

A Central Indian Tiger Safari

INDIA'S INCREDIBLE WILDLIFE

March 03, 2026 – March 11, 2026

A CHALO EXPLORERS CLUB EXPEDITION



INTRODUCTION

WITH SANGEETA SAHAYA



Snow Leopards, Tigers, Red Pandas & More

You've heard that old adage "Once Bitten Twice Shy?" Well, that's not our motto at all.

Anytime we get bitten (by the wildlife bug) that only makes us Twice As Curious, and ever more eager to explore our natural world.

This is the spirit in which we have designed this unique 3-pronged safari that will hopefully bring us into proximity with several of the most elusive animals of the Indian sub-continent.

Section 1: The Mountain Kingdom of the Snow Leopard

In the Himalayas, our safari will take place on the other-worldly Ladakh Plateau, and we will focus our efforts on the Snow Leopard, Pallas Cat and the Siberian Lynx. With some luck, we'll also see other Himalayan specialties like the Tibetan Wolf, Blue Sheep, Ladakh Urial, Red Fox, Mountain Weasel, and Large-eared Pika.

Section 2: The Jungle Kingdom of the Bengal Tiger

In the dappled jungles of Central India, we'll shift our focus onto the Royal Bengal Tiger, whilst also keeping a sharp eye out for the Sloth Bear, Indian Wild Dogs (dholes) and Leopards, Jungle Cat, Golden Jackal, Striped Hyena all manner of herbivores, including

the majestic (and enormous) Indian Gaur.

Section 3: The Misty Mountains of the Red Panda & Sipping Tea in Darjeeling

The last wildlife leg of this epic trip will take us on a Red Panda quest to the eastern part of the great Himalayan Range, where in addition to this unique Aluridae, we also hope to see yellow-throated marten, Blood Pheasant, Kalij Pheasant, Satyr Tragopan, and on clear days, four of the world's five highest peaks, including Everest, Lhotse, Makalu and Kangchenjunga.

This trip has been designed in such a way that you can join us for any of Sections 1, 2 and 3 - or do the whole trifecta, if you have the time. Each leg has been priced separately.

I can't wait to go on this one myself! Join me if you can.

- Sangeeta



INTRODUCTION (CENTRAL INDIA)

We descend from the Himalayas (for those joining our first section) and fly from Delhi to Nagpur to start our Wildlife Safari in Central India at Tadoba Tiger Reserve. The park has emerged as one of the finest habitats to see the Tiger in recent years and is also an excellent site for the Sloth Bear, Indian Wild Dogs and Leopards, including a bold Black Panther (melanistic). Other predators include the Jungle Cat, Golden Jackal, Striped Hyena and the highly nocturnal Honey Badger. The rich prey base comprises Spotted Deer, Sambar, Wild Boar, Nilgai, Muntjac, Chousingha – four-horned

antelope and Gaur.

Driving across the state border to Madhya Pradesh, our next stop is the scenic Pench Tiger Reserve. Pench holds a significant place in the natural history of Central India, as vividly described in Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book*, which highlights the region's rich fauna. The reserve provides an idyllic habitat for mammals such as Sloth bears, Leopards, Tigers, Indian Wild Dogs, and Gaurs. We will also take a night drive in the park's buffer zone to look for the smallest wild feline in India – the Rusty-spotted Cat.

While searching for the tiger, you should also add some birds to your checklist. Notable species include Mottled Wood Owl, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Lesser Adjutant Stork, Painted Spurfowl, Jungle Bush Quail, Brown Fish Owl, Orange-headed Thrush, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Malabar Pied Hornbill, Indian Scops Owl, Crested tree Swift, Sirkeer Malkoha, Scarlet Minivet, White-rumped Shama, Indian Nightjar and Indian Thick-knee.



ITINERARY (CENTRAL INDIA)

Day 01 / 3 Mar 2026 / Tue: Fly Delhi to Nagpur & drive to Tadoba

In time transfer to the airport to board the flight for Nagpur. Fly Delhi to Nagpur by Indigo flight (6E 6554 at 0935/1120 hrs). Arrive Nagpur and drive to Tadoba Tiger Reserve (100 kms/2-3 hr drive approx.). Arrive Tadoba & check-in to the lodge. Afternoon game drive into the Tiger Reserve by exclusive 4WD vehicles. Overnight at Svasara Jungle Lodge. (B, L, D)

Day 02 to 04 / 4 Mar to 6 Mar 2026 / Wed to Fri: Tadoba Tiger Reserve

Over the next three days in Tadoba we will avail six morning and afternoon game drives by exclusive 4WD vehicles. Overnight at Svasara Jungle Lodge. (B, L, D)



Day 05 / 7 Mar 2026 / Sat: Tadoba to Pench

Morning game drive into the Tiger Reserve by exclusive 4WD vehicles. Later depart by surface for Pench Tiger Reserve (230 kms/4.5 hrs drive approx.). Arrive Pench in the evening and check-in to the lodge. Overnight at Pench Tree Lodge. (B, L, D)

Day 06 & 07 / 8 & 9 Mar 2026 / Sun & Mon: Pench Tiger Reserve

Morning and afternoon game drives into the Tiger Reserve by exclusive 4WD vehicles. We will also avail a night game drive, which is a thrilling way to spot rarely seen nocturnal species like owls, civets, small cats, as well as larger mammals like Leopards and Sloth Bears. Overnight at Pench Tree Lodge. (B, L, D)

Day 08 / 10 Mar 2026 / Tue: Pench to Nagpur, fly Delhi

Morning game drive into the Tiger Reserve by exclusive 4WD vehicles. Later transfer to Nagpur airport (160 kms/2.5 hrs drive approx.) to board the flight for Delhi. Fly Nagpur to Delhi by IndiGo flight (6E 2213 at 1845/2030 hrs). Arrive in Delhi and transfer to hotel near airport. Overnight at Novotel or similar. (B, L, D)

Day 09 / 11 Mar 2026 / Wed: Departure

In time transfer to the international airport to board the flight for onward destination. (B)

End of our services



COSTS & INCLUSIONS

- The 09 day / 08 night Central India Tiger Expedition costs **USD 6190 per person.**
 - Costs are based on six to eight participants sharing a twin or double room.
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Inclusions:

- Accommodation 08 nights on Central India Tiger Safari extension and on twin sharing room basis: inclusive of all applicable taxes at the time of quoting
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary as B, L, D (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- Airfare for Delhi/Nagpur/Delhi sectors in economy class with an extra 10 kilo luggage
- All transfers by private Toyota MUVs
- Accompanying WWI guide throughout the tour
- 08 game drives by exclusive 4WD vehicles at Tadoba Tiger Reserve
- 05 game drives & a night safari by exclusive 4WD vehicles at Pench Tiger Reserve
- Service of an English-speaking local guides/ naturalist & trackers: inclusive of guiding fees and park entry fees payable
- All necessary permits and permissions
- Applicable camera fee Assistance on arrival and departure at each destination
- Government service tax

Exclusions:

- Any expenses of personal nature such as laundry, aerated drinks etc.
 - Personal clothing during the trek, emergency evacuation
 - Meals are not included in the cost unless specified in the inclusions
 - Tips/ gratuities paid to naturalists, drivers, and staff members accompanying you on the expedition
 - Cost incurred in obtaining visa, insurance etc.
 - Cost incurred in case of hospitalization, evacuation etc.
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Accommodation Envisaged:

Delhi: Novotel - <https://all.accor.com/hotel/7560/index.en.shtml>

Tadoba: Svasara Jungle Lodge – <https://svasararesorts.com/>

Pench: Pench Tree Lodge – <https://www.penchtreelodge.com/>



Wildlife sightings and photography:

Since our first successful expedition in 2009, we have operated over 35 Snow Leopard expeditions in this area. We can confidently claim to have seen more cats than any other wildlife operator. However, it's good to remember that we will be searching for one of the most elusive cats on the planet, and expectations must be managed. While the area around Rumbak would be where we concentrate on the cats, now with improved cellular networks in most of Ladakh, we can move to other areas once we get news of any Snow Leopards sighted in other valleys using our four-wheel drive vehicles.

Between Tadoba & Pench we have the best chances of seeing and photographing Tigers, Leopards, Wild Dogs, Sloth Bear and Gaur. The relative proximity between these two reserves makes this an ideal combination of reserves to visit in Central India.



Notes:

- Please note that we will make every effort to adhere to this itinerary but dates, times, activities and park rules are subject to change depending on scheduling & availability
- In case of any revision in the park entry fee between now and the date of travel, the same would be applicable
- While this is the suggested itinerary, we reserve the right to make changes to maximize your chances of wildlife sightings
- Flight indicated in the itinerary are as per the current schedule and are subject to change. In case there is any change in flight schedule between now and date of travel and calls for revising the itinerary we reserve the right to do so
- Payment means that you have read, understood, and accepted our Terms and Conditions: <https://www.chaloafrica.com/docs/terms-and-conditions.pdf>

Expedition Payment Terms:

- A 30% non-refundable deposit confirms the reservation.
- An additional 40% deposit is due 180 days prior to trip date.
- Remaining 30% due 90 days prior to trip date
- 100% payment in case of availing Apex airfare

Cancellations:

- Cancellation from confirmation date until 181 days from trip date – forfeit the 30% deposit.
- Cancellation from 180 days to 91 days from trip date – forfeit 70% deposit
- Cancellation 90 days or less from trip date -- forfeit 100% of trip cost.





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