

Kipling Camp, Kanha A Hub for Conservation



Waterhole fed by rainwater harvesting enlarged from a pond provides year-round water for wildlife. The lodge also collaborates with the Wildlife Protection Society of India.

Kipling Camp has been a hub for conservation ever since it was started by conservationists Bob and Anne Wright in 1982 on farmland almost bare of large trees on the edge of Kanha National Park. Transformed into a wooded landscape of indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses, the lodge is now owned and managed by Anne and her daughter, well known tiger conservationist Belinda Wright. It has been operating as a not-for-profit organisation since 2005. A wildlife waterhole carefully enlarged from the original pond and contoured to form an effective rainwater harvesting lake, provides water for wildlife even in the severest droughts. Less than 10% of the camp's nine acres has been utilised for construction and about fifteen acres has been set aside as an undisturbed sanctuary for wildlife

Guests are encouraged to go for nature walks and birdwatching with the camp's three naturalists and have access to a well-stocked library and checklists of birds to look out for. Wildlife films and orientation talks are given in the evenings in the camp's small conference centre, which is also used for wildlife conservation meetings and training programmes.



Hands-on annual Forest Creation workshop.

The lodge hosts annual Forest Creation workshops run by Afforestt, giving 7-12 participants an insight into the importance of the forest ecosystem and hands-on experience in how to create a forest. The saplings are supplied by a local villager, Pintu, who has established an organic, indigenous plant nursery with the lodge's assistance.



Birds of Kanha. Photo: © Green Humour.com

Pintu now has saplings for 83 indigenous tree species, distributes plants throughout India and lectures on the use of native trees and planting techniques.



Local farmer, Pintu's tree nursery established with the lodge's support.



Pintu explaining the growth of saplings to workshop participants.



Involving local people in the Forest Creation Workshops.



WPSI vans used for conservation awareness raising initiatives and wildlife film screenings.

Kipling Camp assists the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI) founded in 1994 by Belinda Wright, the camp's owner, in implementing conservation awareness programmes in villages around Kanha Tiger Reserve. Wildlife films are screened from a small van to facilitate solutions on wildlife conflict issues, to inform villagers about government compensation initiatives for cattle kill and crop damage and to give rewards for information on poaching and other illegal wildlife activities.

Treading softly in the jungle, the camp's motto, is put into practice. Guests are briefed on arrival on the code of conduct in the camp and when visiting the park. The camp has three eco-friendly open wells and no bore wells. Formal gardens, televisions and single use plastic are avoided. Solar lamps with sensors light the pathways only when required and only legal wood is used for campfires. The camp has spearheaded a Kanha Waste Management Committee. Solid waste is segregated and composted organically or removed by waste collectors.



WPSI Field Officer briefing villagers about wildlife conflict issues.



Keeping the grounds wild - chital walking through the camp.