
Craig travel
INDIA'S TIGER COUNTRY
& THE SACRED GANGES
March 30 - April 14, 2028 • 16 Days • 37 Meals
SMALL GROUP • LED BY JON GURR
Book Early and Save $500 pp



GANGA AARTI

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

IN TIGER COUNTRY
Explore three different national parks (Pench, Kanha and Bandhavgarh), on twelve exclusive jeep safaris with expert naturalists, looking for the royal Bengal Tiger as well as leopard, sloth bear, gaur and Kanha's Barasingha deer.

ON THE SACRED GANGES
Glide along the Ganges by boat at sunrise as pilgrims gather on Varanasi's ghats, then return at dusk to witness the Ganga Aarti, as priests raise tiered brass lamps and worshippers fill the air with devotional chants.

INTIMATE SAFARI LODGES
Stay in three deluxe jungle eco-lodges: a 40-acre wilderness estate at Pench, a mud-and-stone retreat inspired by Gond tribal homes at Kanha, and a forest hideaway among Bandhavgarh's sal-covered hills.

DELHI'S WORLD HERITAGE
Ride a bicycle rickshaw into Chandni Chowk, Old Delhi's 17th-century market of silver merchants, visit the Jama Masjid, and discover the Qutab Minar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE
Limited to 20 members

CT RATING 4/5

VERY CHALLENGING

On this journey we will feature India's finest tiger habitats together with its most sacred city. Living standards differ from those in Canada, and cities can be crowded and often busy. This journey includes some long, slow-going drives over roads that may be poorly maintained. Jeep safaris will operate in the early morning and late afternoon through open reserves. Exploring Varanasi involves some rough, uneven surfaces and narrow lanes. Meals consist mostly of regional cuisine and are served buffet style. Members should be in good health, comfortable with rigorous travel and able to manage their own luggage when required.



Visit craigtravel.com/93 to learn more!

ITINERARY

MAR 30 | DEPART CANADA
Group members from across Canada gather in Toronto for the overnight flights to Delhi.

MAR 31 | DELHI
On arrival in Delhi, we are welcomed and transferred to our hotel. India's capital is two cities in one: the crowded lanes and bazaars of Old Delhi, and the broad, tree-lined avenues of New Delhi, laid out in the early 20th century.
The Suryaa New Delhi - 2 nights

APR 1 | OLD DELHI / NEW DELHI
Our Delhi adventure begins with an exhilarating introduction to the vibrant energy of the old town. During our tour, we pass the red sandstone walls of the Red Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and visit the Jama Masjid, whose courtyard holds up to 25,000 worshippers. A bicycle rickshaw carries us into Chandni Chowk, the 17th-century market once known for its silver merchants. Crossing into New Delhi, we pass India Gate, a war memorial designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens to honour soldiers who died during the First World War and the Third Anglo-Afghan War. Nearby we also see Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President's residence. During our visit to a gurdwara (Sikh temple), we admire the sacred pond and the community kitchen, where free meals are served to all. Our day ends at the Qutab Minar, a tower of red sandstone from the early 13th century and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (BLD)

APR 2 | DELHI / PENCH NATIONAL PARK
A flight takes us to Nagpur, where we are met for the drive into Central India. Pench National Park is named for the Pench River, which flows through its forests of teak and mixed deciduous trees. Rudyard Kipling is said to have drawn on this landscape for *The Jungle Book*. The afternoon is ours to settle in at our forest lodge.
Pench Tree Lodge – 3 nights (BLD)

APR 3–4 | PENCH NATIONAL PARK
Birdsong fills the cool morning air as we begin our two days of wildlife exploration in Pench. Accompanied by an expert naturalist, we embark on private jeep excursions at dawn and dusk. Bengal tigers, leopards, gaur, sambar and herds of chital share the forest, and more than 285 bird species have been observed here. Between drives, we will have time to rest at the lodge. (BLD daily)

APR 5 | PENCH / KANHA NATIONAL PARK
We head to our next lodge in Kanha National Park, located in the Maikal hills of the Satpura range. Kanha was declared a reserve forest in 1879 and became a national park in 1955. Its dense forests and meadows are home to the hard-ground barasingha deer. A breeding programme here brought it back from near extinction.
Kanha Earth Lodge - 3 nights (BLD)

APR 6–7 | KANHA NATIONAL PARK
Four exclusive jeep safaris over two full days take us through sal and bamboo forests in the mornings and afternoons when wildlife is most active. Alongside tigers, we also watch for barasingha, gaur, leopard, dhole, sloth bear, sambar, chital, barking deer and langur. More than 325 bird species have also been observed in the park. Our naturalists share the story of the park's plants, animals and conservation work. (BLD daily)

APR 8 | KANHA / BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK
Our journey continues to Bandhavgarh National Park in the Vindhya hills, once the game reserve of the maharajas of Rewa. It was in these very forests in 1951 that the conservationist Maharaja Martand Singh discovered Mohan, the world's first renowned white tiger. The rest of the day is ours to enjoy the lodge and its serene natural setting. ***Kings Lodge - 3 nights*** (BLD)

APR 9–10 | BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK
During our morning and afternoon safaris, our naturalists read animal behaviour, pick out bird calls, follow fresh pugmarks and explain the park's conservation work. As well as the Bengal tiger, Bandhavgarh is home to leopards, sloth bears, sambar, wild boar and hyenas. More than 250 bird species live here, among them kingfishers and the crested serpent eagle. Beyond its remarkable wildlife, we discover a park deeply rooted in myth and antiquity. Local lore associated with the Hindu epic Ramayana suggests that Lord Rama gifted the prominent hilltop fortress to his loyal brother Lakshmana, giving rise to the name Bandhavgarh, which translates to "The Brother's Fort." (BLD daily)

APR 11 | BANDHAVGARH / VARANASI
Leaving the forests of Central India behind, we set out on a day drive north to Varanasi and the sacred Ganges. Considered one of the world's oldest living cities, Varanasi is believed in Hindu tradition to have been founded by Lord Shiva. It is also one of Hinduism's seven sacred cities. Long a centre of learning and spiritual thought, Varanasi is also known for its silk weaving and classical music, and for the narrow lanes that wind down to its ghats on the Ganges. ***Taj Ganges, Varanasi - 2 nights*** (BLD)

APR 12 | VARANASI / SARNATH
Before dawn, we board a boat on the sacred Ganges to witness Varanasi awaken to centuries of devotion. As the sun rises, we watch pilgrims gather along the historic ghats for ritual bathing and morning prayers. Following the riverbank rituals, we join devotees for darshan at Kashi Vishwanath Temple, revered as one of the twelve sacred shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva. Our cultural exploration then takes us to Sarnath, the sacred site where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon following his enlightenment. Here we wander through the peaceful ruins of early monasteries and stand before the impressive Dhamek Stupa. To celebrate our final night in this captivating country, we return to the water to experience the spectacular Ganga Aarti ceremony from our boat. As priests raise tiered brass lamps to the resonant sounds of conch shells and chanted mantras, devotees set small oil lamps adrift, carrying prayers downstream. The shimmering reflections of a thousand lights across the river create a breathtaking atmosphere of tranquillity on our final evening in India. (BLD)

APR 13 | VARANASI / DELHI
A leisurely morning gives us time to reflect on tiger country and the ghats of Varanasi before our flight to Delhi, where we connect to our onward flight home. (B)

B: BREAKFAST (13) L: LUNCH (12) D: DINNER (12)

DID YOU KNOW?

Varanasi's riverfront is lined with more than 80 ghats, a series of stone steps descending into the Ganges River. Many date back centuries, with several rebuilt under the patronage of Indian rulers during the 18th and 19th centuries. Together, they form a remarkable waterfront of historic temples, palaces and stone stairways.



GANGES RIVER

CRAIG TRAVEL INCLUSIONS

- International flights, domestic Canadian flights and airport transfers with air-inclusive packages
- Domestic flights within the destination
- Carefully selected accommodation as listed, or similar
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as described
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Dedicated journey leader, national guides, and local specialists where applicable
- All gratuities, surcharges, fees, and taxes
- International eSIM to keep you connected
- Visa support ***and fees*** for Canadian passport holders
- Free insurance quote (contact us for details)

TOUR & AIR COST

Land Only	$11,545
Toronto	$13,795
Ottawa / Montreal	$13,975
Halifax / Winnipeg	$14,075
St. John's	$14,095
Saskatoon / Regina / Victoria	$14,195
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver	$14,175
Single Supplement	***$ 1,895***

First deposit is $900 per person at time of booking
Second deposit is $3,600 per person due November 2, 2027
Final payment is due December 15, 2027



YOUR JOURNEY LEADER

We are delighted to have award-winning photographer Jon Gurr as our leader for this thrilling adventure! With over 40 years of experience, Jon has travelled to more than 80 countries across all seven continents, capturing stunning photographs along the way. As a certified professional photographer, he looks forward to sharing his photography tips and passion for travel with our group.



SLOTH BEAR

Visit craigtravel.com/93 to learn more!

Prices are in Canadian dollars per person. Land-only members join the group at the hotel in Delhi and leave the group at Delhi Airport. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. The tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room. Prices are based on a minimum of 10 members and on rates, taxes and fees effective November 2026, and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. The group will be escorted with a minimum of 10 members. For full terms and conditions, visit our website: craigtravel.com/terms-conditions. Canadian passport holders require a visa for India. Comprehensive travel insurance is strongly recommended.

Contact us or visit our website to learn more and reserve your place.

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