

# EDUCATIONAL EXPEDITION ultimate teacher's tour

## OUTLINE ITINERARY: 13 DAYS

Day 01: Delhi  
 Day 02: Delhi/Jaipur  
 Day 03: Jaipur  
 Day 04: Jaipur / Bharatpur  
 Day 05: Bharatpur / Agra  
 Day 06: Agra / Katni  
 Day 07: Katni / Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve  
 Day 7/10: Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve  
 Day 11: Bandhavgarh / Katni  
 Day 12: Delhi  
 Day 13: Delhi- we proceed for our international flight.

### DEPARTURE DATES:

#### 2008 Departures:

29 December 2007 - 11 January 2008  
 12 January 2008 - 26 January 2008  
 15 April 2008 - 29 April 2008  
 25 September 2008 - 9 October 2008

#### 2009 Departures:

29 December 2008 - 11 January 2009  
 12 January 2009 - 26 January 2009  
 13 April 2009 - 27 April 2009  
 25 September 2009 - 9 October 2009

### EXPEDITION COST :

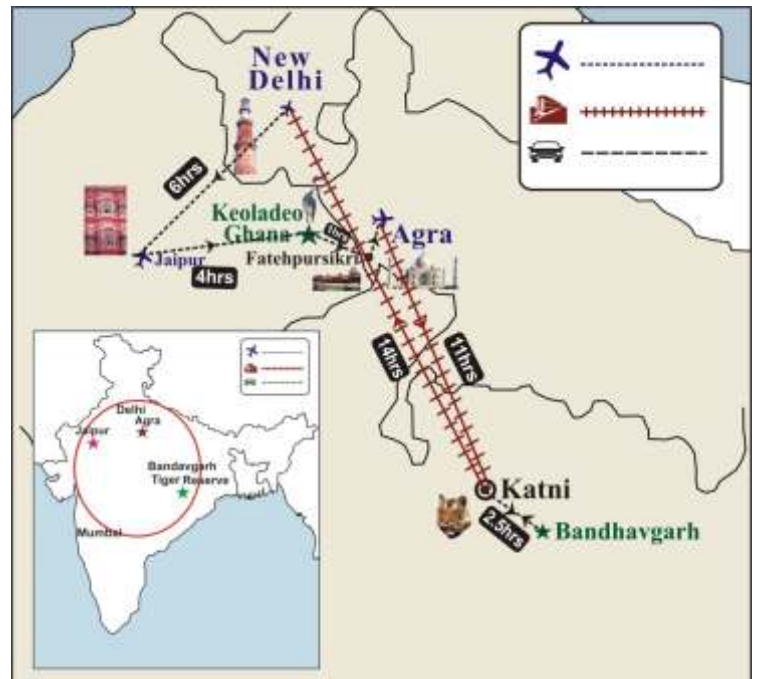
US \$600 per person based on double occupancy.  
 For a single supplement, add US \$225.  
 Plus in-country airfare: US \$450\* Airfare to and from New Delhi (India) is not included in the Expedition cost. Include all expenses related to Expedition.

### EXTENSION: DELHI - KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Day 13: Delhi / Guwahati / Kaziranga  
 Days 14 /15: Kaziranga National Park  
 Day 16: Kaziranga / Guwahati / Calcutta or Delhi

### EXTENSION COST:

US \$1890 per person based on double occupancy.  
 For a single supplement, add US \$650. Include all expenses related to Extension.



## Tiger Expeditions

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**The Expedition****Detailed Itinerary****Duration: 15 days**

Educational Expedition is designed for the discerning participants who want to go beyond the bounds of the traditional journey to discover India, the seventh largest country in the world which has an unparalleled wildlife. Geographically, genetically, and culturally is perhaps the most diverse country on the planet earth. Experience a wildlife study safari with a special focus on Tigers and its habitat amidst incredible diverse landscape in India's most famous Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. You will be accompanied by Vivek Sharma an enthusiastic teacher and leading tiger expert on this unforgettable journey. Extensions can be neatly planned to offer some great opportunities to see Elephants, the great Indian One horned Rhino in the awe-inspiring Kaziranga N.P, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**DETAILED PROGRAM****Day 01: Delhi**

Arrival at Delhi, International airport Welcome by Vivek Sharma and transfers to Hotel - The West End Inn, New Delhi. Briefing by Vivek about the tour and distribution of printed resource material. Overnight and all meals at hotel.

**Day 02: Delhi/Jaipur**

After breakfast, drive to Jaipur, capital of the state of Rajasthan. It is known as the Pink City because of the reddish color applied to the old city walls and palace as a symbol of welcome. This 272 Kilometers/ 5 hrs cultural mix drive is very interesting, stopping en route for lunch. Overnight and all meals at hotel Gangaur.

**Day 03: Jaipur**

This morning elephant ride take us to Amber Fort, Rajasthan's ancient capital to experience the royal lifestyle of the Maharajas. Visit Jag Mandir (hall of victory) and its famed Sheesh Mahal where the walls and ceiling are embedded with

Belgian mirrors. En route to Amber Fort, stop at Hawa Mahal the Palace of winds.

An afternoon city tour of Jaipur includes a visit to the City Palace former royal residence, where one major attraction is the Armory Museum with its impressive array of weaponry. Later visit Jantar Mantar - the observatory built by Maharaja Jai Singh in 1728, the largest stone and marble crafted observatory in the world. There are opportunities for shopping. Over night & all meals at the hotel.

**Hawa Mahal' (Palace of Winds)** an elaborate building encrusted with delicate honeycomb screens and carved balconies from which the royal ladies, confined to their quarters, could view the world outside. Jai Singh's Observatory built in the 17th century by the founder of Jaipur who, besides being a prince was also soldier, astronomer and builder. City Palace, a part is now a museum that contains fine Rajput and Moghul paintings, rare manuscripts and an armory, old carpets, and even amazingly embroidered clothes of the Maharajas and the Maharanis.

**Amber Fort** Just 7 miles north of Jaipur is Amber with it's a honey-coloured fortress-palace in the Aravalli Hills which can be mounted by elephant. It has been described as "the sleeping beauty of Rajasthan". The sombre exterior belies the richness of the royal apartments, which open on to striking views of the gorge. It also possesses a Chamber of Mirrors. The Hall of Victory presents a galaxy of decorative art - panels of alabaster with fine inlay work of the tenderness hues

#### Day 04: Jaipur/Bharatpur

Drive through rural India for 181 Kilometers/ 4 hrs to great Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. More than 400 species of birds have been recorded in the reserve, including endangered species of cranes. Afternoon excursions to the Bharatpur Sanctuary. Over night & all meals at the hotel Uday Vilas Palace.

#### **BHARATPUR BIRD SANCTUARY**

Keoladeo Ghana National Park at Bharatpur is arguably one of the finest bird reserves in the world, and certainly the best known. It covers just 29 square kilometers but holds a remarkable diversity of habitat. The wetlands marshes and flooded "jheels" are contained within acacia-lined "bunds", or embankments, and irrigated by a system of canals and sluices. Around them lie semi-arid grasslands and scrubland and some excellent broad-leaved Kadam woodland.

Amongst these will be an unequalled array of wetland species, a great variety of vultures, eagles, hawks, falcons and owls, plus numerous small land birds. As well as birds, the park has an excellent variety of wild animals - Nilgai (or Blue Bull), Sambar and Spotted Deer, Wild Boar, Asiatic Jackal and two species of mongoose are all common, and this is one of the few places in India where the rare Fishing Cat may occasionally be seen. The Indian Rock Python is another highlight that is usually seen here.

**Mode of safari:** Flat-bottomed boats, bicycle rickshaws and bicycle.

#### Day 05: Bharatpur/Agra

After breakfast, drive to Agra, stopping en route at Fatehpur Sikri (Victory City), a UNESCO World Heritage Monument. After visiting Fatehpur Sikri, we drive for Agra which is about 55 minutes. On arrival in Agra we transfer to hotel Holiday Inn. Afternoon sightseeing in Agra fort, which is also UNESCO World Heritage Monument of red sand stone. Overnight and all meals at hotel.

**FATEHPUR SIKRI:** Fatehpur Sikri which is UNESCO World Heritage Monument also called "City of Victory". Mughal Emperor Akbar built this deserted city during the second half of the 16th century. The monument's 54 meter high Buland Darwaza (the Gate of Victory) is the main entrance which was constructed to commemorate Akbar's victory in Gujarat. It had been Akbar's capital for approximately 12 years as the seat of his governance, believing it to be auspicious for himself where it's architectural style and art expressing his ideals and vision. Made of red sand stone with fine carvings and comprising Palaces, beautiful mosque like Jama Masjid, Tomb of Sheikh Salem Chishti (Muslim Priest), Jodha Bai palace and Khuab Gah (Dream Room).

**AGRA FORT:** An UNESCO World Heritage Monument the Agra Fort is located near the garden of the Taj Mahal. Built by the 3rd Mogul Emperor, Akbar in 1565, this powerful fortress of red sandstone has a 2.5 km long enclosure wall. The massive walls are 20 feet high and the whole fort is encircled by a fusty moat. The Amar Singh Gate towards the south is the only entry point to the fort. It comprises many fairy-tale palaces, such as the Jahangir Palace, the Golden Pavilion, Moti Masjid (Pear Mosque), Diwan-e-am, Octagonal Tower, Machchi Bhawan, Musamman Burj, etc. Shahajahan, the grandson of Akbar and the 5th Mogul emperor added the Audience Hall, Diwan-e-Khas, and two very beautiful mosques to the fort's complex.

#### Day 06: Agra/Katni

Visit the spectacular Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage Monument early in the morning to catch the sunrise and also contemplate all the color changes of Taj Mahal's white marble due to reflection happening during sun rise. After late

breakfast opportunities for shopping and lunch in the traditional market. Catch the Gondwana Express at 1845 hours to Katni. Over night on the train with packed dinner in private air conditioned cabin. (B, L, D).

**TAJ MAHAL:** The Taj Mahal "A Symbol of Love" UNESCO World Heritage Monument in India at Agra is a love poem in stone. Built by the fifth Mughal Emperor Shajahan in the memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal (Arjumand Bano Begum) from 1631 to 1648 on the river bank of Yamuna. The Taj Mahal is the jewel of art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of world heritage. Mumtaz and Shah Jahan were married in 1612. The name of an Indian architect of Persian descent, Ustad Ahmad Lahori, and other masons, craftsmen sculptors, and calligraphers were summoned from Persia, the Ottoman Empire, and Europe to work on it. One of the most impressive structures at the monument are the four tall minarets (40 m high) and on the white marble are the 'pietra dura' (inlay work) art which includes geometric elements, plants and flowers, mostly common in Islamic architecture of the time.

### Day 07: Katni/Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Arrive Katni at 0540 hrs and then drive through forest to Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve by 0740 hrs. Bandhavgarh is one of India's prestige wildlife areas. The forests, grasslands and streams are home to a great variety of wildlife. Explore the park in safari jeeps in search of nilgai, sambar deer, chital and troops of langurs. Keep an eye open for the park's greatest prize: tigers. Next four nights our home will be Royal Tiger Resort. Overnight and all meals in hotel.

### Day 07-10: Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Morning and afternoon wildlife excursions, as well as a visit to the tiger & its habitat conservation program a project of ANF, India. Begin park treks and view the breathtaking jungle and wildlife of Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. Wildlife viewing is by open 4x4 WD vehicles and on the back of an elephant. Boarding elephants is easy, and the cushioned platforms are very comfortable. Since most animals, including tigers, have little fear of elephants or the people mounted on them, this is ideal for wildlife viewing.

### **BANDHAVGARH TIGER RESERVE**

The spectacular & artistic landscape of this 1161 Square kilometers national park is nestled between the Vindhya and Satpura ranges, it features tropical forests and woodlands, with steep rocky hills and flat grasslands in the valleys below. An ancient 2000 year old fort, a reclining statue of Lord Vishnu, and the dense Sal tree forest combined with wide meadows, inhabited by short golden grass and tall elephant grass with marshy meadows filled with springs that flow through 2500 feet of densely vegetated hills. The Arjun trees that are seen in abundance allows for a different kind of ecosystem and a shelter for the tigers. The forest supports a wide variety of floral & faunal species making Bandhavgarh one of the most bio-diverse tiger reserves in India.

**Flora:** Bandhavgarh has a large variety of tree cover and an excellent tree and foliage concentration. Approximately half the Park is covered with fine trees, while mixed forests are found in the higher reaches of the hills. In the slightly higher elevations, there is a more mixed vegetation of Sal, Mahua, Goose berry, Saja, Tendu, Harra, Behara, and Dhobin, etc. Beautiful stretches of bamboo and grasslands extend through out the reserve. The main wildlife viewing takes place in the core area of the Park with its 32 picturesque, wooded hills.

**Fauna:** Bandhavgarh supports one of the highest densities of tigers in India. Its hilly open terrain includes many large grassland meadows that offer good chances of tiger sightings. The density of its big cat population has made Bandhavgarh world famous. The Park is also blessed with more than 37 species of Mammals namely: Spotted, Sambar, Barking deer, Nilgai (blue bull) - the biggest antelope, Wild boar, Wild dog, Indian civet, Palm squirrel, Jackal, Sloth bear, Leopard, Jungle cat etc. Common langurs and Rhesus macaque represent the primate group.

**Birds:** About 250 species of birds are recorded, including Blue-bearded Bee-eaters, White-browed fantails, Vultures, Eagles, Rollers, Peafowl and the Malabar pied hornbill, etc.

**Reptiles:** Include Cobra, Krait, Viper, and Python. A number of lizard species, including Varanus.

**Fort and Archaeology:** About 2000 years ago, the fort was built and is situated at the highest point of the reserve which is surrounded by more than 100 monolithic caves down hill. While on the fort standing at the Kings chair Vivek will share the natural history of the park and indicate territories of tigers and other wildlife, we shall use the highest point as the natural watch tower to spot hidden surprises in the dense forest. Also explore the monolithic sculptures of Vishnu's incarnation on this hill top. The Fort also provides opportunities for viewing vultures, Malabar pied hornbills, and falcons's nesting. Trekking up to the fort is indeed a memorable experience.

**Activities in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserves:** Dedicated personal 4 x 4 WD open safari vehicles will be our main-stay for viewing and tracking wildlife, we will also take the help of, the Elephant brigade in these parks to see the rare, shy, and majestic Tigers deep in the forest. Elephant back rides are an unforgettable wildlife experience and the cushioned platforms make sitting on them comfortable. Since most animals, including tigers, have little fear of (but have a healthy respect for)

elephants or the people mounted on them.

**Elephant Back Safari's:** Every morning about an hour before dawn the elephants leave their respective camps for tracking the Tigers in the reserve. Once a tiger is located, the elephants are used to take you to a convenient point for watching & photographing the lord of the Indian Jungle.

**Visits to the Locality:** We have also plan to drive and visit the following places:

- Nature Walks: To study flora, fauna and wildlife.
- Elephant washing: Assist mahouts (elephant riders) to wash our Jumbos (the tracking elephants) in the river. This could be a real fun.
- Local schools & villages.

**Program of the Day in Bandhavgarh:** We begin our morning safaris into the reserve at dawn, immediately after drinking morning tea and coffee with our picnic breakfast and finish this safari at around noon. Return to the Camp for Visits to the Locality and then return camp for Lunch. After lunch we start afternoon safari into the reserve till dusk. Except one Full day we spend on the Fort Hill with our Picnic brunch. The first morning when we arrive Bandhavgarh we start with guided Nature walk to orient our self with flora and Fauna.

**Every Evening Activities:**

- Share the experience and encounters in the wild with people living here.
- Astronomy: Study of star constellations and planets with a telescope.
- Nocturnal birds and animals in case of any movement of mammals and birds like owls, we will record the warning calls and try to view the particular wildlife.
- Listening to the animals and birds specially the howling of jackals, stress calls of deer's and monkeys when there is any movement of tiger or leopard.
- Slide Shows A slide show will be delivered by Vivek on Tigers and its habitat. Vivek will answer your questions and share his experiences in the form of lectures. During all meals and activities you will be accompanied (with live explanation) of Host and expert naturalist Vivek Sharma.

### Day 11: Bandhavgarh / Katni

Morning wildlife excursions, then following breakfast visit to the villages around Bandhavgarh. Drive to Katni Railway Station to board the MPSK Express leaving for Delhi at 2010 hrs. Over night in the train with packed dinner in private air conditioned cabin.

### Day 12: Delhi

This Morning we arrive in Delhi at 0930 hrs, transfer to Hotel - The West End Inn, New Delhi. Following breakfast we'll explore the walled city of Old Delhi, visiting Red Fort, Jama Masjid India's most elegant mosque and the market. Lunch at original Mughal kitchen called Karim's. Following lunch we drive past the unique iron pillars of Qutub Minar, a UNESCO heritage site monument and Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO heritage site monument. A special farewell Dinner at our hotel. Overnight stay in hotel.

Since the mythological years of the Mahabharata and to the now prevailing cyber age, this city has seen and witnessed much of transformation across civilizations. Various parts of modern Delhi have served as the capitals of the Slave dynasty, the Khiljis, the Tughlaqs, the Mughals, and British India. It is today the capital of modern India; the city holds a major attraction for tourists excursion Places & Monuments worth a visit

**Red Fort:** Witness to the ravages of time, this structure of red sandstone known to the world as the Red Fort or Lal Quila, is the largest of Old Delhi's monuments. It rises above a wide dry moat in the northeast corner of the original city of Shahjahanabad. Its walls extend for two kilometers and vary in height from 18 metres on the river side to 33 metres on the city side. The Mughal Emperor Shahjahan started construction of the massive fort in 1638 and work was completed in 1648. Entrance to the fort is through the imposing Lahore Gate. The heart of the fort is called Naubat Khana or the Drum House where the court musicians used to play music for the emperor. The Fort also houses the Diwan-i-Am or the Hall of Public Audiences and the Diwan-i-Khas, the hall for private meetings.

**Qutab Minar:** The 239ft sandstone tower situated 15 kms south of Connaught Place. Other monuments built subsequently include, the Ala-I-Darwaza and the Alai Minar built by Ala-ud-din Khilji.

**Iron Pillar:** The Iron Pillar is one of the significant structures of the Qutub Minar and lies close to the mosque. This is 4th century iron pillar with not a spec of rust is a manufacturing wonder.

**India Gate:** 42m high India Gate stands as an "Arc-de-Triomphe" like Archway in the middle of a crossroad. Almost similar to its French counterpart this war memorial commemorates the 70,000 Indian soldiers who lost their lives fighting for the British Army during the First World War and bears the names of more than 13,516 British and Indian soldiers killed

in the Northwestern Frontier in the Afghan war of 1919.

**Rashtrapati Bhavan:** Thoroughly colonial but with a strong eastern accent, Edward Lutyen transferred his dreams into reality. It housed the British viceroys and is today the residence of the President of the India. The Mogul garden on the lawns of the Rashtrapathi Bhavan is one of the prettiest gardens in the world.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

Population	12 Million
City Code	011
Summer Temp.	36 Deg Celsius Max.
Winter Temp.	10 Deg. Celsius Av.
Language	English, Hindi, Punjabi.

#### Day 13: Delhi

After breakfast at the hotel, we proceed to Delhi airport for our international flight. (B,)

#### Extension: 4-Day Kaziranga National Park

#### Day 13: Delhi / Guwahati / Kaziranga

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for our flight at 1000 hrs to arrive Guwahati at 1215 hrs. Upon arrival, drive for 4 hrs to Kaziranga National Park, where it becomes apparent that the people of Assam have a more pronounced Asian influence than those of any place visited. Assam is the biological crossroads for the flora and fauna of the Malay Peninsula, China, Himalayas and the Indian subcontinent. Here, the forests are primarily tropical evergreen rather than the deciduous type found in dryer areas. Arrive late afternoon at the Bon Habi Resort. Overnight and all meals at hotel.

#### Kaziranga National Park

A UNESCO World Heritage Site. In Assam, India covers area of 430 Square Kilometers.

Lying along Brahmaputra River, huge swampy meadows with elephant grass and patches of evergreen forest support the largest number of rhino in the subcontinent. An alarming depletion in their numbers, due to hunting and poaching that led to the conservation of this area in 1926.

**Mammals:** Rhinoceros unicornis (rhino)-largest population of the great Indian one-horned Rhinoceros anywhere in the world (about 1500+), massive wild buffalo - ferocious bovine can weigh up to 915 kilograms, Indian Bison, herd of elephants, wild boar, Barasinghas (swamp and hog deer), hoolock gibbons, capped langur, Sloth Bears, leopards, tigers, Jungle Cats, Otters, Hog Badgers and Jackal.

**Bird Life:** it is also an ornithologist's delight, the grasslands are raptor country with crested serpent eagle, the Pallas fishing eagle and grey headed fishing eagle can be seen circling over the marshes. The water-bird species include swamp partridge, bar-headed goose, whistling teal, the Bengal florican, storks, herons and even pelicans. The numerous water bodies are rich reservoirs of food (including fish) and thousands of migratory birds, representing over 100 species, visit the park seasonally from as far as Siberia. Major migratory birds are the grey pelican, black-necked stork, lesser adjutant stork, Pallas's fish eagle, grey-headed fish eagle, about 25-30 Bengal floricans, swamp partridge, grey peacock-pheasant, great pied hornbill, green imperial pigeon, and silver-breasted broadbill.

**Reptiles:** Rock python, monitor lizards, and species of snakes.

#### Days 14-15: Kaziranga National Park

Two full days at Kaziranga, exploring the park by open 4X4 WD Jeep and on elephant back. Accommodation at Bon Habi Resort. Overnight and all meals at hotel.

#### Day 16: Kaziranga / Guwahati / Calcutta or Delhi

After breakfast, depart for Guwahati to board a flight to either Calcutta (Kolkata) or Delhi. Upon arrival, transfer to the Hotel for dinner before departing on our late evening flight.