

India, december 2015

Report by Sophie and Manuel

We went to India in december, which is, by the way, much colder than you would expect for India. The problematic part being that lodges are not equipped for cold temperatures (they even sometimes have windows than you cannot close), since it is the only cold month of the year. So bring warm clothes during that time of the year!

We went to two very different parts of India: In central India and in the north-east. But in whatever park we went, we were not allowed to do night drives. We had to discuss a long time in the north-east to be allowed to stay one hour after sunset and go inside a little bit before sunrise. In central India we did some night drives in the buffer zones of the parks. You have the possibility to find the same animals as in the parks on the buffer zones.

Our favourite place of the trip was definitively the Manas National Park, which is a very beautiful park next to Bhutan where you have the chance to see a lot of different animal and bird species. It is additionally not touristic at all, probably because it is more difficult to spot animals there and because they don't have a tiger tracking system like in central India.

In the popular parks of central India you will definitively get a good chance to spot tigers. But the parks are very crowded and they literally flip a coin in Bandhavgarh National Park which will decide which route you will take. Also it seems to really be a chase after the tiger: The first guide told us at the beginning "We will not stop for deers.". Finally, in Kanha National Park and Bandhavgarh National Park, you get a different guide each time you enter the park (twice a day). For us that meant that we had to explain all over every time that we don't want to rush through the park since we are interested in seeing not only the tiger but also other mammals.

Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrived in Delhi

Day 2: Stay in Delhi

Day 3: Flight from Delhi to Guwahati and then drive to Manas National Park

Days 4 to 6: Stay in Manas National Park

Day 7: Drive from Manas to Nameri National Park

Day 8: Stay in Nameri National Park

Day 9: Drive from Nameri to Kaziranga National Park

Days 10 to 11: Stay in Kaziranga National Park

Day 12: Drive from Kaziranga National Park to Guwahati, flight from Guwahati to Delhi and drive from Delhi to Agra

Day 14: Train from Agra to Khajuraho

Day 15: Stay Khajuraho (Panna National Park)

Day 16: Drive from Khajuraho to Bandhavgarh National Park

Days 17 to 18: Stay in Bandhavgarh National Park




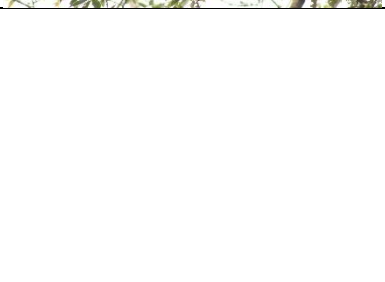


Day 19: Drive from Bandhavgarh to Kanha National Park








Day 20: Stay in Kanha National Park






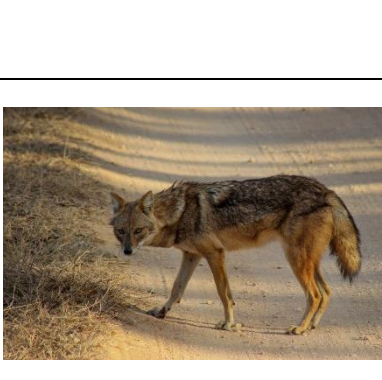
Day 21: Drive from Kanha to Pench National Park





Day 22: Stay in Pench National Park

Mammals list:

<p>Rhesus Macaque</p>	<p><i>Macaca mulatta</i></p>	<p>Seen everywhere from Delhi to the National Parks.</p>	
<p>Northern Plains Langur</p>	<p><i>Semnopithecus entellus</i></p>	<p>Seen a lot in central India. Next to the roads and in the national parks.</p>	
<p>Capped Langur</p>	<p><i>Trachypithecus pileatus</i></p>	<p>Good sighting in Manas National Park.</p>	
<p>Golden Langur</p>	<p><i>Trachypithecus geei</i></p>	<p>We didn't see them because of bad weather but apparently, when the sun is out, you see them in Manas National Park when looking across the river to Bhutan.</p>	
<p>Asian Elephant</p>	<p><i>Elephas maximus</i></p>	<p>Seen in Manas National Park and a lot in Kaziranga National Park.</p>	
<p>Greater one-horned Rhinoceros</p>	<p><i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i></p>	<p>Seen in Manas National Park and a lot in Kaziranga National Park.</p>	

Red Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	A couple of sightings in everywhere we went.	
Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	Also a couple of sightings everywhere we went. Maybe most in central India.	
Barasingha	<i>Rucervus duvaucelii</i>	Eastern Barasingha best seen in Kaziranga National Park and the Hard-ground Barasingha in Kanha National Park.	
Spotted Deer	<i>Axis axis</i>	Seen a lot everywhere we went in central India.	
Hog Deer	<i>Axis porcinus</i>	A couple of sightings in Manas and Kaziranga National Park.	
Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>	Two sightings. One in Bandhavgarh National Park and another in Pench National Park.	
Wild Buffalo	<i>Bubalus arnee</i>	Seen in Manas and in Kaziranga National Park.	

Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	Sightings during a night drive in the buffer zone of Panna National Park. Another sighting during sunset in Pench National Park.	
Indian Wild Pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Couple of sightings everywhere we were. Most sightings probably in Manas National Park.	
Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	One sighting in Kaziranga National Park, one in Bandhavgarh National Park and one in Pench National Park.	
Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	One sighting of a melanistic leopard during the night in Manas National Park.	
Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>	Two sightings during night drives in the buffer zone of Pench National Park.	
Small Indian Civet	<i>Viverridae indica</i>	Sightings during one night drive in Panna National Park.	
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	Sightings during night drives in the buffer zones of Panna and Bandhavgarh National Park. Seen also early in the morning in Kanha and Pench National Park.	

Indian Fox	<i>Vulpes bengalensis</i>	Seen during the night drives of the buffer zone of Panna, Banhavgarth and PENCH National Park	
Sloth Bear	<i>Melursus ursinus</i>	One sighting during the night drive in the buffer zone of Panna National Park.	
Smooth-coated Otter	<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>	Sightings in Kaziranga National Park.	
Black Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>	One sighting in Manas National Park.	
Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista philippensis</i>	Two sightings during one night drive in the buffer zone of PENCH National Park.	
South Asian River Dolphin	<i>Platanista gangetica</i>	One sighting in Kaziranga National Park.	