

# Go Slow in Tiger Country

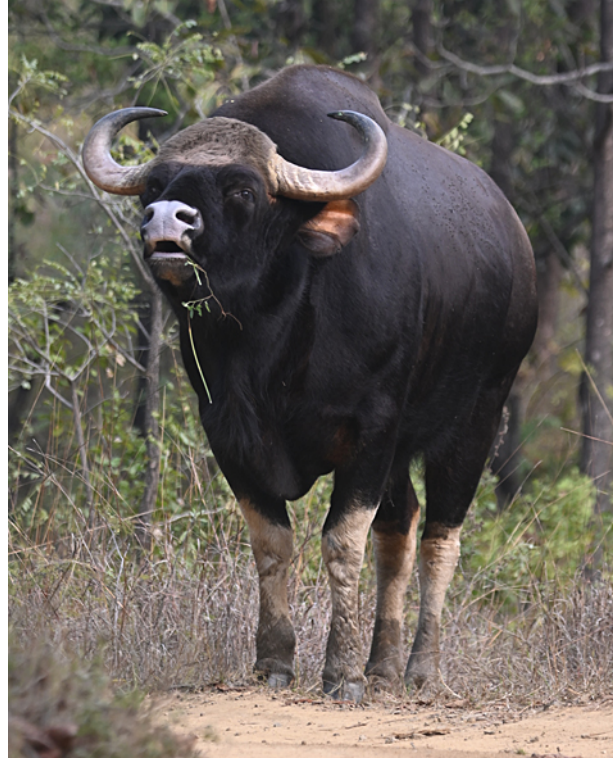
Naturetrek Tour Report

25th January – 4th February 2026

---



Crested Serpent Eagle



Gaur

Tour report by Anurag Yadav



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn Wolf's Lane Chawton Alton Hampshire GU34 3HJ UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour participants: Anurag Yadav (leader) with six Naturetrek clients

## Summary

This tour was a resounding success, as the core elements of relaxation and rare wildlife sightings complemented each other beautifully. While Tiger sightings were never the primary objective (we made a sincere effort!), we were rewarded with exceptional alternative wildlife experiences.

A key highlight of the journey was the time spent unwinding at Reni Pani Lodge, where the setting, comfort, and attention to detail elevated the overall experience. The staff went above and beyond, organising some truly memorable lunches and dinners at stunning locations around the lodge, adding a unique and immersive touch to the stay. An unexpected thrill came with an alarm call from a Leopard within the lodge premises itself, bringing wildlife right to our doorstep.

The tour delivered remarkable mammal sightings, including eleven Sloth Bears, Leopards, Gaur, and even Dhoolas outside the reserve. Birding was equally rewarding, with a total of 104 species recorded.

Some truly special moments defined the journey: watching an Osprey successfully hunt, witnessing a Gaur bellowing to communicate with the herd, and experiencing close encounters with Sloth Bears. Another standout was observing two Dhoolas outside the reserve, adding an exciting and unexpected dimension to the trip.

### Day 1

**Sunday 25th January**

Clients departed from the UK.

### Day 2

**Monday 26th January**

Anurag met the clients at IGI Airport and we took a twenty-minute ride to The Claridges, Delhi. The rest of the day was spent resting in the hotel. We had lunch and dinner at the hotel.

### Day 3

**Tuesday 27th January**

Today we had our Old Delhi tour, and the weather was quite cloudy and overcast. As soon as we started, it began pouring! Because of the traffic due to Indian Republic Day on January 26th, we were stuck for almost an hour, but we made full use of the time. We did some birding while on the bus and spotted Rose-ringed Parakeets, Asian Pied Starlings, House Crows, Black Kites and Oriental Magpie-Robins, along with a few other common birds of Delhi. Eventually, the traffic eased, and we visited Jama Masjid and explored Old Delhi. The weather remained overcast throughout. We then visited the spice market, which was an absolute delight to experience. After that, we headed back to our hotel to get some rest.

### Day 4

**Wednesday 28th January**

Today was our travel day to Satpura National Park. We left for the airport after breakfast. The flight was delayed by about an hour, but eventually we arrived in Bhopal and headed straight to Jehan Numa Palace for a hearty

lunch. After that, we started our journey to the lodge. On the way, we spotted an Indian Roller and a Shikra over the fields. We also passed two trains; Rosa counted twenty carriages on one and fifty on the other. We reached the lodge around 6.30pm and were briefed about the lodge by Huzi, our naturalist.

## Day 5

**Thursday 29th January**

Our first safari in Satpura did not disappoint. As soon as we entered the park, we came across a Sloth Bear that was half asleep. It got up right in front of us, walked across, and disappeared into the hilly terrain: it was incredible to witness such a magnificent mammal so close. Apart from that, we saw Gaur, Sambar, Chital and a beautiful Indian Giant Squirrel. We were also lucky to witness a pair of Sloth Bears mating.

Birding was equally rewarding. We spotted Painted and Asian Woolly-necked Storks, Stork-billed Kingfishers, Crested Serpent Eagles, Changeable Hawk-Eagles, Common Hawk-Cuckoos, Indian Cuckooshrikes, Long-tailed Shrikes, Plum-headed and Alexandrine Parakeets, Black-rumped Flamebacks, River Terns, Pied Kingfishers, Indian Rollers, Yellow-throated Sparrows, and Spotted and Laughing Doves, to name but a few. The highlight, however, was witnessing a Changeable Hawk-Eagle attacking Indian Peafowls, a remarkable natural history moment. After the safari, we returned to the lodge, enjoyed the spa, and took some well-deserved rest.

## Day 6

**Friday 30th January**

This morning, we headed out early for a jungle safari. On the way to the park, we were lucky to spot an Indian Hare and an Indian Nightjar. Once inside, we encountered some amazing wildlife, including Gaur, Chital and Indian Giant Squirrel, Satpura's signature species and proud mascot. We also spent some time birding: we saw Bar-headed Geese, famous for their incredible flights over the Himalayas, and even witnessed an Osprey actively hunting. After soaking in the beauty of the jungle, we returned to the lodge to rest.

In the afternoon, we went on a birding walk around the lodge. During the walk, we spotted several beautiful birds, such as the Black-naped Monarch, Indian Robin, Oriental Magpie-Robin, Rufous Treepie, and White-bellied and Greater Racket-tailed Drongos, along with many others. We also learned about different tree species in the area, which made the walk even more informative. After the walk, we returned to the lodge and relaxed for the evening.

## Day 7

**Saturday 31st January**

Today was the last day of the month, and we decided to take it slow. We enjoyed a relaxed morning with a lie-in at the lodge, followed by breakfast and a bit of birding around the property, where we spotted a Greenish Warbler. After resting through the late morning, we headed out for an afternoon safari. We drove to one of the most scenic spots in the park, Lagdha, known for its striking rock formations and as the source of the Denwa River.

Around the water and riverbanks, we observed several bird species, including Striated Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Indian Pond Heron, and River and Black-bellied Terns. We also saw a few Rhesus Macaques relaxing nearby. The views at Lagdha were absolutely beautiful. We heard news of a Tiger sighting elsewhere in the park, and although we rushed there, the Tiger had settled down deep in the grass and remained out of sight. With that, we concluded our safari and returned to the lodge to rest.

**Day 8****Sunday 1st February**

Today we went out for a morning safari, covering all the known areas in search of a Tiger, but luck wasn't on our side. However, the drive turned out to be truly memorable. We had a wonderful encounter with a Sloth Bear as she calmly crossed the road right beside our vehicle. Soon after, we came across another Sloth Bear busily feeding; it eventually crossed the road in front of us, giving us an incredible close-up experience.



Sambar



Sloth Bear

As we continued driving, we encountered a herd of Gaur showing signs of distress. They were calling loudly and moving restlessly through the grass. We waited for quite some time to see if a predator would emerge, but nothing appeared. Still, it was fascinating to observe this unusual and intense behaviour. Birdlife was abundant during the safari. We spotted Painted Stork, Black-bellied Tern, Osprey, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle and Shikra. On our way back, we also saw Brahminy Starling, Common Babbler, Common Tailorbird and several other species.

We returned to the lodge and rested in the evening. Later, Huzi gave us an engaging presentation on camera traps, where we watched clips of wildlife recorded around the lodge. It was fascinating to see the variety of animals that visited the area, even when no-one was watching.

**Day 9****Monday 2nd February**

We spent the late morning resting in our rooms, enjoying some spa time and relaxing at the lodge before heading out for the afternoon safari. Even before entering the park, we were incredibly lucky to spot Dholes sitting right by the roadside. Seeing these rare and fascinating animals was truly special, especially knowing there was a only small pack of just two individuals in the area. After that exciting start, we continued towards the park. Along the way, we saw beautiful Asian Pied Starlings before entering the forest and beginning the safari.

We encountered plenty of birdlife, but the highlight of the drive was a Sloth Bear that came as close as ten metres to our vehicle, giving us an unforgettable sighting. To top it all off, we later spotted a Leopard resting on a tree. After some time, the Leopard stirred and got up, making the moment even more thrilling. It was an exceptional safari and a perfect end to a relaxing yet exciting day.

## Day 10

**Tuesday 3rd February**

Today was our final safari, and we set out early to be among the first to enter the park. On the way, we were lucky to spot an Indian Gray Mongoose climbing up a tree. Inside the park, we had wonderful sightings of two Sloth Bears and several beautiful birds, including Bar-headed Geese and White-breasted Waterhen. We also saw a Marsh Crocodile and other wildlife such as Gaur. We enjoyed a hearty breakfast inside the park, before exiting early and returning to the lodge.

After packing up, we departed for the Bhimbetka Caves, where we saw incredible cave art paintings dating back more than 40,000 years. The artwork depicted wildlife such as Chital and Gaur, species we had been fortunate to see during our safaris, making the experience even more meaningful. After the visit, we headed to the airport, boarded our flight, and returned to Delhi, bringing our unforgettable jungle journey to a close.

## Day 11

**Wednesday 4th February**

We departed on the long flight back to the UK.

### Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek email list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers.

[naturetrek.co.uk/e-newsletter-signup](https://naturetrek.co.uk/e-newsletter-signup)

Scan to  
sign up!



### Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky and X and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers, exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



[instagram.com/naturetrek\\_wildlife\\_holidays](https://www.instagram.com/naturetrek_wildlife_holidays)



[facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays](https://www.facebook.com/naturetrekwildlifeholidays)



[naturetrek.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/naturetrek.social)



[x.com/naturetrektours](https://x.com/naturetrektours) (formerly Twitter)

## Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	Common name	Scientific name	January - February 2026					
			29	30	31	1	2	3
	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Bar-headed Goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>		✓		✓		
	Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>		✓				
	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Grey Junglefowl - E	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	✓					
	Grey Francolin	<i>Ortygornis pondicerianus</i>			✓	✓	H	
	Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>	✓	✓				
	Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	✓				H	
	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>				✓		✓
	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>				✓		
	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓
	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>				✓		
	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		✓				
	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				✓		
	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>			✓			
	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		✓				
	River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Black-bellied Tern	<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>		✓		✓		
	Brown-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>						✓
	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>		✓	✓			
	Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓
	Asian Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	✓	✓		✓		
	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓
	Little Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓					✓
	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>						✓
	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>			✓			
	Black-headed Ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>			✓	✓		
	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			✓			
	Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>			✓			
	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Medium Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>			✓			✓
	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>			✓	✓		✓
	Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>		✓				
	Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>	✓					
	Jungle Owlet	<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	✓			✓		
	Indian Scops Owl	<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	✓					

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic		January - February 2026					
Common name	Scientific name	29	30	31	1	2	3
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		✓	✓		✓	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	✓	✓		✓		
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>					✓	✓
Red-headed Vulture	<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>				✓		
Indian Vulture - N	<i>Gyps indicus</i>	✓			✓		✓
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
Shikra	<i>Tachyspiza badia</i>		✓				✓
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>					H	
Malabar Pied Hornbill - N	<i>Anthracoseros coronatus</i>				✓		
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</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 smymensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		✓				
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	✓	✓				
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</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>		✓				
Bay-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius vittatus</i>			✓			
Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrociitta vagabunda</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>				✓		✓
Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>					✓	
Rufous-tailed Lark	<i>Ammomanes phoenicura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>		✓				
Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>				✓		✓
Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>		✓	✓			
Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>	✓					
Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				✓		
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hume's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus humei</i>	✓			✓		
Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>			✓	✓		
Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indian White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>		✓				✓
Jungle Babbler	<i>Argya striata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Babbler	<i>Argya caudata</i>				✓		✓
Indian Pied Myna	<i>Gracupica contra</i>			✓	✓		
Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnia pagodarum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indian Robin	<i>Copsychus fulicatus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic		January - February 2026					
Common name	Scientific name	29	30	31	1	2	3
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>		✓		✓	✓	
Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>		✓				
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	✓	✓				✓
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
Pied Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>				✓		
Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma zeylonica</i>		✓				
Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>		✓	✓	✓		
Red Avadavat	<i>Amandava amandava</i>	✓					
Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓
White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>				✓		

## Mammals

E=Endemic		January - February 2026					
Common name	Scientific name	29	30	31	1	2	3
Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bengal Sacred Langur - E	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indian Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>		✓	✓			
Northern Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus medius</i>	✓	✓				
Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>				✓	✓	
Eurasian Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>					✓	
Dhole	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>					✓	
Sloth Bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Indian Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i>	✓	✓				
Small Indian Civet	<i>Viverricula indica</i>						✓

## Amphibians & reptiles

Common name	Scientific name
Indian Tree Frog	<i>Polypedates maculatus</i>
Mugger	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
Indian Flapshell Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>

## Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name
Common Lime	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>
Common Sailor	<i>Neptis hylas</i>
Common Baron	<i>Euthalia aconthea</i>
Common Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>
Common Crow	<i>Euploea core</i>
Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
Tree Brown	<i>Lethe rohria</i>

## Spiders

Common name	Scientific name
Emerald Jumping Spider	<i>Hyllus</i> sp.
Wolf Spider	Lycosidae sp.
Garden Orb Spider	<i>Argiope</i> sp.
Long-jawed Spider	<i>Tetragnatha</i> sp.
Trashline Spider	<i>Cyclosa</i> sp.