

# IMAGINE

ADVENTURES | OPPORTUNITIES | EXPERIENCES | MEMORIES



## **BENGAL TIGERS OF INDIA 2025**

TRIP 1 - 21st JANUARY - 1st FEBRUARY 2025

TRIP 2 - 1st - 12th FEBRUARY 2025

**£3595 PER PERSON**

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT £500



JOIN **NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC** MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER ANDY PARKINSON FOR AN 11 NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHIC ADVENTURE TO INDIA'S SPECTACULAR BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK.







### **PRICE INCLUDES**

All transfers to and from the airport, all accommodation, food, park entry fees, guiding fees and local transportation.

### **PRICE EXCLUDES**

All flights, personal travel insurance, tips and alcohol drinks or items of a personal nature.

### **TRAVEL**

In order to maximise our time in Bandhavgarh, on arrival in Delhi we shall then catch a connecting 2 hour flight to Jabalpur. Here we shall be met by our hosts who will then transfer us to our secluded lodge. We shall then have a buffet dinner and the chance to relax before getting a good night's sleep, ready for an early start the next morning.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

Our base will be a clean, comfortable and tranquil lodge on the outskirts of the village of Tala, a small settlement on the fringes of Bandhavgarh National Park.

### **DEPOSIT**

Confirmation of your place can only be guaranteed on receipt of £495.00 per person deposit. The balance is then due no later than 12 weeks prior to departure.





JOIN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER ANDY PARKINSON FOR A PHOTOGRAPHIC ADVENTURE TO THE SECLUDED FORESTS OF INDIA'S BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK IN SEARCH OF THE BENGAL TIGER. UTILISING THE INCOMPARABLE EXPERIENCE OF BANDHAVGARH'S MOST RENOWNED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE TIGER EXPERTS YOU'LL ENJOY 8 DAYS EXPLORING AND PHOTOGRAPHING IN THIS 105 SQUARE KM RESERVE, HOME TO A POPULATION OF OVER 70 OF THESE MAGNIFICENT YET CRITICALLY ENDANGERED BIG CATS.

We shall be at the gates when the Park opens at 6am and we will explore Bandhavgarh's exquisite beauty until about 10.30-11am. At this point the light will have deteriorated, becoming too harsh, and the tigers will be at both their least active and least visible, likely seeking shade to sleep through the hottest part of the day.

At this time we'll return to our lodge for a late breakfast, image download and rest period. We'll then have lunch before returning to the Park at about 2.30pm where we'll remain until dusk. We'll then return once more to our lodge for an evening meal and a good night's sleep.

Entering the Park before dawn it is the haunting alarm calls of chital, sambar or Hanuman langur that will first alert us to the presence of these elusive cats, the first sighting of one emerging from the forest creating a memory that will be cherished forever. November to March is undoubtedly the best time of year in which to work with the tigers, with cool clear mornings giving way to warm, sunny days. At other times of year the heat in India can be relentlessly debilitating, with dust filled air and harsh, shadowy light.

Not so when we visit, the forest is lush and verdant, the morning mist creating a magical, ethereal light, punctuated by shafts of raking sunlight streaming into the forest. Bandhavgarh itself is intersected by a network of sandy tracks which we will use to explore its hidden corners, whilst the forest contains a patchwork of open grasslands and tranquil lakes, all overlooked by the crumbling remains of the ancient Bandhavgarh Fort sitting high above towering cliffs.

In addition Bandhavgarh contains the highest concentration of leopards in India, as well as sloth bears, but a sighting of either of these elusive creatures would require a significant stroke of luck. Bandhavgarh is a place that I have explored extensively and all of the images featured have been captured in this, one of India's most prized tiger reserves. The images will at least give you a taste of what can be achieved in this astonishing corner of incredible India.



THE BENGAL TIGER, THOUGH THE MOST NUMEROUS OF THE 6 REMAINING TIGER SUBSPECIES, IS STILL ENDANGERED WITH JUST 2500-3000 INDIVIDUAL ANIMALS LEFT IN THE WILD. INDIA REMAINS THEIR STRONGHOLD WITH THE VAST MAJORITY OF THIS DIMINISHING NUMBER BUT LIMITED POPULATIONS ALSO EXIST IN BHUTAN, BANGLADESH, MYANMAR, NEPAL AND CHINA.

The tiger itself is largely solitary and is the only large felid that is striped, with each individual tiger having its own unique and distinct markings. This simplifies the task of identifying individual animals and gives researchers a consistent way of accurately assessing surviving numbers. Like most cats they are an ambush predator and in Bandhavgarh they prey principally on three different species. These are the Hanuman langur, Chital or Spotted deer and the Sambar, the largest of Bandhavgarh's deer species. The alarm barks of these creatures are three of the most compelling and evocative sounds that we'll encounter in this ancient forest, each one as distinct as it is hauntingly beautiful.

They also usually, but not always, indicate the presence of a tiger and they will often be our guide as we search. So great is the depth of knowledge of our guides that these sounds alone allow us to be able to know whether the tiger is stationary, or if it is moving then in which direction.

It's also important to note just how crucial tiger tourism can be in the ongoing battle to ensure that these animals are able to remain in viable populations in the wild. Our presence in India and in Bandhavgarh gives a genuine economic and social value to the tigers though more needs to be done to ensure that local communities, the ones that most often come into conflict with these formidable predators, genuinely benefit from their existence.





## Andy's credentials:

- Nikon Europe Ambassador (wildlife)
- *National Geographic* magazine contributing photographer
- Overall Winner of the 2020 Big Picture Natural World Photography Competition (USA)
- Overall winner of Bird Photographer of the Year 2016 plus 3 category wins
- Overall Winner of the 2017 IUCN Portfolio Award
- Overall winner of Nature Photojournalist of the Year 2012
- 4 awards in Wildlife Photographer of the Year
- 5 awards in European Wildlife Photographer of the Year
- 31 awards featuring 40 images in the British Wildlife Photography Awards, 4 category wins
- Category winner, category runner-up in Nature Photographer of the Year
- 2 x Category winner, Nature's Best (USA)
- Multiple category winner in Nature Images Awards
- 10 photo features in BBC Wildlife magazine
- Also awarded in Asferico (3x), MontPhoto, Oasis and Siena
- 3 x judge in Outdoor Photographer of the Year
- Judge in European Wildlife Photographer of the Year
- Judge in British Wildlife Photography Awards







There is nothing easy about seeing Bengal tigers in the wild. These large solitary, and extremely elusive cats live in enormous areas of inaccessible forest, intersected by a network of sandy tracks, and their movements and behaviours are dependent on myriad variables.

Every year the tiger population fluctuates, and their behaviours change. When tigresses have young cubs they typically become secretive, favouring quieter areas of Bandhavgarh, and they often move their cubs onto higher ground, into rocky, secluded areas where no humans can access, or even see.

As the cubs grow so they become more visible, but how they interact with vehicles depends entirely on who their mother is, the amount of exposure that they've had, and how those encounters have unfolded.

Another variable is the presence, or absence, of a truly dominant male. Dominant males are predictable, their pathways well known, and they can provide exceptional encounters. If the dominant male had died, or been driven out of the territory, then this can have a destabilising effect on tiger behaviour, and the movements of the younger, competing males can become erratic, difficult to predict.



Andy will spend an equal amount of time in each of the three vehicles, ensuring that every guest benefits from his extensive experience of photographing tigers in the wild. He'll be on hand to ensure that you are getting the very best from this once-in-a-lifetime adventure, receiving targeted and useful advice to maximise the photographic rewards from each and every wildlife encounter.





Guests will ALWAYS get the prime photographic spots and positions in the vehicles and if Andy does take any images he'll simply be shooting over the shoulder of guests, giving a running commentary (where needed or requested) of compositional, lighting or behavioural suggestions. He'll also be on hand in the evenings to answer and technical/compositional questions that you may have relating to your days adventures.





Andy will be on hand at all times to ensure that you are getting the very best from your experience, not only in terms of the locations that you visit and the species that you see but also to answer any technical/compositional questions that you may have.

Andy is one of Europe's most respected and awarded wildlife photographers and having been a full time professional for over 20 years he will be able to offer your invaluable and incomparable help and assistance, wherever you are on your photographic journey.



To book online: [www.andrewparkinson.com](http://www.andrewparkinson.com)  
To book via email: [tours@andrewparkinson.com](mailto:tours@andrewparkinson.com)