

INDIA



INDIA: TIGERS & BEYOND!

THE LIVING DESERT ZOO & GARDENS

October 22 – November 4, 2023

Often overlooked in favor of its cultural treasures, India's resplendent natural heritage is also a vital part of the country's identity. Go deeper into the heart of wild India through the stories of its conservationists and its most beloved resident: the Bengal tiger. Along with game drives to spot one of these elusive creatures, learn about the efforts to protect their dwindling populations, including those of Kailash Sankhala, who founded Project Tiger in 1973. You'll witness his family's conservation legacy firsthand during your stay at their ecolodge in Kanha, and discover their connection to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Along the way, spot other wildlife like barasingha deer, Indian bison, langur monkeys, and sloth bear, plus get a taste of bustling Delhi and its rich history of pre-colonial empires and cultures.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Go on game drives accompanied by a local naturalist and park guide for the best chances to spot tigers and other wildlife in three of India's best parks and reserves.
- Discover the conservation story of the Bengal tiger at Kanha Jungle Lodge, operated by the family of Kailash Sankhala, India's "Tiger Man" and pioneering conservationist.
- Gain a new perspective on the safari experience as you hike through Satpura National Park on foot, a rare opportunity.
- Learn about Indira Gandhi, India's first female prime minister and champion of tiger conservation.
- Explore Old Delhi to get a glimpse into India's cultural past and present.
- *Add an optional pre-trip extension Oct. 19-25 to Bandhavgarh National Park, home to one of the highest densities of tigers anywhere in the world.*

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

OCTOBER 22 | DEPART LAX

Today you will depart from Los Angeles for your flight to Delhi.

OCTOBER 23 | DELHI

Arrive at the international airport in Delhi, clear customs and immigration, and meet your representative and transfer to the hotel. Check in at the hotel starts at 2:00 pm. Continuously inhabited since the 6th century BCE, Delhi has been the capital of kingdoms and empires, and today is a sprawling metropolis that encompasses this fascinating blend of past and present. It is a perfect introduction to the composite culture of this ancient land. *Overnight at The Claridges.*

OCTOBER 24 | DELHI

After breakfast, receive your program orientation at the hotel. Depart the hotel for your morning visit to Old Delhi. Be transported back in time to the grandeur and eventual ruin of the Mughal Empire, which ruled from the 16th century to the mid-19th century. Visit Jama Masjid, India's second largest mosque, and admire its tapering minarets and marble domes. Stroll through streets and markets where royalty once roamed, savor the fragrances of boisterous spice markets, be dazzled by India's largest jewelry markets, and glimpse the once glorious havelis (royal mansions) of Old Delhi. Alternating between walking and rickshaw rides, we'll discover hidden gems as we explore the narrow alleys and 350 year-old markets of this city built at the pinnacle of the Mughal period. Afterwards, visit the Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum, once the residence of the former Prime Minister of India, and the site where she was assassinated in 1984. Learn more about her life, death, and politics, as well as that of her son Rajiv Gandhi, who served as Prime Minister after his mother's assassination, and who himself was assassinated in 1991. The museum houses a collection of rare photographs documenting the Nationalist Movement, which sought independence from Great British colonial rule, as well as personal mementos of the Nehru-Gandhi family and clippings of Rajiv Gandhi's funeral pyre. Learn about Indira Gandhi's work as a champion of tiger conservation, and later hear a lecture about Project Tiger, a government conservation program launched in 1973 during her tenure.. *Overnight at The Claridges. (BLD)*



OCTOBER 25 | KANHA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, leave the bustling city behind and journey into the tranquility of India's wilderness. First take a flight to Raipur, then continue another four to five hours by vehicle to Kanha. Kanha National Park, on the Chhota Nagpur Plateau in Madhya Pradesh, is under the purview of Project Tiger and provides breathtaking vistas of grassy plains and stands of mixed sal/teak forests. This 366-square-mile preserve was planned to save two endangered

species, the Bengal tiger and the barasingha deer. This evening, watch the award-winning Discovery Channel documentary "Tigerland," which focuses in part on Kailash Sankhala, the founder of Project Tiger. Sankhala's grandchildren run and manage Kanha Jungle Lodge, your accommodation for the next three nights. Spend the evening getting to know this family whose heritage in tiger conservation dates back three generations. *Overnight at Kanha Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*



OCTOBER 26 | KANHA NATIONAL PARK

Today we'll embark on early morning and afternoon visits to Kanha National Park in a 4x4 Jeep with an English-speaking naturalist. You will have an opportunity to see wild dogs (more commonly known as dhol), chital (spotted deer), gaur (Indian bison), munjak (barking deer), sambhar (deer), leopard, and sloth bear. Kanha is also the only place in the world where you can spot barasingha deer in the wild, thanks to the successful conservation program that virtually saved them from the brink of extinction. Enjoy a picnic breakfast in the middle of the jungle with a cup of hot tea or coffee, and later lunch at the lodge. In the winter months, warm clothes, woolen caps, and gloves are needed for morning safaris in the open 4x4. Blankets are provided for extra comfort and protection. *Overnight at Kanha Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 27 | KANHA NATIONAL PARK

Continue with morning and afternoon wildlife drives in Kanha National Park in a 4x4 Jeep with an English-speaking naturalist. *Overnight at Kanha Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 28 | PENCH NATIONAL PARK

This morning, drive from Kanha to Pench (4-5 hour drive). Pench National Park is located on the southern boundary of Madhya Pradesh, nestled in the lower southern reaches of the Satpura Mountain Range. The Satpura-Maikal region consists of seven tiger reserves and five corridors stretching through three states (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh) in central India. The area is one of the country's strongholds of wildlife protection and natural resource-based livelihoods. Within this large region sits the Kanha-Pench landscape, which includes Kanha-Pench Tiger Reserves and the forested land between them in Mandla, Balaghat and Seoni districts in Madhya Pradesh.

The Kanha-Pench landscape has been the focus of extensive and diverse research conducted in the region, as well as active government support to establish the region as a wildlife corridor, making it an ideal case-study for other areas in the Satpura Maikal region and throughout India.

It also provides important ecosystem services through its hydrology (e.g. part of the area is a watershed for River Narmada) and biodiversity (e.g. the parks support endangered and

vulnerable species such as tiger and hard-ground barasingha). A diversity of human communities utilize the forests in the area with varying intensity, ranging from minimal forest extraction in reserves to rapid road, agriculture and mining development outside protected areas. The area requires active research and management to ensure sustainable livelihoods for people and protection of the wildlife alike, and offers an ideal case study of the complex environmental and social issues facing the Satpura-Maikal region, and India at large.

Upon arrival check-in to Jamtara Wilderness Camp. *Overnight at Jamtara Wilderness Camp. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 29 | PENCH NATIONAL PARK

As soon as dawn breaks, set out on a morning jungle safari through Pench National Park, accompanied by a resident naturalist and forest park guide in 4x4 Jeeps. After lunch, return to the 4x4 Jeeps with your naturalist and guide to go on an afternoon jungle safari and continue the search for target species. Named for the Pench River, which meanders through the park from north to south, Pench covers 295 square miles. Notably, the present-day Pench Tiger Reserve and its surroundings are the original setting for Rudyard Kipling's famous work, "The Jungle Book." The undulating topography supports a range of vegetation, from moist, sheltered valleys to open, dry deciduous forest. Over 1,200 plant species have been recorded here, including several rare and endangered plants and plants of ethno-botanical importance. The area is also rich in wildlife; the high habitat heterogeneity favors large populations of chital and sambar. In fact, Pench Tiger Reserve has the highest density of herbivores in India. *Overnight at Jamtara Wilderness Camp. (BLD)*



OCTOBER 30 | PENCH NATIONAL PARK

Continue your exploration of Pench National Park with morning and afternoon game drives. *Overnight at Jamtara Wilderness Camp. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 31 | SATPURA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, depart Pench and drive to Satpura National Park, located in south Hoshangabad district in Madhya Pradesh. The 820-square-mile park is the core area of the Panchmarhi Biosphere Reserve, and has an elevation of 1,050 to 4,350 feet, with tall sandstone mountains, narrow gorges, ravines, waterfalls, streams, and dense forests. The area boasts two distinctive species of trees, the sal and the teak, as well as many varieties of ferns, mango trees, butterflies, and birds. *Overnight at Reni Pani Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 1 | SATPURA NATIONAL PARK

Go on morning and afternoon wildlife drives in Satpura National Park by 4x4 Jeep with an English-speaking naturalist. You will also have the opportunity to explore the park beyond the safari vehicle - on foot, by elephant, and by boat. Satpura is the only tiger

reserve that permits walking safaris in small groups (four, plus the guide) through the heart of the park and encourages a wide variety of activities that give visitors a much deeper insight into tiger country than is possible only by Jeep. Park management as well as Forsyth Lodge are involved with training local boys as naturalist guides to provide surrounding communities with access to skilled work, on the core belief that every well-trained guide is one less potential poacher. *Overnight at Reni Pani Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 2 | SATPURA NATIONAL PARK

Continue with morning and afternoon safaris in Satpura National Park by 4x4 Jeep with an English-speaking naturalist. *Overnight at Reni Pani Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 3 | DELHI/DEPARTURE

After breakfast we will drive to Bhopal airport (3 hrs) for our early afternoon flight to Delhi. Upon arrival, we'll be met and assisted with our check-in at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Delhi Airport. This evening, check in on own for an early morning departure (next day). *Overnight at Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Delhi Airport. (BLD)*

NOVEMBER 4 | ARRIVE LAX

Your early flight departs from Delhi this morning, arriving in Los Angeles on the same day, due to the International Date Line. Welcome home!

LAND PRICING

\$7,995

Price is based on double occupancy.

Your price includes:

- Flights within India (Delhi to Raipur and Bhopal to Delhi)
- 12 nights' accommodations
- 33 meals (11 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 11 dinners)
- Non-alcoholic beverages with meals
- Full-time guide for duration of program
- Private motorcoach or minibus transportation throughout your trip
- Sightseeing and activities as described, including entrance fees
- All tips/gratuities
- Departure tax

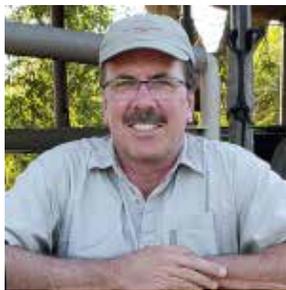
Price does not include: international airfare, travel/trip cancellation insurance, drinks purchased on own, and items of a personal nature.

Holbrook Travel can assist with making your flight arrangements upon request. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For a single room throughout the trip, add \$1,800 per person.

THE FINE PRINT

A \$500 deposit is required at least 135 days prior to departure for participants to register and reserve a space on the program. If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. All cancellations need to be submitted in writing to The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens. If you cancel 135 days or more before departure: \$300 charge; Cancel 134-0 days before departure: no refund.

MEET YOUR HOST



Allen Monroe

President/CEO
The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens

Allen Monroe has devoted his life and career to the conservation of animals and educating the public about the natural world. He has worked for zoos and public

aquariums around the country including the National Aquarium in Baltimore, the Oklahoma City Zoo, the Indianapolis Zoo and as Director for the North Carolina Aquarium. In 2014, he became the President/CEO of the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in Palm Desert, CA. In addition, he has worked as a research scientist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where he studied the effects of climate change on endangered species. He received his BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Texas.

“One of my joys is to lead donors and zoo supporters on safari at locations around the world. This gives me a chance to share my insights and develop a deeper connection with people who are passionate about animal conservation.”



WHAT THIS TRIP IS LIKE

ACTIVITY LEVEL 2: EASY-MODERATE This expedition has a natural focus with some urban exploration. It is leisurely paced, with 2- to 3-night stays at 4 locations, and easy physical activity—mainly 3- to 4-hour safari drives in 4x4 vehicles over sometimes bumpy tracks. You'll also enjoy a boat safari and the rare chance to seek game on foot. Safari drives begin at dawn, return you to the lodge for midday relaxation, then resume in the late afternoon. Aside from tigers you'll seek diverse species in variable terrain that includes sandstone canyons, dense forests, and grassy plains. There are several overland transfers of 4 to 5 hours aboard air-conditioned, private motorcoaches; plus two internal flights. In October and November, expect mostly mild temperatures, with warm, pleasant days; nights and early mornings may get a bit chilly. Lows may be in the 50s (°F), and daytime highs can average in the 80s and possibly into the 90s.



OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK

October 19-25, 2023

6 days/5 nights for \$3,495

Single supplement: \$225 per person

Set among the Vindhya Hills in Madhya Pradesh, Bandhavgarh National Park boasts one of the highest densities of tigers anywhere in the world and has been the backdrop for numerous wildlife documentaries. Other notable wildlife includes sloth bears, langur monkeys, wild boar, three kinds of deer, and 150 bird species.

Your tour price includes:

- Flight within India (Delhi to Jabalpur) and vehicle transportation
- 2 nights' accommodation at The Claridges and 3 nights' accommodation at Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge
- 14 meals: 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 4 dinners
- Entry to Bandhavgarh National Park, with morning and afternoon guided safaris as described
- Transfers to/from airport

OCTOBER 19 - DEPART LAX

Overnight flight to Delhi.

OCTOBER 20 - DELHI

Arrive in Delhi and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure to rest. *Overnight at The Claridges.*

OCTOBER 21 - DELHI

Embark on a city tour of Old Delhi, including visits to the Jama Masjid mosque, markets, mansions, and Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum. *Overnight at The Claridges. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 22 - BANDHAVGARH

Fly to Jabalpur, then drive another 3 hours to Bandhavgarh. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure, perhaps opting to take a nature walk with a naturalist guide. *Overnight at Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 23-24 - BANDHAVGARH

Spend the next two days exploring Bandhavgarh National Park on morning and afternoon jungle safaris in 4x4 Jeeps, accompanied by a resident naturalist, in search of tigers and other wildlife. *Overnight at Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge. (BLD)*

OCTOBER 25 - KANHA/BEGIN MAIN PROGRAM

Take a final morning safari before driving 6 hours to Kanha Jungle Lodge, where you will meet up with the rest of the group. *(BL)*

RESERVATION FORM

The Living Desert Zoo & Gardens: India – Tigers & Beyond! | October 22 – November 4, 2023

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person/people on the tour listed below. I/we understand the final payment is due no later than June 9, 2023. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to Holbrook Travel, Inc. and mail deposit check to: Holbrook Travel, 3540 NW 13th Street, Gainesville Florida, 32609. For questions, please contact Sandy Schmidt at schmidt@holbrooktravel.com or 877-907-5360.

Full Passport Name _____ DOB _____ Gender _____

E-mail _____

Full Passport Name _____ DOB _____ Gender _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Ph. (_____) _____ Cell Ph. (_____) _____

Please book my/our air from _____. I/we request an air upgrade to _____.

I will share a room with _____. I request a single room (limited availability).

Pre-Trip Extension to Bandhavgarh: Y N

If yes, please enclose additional \$500 per person deposit to reserve your space.

Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for the above-referenced tour, and agrees that their signature(s) below represent(s) their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Method of Payment Check American Express Discover MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Holbrook Travel, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Holbrook Travel. Final payment is due no later than June 9, 2023 (check or credit card).

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

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Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price international airfare from your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; communications charges; travel/trip cancellation insurance. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

International Air Transportation Estimated airfare: **\$1,375 from Palm Springs to Delhi**. Holbrook Travel offers group airfare and ticketing. Group transfers between the airport and hotel are included in your program cost. A note about online airfare: Occasionally, you may be able to find airfares online that are listed at a lower cost. In general, individual fares lack the flexibility of group airfare and often require immediate purchase. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Holbrook Travel is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour "Land Only" is available. We recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens and Holbrook Travel, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Cancellations, Changes and Refunds A deposit of \$500 is required 135 days prior to departure for participants to register and reserve a space on the program. If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. All cancellations need to be submitted in writing to The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens. **If you cancel 135 days or more before departure: \$300 charge; Cancel 134-0 days before departure: no refund.** Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a \$100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure. If due to unforeseen circumstances Holbrook Travel cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Health and Medical Issues We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate on a Holbrook Travel tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day). You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens and Holbrook Travel assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Holbrook Travel has a no smoking policy on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

Required Information Upon reservation, you must provide your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender (for details, please visit tsa.gov). In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue. **A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on this tour.**

Responsibility The liability of The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens as sponsor, and Holbrook Travel Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens and Holbrook Travel, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens and Holbrook Travel, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality and may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions. The services of any IATA and ATC carrier may be used in connection with these tours. The participant understands that if he/she books special low cost airfares with penalties, and cancels the reservation, he/she is responsible for any penalties incurred from the airline.