

# SATPURA – HIGHLANDS OF CENTRAL INDIA



## DEPARTURES

2<sup>ND</sup> FEB TO 10<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2018

25<sup>TH</sup> MAR TO 2<sup>ND</sup> APR 2018

## HIGHLANDS OF CENTRAL INDIA

Satpura Tiger Reserve in Central India today offers one of the most diverse wilderness experiences in the country. The Satpura ranges is an important geographical landmark. It is part of the Deccan Plateau and literally is the dividing marker between north and south India.

Over a century and a half ago, an officer of the Bengal Staff Corps found himself captivated by the Central Highlands of Madhya Pradesh. Captain James Forsyth was one of the first Europeans to explore and fall in love with Satpura. While the National Park was established in 1981, the Satpura Tiger Reserve was set up in 2000 under Project Tiger. The park is part of the government's initiative to preserve and reclaim the dwindling forests of wild India.

The Satpura Tiger Reserve is 1,427 square kilometres comprising of Satpura National Park, Bori and Pachmarhi sanctuaries. The region is largely hilly, veined by a number of streams and nullahs that have gouged deep ravines in the land – a terrain that perfectly suits the reclusive habits of most predators. It was perhaps this charming landscape and the rich tapestry of flora and fauna that drew James Forsyth to the Central Highlands so many decades ago. Today it is perhaps the only park in the country that lets you explore its boundless riches through walking safaris, canoe safaris, elephant back safaris, jeep drives as well as night drives. It also offers the option of camping in the buffer forest. A truly remarkable park.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS TOUR

- ❖ Exploring the huge wildlife diversity of Satpura that includes: wildcats, wild dogs, gaur, crocodiles along with other lesser reptiles with its huge diversity of birdlife.
- ❖ Exploring the forest in different ways to get different perspective of wilderness.
- ❖ Dedicated team of naturalist that are one of the best in the industry who can showcase the impact and importance of even the smallest and seemingly the most insignificant of species.



## ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive in Delhi | Overnight in Delhi

Day 2: Morning flight to Bhopal | Transfer to Forsyth Lodge, Satpura | Lunch at the lodge | Afternoon jeep safari in Satpura | Overnight at Forsyth Lodge

Day 3: This morning we embark on a walking safari. Walking in the core tiger reserve gives us the opportunity to not only look for lesser fauna, it also is an excellent way to learn how to track animals | Breakfast will be in the park | Return to the lodge for lunch | In the evening we explore the buffer forest in open jeeps that end at our campsite | Late evening we do some star gazing and enjoy a great meal under the stars | Overnight at the campsite in the forest.

Day 4: This morning we explore the forest around the campsite | We return to the lodge for a late breakfast | In the afternoon led by a naturalists we will do birding and look for reptiles and frogs around the lodge campus | After some rest we go on a night drive to explore the nocturnal animals that are abound in the region | Overnight at Forsyth Lodge



Day 5: Full day jeep safari in Satpura (Churna) | explore insects, dragonflies and birds at Churna camp in the afternoon. Optional – explore cave shelters with rock paintings in hills surrounding Churna camp (if allowed) | Overnight at Forsyth Lodge

Day 6: In the morning we explore the rivers & stream on a canoe | After lunch we depart for Pachmarhi | Overnight at Pachmarhi

Day 7: We spend the morning birding in the higher altitudes of Pachmarhi | After lunch we depart for Bhopal | Enroute explore Bhimbetka Rock Shelters | Overnight in Bhopal

Day 8: Explore Sanchi Stupa - a Buddhist site | Take the evening flight to Delhi | Overnight in Delhi

Day 9: Catch your flight back home



## ITINERARY MAP

Delhi – Bhopal – Satpura Tiger Reserve – Bhopal – Delhi – Fly Out

Fight Transfer 

Road Transfer 

## DRIVING DISTANCES

Bhopal Airport to Forsyth Lodge:

Road transfer 160 km (3.5 hours)

# FORSYTH LODGE

Nestled in the midst of 44 acres of jungle at the end of the Satpura Tiger Reserve, Forsyth Lodge is your gateway into verdant surroundings coupled with the allure of natural living. Their focus lies in being able to deliver to you, a wholesome and sustainable wildlife experience. Through constant partnership with the park administration and the local community, they have crafted a bespoke wilderness experience that suits every need.

Forsyth's consists of 12 independent cottages built in an arc around the lodge building. The lodge is a two-storey building that opens out on to stunning vistas of the mountains while the cottages are built to offer unique vantage points into the landscape. Forsyth's makes every effort to tread as lightly as possible on the ecosystem while making an exciting encounter with Nature possible for the visitor. This is reflected in the care with which their buildings are constructed, and in the ways in which they manage and recycle water, and in the manner in which they cast about for better alternatives to existing technology —be it quieter engines or solar-powered motors—when it comes to everyday access to the Satpura Park

At Forsyth, they are a team of enthusiastic, dedicated and passionate individuals helping their guests explore the best of the wilderness at Satpura. It is because of their team's immense love for nature that they relentlessly strive to deliver an immaculate experience of the woodlands. Each of their team members is a distinctive nemophilist, who not only knows the ways of the wild but also knows how to make your experience memorable.

## FORSYTH LODGE NATURALISTS:

**Vineeth M, Naturalist** - An alumnus of the National Outdoor Leadership School, Vineeth's been trekking the Western Ghats since 1999. His love for nature has led him to track king cobras in a telemetry project and set up trekking models for the Eco trails Project. A skilled tracker and angler, his scientific approach towards storytelling lends an intriguing angle to wildlife and history.



**Bejoy Issac, Naturalist** - This life sciences graduate from Bangalore has a wanderlust who craves for scenic landscapes. Taking life one day at a time, he loves spending maximum time in jungles to gaze at all the wondrous transformations in life forms. He's really enthused about exploring Satpura on foot, elephant, canoe and jeep.



# CAMPING EXPERIENCE

Resting on the banks of the Denwa River, the Jamani Dev campsite is an ideal place to tuck in after a long day of adventure. It starts with an adrenaline-pumping Dusk Safari in the buffer zone – a rare opportunity to witness creatures of the night. A local forest guide and our naturalist help you spot owls, wild cats, bears, civets, etc. If you're lucky, you may meet the world's smallest wildcat – the Rusty-spotted Cat.

After your evening explorations, arrive at Jamani Dev to be warmly welcomed by a campfire and dinner preparations already in full swing. The camp offers large room tents with regular beds and dry toilets, shower tents alongside. Our housekeeping and kitchen teams make sure that you're well taken care of at all times.

The amazing starlit sky blankets the earth, giving you a chance to stargaze to your heart's content. You can try your hand at night photography, assist the chef in the wood fired kitchen, explore the jungle around for insects, scorpions, spiders and frogs or sit by the fire and share your stories of wilderness.

The next morning has you wake up to bird calls and a hot cup of tea or coffee. You could then head out to explore the surrounding area and track animal footprints or board a jeep to drive through new areas of the buffer zone for a sighting.

