

The Best of India & Nepal

Naturetrek Tour Report

3 - 19 February 2017

Report compiled by Suchit Basnet



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Tour participants: Suchit Basnet (leader) together with two Naturetrek clients

Introduction

This report covers The Best of India & Nepal tour from 3rd to 19th February 2017. Records were kept of bird, mammal and reptile & amphibian sightings which can be found in the Species List towards the end of the report. Daily summaries were not recorded, so the tour days with itinerary locations have been included

Day 1

Friday 3rd February

Evening flight with Qatar Airways from London to Kathmandu, via Doha.

Day 2

Saturday 4th February

Kathmandu

Arrive Kathmandu mid-afternoon and meet tour leader Suchit. Transfer to the 5-star Yak and Yeti Hotel.

Day 3

Sunday 5th February

Kathmandu to Chitwan

Drive to Chitwan, arriving at Tigerland Jungle Lodge, Chitwan mid-afternoon.

Days 4/5

Monday 6th/Tuesday 7th February

Chitwan Tiger Reserve

Two full days exploring Chitwan Tiger Reserve, with early morning elephant safaris and the rest of the time exploring the rivers and birdwatching in the forest on foot.

Day 6

Wednesday 8th February

Chitwan to Koshi

Drive to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, arriving at Koshi Camp tented accommodation late afternoon.

Days 7/8

Thursday 9th/Friday 10th February

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve

Two full days in the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve area with a mixture of safaris, outings on foot and a raft ride on the Koshi River.

Day 9**Saturday 11th February****Koshi to Darjeeling**

Leave Nepal and drive to Darjeeling in the state of West Bengal, north-east India, arriving at the Elgin Hotel in the afternoon.

Days 10/11**Sunday 12th/Monday 13th February****Darjeeling**

Two full days around Darjeeling with visits including Tiger Hill with views of the Kanchenjunga, exploring Darjeeling on foot, Nightingale Park, Observatory Hill and the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. Also a ride from Darjeeling town to Ghoom on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

Day 12**Tuesday 14th February****Darjeeling to Kaziranga**

Depart Darjeeling and drive to Bagdogra airport for a flight to Guwahati in Assam. From Guwahati airport, drive to Infinity Lodge at Kaziranga, arriving late afternoon.

Days 13 - 15**Wednesday 15th – Friday 17th February****Kaziranga Tiger Reserve**

Three full days in Kaziranga, exploring the park by jeep and one trip by Elephant. Also visit Hoolock Gibbon Sanctuary.

Days 16**Saturday 18th February****Kaziranga to Delhi via Guwahati**

Depart Kaziranga and drive to Guwahati airport for a flight to Delhi. Rest at a Delhi airport hotel before catching an overnight flight back to the UK

Days 17**Sunday 19th February****Flight to London**

Flight lands at London where another Naturetrek adventure ends.

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Species Lists

Birds [236 species] (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

Red Junglefowl, <i>Gallus gallus</i>	Indian Peafowl, <i>Pavo cristatus</i>
Lesser Whistling Duck, <i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Bar-headed Goose, <i>Anser indicus</i>
Ruddy Shelduck, <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Cotton Pygmy Goose, <i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>
Gadwall, <i>Anas strepera</i>	Eurasian Wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>
Mallard, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Spot-billed Duck, <i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>
Northern Shoveler, <i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern Pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i>
Common Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>	Ferruginous Pochard, <i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Tufted Duck, <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Common Merganser, <i>Mergus merganser</i>
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, <i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, <i>Dendrocopos canicapillus</i>
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker, <i>Dendrocopos macei</i>	Lesser Yellownape, <i>Picus chlorolophus</i>
Streak-throated Woodpecker, <i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>	Grey-headed Woodpecker, <i>Picus canus</i>
Himalayan Flameback, <i>Dinopium shorii</i>	Black-rumped Flameback, <i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
Greater Flameback, <i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus</i>	Great Barbet, <i>Megalaima virens</i>
Lineated Barbet, <i>Megalaima lineata</i>	Blue-throated Barbet, <i>Megalaima asiatica</i>
Coppersmith Barbet, <i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Oriental Pied Hornbill, <i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
Great Hornbill, <i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Eurasian (Common) Hoopoe, <i>Upupa epops</i>
Red-headed Trogon, <i>Harpactes erythrocephalus</i>	Indian Roller, <i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
Common Kingfisher, <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Stork-billed Kingfisher, <i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
White-throated Kingfisher, <i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Pied Kingfisher, <i>Ceryle rudis</i>
Blue-bearded Bee-eater, <i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>	Green Bee-eater, <i>Merops orientalis</i>
Common Hawk-Cuckoo, <i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	Asian Koel, <i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>
Greater Coucal, <i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Lesser Coucal, <i>Centropus bengalensis</i>
Alexandrine Parakeet, <i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	Rose-ringed Parakeet, <i>Psittacula krameri</i>
Plum-headed Parakeet, <i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	Red-breasted Parakeet, <i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
Himalayan Swiftlet, <i>Collocalia brevirostris</i>	White-throated Needletail, <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>
Asian Palm Swift, <i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	House Swift, <i>Apus affinis</i>
Crested Treeswift, <i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	Brown Fish Owl, <i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
Asian Barred Owllet, <i>Glaucidium cuculoides</i>	Jungle Owlet, <i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>
Spotted Owllet, <i>Athene brama</i>	Brown Hawk-Owl, <i>Ninox scutulata</i>
Rock Pigeon, <i>Columba livia</i>	Oriental Turtle Dove, <i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
Spotted Dove, <i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Red Collared Dove, <i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove, <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Emerald Dove, <i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, <i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	Green Imperial Pigeon, <i>Ducula aenea</i>
Brown Crake, <i>Amaurornis akool</i>	White-breasted Waterhen, <i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
Grey-headed Swampphen, <i>Porphyrio poliocephalus</i>	Common Moorhen, <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian (Common) Coot, <i>Fulica atra</i>	Common Snipe, <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Common Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus</i>	Marsh Sandpiper, <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
Common Greenshank, <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Green Sandpiper, <i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Sandpiper, <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Temminck's Stint, <i>Calidris temminckii</i>
Bronze-winged Jacana, <i>Metopidius indicus</i>	Little Ringed Plover, <i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Northern Lapwing, <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Yellow-wattled Lapwing, <i>Vanellus malarbaricus</i>
River Lapwing, <i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	Grey-headed Lapwing, <i>Vanellus cinereus</i>

Red-wattled Lapwing, *Vanellus indicus*
 River Tern, *Sterna aurantia*
 Oriental Honey Buzzard, *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
 Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*
 White-rumped Vulture, *Gyps bengalensis*
 Crested Serpent Eagle, *Spilornis cheela*
 Shikra, *Accipiter badius*
 Long-legged Buzzard, *Buteo rufinus*
 Booted Eagle, *Hieraaetus pennatus*
 Lesser Kestrel, *Falco naumanni*
 Red-necked Falcon, *Falco chicquera*
 Oriental Darter, *Anhinga melanogaster*
 Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*
 Grey Heron, *Ardea cinerea*
 Great Egret, *Casmerodius albus*
 Eastern Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus coromandus*
 Little Heron, *Butorides striatus*
 Black-headed Ibis, *Threskiornis melanocephalus*
 Spot-billed Pelican, *Pelecanus philippensis*
 Black Stork, *Ciconia nigra*
 Black-necked Stork, *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*
 Greater Adjutant, *Leptoptilos dubius*
 Long-tailed Shrike, *Lanius schach*
 Yellow-billed Blue Magpie, *Urocissa flavirostris*
 Common Green Magpie, *Cissa chinensis*
 House Crow, *Corvus splendens*
 Black-hooded Oriole, *Oriolus xanthornus*
 Small Minivet, *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus*
 Orange (Scarlet) Minivet, *Pericrocotus flammeus*
 Black Drongo, *Dicrurus macrocercus*
 White-bellied Drongo, *Dicrurus caerulescens*
 Spangled Drongo, *Dicrurus hottentottus*
 Common Iora, *Aegithina tiphia*
 Common Woodshrike, *Tephrodornis pondicerianus*
 Blue Whistling Thrush, *Myophonus caeruleus*
 White-collared Blackbird, *Turdus albocinctus*
 Dark-throated Thrush, *Turdus ruficollis*
 Little Pied Flycatcher, *Ficedula westermanni*
 Pale-chinned Flycatcher, *Cyornis poliogenys*
 Siberian Rubythroat, *Luscinia calliope*
 Oriental Magpie-Robin, *Copsychus saularis*
 Blue-fronted Redstart, *Phoenicurus frontalis*
 Common Stonechat, *Saxicola torquata*
 Pied Bushchat, *Saxicola caprata*
 Asian Pied Starling, *Sturnus contra*
 Jungle Myna, *Acridotheres fuscus*
 Great Myna, *Acridotheres grandis*

Pallas's Gull, *Larus ichthyaetus*
 Western Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*
 Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus caeruleus*
 Grey-headed Fish Eagle, *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*
 Himalayan Griffon, *Gyps himalayensis*
 Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*
 White-eyed Buzzard, *Butastur teesa*
 Greater Spotted Eagle, *Aquila clanga*
 Changeable (Crested) Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
 Common Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus*
 Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*
 Little Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax niger*
 Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*
 Purple Heron, *Ardea purpurea*
 Intermediate Egret, *Mesophoyx intermedia*
 Indian Pond Heron, *Ardeola grayii*
 Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*
 Black Ibis, *Pseudibis papillosa*
 Asian Openbill, *Anastomus oscitans*
 Woolly-necked Stork, *Ciconia episcopus*
 Lesser Adjutant, *Leptoptilos javanicus*
 Brown Shrike, *Lanius cristatus*
 Grey-backed Shrike, *Lanius tephronotus*
 Red-billed Blue Magpie, *Urocissa erythrorhyncha*
 Rufous Treepie, *Dendrocitta vagabunda*
 Large-billed crow, *Corvus macrorhynchos*
 Large Cuckooshrike, *Coracina macei*
 Long-tailed Minivet, *Pericrocotus ethologus*
 White-throated Fantail, *Rhipidura albicollis*
 Ashy Drongo, *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
 Bronzed Drongo, *Dicrurus aeneus*
 Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus paradiseus*
 Large Woodshrike, *Tephrodornis gularis*
 Blue Rock Thrush, *Monticola solitarius*
 Scaly Thrush, *Zoothera dauma*
 Grey-winged Blackbird, *Turdus bouboul*
 Red-throated Flycatcher, *Ficedula parva*
 Verditer Flycatcher, *Eumyias thalassina*
 Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
 White-tailed Rubythroat, *Luscinia pectoralis*
 White-rumped Shama, *Copsychus malabaricus*
 Black-backed Forktail, *Enicurus immaculatus*
 White-tailed Stonechat, *Saxicola leucura*
 Chestnut-tailed Starling, *Sturnus malabaricus*
 Common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis*
 Common Hill Myna, *Gracula religiosa*
 Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, *Sitta castanea*

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, *Sitta frontalis*
 Green-backed Tit, *Parus monticolus*
 Yellow-browed Tit, *Sylviparus modestus*
 Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*
 Black-crested Bulbul, *Pycnonotus melanicterus*
 Himalayan Bulbul, *Pycnonotus leucogenys*
 Black Bulbul, *Hypsipetes leucocephalus*
 Zitting Cisticola, *Cisticola juncidis*
 Grey-breasted Prinia, *Prinia hodgsonii*
 Plain Prinia, *Prinia inornata*
 Aberrant Bush Warbler, *Cettia flavolivacea*
 Thick-billed Warbler, *Acrocephalus aedon*
 Common Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus collybita*
 Smoky Warbler, *Phylloscopus fulgiventis*
 Hume's Warbler, *Phylloscopus humei*
 Striated Grassbird, *Megalurus palustris*
 Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, *Garrulax pectoralis*
 Puff-throated Babbler, *Pellorneum ruficeps*
 Striped Tit-Babbler, *Macronous gularis*
 Striated Babbler, *Turdoides earlei*
 Red-billed Leiothrix, *Leiothrix lutea*
 Rufous Sibia, *Heterophasia capistrata*
 Purple Sunbird, *Cinnyris asiaticus*
 White Wagtail, *Motacilla alba*
 Citrine Wagtail, *Motacilla citreola*
 Paddyfield Pipit, *Anthus rufulus*
 Rosy Pipit, *Anthus roseatus*
 Scaly-breasted Munia, *Lonchura punctulata*
 Crested Bunting, *Melophus lathami*

Great Tit, *Parus major*
 Black-lored Tit, *Parus xanthogenys*
 Grey-throated Martin, *Riparia chinensis*
 Red-rumped Swallow, *Hirundo daurica*
 Red-whiskered Bulbul, *Pycnonotus jocosus*
 Red-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus cafer*
 White-throated Bulbul, *Alophoixus flaveolus*
 Grey-crowned Prinia, *Prinia cinereocapilla*
 Ashy Prinia, *Prinia socialis*
 Oriental White-Eye, *Zosterops palpebrosus*
 Blyth's Reed Warbler, *Acrocephalus dumetorum*
 Common Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sutorius*
 Dusky Warbler, *Phylloscopus fuscatus*
 Tickell's Leaf Warbler, *Phylloscopus affinis*
 Greenish Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochiloides*
 Rufous-rumped Grassbird, *Graminicola bengalensis*
 Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush, *Garrulax erythrocephalus*
 White-browed Scimitar Babbler, *Pomatorhinus schisticeps*
 Chestnut-capped Babbler, *Timalia pileata*
 Jungle Babbler, *Turdoides striatus*
 White-browed Fulvetta, *Alcippe vinipectus*
 Sand Lark, *Calandrella raytal*
 House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*
 White-browed Wagtail, *Motacilla maderaspatensis*
 Grey Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea*
 Olive-backed Pipit, *Anthus hodgsoni*
 Rufous-breasted Accentor, *Prunella strophiatea*
 Common Rosefinch, *Carpodacus erythrinus*
 Yellow-breasted Bunting, *Emberiza aureola*

Mammals [25 species]

Indian Flying Fox, *Pteropus giganteus*
 Common Langur, *Presbytis entellus*
 Smooth-coated Otter, *Aonyx cinerea*
 Crab-eating Mongoose, *Herpestes urva*
 Fishing Cat, *Felis bengalensis*
 Gangetic Dolphin, *Platanista gangetica*
 Wild Boar, *Sus scrofa*
 Spotted Deer (Chital), *Cervus axis*
 Sambar, *Cervus unicolor*
 Water Buffalo, *Bubalus bubalis*
 Hoary-bellied Squirrel, *Callosciurus pygerythrus*
 Western Hoolock Gibbon, *Hoolock hoolock*
 Malayan (Black) Gaint Squirrel, *Ratufa bicolor*

Rhesus Macaque, *Macaca mulatta*
 Asiatic Golden Jackal, *Canis lupus*
 Indian Grey Mongoose, *Herpestes edwardsi*
 Jungle Cat, *Felis chaus*
 Royal Bengal Tiger, *Panthera tigris*
 Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis*
 Muntjac (Barking Deer), *Muntiacus muntjak*
 Hog Deer, *Cervus porcinus*
 Swamp Deer, *Cervus duvaucelii*
 Orange-bellied Squirrel, *Dremomys lokriah*
 Wild Asiatic Elephant, *Elephas maximus*
 Capped Langur, *Trachypithecus pileatus*

Reptiles & Amphibians [5 species]

Gharial, *Gavialis gangeticus*

Monitor Lizard, *Varanus sp.*

Tokay Gekco, *Gekko gecko*

Marsh Mugger, *Crocodylus palustris*

House Gekco, *Hemidactylus frenatus*

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