

Tiger Direct

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 - 19 November 2012

Report compiled by Indrajit Latey



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Participants: Nigel Habben
 Cheryl Habben
 Eric Hampshire (Tadoba & Satpura Ext.)
 Gail Hampshire (Tadoba & Satpura Ext.)
 Mike Robinson

Day 0

Thursday 11th November

Travel from the UK (or joining from the Tadoba pre-tour extension)

Day 1

Friday 12th November

Nagpur to Pench National Park

The clients arrived by flight to Nagpur at 1730 hrs. After a quick welcome we all left for Pench. En route we passed many small villages and since it was Diwali, most of the houses along the roads were all lit up. On arriving in Pench we were ushered to our rooms and met up with the other tour members who had already arrived from Tadoba. Exchanging pleasantries we all had dinner and went off to bed with lots to look forward to in the next 7 days!

Day 2

Saturday 13th November

Pench National Park

An early morning wake up at 0515 hrs along with a hot cup of tea set the tempo for the day. We all got into the safari vehicles and left for our first game drive. We were pleasantly surprised to hear that the sightings of the previous evening had been great. A Tigress with her three cubs had been seen in a particular area. We rumbled along that path and saw a queue of cars already stationed. Joining the line of cars, we heard alarm calls of Spotted Deer and Langur Monkeys. With our hearts pumping with excitement we waited. Through the mist we could see a striped animal making her way towards us! The Tigress walked hurriedly from behind our car and across the road back into the forest. What a sight she was. With such a great start we all went ahead and saw many birds like Drongo, Parakeets and Treepie.

Post lunch we went for a trail and were lucky to see a couple of Wild Dogs doing their daily chores. With ample photo ops we spent a lot of time with them, and finally bid them goodbye to exit from the park. We had a wildlife presentation by the local naturalist and after a sumptuous meal we all went to bed.

Day 3

Sunday 14th November

Pench to Kanha National Park

Since it was a Wednesday the park was closed. We went for a birding drive to three lakes in the buffer zone. Lots of waterfowl were seen. Having breakfast on the banks of a local dam amidst Open-billed Storks was truly great. Returning to the lodge we had an early lunch and left for Kanha.

The drive was very interesting, passing local markets and over 3000 cows returning to the village in the evening after grazing. Crossing them took nearly 20 minutes! We were received in Kanha and after a quick checklist we all had dinner and went off to bed.

Day 4

Monday 15th November

Kanha National Park

Our drive in Kanha was what most of the guests were looking forward to. It was cold (10 degrees C) and that added to the whole experience. Driving through the misty meadows we looked hard to find the elusive cat! With a lot of alarm calls of Sambar and Langur, we hoped that we would be rewarded...but luck was not on our side. Contented with the very colourful Minivets, Parakeets and Peacocks we all returned for lunch at the lodge.

Post lunch we did a drive along the river. One of the jeeps was very lucky to see a Sloth Bear! Another of our vehicles saw a Grey-headed Fish Eagle at very close quarters. All in all the safaris were very good. After a delicious dinner we all had a star gazing session and then went off to bed.

Day 5

Tuesday 16th November

Kanha National Park

This morning we went to a different zone. Kisli: the western zone. With typical undulating terrains and two large meadows we all were excited. Lots of birds like Canary Flycatchers, Malkohas, Storks and Leafbirds were seen. Later after breakfast we saw some Snipe and Scops Owls.

In the afternoon we went for a nature walk to the river with Jay, a young naturalist. Post lunch we went left for a safari. A Sloth Bear was seen on the drive and also a great chance was missed seeing a male tiger because of the closing times of the park. On arriving back at the lodge we had a cooking demonstration by Dimple. After doing the checklist we had dinner and called it a day.

Day 6

Wednesday 17th November

Kanha National Park

The morning drive in Mukki Zone was with an agenda! We were to look for the Sloth Bear. Reports of it foraging the previous evening in a particular area reached us. With the target species in mind, we all reached that area. Then...alarm call!!! After waiting for some time a Tigress casually walked in front of us and straight into the bushes! This was not going according to script. But we were not complaining!

In the afternoon we did get to see the Sloth Bear and also the same Tigress again. This time she had brought along three of her 10 month old cubs! We had a great view of them and loads of photo opportunities.

On returning to the lodge we were treated to the acrobatics of a Flying Squirrel. With the checklist of birds touching nearly 150 species we were all happy.

Day 7

Thursday 18th November

Kanha National Park to Nagpur

The last day in Kanha... Our group was going to break up, as there were three clients who were going further on to Satpura. We bid them goodbye since they were going to do a shorter drive. As soon as we entered the park we got news of a Leopard sitting up a tree on Malkhedi road. We all drove there with cameras ready. And sure enough it was there! A big male Leopard was sitting 10 feet off the ground. We all took photos and waited and enjoyed every bit of it. After a while it jumped down and disappeared into the undergrowth.

The jeeps all left that area and went looking for last evening's Tigress. We found her sitting on the side of the road at the same place as yesterday!! This was a great way to end the last safari for Tiger Direct. After lunch we reluctantly left for Nagpur. On arriving we checked into the Tuli Imperial and had a farewell dinner.

Day 8

Friday 19th November

Nagpur/Mumbai/UK

The clients took the early morning flight to Mumbai and onwards to the UK...(or took the post tour extension to Satpura)

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Species List

Mammals (✓ = recorded but not counted; F = female; C = cub)

	Common name	Scientific name	November						
			13	14	15	16	17	18	
1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>	1F					1F3C	1F2C
2	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>							✓
4	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	✓	✓					
5	Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i>		✓		✓	✓		
10	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
11	Dhole (Asiatic Wild Dog)	<i>Cuon alpinus dukhunensis</i>	✓						
12	Sloth Bear	<i>Merursus ursinus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓
14	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	✓	✓					✓
19	Three-striped Palm Squirrel (South)	<i>Funambulus pennarum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista philippensis</i>			✓	✓	✓		
22	Gaur (Indian Bison)	<i>Bos guarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Barasingha (Swamp Deer)	<i>Cervus duvauceli branderi</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓
28	Chousingha (Four-horned Antelope)	<i>Tetracerus quadricornis</i>							✓
30	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	✓	✓					✓
31	Indian Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Birds

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	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓				
7	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓				✓
8	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
10	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>			✓				
13	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>			✓				
14	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
15	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				✓			✓
16	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
17	Red-naped Ibis / Black Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Lesser Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	✓	✓	✓				
20	Cotton Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			✓		✓		
22	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓				
23	Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	✓		✓				
24	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>			✓				
25	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>			✓		✓		
26	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>				✓			✓

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27	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓	✓			
29	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>		✓				
30	Grey-headed Fish-eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>			✓		✓	
31	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	✓					
32	Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	✓					
33	Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>					✓	
34	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>		✓				
35	Crested Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
36	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>		✓				
37	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
38	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>		✓	✓			✓
39	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>		✓	✓			✓
40	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓			
41	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						✓
42	Painted Francolin	<i>Francolinus pictus</i>					✓	
43	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>				✓	✓	
44	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	✓		✓			✓
45	Red Jungle Fowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
46	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
47	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>		✓	✓			
48	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					✓	
49	Stone-curlew / Eurasian Thick-knee	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>		✓				✓
50	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
51	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
52	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				✓	✓	
53	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			✓		✓	
54	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
56	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>		✓				
57	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	✓					
58	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓				
59	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>			✓		✓	✓
60	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				✓		
61	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>		✓				
63	Yellow-footed Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
65	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
66	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
67	Common Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	✓	✓				
69	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>	✓			✓		✓
70	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Indian Scops-owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
72	Brown Fish-owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>					✓	
73	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>		✓		✓		✓
75	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>						✓
76	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
77	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓		✓	✓	

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			13	14	15	16	17	18
78	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</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>Ocyroceros birostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
83	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
84	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
85	Brown-capped Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos moluccensis nanus</i>		✓	✓			✓
86	Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>				✓		✓
87	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>					✓	✓
89	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix grisea</i>	✓					
90	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			✓			
91	Dusky Crag-martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>	✓	✓				
92	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</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	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		✓				
97	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
98	Oriental Pipit / Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓
99	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>		✓				✓
100	Large Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Black-winged Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>					✓	
102	Black-headed Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>				✓		
103	Rosy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus roseus</i>						✓
104	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>						✓
105	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
107	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
108	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>				✓		
109	Blue-capped Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhynchus</i>						✓
110	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>		✓				
111	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				✓		✓
112	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>					✓	✓
113	Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>				✓		
114	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>			✓	✓		✓
115	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		✓	✓			✓
116	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>				✓	✓	✓
117	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>			✓		✓	✓
118	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	
119	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				✓		✓
120	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>					✓	
121	Tickell's Blue-flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>			✓	✓		✓
122	Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>				✓		✓
123	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>						✓
125	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulcata</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
126	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	✓				
127	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
128	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>				✓		✓

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			13	14	15	16	17	18
129	Grey Bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferrea</i>				✓		
130	White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>	✓					✓
131	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>					✓	✓
132	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>		✓				
133	Indian Scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>				✓		✓
134	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
135	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>				✓	✓	✓
136	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓
137	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>			✓			✓
138	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
139	Thick-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>			✓			
140	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>				✓	✓	✓
141	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
142	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
143	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
144	Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>			✓			
145	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
146	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>						✓
147	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
148	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	✓					
149	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
150	Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>				✓	✓	
151	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
152	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
153	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	
154	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
155	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
156	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>		✓	✓			
157	Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>					✓	
158	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
159	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>			✓		✓	
160	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓			
161	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
162	Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>			✓	✓		
163	Nutmeg Mannikin/Scaly Breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
164	Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>						✓

Reptiles

1	Indian Flapshell Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>	✓	✓				
2	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>			✓			
3	House Gecko species	<i>Hemidactylus or Gehyra etc sp</i>						✓