

Just Tigers!

Naturetrek Tour Report

7th – 18th November 2025



Blackbuck



Sloth Bear



Tiger



Barasingha

Tour report by Rishin Roy



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Tour participants: Rishin Roy (leader) with seven Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 7th November

Clients departed the UK, bound for India.

Day 2

Sunday 8th November

The clients assembled in Delhi in the afternoon, and excitement was quietly building as we drove south towards Sultanpur National Park. The fading light welcomed us into the wetland mosaic, where winter had already begun to settle. An evening walk produced our first gentle immersion into north Indian birdlife: Painted Storks, Black-winged Stilts, Shovelers, Marsh Harrier, Eastern Imperial Eagle and Green Bee-eaters skimming low over reed beds. Just as we were walking back towards the exit, we found a Jungle Cat trying its luck at finding prey in the marshy grasses of the wetland. It was a soft, reassuring opening: no rush, just birds, reflections and the promise of days ahead.

Day 3

Monday 9th November

In the morning, we travelled around Delhi to explore its old-world charm. We saw India Gate, Qutub Minar and Humayun's Tomb. It was like time travel back to the seventeenth century. After a sumptuous lunch, we reached Hazrat Nizamuddin Station to board the train to Jabalpur.

Day 4

Tuesday 10th November

After we arrived at Jabalpur, we had our breakfast and left for Kanha. We reached Kanha by the afternoon. The forest felt immediately different: cooler air, tall Sal trees and open meadows glowing gold. The very first evening rewarded us richly. As the forest quietened, alarm calls drew attention to a forest road where, moments later, our first Tiger of the tour stepped into view. It was a rather quick view of a sub-adult which disappeared swiftly. It was powerful and unforgettable, and an evening encounter which set the tone for Kanha. Chital, Sambar and Wild Boar filled the background, while a Crested Serpent Eagle watched silently from above. As the evening light was fading on the meadows, we got to see another Tiger; as time was not left to reach the exit gate, we left him. The day ended with us happily gathered around the dinner table discussing the train journey to the Tiger.

Day 5

Wednesday 11th November

Morning mist hung low over the meadows. Hard-ground Barasingha grazed calmly, their silhouettes emerging through the fog. Birdlife was exceptional: Indian Roller, Plum-headed Parakeet, White-rumped Vulture and a vocal Jungle Owlet tucked into Sal woodland. As light softened in the evening, movement along a rocky edge revealed a Leopard, alert and elegant, which paused for us before melting back into cover. It was a classic Kanha moment: subtle, sharp and deeply satisfying.

Day 6**Thursday 12th November**

This was one of the finest mornings of the tour. Early tracking led us to alarm calls and, while we were waiting for the Tiger, a Sloth Bear appeared, crossed the road and disappeared into the lush forest. Right after that, on the same path as the Sloth Bear, a Tiger came out. She appeared from the side of the track and crossed twice before disappearing into the soft morning light. This was our second Tiger sighting, and it allowed detailed observation.



Tiger



Golden Jackal

Not long after, a Leopard was also encountered, making this an extraordinary double-cat morning. Malabar Pied Hornbill, Grey-headed Fish Eagle and Orange-headed Thrush added depth to the experience. A quieter evening focused on the forest ambience. We saw Sloth Bear signs and a Golden Jackal, and a stunning sunset over a Kanha meadow closed the day gently.

Day 7**Friday 13th November**

Morning exploration yielded excellent mammal diversity: Gaur, Sambar and Chowsingha at the forest edges. Birds included Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Yellow-throated Sparrow and a Brown Fish Owl roosting near water. As daylight faded, patience paid off once more. Our third Tiger appeared in classic evening light, moving purposefully through tall grass before disappearing into the Sal forest. It made for an atmospheric, fitting culmination to the Tiger story of the tour.

Day 8**Saturday 14th November**

This was a reflective morning: time was spent with Barasingha, learning about their conservation story. Indian Pitta, Black-naped Monarch and Scarlet Minivet brought colour to shaded forest trails. The evening produced excellent general wildlife viewing: Dhole tracks, Northern Red Muntjac and active birdlife around waterholes. No big cats were seen, but as soon as we reached the Kanha Meadow, we saw a black blob on the side in the grassland: it was a Sloth Bear busy exploring the termite mounds. We watched him for twenty minutes before he disappeared into the grassland.

Day 9**Sunday 15th November**

There were pugmarks all over the place as soon as we rolled into the park, and numerous alarm calls kept us on our toes, but nothing conclusive was happening. We did our very best and then, after breakfast, as time was inching towards exit time, we had a remarkable sighting of a Leopard amid the thickets, bushes and rocks,

reminding us that they were always there and watching us. The Leopard rewarded us for our persistence and patience. It was a bird-rich morning, with Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Streak-throated Woodpecker and Grey Junglefowl, among many others. Mammals included Barasingha and relaxed herds of Chital. The afternoon was a calm safari focusing on interpretation: habitat transitions, prey-predator dynamics and forest structure. The group was now fully attuned to the subtleties of Kanha.

Day 10

Monday 16th November

The jungle decided not to lift its veil, and the big cats eluded us, although the alarm calls kept reminding us about their presence around us. In the afternoon, after lunch, we left for Jabalpur to catch our train to Agra.

Day 11

Tuesday 17th November

After we reached Agra, we freshened up quickly to take a look around the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, and then headed for lunch. After lunch, five guests and Rishin boarded the train to Delhi; the other three continued to Chambal. After reaching Delhi, we checked into the hotel.

Day 12

Wednesday 18th November

It was time to bid adieu to the guests, who flew home safely.

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Species lists

Birds

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic		November 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	✓			✓						
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓									
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	✓									
Knob-billed Duck	<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>	✓									
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	✓									
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	✓									
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	✓									
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	✓									
Falcatad Duck	<i>Mareca falcata</i>	✓									
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	✓									
Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	✓									
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	✓									
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red Spurfowl - E	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓		
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>			✓	✓	✓					
Indian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>		✓								
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				✓	✓					
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓	
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		✓								
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓			
Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓				
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		✓	✓							
Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
White-rumped Spinetail - N	<i>Zoonavena sylvatica</i>				✓			✓			
Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>			✓		✓					
Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>							✓			
Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓			
Brown Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>							✓	✓		
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>		✓	✓	✓						
Indian Vulture - N	<i>Gyps indicus</i>		✓	✓							
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>							✓			
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>			✓							

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic		November 2025								
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>			✓		✓				
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		✓							
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>				✓		✓			
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		✓							
Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			✓		✓	✓			
Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyroceros birostris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Malabar Pied Hornbill - N	<i>Anthracoceros coronatus</i>				✓					
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓		
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>				✓					
Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				✓	✓				
Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>			✓						
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>			✓						
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>		✓	✓	✓					
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>		✓				✓			
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>		✓							
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				✓					
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>					✓		✓		
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓					
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		
Indian Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>			✓						
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓		
White-browed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura aureola</i>				✓			✓		
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caeruleus</i>		✓			✓	✓			
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>			✓		✓				
Indian Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>							✓		
Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>		✓		✓			✓		
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>		✓							
Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>			✓	✓	✓				
Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>				✓	✓				
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>				✓	✓				
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				✓					
Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>					✓				
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓			✓				
Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>		✓							
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>						✓	✓		
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Indian White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>				✓					
Brown-cheeked Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe poioicephala</i>						✓			
Jungle Babbler	<i>Argya striata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>							✓		
Indian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta castanea</i>			✓			✓			

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic		November 2025								
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Chestnut-tailed Starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>		✓	✓						
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓		
Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>					✓		✓		
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>		✓					✓		
Siberian Rubythroat	<i>Calliope calliope</i>							✓		
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>							✓		
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>			✓						
Golden-fronted Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>			✓						
Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Tricolored Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>					✓				
Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>		✓			✓				
Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>						✓			
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Blyth's Pipit	<i>Anthus godlewskii</i>					✓				
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>					✓				
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>			✓	✓	✓				

Mammals

		November 2025								
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Bengal Sacred Langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Indian Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sloth Bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>				✓		✓			
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Dhole	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>		✓					✓		
Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	✓								
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>		✓	✓				✓		
Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>		✓		✓	✓				
Indian Gray Mongoose	<i>Urva edwardsii</i>		✓							
Ruddy Mongoose	<i>Urva smithii</i>				✓					
Blackbuck	<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓			
Chowsingha	<i>Tetracerus quadricornis</i>						✓			
Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Barasingha	<i>Rucervus duvaucelii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Red Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus vaginalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Eurasian Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Reptiles

		November 2025								
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Indian Flapshell Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	