



Best of India – Epic Indian Travel

Heart of the Jungle – Central India Wildlife Safari

Central India is the beating heart of tiger country—a vast, ancient landscape of salforests, Bamboo groves, rolling grasslands and shimmering waterholes where the Royal Bengal Tiger reigns supreme. This is the land that inspired Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book, where four of India's greatest national parks – Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Pench and Tadoba – offer some of the most thrilling wild life encounters on the planet. From the highest tiger density in the world at Bandhavgarh to the legendary Barasingha meadows of Kanha, the teak forests of Pench and the waterhole-studded landscapes of Tadoba, this 14-day odyssey is the definitive Central India safari experience.

Bandhavgarh & Kanha – Madhya Pradesh's Tiger Heartland

India's highest tiger density at Bandhavgarh's Tala, Magadhi & Khitauli zones, plus Kanha's UNESCO biosphere – home of the rare Hardground Barasingha and the original Jungle Book landscape

Pench – The Jungle Book Forest

Kipling's inspiration – teak and mahua forests, the Pench reservoir, wild dogs (dholes), leopards and rich birdlife across multiple safari zones in a pristine Madhya Pradesh wilderness

Tadoba – Maharashtra's Tiger Capital

The legendary Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve – famous for bold, habituated tigers, dramatic waterhole encounters, sloth bears, gaur and over 195 bird species in the Chimur Hills landscape

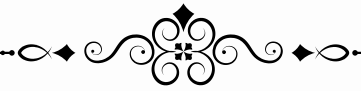
Tour Route: 13 Nights / 14 Days • Delhi [2N] – Bandhavgarh [3N] – Kanha [3N] – Pench [2N] – Tadoba [3N] – Nagpur (Fly Delhi / Home)

Please note: All Central India national parks are closed on Wednesday afternoons – safari schedules will be adjusted accordingly.

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Tour Highlights



Royal Bengal Tiger—India's Apex Predator

Four parks, maximum tiger sighting opportunities— Bandhavgarh holds the world's highest tiger density, while Tadoba's habituated tigers offer some of India's most dramatic close encounters



Big Five of Central India

Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Wild Dog (Dhole) and Gaur — all four parks together offer exceptional chances of encountering every member of Central India's iconic wildlife quintet



Diverse Ecosystems

Sal and bamboo forests of Bandhavgarh, Kanha's rolling meadows and grasslands, Pench's teak and mahua woodland, and Tadoba's lake-studded Chimur Hills — four completely different habitats in one journey



World-Class Wildlife Photography

Expert naturalist-guided jeep safaris at golden hour, dedicated photography zones, and the chance to photograph tigers, leopards and rare Hardground Barasingha in stunning natural light



Exceptional Birdlife

Over 250 bird species across the four parks — including Malabar Pied Hornbill, Crested Serpent Eagle, Indian Pitta, Painted Stork and the rare Jerdon's Nightjar



The Jungle Book Legacy

Walk in the footsteps of Rudyard Kipling — Pench and Kanha are the landscapes that inspired Mowgli, Baloo and Shere Khan, and the forests feel as wild and timeless today as they did in 1894

EMC INDIAN
TRAVEL



DAY 01

Arrive Delhi – Gateway to the Jungle

Delhi – India's ancient and modern capital – serves as the perfect gateway to the jungles of Central India. Your wildlife odyssey begins here, with time to acclimatise, prepare your safari kit and immerse yourself in the extraordinary energy of one of the world's great cities. From Mughal monuments to bustling bazaars, Delhi offers a vivid prelude to the wilderness that awaits.

Arrival & Welcome

- Arrive at Indira Gandhi International Airport; meet your Epic Indian Travel representative
- Transfer to your hotel in central Delhi
- Assisted check-in and welcome briefing from your naturalist guide
- Overview of the safari itinerary, park zones, wildlife briefing and what to expect in the jungle

Afternoon – Old Delhi Heritage

- Optional afternoon excursion to Old Delhi – explore the lanes of Chandni Chowk, the spice market of Khari Baoli and the magnificent Jama Masjid
- Drive past the Red Fort – the great Mughal citadel on the banks of the Yamuna
- Evening stroll through Connaught Place or Khan Market

Evening – Safari Preparation

- Pre-safari briefing: what to wear, camera settings for wildlife photography, jungle etiquette and safety guidelines
- Discussion of tiger behaviour, tracking techniques and the ecology of Central India's forests
- Review of safari zone allocations for Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Pench and Tadoba

Overnight Stay

- Welcome dinner at your hotel
- Overnight in Delhi (Night 1 of 2)

DAY 02

Delhi Sightseeing – Mughal Monuments & New Delhi

A full day to explore Delhi's extraordinary layered history—from the soaring minarets of Qutb Minar and the Mughal grandeur of Humayun's Tomb to the wide ceremonial boulevards of Lutyens' New Delhi. Delhi has been the capital of seven successive empires, and its monuments span over a thousand years of Indian history—a fitting prologue to a journey into the ancient forests of Central India.

Morning – UNESCO Monuments

- After breakfast, depart for a guided tour of Delhi's UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Visit Qutb Minar – a soaring 73-metre minaret built in 1193, the tallest brick minaret in the world, surrounded by the ruins of Delhi's first mosque
- Explore Humayun's Tomb – the magnificent Mughal garden tomb that inspired the design of the Taj Mahal, set in a vast charbagh (four-part garden)
- Visit the Iron Pillar of Delhi – a 1,600-year-old metallurgical marvel that has never rusted

Midday – Lodi Garden & Lunch

- Stroll through Lodi Garden – a serene park dotted with 15th-century Sayyid and Lodi dynasty tombs, popular with Delhi's birdwatchers
- Lunch at a restaurant in the Khan Market or Lodhi Colony area

Afternoon – New Delhi & India Gate

- Drive along Rajpath (Kartavya Path) – the grand ceremonial boulevard of Lutyens' New Delhi
- Visit India Gate – the war memorial arch at the heart of New Delhi, dedicated to 90,000 Indian soldiers
- Drive past Rashtrapati Bhavan (the Presidential Palace) and the Parliament of India
- Optional visit to the National Museum – housing one of India's finest collections of art, sculpture and antiquities

Evening – Departure Preparation

- Return to hotel for dinner
- Pack and prepare for early morning flight to Jabalpur
- Overnight in Delhi (Night 2 of 2)

DAY 03

Fly Delhi to Jabalpur — Drive to Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

The flight from Delhi to Jabalpur marks the moment the journey truly begins — as the aircraft descends over the Vindhya hills and the Narmada river valley, the landscape below transforms into a vast green canvas of forest and farmland. From Jabalpur, the drive north-east to Bandhavgarh passes through the heartland of Madhya Pradesh — a land of ancient forts, tribal villages and the dense forests that shelter India's greatest concentration of tigers.

Morning — Fly Delhi to Jabalpur

- Early morning transfer to Indira Gandhi International Airport
- Fly Delhi to Jabalpur (approx. 1.5 hours)
- Meet your Epic Indian Travel representative at Jabalpur Airport
- Board your private vehicle for the drive to Bandhavgarh (approx. 170 km · 4 hours)

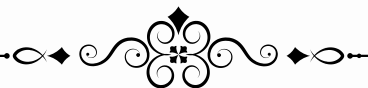
Overnight Stay

- Settle into your lodge, enjoy dinner around the campfire and rest ahead of your first full safari day tomorrow
- Overnight at your jungle lodge in Bandhavgarh (Night 1 of 3)

En Route — Landscape & Villages

- Drive through the scenic Vindhya plateau — rolling hills, sal forests and traditional Baiga tribal villages
- Pass through the market town of Umaria — the gateway district to Bandhavgarh
- Arrive at your jungle lodge and check in
- Lunch at the lodge and afternoon rest

Drive: Delhi → Jabalpur (fly 1.5 hrs) → Bandhavgarh · 170 km · 4 Hours



DAY 04

Bandhavgarh – Full Day Safaris in the World's Tiger Capital

Bandhavgarh is the undisputed tiger capital of the world – a compact reserve of just 716 sqkm where the density of Royal Bengal Tigers is the highest of any national park on earth. The park's landscape is a dramatic mix of steep ridges, open meadows (called bheels), dense sal and bamboo forest, and ancient rocky outcrops – all centred around the legendary Bandhavgarh Fort, which has watched over this jungle for two thousand years.

Morning Safari – Tala or Magadhi Zone

- Pre-dawn departure for the morning safari – the most productive time for tiger sightings
- Enter the Tala Zone – the park's most celebrated area, home to the Chakradhara meadow where tigers are regularly seen at dawn
- Watch for tigers on the move, leopards in the trees, sloth bears foraging and the park's large herds of spotted deer and sambar
- Visit the ancient Bandhavgarh Fort – perched on a 811-metre cliff, with a massive reclining Vishnu sculpture carved into the rock face
- Your naturalist will interpret pug marks, scratch marks and territorial spray – the invisible language of the jungle

Midday – Lodge & Nature Walk

- Return to lodge for breakfast and rest during the heat of the day
- Optional guided nature walk around the lodge perimeter – excellent for birdwatching and smaller wildlife
- Briefing on the afternoon zone and wildlife expected

Afternoon Safari – Khitauli or Magadhi Zone

- Afternoon safari in a different zone for maximum variety of sightings
- Khitauli Zone – known for sloth bear encounters and excellent leopard sightings
- Magadhi Zone – dense forest with tiger cub sightings and the beautiful Magadhi waterhole
- Watch for jungle cats, Indian wild dogs (dholes), grey langurs and the park's remarkable birdlife – including the Indian roller, crested serpent eagle and paradise flycatcher

Evening & Overnight

- Return to lodge at sunset – share sighting stories over dinner
- Overnight at your jungle lodge in Bandhavgarh (Night 2 of 3)

Please note: If today falls on a Wednesday, the afternoon safari will be replaced with a nature walk or lodge activity as all Central India parks are closed on Wednesday afternoons.

DAY 05

Bandhavgarh – Morning Safari & Drive to Kanha

A final morning in Bandhavgarh before the scenic drive south-west to Kanha—the park that inspired Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book. The drive through Madhya Pradesh's forested heartland is itself a wildlife experience, passing through buffer zones, tribal villages and the rolling Satpura foothills. Kanha is a larger, more open park than Bandhavgarh—its vast meadows and grassland create a completely different safari atmosphere.

Morning – Final Bandhavgarh Safari

- Pre-dawn departure for a final morning safari in Bandhavgarh
- A last chance to encounter the park's legendary tigers in the golden morning light
- Focus on the buffer zones – Panpatta or Dhamokhar – for a different perspective and excellent leopard and sloth bear sightings
- Return to lodge for breakfast and check-out

Drive to Kanha

- Depart Bandhavgarh after breakfast (approx. 220 km · 5 hours)
- Scenic drive through the Satpura foothills and Mandla district forests
- Pass through the Kanha buffer zone – watch for wildlife even on the drive
- Arrive Kanha and check in to your jungle lodge

Drive: Bandhavgarh → Kanha · 220 km · 5 Hours

About Kanha National Park

- Kanha Tiger Reserve covers 940 sq km of core area – one of India's largest and most pristine national parks
- The park is divided into two main ranges: Kanha and Kisli – each with distinct landscapes and wildlife
- Kanha is the only park in the world where the rare Hardground Barasingha (swamp deer) has been saved from extinction – from just 66 animals in 1970 to over 800 today
- The park's vast open meadows (maidans) are among the most photogenic wildlife landscapes in India

Evening at the Lodge

- Settle into your lodge and enjoy a naturalist briefing on Kanha's wildlife and safari zones
- Dinner at the lodge
- Overnight at your jungle lodge in Kanha (Night 1 of 3)

Kanha — Full Day Safaris in the Jungle Book Landscape

Kanha is the park that gave the world the Jungle Book—Rudyard Kipling drew on the forest and wild life of this region to create Mowgli, Baloo, Bagheera and Shere Khan. Today, the park is one of India's finest—a vast, beautifully managed reserve where tigers roam open meadows, wild dogs hunt in packs and the rare Hardground Barasingha grazes in the golden grasslands. The scale and openness of Kanha creates a safari experience unlike any other in India.

Morning Safari — Kanha or Kisli Range

- Pre-dawn departure for the morning safari in Kanha's core zone
- The Kanha Range — centred on the magnificent Kanha Maidan (meadow) — offers some of the most spectacular open-country tiger sightings in India
- Watch for tigers crossing the meadow at dawn, gaur (Indian bison) grazing in the grasslands and the iconic Hardground Barasingha — found nowhere else on earth
- The Kisli Range offers denser forest and excellent leopard and wild dog sightings
- Look out for the rare Indian wild dog (dhole)—Kanha has one of India's largest dhole populations

Midday — Lodge & Jungle Book Heritage

- Return to lodge for breakfast and rest
- Optional visit to the Kanha Museum — dedicated to the park's conservation history and the Baiga tribal community
- Afternoon briefing and zone allocation for the evening safari

Please note: If today falls on a Wednesday, the afternoon safari will be replaced with a nature walk or Baiga village cultural visit as all Central India parks are closed on Wednesday afternoons.

Afternoon Safari — Mukki Range

- Afternoon safari in the Mukki Range — the southern sector of Kanha, less visited and excellent for undisturbed wildlife encounters
- Watch for tigers at the Mukki waterholes, sloth bears foraging in the forest edge and the park's extraordinary birdlife
- Over 300 bird species recorded in Kanha — including the Indian pitta, Malabar pied hornbill and the magnificent crested hawk-eagle
- Your naturalist will share stories of Kanha's famous tiger families and the park's remarkable conservation success

Evening & Overnight

- Return to lodge at sunset for dinner
- Overnight at your jungle lodge in Kanha (Night 2 of 3)

DAY 07

Kanha – Morning Safari & Drive to Pench Tiger Reserve

A fine morning in Kanha's magnificent meadows before the drive south to Pench—the forest that most directly inspired Kipling's Jungle Book. Pench straddles the border of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, and its landscape of teak, mahua and tendu trees, bisected by the Pench River and its reservoir, creates a hauntingly beautiful wilderness that feels like stepping into the pages of the book itself.

Morning – Final Kanha Safari

- Pre-dawn departure for a final morning safari in Kanha
- A last chance to encounter the Hardground Barasingha in the golden meadow light – one of India's rarest and most beautiful wildlife spectacles
- Watch for tigers at the dawn waterholes and gaur moving through the forest edge
- Return to lodge for breakfast and check-out

Drive to Pench

- Depart Kanha after breakfast (approx. 200 km • 4.5 hours)
- Drive south through the Satpura range and the forests of Seoni district – the very landscape Kipling described
- Arrive Pench and check in to your jungle lodge
- Lunch and afternoon rest at the lodge

Drive: Kanha → Pench • 200 km • 4.5 Hours

About Pench National Park

- Pench Tiger Reserve covers 758 sq km of tropical deciduous forest – teak, mahua, tendu and bamboo
- The park is bisected by the Pench River and the Turia reservoir – a vital water source that draws wildlife year-round
- Pench is famous for its wild dog (dhole) packs – some of the most reliably seen in India
- The park also supports tigers, leopards, sloth bears, jungle cats, spotted deer, sambar and nilgai
- Settle into your lodge, enjoy dinner and rest ahead of your first full safari day in Pench tomorrow
- Overnight at your jungle lodge in Pench (Night 1 of 2)

DAY 08

Pench — Full Day Safaris in Kipling's Forest

A full day in Pench—the forest where Mowgli was raised by wolves, where Baloo the bear taught the Law of the Jungle and where Shere Khan prowled the teak groves. Pench's landscape is more open than Kanha and more varied than Bandhavgarh—the Pench reservoir creates a vast wetland habitat that attracts extraordinary concentrations of birds and mammals, while the teak forest offers superb leopard and wild dog sightings.

Morning Safari — Turia or Jamtara Zone

- Pre-dawn departure for the morning safari in Pench's core zone
- The Turia Gate area — the most productive zone for tiger sightings, with open forest and good visibility
- Watch for tigers at the Pench reservoir's edge at dawn — one of the most atmospheric wildlife settings in India
- Excellent wild dog (dhole) sightings — Pench's packs are among the most active and visible in Central India
- Look for leopards in the teak trees, sloth bears at termite mounds and the park's remarkable variety of raptors

Midday — Reservoir & Birdwatching

- Return to lodge for breakfast and rest
- Optional visit to the Pench reservoir viewpoint — a spectacular birding location with painted storks, open-billed storks, kingfishers and fish eagles
- Afternoon briefing on the evening zone

Please note: If today falls on a Wednesday, the afternoon safari will be replaced with a nature walk or reservoir boat ride as all Central India parks are closed on Wednesday afternoons.

Afternoon Safari — Rukhad or Karmajhiri Zone

- Afternoon safari in a different zone for maximum variety
- The Rukhad area — excellent for spotted deer, sambar, nilgai and jungle cats in open grassland
- Watch for tigers at the afternoon waterholes — the heat of the day drives all wildlife to water
- The park's birdlife is exceptional — over 285 species recorded, including the Indian paradise flycatcher, Indian roller and the magnificent crested serpent eagle

Evening & Overnight

- Return to lodge at sunset for dinner
- Overnight at your jungle lodge in Pench (Night 2 of 2)

DAY 09

Pench — Morning Safari & Drive to Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve

A final morning in Pench before crossing the state border into Maharashtra and driving to Tadoba—the old stand largest national park in Maharashtra, and one of India's most celebrated tiger reserves. Tadoba is famous above all for its tigers—bold, habituated animals that are frequently seen in the open, often at close range at the park's famous waterholes. The landscape here is different again—drier, more rugged, with bamboo forests, teak groves and the shimmering Tadoba Lake at its heart.

Morning — Final Pench Safari

- Pre-dawn departure for a final morning safari in Pench
- A last chance to encounter Pench's wild dogs, leopards and tigers in the teak forest
- Return to lodge for breakfast and check-out

Drive to Tadoba

- Depart Pench after breakfast (approx. 200 km · 4.5 hours)
- Cross the Maharashtra state border — the landscape shifts from Madhya Pradesh's sal forests to Maharashtra's drier teak and bamboo woodland
- Pass through the Chandrapur district — the gateway to Tadoba
- Arrive Tadoba and check in to your jungle lodge

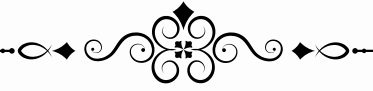
Drive: Pench → Tadoba · 200 km · 4.5 Hours

About Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve

- Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve covers 1,727 sq km — the largest protected area in Maharashtra
- The park is named after the Tadoba Lake and the Andhari River — both vital water sources for the park's wildlife
- Tadoba is famous for its bold, habituated tigers — the park has one of the highest tiger sighting rates in India
- The park also supports leopards, sloth bears, gaur, wild dogs, nilgai, sambar and over 195 bird species
- The Chimur Hills form the park's dramatic backdrop — a rugged landscape of bamboo, teak and flame-of-the-forest trees

Evening & Overnight

- Settle into your jungle lodge, enjoy dinner and rest ahead of your first full safari day in Tadoba tomorrow
- Overnight at your jungle lodge in Tadoba (Night 1 of 3)



DAY 10

Tadoba – Full Day Safaris in Maharashtra's Tiger Capital

Tadoba is where the tiger comes to you. The park's habituated tigers—many of them named and individually known to naturalists—are among the most frequently and closely observed in India. The Tadoba Lake and the Andhari River create a network of waterholes that concentrate wildlife in the dry season, and the park's relatively open bamboo and teak forest offers exceptional visibility. This is the park where wild life photographers come for the close encounter of a lifetime.

Morning Safari – Moharli or Tadoba Gate

- Pre-dawn departure for the morning safari in Tadoba's core zone
- The Moharli Gate – the most popular entry point, with excellent tiger sightings around the Tadoba Lake and Moharli waterhole
- Watch for tigers at the waterhole at dawn – Tadoba's tigers are known to linger at water for extended periods, offering extraordinary photographic opportunities
- Look for leopards in the bamboo, sloth bears at termite mounds and the park's large gaur herds
- The Andhari River corridor—excellent for wild dog sightings and crocodile basking on the banks

Midday – Lodge & Conservation Talk

- Return to lodge for breakfast and rest
- Optional talk by your naturalist on Tadoba's famous tiger families – Maya, Sonam, Choti Tara and the legendary tigresses of the Moharli range
- Afternoon briefing and zone allocation

Afternoon Safari – Kolsa or Navegaon Zone

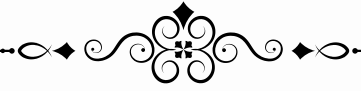
- Afternoon safari in the buffer zone—less visited and excellent for undisturbed wildlife encounters
- The Kolsa buffer – known for excellent leopard sightings and wild dog pack activity
- Watch for tigers at the afternoon waterholes – the dry season concentrates all wildlife at water sources
- Tadoba's birdlife is exceptional – watch for the Indian grey hornbill, changeable hawk-eagle and the spectacular painted stork colonies at the lake

Evening & Overnight

- Return to lodge at sunset for dinner
- Overnight at your jungle lodge in Tadoba (Night 2 of 3)

Please note: If today falls on a Wednesday, the afternoon safari will be replaced with a nature walk or conservation visit as all Central India parks are closed on Wednesday afternoons.





DAY 11

Tadoba – Final Safaris & Drive to Nagpur

A final full day in Tadoba – two last safari stovavour every moment of this extraordinary wild life reserve before the drive to Nagpur for the onward flight. Tadoba has a way of delivering its finest sightings on the last day – as if the jungle knows you are leaving and wants to give you one final, unforgettable encounter to carry home.

Morning – Final Tadoba Safari

- Pre-dawn departure for the final morning safari in Tadoba
- A last chance to encounter Tadoba's legendary tigers at the waterhole – perhaps the most reliable tiger sighting in all of India
- Watch for the park's sloth bears, leopards and the magnificent gaur in the morning light
- Return to lodge for breakfast

Afternoon – Optional Safari or Departure

- Optional final afternoon safari before check-out (subject to timing of Nagpur flight)
- If departing early, a guided nature walk around the lodge perimeter – excellent for birdwatching and smaller wildlife
- Check out of your jungle lodge after lunch

Drive: Tadoba → Nagpur · 150 km · 3 Hours | Fly: Nagpur → Delhi · 1.5 Hours

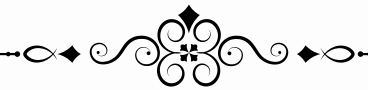
Drive to Nagpur

- Drive from Tadoba to Nagpur (approx. 150 km · 3 hours)
- Nagpur – the "Orange City" of Maharashtra and the geographical centre of India
- Optional stop at the Deekshabhoomi – the sacred monument where Dr B.R. Ambedkar converted to Buddhism in 1956, one of the largest Buddhist stupas in Asia
- Transfer to Nagpur International Airport for your onward flight to Delhi

Fly Nagpur to Delhi

- Board your flight from Nagpur to Delhi (approx. 1.5 hours)
- Connect to your international flight home, or overnight in Delhi if required
- Your Epic Indian Travel representative will assist with all departure formalities





Why Choose Epic Indian Travel?

Epic Indian Travel is India's premier Destination Management Company, recognized as the Best Bespoke Tour Operator. Our Central India Wildlife Safari is crafted by naturalists and wildlife specialists who know the jungles intimately—from the best zones for tiger sightings to the finest lodges positioned at the forest edge. Every safari permit, lodge booking and transfer is arranged in advance, so you can focus entirely on the wildlife.



Wildlife Specialists

Our naturalist guides are trained trackers with deep knowledge of tiger behaviour, jungle ecology and wildlife photography — your sighting success is our priority.



100% Customised

Every safari itinerary is built around your interests — whether you're a first-time wildlife traveller or an experienced photographer seeking specific species.



Expert Park Access

We secure the best safari zones and time slots at each park — Tala at Bandhavgarh, Kanha Maidan, Turia at Pench and Moharli at Tadoba — for maximum sighting opportunities.



24x7 Support

Round-the-clock assistance throughout your safari — from pre-dawn jeep departures to late-night wildlife briefings, we are always on hand.

Book Your Central India Wildlife Safari

Getting started is simple — just follow these steps and we'll handle everything else.

01

Send Us an Email

We'll put together a personalised safari itinerary tailored to your wildlife interests and photography goals.

02

Receive Your Itinerary

We'll put together a personalised safari itinerary tailored to your wildlife interests and photography goals.

03

Customise to Your Needs

Review and let us know any changes — we'll refine it until it's perfect.

04

We Share the Costs

Once finalised, we'll send you a detailed cost breakdown including all safari permits, lodge stays and transfers

05

Confirm and We Book

On your approval, we secure all safari permits, lodge bookings and ground arrangements

06

Advance Deposit

After confirmation, 50% advance deposit of land costs required, plus 100% of flight costs

07

Balance Payment

Remaining 50% of land costs payable 65 days prior to your safari.

