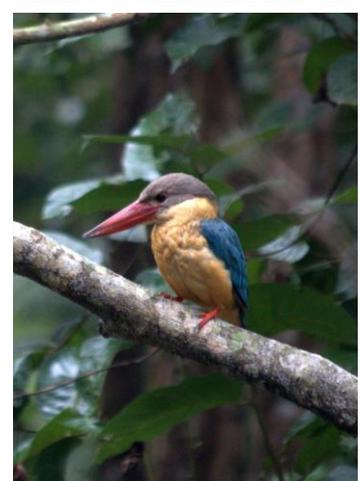
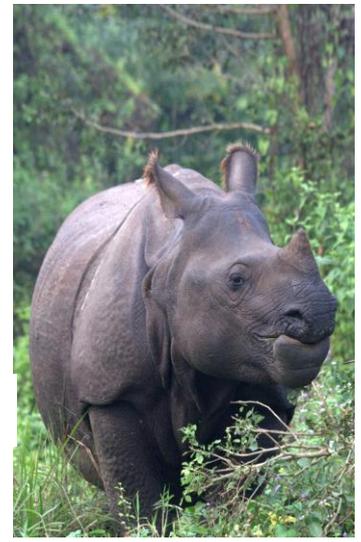


Wild Nepal

Destination: Chitwan, Nepal **Duration:** 11 Days **Dates:** 12th – 23rd Nov

-  Tracking Tigers on foot through the grasslands and forests of Chitwan NP
-  Enjoying fantastic sightings of Crested Serpent Eagles & Changeable Hawk Eagles
-  Being between a Rhino and wild bull Asiatic Elephant in the long grass
-  Spotting a large Critically Endangered Gharial along the Rapti River banks
-  Having 8 different sightings of Asiatic One-Horned Rhinos
-  Stumbling into a sleeping Rhino in the long grass and making a hasty retreat
-  Watching a Wild Boar with her 8 stripy piglets as they foraged next to the road
-  Waking up to the sound of Rhinos feeding after a night in the jungle night tower
-  Observing close to 100 different species of birds throughout the tour
-  Seeing a young Rhino getting a bit too close to a small Muger Crocodile



Tour Leader / Guides

Martin Royle (Royle Safaris Tour Leader)
 Dambar (Ground Agent in Nepal)
 Binda & Hari (Guides at Gorkha Hamlet)
 Bubunda (Jeep Driver at Gorkha Hamlet)
 Siva (Waiter & Canoe Guide at Gorkha Hamlet)

Participants

Mr. Tom Starr
 Mr. Brian Chalk

Overview

Day 1:	Kathmandu
Days 2-3:	Chitwan
Day 4:	Night Tower
Days 5-10:	Chitwan
Day 11:	Kathmandu
Days 12:	Home



Day by Day Breakdown

Overview

Walking through the long grass of Nepal's Terai region in search of the elusive Tiger or majestic One-Horned Rhino is one of the most thrilling and adventurous things any wildlife enthusiast can do. This 10 day tour took ourselves deep into the Terai (the subtropical belt of forest from Uttarakhand in North West India through to Burma in the East), which is home to the last remaining Asian One-Horned Rhinos (a population split between Chitwan National Park in Nepal and Kaziranga National Park in India) as well as a large meta-population of Tigers and many other species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The region is so good for wildlife it boasts large populations of Sloth Bear, Asiatic Elephant, Hog Deer and other mammals which are endangered elsewhere in their range. In addition to the mammals the critically endangered Gharial is also present here in good numbers.

Whilst exploring the Terai (principally in search of the very difficult to see Tiger) we would explore two of Nepal's largest and best national parks; Chitwan and then Bardia. We would enter these parks with the expert guidance of experienced naturalists from three different resorts and would experience the parks on foot, by jeep, on elephant back and by traditional dug-out canoe. This varied way of visiting the park increased the chances of seeing a huge range of wildlife and the number of mammals and birds we found is testimony to that.

In addition to Chitwan and Bardia National Parks we also visited some of the local communities and enjoyed their dancing, culture, architecture and history. We also visited Nepal's only Blackbuck sanctuary, this wild population of the endangered antelope is kept in a large open sanctuary where the population can be monitored with a view to one day releasing them back into Bardia National Park.

The last part of the trip took our guests over the high Himalayas and further east to the small and unique Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. Here they experienced this wonderful country first hand and visited several of the famous Dzongs along the Paro - Thimpu road, before completing the steep walk up to the awe-inspiring Taksang Monastery which hangs precipitously from invisible threads and clings to the vertical side of the cliff face.

All in all this comprehensive overview of the Terai's wildlife, people and culture, coupled with the Himalayan experience of Drukpa Buddhism from Bhutan is a treat for anyone who wants to get closer to nature than usual whilst giving back and interacting with traditional local communities.



Day 1 Kathmandu

Arrival & Sightseeing

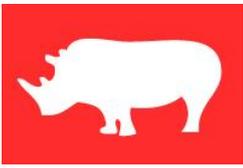
On arrival at Kathmandu International Airport you met your tour leader, Martin Royle and with the help of the local driver, you were transferred into the heart-beat of Kathmandu, the buzzing district of Thamel. After settling into the accommodation and a keep freshen up we left for the traveller's institution that is The Kathmandu Guest House for a hearty dinner. Afterwards an early night was on the cards after a long flight and a 6 hour bus journey tomorrow.

Day 2 Chitwan National Park

Travel & Wildlife Watching

This morning we boarded the tourist bus from Kathmandu to Chitwan National Park. The journey takes you out of the Kathmandu Valley and through the Shivalik hills before entering the flat lowlands of the Terai. Here you transect the interspersed Tharu villages, industrial Indian border towns, rice paddies and community buffer zone forests. In fact it is these community zone forests which have made the Nepalese Terai a real success with conservation. The wildlife (including Tigers, Rhinos and Elephants) can all move freely between the 9 protected areas in the Terai and this landscape will form a crucial part of Panthera's long term project for a Tiger Corridor linking North West Indian Tiger populations with ones through Nepal, North East India, Bhutan and Burma.

Well after around 5-6 hours of winding mountainous roads we reached the small and now very touristy village of Sauraha and after a very short jeep transfer we arrived at the accommodation. Lunch was promptly served and then our afternoon outing the park (via a jeep safari) was arranged. During the drive around the famous 20,000 Lake area we saw many species of birds, including great sightings of the colourful Indian Peafowls as well as many Woolly-necked Storks, Lesser Adjudant Storks and couple of very beautiful Crested Serpent Eagles. In addition to the birds we got good views of two of the 4 species of deer that Chitwan has to offer, the very common and elegant Spotted Deer (Chital) and the small and solitary Barking Deer (Indian Muntjac), as well as very bold female Wild Boar with her 8 very young stripy piglets. It is very unusual to see such young piglets close to a road and a jeep and unfortunately they will probably not survive as they seemed to lack the natural fear they should have at that age. We also saw a great Mugger Crocodile (approx 2m plus) sunning himself in the last of the afternoon sun on the far bank of the 20,000 Lake.



We also went for a brief walk around a smaller lake close to one of the local villages and despite lots of Rhino tracks everywhere we didn't find one. But Tom did spot an unidentified raptor perched in a distance tree. After dinner we got a good nights sleep after a couple of long days travelling and in preparation for our first full day spent inside the park, tracking down Tigers and Rhinos.



Day 3 Chitwan National Park

Wildlife Watching

This morning after breakfast we headed out into the park for our first full day jungle walk and our first chance to track the elusive Tiger on foot. As soon as we crossed over the Rapti River via one of the dug out canoes we noticed fresh wild Elephant tracks all over the beach and road. Hari explained that he has seen a bull Elephant in the Sauraha village at around 3:00am this morning (what he was doing in the village at that time we don't know) but it was probable that there was an Elephant around here somewhere. The males often come into and around the village and buffer area to mate with the 'easy' domesticated elephants in the Elephant Breeding Centre, private and government Elephant stables. We began the walk through the forest and came across some of the more commonly seen animals, Chital, Barking Deer and Red Jungle Fowl as well as a very unusual hammerhead flat worm of some sort. We saw many tracks in the forest and the most interesting signs were made from a medium sized cat (possibly a young Leopard or adult Clouded Leopard) and it wasn't long before a relatively large scat was found on a branch around 5ft of the ground, these clues coupled with some narrow claw rakes heading up a tree at a steep angle lead me towards the presence of a Clouded Leopard in this area. However to find and see a Clouded Leopard is incredibly rare and I am yet to hear of a place where they are reliably seen. Other interesting signs included a couple of large (berry filled) Sloth Bear scats (we were told by Binda that the day before he has encountered a Sloth Bear here) and later on we saw Tiger prints from a female and her still dependant cub along the side of one of the roads. There were difficult to age and could have been made anytime in the last 3-5 days.

But before we got to the road we had a close call with a Rhino. We were walking through some particularly dense long grass to get to another section of forest and Binda (who was leading) went around a corner and woke up a sleeping Rhino. The problem with Rhinos is that they will typically run in whatever direction they are facing when they are startled or spooked; and this one was very much startled! We all made a hasty retreat back the way we had come through the grass and into the safety of the open forest. The Rhino didn't follow us into the open and we waiting to make sure everything was safe before heading off in a different direction.

We continued to the banks of the Rapti River and had lunch, afterwards we continued our walk through the jungle and came across a smaller stream running through it. We stopped and decided to turn back around as there was very recent (within the hour) sign of many wild Elephants using this area. Binda and Hari could smell their presence in the area still and some dung was still very wet and steaming; all of which indicated that they were probably still very close and as the jungle here was fairly thick and there was a large area of grassland close by, it was a bit too dangerous to stay here and risk stumbling into a herd of wild Asiatic Elephants.

So we headed back to the road, where most of the Tiger tracks can be found (Tigers like all cats love to walk along pathways, whether they are natural or manmade); but didn't find any new Tiger tracks and so made our back to the village; once we arrived back at Sauraha we stopped at one of the many sunset viewing restaurant and bars and watched the sunset across the jungle and watching dozens of Great Cormorants flying in formation back to their roosts around the 20,000 Lake and using the river as a natural pathway to guide them.

Day 4 Chitwan National Park

Wildlife Watching

This morning we enjoyed a peaceful canoe ride down the Hasti River (which borders the west side of the Chitwan National Park. The canoes are made from a single Sal tree and are very narrow but quite deep. This means that they can be very unstable if there is movement from inside the canoe. If everyone is sat still in the middle of the canoe then the deep draft will keep the canoe steady in the fast flowing water but by leaning one way or the other it is possible to tilt the canoe close to the surface of the water (only an inch or so away). All this though adds to the experience as we were punted and drifted down the river in search of Mugger Crocodiles, Gharials and some of the hundreds of birds which frequent the riversides. Amongst the dozens of frenzying Sand Martins we spotted Lesser Adjutant Storks, the sound of which as they take off next to you is very impressive. Their 2.5m wingspan dwarfing us in the canoes. We also spotted Asian Openbill Storks, River & Red-Wattled Lapwings, White-browed & Pied Wagtails as well as the stunning White-breasted Kingfisher before we drifted past 2 large Mugger Crocodiles and a couple of smaller ones.

Afterwards we walked into the village and watched the Elephant bath time. For a small fee direct to the mahout you can sit atop an Elephant and get well and truly soaked as the Elephants enjoy their wash in the Rapti River. Whilst we were sat on the river bank we Tom spotted a raptor hovering on the other side, we couldn't identify it at first but



tomorrow we saw the same bird in the same place and managed to identify it as a Black-shouldered Kite hunting in the grassland. Then in the afternoon we would have an Elephant back safari into a part of the park that is pretty reliable for Rhinos. However we didn't see any, but we did see 3 species of deer, the solitary Barking Deer, the large and very regal looking Sambar (of which we got very close to a couple of beautiful stags in full antler) and many of the common and graceful Chital.

Once we arrived back at the accommodation we didn't have long to grab any change of clothes before we were taken to the Night Tower set in the buffer zone of the national park. In fact it is located in a clearing where the Elephant safaris visit; and even though we blanked on the Elephant we didn't even get up the stairs to the bedrooms before a mother and calf (around 4-5 years) old were spotted feeding at the far end of the field. We then proceeded to spend the next hour or so watching the couple as they made their way slowly over to the other side. We also had a visit from a Wild Boar who apparently feeds from the rubbish tip underneath the tower. He would visit us regularly throughout the night.

We had a couple of powerful torches with us and so after dark we scanned periodically around the clearing for any eye shine. The only sighting was a very large herd of Chital (~100) which were grazing in the middle of the field, but all night there was no alarm calls and so very probably no predators around. However sleeping in the jungle and being surrounded by the sounds of crickets, frogs and always having the possibility of hearing a Tiger roar or Deer alarm call is intoxicating and a thoroughly enjoyable experience.



Day 5 Chitwan National Park

Wildlife Watching & Rest

This morning we rose at around 6:00am to the sounds of two new Rhinos (again a mother and calf, but the calf was older and around 6-7 years old as the horn had developed (horn growth begins at around 6 years of age)). These two Rhinos were feeding along the periphery of the clearing on the lush ferns and longer vegetation which like the shade provided for them by the tree cover. We had to wait actually before we could leave the tower as the younger Rhino was moving closer and closer to the tower and until we were sure the Rhino wouldn't get spooked by us appearing in front of it we waited. Luckily the Rhinos didn't continue feeding too close and we quickly got down and moved to the waiting jeep and left back to Gorkha Hamlet and our breakfast. It was raining today so we decided to cancel the half day jungle walk that was planned for this afternoon and instead have a lazy day and catch up on some sleep. During the afternoon Tom and Brian walked around to the park museum and spent most of the day by the river. Here they were told about a large Gharial down by the river a few minutes walk away. Along with a couple of good sized Mugger Crocodiles, the two species of crocodilian in Nepal were well seen. The Gharial was well over breeding size (around 2.7m) and without a 'ghara' (the protrusion on the tip of the snout) it is safe to say that it is one of the breeding females.

Day 6 Chitwan National Park

Wildlife Watching

This morning we left early to get to the entrance gate of the park for when it opened. During breakfast at 20,000 Lake we saw a Mugger Crocodile silently gliding its way through the still water as well as Oriental Darters and a couple of family groups of Bronze-winged Jacanas. These little birds walk along the tops of the lilies and other aquatic vegetation on specially adapted wide toes which spread their weight; giving the impression of walking on the water's surface. Further along on the safari we saw a Crested Serpent Eagle stoop down and catch a small dark snake. Unfortunately there was no way we could identify the snake, but it was a great sight. We were also looking with a newly fledged Crested Serpent Eagle sunning itself in the early morning sun and perhaps waiting for one of its parents to bring it some food (possibly even the one we saw catch the snake). We also combined a short walk through the jungle with this jeep safari and saw a small group of 4 male Chital, all of which had full and huge sets of antlers.

This afternoon Tom and Brian left for a half day walk through some of the park; I was feeling a little under the weather and sat this one out. Well did I miss out or what?! When they arrived back in the evening they explained that they went into the grassland on the north shore of the Rapti River and were very quickly in the presence of a large bull Asiatic Elephant. This is probably the same individual that Hari saw a few days ago and he has probably been staying around this area and visiting the female Elephants in the stables each night. Well Tom and Brian were only around 80-100m away from this impressive tusker and decided that it is best to keep a very wide berth from such a powerful and temperamental animal (if the male was in mutsh its reactions to the presence of 4 people walking nosily and close to him would be unpredictable). So as Binda lead them away from the Elephant they nearly bumped into a Rhino. So they were sandwiched between 2 of the top 6 largest animals in the world, well needless to say that in the long grass which they could just about see over in places the tension on building and so they walked a little further and then came back to the 'safer' side of the river.



However when they arrived back on the Sauraha side of the river they were treated to a close up encounter with an adolescent Rhino (the fact that the Rhino had a decent sized horn and was not accompanied by its mother suggests an age of around 9-10 years old). Well the Rhino was busy grazing along the river bank when it got a bit too close to a 3ft Mugger Crocodile which was hauled out to bask in the afternoon sun. Well the Crocodile gave the Rhino a good scare, it must have been amazing and a little comical to see such a huge animal humbled by a tiny Crocodile, but a nip on the Rhino's sensitive prehensile upper lip or nose could be very painful.



Day 7 **Chitwan National Park** *Wildlife Watching & Cultural Performance*

This morning also started at around 05:30 with us leaving for the entrance gate and another jeep safari. This time our driver took us off the main road and into the grasslands and deeper into the Sal forests in search of Tigers. We were taken to a decent sized lake at first and found out where the 100's of Great Cormorants come to roost. We usually see them flying along the Rapti River at sunset and here they were all silhouetted against the rising sun perched on various dead trees on the far side of the lake. As we were driving back along the main road to get to another smaller road Brian called a cat moving swiftly from a clearing towards the tree line. We tried to find it again but it had done the typical cat thing and disappeared if it didn't want to be seen. From the size and behaviour it was almost certainly a Leopard. The only other big cat here is the Tiger and the size of an independent Tiger is enough alone to identify it. Plus Tigers here don't run around for anything, unless they are hunting. The next road we drove down took us deep into the Sal forest and we also got out and continued to a watch tower on foot. The walk took us through good Tiger country. Small and narrow meadows surrounded by thick and tall Sal forests are perfect for Tigers hunting. The presence of a couple of camera traps also indicated that many Tigers are spotted here. As we left the grasslands and headed into the forest we saw a couple of sets of prints. One was a few weeks or a couple of months old and perfectly formed and now encased in very dry mud, but there was a set from this morning. It was a female and we followed the prints for a while until they disappeared and we arrived at the watch tower. We breakfasted here and then carried on walking through the forest.

Once we arrived back on the pathway with the fresh Tiger prints we noticed that a Rhino has passed along here, since we had been on the path only 20mins ago. We looked around but the Rhino hadn't hung around. We also saw very fresh dung (around 2-3hours old) it still had a pungent smell but we failed to find the Rhino responsible. On the way back to the jeep we saw 2 large male Sambar as well as a huge troop of Rhesus Macaques. On the way back out of the park we spotted a huge male Wild Boar feeding with a couple of Lesser Adjutant Storks as well as a Rhino feeding in the long grass and a male Barking Deer complete with a large set of tusks. It is good to get close up views of Barking Deer as their tusks can be difficult to see from a distance.

During the afternoon we took another ride along the rivers which form the boundaries of the national park, this time it was the Malaki Kholi (which is a tributary of the Rapti River) and we saw plenty of bird life. Dominated by huge Lesser Adjutant Storks and the plentiful and frantic Sand Martins as well as bobbing White-browed, Grey and Pied Wagtails. We also saw 2 large (2m plus) Mugger Crocodiles very close as we drifted by, they were completely oblivious to us. As we continued the cruise we heard an unusual sound; Rhino roaring. The Asiatic One-horned Rhino has 10 distinct vocalisations and the roar is one of the rarest and usually just produced during fighting between the males for a female. We also heard Chital and Sambar alarm calling and as the Sambar only alarms for Tigers we were pretty confident that there was one on the move around the buffer zone forests.

Once we returned to the accommodation we went to the Tharu Cultural Programme and were entertained by the local dances of the men. They performed 5 of the traditional dances, including the very funny Peacock Dance, which involves a 3ft tall Peacock suit and lots of campiness. Other dances include a very impressive fire dance and a bizarre funeral dance where a man dresses as a woman and spins around lots to avoid the advances of a boy dressed as a man (well that's a pretty basic premise, but I can never get my head around why it is deemed appropriate for funerals!). Well after the dancing we were well and truly ready for some sleep.



Day 8 **Chitwan National Park** *Rest & Wildlife Watching*

This morning we had a lie in and a break from jungle activities and wildlife watching. Then after lunch we headed out in and back into the park for another jeep safari. The safari was quiet on the whole with a few good bird sightings such as a small and bright Eurasian Kingfisher, 2 more Crested Serpent Eagles and a couple of colourful



Himalayan Flamebacks. These brightly coloured woodpeckers and very numerous here and often form part of the mixed feeding flocks which aggregate around foraging Jungle Babblers. The noisy and messy Jungle Babblers disturb many insects into the air and out of hiding places. Making the Babblers excellent feeding partners for many birds such as Drongos, Mynahs, Woodpeckers, Flycatcher and even Palm Squirrels. The only other sightings of note from the jeep safari was a Crocodile at 20,000 Lake and very large herd of Chital, 3 Barking Deer in a small family group and a huge troop of Rhesus Macaques feeding by the side of the road.

Once we returned to the resort Binda (who had been on a full day jungle walk with other guests said he saw a Tiger today. They were stopped for a drink and a rest and Hari was looking behind them down a small pathway in the grass and saw a Tiger cross the path and stare at them before continuing into the grass).

As a result of this sighting and the prospect that there would be a Tiger in the area we changed our schedule to a full day jungle walk tomorrow instead of a jeep and canoe ride.

Day 9 Chitwan National Park

Wildlife Watching

Today we started our jungle walk by going as direct as possible to where the Tiger was seen yesterday. On the canoe transfer over to the park we found out from another guide that the Tiger was seen by at least a second group later in the day and so there was a reasonable chance the Tiger was still in the area. The weather was cool and misty (perfect for big cats in the early morning). We would expect to catch a glimpse of the big cat as it emerged from its den in the long grass and looked for a little bit of sunlight to warm up when the sun breaks through the mist. The first sign we saw of Tiger presence were very fresh tracks (from the last few hours) along the side of the road, curiously they seemed to be following a Sambar Deer prints. Could the Tiger have made a kill last night? There were no Vultures, Crows or Kites or smell of a carcass around, but you never know as the grass is so tall and impenetrable. As we continued to walk along the pathway following the prints we came across a couple of prints that were so fresh that they must have been made only minutes ago. The soil was so hard that there was no imprint into the surface, but only a slight discolouration on the top soil marking out the four toes and large heel pad. This discolouration is made as the pad collects small amounts of damp (with dew) surface dust and soil and leaves behind slightly drier soil particles underneath and this effect doesn't last very long before everything is the same colour and the whole track is lost. In fact we came back to the same spot not long after and there were no signs that the tracks had ever been there. As we continued to scan the grass from the road a second group of people walked past us and said that they had heard a Tiger growling at them from in the bushes a few meters away from where we were focused. We decided to go around the other side of the grass into the forest and see if the Tiger would emerge from the grass after being disturbed. We waiting a few minutes but eventually decided that it would probably stay inside the grass and it was a but too dangerous to stay this close to Tiger we couldn't see and one that was probably a little stressed by the constant human activity.

We continued our walk around another section of the park and quickly found evidence of recent Sloth Bear activity; a fresh scat (less than 12 hours old) and a cleaned out honeycomb. All these reminders of the wonderful array of life inside the park is amazing and makes sure that you keep a sharp eye out all the time. We also found a beautiful 15cm millipede making its way through the undergrowth. We continued to a nice lunch spot near the stream we had seen evidence of recent Elephant movement on the first jungle walk we had done. It was very peaceful with many birds fluttering around the tree tops. After lunch we moved back onto the road and saw a snake basking on the side of the road. Unfortunately the snake had seen us too and made a dash for it into the undergrowth and showed no sign of coming back out. It was identified (with some reliability) after at the hotel as a Side-striped Trinket Snake.

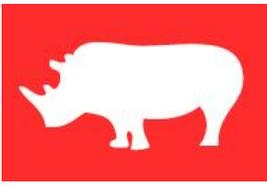
We then took a break in one of the many watch towers in the grass. The tower was located close to where the Tiger was this morning (and could well be still), in the distance the mahouts of the privately owned Elephants were here with the Elephants collecting their food for the day, we waited as the herd moved towards the section of grassland we thought the Tiger was in and hoped that the disturbance would provoke the Tiger into leaving its hideout. We waiting in vain, but we were almost certainly seen by a Tiger today despite not seeing one ourselves.



Day 10 Chitwan National Park

Wildlife Watching

This morning we once again entered the park bright and early for our last jeep safari. It was significantly cooler this morning and we hoped that the reduced temperature in the morning would mean that big cats or a Sloth Bear would be active later into the morning than usual. We saw another very large male Wild Boar before going off onto some of the smaller roads. We went to an area in which the army patrols had seen a Tiger the night before. We saw plenty of very fresh Rhino tracks and some not so fresh Tiger tracks as we began to walk through the deep Sal forests. The whole forest was very quiet this morning and we saw very little, but the atmosphere had the air of expectancy and it is likely that there was a top predator around in this section of forest. Basic instincts in all of us were triggered



a couple of times throughout the walk. And it made us all wonder just how much of our prey instincts we have kept without ever realising it. For a long part of human evolution and history big cats were perfectly suited natural predators of humans and other hominoid species. Despite the air of anticipation we didn't see any Tigers on this walk and as we got closer to the jeep we had to cross a small stream and whilst Bubunda and Brian crossed one way, Tom thought he had seen a better route. Well as he was staying knee deep in some quick-sand like substance he probably thought he should have crossed the other way. After a quick wash down in the stream we left and headed back to the accommodation for breakfast.

After lunch we had our final outing into the park and via a canoe ride along the one Malaki Kholi. The canoe ride was a great way to end the trip to Chitwan. Watching Lesser Adjutants, Cattle Egrets, Indian Pond Herons, White-browed Wagtails, Green Bee-eaters, Woolly-necked Storks, Asian Openbill Storks, River Lapwings, Common Sandpipers, Plum-headed & Rose-ringed Parakeets as you cruise silently down the fast flowing water is so relaxing. We also spotted a small (less than 1m) Mugger Crocodile resting amongst some vegetation as well as some Rhesus Macaques at the water's edge having a drink.

Day 11 **Kathmandu**

Travelling

We boarded the 9:00am bus back to Kathmandu after breakfast. As we waited at the bus stand for the bus to arrive we saw a couple of huge flocks (around 100 in total) of Rose-ringed Parakeets leaving their roosts to begin a day of nosily foraging fruit trees. A solitary Common Kestrel was also out early hunting above the rice paddies as well. Well eventually the bus arrived and we claimed our front seats with the extra leg room; but before we set off we were entertained by a local boyband practicing their wonderful dance routines! This aside the rest of the journey was pleasant. The air over the mountains was particularly clear and we had fantastic views of the Himalayas from Sauraha and as we headed into the Kathmandu Valley the mountain views were spectacular. Unfortunately we were delayed once we got into Kathmandu as the traffic was horrendous, but we made it to the bus stop and grabbed a couple of taxis. Later we met up in the Kathmandu Guest House to finish the tour as it began with a hearty meal in this iconic hotel.

84	Black-crested Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus</i>
85	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
86	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
87	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
88	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>
89	Spotted dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
90	Crested Serpent eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
91	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatu</i>
92	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
93	Laughing Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
94	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
95	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
96	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
97	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>
98	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>
99	Grey-winged Blackbird	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>
101	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>
102	Red-Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
103	Oriental Whiteeye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>

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Reptiles (* = heard or signs only)

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Indian Garden Lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>
2	Indian Trinket Snake	<i>Coelognathus helena</i>
3	Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
4	Gharial	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>
5	Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
6	Common Wolf Snake	<i>Lycodon aulicus</i>

November										
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
						2				
								1		
	1	2	4		2		2		1	
							1			
		3								
						1(?)				

