



Best of India — Epic Indian Travel

Offbeat Central India Tiger Safari — Tadoba, Pench & Satpura

Central India's vast forests extend far beyond the famous reserves of Kanha and Bandhavgarh. This off beat tiger safari begins in Delhi before taking you deep into three of India's most exciting and lesser-visited reserves—Tadoba, Pench and Satpura—straddling the border regions of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. With exceptional tiger sightings, megamammals like Leopard, Sloth Bear, Indian Wild Dog and Gaur, and land scapes immortalised in Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book, this safari offers a thrillingly different perspective on Central India's extraordinary wild life. Explore in open 4WD safari vehicles, canoes and on foot — guided by expert naturalists in parks where the crowds are fewer and the encounters are unforgettable.

Delhi — Gateway & Orientation [2 Nights]

India's vibrant capital serves as the perfect gateway — two nights to acclimatise, explore Delhi's iconic monuments and receive a full safari briefing before flying south to Nagpur and the jungle

Tadoba — Maharashtra's Finest Tiger Reserve [4 Nights]

A short 3-hour drive from Nagpur Airport, Tadoba is Maharashtra's oldest and most celebrated tiger reserve — renowned for bold tiger sightings, Sloth Bear, Indian Wild Dog and a rich prey base of Spotted Deer, Sambar, Gaur and more

Pench — The Jungle Book Landscape [3 Nights]

Crossing into Madhya Pradesh, Pench Tiger Reserve holds a legendary place in natural history — immortalised in Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book — with superb sightings of Tiger, Leopard, Dhole and one of the highest herbivore densities in India

Satpura — Wilderness by Jeep, Canoe & Foot [4 Nights]

Satpura offers a uniquely immersive safari experience — explore by open vehicle, canoe on the Denwa River and guided walks through pristine forest in search of Tiger, Leopard, Wolf, Sloth Bear and rare birds

Tour Route: 12 Nights / 13 Days • Delhi [2N] - Fly Nagpur - Tadoba [4N] - Pench [3N] - Satpura [3N] - Drive Nagpur - Fly Delhi / Home

Best season: October to April — dry season brings wildlife to waterholes and rivers, offering outstanding sightings across all three reserves. Safari vehicles are open 4WD with expert local naturalist guides.



Safari Tour Highlights



Three Offbeat Tiger Reserves

Tadoba, Pench and Satpura—three of Central India's most exciting and least-crowded reserves, each offering a distinct landscape and wildlife experience



Open 4WD Safari Vehicles

All game drives conducted in open 4-wheel-drive safari vehicles with expert local naturalist guides for maximum wildlife viewing and photography opportunities



Mega Mammal Diversity

Outstanding chances to see Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Indian Wild Dog (Dhole), Gaur, Striped Hyena and a rich prey base of Spotted Deer, Sambar and Nilgai



Canoe & Walking Safaris at Satpura

Satpura's unique multi-mode exploration—canoe safaris on the Denwa River and guided walking safaris through pristine forest— an experience unavailable in most Indian reserves



Exceptional Birdlife

All three reserves offer outstanding birding — from Indian Skimmer and Black-bellied Tern at Satpura to Mottled Wood Owl, Grey Junglefowl and Painted Sandgrouse at Tadoba



Nagpur — The Perfect Hub

All three reserves are accessible from Nagpur Airport — a convenient and well-connected hub that makes this offbeat circuit surprisingly easy to reach from any international gateway

ETIC INDIAN
— TRAVEL —



DAY 01

Arrive Delhi – Gateway to the Jungle

Delhi – India's ancient and modern capital—is the starting point for your off beat Central India tiger safari. Your Epic Indian Travel representative meets you on arrival at Indira Gandhi International Airport and transfers you to your hotel in the heart of the city. The evening is yours to rest, recover from your journey and begin absorbing the extraordinary energy of one of the world's great capitals.

Welcome Briefing

- Your naturalist guide joins you for a welcome dinner and a detailed briefing on the three reserves you will visit – Tadoba, Pench and Satpura – covering their landscapes, wildlife, safari zones and what to expect at each destination.
- Equipment check and any last-minute preparations for the safari ahead. Your guide is available to answer all questions about the itinerary, the parks and the wildlife you are likely to encounter.

Delhi – First Impressions

- Even on arrival day, Delhi makes an impression – the scale, the colour, the noise and the history of this 3,000-year-old city are immediately apparent. If time and energy permit, an evening walk in one of Delhi's historic neighbourhoods offers a vivid introduction to India.
- Tomorrow brings a full day to explore Delhi's extraordinary monuments before the flight south to Nagpur and the jungle.

Overnight

- Delhi | Meals: Dinner

DAY 02

Delhi – Monuments, Markets & Safari Briefing

A full day in Delhi – part sightseeing, part preparation. Delhi's UNESCO World Heritage monuments offer extraordinary subjects for the curious traveller: the geometric perfection of Humayun's Tomb, the soaring minaret of Qutb Minar, the vast Mughal grandeur of the Red Fort and the living chaos of Chandni Chowk market. In the afternoon, a final safari briefing and equipment check before tomorrow's early flight to Nagpur.

Morning – Mughal Delhi

- Visit Humayun's Tomb – the architectural precursor to the Taj Mahal – set in formal Mughal gardens and one of Delhi's most photogenic monuments. Continue to Qutb Minar, the world's tallest brick minaret, surrounded by the ruins of Delhi's earliest Islamic monuments.
- Lunch in one of Delhi's excellent restaurants – your guide will recommend the best options for authentic Delhi cuisine, from Old Delhi's legendary street food to the city's finest regional restaurants.

Afternoon – Markets & Briefing

- An afternoon in Chandni Chowk – Old Delhi's extraordinary bazaar district, a labyrinth of narrow lanes, spice markets, textile shops and street food stalls that has changed little in 400 years.
- Final safari briefing: camera settings, clothing, what to bring on safari, lodge facilities and the wildlife you are most likely to encounter at Tadoba, Pench and Satpura.

Overnight

- Delhi | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 03

Fly Delhi to Nagpur – Drive to Tadoba Tiger Reserve

An early morning flight from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport to Nagpur – the "Orange City" of Maharashtra and the gateway to Central India's offbeat tiger circuit. The flight takes approximately 1.5 hours, and on landing your driver and naturalist guide are waiting to begin the 3-hour drive east to Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve – Maharashtra's oldest and finest national park.

The Drive to Tadoba

- The drive from Nagpur to Tadoba passes through the flat agricultural plains of Vidarbha – Maharashtra's eastern heartland – before the landscape shifts to dry teak and bamboo forest as the reserve boundary approaches. The air changes, the road narrows and the jungle begins.
- Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve is one of India's most productive tiger destinations – a landscape of dry deciduous forest, bamboo groves, open grasslands and the shimmering Tadoba Lake that supports an extraordinary density of wildlife. Tigers here are bold and habituated to vehicles – sightings are frequent and often prolonged.

Arrive & Afternoon Safari

- Check in to your lodge on the buffer zone boundary and prepare for your first game drive. The afternoon safari enters Tadoba's core zone as the forest comes alive in the golden evening light – an immediate and thrilling immersion into one of India's finest wildlife habitats.
- The Tadoba Lake area is particularly productive in the late afternoon, with tigers, Sloth Bears and Gaur regularly seen at the water's edge.

Flight

Delhi to Nagpur – approximately 1.5 hours

Overnight

Tadoba | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 04

Tadoba – Second Full Day Safaris – Kolsa & Buffer Zones

A second full day in Tadoba opens up the reserve's lesser-explored zones—the Kolsa range and the buffer areas that border the core zone. These areas offer a different character to the Tadoba and Moharli zones—denser forest, quieter tracks and the chance to encounter wild life away from the main safari circuits. Leopards, Sloth Bears and Indian Wild Dogs are particularly active in these areas.

Morning safari

- The Kolsa zone in the southern part of the reserve is one of Tadoba's most scenic areas – a landscape of rolling hills, dense teak forest and rocky outcrops that provide ideal habitat for Leopard and Sloth Bear. Tiger sightings here are less frequent but often more dramatic, with cats moving through open terrain between forest patches.
- The buffer zone tracks offer excellent birding – Grey Junglefowl, Painted Sandgrouse, Indian Scimitar Babbler and Red Spurfowl are regularly encountered along the forest edges.

Afternoon safari

- A return to the core zone for the afternoon drive – the Tadoba Lake area in the late afternoon light is one of the reserve's most rewarding experiences, with tigers, Gaur and Sambar frequently seen at the water's edge as the sun drops behind the forest.

Wildlife highlights

Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Indian Wild Dog (Dhole), Gaur, Grey Junglefowl, Painted Sandgrouse, Indian Scimitar Babbler

Overnight

Tadoba | Meals: All meals

EPIC INDIAN
— TRAVEL —

DAY 05

Tadoba — Final Safaris & Drive to Pench Tiger Reserve

The final morning in Tadoba—one last dawn safari into the core zone before checking out and beginning the 5-hour drive north to Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh. The drive crosses the state border through scenic countryside, passing through small town sandagri cultur all and scapes before the forest closes in around Pench.

Morning safari

- A final game drive in Tadoba — often the most productive, as animals are active and the forest is at its most atmospheric in the early light. Depart after breakfast for the drive to Pench.
- Pench Tiger Reserve straddles the border of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra and holds a legendary place in the natural history of Central India. It was the landscape that inspired Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book — the forests of Seeonee where Mowgli, Baloo and Shere Khan came to life. The reserve is named after the Pench River, which flows through its heart, creating a ribbon of riparian habitat that attracts extraordinary concentrations of wildlife.

Afternoon arrival

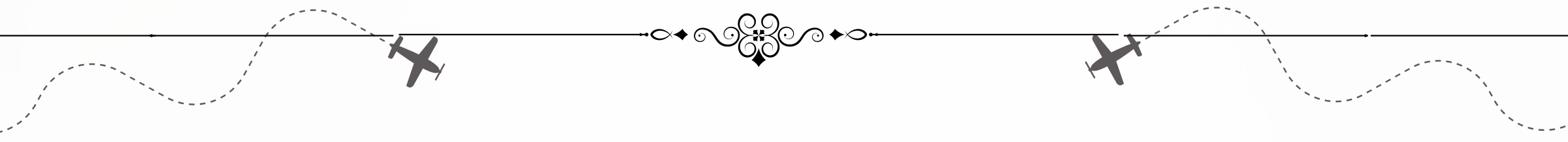
- Arrive Pench in the late afternoon. Check in to your lodge and join your naturalist guide for an evening briefing on the reserve's zones, wildlife and safari strategy for the following days.

Drive

Tadoba to Pench — approximately 5 hours

Overnight

Pench | Meals: All meals



DAY 06

Pench — First Full Day Safaris — The Jungle Book Landscape

Pench is a revelation — a landscape of mixed teak forest, open grasslands and the winding Pench River that feels both wild and deeply familiar to anyone

who has read Kipling's Jungle Book. There serve supports one of the highest herbivore densities in India, which in turn sustain a thriving population of tigers, leopards and dholes. Two full game drives today explore the heart of this legendary reserve.

Morning safari

- Enter the core zone at dawn — the Pench River corridor is the most productive area, with tigers, leopards and dholes frequently seen along the riverbanks and in the open grasslands. The high herbivore density — Spotted Deer, Sambar, Nilgai, Wild Boar and Gaur — means predator activity is constant and sightings are frequent.
- Pench's birdlife is equally outstanding. The reserve is home to over 285 species, including the Indian Pitta, Crested Serpent Eagle, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Indian Roller and numerous kingfishers along the river. The open forest structure makes birding from the safari vehicle exceptionally rewarding.

Afternoon safari

- A second drive into a different zone — exploring the buffer areas and the Turia Gate sector, where tiger sightings have been particularly consistent in recent seasons.

Wildlife highlights

Tiger, Leopard, Dhole (Indian Wild Dog), Sloth Bear, Gaur, Spotted Deer, Sambar, Indian Pitta, Crested Serpent Eagle

Overnight

Pench | Meals: All meals

DAY 07

Pench – Second Full Day Safaris – Turia Gate & River Corridor

A second full day in Pench 4 exploring there serve's northern sectors and the Turia Gate area, which has produced some of the most consistent tiger sightings in recent seasons. The Pench River corridor remains the heart of there serve, drawing wild life to its banks throughout the day and offering superb opportunities for watching predator-prey inter actions in open terrain.

Morning safari

- TheTuria Gate sector opens into a landscape of open grassland and mixed forest that is ideal for spotting Dhole packs on the hunt 4 Pench has one of the most reliable Dhole populations in Central India, and encounters with packs of 10320 animals are not uncommon.
- The river corridor at dawn is magical 4 Sambar and Spotted Deer come to drink, Mugger Crocodiles bask on the sandbanks, and the forest edges are alive with birdlife. Crested Serpent Eagle, Changeable Hawk-Eagle and Indian Roller are regularly seen.

Afternoon safari

- Anafternoondrive through the core zone 4 the forest in the late afternoon light takes on a golden quality that makes every sighting memorable. Tigers are frequently encountered on the main tracks as theybegin their evening patrol.

Wildlife highlights

Tiger,Dhole(IndianWildDog), Leopard, Mugger Crocodile, Sambar, SpottedDeer,CrestedSerpent Eagle, Indian Roller

Overnight

Pench | Meals:Allmeals

DAY 08

Pench — Final Safaris & Drive to Satpura Tiger Reserve

The final morning in Pench — one last dawn safari into the core zone before checking out and beginning the 7-hour drive west to Satpura Tiger Reserve. The drive passes through scenic Madhya Pradesh countryside—small towns, agricultural plains and the rising Satpura hills—before the forest closes in around the Denwa backwaters and the lodge comes into view.

Morning safari

- A final game drive in Pench — often the most rewarding, as three days of learning the reserve's rhythms and the animals' movements pays off with confident, targeted sightings. Depart after breakfast for the drive to Satpura.
- Satpura Tiger Reserve is one of India's most distinctive wildlife destinations — a landscape of rugged sandstone hills, dense sal and teak forest, and the Denwa River backwaters that offer a uniquely immersive safari experience unavailable anywhere else in Central India.

Arrive Satpura

- Arrive at your eco lodge on the Denwa backwaters in the late afternoon. The lodge setting — surrounded by forest with views across the reservoir to the hills — is one of the most atmospheric in Central India. Evening briefing with your naturalist guide on Satpura's zones, wildlife and the multi-mode safari programme.

Drive

Pench to Satpura — approximately 7 hours

Overnight

Satpura | Meals: All meals

EPIC INDIAN
TRAVEL

DAY 09

Satpura — First Full Day — Jeep Safari & Canoe on the Denwa

Satpura is unlike any other tiger reserve in India. Here, the safari experience extends beyond the open 4WD vehicle to include canoe safaris on the Denwa River backwaters and guided walking safaris through pristine forest — a multi-sensory immersion in the wilderness that transforms the way you experience wildlife. Today combines a morning jeep safari with an afternoon canoe on the Denwa.

Morning jeep safari

- Enter the core zone at dawn in an open 4WD vehicle — Satpura's rugged sandstone terrain, dense sal forest and rocky outcrops create a landscape that feels ancient and untouched. Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear and Gaur are the headline species, but the reserve is equally celebrated for its Wolf population and the rare Rusty Spotted Cat.
- The forest is rich with birdlife — Indian Skimmer, Black-bellied Tern, White-naped Woodpecker, Malabar Pied Hornbill and Crested Treeswift are among the notable species found here and nowhere else in the Central India circuit.

Afternoon canoe safari

- A canoe safari on the Denwa River backwaters — gliding silently through the water with the forest rising on both banks. Mugger Crocodiles, Smooth-coated Otters, Indian Skimmers and a wealth of waterbirds are encountered at close range from the canoe. The silence and intimacy of this experience is extraordinary.

Wildlife highlights

Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Wolf, Gaur, Mugger Crocodile, Smooth-coated Otter, Indian Skimmer, Malabar Pied Hornbill

Overnight

Satpura | Meals: All meals



DAY 10

Satpura — Walking Safari & Night Drive in the Buffer Zone

Day eleven brings Satpura's most exclusive experience — a guided walking safari through the forest. Walking in tiger country is a privilege available in very few Indian reserves, and Satpura is one of the finest destinations for this activity. Led by an expert naturalist forest guard, the walk reveals the forest at a pace and intimacy impossible from a vehicle.

Morning walking safari

- The walking safari begins at dawn — entering the forest on foot, tracking pugmarks, reading the landscape and experiencing the jungle through all the senses. Smaller mammals, reptiles, insects and birds that are invisible from a vehicle become the focus — the forest floor reveals a world of extraordinary detail.
- Encounters with large mammals on foot — Gaur, Sambar, Spotted Deer and occasionally Sloth Bear — are thrilling and humbling in equal measure. The naturalist guide reads the forest with expert precision, ensuring safety while maximising wildlife encounters.

Evening night drive

- Satpura's buffer zone permits night drives — a rare opportunity in Indian wildlife tourism. After dinner, a spotlight drive through the buffer tracks offers the chance to encounter nocturnal species: Striped Hyena, Jungle Cat, Rusty Spotted Cat, Small Indian Civet, Common Mongoose and the elusive Honey Badger.

Wildlife highlights

Sloth Bear, Gaur, Sambar, Striped Hyena, Jungle Cat, Rusty Spotted Cat, Small Indian Civet, Honey Badger

Overnight

Satpura | Meals: All meals

DAY 11 / 12

Satpura – Final Safari & Drive to Nagpur – Fly Delhi / Home

The final morning of the safari begins at Satpura with one last dawn game drive & a chance to say farewell to the forest and its extraordinary wild life. After breakfast, check out and begin the drive south to Nagpur Airport through the Satpura hills and the Vidarbha plains, with a flight back to Delhi and onward connections home.

Final morning safari

- The last game drive of the safari & by now, three days in Satpura have revealed the reserve's rhythms, its wildlife and its extraordinary character. The morning light over the Denwa backwaters, the sound of the forest awakening and the possibility of one final tiger sighting make this last drive as charged with anticipation as the first.
- Depart after breakfast for the drive to Nagpur & approximately 536 hours through scenic countryside. Arrive Nagpur in the early afternoon for your flight to Delhi.

Fly Delhi / Home

- Fly from Nagpur to Delhi for onward international connections, or spend a final night in Delhi before flying home. Your Epic Indian Travel representative will assist with all onward arrangements.
- This safari can be combined with Corbett, Ranthambhore, Kaziranga or other parks. Write to us for a detailed itinerary, quote or to customise this tour.

Drive

Satpura to Nagpur & approximately 536 hours

Overnight

Delhi (if required) | Meals: Breakfast



Why Choose Epic Indian Travel for Your Wildlife Safari?

Epic Indian Travel is India's premier off beat wildlife safari operator—specialising in lesser-visited reserves like Tadoba, Pench and Satpura, and trusted for the quality of our naturalist guides, small group safaris, carefully selected lodges and deep conservation partnerships. Our Wildlife Safari is designed from the ground up to deliver immersive, responsible and memorable encounters with India's forests, grasslands and rivers.



Offbeat Wildlife Focus

We specialise in lesser-visited reserves where the experience feels more intimate, more authentic and more rewarding — with fewer vehicles, more space and a stronger sense of wilderness.



Expert Naturalist Guides

Our guides bring deep knowledge of animal behaviour, habitats and local ecology — helping you read the forest, understand the signs and get the most from every safari.



Small Group Safaris

We keep our safaris intimate and well paced, ensuring more personal attention, better viewing comfort and a calmer experience in the field.



Multi-Mode Safari Experiences

Beyond the classic jeep safari, we can arrange canoe rides, walking experiences and other immersive ways to explore the landscape, depending on the destination and season.

Book Your Wildlife Safari

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

01

Send Us an Email

Write to epicindiantravel@gmail.com with your details: number of participants, preferred destinations and travel dates.

02

Receive Your Itinerary

We'll put together a personalised wildlife safari itinerary tailored to your interests, travel style and preferred reserves.

03

Customise to Your Needs

Review and let us know any changes — we'll refine the lodge selection, safari mix and routing until it fits your plans perfectly.

04

We Share the Costs

Once finalised, we'll send you a detailed cost breakdown including safari permits, eco lodge stays, transfers and any special activities.

05

Confirm and We Book

On your approval, we secure all permits, lodge bookings and ground arrangements — including the best available access for your chosen destinations.

06

Combine Other Parks

Your safari can be customised to include Corbett, Ranthambhore, Kaziranga and other parks, creating a wider wildlife journey across India.

07

Conservation Partnerships

We work closely with conservation-focused partners and local communities to support responsible travel and long-term protection of wild places.

