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INDIA 2019



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First I would like to thank many on this site for giving me ideas where to go.

After contacting about five different agents, many who I found here, I decided it was best for me to stay at the places I wanted. So I set up the trip myself which saved me about \$1800 and fit my budget. This was what I came up with. April 25-May 6.

One night at Gibbon Eco Camp (next to Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary)

Two nights at Diphlu River Lodge (Kaziranga National Park)

One Night in Delhi (Lemontree)

Four nights at Junglemantra (Bandhavgarh National Park)

I previously went to India in 2005 and mostly did not enjoy India, as it was hot, dirty, crowded, bad roads and what seem like crazy drivers, people always asking for money (guides) and the National Park had too many noisy vehicles.

But this time it was wonderful! Sure part of my trip still was hot but everything else was so much better.

Gibbon Eco Camp and Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary.

Eco camp was just a step above camping, people were nice but forgot to meet me at the airport. On the first day I did some hiking

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outside the park and saw many butterflies, a Macaque monkey and the first surprise , a Giant Indian Squirrel. The next day the park guide picked me up on his motorcycle and within 2 minutes we were in the park. We hiked a road into the park and high up in the trees we saw two Gibbons and also Pig tail monkey. After one hour he decided to go back to the entrance and we hiked the main road but did not see anything. We then got on his motorcycle and we drove back into the park for twenty minutes and did not see anything. When we got back it started to rain so I walked back to my camp. I was Some-what disappointed with the guide and the park.

It was a three hour drive to Diphlu River Lodge and Kaziranga National Park. The park is right across the river from my cottage and I could see many birds and a couple of Macaque in the trees when I arrived. I went to Kaziranga to see India Rhino, Elephant and Buffalo and saw plenty of each. A mother Rhino mocked charge, saw a large tusker



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Elephant and many buffalo. There was no need to do the Elephant safari as the animal were close to the road. Saw many birds, wild boar, jackal, otters, deer, and two river Dolphins which was a treat. I really did enjoy both Diphlu River Lodge and Kaziranga National Park.



Since this was at the end of April it rained every night and a couple of times during the day but only for about one hour did we need the top on the jeep. The first night the guide came to my room and told me there was a vine face viper in the bushes, I saw most of the body but just a little bit of the head.

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After one night in New Delhi next stop Junglemantra and Bandhavgarh National Park. I stayed at another place that was nice in 2005 but I felt I needed a place that seem to have more of a Nature feeling and Junglemantra was the place, right next to the park(wish there was no fence) it has a small and larger water hole which attracts wildlife. I saw wild boar and birds and some monkey's came to the small pond one day. The best thing about Junglemantra was the personal service the owner and his father provided. Shailin also went on all my safaris which help. I went on three regular safaris, two full day safaris which one included a 2.5 hour elephant safari. The Elephant safari was the best as we got to spend the time with Solo and her three cubs, her fourth cub was off away. I recommend the full day safari, you get to go in 15 minutes early which does not sound like much but we were able to spend that time with Dottie and her cubs who made a monkey kill with only one other jeep with us. Most of the first full day safari we spent with very few jeeps around and saw 12 different Tigers. The second full day not as good but saw Solo and then a Sloth bear with only one other jeep because you get to stay a little later. I loved Bandhavgarh this time as they let in fewer jeeps than 2005, no tiger show and the guides and drivers seem to go slower most of the times. On the Elephant the Mahout seem to show respect to the tigers by not pushing them but a couple of times when we were in the jeep a different Mahout ask for money to drive the Tigers towards many jeeps waiting. I Saw many animals and birds and all three zones produced tigers as I saw 18 different Tigers in my four days and every safari at least three, (driver counted 20 tigers but two I didn't see). Shailin had to work extra hard to get the Elephant permit because the park has a new intern director. One time he closed a small lake with Tigers in it for no good reason which made a lot of people unhappy.



Animals I saw.

Tiger, Elephant, Rhino, Buffalo, Otter(two different kind), River dolphins, wild boars, jackal, Sambar, thee other kind of deer, Sloth bear, Giant Indian Squirrel, gibbons and three different monkey.





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