



aranya
by sita

Redefining The Wildlife Experiences

FINDING YOURSELF

Women's only Tour

Tour Leader – Mugdha Deshpande | 28th February – 16th March, 2027



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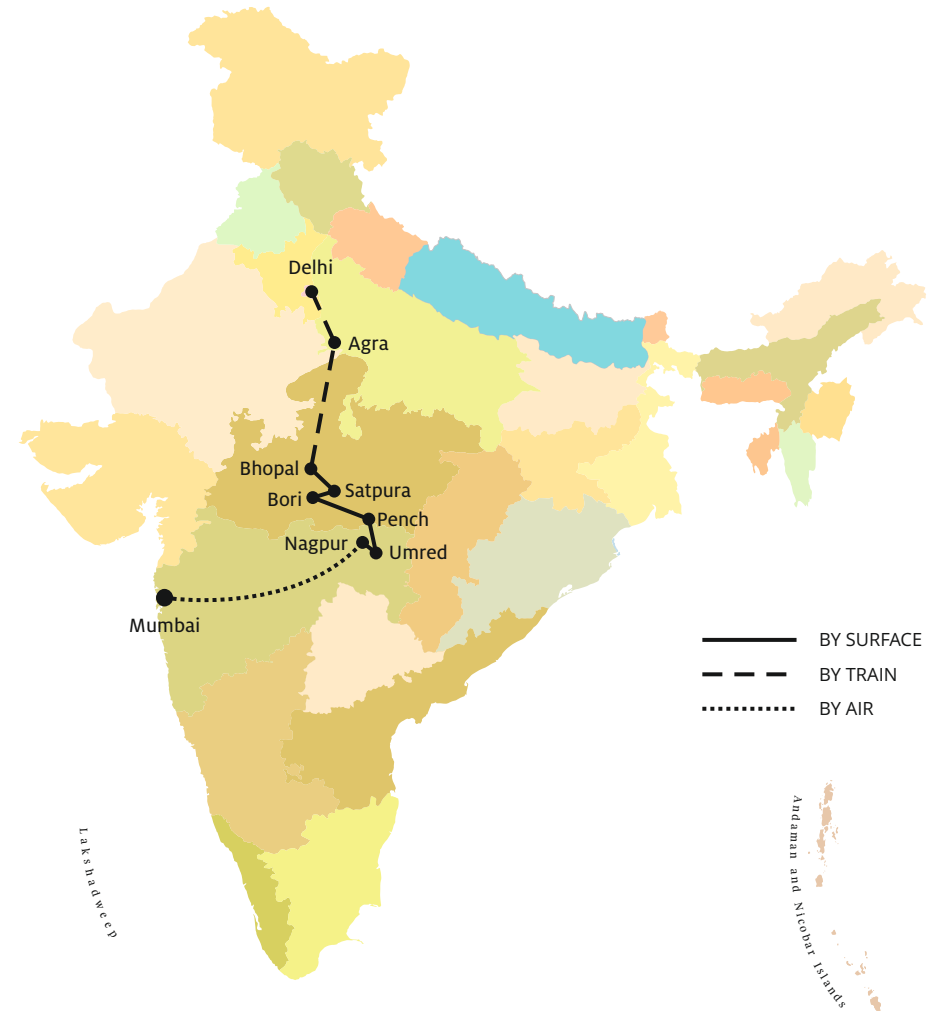
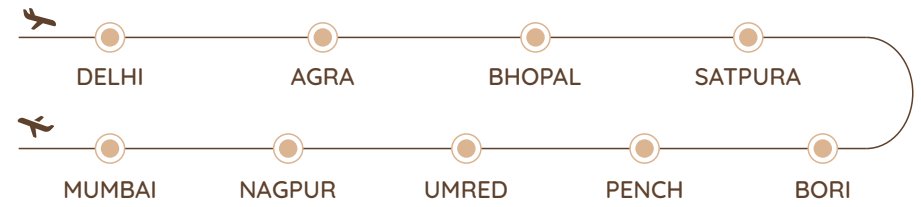
Tour Leader – Mugdha Deshpande

Originally from Mumbai, Mugdha Deshpande is a dedicated wildlife conservationist whose work bridges the gap between nature and modern development. After completing her master's in wildlife Conservation, she is now pursuing a Ph.D. focused on human-wildlife coexistence in urban and semi-urban landscapes, developing strategies to maintain ecological corridors amid expanding cities.

Her journey began as a resident naturalist, interpreting wilderness for travellers and fostering awareness about biodiversity. Later, as an accompanying tour leader, she curated immersive journeys across India's forests, blending education with experience. Today, Mugdha works full-time with Aranya by Sita, where she designs responsible travel programs that emphasize sustainability, conservation, and meaningful engagement with nature.



Map



Tour Highlights

- A tour designed for you, by you — to find yourself in Tiger Country. A special Women’s Journey, led by a woman wildlife expert.
- A visit to Agra to witness the timeless beauty of the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Wonders of the World.
- Explore four iconic national parks in Central India—Satpura, Bori, Pench, and Umred—each offering unique landscapes and incredible wildlife sightings, from majestic tigers to rare birds.
- End the journey in Mumbai, India's vibrant metropolis by the sea. Explore its cultural heritage, indulge in shopping, and enjoy a curated Five Senses Tour before relaxing at the iconic Taj Mahal Palace overlooking the Gateway of India.
- Explore more than just culture and wildlife—connect with local communities through immersive activities, authentic interactions, and shared experiences that bring the heart of India to life.
- Wellness is an integral part of this journey—we'll incorporate rejuvenating activities throughout the tour, ensuring a balanced experience for mind, body, and soul.
- High-quality camera equipment and accessories of top brands are available on a rental basis.
- Maximum group size of 9 clients + Tour Leader ensures personalized attention and an intimate experience.
- The March departure is scheduled to align with International Women's Day.



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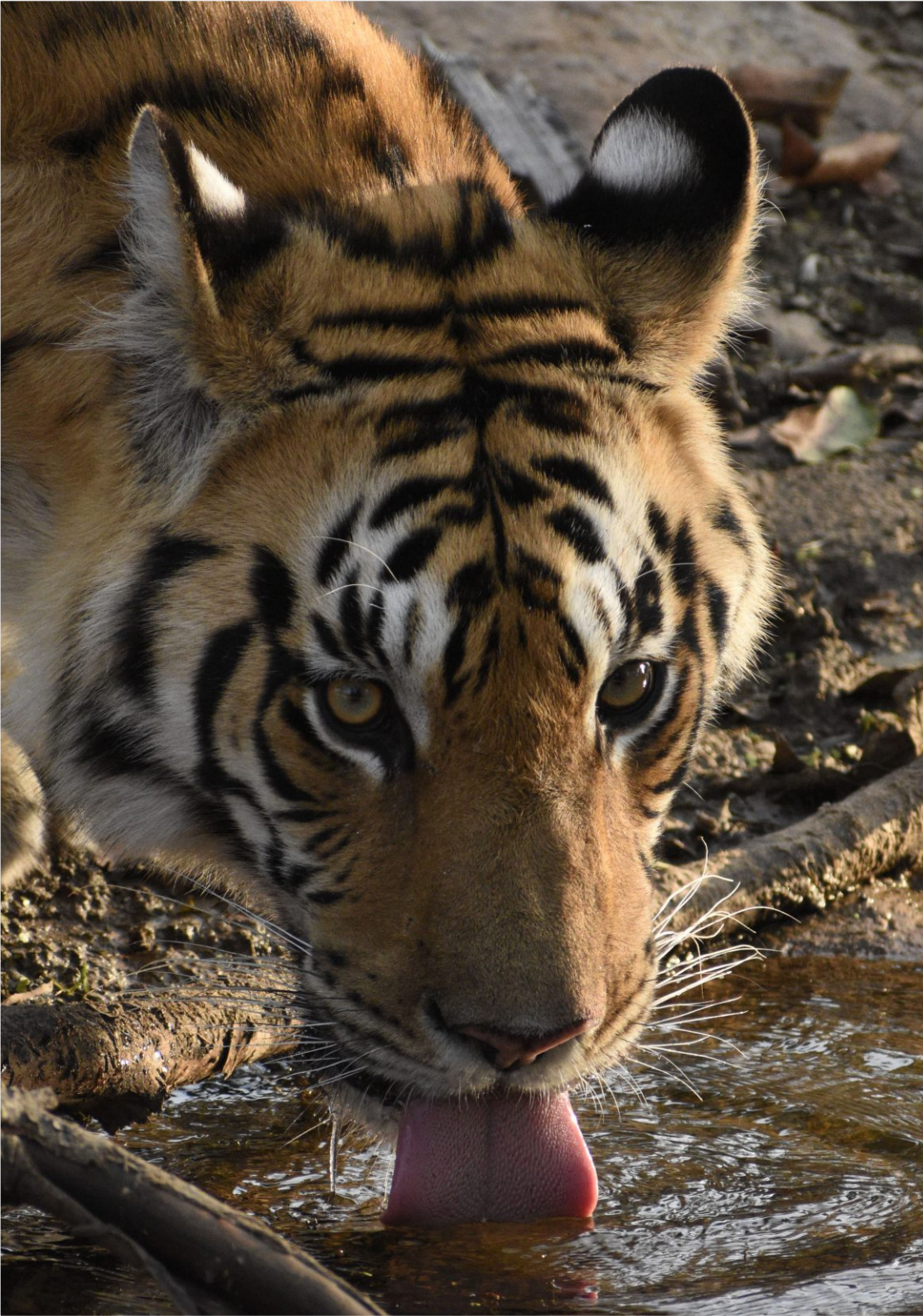
Park Highlights

Satpura Tiger Reserve

- Rugged terrain with deep valleys, sandstone peaks, and thick forests.
- Wildlife includes sloth bears, leopards, wild dogs (dholes), giant squirrels, and rich birdlife.
- Activities: jeep safaris, walking trails, canoe rides on Denwa backwaters, and village visits.
- A park for explorers—less crowded, more immersive.
- Denwa Backwater Escape: Known for its stunning backwater views and eco-friendly cottages, creating a calming retreat close to nature.

Bori Wildlife Sanctuary

- One of India's oldest forest reserves, still quiet and untouched.
- Wildlife: tigers, leopards, gaur, and diverse bird species.
- Beautiful landscape with rolling hills, rivers, and sal forests.
- Perfect for offbeat safaris and peaceful evenings by the river.
- Bori Safari Lodge: Offers a boutique stay with warm hospitality and curated experiences that feel personal and enriching.



Pench National Park

- Famous as the setting for Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book".
- Classic tiger country with open meadows, teak forests, and rivers.
- Wildlife: tigers, leopards, wild dogs, and herds of deer.
- Experiences include game drives, cycling in the village, forest bathing and local cooking sessions.
- Pench Tree Lodge: Offers unique stilted cottages that combine comfort and privacy, along with a sprawling farm and a dedicated photography hide for nature enthusiasts.

Umred–Pauni–Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary

- Known for its healthy tiger population and open grasslands.
- Combines wildlife adventure with wellness—spa therapies, meditation, and slow living.
- Bamboo Forest Safari Lodge: Blends wellness and wilderness beautifully, making it perfect for relaxation and rejuvenation.

Detailed Itinerary



Sunday | Day 1 | Arrive in Delhi

Today, you arrive in Delhi and take some time to relax. You check into The Imperial, a luxurious hotel known for its elegant design and exceptional service. Located close to the airport, it offers world-class amenities, elegant rooms, and a range of dining options, making it the perfect spot for you to unwind after the journey. Meet your accompanying naturalist over a high tea.

Monday | Day 2 | Delhi – Agra

Take an early morning train to Agra. After arrival, we will proceed to visit Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site showcasing the grandeur of Mughal architecture. Later in the evening, we will experience the Taj Mahal at sunset, capturing its stunning marble glow during the golden hour. After sightseeing, we will check in at Tajview, Agra, known for its luxury. Overnight stay at Tajview, Agra.



Tuesday | Day 3 | Agra – Bhopal

After the morning, you head to the railway station and catch an early morning Shatabdi train to Bhopal. On reaching Bhopal, take a short 30-minute drive to Jehan Numa Retreat, a serene hideaway on the city's outskirts.

The retreat is surrounded by forested hills and open green spaces, with pathways and gardens that blend into the landscape. Rooms are designed for comfort without excess, creating a calm and unhurried atmosphere. Settle in, enjoy dinner, and relax overnight.

Wednesday | Day 4 | Bhopal – Satpura

Start the day slow at the retreat before driving 3 hours to Satpura National Park. The journey is scenic, passing through rural landscapes and forested stretches.

Check in at Denwa Backwater Escape, a lodge overlooking the tranquil Denwa backwaters. Its cottages blend into the surroundings, offering views of water and forest. After lunch, spend the afternoon boating on the Denwa backwaters, a unique way to see the landscape and wildlife.

Later, enjoy sundowners by the river as the sky changes color, followed by dinner and overnight stay at the lodge.



Thursday | Day 5 | Satpura

Begin with yoga and meditation in natural surroundings, letting the forest set the tone for the day. After breakfast, take a guided walk to a nearby village for local interaction and tea.

Return to the lodge for lunch and a short rest. In the afternoon, head out for a safari in Satpura, exploring its diverse wildlife and rocky landscapes. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.

Friday | Day 6 | Satpura

Start early with a sunrise game drive to experience the forest waking up. After lunch, go for another game drive in the park.

Saturday | Day 7 | Satpura – Bori

After a morning safari, drive 2 hours to Bori Safari Lodge, set near the forest edge. The lodge offers spacious rooms and open areas, designed for quiet and comfort.

The rest of the day is free for relaxation or spa therapies. Dinner and overnight stay at the lodge.



Sunday | Day 8 | Bori

Set out early for a morning game drive in Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, known for its rich biodiversity and scenic terrain. Return to the lodge for lunch and a short rest.

In the afternoon, explore a different part of the forest on another safari. Dinner and overnight stay at the lodge.

Monday | Day 9 | Bori

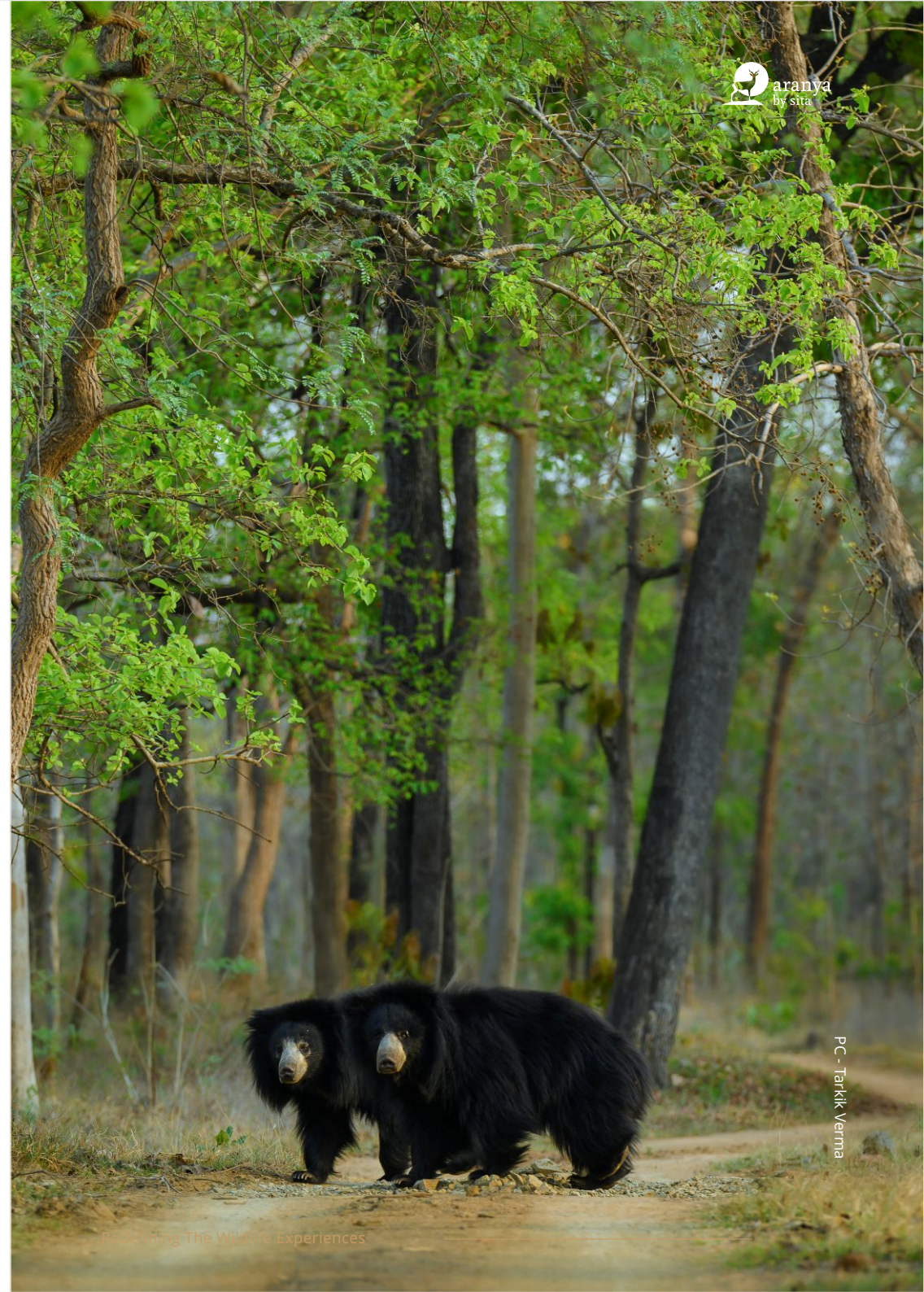
Enjoy another early morning game drive, soaking in the wilderness at sunrise. The afternoon is kept relaxed for rest and time at the lodge.

In the evening, head to the river for a quiet sundowner through a quick village visit, followed by dinner and overnight stay.

Tuesday | Day 10 | Bori – Pench

Begin the day with a gentle yoga session followed by breakfast. After checking out, drive about 5 hours to Pench National Park.

Check in at Pench Tree Lodge, tucked within a quiet forest. Cottages are spaced among trees, offering privacy and calm. After lunch, join a hands-on cooking session with the lodge team.



Wednesday | Day 11 | Pench

Enjoy morning game drive in Pench, exploring different habitats and zones.

In the afternoon, cycle to a nearby village for local interaction and enjoy a sundowner in a rural setting. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight stay.

Thursday | Day 12 | Pench

Start with an early morning safari, then return for a relaxed late morning and lunch. In the afternoon, go back in the jungle for another safari. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight stay.

Friday | Day 13 | Pench – Umred

After breakfast, drive about 4 hours to Umred–Pauni–Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary.

Stay at Bamboo Forest Nature Conservancy, a nature and wellness retreat designed for slow living. After lunch, head out for an afternoon safari.



Saturday | Day 14 | Umred

This day is dedicated to rest and rejuvenation. Enjoy spa therapies, meditation sessions, and quiet time in nature.

No safaris are scheduled, allowing you to fully unwind. Dinner and overnight stay at the lodge.

Sunday | Day 15 | Umred – Nagpur – Mumbai

After morning drive in the park, you head for about two hours to Nagpur Airport to catch your flight to Mumbai (6E 818 16:00/17:35). Once you arrive, you relax and unwind at the iconic Taj Mahal Palace, a historic luxury hotel overlooking the Gateway of India. Known for its grand architecture and world-class hospitality, it offers an unforgettable stay. In the evening, you visit the Sea Lounge at the hotel and savor delicious Indian street food while enjoying stunning views of the Arabian Sea.



Monday | Day 16 | Mumbai

Today in the morning, after breakfast, you will experience the Five Senses Tour followed by shopping in Mumbai. Experience Mumbai through all five senses as you explore iconic landmarks, learn Bollywood dance from a pro, savour a delicious local meal, wander through the aromatic Spice Market, and make a meaningful impact by visiting a local NGO—or enjoy an authentic train ride if the NGO isn't available. This immersive day lets you see, hear, taste, smell, and feel the real Mumbai.

At night, bid farewell to your accompanying tour leader.

Tuesday | Day 17 | Fly Back

After breakfast, check out and transfer to the airport for your flight back home.



Hotels



Hotels

The Imperial Delhi

A Grand Dame of the East, The Imperial New Delhi is India's iconic heritage luxury hotel, creating legacy moments since 1936. Evoking the opulence of a 19th-century palatial estate, its majestic blend of Victorian, Art Deco, and Lutyens' architecture sets the stage for culturally immersive stay experiences, transformative wellness, and high-touch culinary curation. From marble colonnades and hand-knotted Persian carpets to illustrious accommodations and storied hallways, every corner of this Best Hotel in Delhi—an eight-acre oasis, is infused with history, art and tradition offering soulful sojourns—inviting luxury travellers to unlock timeless moments in the heart of the capital.



Tajview, Agra

Discover Tajview Agra – IHCL SeleQtions, a premium 5-star intimate hotel that offers unmatched views of the Taj Mahal, built in 1648 by Emperor Shah Jahan in honour of Empress Mumtaz Mahal. Renowned for its blend of heritage charm, modern elegance and personalised hospitality, Tajview is the perfect retreat in the romantic city of Agra.



Jehan Numa Retreat Bhopal

Welcome to Jehan Numa Retreat, a stunning 5-star hotel in Bhopal that promises unmatched leisure experiences and top-tier facilities. Enjoy a delightful holiday at our distinctive and elegant resort, designed to leave you longing for another visit!



Denwa Backwater Escape Satpura

Denwa Backwater Escape, by Pugdundee Safaris is an eco-luxury, wildlife resort in Satpura National Park. This idyllic getaway is nestled in the densely forested land of Madhai, along the backwaters of the meandering Denwa River. Built on 10 acres of lush forest cover; our eco-luxury wildlife resort offers stunning views of the Denwa River, the rolling Pachmarhi hills and rolling grasslands of Satpura.



Bori Safari Lodge Bori

Tucked amidst the lush and rustic locale of Dhapada village, Bori Safari Lodge is a charming resort in Madhya Pradesh that offers the perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Soak in the raw beauty of nature as you stay in this village lodge located near the Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, nestled amidst a 7.5-acre farmland estate. We offer you a complete experience of village life while keeping in mind the comfort of a contemporary traveller.



Pench Tree Lodge Pench

Pench Tree Lodge is the refuge of the au courant, adventurous, and eco-sensitive 'Mowgli'. Nestled in a large estate of 40 acres, in the Karmajhiri area of Pench National Park, it's the first resort in Pench to be set up in this underdeveloped zone which supports our conservation policy of spreading the benefits of tourism far & beyond. The objective is not to overcrowd areas & make them unsustainable.



Bamboo Forest Nature Conservancy Umred

Welcome to Bamboo Forests Nature Conservancy in Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary, Gothangaon. Immerse yourself in a unique retreat featuring ten luxury nests perched above the ground, elegantly integrated into the natural landscape. Experience opulence while majestic tigers and wildlife freely roam beneath you. Our commitment to conservation and community development ensures an unforgettable stay that contributes to the preservation of this ecological haven. Discover the magic of Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary at our exclusive sanctuary where luxury meets untamed beauty.





Taj Mahal Palace Mumbai

As the leading harbour icon in India, The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai commands a regal view of the Gateway of India and the Arabian Sea. It epitomises the enduring commitment to excellence, heritage, and service that the Taj brand is renowned for globally. Since 1903, our luxury hotel in Mumbai has hosted illustrious guests, including royalty and dignitaries.



Star wildlife of the tour

- Tiger
- Leopard
- Wild Dog (Dhole)
- Sloth Bear
- Jackal
- Gaur (Indian Bison)
- Sambar Deer
- Chital (Spotted Deer)
- Nilgai (Blue Bull)
- Wild Boar
- Langur
- Rhesus Macaque
- Giant Squirrel
- Indian Paradise Flycatcher
- Malabar Pied Hornbill
- Crested Serpent Eagle
- Grey Junglefowl
- Bar-headed Goose
- Monitor Lizard
- Marsh Crocodile ... And many more

Top Tips Before You Travel

- **Travel Documents:** Carry a valid passport to all national parks.
- **Clothing & Gear:** Pack light, comfortable clothing in neutral colors for safaris. Carry a warm layer for early morning drives and evenings. Good walking shoes and a hat are essential.
- **Photography Equipment:** Mobile phones are banned in Central

India. Bring your camera, extra batteries, and memory cards. High-quality camera gear is available on a rental basis—book in advance if needed.

- **Health & Safety:** Carry personal medication and a basic first-aid kit. Mosquito repellent and sunscreen are recommended. Stay hydrated during safaris and walks.
- **Cash & Payments:** ATMs may not be easily accessible in remote areas—carry some cash for tips and small purchases. Most lodges accept cards, but connectivity can be patchy.
- **Connectivity:** Mobile networks may be weak in forest areas—wifi could be patchy sometimes. Enjoy the digital detox and immerse yourself in nature!
- **Weather Check:** March is pleasant, but mornings can be chilly.
- Daytime highs around 35 °C (96 °F), with nighttime lows near 18 °C (64 °F).



24 Hour Assistance

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