

India - Tiger Direct! A Vegetarian/Vegan Special

Naturetrek Tour Report

2nd – 10th February 2026



Gaur



Tiger with Chital kill



Dholes



White-throated Kingfisher

Tour report by Omkar Shelke



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Omkar Shelke (leader) with eight Naturetrek clients.

Summary

This tour was a tremendous success, delivering unforgettable wildlife moments and exceeding every guest's expectations. Our group was fortunate enough to encounter eight individual Tigers, three Leopards, and four different packs of Dhols, along with an impressive bird checklist of 130+ species.

The major highlight of the tour was that every single guest enjoyed an exclusive, close Tiger sighting away from the other vehicles and crowds: a truly rare and privileged experience in the wild. We witnessed some extraordinary and super-rare moments:

- a Tiger bringing down a Chital right in front of us
- a Leopard carrying its kill up a tree and feeding
- Dhols mating and attempting to hunt Barasingha
- several rare and special bird sightings

Day 1

Monday 2nd February

Clients departed from London, bound for India.

Day 2

Tuesday 3rd February

Our guests arrived at 2.30am at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport, Nagpur, and were smoothly transferred to their hotel. The transfer and check-in process went seamlessly, allowing everyone to settle in comfortably after their journey.

After breakfast, we departed for Pench National Park at 10.00am. Following lunch, the group headed out for their first afternoon safari drive, and it turned out to be a fantastic start! All guests were fortunate in sighting a Tiger, and later in the evening, the same Tiger crossed the road, offering a memorable and close view.

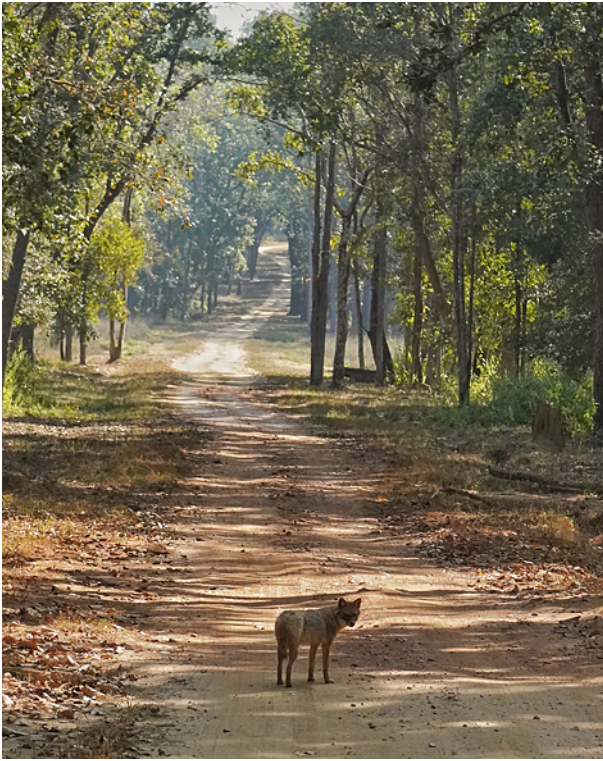
Adding to the excitement, one jeep had an incredible sighting of a Leopard feeding on a Chital kill up in a tree, a rare and thrilling experience. Given the long day, due to the early morning flight and limited rest, we skipped the checklist session. The group enjoyed an early dinner at 7.00pm, followed by lights out at 8.00pm, for a well-deserved rest ahead of the next day's adventures.

Day 3

Wednesday 4th February

We left at 6.00am after tea and coffee for our morning safari in the park. While we were photographing Wild Boar, their sudden alarm calls led us to a dominant female Tiger emerging from the bushes. She walked gracefully toward us and crossed the road, giving us an exclusive and thrilling sighting. We also glimpsed two sub-adult Leopards moving through the thickets.

Post breakfast, we revisited the Leopard kill site and were rewarded when the Leopard emerged, climbed a tree, and began feeding: a spectacular scene. The morning was further enriched with bird sightings including Crested Hawk-Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, woodpeckers, ibises and babblers.



Golden Jackal



Indian Peafowl

In the afternoon, with the Madhya Pradesh side closed, we explored the Maharashtra side, from Khursapar Gate. Within fifteen minutes, we had sighted a sub-adult male Tiger resting in the thickets. After some birding, spotting Red-crested Pochard, Little Grebe, kingfishers and snipes, we returned, to find the cubs awake. Around 5.45pm, one cub walked straight past our jeep, soon followed by another: it was an unforgettable moment. As other vehicles gathered, we moved on and were rewarded yet again with a dominant female Tiger, seen exclusively for nearly ten minutes before our exit. It was truly an amazing day. The checklist was held at 7.45pm, followed by dinner.

Day 4

Thursday 5th February

This was another outstanding morning in Pench National Park. One jeep sighted a female Tiger crossing the road, while the second jeep encountered a pack of seven Dhols walking along the track, offering an incredible scene.

While birding, we heard a Chital alarm call. Shortly after, a male Tiger emerged from a seasonal stream and walked toward our vehicle, before suddenly charging at the deer herd. The adults escaped, but a fawn hiding in the bushes ran into view, and the Tiger made a kill right in front of us. He began feeding immediately: this truly was a once-in-a-lifetime sighting. The morning also produced excellent birdlife, including Indian Thick-knee, Black-headed and Indian Cuckooshrikes, vultures, fish eagles and several woodpecker species.

After an early lunch, we departed for Kanha National Park. En route, we visited a local village and school, which was a wonderful cultural experience. We reached Kanha by 6.00pm, completed the checklist, had dinner at 7.30pm, and retired early after a long and rewarding day.

Day 5

Friday 6th February

Our first two safaris in Kanha National Park were thoroughly enjoyable. Guests experienced the beauty of the majestic Sal forests and vast meadows, and had their first sighting of the iconic Barasingha.

While big cats remained elusive on both drives, we were rewarded with a wonderful sighting of a pair of Dhols displaying affectionate behaviour. Several Golden Jackals and other common mammals were also observed.

Birdlife was exceptional, with highlights including Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Indian Scimitar Babbler, Black Eagle and Tickell's Thrush, along with many other impressive species. The checklist was held at 7.30pm, followed by dinner.

Day 6

Saturday 7th February

The morning safari was quiet for big cats, but we enjoyed excellent bird sightings, including vultures, Crested Serpent Eagle, Brown Shrike, Brown Fish Owl and Jungle Owlets. Bengal Monitor, Blackbuck and other common animals were also observed.

The afternoon drive brought great excitement, when a dominant male Tiger emerged and crossed right behind our jeep. Seeing his sheer size up close was an incredible experience: it was our first Tiger sighting in Kanha and was truly worth the wait.

Post-morning safari, guests enjoyed a delightful cooking session where the host prepared masala chai and samosas, which was a lovely cultural touch. The checklist was at 7.30pm, followed by dinner. After dinner, guests enjoyed a wildlife documentary, concluding a wonderful day.

Day 7

Sunday 8th February

There was an exciting start to the morning safari, as we tracked a dominant male Tiger using fresh pugmarks. We were rewarded with an exclusive fifteen-minute sighting, watching him seated gracefully on the bund of a waterhole. After nearly half an hour, he began walking toward us, but in a dramatic turn, a group of Gaur chased him away right in front of our jeep: an unforgettable moment.

We later attempted to track a female Tiger, but both cats remained elusive for the rest of the day despite our efforts. Birding was excellent, with sightings of Common Snipe, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Northern Pintail, Common Teal, Gadwall, vultures, Crested Serpent Eagle and woodpeckers. The checklist was held at 7.30pm, followed by dinner.

Day 8

Monday 9th February

In the morning, we took a short nature walk in the buffer area of Kanha National Park, which the guests thoroughly enjoyed. We explored trees, birds, and many smaller forest details that are often missed during driving safaris.

After breakfast, the Satpura extension couples departed at 9.00am, while the remaining group left at 11.00am for Nagpur. Guests were dropped at the airport for their onward flight home. Another successful and memorable tour had come to an end.

Day 9

Tuesday 10th February

Clients arrived safely home in 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

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



x.com/naturetrektours (formerly Twitter)

Species lists

Birds

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic		February 2026					
Common name	Scientific name	3	4	5	6	7	8
Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	✓	✓	✓			
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		✓				
Cotton Pygmy Goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>		✓			✓	✓
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓			✓	✓
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>						✓
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		✓				
Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red Spurfowl - E	<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>				✓	✓	
Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Grey Junglefowl - E	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>				✓		
Savanna Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>	✓	✓				
Crested Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne coronata</i>				✓		
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>		✓	✓	✓		
Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>					✓	
Common Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>						✓
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			✓			
Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>				✓		
Red Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>			✓			
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>				✓		
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>	✓	✓		✓		
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>					✓	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>						✓
Yellow-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>				✓		✓
Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>		✓				
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>					✓	✓
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				✓	✓	✓
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					✓	✓
River Tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>	✓	✓				
Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>	✓	✓	✓			
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>				✓		
Painted Stork	<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>		✓	✓			
Asian Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>		✓			✓	✓
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		✓		✓	✓	
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</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>						✓
Medium Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>		✓			✓	✓
Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Ardea coromanda</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>				✓	✓	✓

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic		February 2026					
Common name	Scientific name	3	4	5	6	7	8
Crested Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>						✓
White-rumped Vulture	<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>			✓	✓		✓
Indian Vulture - N	<i>Gyps indicus</i>			✓	✓	✓	
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>				✓		
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓		✓			
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>			✓			
White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</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>					✓	✓
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyroceros birostris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>						✓
White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				✓		
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>				✓	✓	
Asian Green Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Psilopogon zeylanicus</i>			✓			
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus nanus</i>			✓	✓		
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Leiopicus mahrattensis</i>			✓			
Streak-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>					✓	
Black-rumped Flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>		✓	✓	✓		
White-naped Woodpecker	<i>Chrysocolaptes festivus</i>				✓		✓
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				✓		
Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	✓	✓				✓
Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		✓	✓	✓		
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>						✓
Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>				✓		
Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>				✓		
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>				✓	✓	✓
Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage melaschistos</i>				✓		
Black-headed Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage melanoptera</i>			✓			
Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>			✓	✓		
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>				✓		
White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-spotted Fantail - E	<i>Rhipidura albogularis</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indian Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic	Common name	Scientific name	February 2026					
			3	4	5	6	7	8
	Cinereous Tit	<i>Parus cinereus</i>				✓		
	Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark	<i>Eremopterix griseus</i>		✓	✓			
	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓
	Dusky Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>	✓					
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓				
	Wire-tailed Swallow	<i>Hirundo smithii</i>						✓
	Eastern Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>			✓		✓	✓
	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>					✓	✓
	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>				✓	✓	
	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>				✓		
	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>				✓		
	Indian Scimitar Babbler - E	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>				✓		
	Puff-throated Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>					✓	✓
	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Argya malcolmi</i>				✓		✓
	Jungle Babbler	<i>Argya striata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>				✓	✓	✓
	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	
	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>						✓
	Indian Blackbird - N	<i>Turdus simillimus</i>					✓	
	Tickell's Thrush	<i>Turdus unicolor</i>				✓		
	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>				✓	✓	✓
	White-rumped Shama	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>				✓	✓	✓
	Tickell's Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>						✓
	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		✓			✓	
	Taiga Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>					✓	✓
	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>					✓	
	Siberian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Pale-billed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>			✓			
	Purple Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>			✓			✓
	Yellow-throated Sparrow	<i>Gymnoris xanthocollis</i>				✓		
	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			✓			
	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>						✓
	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				✓	✓	✓
	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>			✓			
	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>					✓	

Mammals

E=Endemic		February 2026					
Common name	Scientific name	3	4	5	6	7	8
Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	✓	✓	✓			
Bengal Sacred Langur - E	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indian Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>				✓		
Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista philippensis</i>						✓
Indian Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus medius</i>	✓	✓	✓			
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dhole	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	✓	✓				
Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Indian Gray Mongoose	<i>Urva edwardsii</i>					✓	✓
Blackbuck	<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>				✓	✓	
Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</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

		February 2026					
Common name	Scientific name	3	4	5	6	7	8
Indian Flapshell Turtle	<i>Lissemys punctata</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓
Checkered Keelback	<i>Xenochrophis piscator</i>	✓					