

**Lions, Hyenas and Wolves of Gujarat,
Tigers of Tadoba Tour and a lot more!**
18 days



Tour Highlights

A tour for mammal enthusiasts and birdwatchers with a focus on several sought-after species.

In Gujarat, India's most westerly State, you will spend time exploring the **Little Rann of Kutch**. Species here can include Pallid Scops Owl, Sykes's Nightjar and Macqueen's Bustard. Sociable Lapwing can sometimes be seen in agricultural areas. Other local avian delights include Indian Courser, both Oriental and Small Pratincoles and large flocks of Common and Demoiselle Cranes sharing their arid home with the attractive and range-restricted Asiatic Wild Ass as an added bonus.



Indian Grey Wolf, Velavadar © R F Porter

At **Velavadar** our focus will be Indian Grey Wolf and Striped Hyena while you will definitely not miss the hundreds of elegant Blackbuck, Nilgai antelopes and Harriers. At **Gir National Park** the top predator is the globally threatened Asiatic Lion and you also have a good chance of seeing a Leopard.



Asiatic Lion, Gir National Park © J Bridges

After exploring Gujarat, we will take you straight into the heart of Tiger country for a seven night stay to explore **Tadoba National Park**. Tadoba's increasing Tiger population is a great success story, with 26 cubs reported to have been born in the Tiger Reserve in 2011. However, there is always a threat to this most special cat from illegal poaching. While staying at Tiger Trails, it is likely you will be one of the first jeeps to enter through the Khutwanda Gate. Perhaps there is more of a chance of seeing a Tiger in the presence of fewer jeeps compared with the more well-known Project Tiger Reserves.



Bengal Tiger, Tadoba © P Vashistha

Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, situated in the Chandrapur District of Maharashtra, spans over 625 square kilometres and incorporates both Tadoba National Park (which became Maharashtra's first national park in 1955) and Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary. More recently it became one of India's 28 Project Tiger Reserves in 1993. As many as fifty six Tigers are reputed to survive here, plus many other great mammals such as Leopard, Sloth Bear, Gaur, Wild Dog, Striped Hyena, Jungle Cat and Chowsingha (the Four-horned Antelope), not to mention a rich birdlife.

Itinerary

Wednesday 27th February: Tour starts in Ahmedabad

Meals: Dinner

Flights to Ahmedabad are usually via Mumbai or Delhi. Good airlines to consider for any internal flights are Jet Airways (from Mumbai and Delhi) and Spicejet (definitely from Delhi). Wild About Travel can offer advice on flights you can book directly. Your guide and driver will be waiting outside Ahmedabad Airport (look for Wild about Travel on a placard). You will be taken to Hotel Cama to check in, have dinner and relax for the remainder of the day.

Night: Hotel Cama

Thursday 28th: Ahmedabad - Little Rann

Meals: Breakfast at Hotel Cama, lunch and dinner at Rann Riders.

Breakfast will be served at 0800 hours. Before this we would recommend you bring your luggage down to hotel reception so the driver can load it into the vehicle. You'll leave your hotel at 0845 hours with your guide and driver for the short drive (around 2 ½ hours) to check in at Rann Riders Resort at the Little Rann of Kutch. Check in is officially 1200 hours, but earlier if rooms are available. There should be some time before or after lunch to explore the grounds and local area, with your guide, where you can sometimes see the scarce Pallid Scops Owl and various birds on a small water body next to the resort.

In the afternoon enjoy the first of three jeep safaris locally to see Asiatic Wild Ass, thousands of Demoiselle and Common Cranes, Pelicans, Storks, Bee-eaters, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and potentially the endangered Sociable Lapwing. In the evening it might be possible to look for Sykes's Nightjar.

Night at Rann Riders



Asiatic Wild Ass and Demoiselle Cranes at Little Rann of Kutch © R F Porter

Friday 1st March: Little Rann

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Activities: Morning and afternoon jeep safaris inside the Little Rann of Kutch Sanctuary.

Night: Rann Riders

Saturday 2nd: Little Rann - Velavadar

Meals: Breakfast at Rann Riders, lunch and dinner at Blackbuck Lodge

This morning you will leave after breakfast for Velavadar. You'll arrive in time to check in at Blackbuck Lodge and have lunch before your afternoon jeep safari inside Velavadar Blackbuck Sanctuary where target species include Indian Grey Wolf and Striped Hyena along with many Harriers and the very scarce Stoliczka's Bushchat. Relax for the evening at your lodge.

Night: Blackbuck Lodge

Sunday 3rd: Velavadar

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Enjoy morning and afternoon jeep safaris inside Velavadar Sanctuary.

Night: Blackbuck Lodge



Blackbuck, Velavadar © R F Porter



Nilgai watching Wolf, Velavadar © R F Porter

Monday 4th: Velavadar

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Enjoy morning and afternoon jeeps safari inside Velavadar Sanctuary.

Night: Blackbuck Lodge



Nilgai and Blackbuck, Velavadar © R F Porter



Asiatic Lion, Gir National Park © R F Porter

Tuesday 5th: Velavadar - Gir.

Meals: Breakfast at Blackbuck, lunch and dinner at Gir Birding Lodge.

Leave after an early breakfast and drive to Gir (6 hours). Check in and have lunch before your afternoon jeep safari at Gir National Park where target mammals include Asiatic Lion and Leopard and target birds may include Mottled Wood Owl, Painted Sandgrouse and Tawny-bellied Babbler.

Night: Gir Birding Lodge

Wednesday 6th: Gir

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Morning and afternoon jeep safaris inside Gir National Park.

Night: Gir Birding Lodge

Thursday 7th: Gir - Rajkot

Meals: Breakfast and lunch at GBL and dinner at Hotel Imperial (Rajkot)

Enjoy a final morning jeep safari inside Gir National Park. Then after lunch you will be driven (4½ - 5 hours) to Rajkot. Check in at Hotel Imperial in Rajkot for one night.

Night: Hotel Imperial

Friday 8th: Rajkot - Mumbai - Nagpur - Tadoba

Meals: Lunch in Nagpur and dinner at Tadoba

Your flight to Mumbai (we recommend Jetlite flight number S2 4387 departing Rajkot at 0700 hours and arriving in Mumbai at 0805 hours) will depart early in the morning, prior to breakfast being served at your hotel, so breakfast would need to be purchased at Rajkot airport or on arrival in Mumbai. Another flight to Nagpur follows (Indigo flight number 6E417 departs at 1135 hours arriving in Nagpur at 1255 hours can easily be booked on www.cleartrip.com). You will be welcomed outside Nagpur airport by our representative and taken to a local hotel for lunch. After lunch you will start your three hour journey to Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and National Park (Kolara Range area). Check in at your lodge where you will be based for the next three nights. Relax for the remainder of the day.

Night: Svasara Resort (Deluxe Cottage)

Saturday and Sunday 9th and 10th: Tadoba

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Explore the best parts of Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and National Park on morning and afternoon jeep safari drives with an experienced guide. Sloth Bears, whilst difficult to see at many National Parks, are sometimes seen at Tadoba. They tend to prefer the more hilly and rocky areas of Katezari and they can be seen at other locations too. During the morning and afternoon safari drives you will be able to visit Tadoba and Telia Lakes, Pandharpauni Meadows, Jamun Bodhi and Vasant Bandhara areas of Tadoba. Relax between safari drives and in the evenings at Svasara Resort.



Tadoba Lake © P Vashistha

Nights: Svasara Resort (Deluxe Cottage)

Monday 11th: Tadoba

Meals: Breakfast and packed lunch from Svasara and dinner at Tiger Trails

Enjoy a morning safari to Kolara Range. Then around lunch time you will be transferred to Tiger Trails Resort which is situated at the Khutwanda Gate of Tadoba National Park.

Tiger Trails is set in lovely quiet grounds which attract a good variety of wildlife. Camera traps have proved visits by Tiger, Leopard and many other species. Whilst the accommodation may not be luxurious, such peace and tranquillity is priceless! In the afternoon you will enjoy your first of several jeep safari drives entering through Khutwanda gate close to Tiger Trails. It is possible to see Wild Dog (Dhole) in the local area as well as several other species of more common mammals and birds.

Night: Tiger Trails Resort

Tuesday 12th: Tadoba area

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Tadoba is closed on Tuesdays, so this morning you'll explore on foot the local environs around Tiger Trails in the buffer zone with the help of your resident naturalist guide.

Night: Tiger Trails Resort



Tiger cub, Tadoba © P Vashistha

Wednesday 13th – Thursday 14th: Tadoba

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Further explore Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and National Park, named after Taru, a village chief deity worshipped as Tadoba and from the River Andhari. Entry each day on morning and afternoon jeep safari drives will be through the Khutwanda Gate to the main core zone. You will be able to explore the Tadoba Range as well as Bamangaon Nala, Jamun Jhora and Wagh Nala areas. Relax between safari drives and in the evenings at Tiger Trails.

Nights: Tiger Trails Resort

Friday 15th: Tadoba - Nagpur - Delhi

Meals: Breakfast and packed lunch from Tadoba, dinner at Hotel Justa The Residence, Gurgaon in Delhi

This morning you will take your final jeep safari drive in Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve with the hope of more special wildlife sightings to end your stay here. After the safari you will leave Tadoba around midday, taking a packed lunch, for the four hour journey to Nagpur airport, to arrive in good time to check in for the Indigo flight number 6E136 to Delhi, departing at 1805 hours. Your flight is scheduled to arrive in Delhi at 1940 hours. Our representative will welcome you outside Delhi Airport and will accompany you to your hotel. Enjoy a final dinner in Delhi and relax for the remainder of the evening.

Night: Justa The Residence, Gurgaon

Saturday 16th March: Delhi

Meals: Breakfast (served from 0700 hours)

Today you will be transferred to Delhi International Airport for your return flight home.

Tour ends.

Per person price based on a twin-share basis and depending on group size	Price in £
3 - 4 people travelling together	£2844
5 - 6 people travelling together	£2795
7 - 8 people travelling together	£2457
Single room supplement	£ 685

Price is based on the following hotels and lodges:

City	Hotel / lodge name	No. of nights
Ahmedabad	Hotel Cama, Standard Room	01
Dasada	Rann Riders, Deluxe Hut	02
Velavadar	Black Buck Lodge, Deluxe Cottage	03
Gir	Gir Birding Lodge, Deluxe Cottage	02
Rajkot	Hotel Imperial Palace, Standard Room	01
Tadoba	Svasara Resort, Deluxe Cottage	03
Tadoba	Tiger Trails Resort, Standard Room	04
Delhi	Justa The Residence, Gurgaon, Superior Room	01

Price includes:

- Accommodation in the above mentioned hotels or similar as per mentioned meal plan
- Air-conditioned vehicle for all transfers mentioned as per the above mentioned itinerary
- 03 jeep drives to Little Rann of Kutch
- 05 jeep safaris by exclusive jeeps in Velavadar National Park
- 04 jeep safaris by exclusive jeeps in Gir National Park
- 11 jeep safaris by exclusive jeeps in Tadoba National Park
- Cost of accompanying naturalist from Ahmedabad arrival till Rajkot departure
- Cost of accompanying naturalist from Nagpur arrival till Nagpur departure
- All entrances to the National Parks visited as per the above mentioned itinerary
- Meals as listed in the above itinerary
- All applicable taxes

Price excludes:

- Any International airfare to/from India including International airport tax.
- Economy class domestic flights mentioned in the above mentioned itinerary
- Meals not specified.
- Camera fee wherever levied.
- Any increase in airfares by the airlines in future.
- Any increase in entrances and rail fares as per Government notifications in future.
- Any additional taxes levied by the Government of India on the tourism sector in future.
- Any expenses of personal nature such as hard/soft drinks, laundry, phone/fax calls, tips etc.
- Any item not mentioned in the Price includes section.
- Any increase in the entrance fee to the National park. The quote is based on the presently applicable entrance fee.

Cost incidental to any change in the itinerary/ stay on account of flight cancellation due to bad weather, ill health, roadblocks and/or any factors beyond control.



Striped Hyena mating, Velavadar © R F Porter

How to book

The booking of this itinerary is with Wild About Travel Limited and their booking terms and conditions apply. Please contact Jo Thomas at Wild About Travel (jo@wildabouttravel.co.uk) / 01480-370593 to register your interest.

To confirm your booking please complete the booking form and send a 25% deposit by £ sterling cheque payable to Wild About Travel Trust via the Wild About Travel Office, 25 Sapley Road, Hartford, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 1YG. The balance payment would be due 60 days prior to travel dates.

For any help or advice please call or email Wild About Travel and we would be happy to assist.

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