the highlight of the day. Wild Dogs again made their presence felt and so did a pair of Jackals. Later on in the evening it rained a lot nearly cut shorting our safari...

## Day 6

Saturday 23rd April

Another action packed day for us. Lots of birding and alarm calls. One of the cars was tracking the tiger for nearly two hours but the tiger's patience was far higher than theirs and they returned for lunch empty handed. The evening drive bore fruit as the same tigress walked out in front of them without a single alarm call! What luck! Everyone was happy and we returned hoping that the last drive tomorrow will give us something special.

## Day 7

Sunday 24th April

Being Easter Sunday did make a difference. The park was very crowded. But the tigers don't celebrate such festivals....they did make this fact known with a brief glimpse and the elephant ride also supported this. We drove out of the park knowing that we had been very fortunate to see this elusive cat not once, twice but on seven different occasions. We then left for Nagpur. On arriving we checked into Tuli Imperial where a sumptuous dinner was awaiting us.

## Day 8

Monday 25th April

An early morning departure and sad goodbyes were the order of the day. Wishing the guests the best for the journey back home we ended the tour with many great memories.

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## Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	April					
			19	20	21	22	23	24
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓	✓				
2	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>						✓
5	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
6	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
9	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</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	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	✓	✓				
16	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>		✓	✓			✓
17	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				✓		
18	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</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	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>						✓
25	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>						✓
26	Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	✓					
27	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓				✓
28	Crested Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
29	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
31	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	✓					
33	Painted Francolin	<i>Francolinus pictus</i>						✓
34	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	✓			✓		
35	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
36	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Red Jungle Fowl	<i>Gaullus gallus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Brown Crake	<i>Amaurornis akool</i>			✓			
39	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	✓					✓
40	Purple Swampphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>						✓
41	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>						✓
42	Common Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>						✓
43	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>						✓
44	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						✓
45	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
46	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	✓					
47	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>						✓

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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	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	✓	✓				✓
53	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	✓					
54	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				✓		
55	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	✓					
56	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓
57	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	✓					
58	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	✓	✓				✓
59	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>						✓
60	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>		✓				
61	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓					
62	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
63	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Yellow-footed Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
66	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
68	Common Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
71	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
72	Indian Scops-owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>		✓				
73	Mottled Wood-owl	<i>Strix ocellata</i>	✓					
74	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
75	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>	✓	✓		H		✓
76	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>						✓
77	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
78	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	✓					
79	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
81	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓				✓
83	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Malabar Pied-hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
85	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>		✓				✓
87	Brown-capped Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos moluccensis nanus</i>	✓	✓				✓
88	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>				✓		✓
90	Dusky Crag-martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>		✓				
91	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓				✓
92	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>		✓		✓		✓
93	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>			✓			✓
94	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla madaraspatensis</i>	✓	✓				✓
95	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	✓	✓				✓
96	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	✓	✓				✓
97	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓					✓
98	Large Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

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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	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>		✓				✓
104	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola tor</i>			✓		✓	
105	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>				✓		✓
107	Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>		✓				
108	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>		✓				
109	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>				✓		✓
110	Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	✓	✓				✓
111	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>		✓				✓
112	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>						✓
113	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>			✓			
114	Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula supercilialis</i>						✓
115	Tickell's Blue-flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>				✓		
116	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>				✓		
118	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
119	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>				✓		
120	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>					✓	
121	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>				✓		
122	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	✓					
123	Common Babbler	<i>Turdoides caudatus</i>		✓				
124	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>	✓	✓	✓			
125	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
126	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>			✓		✓	
127	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓					
128	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>					✓	
129	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>			✓			✓
130	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</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	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>			✓			
136	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>				✓	✓	
137	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>			✓		✓	
138	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
139	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓
140	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>		✓			✓	✓
141	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
142	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
143	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓		✓			✓
144	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>	✓					✓
146	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
147	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>						
148	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
149	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>		✓				

	Common name	Scientific name	April						
			19	20	21	22	23	24	
150	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓					✓	
151	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	✓	✓					✓

## Mammal

1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	1F2C	2F2C	2F	2F	1F		
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	Common Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i>	✓	✓				✓	
6	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>	✓	✓					✓
7	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓
8	Dhole (Asiatic Wild Dog)	<i>Cuon alpinus dukhunensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennarum</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓
10	Five-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennanti</i>			✓	✓			
11	Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista philippensis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Gaur (Indian Bison)	<i>Bos guarus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Barasingha (Swamp Deer)	<i>Cervus duvauceli branderi</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</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	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	✓						
3	House Gecko species	<i>Hemidactylus or Gehyra sp</i>			✓				
4	Monitor lizard	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	✓						✓
5	Skink sp					✓			