

India - Tiger Direct

Naturetrek Tour Report

15 - 24 March 2009

Report compiled by Dilip Saini



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Day 1

Saturday/Sunday – 15th/16th March

Departure from London to Nagpur via Doha, by Qatar Airways

Day 2

Monday 17th March

Pench National Park

Arrived in Nagpur early this morning and we met the group members at Nagpur airport and drive by road to Pench National Park, a pleasant journey of less than two hours. En route we saw our first bird Savanna Nightjar, Rose-ringed Parakeets, Black Drogues, Green Bee-eaters and other birds. We also saw our first mammals, Rhesus Macaques.

On arrival at Pench we settled into our resort for two nights stay. After tea or coffee we had a morning game drive and saw many varieties of birds (shrikes, mynas, babul, babblers, parakeets) and also mammals (spotted deers, samba deer, wild beer and common langurs) but today no tigers. After our safari we came back to the hotel, had breakfast and later after lunch we started our afternoon game safari. We saw common kingfisher, white throated kingfisher, green bee-eater, greater coucal, collared scops owl, spotted owlet and also mammals such as asian golden jackal, spotted deer, samba deer, and indian nilgai (blue bull antelope). Outside the park we saw flying squirrel and came back to resort before dinner where we did our species checklists.

Day 3

Tuesday 18th March

Pench National Park

We started with an early morning game drive and our jeep saw leopard. Our mammal sightings included common langurs, gaur (the huge asiatic bison), wild boar, golden jackal, spotted deer, sambar deer, blue bull antelope, and rhesus monkey. Our bird sightings included indian roller, kingfisher, hornbill, greater coucal, and collared scops owl.

We returned back to hotel for breakfast at the resort. After lunch and a siesta we went out again on safari into the park for an evening game drive and again saw wonderful birds and mammals. Everybody enjoyed Pench National Park and our resort.

Day 4

Wednesday 19th March

Kanha National Park

After an early breakfast, we drove from Pench to Kanha Tiger Reserve, where we had further opportunities to watch tiger's on our daily excursions. Highlights of journey included the roadside butterfly show among the forest. The butterflies were common crows, blue tiger, striped tigers, and common rose, and birds included red jungle fowl, thick bulled flower pecker, lesser whistling duck, and large racket-tailed drongo.

In the afternoon we checked in to Kanha Jungle Lodge and after lunch had an afternoon game drive into the Mukki area of Kanha where we saw deer species including muntjac and spotted sambar, a jackal, and bird species such as red jungle fowl, woodpeckers, parakeets, bulbuls, and sacra eagles and then came back to the lodge. Before dinner we did our species checklist for the day.

Day 5

Thursday 20th March

Kanha National Park

At 5.45 we had an early morning game drive into the park with packed a picnic breakfast and we stayed in the reserve until mid-day but had better success later in the day.

After lunch we did short bird watching walks around the jungle lodge and at 3.30 pm we started our game drive into the park. There we saw leopard, wild dogs, indian bison, swamp deer, spotted deer, sambar deer, jackal, and blue bull antelope. The birds we saw were crested serpent eagle, white-eyed buzzard, vultures, black-headed oride, babblers, larks, pipits, indian roller, yellow and red wattled lapwings and also butterflies.

Day 6

Friday 21st March

Kanha National Park

We had an early morning game drive into the park. Everybody saw tigers and the other group saw a tiger on the road by jeep and they also saw an indian asiatic rock python.

After lunch we drove into the reserve, there we saw tiger, leopard, wild dogs(dhole), swamp deer, spotted deer, golden jackal, indian bison and other mammals. Birds seen included red jungle fowl, woodpeckers, hornbills, drongos, flycatchers, orioles etc.

Day 7

Saturday 22nd March

Kanha National Park

We had an early morning game drive into the park with a packed picnic breakfast and we saw tiger and other mammals like sambar deer, spotted deer, swamp deer, common langurs, blue bull antelope, asian golden jackal, and leopard! Birds' seen were flycatchers, rollers, parakeets, bulbuls, and drongos and we also saw delightful new butterflies today including common jezebel, common pierrot, common rose, and blue tiger. We then came back to the lodge for lunch.

On our afternoon game drive we saw two leopards when we were coming from park, and other mammal sightings were common langurs, deer, wild dog, indian bison, and antelope. The birds we saw were black redstart, greater racket-tailed drongo, orioles, and brow headed barbet.

Day 8

Sunday 23rd March

Kanha National Park

This morning was our last game drive into Kanha Tiger Reserve. There we saw deer, indian bison, antelope, jackal and many birds.

After breakfast we left the lodge for Nagpur with a packed lunch, and after 6hrs we reached Tuli International for an overnight stay. We had our farewell dinner at the hotel at its fine restaurant.

Day 9

Monday 24th March

In the early morning we transferred to the airport to catch the plane back to London.

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Species Lists

Birds

	Common name	Scientific name	March						
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		
2	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	✓	✓					
3	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓						
4	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
5	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	✓						
6	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓					
7	Indian Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓	✓				
8	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	✓	✓					
9	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>			✓				
10	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	✓						
11	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	✓		✓				
12	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>		✓	✓	✓			
13	Fulvous Whistling Teal	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
14	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	✓	✓	✓				
15	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			✓	✓			
16	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>			✓				
17	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	✓						
18	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
19	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓						
20	White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	✓						
21	Long-billed Vulture	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	✓	✓					
22	Short-toed Snake-eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	✓						
23	Crested Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
24	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
25	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
26	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatous</i>			✓	✓			
27	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓			✓			
28	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓					
29	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	✓						
30	Jungle Bush-quail	<i>Perdica asiatica</i>	✓						
31	Red Spurfowl	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	✓						
32	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
33	Brown Crane	<i>Amauromis akool</i>				✓	✓		
34	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauromis phoenicurus</i>				✓			
35	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓	✓			
36	Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>			✓	✓			
37	Eurasian Thicknee	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	✓						
38	Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
39	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40	White-tailed Lapwing	<i>Vanellus leucurus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
41	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		✓	✓	✓			
42	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		✓					
43	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	✓	✓					
44	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	✓	✓					
45	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	✓	✓					
46	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>				✓			
47	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓					

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			17	18	19	20	21	22	23
48	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>		✓	✓				
50	Yellow-footed Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
51	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		
52	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
53	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
54	Common Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Cuculus varius</i>		✓	✓		✓		
55	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	✓		✓	✓			
56	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	✓						
57	Indian Scops-owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	✓	✓	✓				
58	Brown Fish-owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>				✓			
59	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
60	Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus indicus</i>	✓						
61	Savannah Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	✓	✓	✓				
62	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	✓						
63	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>			✓	✓	✓		
64	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
65	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
66	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	✓		✓				
67	Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
68	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓					
70	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyroceros birostris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
71	Malabar Pied-hornbill	<i>Anthracosceros coronatus</i>	✓	✓		✓			
72	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
73	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		
74	Brown-capped Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos moluccensis nanus</i>	✓	✓					
75	Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos mahrattensis</i>	✓	✓					
76	Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
77	White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>			✓				
78	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>			✓				
79	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			✓				
80	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>	✓	✓					
81	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>			✓				
82	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓					
83	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla madaraspatensis</i>		✓					
84	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓		✓			
85	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	✓	✓					
86	Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similis</i>		✓					
87	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	✓			✓			
88	Large Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
89	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>		✓					
90	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>				✓			
91	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	✓						
92	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
93	Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	✓	✓					
94	Blue Rock-thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>				✓			
95	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>		✓		✓			
96	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>			✓	✓			
97	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>		✓		✓			

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98	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>			✓	✓			
99	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>			✓	✓	✓		
100	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>	✓	✓	✓				
101	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	✓	✓					
102	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>			✓				
103	Indian Blue Robin	<i>Luscinia brunnea</i>	✓	✓					
104	Oriental Magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>			✓	✓	✓		
105	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>				✓	✓		
106	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>	✓	✓					
107	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓	✓			
108	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>			✓		✓		
109	Asian Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>				✓			
110	Tawny-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>			✓	✓			
111	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>			✓	✓	✓		
112	Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poiocephala</i>			✓	✓			
113	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			✓	✓			
114	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>	✓	✓					
115	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓		
116	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓					
117	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>		✓	✓	✓			
118	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>		✓	✓	✓			
119	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>		✓		✓			
120	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	✓	✓		✓			
121	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓						
122	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>			✓	✓			
123	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	✓						
124	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>			✓				
125	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
126	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
127	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓						
128	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
129	Bank Myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
130	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>		✓	✓				
131	Asian Pied Starling	<i>Gracupica contra</i>	✓						
132	Brahminy Starling	<i>Temenuchus pagodarum</i>	✓		✓				
133	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
134	Chestnut-shouldered Petronia	<i>Petronia xanthocollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
135	Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>			✓	✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	March						
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23

Mammals

1	Royal Bengal Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris tigris</i>				✓	✓	✓	
2	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
3	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus kelaarita or kutas</i>	✓						
4	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Common Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</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	Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i>		✓					
10	Indian or Black-naped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>				✓			
11	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennarum</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	Indian Muntjac (Barking Deer)	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Nilgai (Blue Bull)	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			
19	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	Common Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	✓						