



INDIA ITINERARY

DAY 1-KHAJUARHO/PANNA NATIONAL PARK

Take the morning flight to Khajuraho where you will be welcomed by your charming driver for a 1-hour road trip to Panna National Park situated in the Vindhya Hills along the Ken River. It is a vast plateau dominated by tropical forests, deep ravines, cascading waterfalls and thick teak forests. On arrival, you will be warmly welcomed at &Beyond Pashan Garh Panna Wilderness Lodge.

After a delicious lunch indulge in a dip in the pool, a massage or an afternoon siesta, and of course afternoon tea. A resident naturalist will lead you on a brisk evening walk around the 90 acre private property. After freshening up in your luxurious cottage (with the best body products ever!) cocktails are served on the main deck followed by dinner which is served in a different place each night - around the candlelit pool, on the deck or Pashan Garh's famous 'Palanquin Dinner' (dinner for 2 in an oxcart!).

Spend two nights at &Beyond Pashan Garh Panna Wilderness Lodge in a gorgeous air-conditioned stone cottage (all inclusive).

DAY 2 - PANNA NATONAL PARK

After early morning tea, head for the park - an easy 40-minute drive. The open safari vehicle will be waiting for you at the park entrance. Explore this remote and somewhat unknown pristine park on a 4-hour safari. A bush breakfast is served in the park after a boat ride (30 minutes and in National Park boats) to view the marsh (or Muggers) crocodiles in the Ken River together with the glorious aquatic birdlife that abounds here. Or perhaps try an elephant back 'bumble'. As tiger viewing is very limited in the park guests can experience an elephant back adventure just how it ought to be - slow, steady and just gently ambling off road through the jungle.

Once back at the lodge indulge in a massage, have a swim or best of all do nothing at all until lunch time. After an early lunch depart for the Khajuraho Western Temples - a 2 hour visit to these pristine, ancient and beautifully preserved 10th century temples which are a deserved World Heritage Site.

DAY 3- PANNA/BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK

The adventure continues with a 5-hour road journey through the beautiful countryside of rural Madhya Pradesh from Kanha to Bandhavgarh National Park - one of India's great tiger reserves.

Bandhavgarh supports one of the highest densities of tiger on the subcontinent. The Park is also home to a large variety of mammals: leopard, chital (spotted deer), sambar deer, nilgai, wild boar, chinkara, sloth bear, rhesus macaque and jungle cat to name a few. Explore this beautiful jungle on twice-daily game drives in the Reserve led by &Beyond-trained naturalists, or on an elephant-back safari looking for tigers amongst other wildlife (elephant-back safaris cannot be guaranteed, as they are subject to availability from the forest department). Absorb the sights and sounds while cycling through a traditional Madhya Pradesh village.

Spend two nights at &Beyond Mahua Kothi in an intimate kutiya or jungle suite (all inclusive). Happily the lodge is only 10 minutes from the park entrance!

DAY 4- BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK

Arrive at the park as the gates open and drive to the foot of the mountain that dominates the park. On foot, follow an ancient pilgrim path to the top and explore the remains of the ancient fort that lies in the heart of the Reserve. Drink in the magnificent the views of this wonderful landscape whilst tucking into a hearty picnic brunch and watching the vultures and falcons circle below. This is an adventure not to be missed on any account!

DAY 5- BANDHAVGARH /JABALPUR/DELHI

This morning you will be driven to the Jabalpur airport (4 hours) to connect to the scheduled flight to Delhi

***** End of services*****

INCLUDES:

- Double accommodation
- All scheduled safari activities in Kanha/Bandhavgarh/Panna
- Meals as specified
- Scheduled road transfers as specified by air conditioned vehicle.
- Mineral water & cold drinks on all vehicle transfers
- Travel Journal

EXCLUDES:

- Gratuities and all items of a personal nature
- Meals and drinks not specified above
- Camera fee wherever levied
- Sightseeing and excursions other than those specified
- Any increase in taxes by the Government of India
- Airfares

The prices for Beyond/Taj Safaris Lodges are inclusive of ;

- Accommodation per person per night
- Park fees
- Photographic fees (non-professional)
- Forest guide fees
- Elephant Safari fees
- Three meals daily (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)
- Soft drinks, House Wines, Local Brand Spirits and Beers
- Teas and Coffees
- Laundry
- 2 scheduled Safari activities morning and evening
- Refreshments on Game Drives
- Emergency medical evacuation insurance
- All applicable taxes

The prices are exclusive of:

- Telephone calls
- Safari Shop purchases
- Champagne, Cognacs, Premium Brand Spirits, Fine Wines and Cigars.
- Transfers (to and from the Lodge)
- Gratuities
- Any additional taxes and levies

PROPERTIES:

MAHUA KOTHI- BANDHAVGARH

The name Mahua Kothi draws its inspiration from one of India's most beautiful trees, the Madhuca Indica, or as it is commonly known, the Mahua or butter tree. Pronounced ma-hoo-a, this tree with its fleshy off-white flowers plays a central role in festivals and rituals, as the vitamins, minerals and sugar-rich flowers are used in a number of ways. The twelve charming suites or Kutiyas (jungle village huts) are newly built in the 40 acre grounds of the renowned tented camp formerly known as Churhat Kothi. The original Kothi (homestead) comprising the guest areas remains and has been extensively renovated, but the guest accommodation is all brand new.

MAHUA KOTHI'S GUEST ACCOMMODATION

- Charming individual Kutiyas built in the vernacular style of Central India
- Each is accessed through private courtyards with shaded seating, traditional swings and traditional mud floors
- The architectural style is affectionately known as MP chic (MP being the state of Madhya Pradesh)
- Wooden shutters, tapered mud-coloured walls (finished by hand) in lime and earth washes, open rafters with roughly-hewn wooden beams, handmade pottery roof tiles, floors dressed in Katni stone strips set in lime mortar
- Ensuite bathrooms with twin hand basins mounted on a wooden log, indoor shower, bath, separate w.c. and house gowns in traditional

- MP cloth
- Richly coloured local textiles in shades of rust and burnt orange
- Roll-down mats to keep the early morning sun out
- Ceiling fans and air conditioning
- Built-in seating in yellow situ (local cement screed)
- Yoga amenities in a basket (complete with instructions)
- Traditional Indian games of marbles and Chaupad
- Hand-blended natural guest amenities from Jiva Spa - all made from pure Indian herbs and essential oils
- In-room Ayurvedic massage
- Rose and Khus (Verbena) sherbets and pitchers of iced water for guests to mix themselves
- Kettles of boiling water on Chulhas (charcoal burners) are brought out with early morning tea to the Kutiyas
- Beautiful terracotta roof that floats over the Kutiya - MP style
- Bicycles for every guest parked in the Kutiya courtyards

MAHUA KOTHI GUEST AREAS

- High ceilings, terracotta floor tiles, overhead fans, fireplace, and traditional sit areas and window seats
- An enormous 600 sq ft veranda runs the length of the building with generous built-in seats for star gazing
- Beaten Bastar metal and hand-blown glassware
- Huge windows to catch the jungle breeze
- Open kitchen that welcomes guest upon arrival - watch butter being churned, Masala being ground by hand, garden fresh vegetables being chopped using traditional sickles, and Rotis being prepared on a Chulha
- Browse peacefully in the lodge's Safari Shop, idle away the hours in the library, or beat the midday heat in the swimming pool
- Guests arriving early or departing late can freshen up in the Goings & Comings room

DINING AT MAHUA KOTHI

- Bullock cart breakfast in the Baghiya (traditional garden)
- Picnic lunches under the Mahua tree
- Chowki roof dinners under a star strewn sky
- Moonlit dancing at the lake
- Discover fresh lime, exquisite teas and fine Indian wines.

MAHUA KOTHI'S SAFARI EXPERIENCE

- Discover the beautiful jungle of Bandhavgarh National Park
- Learn about the rich biodiversity of Central India from a &Beyond trained naturalist
- Travel in comfort in a specially designed Tata open 4x4 safari vehicle
- View tigers whilst riding an elephant
- Twice-daily safaris in the reserve
- Tick off Bandhavgarh's ten Star Birds (a unique Taj & the &Beyond programme)
- Absorb the sights and sounds as you walk through a traditional MP village .

PASHAN GARH- PANNA

Taj Safaris' new jungle safari lodge will comprise a cluster of stone cottages huddled atop a small hill, with magnificent views over the forest and a large nearby waterhole, which has been host to numerous tiger and resident antelope sightings.

This Lodge draws inspiration from the dry-packed stone houses of the Panna region. These houses differ from other Madhya Pradesh styles, with dramatic roofs constructed from massive slabs of irregularly shaped slate. The guest areas celebrate Haveli design, with a spacious central courtyard. The interiors will be a contemporary mix of chocolate linens, block-printed black silks, celadon cottons and cotton lace chandeliers. The Lodge will commemorate the motif of the crocodile, which inhabits the nearby Ken River. Although the structures are rough, chunky and stony, the interiors will be sleek and sexy.

The Lodge will feature 12 stone cottages with a central guest area, showcasing fabulous leather furniture made in Delhi, with massive black and white photo canvasses of the dramatic Panna landscapes. There will also be subtle references to the erotic stonework at nearby Khajuraho.

Panna is situated in the Vindhya Hill range and spreads over Panna and Chhatarpur districts in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh. Panna National Park is the most important protected area in the north-central highlands of India, as it links the eastern and western populations of wild animals through the Vindhya ranges.

Situated just 31km from the world famous Khajuraho, Panna National Park is located on the banks of the River Ken. The Park has deep ravines, cascading waterfalls and thick teak forests and is dominantly a plateau, with sprawling flatlands punctuated by hills, deep valleys and gorges. The terrain is largely rocky and uneven. There are mixed dry deciduous forests with short grasses and open woods. Lower altitudes are characterised by taller grasses and closed woodlands. Common bamboo also occurs on hilly slopes and gorges.

Home to the majestic tiger, guests will also see leopard, wolf, hyena, jackal and the sloth bear. The reserve is also well known for sightings of nilgai, sambar, chital, wild boar and Indian crocodile.