

## WILD INDIA: PENCH TO SATPURA

Our journey takes us to Kipling country, where Rudyard Kipling got inspired to write the Jungle Book. While visiting two key national parks, Pench and Satpura, with a company that has its history rooted deep in conservation, we have the opportunity to see a variety of mammals and birds including tigers, leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, wild boars to name a few. The undulating topography supports a mosaic of vegetation ranging from moist, sheltered valleys to open, dry deciduous forest. Over 1,200 species of plants have been recorded from the area including several rare and endangered ones. The villages surrounding the national parks are the key to the survival of national forests today. It is only when the communities living around the national parks, understand the importance of saving India's natural heritage, will they act as guardians of the very wildlife which you have come to see.

- Indulge in morning and evening game drives
- Explore on foot during nature walks and on water during boat safaris
- Connect with local communities and meet the villagers that call these remote areas home
- Spend two nights in a luxury tent and two nights in luxury forest cottage

### Flight Information:

**November 28, 2018:** Arrival to Nagpur, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport (NAG) by noon. Note you'll be connecting from New Delhi or other major Indian city which may require an overnight.

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



### Day 1: November 28 – Arrive to Nagpur, MP - Transfer to Pench National Park

Arrive to in Nagpur by noon and be met by a representative at the airport arrival lounge. You will then transfer to Pench National Park 130 kms/3 hours away. Upon arrival to Jamtara Wilderness Camp, settle in to your deluxe tent and explore the camp's lodge, pool and surroundings. In the afternoon, meet the group for a nature walk. Located at the edge of the wildlife rich buffer zone forests at the northern end of Pench Tiger Reserve and separated from the core area by a narrow tongue of seasonal crop land, Jamtara Wilderness Camp is perfectly placed for anyone keen to explore the jungle on foot – an ideal

way to truly appreciate and experience the wilderness. As with all of Pench, the Jamtara forests too are dense with a rich variety of figs whose prolific fruiting acts like an ecological force multiplier attracting frugivorous mammals and a multitude of birds both fruit eating and those hawking for the insects that cluster around the figs. Indeed a nature walk in the winter is a birders delight. But it is not just the richness of wildlife that makes a walk in the Jamtara forests so special; it is the isolation – no other lodges or camps, no great congregations of villages – allowing you the incredible privilege of waiting undisturbed in a forest clearing watching and photographing all the many little things that make a jungle come alive or waiting for a leopard to move from its kill or even quietly following the pack of wild dogs that live here as they trot half-seen through the trees. This is indeed a unique offering at Jamtara.

Before returning to the camp, enjoy evening chai in a local home in the village of Jamtara while you witness the domestic cattle's coming back home with their herders, and the sunsets, a magical scene itself. Stay overnight at Jamtara Wilderness Camp. (L,D)



### **Day 2: November 29 – Pench National Park**

As soon as dawn breaks, depart for jungle safari, accompanied by a resident naturalist and forest park guide in 4x4 Jeeps. This is the best way to explore large areas looking for wildlife. Explore the park's large diversity of wildlife, including Leopard, Tiger, Jungle Cat, Dhole (Wild Dog), Sloth Bear, Wild Boar, Mongoose, Gaur and the highest density of herbivores including Cheetal (Spotted Deer) and Sambar. Enjoy lunch back at the camp and a second jungle safari in the afternoon. Arrive back to camp in the evening for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

### **Day 3: November 30 – Pench National Park - Satpura National Park**

After morning safari, drive to Satpura 220km/5hrs away. Satpura National Park is located in south Hoshangabad district in Madhya Pradesh. The 524 Sq km park is the core area of the Panchmarhi Biosphere Reserve that includes Bori wildlife sanctuary to its south-west and Panchmarhi wildlife sanctuary to its north-east. The park has an elevation of 320-1,352m with tall sandstone mountains, narrow gorges, ravines, waterfalls, streams and dense forests near the Mahadev hills in the Pachmarhi plateau. The area boasts of two unique species of tree – the sal and the teak besides wide varieties of ferns, mango trees, butterflies and birds.

Arrive to Reni Pani Jungle Lodge in the afternoon and indulge in a Boat Safari (subject to permissible time). The Park offers exploring the areas along the river by using boats. Boat safaris are excellent if one wants to get close to aquatic birds or sometimes even crocodiles. Stay overnight at Satpura. (B,L,D)



**Day 4: December 1 – Satpura National Park**

Today, enjoy a morning jeep safari and search for the Sloth Bear that call this forest home. With lunch back at the lodge, have the opportunity to relax at the pool or partake in a second afternoon jeep safari. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)



### **Day 5: December 2 – Satpura National Park to Bhopal**

This morning explore the forest on foot during a walking safari. A highly highly skilled naturalist will help bring alive the lesser fauna such as geckos, butterflies, frogs and birds that one sometimes misses during other safaris. After lunch back at the lodge, transfer to the Bhopal, a 132 km/3.5 hr drive. Upon arrival to Bhopal, transfer to your AdventureNEXT hotel. (B,L)

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#### [Map of the itinerary](#)

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

#### **Weather:**

December is characterized by mild temperatures, with daily highs from 13 °C (55.4 °F) to 27 °C (80.6 °F) over the course of the month, rarely exceeding 30 °C (86 °F) or dropping below 10 °C (50 °F). Please note, temperatures will be cooler inside the forests especially in the early morning and evenings.

#### **Accommodations:**

##### [Jamtara Wilderness Camp](#) - Luxury Tent

Situated in the Village of Jamtara, near Pench National Park, Jamtara Wilderness Lodge is a 10 luxury tented property in the heart of rural Pench. Surrounded by tall Arjuna Trees and an ancient Banyan rooted on a dry riverbed, each tented room overlooks the forest which set the perfect background to this jungle experience. Each luxury tent is designed to feel light and open, allowing guests the optimum view of nature. With the option of rolling up the front panels of the tent, the guests can bring the outside in but still being in the privacy of their own rooms. Although, these are tented rooms, the bathroom has been made into a permanent structure for the comfort of the guests. While many may sleep inside the tent, some may feel a little more connected with nature and have the option of sleeping outside on their patio. Mosquito netting will keep the bugs away, quilts and hot water bottles will keep the cold away. Since we also believe in supporting the community of our lodge, a “Machaan” night can be booked while generating revenue for the farmers. Here the concept is sleeping under the stars, just like the villagers. Sleeping up high on stilts will allow you to watch the sky and everything below. You never know what walks through the farms at night.

##### [Reni Pani Jungle Lodge](#) - Cottage

Located in a pristine forest typical of the Satpura Tiger Reserve, Reni Pani gets its name from a neighboring tribal village. Reni Pani features twelve luxury cottages encompassing three distinct architectural designs. The nallah units, the forest units and the hill units are all built using local / indigenous material and are characterized by viewing decks, large lounging bay-windows and luxury bathrooms. The ‘GolGhar’ or the meeting place, has a fascinating and unique design and features a dining area, a bar, a library and a lounge set in its various corners. Reni Pani’s seasonal nallah, stretch of teak, rugged hillocks and gauges are an accurate representation of terrain one should expect in the Satpura Tiger Reserve. Its true forest environment coupled with neighbouring patches of agricultural land make Reni Pani and its surrounding areas a hotbed for animals like Sambhar, Cheetal, Nilgai, Wild Boar, Barking Deer, Black Buck and occasionally for their cunning predator the Leopard. The abundance of Reni Trees (a type of berry after which the lodge and village are named after) and other berry trees,

also attract a number of Sloth Bears to Reni Pani. The ideal conditions Reni Pani offers as a result of the maintenance of a completely natural habitat, attracts several bird species that are native to the locality.

**Included Services:**

- 4 nights accommodation (accomodation in single rooms throughout) and 13 meals
- Beverages (including beer or wine) during meals, activities and transfers as listed in itinerary

**Not Included:**

- International flights
- Drivers' and guides' tips
- Visa fees for entry to India
- Vaccines if needed
- Travel/Medical/Evacuation Insurance
- Personal items such as laundry fees, souvenirs, etc
- Anything not already explicitly included in the itinerary

**Packing List:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Comfortable clothes: t-shirts, pants, sweater/jacket, shorts and raincoat (please avoid dark/bright colors - neutral colors are best for safari)</li> <li>● 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)</li> <li>● Raincoat / windbreaker</li> <li>● Fleece jacket/sweater</li> <li>● Knit hat and gloves (for early mornings/evenings)</li> <li>● Comfortable sneakers and walking shoes</li> <li>● Swimsuit</li> <li>● Slippers/sandals</li> <li>● Polarized sunglasses and a wide-brimmed hat</li> <li>● Sunscreen with high SPF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Do not forget to bring your plug adapter to charge your electronic devices</li> <li>● Binoculars and a camera</li> <li>● Headlamp</li> <li>● Mosquito repellent/DEET</li> <li>● Extra Cash/Credit Cards (please note, cash machines are limited, so please make sure you have enough cash. Some places may accept credit cards)</li> <li>● Prescribed medication (including antihistamine) (please note, pharmacies may not be available in the remote locations of this itinerary.)</li> <li>● Extra batteries</li> <li>● Personal toiletries</li> <li>● In addition, we highly recommend bringing a small backpack to use every day to carry your water bottle, sunscreen, snacks...</li> </ul>
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