

# India - Tiger Direct!

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 - 13 January 2014



Tiger



Tiger



Green Bee-eater



Indian Roller

Report compiled by Indrajit Latey  
Images courtesy of Ken & Angela Taylor



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    Ken Taylor\*\*\*  
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\*Tour & Private extension

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## Day 1

**Monday 6th January**

On arriving at Nagpur airport we left for Pench. Driving on the new highway was a pleasure. We encountered many birds like the Black shouldered Kites, Black Kites and Indian Rollers on the wires alongside. On arriving at Tuli Corridor in Pench we met the rest of the group and had an early dinner.

## Day 2

**Tuesday 7th January**

The first drive in Pench was where we saw herbivores like Chital, Sambar and Gaur. Birding in the backwaters of the dam was also great, since we saw some waterfowl and storks. In the evening we also heard alarm calls of Sambar deer announcing a predator. After doing the species checklist we all called it a day.

## Day 3

**Wednesday 8th January**

We knew there was a Tigress with cubs seen, so we played a patience game we knew what the odds were...and unfortunately the tigress eluded us. After lunch we drove to Kanha through some lovely countryside. On arriving in Kanha we were welcomed by Tarun and his staff. A Flying Squirrel whizzed overhead, completing the welcome! After a quick checklist and dinner we retired to bed.

## Day 4

**Thursday 9th January**

Waking up at the crack of dawn we piled into the jeep hoping to change our luck. We got information that a Tigress had killed a Sambar deer very close to a stream. Hoping she would come on the road we waited but it was not to be. The Barasingha, Sambar, Chital and Langur went all out, announcing a predator, but it had moved into the undergrowth. We knew we were going to see the tigress sooner than later... In the evening we saw the Flying Squirrel again. After a quick checklist we had a wonderful dinner and called it a day.

## Day 5

**Friday 10th January**

We drove straight to the place where we had information that a Tigress had killed a Sambar. We were amazed to see not only her but also her 4 sub-adult cubs feeding on the kill 20 feet away from us. It was a spectacular sight! Seeing tigers is special, but to see them feeding in full view of us was amazing. In the evening we got some special views of the male sub-adult. In all we had 8 sightings of this family. We were all very pleased. Also today, the elephants were available and we took a ride on them for about an hour. What a day!

## Day 6

## Saturday 11th January

In the morning we went to the western part of the park, in a zone called Kisli...but not before seeing 3 Tigers! A female crossed our path, calling for her cubs. Moving along we saw a male Tiger patrolling his territory. He was really big and intimidating. After breakfast we saw another Tigress, which had killed a Wild Boar. She was out in the meadow and we had very good views of her. Another great day had come to an end.

## Day 7

## Sunday 12th January

The last drive is always sad and we did not want to leave such a great park. We saw 3 sub-adult Tigers on the road and then a male sub-adult stalking Chital deer. Reluctantly we left the park and went to the lodge for a quick lunch. Heading to Nagpur we arrived at the Tuli Imperial and had our farewell dinner.

## Day 8

## Monday 13th January

The guests departed by an early morning flight promising to return soon!

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## Species List

Mammals (✓ = recorded but not counted)

	Common name	Scientific name	January						
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>				8	3	3	
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	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	✓	✓					
6	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>	✓						
7	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennarum</i>	✓						
8	Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista philippensis</i>			✓	✓	✓		
9	Gaur (Indian Bison)	<i>Bos guarus</i>		✓					
10	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
11	Barasingha (Swamp Deer)	<i>Cervus duvauceli branderi</i>			✓	✓	✓		
12	Chital (Spotted Deer)	<i>Cervus axis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
13	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>					✓		
14	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	✓	✓					
15	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	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</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	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	✓						
13	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>			✓	✓	✓		
14	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		
15	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>				✓	✓		
16	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>	✓		✓	✓			
17	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	✓	✓					
18	Cotton Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</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	Crested Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		
25	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>			✓				
26	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	✓	✓					
27	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>	✓						
28	Red Jungle Fowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>			✓	✓	✓		
29	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
30	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	January						
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13
31	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
32	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓					
33	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	✓						
34	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
35	Yellow-footed Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>			✓		✓		
36	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓					
37	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>			✓		✓		
38	Indian Scops-owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	✓		✓				
39	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	✓		✓				
40	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	✓	✓					
41	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>					✓		
42	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		✓	✓				
43	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		
44	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
45	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
46	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				✓			
47	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>	✓		✓	✓			
48	Malabar Pied-hornbill	<i>Anthracosceros coronatus</i>		✓					
49	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>				✓	✓		
50	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>					✓		
51	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	✓	✓					
52	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>				✓	✓		
53	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓			✓	✓		
54	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>	✓						
55	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		
56	Oriental Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>		✓					
57	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>			✓				
58	Large Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>			✓	✓	✓		
59	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>			✓				
60	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>		✓					
61	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>		✓					
62	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>			✓				
63	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	✓						
64	Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>					✓		
65	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓	✓					
66	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	✓						
67	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓					
68	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>			✓		✓		
69	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
70	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>					✓		
71	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>					✓		
72	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>					✓		
73	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		
74	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	✓						
75	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
76	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>			✓	✓	✓		
77	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		
78	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓	✓					
79	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
80	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		