



OR



## LOOK BEFORE YOU BOOK

Look out for these TOFTigers PUG Marks when you're deciding where to stay in the wild to help us ensure a sustainable future for tigers, wildlife and their local communities

The TOFTigers PUG Mark accreditation scheme, recognised by the UN-backed [Global Sustainable Tourism Council](#), represents South Asia's first and highest standard in eco auditing for wildlife focused accommodation providers operating in or around wildlife parks, sanctuaries or areas of outstanding natural beauty in both India and Nepal.

Our primary aim is to ensure the ongoing conservation of wildlife habitats and their protection, conservation and rehabilitation, with tourism as a conservation and poverty alleviation tool. A key driver is enabling local communities to benefit from more responsible tourism.

So while you or your clients have a fabulous and memorable wildlife safari, TOFTigers worries about the implications of visitors - so that you don't have to.



*Photo Credits: Atul Dhamanker, Hashim Tyabji, Aditya Dhanwatay, Taj Safaris, Subrat Seet, Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge, Dhonk, a community enterprise*

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## TOFTigers PUG Eco-rating includes:

### 1) Checking effective operational management and legal requirements

The PUG Mark encompasses not only the core operational aspects of running a business such as its legal requirements, health and safety issues, purchasing, fair wages, staff training and employment, but also its environmental, economic and social implications.

### 2) Checking sustainable ecological practice from energy and water to waste, transport and construction

Good ecological practice is a core underpinning strand of the PUG Mark. We cover energy conservation, renewable energy and availability of bikes and eco-friendly transport. Water management is another key area from monitoring consumption and water saving measures such as dual low flush toilets, to safe recycling and rainwater harvesting. The preservation of natural and cultural surroundings, the proportion of the site built on, use of locally produced materials for construction rather than cemented areas, and natural light and ventilation in design are reviewed. We also encourage segregation and safe disposal of waste, recycling, composting, and the purchase of goods, or initiatives such as reverse osmosis to produce safe drinking water, which reduce plastic and packaging. Local produce, fair trade and eco-friendly goods are encouraged. Lodges or resorts with their own kitchen gardens are awarded extra points! Help play your role and minimise water and energy consumption where possible.



*Oberoi Vanyavilas, Ranthambhore, harvests approximately 1,440,000 litres of rainwater each season*



*Cottage at Red Earth Kabini made with Rammed Earth, a forgotten local technique reintroduced*



*Solar panels and a windmill meet all Dhole's Den's energy requirements apart from its water pump.*



*Substantial kitchen garden at Chivan Jungle Lodge, Kanha, providing fresh produce*



*Junglesmantra, 'Going global – staying local' initiative: at least 90% of food served has travelled less than 10 miles from plot to plate*



*Organic soap prepared from reetha (fruit) on site at Jim's Jungle Retreat, Corbett*



*Root Zone treatment at Aahana The Corbett Wilderness, the largest of its kind in Asia cleaning waste water for reuse on the land*



*Colour coded bags for segregating waste at source at Orange County, Kabini for recycling (dry waste) and a biogas plant and piggery (food waste)*



*Large vermicomposting pit at Homestead, Corbett, using worms to turn food waste into compost*



### 3) Seeking to revitalise habitats for wildlife and nature conservation

Numerous lodges and resorts deserve mention for their nature conservation efforts from revitalising ecosystems, replanting indigenous trees and wildlife friendly gardens to supporting wildlife conservation and research – either directly or via working in partnership with others locally. The PUG audit also covers nature education and conservation awareness, encouraging good visitor practice, preventing and reporting illegal or bad practice and helping to curb invasive species. Contribute to local conservation for a sustainable future; ask your accommodation provider for suggestions on what to support.



*Re-release of Gaur into Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve funded by Taj Group of Hotels' Mahua Kothi and Banjaar Tola*



*View from the hill at Khem Villas, Ranthambhore, before and after landscape restoration with land now teeming with wildlife*



*Mela Kothi Chambal Safari Lodge providing support to the Gharial crisis team through their Chambal Conservation Foundation*

**Wildlife Reporting Study at Kanha Jungle Lodge which also hosts international students to work with their resident naturalists. The Lodge's owner is a Trustee of NGO [The Tiger Trust](#).**



*Waterhole fed by rainwater harvesting enlarged from a pond to thriving habitat at Kipling Camp. The lodge supports and accommodates the [Wildlife Protection Society of India](#).*



*Camera trap contributing to Tiger ID study at Tiger Trails Jungle Lodge, Tadoba, which has restored barren land and dried up streams to thriving forest and wildlife habitat*

### 4) Supporting the revitalising of local economies

PUG eco-rated lodges are encouraged to employ and purchase locally and develop business partnerships with surrounding villagers to help strengthen the local economy and make wildlife worth more alive than dead. They draw a significant proportion of their employees from the local community (50%-100%) – often providing skills training and mentoring. Stimulating local community enterprise linked to tourism and providing a market for locally produced goods and services is another dimension. We also encourage the purchase of local and fair-trade goods and services.



*Village kitchen serving traditional cuisine at Forsyth Lodge, Satpura, a community enterprise  
Photo credit: Vaibhav Mehta*



*Charcoal briquettes made from lantana, an invasive weed, a local enterprise training initiative by the Singinawa Foundation and Kanha Lodge Association*



*Social enterprise, Hathi, run by Flame of the Forest Safari Lodge, Kanha providing stitching training to village women for sale in their shop and online*



*In house weaving team at Diphlu River Lodge, Kaziranga, making goods for sale in their shop*



*Camp Hornbill Corbett - set up by community entrepreneurs - 100% owned and run by locals*



*Beekeeping programme for local farmers run by Reni Pani Jungle Lodge, Satpura*



## 5) Supporting local communities

PUG eco-rated lodges are encouraged to place local community consultation and needs at the heart of their planning and operations not only providing work opportunities but also supporting social needs. Examples include resources for education, medical camps and support with nutrition, veterinary care, compensation for livestock loss, sustainable energy, and advice on farming and rainwater harvesting. Ask your lodge or resort how you can help locally.



*Singinawa Jungle Lodge, Kanha, working with the village school*



*Hospital built by the Prakratik Society near Ranthambhore, linked to Khem Villas*



*Distribution of over 470 mosquito nets to village homes by Junglamantra, Bandhavgarh working with NGO Wildlife PACT*



*24 biogas plants provided to villages in buffer zones of Bandhavgarh, Kanha and Kanha-Pench Corridor by The Corbett Foundation, a NGO set up by the owner of Infinity Resorts*



*Cattle Vaccination Programme run by The Corbett Foundation, a NGO set up by the owner of Infinity Resorts*



*600 energy-efficient stoves installed for locals in Kanha, Bandhavgarh and along Kanha-Pench Corridor by The Corbett Foundation, a NGO set up by the owner of Infinity Resorts*

## 6) Promoting understanding of nature and wildlife

Nature and conservation education is an integral part of what we encourage. Most PUG eco-rated lodges offer libraries and in-house naturalists, many outstanding. We encourage nature walks, wildlife checklists, interpretation and educational resources to inspire, also briefings on good practice for you, the visitor, and the local community, to help protect wildlife as well as park guide training supported by lodge naturalists.



*Orange County Kabini Interpretation Centre showcasing Kabini's culture, flora & fauna  
Photo Credit: Orange County Resorts & Hotels Ltd*



*Local children taking part in TOFTigers' Children in the Park days involving twenty PUG eco-rated lodges*



*David Raju, lodge naturalist at Forsyth Lodge, Satpura, Winner of Best Lodge Naturalist 2014*



*Sessions for kids at Oberoi Vanyavilas by the horticulturalist on global warming, the benefits of tree planting and how to take care of young plants.*



*Nature walks guided by lodge naturalist at Reni Pani Jungle Lodge, Satpura*



*Park guide training by Forsyth Lodge*

## 7) Minimising Pollution

Minimisation of noise, light and air pollution is encouraged where practical. We look at the site location to assess pollution risk and encourage safe waste disposal and storage of chemicals with measures in place to minimise risk. Biodegradable cleaning products, safe eco-friendly cleansing of waste water and disposal of other forms of waste, and the management of green areas without the use of pesticides are encouraged.

## 8) Encouraging Heritage Conservation and Cultural Understanding

The PUG Mark encourages local heritage and traditions to be protected and revitalised - from the use of local art, crafts and cuisine in design and operations to the architecture and building techniques used. Some PUG eco-rated lodges and resorts contribute directly to the protection of local heritage sites. Others provide a platform for local performing artists, crafts and artists and offer an insight into village life. Tread sensitively, respect privacy and, in particular, support initiatives involving local communities.



*Looking at Gond paintings with the artist at Kipling Camp, Kanha*



*Traditional dance and music, Barahi Jungle Lodge, Nepal*



*Kanha Earth Lodge built to reflect local style, Winner Stone Architecture Award 2011 for sensitive use of stone in green architecture*



*Celebrating the tribes of Central India – festival of dance, art, music and cuisine presented by the Singinawa Lodge & Foundation, Kanha*



*Svasara Resorts, Tadoba, documenting recipes from local villages and tribal hamlets and preparing them with fresh produce from its organic farm*



*Heritage walk through the medieval village of Holipura conducted by local villagers, organised by Mela Kothi, National Chambal Safari Lodge*

## The PUG Mark Process Explained



Three rankings are awarded based on a points system spanning more than 84 questions and a comprehensive site visit by TOFTigers' Green Team, independent environmental auditors. They offer advice on what to improve. Rankings last for three years. Accommodation providers can reapply at any time to get their ranking reviewed as they move towards best practice.

### What the rankings mean

<b>Good</b>	These providers are low-impact. They make choices based on environmental and social responsibility, but have not yet attained best practice in sustainability.
<b>Quality</b>	The providers are environmentally and culturally responsible. They are continuously working to better their operations and enhance their sustainable practices and are working to become exemplary industry leaders.
<b>Outstanding</b>	Exemplary industry leaders. These providers have a positive impact on the environment, local communities and their clients. They invest both time and money to maintain sustainable tourism practices.

### Please note:

The examples given are only some of many good examples across PUG eco-rated lodges. Not all aspects illustrated will be covered by every lodge. Please check examples such as arts activities and educational programmes are still current before you visit.