

# India 2026

## *Tigers and More!*

February 22 to March 11, 2026



Bengal Tiger  
© Ken & Mary Campbell

## **SAFARI OVERVIEW**

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Experience the ultimate **tiger safari in India** with an 18-day adventure through **Bandhavgarh, Kanha, and Pench National Parks**—India’s premier wildlife destinations. This exclusive **India wildlife tour** offers a rare chance to witness **Bengal tigers in the wild**, along with diverse species like leopards, sloth bears, barasingha, and Indian wild dogs. Led by Scott Davis and expert local guides, you’ll explore these renowned national parks through **guided game drives**, maximizing your opportunities for thrilling tiger sightings. Immerse yourself in breathtaking landscapes, rich biodiversity, and the untouched beauty of India’s forests while capturing stunning wildlife photography moments.

Stay in **lovely eco-lodges** that offer modern amenities while blending seamlessly with nature. Each day features **exclusive 4x4 safari game drives**, providing unparalleled opportunities to observe and photograph India’s incredible wildlife. Beyond tiger spotting, engage in **cultural experiences**, explore local communities, savor traditional Indian cuisine, and uncover the history surrounding these legendary landscapes. Your journey begins in **Bandhavgarh National Park**, famous for its high tiger density and ancient ruins, continues to **Kanha**

**National Park**, the inspiration behind *The Jungle Book*, and concludes in **Pench National Park**, known for its scenic beauty and thriving wildlife population.

**WHY CHOOSE THIS EXPEDITION?**

- **Experience Delhi's Enticing Culture:** Begin your journey by immersing yourself in the vibrant culture of **Delhi, India's bustling capital, rich in history** and diverse traditions.
- **Observe Tigers and Other Wildlife in Three of India's Incredible Parks:** Explore **Bandhavgarh, Kanha, and Pench National Parks**, renowned for their thriving populations of **Bengal tigers, leopards, sloth bears, Indian wild dogs, barasingha, and over 250 bird species**, offering unparalleled wildlife viewing opportunities.
- **Stay in Family-Run Lodging with Deep-Rooted Conservation Ties:** Enjoy accommodations in family-operated lodges **committed to conservation**, providing authentic experiences that support local communities and sustainable tourism.
- **Capture Incredible Photographs:** Benefit from the expertise of Scott Davis, a seasoned wildlife photographer and co-leader of the expedition, who will offer guidance to help you **capture stunning images of India's wildlife** and landscapes.

**LEADER:** Scott Davis with expert local guides.

**DAYS:** 18, including estimated travel time.

**GROUP SIZE:** 12.

**COST:** \$11,900 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for round-trip flights between Delhi and Raipur), singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 7.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Feb 22 – 23	<b>Travel to Delhi, India.</b>		
Feb 24	<b>Arrive in Delhi from home</b> or our <a href="#">Snow Leopards trip</a> . Meet guides and settle into hotel.	Claridges, Delhi	
Feb 25	<b>Explore Delhi's Heritage &amp; Markets.</b> Visit Humayun's Tomb, Jama Masjid, and Chandni Chowk.	Claridges, Delhi	B, L, D
Feb 26 – Mar 1	<b>Bandhavgarh National Park to Begin Tiger Safaris.</b> Fly from Delhi to Jabalpur, then drive to Bandhavgarh National Park, home to one of India's highest tiger densities and over 25 mammal species and 250 bird species. Enjoy 3.5 days of expert-led safaris, and benefit from an exclusive full-day permit, granting unrestricted access to prime wildlife areas for exceptional tiger tracking and photography.	Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge, Bandhavgarh	B, L, D
Mar 2 – 5	<b>Venture into Kanha National Park.</b> After a morning safari in Bandhavgarh, journey to Kanha National Park, one of India's most scenic reserves,	Kanha Jungle Lodge, Kanha	B, L, D

	known for its thriving tiger population and the successful barasingha deer conservation program. Spend three full days exploring the park's prime tiger habitats, lush Sal forests, and open meadows teeming with wildlife.		
Mar 6 – 8	<b>Explore Pench National Park.</b> This park is the inspiration for <i>The Jungle Book</i> , where tigers, leopards, Indian wild dogs, and diverse birdlife thrive across lush forests and open grasslands. Experience expert-led safaris, night excursions, and unique sleep-outs under the stars, while discovering one of India's most ecologically significant wildlife reserves.	Jamtara Wilderness Camp, Pench	B, L, D
Mar 9	<b>Final Safari &amp; Flight to Delhi.</b> Enjoy a last game drive before returning to Delhi.	Andaz, Delhi	B, L, D
Mar 10	<b>Depart for Home or Join <a href="#">Taj Mahal Extension</a>.</b> End of safari adventure.		B
Mar 11	<b>Arrive Home or Enjoy Taj Mahal.</b>		

## ENHANCE YOUR TRIP

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- Begin your adventure among India's [Snow Leopards](#) on our February 11 to 25, 2026 trip.
- Expand your cultural experience by joining our [Taj Mahal Extension](#) from March 10 to 13, 2026.

## LEADER

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### Scott Davis

Scott, co-owner and co-CEO of Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris is an expert wildlife, nature, and travel photographer. Trained as a wildlife and marine biologist, he's explored all seven continents for research and photography. National Geographic, BBC, Animal Planet, NY Times, and other prestigious publications have featured his inspiring work. Scott's passion for teaching and talent for capturing the essence of his subjects make him a highly sought-after tour leader.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

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### Feb 22 – 23 ~ Travel to Delhi, India from home

### Feb 24 ~ Arrive in Delhi

Meet our local agent for transport from the Delhi airport to the Claridges. If you would like to arrive earlier, we can arrange divergent airport transfers and extra nights.

### Feb 25 ~ Delhi

Discover the rich **heritage of Delhi** with a curated itinerary that highlights the city's **Mughal architecture, bustling markets, and diverse cuisine.**

- **Visit Humayun's Tomb** – A UNESCO-listed masterpiece that inspired the **Taj Mahal**, showcasing stunning **Mughal architecture** and intricate Persian influences.
- **Explore Old Delhi & Shahjahanabad** – Take part in an **ittar-making workshop** at an 8th-generation perfumery, crafting a personalized fragrance while learning the ancient art of **natural perfumery**. Savor a classic **Old Delhi street snack** for an authentic local experience.
- **Rickshaw Ride Through Chandni Chowk** – Navigate the historic **Chandni Chowk market**, once a hub for **silver and gold traders**, and visit the iconic **Jama Masjid**, Delhi's largest mosque, known for its breathtaking **Islamic architecture**.
- **Taste Delhi's Famous Cuisine** – Enjoy a flavorful journey through **Delhi's street food** and local delicacies at a renowned eatery.
- **Discover New Delhi's Colonial Landmarks** – Witness the striking contrast between **New Delhi's British colonial architecture** and the grandeur of Mughal-era structures, offering a deeper insight into **Delhi's historical evolution**.
- **Experience the Tranquility of Bangla Sahib Gurudwara** – Immerse yourself in the **soothing gurbani hymns** at this sacred Sikh site, reflecting on the day's cultural encounters.
- **Shop & Unwind at Khan Market** – End the tour at **Khan Market**, a vibrant hub of **boutiques, cafes, and bookstores**, perfect for indulging in some retail therapy.



Humayun's Tomb  
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

### Feb 26 – Mar 1 ~ Bandhavgarh

Fly from **Delhi to Jabalpur**, then embark on a **4-hour drive** to **Bandhavgarh National Park**, one of India's most renowned wildlife reserves. Covering 172 square miles, this park is home to **over 25 mammal species, 250 bird species**, and boasts one of the **highest tiger densities** in India.

Stay at the **Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge**, owned by the Sankhala family, pioneers in Indian wildlife conservation. This eco-friendly lodge, designed like a traditional Indian village, offers a unique blend of comfort and nature immersion. On your first evening, gain insights into **Central India's wilderness** and the management of national parks in India. Experience the sounds of the jungle, spot **spotted deer, langur monkeys**, and a diverse array of **birds and insects**, while learning about the **dedicated conservation efforts** of the lodge's team.

Spend **3.5 days** in Bandhavgarh, starting each morning with a wake-up call and tea or coffee, followed by **safaris in 4x4 jeeps** with a **resident naturalist**. You'll have **one full-day permit**, allowing for unrestricted **exploration of the park** beyond usual zonal restrictions, including early morning and late afternoon access. Evenings include **lectures and discussions** led by **expert naturalists**, covering topics like **tiger conservation**, wildlife management comparisons with Africa, and the role of **eco-tourism in India's wildlife protection**.

### Mar 2 – 5 ~ Kanha

After a **morning safari**, drive through rural **Madhya Pradesh** to **Kanha National Park**, a 366-square-mile reserve set in the **Chhota Nagpur Plateau**. Kanha's **Sal forests, grassy meadows, and deep ravines** provide an ideal habitat for **tigers, leopards, sloth bears, barasingha, and Indian wild dogs**. The park played a crucial role in **saving the barasingha**, an endangered swamp deer, making it one of **India's most successful conservation stories**.

Stay at the **Kanha Jungle Lodge**, managed by wildlife expert Tarun, his son Jai, and Dimple, a passionate self-taught naturalist. The lodge, surrounded by **dense Sal forest**, offers an **eco-conscious stay**, blending seamlessly with the jungle. Your first evening includes an orientation on Kanha's core and buffer zones and the **success of the barasingha breeding program**.



Bengal Tiger  
© Ken & Mary Campbell

Your days begin with an early wake-up call, followed by a **morning safari in a 4x4 jeep**, led by a **naturalist and forest guide**. Enjoy a picnic breakfast in the jungle before returning for lunch and an **afternoon safari**. A **full-day permit** grants you **unrestricted access** across all zones and routes, plus **extended park entry hours**. In the evening, interact with the Sankhala family and watch **TIGERLAND**, an award-winning documentary on **Kailash Sankhala's conservation efforts**.

### Mar 6 – 8 ~ Pench

After a **final morning safari at Kanha**, embark on a **4 to 5-hour drive** to **Pench National Park**, located in the **Satpura-Maikal region**, spanning **Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra**. This landscape, immortalized in **Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book***, is home to **tigers, leopards, wolves, Indian wild dogs, and over 300 bird species**. Named after the **Pench River**, the park is an **ecological haven** with **lush forests, open grasslands, and riverine ecosystems**, making it a **paradise for nature enthusiasts and wildlife photographers**.

Stay at **Jamtara Wilderness Camp**, featuring **ten luxury tents with panoramic jungle views**. A highlight of your stay is the **sleep-out experience**, where you can **sleep under the stars on a machaan (raised platform)**, fully immersed in nature. The camp provides a deep dive into **conservation efforts and the cultural heritage of the region**.

Mornings begin with tea or coffee, **followed by a sunrise safari**, guided by **expert naturalists**. In addition to **mid-afternoon safaris**, you can opt for **night safaris and guided nature walks**, offering a chance to **spot nocturnal species**. The camp's **expert guides** provide in-depth knowledge of **Pench's rich biodiversity** and the role of **community conservation** in protecting India's wilderness.

**Mar 9 ~ Return to Delhi**

After a **final morning game drive**, return to **Delhi**, where you can relax and reflect on your incredible **wildlife expedition** through India's premier national parks.

**Mar 10 ~ Depart for home or join our [Taj Mahal Extension](#).**

**Mar 11 ~ Arrive home or enjoy the Taj.**

## **COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)**

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**Cost**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Cost per Person</b>
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$11,900
Single Supplement	\$2050

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for 2 internal flights), singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will try to find a roommate for you, but if we cannot pair you with a roommate, we may charge you a single supplement.

**Payment Schedule**

<b>Payment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Amount per Person</b>
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$500
Final	August 15, 2025	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

**Cancellations**

Until the Final Payment due date, deposits are refundable except for a cancellation fee of \$150 per person, which can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the cancelled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferrable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

## Included

- Carbon offsets for the duration of this trip.
- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, landing fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Two internal flights.
- Accommodations (double occupancy) for the nights of February 24 through March 10.
- Meals from breakfast on February 25 through breakfast on March 11.
- Transfers on February 25 from the Delhi Airport to the Claridges and on March 11 from the Andaz to the Delhi Airport.
- Trip Planning Materials – information about entry requirements, flights, packing, gratuities, etc.

## Not Included

- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.
- All airfare (except flights listed as included), airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees. Round-trip airfare is approximately \$1,200 to \$1,400 between the US and Delhi, depending on origin.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Divergent airport transfers (arranged by us) and extra hotel nights.
- Gratuities – tipping is always discretionary. However, we will add a gratuity of \$30 per participant (\$420 per participant per day for February 25 to Mar 10) to your final payment.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Traveler Form.

## SIGN UP

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Please contact us to reserve your space and obtain a Traveler Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

[Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris](#)

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## OTHER DETAILS

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### Climate

Temperatures generally range from around 55°F at night to 87°F during the day. Although it is the dry season, rain is possible.

### Fitness Level

Most days consist of early mornings, game drives on uneven roads, and full days in nature that require good energy levels. Most walking is optional around lodge grounds between game drives. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

## Flights

Detailed logistical information is included in the Trip Planning Materials we will send you.

### Flights you book

- Arrive in Delhi, India (DEL) by 11:59pm on Feb 24.
- Depart from Delhi, India (DEL) after 12:00am on Mar 10 or join the [Taj Mahal Extension](#).

### Flights we book

- Two internal flights are included in the trip cost.

## Terms and Conditions

Read our current [Terms and Conditions](#).

## Conservation

Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while stimulating each destination's local economy. We encourage you to explore the various ways in which Cheesemans' operates within this context:

- **Cheesemans' Trips are Carbon Neutral.**
- **Offsetting your Travel to/from our Trip:** We ask you to pledge to offset the carbon emissions for your travel to and from our trips. You can purchase offsets with most airlines (Delta includes them automatically), use our handy [carbon calculator](#) and donate to Sustainable Travel International, or contribute to your favorite offsetting organization.