

# Wildlife Fun

Wake up to the chirping of exotic birds and the roar of an Asiatic lion. Wildlife adventure in India is truly an experience of a lifetime...

**G**ifted by nature, wildlife in India is **rich in variety and abundance**. The majestic lion, the fearsome tiger, stealthy leopard, powerful elephant, the shy deer, robust antelope, the gorgeous pelican, robust woodpecker and the elegant flamingo are some of the impressive sights in our **national reserves**. Wildlife adventure is not only a great choice for a holiday with kids, it is also one of the best ways to **connect with nature**. Imagine waking up to the bird calls and not the alarm clock on your desk; not wanting to snooze any longer and heading out in the greens. Singing with the winds and walking by the riverside to **spot animals** drinking water. The feeling is extraordinary and absolutely high on the wish list for nature lovers. Thanks to our varied **geographical terrains**, India is home to scores of species of mammals, rare birds, reptiles, insects and amphibians. Add to it, the diverse flora that supports our **ecosystem**. However, many species of birds and animals are now on the verge of becoming extinct because of climate and geographic changes and also by excessive hunting by man (for food, medicine and recreational reasons). According to ecologists, more than 600 species of animals and birds are expected to be extinct if not protected by wildlife management. The final call is ours and the first step is to **reconnect with nature** and safeguard the wildlife habitat. Start now...

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**IN THE MIDST OF NATURE:** Take your loved one to enjoy wildlife at a sanctuary in Kerala or Uttaranchal. Stay over at a jungle lodge and if you are lucky, you can expect spotted deer as your guests when you relax outdoors

WILDLIFE DESTINATIONS  
INDIA SPECIAL



**MY FAMILY:** Avoid getting too close to a tigress and her cubs. The mother is overtly protective about her brood

© Tom Brakelink/Corbis

● **MISSION: TIGER TRAIL**  
● **HEAD TO: BANDHAVGARH, KANHA, JIM CORBETT, RANTHAMBORE**  
Spotting the national animal of India — the Tiger, can be a fabulous experience. You can take your family on a tiger trail to **Bandhavgarh**, which is over 200 kms north-east of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. The nearest village is **Tala**, which is the access point of the park. In MP itself, **Kanha National Park** has the pride of providing the setting for Rudyard Kipling's classic novel, *The Jungle Book*. This large park is well regarded for its research and conservation programme. If you prefer a drive from Delhi, then head to **Ranthambore National Park**. Take your kids to India's first national park — **Corbett**, which was established in 1936 by legendary tiger hunter **Jim Corbett**. Located in **Uttarakhand**, around three hours from **Nainital** and seven hours from **Delhi**.  
● **STAY OPTIONS:** King's Lodge, Tiger's Den Resort, Mahua Kothi Resort and Treehouse Hideaway and Syna Tiger Resort at **Bandhavgarh**.  
**At Kanha**, stay over at Baghira Log Huts, Wild Chalet Resort, Pugmark Resort, Kanha Jungle Lodge and Mumba Resort.  
**At Corbett**, stay over at Tiger Camp, Corbett River View Retreat, Ramganga Resort, Ashoka's Tiger Trail and Camp Forktail Creek Jungle Lodge.



**L**adakh, known as 'The Broken Moon' is set in a spectacular environment enclosed by the mighty ranges of Karakoram and the Himalayas and is one of the most desirable destinations for travellers. Being a professional tourist host and artist, Ghulam Mustafa and his brother Ghulam Mohiuddin desired to provide to travellers coming here a balance between adventure and comfort through their Hotel The Grand Dragon Ladakh. The task of building the hotel was filled with challenges, due to its location which is at an elevation of

11,300 ft. Their dream, however, came true when the prestigious hotel was completed in 2007. Operational throughout the year, the hotel has hosted many VIPs and celebrities since its inception. In observance of its uniqueness of the confluence of modern and traditional architecture with full of world class amenities and services Hotel The Grand Dragon Ladakh also won awards like 'The Pride of Region 2009' and 'Lakshya Bhartee Foundation of excellence 2012' for the contribution in the field of hospitality.

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Have you spotted a majestic animal at a wildlife sanctuary? Send us your photos and info at [economicimestravel@gmail.com](mailto:economicimestravel@gmail.com) or upload them on [www.facebook.com/etravelindia](https://www.facebook.com/etravelindia) and the best ones will be printed in the next issue of ET-Travel

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**JOY RIDE:** Elephants are also worshipped in India and protecting them is our social responsibility

## DID YOU KNOW

**DOLPHINS IN THE GANGES:**  
The National Aquatic Animal of India is the 'Ganges Dolphin'. The Bihar government has recently announced a luxurious jetty by the riverside to spot dolphins.



● **MISSION: PROTECT THE ASIAN ELEPHANTS**  
Project Elephant was launched in 1992 by the **Government of India Ministry of Environment and Forests** to protect wild Asian Elephants. The project aims to ensure long term survival of elephants in their natural habitats. Other goals of Project Elephant are supporting research of the ecology and management of elephants and creating conservation awareness among local people. You can participate in this project in **Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal**.

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**IN THE WILD:** Lions can be spotted relaxing in the afternoon sun at Gir National Park. Your guide will help you track the precise site



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**JUNGLE FUN:** Ever enjoyed a luxurious jungle stay? Here's your chance to head with your family to Kanha National Park or Bandhavgarh in Madhya Pradesh (in the picture) and make the most of the flora and fauna around



**IS THAT A FLAMINGO?** Bird watching can be tremendous fun. But make sure you do not disturb the nesting birds in their habitat

● **MISSION: EXOTIC BIRD WATCHING**  
● **HEAD TO: BHARATPUR NATIONAL PARK, CHILKA LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY AND PERIYAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**  
Diverse geographical landscapes in our country has made it a true paradise for bird watchers, with around **1,200 species of birds**. The main reason behind this attraction is the diversity of climate, vegetation and the altitude. Bird watching is one of the best mediums to enjoy for nature lovers. India is also a home to more than **450 wildlife sanctuaries and 90 national parks**. Bird watching in India has attracted a number of ornithologists and nature lovers from all over since ages. When you head out for a bird watching session, avoid any **unwanted disturbance** in the national parks and sanctuaries. You can also head out to **Valley of Flowers** at Chamoli District, Uttaranchal; **Kaundinya Bird Sanctuary** at Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh and **Kawal Sanctuary** at Mancherla in Andhra Pradesh.  
● **STAY OPTIONS:** Government run guests houses are popular choices for stay at these reserves. Some of them do not offer overnight stay. It's a good idea to check beforehand and then make the booking.