

A red panda is perched on a tree branch, eating small, round, light-colored berries. The background is a dense, out-of-focus forest with many bare branches.

Eastern India Natural & Cultural Highlights

March 11, 2026 – March 19, 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

The Red Panda Expedition takes us to the Singalila National Park, one of the most pristine Himalayan forests in India, situated on the Singalila Ridge at altitudes ranging from 7,000 to 12,000 feet.

Singalila is one of the most reliable sites to see the Red Panda in the wild. Apart from the Panda, other mammals reported here are the Himalayan Black Bear, Leopard, Leopard Cat, Serow, Barking Deer, Yellow-throated Marten and Wild Boar.

This area is a birding hotspot, with more than 300 species reported here. Notable ones are the Blood Pheasant, Satyr Tragopan, Kalij Pheasant, Brown and Fulvous Parrotbills, Rufous-vented Tit, and Old-World babblers like the Fire-tailed Myzornis and the Golden-breasted Fulvetta, Rosefinchs, Bullfinches, Wren Babblers, Laughingthrushes, Nuthatches, Treecreepers, Yuhinas, Minivets, Partridges and many more.

The park is also well known for its stunning and rugged Eastern Himalayan landscape, and on clear days, both Mount Everest and Kangchenjunga can be seen.

We also visit Darjeeling, a charming and now bustling hill station known for its tea gardens and colonial heritage. The town offers panoramic views of Kangchenjunga on a clear day. The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway crisscrosses through this vibrant town and was set up by the British.



Day 01 / 11 Mar 2026 / Wed: Fly Delhi to Bagdogra, drive to Singalila National Park

In time transfer to airport to board the flight for Bagdogra. Fly Delhi to Bagdogra by Air India flight (AI 2725 at 0800/0950 hrs). Arrive at Bagdogra and drive to Manebhanjan. We board your 4X4 vehicle and drive to Singalila National Park (4 hrs drive approx. from Bagdogra). Arrive Singalila and check-in to Shikhar Tarry Lodge, which will be our base for the next four nights. The tracker would have already been out tracking since morning and our Red Panda search begins from this afternoon. Overnight at Shikhar Tarry Lodge. (L, D)

Day 02 to 04 / 12 to 14 Mar 2026 / Thu to Sat: Singalila National Park (Red Panda Exploration)

Over the next three days, we will explore the nature trails in search of Pandas, birds and mammals. The Yellow-throated Martins are a strong possibility. Trackers will leave early in search of the Red Panda and report back when they sight them. We will spend most of the

day out, returning to the lodge for lunch and some down time. Overnight at Shikhar Tarry Lodge. (B, L, D)

Day 05 / 15 Mar 2026 / Sun: Singalila to Darjeeling

Today, we leave after breakfast to Darjeeling, which will take approximately 2 hours. We arrive in Darjeeling and check in to the charming boutique Glenburn Hotel. The evening is left free to spend time in our luxury boutique hotel. Overnight at Glenburn Tea Estate & Boutique Hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 06 & 07 / 16 & 17 Mar 2026 / Mon & Tue: Darjeeling

We have two days to explore Darjeeling. We wake up early and drive to Tiger Hill (approx. 11 km) to witness sunrise over Kanchenjunga, and on a clear day, catch a glimpse of Mount Everest. We will visit the Ghoom Monastery, one of the oldest in the region and stop at Batasia Loop on the way back, it's a scenic railway loop with views of Darjeeling and.

Second World War memorials.

We will also visit the Tea Estates adjoining our hotel, learn about tea production, and enjoy a tasting session. Overnight at Glenburn Tea Estate & Boutique Hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 08 / 18 Mar 2026 / Wed: Darjeeling to Bagdogra & fly Delhi

After leisurely breakfast we drive down to Bagdogra airport (70 kms/2.5 hrs drive approx.) to board the flight back to Delhi. Fly Bagdogra to Delhi by IndiGo flight (6E 2605 at 1655/1910 hrs).

Arrive in Delhi and transfer to hotel near airport. Overnight at Novotel. (B, L, D)

Day 09 / 19 Mar 2026/Thu: Departure

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

End of our services

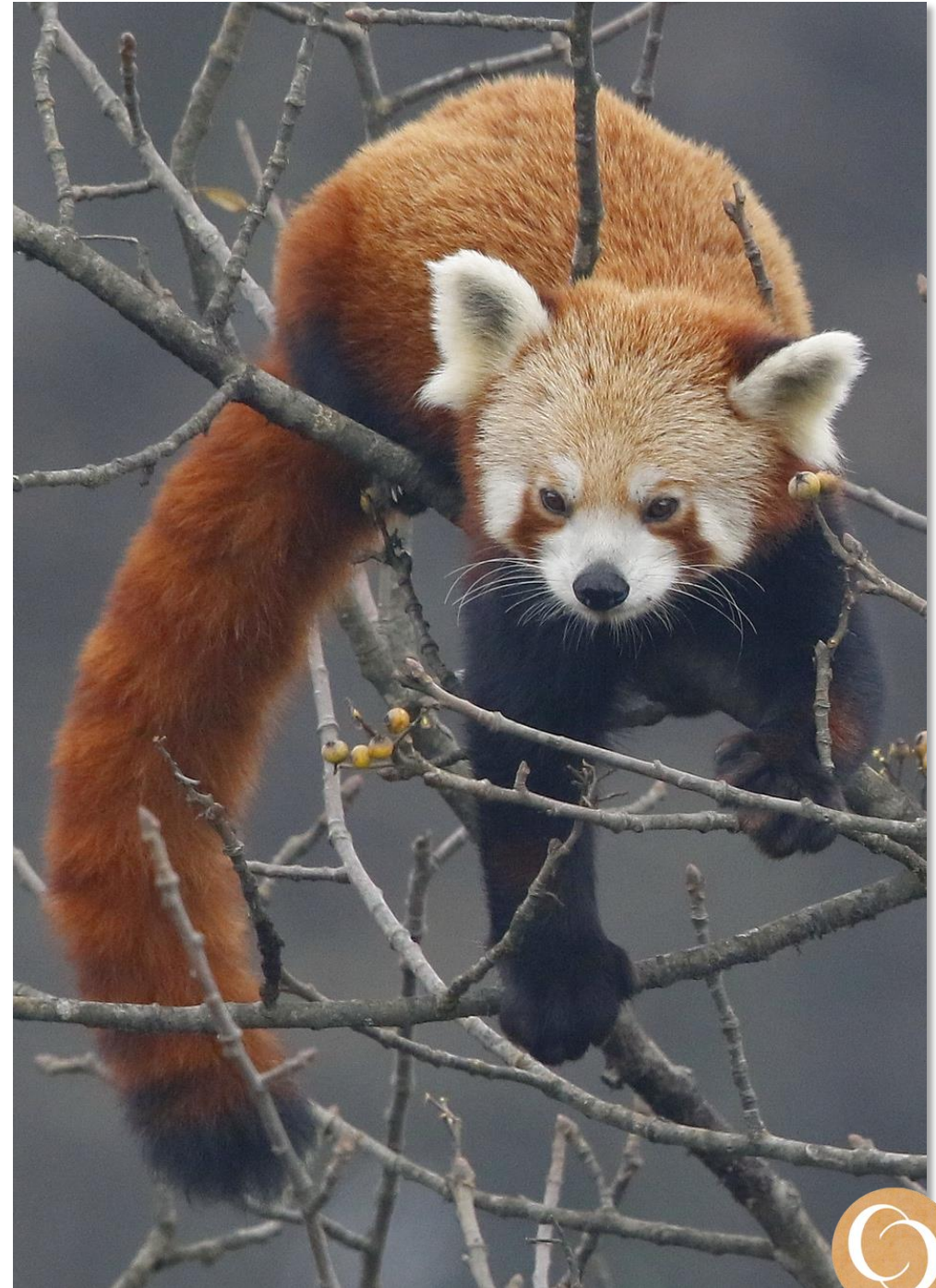


COSTS & INCLUSIONS

- The 09 day / 08 night Eastern India Expedition costs **USD 6580 per person.**
 - Costs are based on five participants sharing a twin or double room. One single room available.
-

Inclusions:

- Accommodation for 08 nights 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/Bagdogra/Delhi sectors in economy class with an extra 10 kilo luggage
 - All transfers by private Toyota MUVs
 - Accompanying WWI guide throughout the tour
 - Red Panda Exploration in Singalila National Park as per the itinerary
 - Services of porters in Singalila National Park
 - Service of an English-speaking local guides/ naturalist & trackers: inclusive of guiding fees and park entry fees payable
 - All necessary permits and permissions
 - Applicable still camera fee in Singalila
 - Community Fee at Singalila
 - Assistance on arrival and departure at each destination
 - Government service tax
-



EXCLUSIONS

Exclusions:

- Any expenses of personal nature such as laundry, aerated drinks etc.
- Personal clothing & 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.

Accommodation Envisaged:

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

Singalila: Shikhar Tarry

Darjeeling: Glenburn Tea Estate & Boutique Hotel – <https://www.glenburnteaestate.com/>



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
- Laundry services are included in Glenburn Tea Estate & Boutique Hotel
- 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.





Registered Office: Santa Fe, USA

Phone: +1 703 220 6393

E-mail: hello@chaloafricainc.com

Website: www.chaloafrica.com



Ranked #1 Outfitter in India by National Geographic Adventure

Mobile: +91 98181 30303 Phone: +91 11 4039 2672

E-mail: wwi@wildworldindia.com Website: www.wildworldindia.com

ALL IMAGES AND CONTENT ARE COPYRIGHT OF WILD WORLD INDIA