

Jungle Book Adventure – Safari, Cycling, Walking

The Central Indian Highlands are rich in biodiversity and thick with wildlife — it's no surprise the area inspired "The Jungle Book" by Rudyard Kipling.

India has 50 tiger reserves governed by Project Tiger, a national conservation program, and we'll explore two of them on foot and by bike, canoe, and 4WD vehicles. Along the way, visit the homes of the local Gond tribe, learn about the area's animals and landscape from local naturalists, and spot diverse wildlife in its jungle habitat. In Pench National Park, keep your eyes open for Bengal tigers while the rugged Satpura National Park is especially rich in flora as well as fauna.

The adventure doesn't end when the sun sets: Memorable accommodations include a luxurious tree house and African-style camp.

Combining deep local knowledge, authentic community interactions, and active exploration, this Jungle Book adventure takes a responsible tourism approach.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wildlife sightings that may include Bengal tigers, leopards, sambars, and wild boars
- Cycling through Seoni's forest, written about in The Jungle Book
- Game drives in Pench and Satpura National Parks, both of which are Project Tiger reserves
- Stargaze from tree houses and luxury lodges
- Hands-on cooking class
- Walking safari with overnight camping, a rustic luxury experience in Satpura National Park

Flight Information:

November 27, 2018: Arrival Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL) in Delhi, India anytime

November 28, 2018: Fly Jet Airways (9W 654) – 06:10 hrs from Delhi (DEL) to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport in Nagpur (NAG) arriving at 0750 Indigo 6E774 – 0520 / 0720 hrs

December 6, 2018: Depart Bhopal (BHO) anytime, or proceed with post-adventure itinerary, or your own independent arrangements.



Day 1: November 27 – Arrive at Delhi, India

On arrival at the Indira Gandhi International airport, proceed through Immigration clearance after disembarking. Collect your baggage from the baggage carousel and walk to the arrival lounge after clearing customs. You will be greeted by our company representative with a placard bearing your name. He will assist you with your luggage and transfer you to the our group hotel, Roseate House (check-in time: 1200 hrs onwards). (No meals.)

Day 2: November 28 – Delhi - Nagpur – Pench National Park

Meet our representative in the hotel lobby at 4:00 a.m. for transfer to the airport for the flight to Nagpur. Reporting time at the airport is 2 hours prior to departure. On arrival at Nagpur, drive 3 hours It is a beautiful drive through countryside and forest to Pench National Park. On arrival check into Lodge. After lunch, select your bicycle and explore park. Meet and interact with the local tribal people and visit their homes. In the evening, pick vegetables from the lodge's organic garden and learn how to cook them in an outdoor village-style kitchen with the locals.

Enjoy a welcome dinner and overnight stay at Pench Tree Lodge (treehouse). (B,L,D)



Day 3: November 29 – Pench National Park

Wake up for an early morning tea/coffee then go for a game drive with a picnic breakfast inside the park. We return to the lodge for lunch. After lunch, drive 30 minutes to Rukhad Wildlife Sanctuary and explore the sanctuary on bicycles (2.5 hours). We will be accompanied by a local park guide. Enjoy an evening presentation about Pench National park by a lodge naturalist.

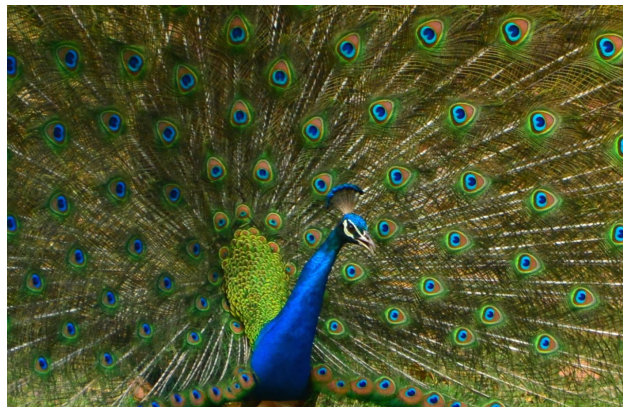
Overnight at Pench Tree Lodge (treehouse). (B,L,D)



Day 4: November 30 – Pench National Park to Satpura National Park

Participate in a morning game drive with a picnic breakfast inside the Pench National Park. After lunch, drive 5 hours through countryside, market towns and forested hill to Satpura and check into your lodge.

Enjoy an evening presentation on birds, trees, tracks and sign of wildlife you may see on your walking safari tomorrow. Dinner and overnight at Denwa Backwater Escape (cottage). (B,L,D)



Day 5: December 1 – Satpura National Park

Take an early morning game drive with a picnic breakfast inside the park and later return to lodge by canoe, accompanied by a park guide and lodge naturalist. After lunch at the lodge, transfer (1.5 hours) to an African-style luxury campsite set up especially for you inside the national park. *(We will carry only an overnight bag; you will be reunited with the rest of your luggage tomorrow evening).* Be greeted by a scenic campfire complete with chairs for sundowners. Night in camp is relaxed and enchanting. Lounge beside the campfire and savor the sounds of the Indian jungle night or enjoy spectacular stargazing before retiring to your tent to sleep.

Dinner and overnight at camp. (B,L,D)



Day 6: December 2 – Satpura National Park to Bhopal

Rise early for tea/coffee then head out for a walking safari on a park trail (3-4 hours) accompanied by your lodge naturalist and a local park guide. Learn about the tracks and signs of the leopard, sambar, chital, wild dog, and boar — and keep your eyes open for a possible wildlife sighting. Enjoy a picnic breakfast then return to camp for a hot lunch. After lunch, drive 4 hours toward Bhopal for AdventureNEXT India. En route, we'll visit the Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka, natural rock shelters in the foothills of the Vindhyan Mountains designated as an UNSECO World Heritage Site in 2003. Reach Bhopal by 6:00 p.m. Transfer to your AdventureNEXT hotel in Bhopal. (B,L)





[Map of the itinerary](#)

Rating: (2) Easy active (i.e., Beginner level, physical activity; ~2-4 hours activity/day)

Quick Facts:

- Game Drives: we will do game drives in open-top vehicles.
- Walking Safari: 3 to 4 hours of walking with a break for breakfast in flat terrain but with a number of undulating forest sections and rugged forest track.
- Canoe Safari: you will have the option to row or sit back and enjoy the forest and birding for about 1 hour.
- Cycling – 4 hours of cycling, approximately 20k.
 - The ride is at a height of between 250 and 600 above sea level, through forested and often shaded road tracks and reasonable paths used by local villagers and foresters.
 - We will also be riding through and between villages using simple village roads that are largely used by bicycles, motorbikes or bullock carts, occasionally on a single-track tar road.
 - Participants should be comfortable on mountain bikes, however, a support vehicle with bike rack is never far away, for those clients wishing to catch a lift! You can also option to walk instead of biking on the different trail.
- Max altitude: 600 m
- Max group size: 12
- Accommodation: 1 night in city hotel and 4 nights in Jungle Lodges
- Meal Plan: Breakfast only in Delhi. All meals from lunch on day 2 till lunch on day 6

Essential Requirements to Pre-Book Game Drives in National Parks:

Limited numbers of visitors are allowed inside the National Parks. Booking is done on first cum first serve basis. Therefore, we would request you to please send us the following information at the earliest in order to enable us to book game drives or a scanned copy of the relevant pages of the passports or scan copy of passport.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Salutation (Mr/Mrs/Miss)
Name as per Passport | 2. Passport Number | 3. First |
| 4. Date of Issue of Passport
Expiry of Passport | 5. Last Name as per Passport | 6. Date of |
| 7. Nationality
Birth | 8. Place of Issue of Passport | 9. Date of |

Weather:

India has a three-season year - the hot, the wet and the cool. The heat starts to build up on the northern plains around February and by April it becomes unbearable - expect 35-45°C (95- 113°F) days in most places. The first signs of the monsoon appear in May, with high humidity, short rainstorms and violent electrical storms. The monsoon rains begin early in June in the extreme south and sweep north to cover the whole country by early July. The monsoon doesn't really cool things off, but it's a great relief - especially to farmers. The main monsoon comes from the southwest, but the south-eastern coast is affected by the short and surprisingly wet north-eastern monsoon, which brings rain from mid-October to the end of December. The main monsoon ends around October, and India's northern cities become crisp at night in December. In the far south, where it never gets cool, the temperatures are comfortably warm rather than hot.

Accommodations:

During this trip the group spends a night at an airport hotel Delhi, two nights at a jungle lodge in Pench National Park and two nights at a jungle lodge in Satpura National Park. All accommodation is allocated on twin share basis unless requested otherwise.

Day 1 – Roseate House – Delhi

Day 2 & 3 – Pench Tree Lodge – Pench National Park

Day 4 & 5 – Denwa Backwater Escape – Satpura National Park

If you plan on arriving to India earlier and need any assistance in booking and accommodation or services, please do not hesitate to let us know.



Roseate House:

Roseate House New Delhi is a contemporary upscale hotel stationed in the capital's only hospitality district, Aerocity. Spread across 1.6 acres, Roseate House New Delhi combines lineage and novelty in its design and services to cater to the new generation of cosmopolitan guests. 30 minutes from the business hubs of Gurgaon and Delhi, 20



minutes from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi and closest to the Aerocity metro station, the hotel renders a contrasting respite from the city's hustle-bustle

Pench Tree Lodge:

Your luxurious abode in the jungle is perched on top of the Mahua trees and supported by stilts. Large French windows allow for an uninterrupted view of the deciduous forest and grassland and lets you observe the multitude of birds, butterflies and the wild animals at the lodge. Our guests have so far seen wild boars, civets, jungle cats, jackals and spotted deer as they sat sipping their morning tea or the evening sundowner on the private deck. Breaking away from the monotony of the repeated safari lodgings, they have been designed with an eclectic mix of vintage and natural aesthetics.



Denwa Backwater Escape:

Denwa Backwater Escape is located overlooking the mesmerizing backwaters of a dam built on Denwa River in Satpura National Park, the area is popularly known as Madhai. It is built on 10 acres of forested land along the river and across the river lies the national park which is approached by a boat and then by jeeps to go deeper into forest. The lodge offers stunning views of the Denwa River, grasslands across and rolling Pachmari hills. The lodge has been mainly built using local materials like stone, baked tiles but the design is contemporary safari style. The rooms are done up in style with unique leather safari furniture, crisp cotton upholstery, linen and local crafts. The main building and the pool are done up with vintage iron furniture and hand crafted wooden furniture, the wood for which is sourced from old furniture and sleeper wood. The lodge estate is gifted with a unique undulating landscape, water bodies, indigenous forest with a variety of flora and fauna and stunning river views.



Mobile Camp. Satpura

The camp is exclusive set up. Meals are provided in the strategically located dining tent, which offers breathtaking views of the sunrise, sunset and the surrounding countryside. Evenings are livened up by campfire and mashaals. Only solar lamps no electricity facility in camp.



Tents - African style - about 14 feet wide and 9 feet high, each with an open-sided veranda furnished with tables and camp chairs; amenities include bedside

table, solar electric lighting.

Beds - Two single beds , fitted with crisp sheets, duvets, warm blankets and hot water bottles at night.

Bathrooms tents - located behind each tent. Separate for WC - dry pit and "safari shower" Hot water is provided in buckets.



Tour Included Services:

- 5 nights accommodation in twin share (single rooms subject to availability)
- Beverages (including beer or wine) during meals, activities, and transfers as listed in itinerary
- English speaking tour guide throughout the trip
- Local naturalist, walking, and cycling guides
- All entrance fees required by the itinerary
- All activities as described in the trip details
- All accommodation as detailed in the trip details
- All Meals starting from breakfast on day 2 through lunch on the final day of the itinerary
- All transfers within the itinerary
- Airport pick up transfer and drop off at the event's venue
- Technical and safety gear required by the activities
- Snacks and refreshments supporting the activities
- Support vehicle during biking and most trekking
- Domestic airfare from Delhi to Nagpur in economy class
- 02 Game drive in Pench & 01 Game drive in Satpura on a shared basis (Seating 4 to 5 persons in each vehicle)
- Refillable Bottled water & refreshments/juices during Cycling
- Cycles to be used – Track X Calibre 9 MTB / Marin Bobcat MTB
- Jeep & trailer with Spares for carrying cycles
- First Aid Kit

Not Included:

- International flights
- Drivers' and guides' tips
- Visa fees for entry to India
- Vaccines if needed
- Personal items such as laundry fees, souvenirs, etc
- Lodging prior to or after your adventure
- Personal gear (e.g. hiking and biking apparel, sleeping bag)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Guides gratuities
- Travel insurance
- Trip cancelation insurance
- Anything not already explicitly included in the itinerary

Packing List:

Documents

- Documentation pouch
- Credit cards/cash
- Concealed money pouch
- Airline tickets & photocopy
- Passport and photocopy
- International vaccination certificate (Yellow Fever if coming from Africa or South America)
- Itinerary and joining instructions
- Copy of insurance policy
- Emergency contact numbers
- Please keep your photocopies separate from your originals.

Clothing - It is advisable not to wear black or blue as this attracts flies and mosquitoes. Neutral colors are best for safari. In India modest dress is preferable in the towns and cities. Shoulders should be kept covered, and full-length trousers/skirts are recommended.

- Comfortable clothes: t-shirts, pants, sweater/jacket, shorts and a raincoat
- We recommend that you bring at least one pant and one jacket if the weather changes and it gets cold (it can be cooler in the early morning and at night)
- Raincoat/windbreaker
- Fleece jacket/sweater
- Knit hat and gloves (for early mornings/evenings)
- Comfortable sneakers and walking shoes
- Swimsuit
- Slippers/sandals
- Polarized sunglasses and a wide-brimmed hat
- Sunscreen with high SPF
- Do not forget to bring your plug adapter to charge your electronic devices
- Binoculars (essential) and a camera
- Headlamp
- Mosquito repellent/DEET
- Extra Cash/Credit Cards (please note, cash machines are limited, so please make sure you have enough cash. Some places may accept credit cards)
- Prescribed medication (including antihistamine) (please note, pharmacies may not be available in the remote locations of this itinerary.)
- Extra batteries
- Personal toiletries
- In addition, we highly recommend bringing a small backpack to use every day to carry your water bottle, sunscreen, snacks...

Arrival Complications: We don't expect any problems (and nor should you!) but if for any reason you are unable to begin your trip as scheduled, please contact us immediately.

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Information about Destinations and National Parks to be visited:

Delhi - Unlikely juxtapositions of the old and new are seen everywhere in Delhi – bullock-carts and cars; hand-pulled trolleys and trucks; swanky burger joints and roadside golgappa 'watery Indian bread' carts; buses and rickshaws; suits and traditional Indian wear. Delhi is said to have been destroyed and rebuilt seven times during the reign of different royal dynasties, hence the legend of the "seven cities of Delhi." Modern archeological evidence show settlements in the region dating back to 1000 BC. Apart from Indraprastha, these included Quila Rai Pithora, Siri, Jahanpanah, Tughlakabad, Ferozabad and Shahjahanabad. Much like its hybrid culture, Delhi's architecture is a fascinating mix of Indo-Saracenic monuments and a new urban metropolis. Its historic heart, Old Delhi, is a dense network of narrow alleys and tightly packed markets and houses while New Delhi conceptualized by the British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and designed by Herbert Baker is symmetrical, lined with rows of trees, wide roads and grand colonial buildings. Then there is the "globalized" Delhi of glass-cased corporate offices, shopping malls, brands and dizzying traffic. Also known as 'Dilli' by the locals, the smells, sights and sounds of this city sweep your senses, disorienting and fascinating you at the same time. Gateway to the rest of India, Delhi is a truly cosmopolitan city and set to leave a lasting impression on every visitor.

Pench National Park - Pench has been included under the umbrella of Project Tiger as the 19th Project Tiger Reserve. Located in Seoni and Chhindwara districts of Madhya Pradesh it comprises of 758 sq. kms out of which a core area of 299-sq-km is the National Park and 464-km the buffer area of Southern Indian tropical moist deciduous forest mixed with tropical dry deciduous teak bearing forests and dry mixed deciduous forest. With the three types of forest a diversity of fauna abounds within this natural system. 39 species of mammals, 13 species of reptiles, 3 species of amphibians and over 170 varieties of birds have already been listed.

Rukhad WLS is in the Pench / Kanha forest corridor, which is a part of the Satpura–Maikal landscape. This landscape is classified as a global-priority Tiger Conservation Landscape (TCL) due to its potential for providing sufficient habitat that will allow the long-term survival of tigers. Wildlife scientists have found that the tigers in the Satpura–Maikal landscape have high genetic variation and very low genetic subdivision so the chances of their long term survival is brighter in this region if the forest corridors is intact and providing route for tigers to disperse. The other tiger habitats in India are fast becoming islands and there is little change in genetic pool of the tiger population. We will also get to learn about work been done by conservation organizations to save this critical landscape. Our visit will spread awareness among local communities regarding wildlife conservation and shrinking corridors.

Satpura National Park - Central India's Satpura Tiger Reserve represents the largest block of tiger-inhabited tiger habitat left in the world. The terrain is generally hilly with precipitous slopes, deep and narrow gorges ravines sheltered valleys and dense forests with many waterfalls. The area is uniquely diverse ranging from dry thorn forest to tropical dry deciduous, moist deciduous and semi evergreen forests. Teak, sal and mixed forest are the major compositions. The Bori

wildlife sanctuary is rich in Bamboo. The fauna comprises tiger, leopard, sambar, chital, Bhedki, nilgai, four-horned antelope, chinkara, bison (gour), wild boar, wild dog, bear, black buck, fox, porcupine, flying squirrel, mouse deer, Indian joint squirrel etc. The flora of the national park consists of mainly sal, teak, tendu, aonla, mahua, bel, bamboo, and a variety of grasses and medicinal plants. Over 1200 varieties of flowering and non flowering plants are found in this area.

Food: You can expect a delicious and sumptuous fare, both very Indian and also Europeanised when in specific lodges. There will be delicious brunches on days when early mornings will be spent game drive. Drinks will not be included in the costs but bottled water will always be provided. Please ensure you do not drink any other water, not even for brushing your teeth! Vegetarians will be easily catered for. Indian cuisine varies greatly from region to region. In the north of India, it tends to be somewhat similar to Arabic cuisine.

A great deal of time is needed to prepare an Indian meal. All dishes are made with fresh foodstuffs only. The various spices are ground into a paste everyday. It is interesting to know that curry powder frequently used in the West is never used in India. This rather flavourless mixture is a legacy of colonial times. Curry leaves on the other hand are often used and impart a wonderful aromatic flavour.

We will not be using any single use plastic during our trip from arrival in Pench will departure from Satpura.

Dietary Requirements:

We do our best to accommodate dietary requirements due to allergies or personal preferences.

However if you are on a specific strict diet (e.g. gluten free or vegan), we advise you to bring some snacks along with you or ask to go shopping on day 1 while we are still in the city.

In case you have severe allergies and at risk of anaphylaxis please make sure you carry along an EpiPen (or two).

Please let us know of any dietary requirement we should be aware of.

Medical Conditions:

In case you have any medical conditions that could affect you while on the trip (current injuries, diabetes, allergies, other chronic conditions, any recent surgeries, etc) please make sure you consult your physician regarding your participation in this trip. By signing up we assume you do not have any medical conditions that would prevent you from participating in our adventure.

If you have any questions regarding the trip activities or if there is something you'd like to inform us about please do let us know.

Travel Insurance:

Travel Insurance. It is a condition on booking that cyclists are adequately insured for this trip. The clients policy must include travel to India, participation in a mountain bicycle ride and emergency evacuation back to home country. It is recommended that their insurance is in place when they send you your Booking Form, as we may need to enforce their cancellation conditions.

A first aid kit will be carried in the support vehicle for general scrapes and minor injuries. Hospitals of western standard, are between 1- 4 hours away from the cycle and walking route.

Safety:

Cycling - Helmets are provided by us. Wearing a helmet is compulsory. Your guide is trained in first aid and emergency rescue, but to a large degree you must be responsible for your own safety

while riding. It is therefore advisable that you take out travel insurance that will cover you for a mountain biking tour. Canoe – life vests will be provided and it is compulsory to wear.

Health & Vaccinations:

Health: This programme is set up to be a physical challenge. Those participating should have a certain level of fitness and be in reasonable health.

Vaccinations: An antimalarial prophylactic for India is recommended. Please check with your doctor on other vaccination precautions against rabies, typhoid, tetanus, polo and meningitis as it is your responsibility to have the appropriate vaccinations and documentation.

Equipment:

All bikes will be provided by us. They are well-known international makes, for example, X-Caliber of TrekUSA, with lightweight alloy frames, 24 to 27 speed gearing, v-brakes or disk brakes and Shimano components and front suspension. They are mid-range 18.5" and large 19.5" frame size, to fit most riders, and we match clients to these. Special sizes are available on request. It is not a problem should clients wish to take your own mountain bike, but this will be at their own expense. The bike is preferably to have front suspension and be in good mechanical order with bottle holders for water. The support vehicle and guide will carry basic spares and tools, though it cannot be guaranteed there will be spares for every conceivable problem. A basic tool kit, a spare tube and a pump will be provided for those clients who wish to carry it. Spare cycles are also carried in the support vehicle. We will provide cycling Helmets. You can bring your own if you wish.

At all times you will have the security of full time accompanying escort who will also be a naturalist and a back-up vehicle - either a SUV or a Van. The vehicle will carry your entire luggage, your cycle and yourself if you want at any time during the ride. The backup vehicle will be with you throughout the day following behind at a distance and the driver will have mobile phone / wireless handset. When we are on forest trails where 4WD vehicle cannot follow we will have an accompanying escort/naturalist on motor bike. Your escort will carry a good tool kit and will help to fix bike problems so all you normally need to carry is a daypack, for your camera etc, however, we cannot guarantee that we will be equipped for all repairs.

Baggage Allowance:

There is a luggage allowance in full service airlines like Air India is approximately 25 kg per person on most Economy Class flights. The Business Class allowance is about 30kg. The allowances can vary, depending on the airline, and we can advise the exact amount when you book. Economy airlines like Jet Airways, Spice Jet, Indigo, Goair and Vistara have only 15 Kg allowance and they charge approximately eight US dollars per kg of extra luggage. Hand luggage is usually restricted to one piece per person and should not be larger than 55cm x 40cm x 20cm and should not weigh more than 7 kg. Luggage can get thrown about a little so make sure you carry any breakables in your hand luggage and they all should be lockable. Also make sure you allow plenty of space to pack in all those gifts and curios you will buy on your holiday.

Currency:

The Indian rupee is the official currency. Obtaining rupees outside India before your departure is not possible and unnecessary. We would advise carrying from approx about \$300 to \$500 cash per person - in small denominations and a credit card (most well known cards are acceptable) for supplementary monies. On arrival we advise changing a small amount of money for your

immediate needs at airport or hotel. *(There is hardly any difference in rate of exchange between Banks, Hotels, Money Changers.)* Indian currency notes circulate far longer than in the West and the small notes in particular become very tatty. You may occasionally find that when you try to pay for something with a ripped note, your money is refused. You can change old notes for new ones at most banks. However, it is best to refuse tatty notes from shops/vendors. Keep a supply of smaller denomination notes - there is a perpetual shortage of small change. It is also useful to keep lower denomination notes as tip money.

Phone & Internet Coverage:

Mobile phones - The mobile service has seen phenomenal growth and the number of mobile phone connections have passed fixed-line connections. Currently there are an estimated 159 million mobile phone users in India compared to 40 million fixed line subscribers. The dominant players are Airtel, Reliance Infocomm, Vodafone, Idea cellular and BSNL/MTNL. International roaming agreements exist between most operators and many foreign carriers. You can buy a local "pay as you go" card if you expect to be making a lot of calls. They are available at international airports in arrival hall and in phone shops. However you need to fill in an application form to get the phone GSM SIM card, a passport size photograph and a copy of your passport main page with photo and local address is required to be attached with the form.

Internet - Access is increasingly available in major cities and tourist centres, and the web is spreading wider to reach remote areas. Most hotels will allow you to use their systems, but rates tend to be pretty high compared to cyber cafes and Public Call Offices. Pench Tree Lodge and Denwa Backwater Escape lodge have internet facilities – but do be aware that services might be sporadic.

Electricity:

The electricity voltage in India is 220 AC 50 cycles. It is advised that you bring a universal travel adaptor. India uses 2 pin round plugs that may vary in size. Power cuts can be common, and backup generators provide essential cover when this happens.

Language:

The official language in India is Hindi, although English is the language used in business circles. Fourteen languages are officially recognised by the constitution, although India boasts a further 200 language groups and almost 700 dialects.

Responsible Travel:

We believe in low impact or 'positive impact' tourism. Broadly speaking, this means that we try to minimize the negative aspects of tourism on the local cultures and environments that we visit, while maximizing the positive aspects of the encounter. Whenever possible we hire local staff in the areas where we operate, and our guests stay in locally owned hotels / Lodges.

