



Every year Royle Safaris runs one of our most popular safari holidays to one of our favourite countries; or Wild Nepal Chitwan Safari explores (as the title suggests) the wonderful National Park of Chitwan in the Nepalese terai ecosystem. At first appearance Nepal is a seemingly the last place on the planet that you would expect to find rhinos, elephants, tigers and crocodiles; as this tiny country is most well known for its mountains, not its lush forests and grasslands. However Nepal's subtropical jungles are home to large numbers of tigers, elephants, rhinos, guar, leopards, sloth bears, gharial and many many more species.

Yes the country is home to more of the world's highest peaks than any other country, including the impressive Mt. Everest, but just 193km away to the south of the majestic Himalayas is the lush and tropical terai. Being around 100m above sea level and steaming hot the forests and grasslands of the lowlands are some of the most diverse and productive ecosystems in the world. It is here that large numbers of some of Asia's most iconic and rare animals live. With the rich nutrients washed down from the Himalayas every year during the monsoon and carried in the melt water every spring the rivers that run through the terai and onto the Gangetic plain in India are left in the soil here when the rivers flood. These annually flooded plains (alluvial) help to produce grasslands that help support hundreds of Indian one-horned rhinos, large numbers of Asiatic elephants, guar and their predators, including tigers.

It was these species that form the basis of interest for our Wild Nepal Chitwan Safari and by spending over 1 week in the park (longer than anyone else) we can fully explore the various habitats that make up Chitwan. This trip report documents the first of two near back to back trips we ran to Chitwan in 2022 and both were very successful in seeing nearly all of the major targets. This tour in particular may be our most successful ever trip to Nepal. Whilst Chitwan has a population of over 80 tigers it can be difficult to reliably see them here. But that is countered by the fact that you are able to get out of the vehicle and hike into the grassland and forest mosaic which makes a tiger safari here worth it. Being on foot around rhinos, elephants, sloth bears, leopards and of course tigers adds an element of thrill to the safari and with our well trained and extremely experienced local guides we are always in very safe hands.

This trip resulted in sightings of so many rhino it is hard to keep count, wild elephants, many sloth bears including some wonderful mother and cub interactions, a leopard posing perfectly in a tree and not one but two tiger sightings. Chitwan once again producing a wonderful and memorable safari experience and when adding in the cultural aspects of any trip to Nepal and you have a holiday that will be live long in the memory.

All of these reasons and many more make this one of our most popular tours and once again we will be running this 11 night trip to Nepal in 2023, for anyone interested you can find out more either by contacting us direct ([info@royle-safaris.co.uk](mailto:info@royle-safaris.co.uk)) or by visiting our website ([www.royle-safaris.co.uk/wildlife-holidays/nepal/](http://www.royle-safaris.co.uk/wildlife-holidays/nepal/)).

This species list was pieced together by one of our clients on the trip and focus on reptiles and amphibians was not a priority so the herpetofauna list could be greater on other trips. Also no special interest in bats or rodents was shown by the clients on this trip, hence the omissions from the species list.

We are also able to combine this trip with various other places and interests in Nepal, for example one of the clients on this trip added on a fishing extension which was also very successful and we have red panda focused extensions, hikes and mountain climbing options throughout the Himalaya as well as cultural tours and stays at other national parks like Bardia or Koshi Tappu.

All of the below pictures are courtesy of Mr. Justin Cote and used with his permission.

# Species List

Wild Nepal Chitwan Safari May 2022

## Mammals

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>
2	Indian hog deer	<i>Axis porcinus</i>
3	Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>
4	Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>
5	Asiatic Elephant	<i>Elaphus maximus</i>
6	Five-lined palm squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>
7	Indian gray mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsii</i>
8	Crab-eating mongoose	<i>Herpestes urva</i>
9	Rhesus Macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>
10	Sloth Bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>
11	Indian Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>
12	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
13	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>
14	One-Horned Indian Rhino	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i>
15	Teari grey langur	<i>Semnopithecus hector</i>
16	Eurasian wild pig	<i>Sus scofra</i>

**Note:** No special attention was paid to find and observe or identify various bats and rodents, hence the lack of these species on the species list.

## Birds

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Shirka	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
2	Crested goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
3	Jungle Mynah	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>
4	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
5	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
6	Eurasian Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
7	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo leucogaster</i>
8	White-breasted waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>
9	Asian Openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>
10	Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melogastor</i>
11	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>

12	Steppe eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>
13	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
14	Intermediate egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
15	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
16	Indian Pond Heron	<i>Areola grayii</i>
17	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
18	Great hornbill	<i>Buceros bicornis</i>
19	Striated heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
20	Banded bay cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>
21	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>
22	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
23	Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
24	Common emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
25	Greater flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus</i>
26	Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
27	Chestnut-winged cuckoo	<i>Clamator coromandus</i>
28	Rock (Feral) Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
29	Oriental magpie robin	<i>Copsychus solarius</i>
30	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
31	Large cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina macei</i>
32	Indian jungle Crow	<i>Corvus culminatus</i>
33	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
34	Indian cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>
35	Indian cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>
36	Rufous Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
37	Fulvous-breasted woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus acei</i>
38	Brown-capped pygmy woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus nanus</i>
39	Lesser Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>
40	Spangled drongo	<i>Dicrurus bracteatus</i>
41	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
42	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
43	Greater racket-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
44	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>
45	Black-rumped flameback	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
46	Himalayan flameback	<i>Dinopium shorii</i>
47	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
48	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystmus orientalis</i>
49	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
50	Tiaga flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicilla</i>
51	Black francolin	<i>Francolinus francolinus</i>
52	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula porphyrio</i>
53	Red Jungle Fowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>
54	Orange-headed thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>
55	Hill mynah	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
56	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon capensis</i>
57	Grey-headed fish eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichthyaetus</i>
58	Bar-winged flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>

59	Large hawk cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx sparveroides</i>
60	Common hawk cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>
61	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
62	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
63	Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
64	Lineated barbet	<i>Megaliana lineata</i>
65	Chestnut-headed bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
66	Green bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
67	Bronze-winged Jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>
68	Little cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>
69	Rufous woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>
70	Black kite	<i>Milvus migran</i>
71	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
72	Golden oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
73	Black-hooded Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
74	Osprey	<i>Pandion halieatu</i>
75	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
76	Oriental honey buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhyncus</i>
77	Green-billed malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>
78	Grey-headed woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>
79	Scaly-bellied woodpecker	<i>Picus squamatus</i>
80	Indian pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>
81	Nepal wren-babbler	<i>Pnoepyga immaculata</i>
82	Grey-crowned prinia	<i>Prinia cinereocapilla</i>
83	Yellow-bellied prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>
84	Grey-breasted prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
85	Long-tailed broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>
86	Red-naped Ibis	<i>Pseudibis papillosa</i>
87	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
88	Red-breasted parakeet	<i>Psittacula alexandri</i>
89	Plum-headed parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>
90	Blossom-headed parakeet	<i>Psittacula roseata</i>
91	Alexandrine Parakeet	<i>Psittacula eupatria</i>
92	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
93	Plain martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>
94	Chestnut-bellied nuthatch	<i>Sitta cinnamoventris</i>
95	Spotted dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
96	Crested Serpent eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
97	Changeable Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>
98	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
99	Red turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia tranuebarica</i>
100	Chestnut-tailed starling	<i>Sturnia malabarica</i>
101	Asian paradise flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
102	Eurasian hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
103	Red-billed bue magpie	<i>Urocissa eyrthrorhyncha</i>
104	Red-Wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
105	Northern lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>



# Reptiles

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Mugger Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus palustris</i>
2	Gharial	<i>Gavialis gangeticus</i>
3	Brooke's house gecko	<i>Hemidactylus brookii</i>
4	Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
5	Bengal monitor	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>

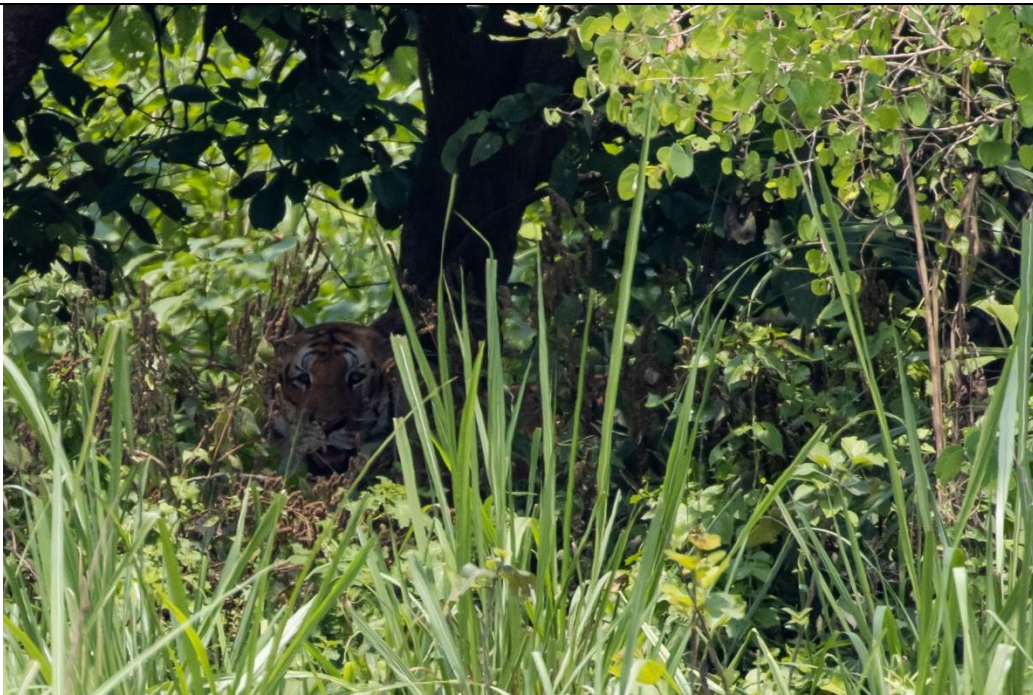


Indian One-horned Rhino



Leopard





Tiger number 1



Tiger number 2



Sloth Bear



Sloth Bear





Indian One-horned Rhino



Oriental Pied Hornbill



Indian Peafowl



Asiatic Elephants





Indian One-horned Rhino & Bank Mynahs



Indian One-horned Rhino



Sauraha



Sambar