India Highlights & Tiger Parks

Explore the wonders and hidden treasures of Northern India in Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, as well as enjoy the safari experiences in National Tiger Parks

14 Days / 13 Nights

well tested itinerary and ready-to-go for any group size - pick your dates













Tour Program Summary

India, it is often said, is not a country, but a continent. Stretching from the frozen summits of the Himalayas to the tropical greenery of Kerala, its expansive borders encompass an incomparable range of landscapes, cultures and people. Walk the streets of any Indian city and you'll rub shoulders with representatives of several of the world's great faiths, a multitude of castes and outcastes, fair-skinned, turbaned Punjabis and dark-skinned Tamils. You'll also encounter temple rituals that have been performed since the time of the Egyptian Pharaohs, onion-domed mosques erected centuries before the Taj Mahal was built, and quirky echoes of the British Raj on virtually every corner.

Your grand India tour starts from **Delhi**, City of Djinns, and 25 million people. Like an eastern Rome, India's capital is littered with the relics of lost empires. A succession of armies stormed across the Indo-Gangetic plain and imprinted their identity onto the vanquished city, before vanishing into rubble and ruin like the conquerors who preceded them. Modern Delhi is a chaotic tapestry of medieval fortifications, Mughal mausoleums, dusty bazaars, colonial-era town planning, and mega malls.

Your next destination is **Agra** – India's capital under the Mughals – remains undiminished, from the massive fort to the magnificent Taj Mahal. Along with Delhi, 204km northwest, and Jaipur in Rajasthan, Agra is the third apex of the "Golden Triangle", India's most popular tourist itinerary. Although it's possible to see Agra on a day-trip from Delhi, the Taj alone deserves so much more – a fleeting visit would miss the subtleties of its many moods, as the light changes from sunrise to sunset – while the city's other sights and Fatehpur Sikri can easily fill several days.

A flamboyant showcase of Rajasthani architecture, **Jaipur** has long been established on tourist itineraries as the third corner of India's "Golden Triangle". At the heart of Jaipur lies the **Pink City**, the old walled quarter, whose bazaars rank among the most vibrant in Asia, renowned for their textiles and jewelery.

Fly to Nagpur and drive to **Kanha National Park**, nestled in the Maikal range of Satpuras in Madhya Pradesh, the heart of India that forms the central Indian highlands. The national park is being popularized as a Tiger reserve and is regarded by many experts as one of the finest wildlife areas in the world. A jeep safari in the park will allow you to take a closer look at many wild animals and to capture their magnanimous images with your camera.

Travel overland by vehicle to **Bandhavgarh National Park,** another popular national parks in India located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh. Bandhavgarh was declared a national park in 1968, with an area of 105 km² and a buffer zone of over 300 km². This park has a large biodiversity. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is one of the highest known in India. The park has a large breeding population of leopards, and various species of deer.

Fly back to Delhi for an overnight stay and fly home on the following day.

Tour Daily Itinerary

Day 01 **Delhi**

Arrive at Delhi International Airport on a flight from North America; you are met by our local staff and enjoy a private transfer to the hotel for checkin. Stay two nights in <u>The Park New Delhi (luxury room</u>). Evening is free.









Day 02 Delhi

After breakfast, have a full day private city tour of Old & New Delhi. In addition to its historic attractions and role as the Government center, Delhi is a major travel gateway. It is one of India's busiest entrance points for overseas airlines, the hub of North Indian travel network and a stop on the overland route across Asia.

Places to visit for today are: <u>Red Fort</u> (Monday Closed), <u>Raj Ghat</u>; <u>Jama Masjid</u>, <u>Qutab Minar</u>, <u>Humayun's Tomb</u>, <u>India Gate</u>; also drive past the government buildings lining the <u>Jan Path</u> and enjoy the <u>rickshaw ride</u> in Old Delhi and enjoy your own lunch in a local restaurant.

In the evening, visit the Sikh temple <u>Bangla Sahib</u>; return to the hotel after the visit and dinner is on your own. <B-L>

Day 03 **Delhi ⇒ Agra**

After breakfast, enjoy some leisure time. Then, drive (3.5-4 hrs) to Agra with your private guide and professional driver in air-conditioned vehicle. En route, visit Mathura - the birthplace of Hindu god Krishna, and have lunch in a local restaurant. Upon arrival in Agra, check in to the hotel. Rest of the day and evening are free for individual leisure activities.

Agra is famous as being home to one of the Seven Wonders of the World - The Taj Mahal. The city was once the capital of the Mughal Empire and even today it seems to linger in the past. Not surprisingly, for the Mughal emperors with their passion for building, endowed the city with some of the finest structures in the world. Stay for two nights in Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room). Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room). Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room). Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room). Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room). Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room). Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room). Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room). Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room). Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room). Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room). Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room). Radisson Blu Hotel Agra (superior room).









Day 04 Agra

Enjoy an early morning visit to The Monument of Love – <u>Taj Mahal</u> (closed on Friday). Enjoy the Horse Carriage Ride from the parking lot till the gate of Taj Mahal. After the visit, return back to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast, continue with visit to the rest of the monuments in Agra: The Red Fort, The Itmad-ul-Daulah, and Sikandra - the Tomb of Mughal Emperor of Akbar; after the visits, transfer back to hotel and balance of the day is free. Lunch and dinner are on your own today.







Day 05 Agra 📻 **≒** Jaipur

After breakfast, bid farewell to Agra and drive (5 hrs) in private vehicle Fatahpur Sikri with your guide to Jaipur. En route, enjoy a guided tour of <u>Fatehpur</u> Sikri, "the Ghost City" which lies west of Agra.

> This place was built during the second half of the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire for only 10 years. The complex of monuments and temples, all in a uniform architectural style, includes one of the largest mosques in India, the <u>Iama Masjid</u>. Now it is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

> Continue drive towards Jaipur and on the way, visit a village called Abhaneri. Originally Abhaneri was named as Abha Nagri, which means the city of brightness. Abhaneri is prominent for 'Baoris' (step wells), which are the unique invention of the natives for harvesting rain water.

From here, continue drive to Jaipur. Upon arrival Jaipur, check into hotel. This evening, enjoy your dinner in the hotel restaurant. Stay for two nights in Radisson Blu Jaipur (superior room). <B-D>









Day 06 Jaipur

Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, still looks cradled and well protected. Jaipur takes its name from maharaja jai Singh, who in the early 1700s became the King of Amber at the age of 13. He soon added architect and astronomy to his credentials. He designed the bulk of his new capital, with its exquisite buildings of rose colored terra cotta, thus giving it the name of "the pink city" with pink and orange the dominant colors, the effect is magic at dusk.

After breakfast, drive to the Amber fort. Enjoy an Elephant Ride while going up the fort for a visit. The Amber Fort was built by 'Raja Shri Maan Singh JI Saheb' (Maan Singh I, December 21, 1550 – July 6, 1614) in 16th century. Man Singh, one of the first war chiefs or the trusted general of the Emperor Akbar. Man Singh began the construction of a fortress-palace of white and red sandstone i.e. Amber Fort in 1592.

In the afternoon, have a half day city tour of Jaipur. Places to visit include: City Palace; Jantar Mantar; Hawa Mahal (from outside only); Evening visit to Birla Temple for evening ceremony. Then return to hotel for rest.

Day 07 Jaipur →
Nagpur ⇔
Kanha

After breakfast, you will be provided with private transfer to the airport to connect the flight 9W7178 (0755-0945) to Mumbai. Met by guide in Mumbai airport and enjoy a brief short city tour of Mumbai visiting <u>Gateway of India</u>, <u>Dhobi Ghat</u>, <u>High Court</u>, and <u>Mani Bhawan</u>.

Then transfer back to airport and fly 9W7133 (1510-1635) to Nagpur. Upon arrival in Nagpur, you will be met by your local representative at the airport followed by travel in private vehicle to Kanha (165m, 05-06 hrs approx). Upon arrival in Kanha, check in to the hotel. Enjoy dinner and stay three nights at Chitwan Jungle Lodge (standard suite, Jal Block).

Day 08 Kanha

Get up early this morning; enjoy a <u>Shared Jungle Safari</u> (*between 6 am to 10 am*) by 4x4 open jeep in <u>Kanha National Park</u>. Kanha is a national park and a Tiger Reserve in the Mandla and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh. This national park was created on 1 June 1955. Today it stretches over an area of 940 km². Together with a surrounding buffer zone of 1,067 km² and the neighboring 110 km² Phen Sanctuary it forms the Kanha Tiger Reserve. This makes it the largest National Park in Central India.

The park has a significant population of Royal Bengal Tiger, leopards, the sloth bear, Barasingha and Indian wild dog. The lush sal and bamboo forests, grassy meadows and ravines of Kanha provided inspiration to Rudyard Kipling for his famous novel "Jungle Book".

Return to hotel for breakfast and noon is at leisure. After Lunch, enjoy an afternoon <u>shared Jungle Safari</u> (*between 3 pm to 7 pm*) by 4X4 open jeep in the park. After the safari, return back to the hotel before sunset. Enjoy dinner and stay overnight at <u>Chitwan Jungle Lodge</u> (<u>standard suite</u>, <u>Jal Block</u>). <B-L-D>









Day 09 Kanha

Early rise-up for another Get up early this morning; enjoy a <u>Shared Jungle Safari</u> (*between 6 am to 10 am*) by 4x4 open jeep in Kanha National Park.

Return to hotel for breakfast and noon is at leisure. After Lunch, enjoy an afternoon <u>Shared Jungle Safari</u> (*between 3 pm to 7 pm*) by 4X4 open jeep in the park. After the safari, return back to the hotel before sunset. Enjoy dinner and overnight at <u>Chitvan Jungle Lodge (standard suite, Jal Block)</u>. <B-L-D>

Day 10 Kanha ≒ Bandhavgarh

After breakfast at the hotel, check out at the hotel and begin driving (155m, 5 hrs) to Bandhavgarh. Upon arrival, check into hotel. After Lunch, enjoy an afternoon Shared Jungle Safari (between 3 pm to 7 pm) by 4X4 open jeep in the park. After the safari, return back to the hotel before sunset. Enjoy dinner and stay overnight at Bandhav Vilas (AC villa). <B-L-D>

Day 11 **Bandhavgarh** Get up early this morning for another <u>Shared Jungle Safari</u> (*between 6 am to 10 am*) by 4x4 open jeep in Bandhavgarh National Park. <u>Bandhavgarh National Park</u> is one of the popular national parks in India located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh. Bandhavgarh was declared a national park in 1968, with an area of 105 km². The buffer is spread over the forest divisions of Umaria and Katni and totals 437 km².

This park has a large biodiversity. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is one of the highest known in India. The park has a large breeding population of leopards, and various species of deer. Maharaja Martand Singh of Rewa captured the first white tiger in this region in 1951. This white tiger, *Mohan*, is now stuffed and on display in the palace of the Maharajas of Rewa.

Return to hotel for breakfast and noon is at leisure. After Lunch, enjoy an afternoon <u>Shared Jungle Safari</u> (*between 3 pm to 7 pm*) by 4X4 open jeep in the park. After the safari, return back to the hotel before sunset. Enjoy dinner and stay overnight at <u>Bandhav Vilas (AC villa)</u>. <B-L-D>







Day 12 **Bandhavgarh** Get up early this morning; enjoy a <u>shared Jungle Safari</u> (*between 6 am to 10 am*) by 4x4 open jeep in Bandhavgarh National Park. Return to hotel for breakfast and noon is at leisure.

After Lunch, enjoy the <u>Village Jeep Safari</u>. A jeep with naturalist will pick you from the Hotel and will take you for the Bird Watching Tour near to the resort and later you will proceed to a Tribal Village where you will have the experience about their tribal lifestyle and will get to know about their Culture etc.

After the village safari, return to hotel and enjoy dinner and stay overnight at Bandhav Vilas (AC villa). <B-L-D>

Early rise-up for another <u>Shared Jungle Safari</u> (*between 6 am to 10 am*) by 4x4 open jeep in Bandhavgarh National Park. Return to hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast, check out of hotel and begin driving (125m, 4 hrs) to Jabalpur. Upon arrival at Jabalpur, you will be provided in time assisted departure transfer to airport to connect the flight SG2452 (1835-2035) to Delhi. Assistance upon arrival at Delhi Airport followed by transfer to hotel for check-in and overnight stay. Lunch and dinner are on your own today. Four Points by Sheraton (comfort room).

Day 14 **Fly Home** Breakfast in hotel. Picked up by guide and transfer to Delhi International Airport and fly home. Service ends.

Changes to Itinerary: Access China Tours has made all possible attempts to ensure the accuracy of tour itineraries. Circumstances beyond our control may occur. We reserve the right to change itineraries, sightseeing activities, and common carriers, and to substitute

First Class (4 Star) Hotels Selected for Your Tour







The Park New Delhi







Radisson Blu Hotel Agra







Radisson Blu Jaipur









Bandhav Vilas

Chitvan Jungle Lodge







Four Points by Sheraton

Tour Land Price Inclusions & Exclusions

Tour Land & Air (within India) **Price**: from \$3,890 USD per person dbl occupancy depending on season

We will quote the exact price for your tour depending on the season and availability once you have chosen your tour dates

What's Included in Tour Land Price:

- Complete transportation by an AC Toyota Innova which including all airport transfers, hotel transfers, all sector drives and sightseeing as per the program
- India domestic air tickets for flights as listed
- First class (4 star) hotel & national park lodge resort accommodations as listed
- All breakfasts and meals as listed in the itinerary
- Vehicle at client's disposal from day 03 Delhi / Agra till day 07 drop at Jaipur airport
- One time monument entrances fees is included as per the program
- Service of a private English-speaking guide/escort during the drives and sightseeing in Delhi, Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, and Jaipur (He stays at different hotels other than the clients)
- Jungle plan in national parks Room + All Meals + park ride as per the itinerary on shared jeeps

NOTE: PLEASE NOTE THAT WE USE ONLY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA / MINISTRY OF TOURISM APPROVED LICENSED GUIDES / ESCORTS.

A FEW INTERESTING ACTIVITIES ARE ALSO INCLUDED:

- 01 Rickshaw Ride in Delhi on Day 02 is included.
- Horse carriage ride in Agra on day 04 (from the parking till the gate of Taj Mahal)
- Elephant Ride at Amber Fort in Jaipur on day 06 is included.
- 03 Exclusive Jeep Park safaris (SHARED BY CLIENTS ONLY) are included in Pench national Park.
- 03 Shared Jeep Park safaris (SHARING 01 JEEP with other passengers) are included in Kanha national Park.
- 03 Shared Jeep Park safaris (SHARING 01 JEEP with other passengers) are included in Bandhavgarh national Park.

What's Not Included in Tour Land Price:

- Any expenses of personal nature such as drinks, tele / fax calls, laundry etc.
- Any tips to hotel staff, your tour guide/escort, local guides, safari guides, drivers etc.,
- Any meals apart from the ones mentioned above
- ANY EXPENSES CAUSED BY REASONS BEYOND OUR CONTROL SUCH AS TRAIN FLIGHT DELAYS / CANCELLATION / RESCHEDULING, ETC AND ANY OTHER SITUATIONS RELATED TO ROAD BLOCKS, ACCIDENTS, MEDICAL EVACUATION AND NATURAL CALAMITIES.
- Any video / camera fees
- Any expenses apart from the ones above mentioned

THE PRICE IS SUBJECT TO BE REVISED IF ANY ADDITIONAL TAXES OR PARK FEE HIKE ARE INTRODUCED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE COST ABOVE IS PROVISIONAL; SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDS ON THE HOTELS CONFIRMED. THE EXACT COST SHALL BE KNOWN TO YOU AFTER THE HOTEL CONFIRMATION.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Please note that the hotels proposed in the quote may not be available at time of booking, in this situation suitable alternative hotel will be booked. In the situation suitable similar hotel is not available a next available category will be booked and cost difference between the two hotels will be provided. In case of reduction we will refund the money but in case of supplements, the clients should be ready for the same. If we get higher category rooms such as club rooms etc clients will need to pay the difference if they choose this option.

Notes on Parks and Safaris:

- These national parks will open from October 15th, 2014 till June 30th, 2015. It is recommended to check for the opening dates in October before booking the flights to know the exact opening dates.
- On every Wednesday national parks is closed for afternoon park safaris in Pench, Kanha & Bandhavgarh.
- As of now we have included the park rides at National Parks on actual rates. If the park rides may
 increase as per the government rules the clients need to pay the difference increased by the
 government.

SAFARIS IN INDIAN WILDLIFE PARKS: TERMS & CONDITIONS

<u>General Park Timings:</u> The Safaris are done twice a day; 01 in the early morning and 01 in the afternoon. Morning time is usually from 0600 or 0700 hours for 3-4 Hours and afternoon timing starts between 1400 to 1500 hours. The Park timings depend on the time of the sunrise and sunset. Generally, the Park opens for the visitors half an hour after sunrise and closes half an hour before sunset.

Sometimes Full day Exclusive Jeep safaris can also be organised at additional costs.

The numbers of Jeeps that can enter the Park for a particular Safari has been limited now by the order of Supreme Court of India and hence it is always better to pre book the safaris in time. For the booking, full passport details of the passengers is required. The booking process is controlled by the Forest authorities and the Government of India.

ZONES: To carry out the complementary activities of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, National Parks are generally divided into zones mainly the core area and the buffer zone. If one is doing Safaris in Core area, it does not guarantee Animal / Tiger sighting and the Zones are only designed to maintain the conservation so that one particular area is not affected and moreover each Zone has something different to offer.

These zones are allotted by the National park authorities for safaris and cannot be controlled by any outside agency or Hotels but in some parks certain premier zones can be allotted on extra charges.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Right of Admission is reserved with The Government of India:

- Park may be closed without any prior notice to visitor.
- No refund / cancellation is permissible after confirmed booking.
- Bookings are non-transferable.
- Reserved seats cannot be resold / exchanged with any other visitor.

- Identity proof is must before entry into the park.
- Cost of Ticket and Accessories may change after booking and visitor will be liable to pay the difference at the time of entry.
- Into the park in case of any revision in rates. The visitor is required to positively report for boarding Gypsy/Canter 15 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time of any designated boarding point.

Rules for Photo Equipments:

- There are no charges for Still Camera in most of the National Parks.
- Charges for P cam (Movies 8 mm, 16 mm and video camera used by a mature photographer), D Cam (Video camera and movie camera used by professional photographer for films other than feature films filming by Indian company/agency), V Cam (Video camera and movie camera used by professional photographer for other than feature film filming by foreign company/agency), F Cam (Movie and video camera used for feature film) as per Tourism/ Forest Department policy.

Special Note for the Park Safari:

To book safari we require Full passport details for the Foreign Nationals and at least 90 days in advance with details of safari in order to secure the booking.

Due to local forest regulations only limited numbers of jeeps are subject to being available for both
morning and evening safaris. If jeeps are not available the safaris will be conducted in mini truck with
other people. Jeeps in the National parks are to be booked in advance therefore passport details are
to be needed at the time of booking.

Tour Payment Schedule: \$600 USD per person deposit is required at sign up. Tour Balance is due 90 days prior to tour date.

Cancellation Policy: All cancellation notices must be received in writing and will become effective as of the date of receipt by your travel agency or *Access China Tours*. We assess cancellation fees of all tours according to the following schedule:

90 days or more prior to departure *	\$300 per person
89 to 60 days prior to departure *	\$600 per person
59 to 30 days prior to departure *	\$900 per person
29 to 15 days prior to departure *	\$1200 per person

^{*} Plus any charges assessed by government agencies, land suppliers, cruise companies and airlines.

Within 14 days of departure100% forfeiture of the tour price per person

Your travel agency and Access China Tours will not grant partial refunds for any unused trip arrangements after the trip has commenced or any refunds to participants who do not complete any portion of the itinerary. Any airline tickets issued are subject to the carrier's refund and cancellation policy. We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment. Your travel agency and Access China Tours reserves the right to cancel any tour(s) that has only one traveler signed up. In this case, we will try to find an alternative tour for tour participant. If this is not acceptable, all money paid will be refunded in full and this will constitute full and final settlement for the client. However, your travel agency and Access China Tours will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by tour participants (e.g., non-refundable "advance purchase" air tickets, insurance & medical expenses, passport and visa expenses, etc.). If a tour is forced to be cancelled due to government's travel warnings, declared or undeclared wars, hostilities, civil disturbances, strike, riot, epidemic, and quarantines, your travel agency and Access China Tours will refund all participants' payment less any irretrievable expenses and loss (visa fees, airline penalties, communication cost, and non-refundable booking cost, etc.)