

India - Tiger Direct! (with Tadoba extension)

Naturetrek Tour Report

16 - 25 March 2012



Tigers by Geoff Harwood



Report compiled by Nick Acheson
Tiger images courtesy of Geoff Harwood



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Tadoba extension

16 - 18 March

It is a very contented naturalist who writes these words at home in Norfolk: contented since during our pre-tour extension to Tadoba we saw ten Tigers, some of them up to three times, in addition to the beautiful dry forest they inhabit and the abundant other animals with whom they share it. The Tiger-watching in Tadoba over the few days we spent there was surpassingly good, among the best I have ever known. Here is a summary of what we saw and on our first five drives:

- 1) A male known as M6 who was seen very poorly on our first afternoon as he lay in a dry stream in dense vegetation. All the identifiable Tigers in Tadoba have rather unromantic codes and few have nicknames. M6 he will have to be.
- 2) At least two of three six-month-old cubs belonging to the female known as F9, all of whom were frequenting the Katezari water-hole. I say at least two because, having seen two cubs in dense vegetation on the first day and one on the second, its possible we saw all three.
- 3) A briefly-seen male on a bamboo-covered slope. This was either M11 or M12, two fairly itinerant adult males who have an unusual truce and can often be seen close to one another.

4) The wonderful female called F1 and her four eighteen-month-old cubs, all of which were wandering brazenly around the Pandherpauni water-hole. F1 is the oldest known female in the park and was identified first at around two years of age in 2001. She has three exquisite female cubs and one terribly handsome male. On the first afternoon we saw two female cubs very well, while on the second day in the afternoon one female cub tried but failed to hunt Chital in the road just in front of us before scratching her head on a tree and settling for a doze a short distance from us. On the third afternoon we saw the whole family of five doing just about everything a family of five Tigers can do: resting in long grass, pretending to hunt Chital, wallowing, play-fighting in the water, dallying across a road, and sitting down for a snooze in the middle of it. Utterly, utterly wonderful!

5) Shortly thereafter, as we left the park, we saw the immense, badly scarred, twelve-year-old male M8, nicknamed Bokhra or Old Man, whose tracks we had seen early in the morning. He strode across the road just metres from us and slipped into the bamboo forest which soon after exploded with the alarm calls of Sambar. A most remarkable afternoon of Tiger-watching!

There were many other delights too; Grey Junglefowl cocks bustled by the sides of the roads, Jungle Bush-Quail scurried through the stony verges, Plum-headed Parakeets whizzed by giving their dippy, squeaky *chweek*, Orange-headed Thrushes hopped through fallen leaves around shady water-holes, blue-grey male Nilgai strode aristocratically through the scrub at the edge of fields, and a South Indian Tree Shrew bounced across the road ahead of us, waving its fluffy tawny tail.

19th March

There are days when you head into the forest and you wonder why you bothered. The trees are there and they are as beautiful as ever, but not a bird stirs, not a monkey jumps, not a junglefowl crows and certainly not a Tiger prowls. There are days like this when clients put on a brave face and tour leaders bear everyone's lead-grey disappointment on their shoulders. Yes, there are days like this. Today however, our last morning in Tadoba, was nothing like that; nothing at all. It was astonishing!

Entering the forest we found fresh tracks of a Leopard in the unmade road. A short distance further, there he was, padding nonchalantly ahead of us in the blithe cool of early morning. Our Leopard, a male, stopped to scent-mark a tree and doing so turned the full stab of his gaze on us. He sprayed again and was lost in a dense stand of bamboo. Moments later he strolled through the long grass beyond and was seen no more. Magnificent!

The F9 female Tiger at Katezari was not to be seen, though her family's tracks were all over the road. In the dry hills above this wetland a Chowsingha, a Four-horned Antelope, peered at some of us from the safety of the forest's edge and, after a moment's look, bounded away. Near here were very fresh tracks and fresh scat of the Sloth Bear, though the bear itself eluded us.

Abruptly one of our jeeps stopped in the road ahead of us. Here were three Asian Wild Dogs, flopped lazily in the road and at its edge. These gorgeous, lean animals are, quite unfairly, cast as the vicious red dogs of Kipling's *Jungle Book*, the villains who murder Akela the Wolf. In truth they are animals of incomparable grace and power who, through their intelligence and social bonds, hunt in packs and are as feared by herbivores as the Tiger. Lying in the road and trotting through the grass beside it, waving their feathery tails, they looked far too friendly to be feared and we were thrilled to see them.

Reaching Pandherpauni what should we see but two of our familiar female Tiger cubs, one in the road and another pottering through tall grass at its edge. These peerless cats were a fitting end to our incomparable stay in a wonderful park.

Great thanks for the success of our extension are due to Aditya and Amrut, the owners of our lovely lodge, Tiger Trails, and to all their helpful, kindly staff. Thanks too to their team of drivers, Lahu, Santosh, Javed, Raju and Dhoni, all of whom enter the forest with excitement each day, as though they had never seen a Tiger. On one morning of our stay we chose to roam away from where Tigers were constantly being seen, to gain a feel for the jungle and for the vastness of the Tiger's domain. On our return from this morning drive, Lahu, itching to get back to his beloved Tigers and to share them again with our clients, looked to me with a worried frown and said in Hindi, 'This afternoon we'll go and see the Tigers, no?' And so we did, splendidly!

Main tour

Day 1

Monday 19th March

Today we all reached Pench Tiger Reserve - the main-tour participants from the UK and the extension participants from Tadoba. Pench straddles the border of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh in the Seoni Hills, quoted by Kipling as the home of Shere Khan. Our sumptuous lodge here offered a great start to the tour and a very comfortable base for our two days of visits to the jungles of Pench.

Day 2

Tuesday 20th March

In the light of our excellent trip to Tadoba, it was inevitable that things would slow down a little here and no-one from our tour saw a Tiger this morning. Indeed only one was seen by one jeep in the whole park and the mahouts didn't find any on their elephants either. But the forest of Pench is dreamily beautiful. Here are rocky hills, loved by Leopards, dotted like parkland with deciduous trees. Here are great vistas across edgeless grasslands and lakes. Here too are all the cast of the great drama of central Indian wildlife. Peacocks fan their tails at discerning peahens, who generally look unimpressed; baby Langurs ping through the trees under the long-suffering eyes of their aunts and mothers; Vultures, Red-headed and White-rumped, sit out the soaring heat of the day in the grassland; and light-footed Golden Jackals trot through the landscape, looking for a chance to pinch, pilfer or pester. Such is the life of Pench.

On our return to the lodge butterflies with names as wonderful as their wings flitted through the handsome gardens here: Great Eggfly, Crimson Rose, Common Emigrant, Common Mormon, Baronet. Nearby a Thick-billed Flowerpecker scolded in alarm as a Jungle Owlet swooped past our rooms. As the last of our jeeps returned, our friendly, broadly-smiling lodge naturalist Omveer expressed surprise that often groups come back from the park saying they have seen nothing when all the forest twitches and mutters with living things. This morning, in his words, we saw "six jackal, one thousand deer, five-hundred monkey, one-hundred bird, uncountable tree".

In the afternoon two of our jeeps – alas two which had previously seen many Tigers in Tadoba – saw a young Tiger in a jumble of rocks. Leaving the park we visited the large stream bed where, in a large hole in a tree, Geraldine lives. I don't remember now how she came to be known as Geraldine but she's an Indian Giant Flying

Squirrel and over the past few years she has become a Naturetrek institution. This evening, our whole group paid a visit to Geraldine's tree and, faithful creature that she is, she put in her appearance as dusk fell. She poked her blunt grey nose from her hole, clambered to the top of her tree and launched herself into the moody half-darkness. Landing in the next tree she shinned up this too and glided spectacularly into the night.

Day 3

Wednesday 21st March

Our last safari in Pench this morning brought no Tigers. There were many delights today though, among them a Forest Wagtail, in company with a Grey Wagtail, happily tiptoeing over the mud at the edge of a lake. Chital buck swayed their great antlers at one another, Peacocks fanned their tails in the grassland, Pond-Herons stood hunched at the edge of pools and Indian Grey Hornbills planed through the trees.

This evening we reached Kanha Jungle Lodge. Just as our charming hosts Tarun and Dimple and their team of helpful staff welcomed us to the lodge, another Giant Flying Squirrel left its hole and bounced up a sal tree by the dining room to glide away into the coming night.

Day 4

Thursday 22nd March

Today brought no Tigers either. However, there was so much to see on our first morning and afternoon drives in beautiful Kanha that we didn't mind at all. Everywhere we looked there were mammals and birds, including families of the highly-endangered hard-ground race of the Barasinga grazing in the beautiful grasslands of this lovely park. Nearby, at the edge of the forest were Southern Plains Grey Langurs (it was so much easier before they split them all up and we used to call them Common Langurs). Meanwhile, inside the forest, groups of Gaur chomped placidly through stands of bamboo, while Brown-cheeked Fulvettas and Sulphur-bellied Warblers fidgeted in the trees.

Day 5

Friday 23rd March

The habitat here in Kanha is surpassingly beautiful. There is a grace, a subtle stateliness, to the sal forests of Kanha. The forest here is tall and cool and at each season glows a different green. In March the pallid green of the sal's sweet-scented flowers was giving way to the hopeful sharp green of young leaves. The sal forest rang with the rolling purrs of Brown-headed Barbets and the strident sci-fi medleys of Greater Racket-tailed Drongos. In the shade of the forest Barking Deer picked quietly through fallen leaves and inky infant Langurs hop clumsily between their mothers and aunts. Common Hawk-cuckoos sang, their loud repetitive whistles the ceaseless soundtrack of the Indian summer. Jungle Owlets were noisy too, throatily exclaiming their dissatisfaction to any forest dweller that cared to listen. I've often mused that many Indian birds sound angry, disgruntled or miserable. The Indian Grey Hornbill whines, the Roller snarls, the Jungle Babblers whinge and bicker, and the large Cuckooshrike complains in tones of loud self-pity. As for Treepies, much of the time they just sound cross!

Our pre-tour extension to Tadoba had remarkable success with Tigers. However, since our new clients arrived for the main tour, the Tigers had all but vanished. This morning, at last, the mahouts found a four-year-old Tigress and permission was given by the park for them to take tourists to see her on their elephants. Thus everyone saw a beautiful four-year-old Tigress superbly this morning. That sounds so good I'm going to say it again: everyone saw a Tigress from an elephant this morning. Phew!

This afternoon the cat-watching got better still. In the meadow at Bishanpura we watched a Jungle Cat picking purposefully through the parched grass. Jackals are similar in size and colour to Jungle Cats and frequent many of the same habitats but, whereas Jackals amble along aimlessly, blundering into whatever mischief they can, the cats look always as though they know precisely where they are going and why. Our lovely Jungle Cat this afternoon spray-marked his territory and patrolled his golden grassland with care, before crossing the road in front of us and slipping into the sal forest.

Day 6

Saturday 24th March

A quiet day on the carnivore front and a long day too... We spent it searching the forests and grasslands of Kanha, as usual, seeing the by-now familiar cast of fascinating, beautiful creatures: Sambar, Barking Deer, Chital, Gaur, Wild Boar, Three-striped Palm-Squirrel, Red-wattled Lapwing, Crested Serpent-Eagle and Brown-headed Barbet, among innumerable others.

Just two new birds joined the list today: a White-rumped Needletail this morning and a Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker in dry scrub on the plateau above Mukki this evening. Near here was one of the best of several Jungle Cats we saw on this tour, sitting ramrod straight like an Egyptian god and glowing gold in the dying light of the day.

Day 7

Sunday 25th March

Our days in the Central Indian jungle ended with a dramatic flourish typical of tigers. A hitch in park paperwork, deftly and diplomatically resolved by Tarun, meant we entered the Mukki gate half an hour later than planned on our last morning in Kanha. As our karma would have it, this hitch put all four of our jeeps in just the right spot when Chhoti Mata or Little Mother, the gorgeously-marked mother of three ten-month-old cubs, strolled confidently across the road among us and spray-marked two trees by the forest roadside. After she had gone, barely believing our last-minute luck, we sat beaming and listening to the alarm call of a Barking Deer telling us that she had slipped into the rocky hills.

This wondrous female Tiger, sharply striped in black on a deep orange coat, her colours heightened in the kindly shade of the sal forest, is around seven years old. She raised two cubs last year and was very frequently seen with her family in Mukki. This year she has three cubs but her behaviour has changed and she rarely allows herself to be seen. We were therefore doubly privileged to see her and left Kanha on a Tiger high!

Thanks for the success of our days in Kanha are due to Tarun, Dimple, Jai, Nilesh and all the staff of Kanha Jungle Lodge. We are always superbly well cared-for here and this tour was no exception. And thanks to all of you Naturetrekkers and Tiger-spotters. Your excitement at seeing the Tiger and all of the wildlife which shares the Tiger's habitat made our tour a great success and made Harish's life and my life very easy. Thank you! We hope to see you again soon...

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Species List

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

| | Common name | Scientific name | Tadoba | | | Main Tour | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | March | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 1 | Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 2 | Great Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</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 | Cattle Egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 10 | Indian Pond-Heron | <i>Ardeola grayii</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 11 | Black-crowned Night-Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 12 | Black Stork | <i>Ciconia nigra</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 13 | Woolly-necked Stork | <i>Ciconia episcopus</i> | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 14 | Black-headed Ibis | <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 15 | Lesser Whistling-Duck | <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 16 | Bar-headed Goose | <i>Anser indicus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Ruddy Shelduck | <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 18 | Gadwall | <i>Anas strepera</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 19 | Teal | <i>Anas crecca</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 | Red-headed Vulture | <i>Sarcogyps calvus</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 26 | Short-toed Eagle | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 27 | Crested Serpent-Eagle | <i>Spilornis cheela</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 28 | Shikra | <i>Accipiter badius</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 29 | White-eyed Buzzard | <i>Butastur teesa</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 30 | Bonelli's Eagle | <i>Aquila fasciatus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| 31 | Crested Hawk-Eagle | <i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i> | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 32 | Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| 33 | Red Junglefowl | <i>Gallus gallus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 34 | Grey Junglefowl | <i>Gallus sonneratii</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| 35 | Indian Peafowl | <i>Pavo cristatus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 36 | Jungle Bush-Quail | <i>Perdica asiatica</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 37 | Barred Buttonquail | <i>Turnix suscitator</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 38 | White-breasted Waterhen | <i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 39 | Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 40 | Bronze-winged Jacana | <i>Metopidius indicus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| 41 | Greater Painted Snipe | <i>Rostratula benghalensis</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 42 | Black-winged Stilt | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| 43 | Indian Stone-Curlew | <i>Burhinus indicus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| 44 | Yellow-wattled Lapwing | <i>Vanellus malabaricus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 45 | Red-wattled Lapwing | <i>Vanellus indicus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 46 | Common Snipe | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | Tadoba | | | Main Tour | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| | | | March | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | |
| 47 | Greenshank | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 48 | Green Sandpiper | <i>Tringa ochropus</i> | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 49 | Wood Sandpiper | <i>Tringa glareola</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 50 | River Tern | <i>Sterna aurantia</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 51 | Rock Pigeon | <i>Columba livia</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| 52 | Oriental Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 53 | Eurasian Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 54 | Laughing Dove | <i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | |
| 55 | Spotted Dove | <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 56 | Yellow-footed Green-Pigeon | <i>Treron phoenicoptera</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 57 | Rose-ringed Parakeet | <i>Psittacula krameri</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 58 | Alexandrine Parakeet | <i>Psittacula eupatria</i> | | | h | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 59 | Plum-headed Parakeet | <i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 60 | Common Hawk-Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus varius</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| 61 | Sirkeer Malkoha | <i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i> | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 62 | Greater Coucal | <i>Centropus sinensis</i> | | h | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 63 | Indian Scops Owl | <i>Otus bakkamoena</i> | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 64 | Brown Fish-Owl | <i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | | | |
| 65 | Jungle Owlet | <i>Glaucidium radiatum</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 66 | Spotted Owlet | <i>Athene brama</i> | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ |
| 67 | Savannah Nightjar | <i>Caprimulgus affinis</i> | | h | | | | | | | | |
| 68 | Grey Nightjar | <i>Caprimulgus indicus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 69 | White-rumped Needletail | <i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i> | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 70 | Little Swift | <i>Apus affinis</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 71 | Crested Treeswift | <i>Hemiprocne coronata</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 72 | Stork-billed Kingfisher | <i>Pelargopsis capensis</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 73 | White-throated Kingfisher | <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 74 | Common Kingfisher | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 75 | Pied Kingfisher | <i>Ceryle rudis</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 76 | Green Bee-eater | <i>Merops orientalis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 77 | Blue-tailed Bee-eater | <i>Merops philippinus</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 78 | Indian Roller | <i>Coracias benghalensis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 79 | Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 80 | Indian Grey Hornbill | <i>Oxyceros birostris</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 81 | Malabar Pied Hornbill | <i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 82 | Brown-headed Barbet | <i>Megalaima zeylanica</i> | | h | | | h | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 83 | Coppersmith Barbet | <i>Megalaima haemacephala</i> | | h | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 84 | Yellow-crowned Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 85 | Black-rumped Flameback | <i>Dinopium benghalense</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 86 | White-naped Woodpecker | <i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i> | | | | | | | | h | h | |
| 87 | Indian Bush-Lark | <i>Mirafra erythroptera</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 88 | Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark | <i>Eremopterix griseus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 89 | Rufous-tailed Lark | <i>Ammomanes phoenicurus</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 90 | Plain Martin | <i>Riparia paludicola</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| 91 | Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 92 | Wire-tailed Swallow | <i>Hirundo smithii</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | | | |
| 93 | Red-rumped Swallow | <i>Hirundo daurica</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 94 | Eurasian House Martin | <i>Delichon urbica</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| 95 | Forest Wagtail | <i>Dendronanthus indicus</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 96 | Citrine Wagtail | <i>Motacilla citreola</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | Tadoba | | | Main Tour | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | March | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 97 | Yellow Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 98 | Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 99 | Paddyfield Pipit | <i>Anthus rufulus</i> | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 100 | Tree Pipit | <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 101 | Olive-backed Pipit | <i>Anthus hodgsoni</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| 102 | Large Cuckooshrike | <i>Coracina macei</i> | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 103 | Scarlet Minivet | <i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 104 | Red-vented Bulbul | <i>Pyconotus cafer</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 105 | White-browed Bulbul | <i>Pyconotus luteolus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 106 | Golden-fronted Leafbird | <i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 107 | Blue-capped Rock-Thrush | <i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i> | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 108 | Orange-headed Thrush | <i>Zosterops citrina</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 109 | Oriental Magpie-Robin | <i>Copsychus saularis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 110 | White-rumped Shama | <i>Copsychus malabaricus</i> | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 111 | Indian Robin | <i>Saxicoloides fulicatus</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| 112 | Eastern Stonechat | <i>Saxicola maura</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 113 | Red-throated Flycatcher | <i>Ficedula albicilla</i> | | ✓ | | | h | | ✓ | | |
| 114 | Verditer Flycatcher | <i>Eumyias thalassina</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 115 | Tickell's Blue Flycatcher | <i>Cyornis tickelliae</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 116 | Black-naped Monarch | <i>Hypothymis azurea</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 117 | Asian Paradise-Flycatcher | <i>Tersiphone paradisi</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| 118 | Common Tailorbird | <i>Orthotomus sutorius</i> | | | | | | | | | |
| 119 | Grey-breasted Prinia | <i>Prinia hodgsonii</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| 120 | Ashy Prinia | <i>Prinia socialis</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 121 | Plain Prinia | <i>Prinia inornata</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| 122 | Sulphur-bellied Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus griseolus</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 123 | Greenish Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i> | | | | | h | | ✓ | | |
| 124 | Yellow-eyed Babbler | <i>Chrysomma sinense</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| 125 | Jungle Babbler | <i>Turdoides striatus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 126 | Brown-cheeked Fulvetta | <i>Alcippe poiocephala</i> | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 127 | Purple Sunbird | <i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i> | ✓ | h | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| 128 | Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | | | | | h | | | | |
| 129 | Oriental White-eye | <i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i> | | h | | | h | | | | ✓ |
| 130 | Black-hooded Oriole | <i>Oriolus xanthornus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 131 | Brown Shrike | <i>Lanius cristatus</i> | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 132 | Bay-backed Shrike | <i>Lanius vittatus</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | |
| 133 | Long-tailed Shrike | <i>Lanius schach</i> | ✓ | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| 134 | Common Woodshrike | <i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| 135 | Black Drongo | <i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 136 | White-bellied Drongo | <i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 137 | Spangled Drongo | <i>Dicrurus hottentotus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 138 | Greater Racket-tailed Drongo | <i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 139 | Rufous Treepie | <i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 140 | House Crow | <i>Corvus splendens</i> | ✓ | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| 141 | Jungle Crow | <i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 142 | Rose-coloured Starling | <i>Sturnus roseus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| 143 | Chestnut-tailed Starling | <i>Sturnia malabarica</i> | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| 144 | Brahminy Starling | <i>Sturnia pagodarum</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| 145 | Common Myna | <i>Acridotheres tristis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 146 | House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |

| | Common name | Scientific name | Tadoba | | | Main Tour | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | March | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 147 | Chestnut-shouldered Petronia | <i>Petronia xanthocollis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 148 | White-rumped Munia | <i>Lonchura striata</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | | |

Mammals

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Rhesus Macaque | <i>Macaca mulatta</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| 2 | Southern Plains Grey Langur | <i>Semnopithecus dussumieri</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 3 | Asian Wild Dog (Dhole) | <i>Cuon alpinus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 4 | Golden Jackal | <i>Canis aureus</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 5 | Grey Mongoose | <i>Herpestes edwardsi</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| 6 | Ruddy Mongoose | <i>Herpestes smithii</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 7 | Jungle Cat | <i>Felis chaus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 8 | Leopard | <i>Panthera pardus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | | |
| 9 | Tiger | <i>Panthera tigris</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 10 | South Indian Tree Shrew | <i>Anathana ellioti</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| 11 | Wild Boar | <i>Sus scrofa</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 12 | Nilgai | <i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| 13 | Chowsingha | <i>Tetracerus quadricornis</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| 14 | Indian Muntjac | <i>Muntiacus muntjak</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 15 | Chital | <i>Axis axis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 16 | Sambar | <i>Cervus unicolor</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 17 | Barasingha | <i>Cervus duvauceli branderi</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 18 | Three-striped Palm-Squirrel | <i>Funambulus palmarum</i> | ✓ | ✓ | h | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 19 | Five-striped Palm-Squirrel | <i>Funambulus pennanti</i> | | | h | | | | | | |

Reptiles

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1 | Mugger Crocodile | <i>Crocodylus palustris</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| 2 | Oriental Rat Snake | <i>Ptyas mucosus</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | | |

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

