

Annual Park Lodge Update

August 2022



Credit: Anish Andheria

After the lull created by a global pandemic, the advent of nature tourism seems to be back on track and on a steady rise. The pandemic has created a huge ups-well in the domestic market for nature-based activities and since the infrastructure was already in place, the parks have been able to cope with this steadily increasing demand. Throughout the last two years, a 'rediscovery' of eco-tourism has taken place, many discovering their natural heritage for the first time, both for metropolitan visitors as well as locals. This phenomenon has filled up rooms and lodges across the country and created a demand for more.

This new nature-based tourism economy has created a largely rural economy around many parks and nature zones across India, driving new jobs, livelihoods and enterprise opportunities, while steadily bringing down rural poverty, catalysing community support, and better health and education improvements than any other industry. With the advent of a nature-focused economy, marginal village communities once victims of wildlife conflict, are emerging as their greatest advocates. Our two TOFTigers-funded research reports, highlighted communities being up to seven times better off with nature-based tourism than rural villages without this economic stimuli.

The pandemic however did have a large effect on TOFTigers itself and our ability to operate. Our income is wholly derived from your membership and visitor contributions, and so the last two years have proved difficult, and some operational elements, including the closure of the UK office, have been undertaken. However, TOFTigers India personnel based out of New Delhi continues to operate our goal of supporting sustainable nature-based tourism as a fundamental and economic basis, for ongoing wildlife and tiger conservation. Today the results are clear; the tiger numbers have steadily gone up since 2004 when TOFTigers was founded, from 1000 to close to 3000 in India. The benefits are obvious to India, to visitors and wildlife alike. See details of our [two reports here](#). Also, you can still see and purchase [TOFTigers Wildlife Guide to India here](#).

With the agenda of sustainability and conservation, TOFTigers steps forward toward the future.

OVERVIEW & UPDATES ON PARKS & CERTIFIED LODGES

INDIA

Madhya Pradesh

Bandhavgarh National Park



Credit: Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge

With the highest known number of tiger population in India, This season's Bandhavgarh Park sightings have been one of the best since October 2021, with most of the tigresses in the tourism area carrying cubs of different ages. Frequent sightings of tigers and tiger families have been recorded in all four zones of the park. Even the most underrated zone of this region, Zone 3 Khitauli, was alive with sightings of tigers, sloth bears and leopards. The famous tigers of this tourism sector are Bajrang, Mahaman Bacchi, Darha Mother, Darha Bacchi, Chhota Bheem, X-Male(Bhagoda), Mudraha Male (Pujari), Katiwaah Tigress, and Tara. The Park has also become a new home to a colony of migrating elephants from Chhattisgarh to Bandhavgarh National Park through the Bandhavgarh-Sanjay-Guru Ghasidas corridor. With the reopening of the park post-Covid, wonderful sightings of wild elephants have been reported in all the zones from single wild bulls to whole herds with young calves.

Lodge News

Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge



Located at the entrance of Bandhavgarh, the lodge is set on ten acres of grounds teeming with wildlife and the sounds of the jungle. Experts record roughly 40 species of mammals, over 300 species of birds, and 80 species of butterflies, besides reptiles in the region. The richness of the grasslands invites rare, migratory birds to flock here, especially in the rainy season. Bandhavgarh Jungle lodge has recently introduced customized dining experiences, across handpicked locations around the lodge, promoting curated farm-to-table local cuisine. To plan your next holiday here, contact at tigerresorts@tigersindia.com

Tigergarh Wildlife Resort (New Outstanding PUG Eco Rated Lodge)



Located near the picturesque hamlet of Ranncha, the hotel seeks to provide the perfect balance between tiger-country and rustic village life. Tigergarh has villas and rooms tastefully done up with furniture and fixtures made from upcycled wood and tyres, as well as art from the local Gond community. To enhance the guest experience of local culture the lodge offers a village tour in Bullock cart or cycles. Quite admirably, the lodge runs an initiative called CATS Foundation, that works in the areas of conservation, art, sustenance as well as training on farming, new skills and alternate livelihoods. For more details write to infotigergarh@gmail.com

Kanha National Park

The Reserve lies in the east of the Central Indian highlands of the ancient Satpura mountain range. Here, flat-topped hills support grassy meadows and the river Sulkum flows through the valley. The grassy meadows are a natural habitat for spotted deer, rare hard ground barasingha and also the perfect ambush ground for the tiger. The higher forests are more tropical in character with bamboo growing in clusters within which, gaurs, wild pigs, sloth bears and sambar deer make their homes. With all this prey, tigers are numerous too and habituated to jeeps, ensuring memorable sightings. There are four tourist zones here, each worth a visit - Kanha, Kisli, Mukki and Sarh.



Credit @MihirMahajan - Sanctuary Photo Library

Lodge News

Kanha Jungle Lodge



Kanha Jungle Lodge is run tightly on the principles of sustainable tourism, community upliftment, wildlife conservation, protection of local culture and green advocacy. The numerous awards won by the Lodge illustrate the magic of ecotourism done right. The lodge is all stashed up with several exciting activities for this season which include a full-day excursion to the Phen sanctuary, walks and picnics near Banjar River, and curated butterfly walks. Night walks to look for insects are something that the team looks forward to introducing next season. On the dining front, new local dishes have been curated to be served at handpicked lodge locations around the Lodge. 2

Moth Theatres have been set up to observe moths. They hope to launch a moth identification book to create awareness about these hitherto ignored gems of nature. Contact them at tigerresortsindia@tigersindia.com

Satpura National Park



Credit: Mr L. Krishnamoorthy, IFS, Field Director, Satpura Tiger Reserve

Satpura Tiger Reserve is a part of one of the largest tiger habitats in the world extending over 10,000 sq.km. along with forest areas of Betul, Harda, Khandwa and Melghat forest divisions. Recently, the Burgondi area under the Pipariya buffer zone in the reserve has been identified as a new safari zone for walking and cycling activities. In this tourism sector, these activities have been tentatively started as an experiment. Mainly morning/ evening vehicle safari and night vehicle safari have been set up for tourists. Unfortunately in some areas (Pachmarhi) tourists throw plastic garbage, creating problems of plastic pollution. It has been a great year for Satpura National Park for sightings of tigers, sloth bears, and leopards and with new cubs in the park, 2022-2023 can only get better. The buffer zone of the park

also had some great sightings of rusty-spotted cats and other herbivores.

Emerging as an excellent game viewing destination, the Churna area has also had magnificent tiger sightings, and the Jhalai buffer zone has witnessed frequent leopard and sloth bear sightings. Recently, two villages in Jhalai, have been relocated, making the game viewing possibilities even better for the upcoming season.



Lodge News

Reni Pani Jungle Lodge (Outstanding rating again after re-certification)

Located in pristine forests close to Satpura National Park, the lodge has been making appreciable efforts to restore and maintain its environment, and empowering the local communities through job opportunities and making purchases of their local fresh produce. To improve the operations, an STP and compost pit for food waste has been recently added to the list. Reni Pani Jungle lodge has carried forward a range of initiatives aimed at sustainable travel, community development and conservation. As its social initiative, the Lodge has adopted the Reni Pani School and is offering support to 40 local children. They also assisted in infrastructural development work for the school including the creation of kitchenettes for mid-day meals, easy access to water, and upgrading toilets, playground and school furniture. The lodge also supplied binoculars to all park guides at the Madhai gate. Funds were donated through the MP Tiger Foundation Society for the upliftment of the patrolling park crew and to fund the official Satpura Coffee Table book.



They have recently launched a horse riding safari, a new non-motorized way of exploring the landscape, the first of its kind in Madhya Pradesh. The Park is also starting operations of private boats in the Tawa Reservoir from October 2023. In line with this new policy, the lodge has ordered a private boat for water-based activities for birding and to transfer guests from Reni Pani Jungle lodge to Bori Safari Lodge. For bookings contact info@jehannumawilderness.com

Bori Wildlife Sanctuary



Established by Captain James Forsyth during his exploration of the Central Indian Highlands, The Bori Wildlife Sanctuary is considered to be one of the oldest protected areas in the country. This relatively unexplored wildlife reserve is one of the best-kept secrets of Madhya Pradesh. It is located in the northern foothills of the Satpura Range in the Hoshangabad district. Majestically bound by the Satpura National Park to the north and east, and gently restrained by the Tawa River to the west, It has incredibly rich biodiversity and an excellent array of flora and fauna to charm the most hardened nature enthusiast. It houses Tropical Mixed Deciduous forests, subtype

Teak forests, and Riparian forests along the streams. Visitors are entranced by dense foliage, fewer crowds, and very little overlapping traffic. This feeling of being lost in the heart of nature is often deeply transformational. More than 270 species of birds are reported from this IBA (Important Bird Area) and are protected by the Government of India. There are also abundant sightings of rare sentient animal species like chital, sambar, nilgai, striped hyena, chinkara, gaur, four-horned antelope, rhesus macaques, leopard, sloth bear, wild dog and the magnificent tigers.

Bori Safari Lodge (New Quality PUG Eco Rated Lodge)



Located only a few kilometres away, Bori Safari Lodge offers incredible ease of access to the Bori Wildlife Sanctuary. Tucked within a 7.5-acre farmland estate, it promotes the best practices of responsible and sustainable tourism while offering every contemporary comfort, without compromising on green advocacy. Looking forward to exciting new water activities on the Tawa River, JehanNuma Wilderness has invested in a motor boat for the Madhai Gate, to be utilized for boat transfers between Bori Safari Lodge and Reni Pani Jungle Lodge. Additionally, camping in the buffer zone is in the pipeline and will be initiated going forward. 4 more rooms have been constructed to take the total inventory up to 12 rooms at the Lodge. As a part of their social initiative, Bori Safari Lodge has

adopted two new schools, making it a total of three schools under its educational support system. The lodge team is also working closely with the forest department to conduct wildlife awareness programs for the local community around the lodge. For your next trip contact info@jehannumawilderness.com

Pench National Park



The evidence is undeniable, the feeling palpable, as you drive down the dusty dirt tracks, that around every corner a drama will unfold, a glimpse caught, a movement spotted. The sun-dappled forest floor is alive with spotted deer. Vast herds also gather on the shorelines of the park's reservoir, offering a smorgasbord of food for Pench's hungry carnivores including leopards, wild dogs and tigers (predicted to be close to 65). Pench was included under the umbrella of Project Tiger in the year 1992 and today, the Reserve covers districts of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The park is predominantly a teak forest, but other hardwood and flowering trees support a rich and diverse array of birdlife too. The park has three tourism zones: Touria,

Karmajhiri and Jhamtara. Earlier this year, Pench Tiger Reserve sadly lost its infamous legendary tigress Collarwali. After more than 16 years in the wild, with her great contribution to the reserve, Collarwali went into deep slumber due to old age and illness.

Lodge News

Tathastu Resorts (Quality PUG rating after re-certification)



Delightfully tucked away from the hassles of the city, Tathastu Resort is located at Pench National Park a popular Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, India. Spread over 15 acres with more than 1400 types of plants, the resort offers its guests tastefully-designed villas, tents, tree houses, cave rooms and mud rooms. Being mindful of environmental degradation, the resort has waged a full-fledged 'War Against Plastic' campaign wherein they denounce the use of plastic within the lodge and consciously carry out all the best practices from waste management, water conservation, to raising awareness by video

sessions for the betterment of the environment. To know more, write to info@tathasturesorts.com

Pugdundee Safaris



Pugdundee Safaris, with its 6 Jungle lodges in Madhya Pradesh & 1 in Maharashtra is a responsible safari company. It has won accolades for its commitment to green architecture, experienced naturalists and pioneering mobile safari initiative. Besides its mainstay of running wildlife lodges, Pugdundee Safaris has been keenly engaged in conservation and community development activities.

Their first property in Maharashtra, the Waghoba Eco Lodge opened its door to wildlife enthusiasts, last October and won the silver medal at the recently held, Outlook Indian Responsible Tourism Awards 2022 for setting new standards of sustainability in India.



Credit @Pugdundee Safaris

To further its effort for greener activities, Pugdundee launched India's first luxury wildlife photography hides at two of its lodges – The Kipling Hide at Pench Tree Lodge and The Lake Hide at Waghoba Eco Lodge, to advocate non-vehicular, low impact & sustainable experiences for their guests. With adjacent parks brimming with wildlife activity, Pugdundee has extended a natural habitat for wildlife across their large forested estates by re-wilding the occupied land. The lodges occupy only a small percentage of the entire land, hence allowing the wildlife to freely roam and visit the lodge, which they assume to be an extended part of the park. To Plan your next vacation with Pugdundee Safaris, contact enquiry@pugdundeefaris.com

Gujarat

Rann of Kutch

In the far west of India, wedged hard under the ribs of the subcontinent and stretching to the Western horizon and the sea beyond, are the bleached flat lands of the Rann of Kutchh – Little & Greater. This is the great salt desert, famed as the last home of the Asiatic wild ass and the vast shimmering pink colonies of nesting flamingos. It is a surprisingly rich haven for both wildlife and colourful nomadic cultures which makes it a perfect setting for the curious and sensitive traveller to explore and understand.



Lodge News

Rann Riders by Kaafila (New Quality PUG Eco Rated Lodge)



Situated at the edge of the Little Rann of Kutch, Rann Riders is quickly establishing itself as the premier wildlife and destination resort of this fascinating region. From September 2022, Rann Riders will emerge in its new avatar – Rann Riders by Kaafila. All the rooms and the entire property are being comprehensively renovated and upgraded. Water conservation measures have been recently updated, by installing medium flow showers, single lever taps, and water-efficient industrial-size dishwashers. A new comprehensive plastic and packaging reduction policy has also been initiated, along with segregation of waste, composting of wet waste and stringent recycling.

The landscaping of Rann Riders by Kaafila has been completely transformed and the reintroduction of native flora has had an immediate positive impact on the native fauna. For heritage preservation, efforts are underway to create a platform to showcase and preserve local traditional skills, and reach a larger global market to foster economic growth in the community. Space has been provided for weavers to demonstrate their skilled Ikat and Tangalio weaves, so that the visiting guests can directly buy sarees, shawls, and fabric from the weavers without any commission.

The lodge is now partnering with local government authorities to install waste management and recycling systems in the villages around the Rann. To fulfil their goal of Low Impact Tourism, a large percentage of the property remains as farmland and orchards, while the cottages and administration buildings are concentrated in a compact area. To know more, write to them at reservations@rannriders.com.

Gir National Park

Rugged, scraggly, brown and dry, Gir is best known as the last bastion of the Asiatic lion. A beautiful hilly but harsh, and thorny habitat in southern Gujarat is the last remnant of the native landscape within the Saurashtra peninsula and is often compared to the African bushveld. The lions that once ranged from Asia Minor to the northern plains of India almost came to the brink of extinction, due to a combination of reduced habitat and mindless hunting. Today, roughly 526 of them can be found in and around Gir, the only individuals left on the subcontinent. While on your safari, don't be surprised if you find tribesmen roaming this lion country on foot with their cattle without a care. They are from the Maldhari tribe which translates to 'owner of animals'. These colourful, nomadic people have lived alongside lions for millennia, with mutual respect. The park will remain closed for visitors for four months



Pair of Asiatic Lions in Gir © Shutterstock

from June 16 to October 15 on account of the monsoon and protected area management initiative by the forest department. During the last eight months, over five lakh people have visited this protected region. According to the forest department, apart from lions, the forest area is also a habitat for leopard, hyena, Chital, Sambhar and Blue bull etc. 338 species of birds like Malabar whistling thrush, orange headed ground thrush, paradise flycatcher, black-naped flycatcher, Indian pitta, thrive in this green paradise.

Lodge News

Woods at Sasan Resort and Spa (Upgraded to Outstanding PUG Eco rating on Recertification)



Woods at Sasan is a biophilic paradise set among 16 acres of mango orchard and lush forest, full of native and exotic flora and fauna. It offers a slow, sustainable, nature-immersed lifestyle to the guests. The lodge advocates sustainable tourism by using energy-efficient equipment, sewage treatment plants, waste segregation practices, environment-friendly products like Hangers (made of Bamboo), Stone dust products in Bathrooms, Trays (made of cane), Blinds (Made of Banana fibres), Dustbins (made of jute ropes) and biodegradable toiletries, etc. Local artisans are employed to create resplendent wall

art, design table cloths and build beautiful furniture out of woven rope to popularize local art and culture along with generating employment for the local artists. Guests are also provided tribal visits, nature walks and bicycle rides to the village giving them a chance to learn about the lives of the local populace and experience the beauty of their culture. To know more write to them at info@1000island.in

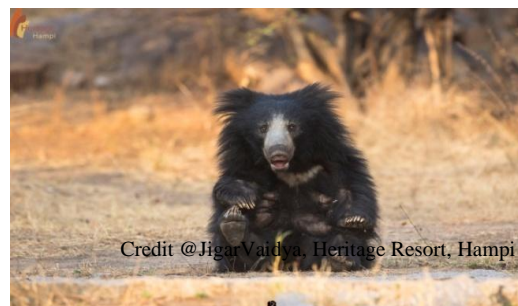
Karnataka

Hampi



This UNESCO World Heritage Site packs a rich past - a legacy that lives on through the soil of the land, the magnificent tactical architecture and vivid traces of ancient life in “The Forgotten Empire” of Vijayanagar. The ruins of the ancient city of Hampi, the bazaar where precious stones were sold, the queen’s bath and important historical monuments, paint a powerful picture of a glorious civilization. It is surreal to imagine that these decaying structures were once thriving buildings that served a purpose.

The Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary is the only sanctuary in North Karnataka that is home to 120 sloth bears. This sanctuary is a habitat for over 90 species of birds, 27 species of butterflies and shelters numerous animals like leopards, hyenas, jackals, wild boars, and porcupines to name a few.



Credit @ Jigar Vaidya, Heritage Resort, Hampi

Lodge News

Heritage Resort, Hampi (New Quality Footprint Rated Lodge)



Built on nine acres of mango and coconut plantations, Heritage Resort Hampi is an ideal getaway for tourists and business travellers wanting to escape the hustle bustle of city life. As a homage to the Vijayanagara empire and Dravidian architecture of the Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas of Hampi, the property is a modern interpretation of the surrounding rich local architecture. Several exciting activities in the great outdoors await the guests, including swimming, cycling, kite-flying, mountain-climbing and coracle rides. The breath-taking Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary is only 20 km from the resort. To book your next trip, contact reservations@indoasia-hotels.com

Coorg Valley



The Coorg region is also known by its local name Kodagu, and the region spans about 4,100 square kilometres on the eastern slopes of the richly diverse Western Ghats of Karnataka. It is a hilly region with its highest peak, Tadiandamol, rising to 1,750 meters above sea level. The region is ornamented with grassy downs, paddy fields, sloping glades, waterfalls and deep ravines giving you endless and glorious surprises at every turn. Coorg is also an important wildlife destination with its own distinct identity as a major travel attraction, with its coffee and spice plantations and exotic flora and fauna. It also has its own unique, long-standing social and cultural heritage. Its proximity to lesser-known sanctuaries and National Parks like Nagarhole and the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary make it an exciting destination for nature and adventure seekers. During the height of Covid 19, tourism was heavily affected in the Kodagu region, making it a dismal 20%, which is now getting back on track after the restrictions have been lifted.

Lodge News

Heritage Resort, Coorg (New Quality Footprint Rated Lodge)



Perched atop a range of secluded hills, the Heritage Resort Coorg is a doorway to a soul-aligning escape and boasts of a full-fledged ecosystem that has flourished over 9 acres of land. This quaint resort is tucked away in a secluded location, in the remotest corners of Madikeri, amidst orchestral sounds of nature. With high standards of ecotourism in place, experience a sustainable lifestyle and learn from the humbling lessons that the panoramic views endow you with. Guests can indulge themselves with swimming, cycling or kite-flying activities. Heritage Resort organises tailor-made treks, private picnics in idyllic settings and visits to the coffee estates as well. To plan your

next trip here, contact reservations@indoasia-hotels.com

Rajasthan

Sariska Tiger Reserve



Credit @Utsav camp

Sariska Tiger Reserve lays nestled in the lap of the Aravalli hills, stretching over a majestic 800 square kilometres. It is the first reserve in the world with successfully relocated tigers. The Reserve is a critical biodiversity zone in the Northern Aravalli leopard and wildlife corridor. While the Tiger is the primary predator, a vast variety of animals populate this region such as Leopard, Hyena, Caracal, Jungle cat, Ratel, Nilgai, Sambar deer, Spotted deer, langur, Rhesus macaque, and Four-horned antelope. Along with Wild pig, Indian civet, Rufous-tailed hare, Palm Civet, Pangolin, and

Porcupines. The Siliserh Lake on the edge of the park also houses a large number of crocodiles. An excellent site for bird watching, an astounding 211 bird species have been recorded in this reserve. June 2021 recorded the death of a 16-year-old tigress, due to old age. With this, the number of big cats, including cubs, has reduced to 24 in Sariska.

Sariska Tiger Reserve was engulfed in an outrageous forest fire at the start of this year which caused great damage to it. After this incident which was controlled after two days of stringent effort, another fire raged in the Tehla region of the reserve, which was finally controlled by the brave combined efforts of the Utsav Camp, villagers, forest staff and firefighters. The fire had spread around an area of 10 bighas. Utsav Camp helped significantly in controlling the fire with its prudent actions. A team of 24 staff members who are locals and well trained to extinguish the fire, rushed to the spot and vigorously worked to extinguish the fire.

Lodge News

Utsav Camp Sariska (New Quality PUG Eco Rated Lodge)



Conceptualized by founder Luv Shekhawat, a trained naturalist with 20 years of hospitality management experience, Utsav Camp is a peaceful sanctuary nestled in the remote Tehla region, Rajgarh, Rajasthan. It is surrounded by magnificent boulders, deciduous forests and the rolling Aravalli hills. The lodge buildings have been constructed without harming the ambient natural habitat to enable a thriving local ecosystem. Once a mostly barren parcel of land is now a thriving green haven cradled with joyous birdsong. The camp has 10 well-appointed stone cabins and 9 charming swiss tents. All the benefits of urban comforts are judiciously provided for while ensuring the protection of the surrounding nature. To book

your next trip, contact lsk@utsavcampsariska.com

Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve



Once a private game reserve of the royal House of Jaipur, Ranthambore National Park and Tiger Reserve is one of the world's best known wilderness areas. Located 14 kilometres from Sawai Madhopur and at the junction of some of the geologically oldest mountain ranges - the Aravallis and Vindhyas - Ranthambore is spread over an area of 392 sq.km of thick forest punctuated with pleasant waterfalls and offers some of the finest opportunities for sighting the magnificent tiger in the wild. Other animals found here include chinkara, sambhar, cheetal and over 300 species of birds.

The special half-day and full-day safaris in Ranthambore National Park (RNP) have been a major attraction to the tourists across the globe which allows free access to tourists in all the safari zones without any restrictions. As the vehicles are allowed to move freely into the reserve, most of the time they reach the spots where tigers have gathered causing disturbance. Hence, in the larger interest of wildlife, Rajasthan State Government has decided to stop half-day and full-day safaris in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve from 1st October, 2022. The department has, however, decided to allow tourists who have made advance booking for half-day and full-day safaris. But future bookings for these safaris will be closed.

The decision has been taken in order to reduce the stress on big cats and other wildlife from vehicle movement, noise of tourists and other factors. The decision may become a monetary loss for the government but concerning the health and decorum of the forest and wildlife in Ranthambore National Park, it stands correct.

Also, it is made clear that the regular three-hour safari will be continued as usual in two shifts. Morning timing being 06:30 am to 10:00 am and evening safari from 02:30 pm to 06:00 pm. Safari timing may vary according to the seasons.

Chhattisgarh



This charming locale ornamented with resplendent forests and magnificent hills, is promoted by Chhattisgarh Tourism as a part of the Tribal Tourism Circuit, to showcase the unpolluted beauty and tribal traditions of the indigenous Baiga tribe residing in this region. Chhattisgarh, located in central India, is among the states with the maximum land under forest area, encompassing an space of nearly 1,35,133 sq. km. 44 per cent of the total area of Chhattisgarh comes under forests, which contributes to 12 per cent of India's total forests. The state has immense possibilities for wildlife and eco-tourism because of its rich bio-diversity. Chhattisgarh is blessed with some of the most endangered and rare wildlife species. It is the perfect travel destination for wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers. The

State is resplendent with 2 National Parks, 3 tiger reserves, 8 wildlife Sanctuaries and 1 Biosphere reserve.

SARODHADADAR – KABIRDHAM



This green haven is also promoted by Chhattisgarh Tourism as a part of the Tribal Tourism Circuit and shows immense possibility for sustainable tourism. This verdant territory is brimming with glorious revelations of nature, ancient temples and man-made marvels to be experienced, up close and personal. The district covers an area of 4,447.5 km of dense forest, rolling hills, gushing waterfalls and winding well-constructed roads. Visitors come to experience the pristine beauty of the forest, the magic of the mountains, the varying moods of the sun and the magnificent shape-shifting clouds. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to visit and learn the ways of the Baiga, one of the most primitive, peace-loving and

friendly tribes of India. The added attraction for nature enthusiasts is its proximity to the wildlife sanctuaries of Boramdeo and Kanha, which boasts of exotic flora and fauna. Ancient temples with intricate sculptures built on the foot of the thickly forested Maikal range of hills, have been termed as 'scintillating poetry in stone'. The mighty gushing waterfalls, hidden deep in the forests, are entirely worth the trek.

Lodge News

Baiga Tourist Resort (New Quality Footprint Rated Lodge)



The Baiga Tourist Resort in Sarodha Dadar is a delightful retreat located on the highest point in the Maikal range, with a spectacular view of the surrounding hills and resplendent valleys. Nestled on top of the hill, it provides quality accommodation with all modern amenities. It also provides an excellent opportunity to experience the local cultures, dazzling art and colourful folklore of the Baiga tribe. Book your next trip, contact operations@visitcg.in

KURDAR, BILASPUR



Kurdar is an enchanting hideaway surrounded by lush green forests in the heart of Chhattisgarh. This tranquil picturesque locale is surrounded by boundless green hills and valleys undulating between altitudes of 200m to 1000 m above sea level. This region falls under the Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO and the Achanakmar Tiger Reserve is a highly protected area. The mighty rivers of Narmada, Sone and Johila emerge from this hilly topography and keep the foliage green and lush. This pristine locale is the ideal holiday destination away from noisy cities. It is an abode to various tribes like Gond and Baiga, who preserve the

cultural traditions of this area. As a venture of Chhattisgarh Eco Tourism, Kurdar is an integral part of the 'Tribal Tourism Circuit' and welcomes visitors to experience the splendour of this region.

Lodge News

The Kurdar Johar Eco Resort (New Good footprint Rated Lodge)



The Kurdar Johar Eco Resort is a cosy haven away from the hustle & bustle of the city. The resort seeks to provide a peaceful stay in the lap of nature. Providing all the modern facilities, it still manages to showcase its authentic rural setting. With 3 wooden cottages, it has 6 rooms for visitors, comfortable green walking paths, and customized homely cuisines to appease all tastes. The resort organizes excursions to nearby attractions and village visits upon request. Book your next trip, contact operations@visitcq.in

CHITRAKOTE



A secret gem sequestered in the dense regional forests of Chhattisgarh is a must-visit, to experience the visceral beauty of nature. A major part of this locale is characterized by undulating terrain, dense forest cover, rivers, hills, waterfalls and caves making it a paradise for visitors. The climate here makes it a good place for the cultivation of rice and cashew. Inhabited by mostly tribal populations, this area is also a rich source of wood and many other forest products. The average elevation is 1811 ft with rolling terrain and dense vegetation. Chitrakote waterfall is the biggest attraction in this region. Best to experience the splendour of these falls, during the rainy season of the July-October months with a thunderous increase in the volume of water. Dense forests surround the

picturesque waterfalls which further glorifies its natural beauty.

Lodge News

Dandami Luxury Resort (New Good footprint Rated Lodge)



Dandami Resort is a sprawling property with beautiful lawns, with the mighty Chitrakote waterfalls, providing a stunning backdrop. It offers all modern amenities yet retains the innate simplicity of the region. It houses 16 luxuriously appointed wooden cottages and 13 tents, providing great views of the falls as the sound of the thundering water echoes throughout the day. The dining room serves simple yet delicious local cuisine and can be further customised upon request. Book your next trip, contact

operations@visitcq.in

Maharashtra

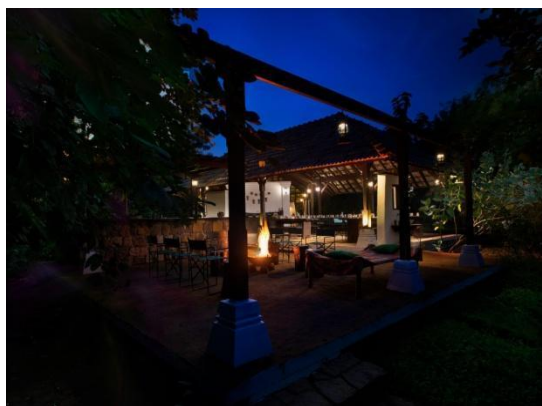
Tadoba National Park

Popularly known as the 'The Jewel of Tadoba', it is one of the best-known tiger reserves in India. Conserved under the Project Tiger Initiative by the Indian Government, this reserve has reported a high number of tigers (69 tigers as of April 2021). Tadoba national park is located in the Chandrapur district of Maharashtra. This place is an ideal weekend getaway for wildlife and nature lovers. The safaris help in exploring the rich wildlife of the park. There are three zones in the reserve that gives access to the Jeep Safari, namely Moharli (Mohurli) Zone, Tadoba Zone, and Kolsa Zone. The park is open for visitors from 15th October to 30th June every season and remains closed on Tuesdays. The main attraction of the Tadoba National Park is the Jungle or Tiger Safari in an open top gipsy. There is a good chance to spot the shy Sloth Bear and mighty Wild Dog.



Lodge News

Svasara Jungle Lodge (Awarded Outstanding PUG Eco Rating for the Second Time)



Set over ten acres of land near the Kolara tribal hamlet, the Svasara lodge follows uncompromising principles of eco-tourism and conservation.

The Svasara Lodge has recently initiated new specific-interest activities like butterfly observations and macro photography. An exciting upcoming venture is the launch of a sustainable retail store, featuring earth-friendly products and local crafts by December 2022. As a new partnership alliance with the NGO Nature Mates, a foundation has been set up in May 2022, to spearhead initiatives at the park and community level for reforestation in the buffer areas and areas from where villages have been recently relocated. To further improve its eco-friendliness and sustainability since

the last audit, upcycled reusable coasters and a new composting machine have been added to the lodge operations. For bookings Contact, info@svasararesorts.com

Kerala

Periyar Tiger Reserve



Periyar Forest © Shutterstock

One of the most visited, protected areas in India, Periyar Tiger Reserve toils hard to maintain its viable habitat for tigers by ensuring the conservation of biodiversity with minimal human-wildlife conflicts. They steadfastly seek to secure the coexistence of wildlife and human activity with due recognition of the livelihood, development, and social and cultural rights of local people.

In March 2021, a five-day special drive to eradicate the African Catfish from the Periyar Lake was carried out by the members of the tribal eco-development committee (EDC) to protect indigenous aquatic species inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve. The Periyar Lake is home to 47 fish species and seven of them are endemic. The Drive was launched

after it was found that the cat fish were posing a serious threat to local fish species in the lake. Within three days of the drive, about 475 kg of African fish was fished out from the lake.

Lodge News

The Wildernest (New Quality PUG Eco Rated Lodge)



Located in the small town of Kumily close to the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, The Wildernest is run by a team of eight. It is ideal for people seeking to spot wildlife, enjoy treks and explore the spice plantations. Traditional Kerala handicrafts, a range of organic food products and world-famous spice shops await to be discovered in the local markets. Experience sustainable tourism at its best within the property, as well as neighbouring excursions to spice plantations and indigenous villages, with the incredibly diverse Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary within walking distance. For bookings,

contact contact@wildernest-kerala.com

Spice Village, Thekkady (Outstanding rating again after re-certification)



Nestled in the cool highlands of Periyar, Thekkady, the Spice Village is the perfect blend of modern living and the raw spirit of unblemished nature. This 'eco-village' treads on its successful self-sustaining path by showcasing traditional knowledge of the Manan community. Very conscious of its impact on the surrounding environment, it follows all stringent practices of using effluent treatment systems, rainwater harvesting, and solar energy. The ISO-certified property recently won the Trip Advisor Travellers Choice Award -2021 and Travel + Leisure award 2021 Best Eco Retreat, among others. To plan your next

trip here, contact contact@cghearth.com

Uttarakhand

Corbett Tiger Reserve



Driving through the cathedral-like arches of ancient sal trees, the meadows of Dhikala, or watching fish-eating gharial crocodiles hunt mahseer at Champion's pool, all overlooked by the blue vistas of the Kumaon Hills, Corbett is, not surprisingly, one of the first parks that come to mind when thinking of Indian wildernesses to visit. Corbett is often called the 'land of roar, trumpet and song', but it is best known for the numerous opportunities to watch large families of elephants. With a bird count of an astounding 550 species, it is an ideal place for avid bird watchers. It holds India's densest tiger population, with over 200 individuals across its entire range. The park is divided into three distinct geographical areas, hilly areas of deciduous mixed forests, low-lying grassland with ravines and vast dense forests of sal trees. The park is divided into five tourism

zones namely Dhikala, Jhirna, Bijrani, Sonanadi and Domunda (Lohachur)

This year brought some bad news from Corbett as Chief Wildlife Warden Parag Madhukar Dhakate gave his consent to tranquillise and cage a tiger which had killed two persons and injured one in Corbett Tiger Reserve. The tiger had assaulted these persons on the fringe of the reserve's Sarpduli range creating terror among nearby residents.

Lodge News

The Golden Tusk (Upgraded to Outstanding PUG Eco rating on Recertification)



Sitting pretty in a quaint village, Dhela, at the edge of the southern periphery of Reserve Forest, The Golden Tusk is a well-designed all-suite villa resort with two placid pools, two restaurants, one wellness centre, a plethora of indoor and outdoor activities, and a jungle safari standing at the top of it. The lodge offers an amazing mix of cuisines to its guests from Italian, Indian, Chinese to local farm fresh Kumaoni cuisine. Guests can also enjoy spa services at the resort after the tiring safari and savour live music nights. Fastidiously following best practices of sustainability, conservation and protection, they seek to empower

the local community and encourage regional economic growth. To plan your next trip here, contact reservations@thegoldentusk.com

Nepal

Chitwan National Park



Indian Rhinoceros in Chitwan © Tiger Tops

As one of the first parks to see tigers regularly in the 1970s, the rich biodiversity of the highly acclaimed Chitwan National Park has earned its status as a World Heritage Site, and as one of the last surviving examples of the natural ecosystems of the Terai region. It declared the country's first National Park in 1973 and holds within its boundary a Ramsar Wetland site and the Beezashari Lake. It is a treasure trove for nature enthusiasts and an early pioneer in some of the best practices of nature tourism and wildlife conservation. In these forests, you will find a diversity of fauna from the largest terrestrial mammal, the elephant, to the smallest the pygmy shrew. It is the most well-known, for one-horned rhinos and the Bengal tiger. There has been a recent revival in the population of tigers, and

herds of rhinos basking in the sun are once again a common sight.

Lodge News

Barahi Jungle Lodge (Outstanding rating, third time in a row upon recertification)



Set on the northern banks of the Rapti River, its glorious location looks out over the tall golden grasslands, verdant forests and green hills of the Chitwan National Park. Within its 30 acres, charming Tharu - inspired thatched villas are built along the banks of the river, spanning out to the glorious vision of grasslands and forests just beyond. Recently, Barahi Jungle lodge has set a standard for all the eco-lodges by its constant dedication to sustainability which is evident from practices followed within. The Lodge has taken major steps toward nature conservation by constructing a full-fledged Green team which consists of naturalists and tree experts who

spearhead tree preservation and conservation. The Lodge also runs its own Junior Naturalist Programme and have planted large numbers of indigenous trees in the Lodge, including almost all species of trees in the Chitwan forest to match the local flora and fauna. It also acts as a natural aquifer and helps in groundwater recharge. The lodge supports local employment by meeting 90% of the staffing requirements from within the local community. The Lodge generates Biogas from Biodegradable waste and uses the same in the Kitchen. The Lodge has constructed its own filtration plant for meeting its water requirements. The Lodge also focuses strongly on CSR, with 1.5 % of the total turnover dedicated especially to CSR. To know more, write to bjl@barahi.com

TOFTigers Accommodation Provider Supporters with PUG and Footprint Eco-Ratings

INDIA

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

- Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge (Good)
- Bandhav Vilas (Quality)
- King's Lodge (Outstanding)
- Mahua Kothi (Outstanding)
- Tiger's Den Resort (Outstanding)
- Treehouse Hideaway (Outstanding)
- Tigergarh Wildlife Resort (Outstanding)

Banadipur Tiger Reserve

- Dhole's Den (Outstanding)

Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary

- Mary Budden Estate (Quality)

Bori Wildlife Sanctuary

- Bori Safari Lodge (Quality)

Coorg Valley

- Green Valley Resort, Coorg (Good)
- Evolve Back ChikkanaHalli Estate (Outstanding)

Corbett Tiger Reserve

- Aahana The Corbett Wilderness (Outstanding)
- Camp Hornbill (Quality)
- Corbett River Creek (Good)
- The Golden Tusk (Outstanding)
- Jim's Jungle Retreat (Outstanding)
- Paatlidun Safari Lodge (Quality)

Dasada

- Rann Riders (Quality)

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

- Jaagir Lodge (Quality)

Gir National Park

- Woods At Sasan Resort and Spa (Outstanding)
- The Fern Gir Forest (Quality)

Kanha Tiger Reserve

- Banjaar Tola (Outstanding)
- Bagh Villas Jungle Camp & Spa (Quality)
- Chitvan Jungle Lodge (Quality)
- Courtyard House (Quality)
- Flame of the Forest Safari Lodge (Quality)

Kaziranga National Park

- MV Mahabaahu (Outstanding)

Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur)

- The Birder's Inn (Good)

Manas National Park

- Musa Jungle Retreat (Quality)

Nagarhole Tiger Reserve

- Waterwoods Lodge & Resorts (Quality)
- Evolve Back, Kabini (Outstanding)
- Red Earth Resort – Kabini (Quality)

National Chambal Sanctuary

- Mela Kothi – The Chambal Safari Lodge (Outstanding)

Panna Tiger Reserve

- Ken River Lodge (Good)
- PashanGarh (Quality)
- Tendu Leaf Jungle Resort (Quality)

Pench Tiger Reserve

- Baghvan – Taj Safaris (Outstanding)
- Pench Jungle Camp (Quality)
- Pench Tree Lodge (Quality)
- Tathastu Resorts (Quality)
- The Riverwood Forest Retreats (Quality)

Periyar Tiger Reserve, Thekkady

- Spice Village (Outstanding)
- Cardamom County By Xandari (Quality)
- The Wildernest (Quality)

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve

- Limban Resort (Quality)
- Irai Safari Retreat (Quality)
- Svasara Jungle Lodge (Outstanding)
- Tadoba Jungle Camp (Outstanding)

Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

- Khem Vilas (Outstanding)

- Kanha Earth Lodge (Outstanding)
- Kanha Jungle Lodge (Quality)
- Kipling Camp (Outstanding)
- Singinawa Jungle Lodge (Outstanding)
- Soulacia Hotel and Resort (Quality)
- Kanha Jungle Camp (Quality)

Sariska Tiger Reserve

- Utsav Camp ((Quality)

Satpura Tiger Reserve

- Denwa Backwater Escape (Quality)
- Forsyth Lodge (Outstanding)
- Reni Pani Jungle Lodge (Outstanding)
- Cheetal Resort (Quality)

Sundarbans Tiger Reserve

- Sunderban Tiger Camp (Quality)
- Tora Eco Resort & Life Experience Centre (Quality)

- Nahargarh Fort (Quality)
- The Oberoi Vanyavilas (Outstanding)

NEPAL

Bardia National Park

- Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge (Quality)

Chitwan National Park

- Barahi Jungle Lodge (Outstanding)
- Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge (Outstanding)

TOFTigers PUG Accommodation Provider Supporters Under Process

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

- Samode Safari Lodge
- Syna Tiger Resort
- Rosa Bandhavgarh Meadows

Corbett Tiger Reserve

- Corbett Riverside Resort
- Tanhau
- The Ranger's Lodge, Imran's Jungle Home in Corbett

Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

- Juna Mahal

Jawai Bandh Forest

- Bera Safari Lodge

Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary

- Raja Andhuvan Estate Homestay

Panna Tiger Reserve

- Karnavati Retreat (A Homestay)

Pench Tiger Reserve

- Welcome heritage Jungle Home Pench

Bandipur Tiger Reserve

- Bandipur Hillview Homestay

Satpura National Park

- Panarpani Retreat

Kaziranga National Park

- Niltava

Tadoba National Park

- Wagobha Eco Lodge

Dachigam National Park

- Nadis

NEPAL

Bardia National Park

- Rhino Lodge Bardia

TOFTigers Accommodation Provider Supporters with Footprint Rating

Karnataka

- Heritage Resort Coorg (Quality)
- Heritage Resort - Hampi Coorg (Quality)

Chhattisgarh

- Baiga Tourist Resort (Quality)
- Kurdar -Johar Eco Resort (Good)
- Dandami Luxury Resort-Cottages (Good)

TOFTigers Footprint Accommodation Provider Supporters Under Process

Uttarakhand

- The Forest Vines Resort
- Abbotsford Heritage Homestay

Mysore

- Safari Quest
(By Nature Trip Hospitality Service)

Kerala

- Neeleshwar Hermitage
- Pepper Trail

Chhattisgarh

- Hareli Eco Resort