

## Totally Tigers + Kanha extension Trip Report

Dates: 20th February - 6th March 2013  
Sites covered: Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Parks  
Leader: Aniket Sardana

A total of 4 nights were spent in Bandhavgarh (BNP) with 8 nights in Kanha (KNP), comprising 6 and 13 game drives respectively. In Bandhavgarh the zone break down was 3 drives in Tala, 2 in Maghadi and 1 in Kithauli. In Kanha, 7 drives in Kisli zone, 2 in Kanha and 2 in Sarhi. The temperature ranged from single figures at dawn to a peak in the early 30s (degrees celcius) during the late morning hours.

## Sightings

### MAMMALS

#### Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*)

A total of 16 different individuals seen. Further details are given below.

#### Leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*)

One individual watched for 40 minutes in Kanha, whilst it stalked a ruddy mongoose.

#### Jackal (*Canis aureus indicus*)

Seen several times, first in Maghadi zone, and later hunting in Kisli.

#### Indian fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*)

One seen crossing the road during evening drive back to the lodge in Bandhavgarh.

#### Three-striped palm squirrel (*Funambulus palmarum*)

Common in both parks.

#### Southern plains gray langur (*Semnopithecus dussumieri*)

Common in both parks and surrounds.

#### Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta mulatta*)

Common in both parks and surrounds.

Hard-ground swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii branderi*)

Seen several times on Kanha meadow (the last stronghold of this subspecies).

Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak aureus*)

Seen briefly in Bandhavgarh and again later in Kanha.

Sambar (*Rusa unicolor unicolor*)

Seen several times in both parks.

Spotted deer (*Axis axis axis*)

Common in both parks.

Indian Bison (*Bos gaurus gaurus*)

Seen first in Tala, then many times in Kanha.

Wild boar (*Sus scrofa cristatus*)

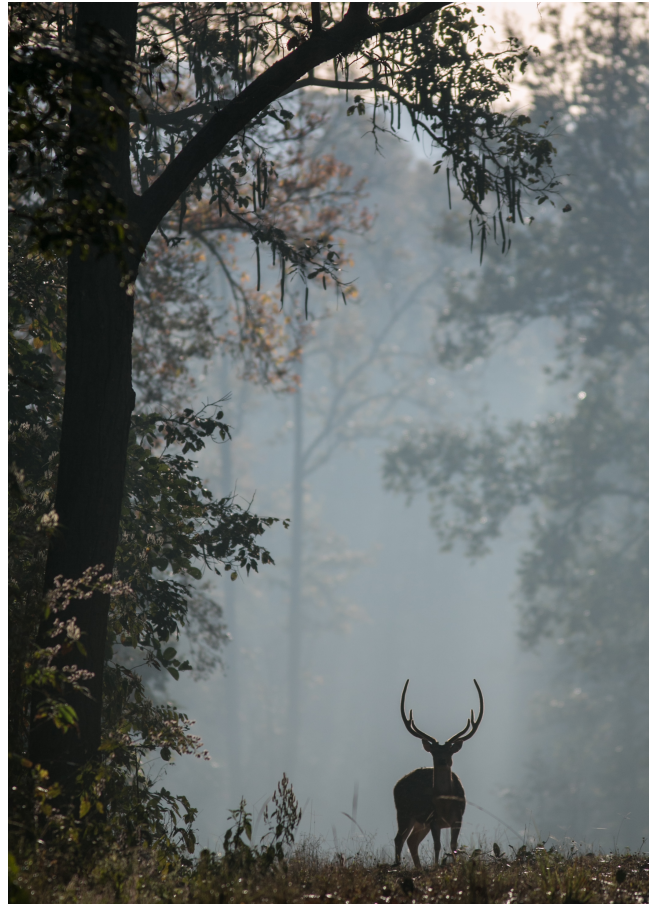
Common in both parks.

Ruddy mongoose (*Herpestes smithii*)

Seen being chased by a leopard in Kanha.

Indian hare (*Lepus nigricollis*)

Seen once in Kanha.



*Above: Spotted deer at dawn,  
Kanha National Park*

## **BIG CATS**

**22/02/13 - Bandhavgarh**

*Morning drive - Tala zone, route B-D*

2 of the 3 'Banbahi' cubs, now approx 2 years old were seen on route D at a distance in the undergrowth.

**23/02/13**

*Morning drive - Tala zone, route A-C*

'Bamera', currently the largest and dominant male of the park was lying on the road before our vehicle for approximately 40 minutes before wandering off into the vegetation to the right side.

Later, the 3 'Kankati' cubs, now 20 months old, were seen playing the grass, approximately 100m from the road.

*Afternoon drive - Maghdi*

An adult male which is now held in a large enclosure was seen as he approached the wire fence.

**24/02/13**

*Morning drive - Tala zone, route B-D*

'Bamera' male encountered again, he got up off the road and walked into the undergrowth where he lay down nearby, approximately 6m from the road.

Later a male 'Banbahi cub' (one of the three), now 2 years old and almost fully grown was spotted lying on a rocky outcrop, about 50m to the left of the track.

*Afternoon drive - Maghadi zone*

The male known as 'Blue eyes', because of his unusual iris pigmentation, was seen briefly crossing the road.

*Right: 'Bamera' lying on the 'A' route of Bandhavgarh's Tala zone*



**26/02/13 - Kanha**

*Morning drive - Kanha zone*

A family comprising a tigress with her 3 subadult cubs were seen walking parallel to the road for approximately 10 minutes offering excellent views in good light.

**02/03/13**

*Morning drive - Kisli zone*

The very large 'Silihari' tigress, now 11 years old, was seen crossing a meadow in search of prey.

*Afternoon drive - Kanha zone*

An adult leopardess was seen in the Badharinaath area, initially lying up on a rock, but then stalking some spotted deer. Part way through he was distracted, and diverted her attention to a ruddy mongoose. She leapt on it, but it escaped. A spectacular sighting of 40 minutes.

**03/03/13**

*Morning drive - Kanha zone*

An adult tigress seen briefly on the prowl from Sijora road, heading in the direction of Surkum river. She had 3, 2-year old cubs but these were not seen.

*Afternoon drive - Sarhi zone*

Just before dusk, a large well known male called 'Munna' emerged from the lakeside and crossed the road before our jeep.

## BIRDS

|                                  |          |                                |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Large cuckoo-shrike           | KNP      | 33. Pallid harrier             | KNP      |
| 2. Common woodshrike             | KNP      | 34. Black-shouldered kite      | KNP      |
| 3. Asian paradise flycatcher     | KNP      | 35. Grey-headed fish eagle     | BNP, KNP |
| 4. Jungle babbler                | BNP, KNP | 36. Crested serpent eagle      | BNP, KNP |
| 5. Orange-headed thrush          | BNP, KNP | 37. Changeable hawk eagle      | BNP, KNP |
| 6. Tickell's thrush              | BNP      | 38. Eurasian kestrel           | BNP      |
| 7. Tickell's blue flycatcher     | KNP      | 39. Spotted owlet              | KNP      |
| 8. Asian brown flycatcher        | KNP      | 40. Jungle owlet               | KNP      |
| 9. Brown headed barbet           | KNP      | 41. Collared scops owl         | KNP      |
| 10. Coppersmith                  | KNP      | 42. Long-billed vulture        | BNP      |
| 11. Black drongo                 | BNP, KNP | 43. Eurasian griffon           | BNP, KNP |
| 12. Greater racket-tailed drongo | BNP, KNP | 44. Red-headed vulture         | BNP, KNP |
| 13. White-bellied drongo         | BNP, KNP | 45. Savannah nightjar          | BNP      |
| 14. Common hawk cuckoo           | KNP      | 46. Indian nightjar            | BNP      |
| 15. Eurasian thicknee            | KNP      | 47. Red junglefowl             | BNP, KNP |
| 16. White-throated kingfisher    | BNP, KNP | 48. Indian peafowl             | BNP, KNP |
| 17. Pied kingfisher              | BNP, KNP | 49. Red spurfowl               | KNP      |
| 18. Green bee-eater              | BNP, KNP | 50. Jungle mynah               | BNP, KNP |
| 19. Plum-headed parakeet         | BNP, KNP | 51. Common mynah               | BNP, KNP |
| 20. Rose-necked parakeet         | BNP, KNP | 52. Red-vented bulbul          | BNP, KNP |
| 21. Alexandrine parakeet         | BNP, KNP | 53. Grey wagtail               | BNP, KNP |
| 22. Black-rumped flameback       | BNP, KNP | 54. Citrine wagtail            | BNP, KNP |
| 23. Indian roller                | BNP, KNP | 55. Plain prinia               | KNP      |
| 24. Common hoopoe                | KNP      | 56. Ashy prinia                | BNP      |
| 25. Rufous treepie               | BNP, KNP | 57. Yellow-footed green pigeon | BNP, KNP |
| 26. Jungle crow                  | BNP, KNP | 58. Rock pigeon                | BNP, KNP |
| 27. House crow                   | BNP, KNP | 59. Laughing dove              | BNP, KNP |
| 28. Greater coucal               | BNP, KNP | 60. Spotted dove               | BNP, KNP |
| 29. Honey buzzard                | BNP, KNP | 61. Barn swallow               | BNP, KNP |
| 30. White-eyed buzzard           | BNP, KNP | 62. Long-tailed shrike         | BNP, KNP |
| 31. Black kite                   | KNP      | 63. Common stonechat           | BNP, KNP |
| 32. Shikra                       | BNP, KNP | 64. Purple sunbird             | BNP, KNP |
|                                  |          | 65. Oriental magpie robin      | BNP, KNP |



|                                  |          |                              |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|
| 66. Chestnut-shouldered petronia | BNP, KNP | 80. Indian pond heron        | BNP, KNP |
| 67. House sparrow                | BNP, KNP | 81. Yellow-wattled lapwing   | KNP      |
| 68. Indian grey hornbill         | BNP, KNP | 82. Red-wattled lapwing      | BNP, KNP |
| 69. Malabar pied hornbill        | BNP      | 83. Darter                   | BNP, KNP |
| 70. Black ibis                   | BNP      | 84. Little cormorant         | BNP, KNP |
| 71. Black-headed ibis            | BNP      | 85. Great cormorant          | BNP, KNP |
| 72. Lesser adjutant stork        | BNP, KNP | 86. White-breasted water hen | KNP      |
| 73. Black stork                  | KNP      | 87. Bronze-winged jacana     | KNP      |
| 74. Asian openbill               | KNP      | 88. Little grebe             | KNP      |
| 75. Lesser whistling duck        | KNP      | 89. Common moorhen           | KNP      |
| 76. Little egret                 | BNP, KNP | 90. Scarlet minivet          | KNP      |
| 77. Intermediate egret           | BNP, KNP | 91. Black-hooded oriole      | KNP      |
| 78. Cattle egret                 | BNP, KNP | 92. Chestnut-tailed starling | KNP      |
| 79. Great egret                  | BNP, KNP | 93. White-rumped shama       | BNP, KNP |



*Above left: A subadult tiger curiously approaches the jeep*



*Above right: A baby langur investigates a stem*