

# **India Tiger Quest — Ranthambore 2025**

The Optimal Place to View Tigers at the Best Time of Year to See Them





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# **Trip Details:**

**Days:** 7 Days / Apr & May

Price: From \$9495 (+ Air)

Physical Requirements: Easy to Moderate

# **India Tiger Quest — Ranthambore 2025**

The Optimal Place to View Tigers at the Best Time of Year to See Them

Our most tiger-intensive itinerary! If you want to maximize your odds of spotting and photographing Bengal tigers, this compact adventure is for you. Ranthambore National Park in southeast Rajasthan is India's premier tiger safari destination. Our trip is strategically timed for early summer, when visitors are fewer and tigers less elusive. It's warmer, yes. But that means tigers must head out of the dry underbrush to quench their thirst at least twice a day—and that is when we go in search of them, with plenty of time for unhurried photos. With just two travelers per open safari vehicle, our presence is understated...and the views unimpeded! Ranthambore is home to more than its famous tigers, too: it's a veritable *Jungle Book* of creatures, with chances to spy sloth bear, caracal, jackal, striped hyena, desert fox, mongoose and more.

### **Trip Highlights**

Visit Ranthambore National Park at the optimal time for tiger sightings, as warmer weather draws tigers into the open in search of water

Look for a multitude of jungle species: the park's dry deciduous habitat is home to sloth bear, leopard, sambar, chital, langur monkeys and much more

Travel with premier guides who are tiger experts, conservationists and photography pros—superb interpreters of this wildlife-rich ecosystem



## **Itinerary At A Glance**

**Day 1** New Delhi, India

**Day 2**Discovering Old Delhi

Day 3

Ranthambore National Park

Days 4-6

On Safari in Ranthambore

Day 7

Transfer to Delhi / Depart

# **India Tiger Quest — Ranthambore 2025 Itinerary**

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#### Day 1: New Delhi, India

Arrive in New Delhi and transfer to the Taj Mahal Hotel. One of the most distinguished addresses in the city, this landmark 5-star hotel preferred by dignitaries, heads of state and celebrities provides a luxurious respite after your travels. It is located near the seat of India's government and numerous embassies among the wide, leafy boulevards of Lutyens' Delhi—the section of the city named after British architect Edwin Lutyens, who was responsible for much of the architectural design during the period of the British Raj, when India was part of the British Empire in the 1920s–1940s. The evening is at leisure to enjoy dinner on your own—try one of the hotel's fine restaurants, or inquire with the concierge for nearby suggestions.







#### Day 2: Discovering Old Delhi

India's thriving capital offers a captivating introduction to the country and its cultures, in vivid counterpoint to the wild places that lie ahead. There are two distinct sections of the city, ancient Old Delhi, and New Delhi, founded in 1911 by the British at the height of their empire. A half-day tour, timed to avoid the heat of midday, explores centuries of Old Delhi's complex, multi-layered history. A rickshaw ride provides a fitting overview, while a guided walk through the narrow lanes and bustling Chandni Chowk Market reveals the colorful display of everyday commerce. We tour the architectural treasure of Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque and the magnum opus of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. Completed in 1656 by more than 5,000 laborers, the grand edifice features alternating vertical strips of red sandstone and white marble, with a vast inner courtyard that can hold 25,000 people. We also visit Bangla Sahib, one of the country's most revered Sikh temples. The complex includes the main temple, a school, a sacred water tank and a large community kitchen that generously prepares over 10,000 free meals each day, known as *langar*, cooked by volunteers using donated ingredients from Sikh farmers. This evening, join our Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner and orientation to the wild adventures that await.

#### **Day 3: Ranthambore National Park**

Transfer by air-conditioned van to Ranthambore National Park and our luxurious 5-star hotel inspired by the region's colonial past. Spend the next four nights surrounded by tranquil gardens, forest and grasslands that are the domain of the Bengal tiger, staying in utmost comfort with superb proximity to the park.

Once the hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur, today Ranthambore National Park is one of India's top conservation success stories. With tiger numbers steadily on the rise, it offers India's best opportunity to observe and photograph them in the wild, especially at this dry time of year when vegetation is sparse and tigers more readily visible. The park sits between the rugged Aravalli and Vindhya hills, a broad swath of jungle scrub bordered by steep, rocky ridges and highland plateaus dotted with lakes. More than 300 different plant species grow here, though the environs are largely dry deciduous forest—and that means it's easier to spot tigers and other wildlife, in contrast to places where the understory is lusher.

This afternoon, we make our first foray into the park. Covering 150 square miles, Ranthambore is one of India's largest nature reserves and certainly among its most famous, given its reputation for excellent tiger viewing prospects. While tigers are always elusive, the odds of seeing them are high in Ranthambore, especially at the time of year we visit.





#### Days 4-6: On Safari in Ranthambore

Our daily safari drives take place early in the morning and late afternoon, when temperatures are relatively cooler, wildlife is more active and light conditions are better for photography. We head out in 4x4 vehicles before sunrise each morning, eager for the day's discoveries. In contrast to an African safari where wildlife is often on display before us, India's animals take more effort to find. Tigers typically take shelter under the cover of trees and bushes, hiding from their prey and seeking relief from the heat. Because their stripes provide excellent camouflage, we have to work hard to locate them. But our Expedition Leaders are seasoned trackers, and we follow their lead, listening for sounds and watching for signs that may reveal a tiger's location: rustling grass, deer racing away from its presence, birds circling overhead.

While tigers are our main focus, other wildlife is also plentiful in the park. Sightings may include spotted deer, nilgai, jackal, jungle cat, sloth bear, sambar, chinkara gazelle, wild boar, langur monkeys and rhesus macaques. Ranthambore is also home to a notable leopard population, although they tend to stay in higher, more inaccessible areas and are not frequently visible. Birds flourish here, too, with more than 300 species in the reserve. Keep an eye out for crested serpent eagles, paradise flycatchers, painted storks, peacocks and many more.

In the middle of the day, return to the comfort of our hotel to relax, visit the on-site spa or cool off in the swimming pool, or visit the Ranthambore School of Art and Dhonk, a local handicraft training institute.

#### Day 7: Transfer to Delhi / Depart

Our tiger safari comes to a close today as we return via air-conditioned van to Delhi. An overnight room in Delhi is provided before transferring to the airport later for departing flights.



### **Accommodation Details:**

Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi

Taj Sawai, Ranthambore

JW Marriott Hotel New Delhi Aerocity

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/asia-adventure-travel/india-tiger-safari/accommodations/

# **India Tiger Quest — Ranthambore 2025 Accommodations**

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#### Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi

A distinguished address in India's leafy capital district, this 5-star hotel is a New Delhi landmark, with elegant interiors and finely appointed rooms reflecting traditional Mughal heritage in art, antiques and ambience.



#### Taj Sawai, Ranthambore

An opulent 5-star hotel that blends timeless charm with contemporary aesthetics. Surrounded by nature, the hotel has manicured gardens, pool and an award-winning spa.



#### JW Marriott Hotel New Delhi Aerocity

Conveniently located near New Delhi's international and domestic airports, this stylish, contemporary hotel offers a blend of luxury and convenience, with high-end amenities.





# **What Makes This Tiger Safari Tops?**

This safari is designed to maximize your chances to view some of the world's last remaining wild Bengal tigers. It's a thrill to see a tiger in its natural habitat, not to mention a rare privilege...and this strategically crafted itinerary gives you the very best odds, along with a look at lots of other native India wildlife. Here's how we do it:

### A Compact Itinerary Focused on Finding Tigers

In just a week's time, we get you into the heart of Bengal tiger habitat with multiple opportunities to search for these charismatic cats in India's premier tiger park. If your main goal in coming to India is to see wild tigers, this trip maximizes your odds.

The Best Location at the Best Season for Sightings

Ranthambore National Park in eastern Rajasthan is legendary tiger country. Though it's hot when we visit, this increases our chances of seeing tigers, since they must emerge from shade and seclusion in the bushes in order to drink water twice daily. Our best opportunity to see them will be at these waterholes. Other wildlife must come out in search of water, too, and we're likely to have excellent chances to view a wide array of native species.

A Small Group for a More Intimate Tiger Experience

We cap our groups at just six travelers, with only two guests per safari vehicle. This means a less-intrusive presence, a quieter experience, and personalized attention from our naturalist Expedition Leader. You're assured a "window" seat in our open 4x4 vehicles. There's also room to carry all your gear comfortably, and flexibility for us to adapt to changing conditions (light, weather, animal movements) in order to maximize photo opportunities.

India's Top Naturalist Guides Lead Our Trips

Our Expedition Leaders are highly trained and certified naturalist guides with in-depth knowledge of the Indian bush and the creatures that live there. Most of our guides average 15 years of experience in the field. We know that a nature expedition is only as good as the guide, and that's why we take pride in hiring the world's best!

Our Emphasis is Nature, but We Add a Touch of History and Culture, Too

Most India tours immerse you in crowded urban environments, rather than the country's wild places. In contrast, nearly all our time is spent tracking tigers...but, since we fly in and out of Delhi, we include a half-day tour of India's vibrant capital. With a wealth of cultural treasures and engaging human interactions, it's an engaging counterpoint to the vast natural expanse of Ranthambore that is our primary focus.





- Extra Value for Your Travel Dollar
  - While we are coming to India at the optimal time of year to see tigers, this is otherwise an off-peak trip, meaning your cost is lower than for most India tours. Take advantage of great value pricing for this top-quality small-group trip—when tiger sighting odds are best!
- Our Presence Directly Helps Boost India's Tiger Numbers

  After years of precipitously declining tiger numbers, India is charting steady increases. Its 2022 quadrennial tiger census counted 3,682 tigers, up from 2,967 in 2018, an annual rise of 6%. Conservation groups attribute a share of the increase to responsible ecotourism. The economic value of visitors to India's tiger reserves benefits local communities, offering people an incentive to protect the wildlife they share the land with. Given that India is home to 75% of the world's remaining wild tigers, our presence here for wildlife tourism here is integral to that continued success.
- Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your India Tiger Adventure is Second to None
  With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive quality-value guarantee that
  promises we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our
  knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.
- Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

  We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.





# **Make It Private with Your Family or Friends**

Travel privately, exclusively with your immediate family, multi-generational family or group of friends. And when you choose a private departure, you're assured the most exclusive and authentic India Tiger Quest on offer. Request your private departure by completing the form below.

Please note that on India Tiger Quest Make It Private departures we require a minimum group size of 3 travelers.

Also, please be aware that your per-person cost on a Make It Private trip will vary depending on the number of travelers in your group and may be as much as 10%-30% higher (ship-based trips may be even higher) than our normal trip cost unless you fill the trip.

This **Make It Private** option is available on nearly every Nat Hab trip for family and friend groups. Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917 or look for the "Make It Private" icon in the **pricing section** of a trip online at nathab.com to see prices based on your specific group size.



# Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices: From \$9495 (+ Air)

#### **Group Size:**

Please note that on Make It Private departures we have a minimum group size of half the maximum size of our regularly scheduled departures.

Physical Requirements: Easy to Moderate

# India Tiger Quest — Ranthambore 2025 Dates, Pricing & Info

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#### **2025 Departures**

Departure	Return	Notes
Apr 3, 2025	Apr 9, 2025	Pair with our Grand India, Snow Leopard trip or Snow Leopard Photo Expedition*
Apr 10, 2025	Apr 16, 2025	Habitat Club Pricing Available   Pair with our Grand India, Snow Leopard or Nepal & Bhutan trip*
Apr 17, 2025	Apr 23, 2025	Pair with our Grand India, Snow Leopard or Nepal & Bhutan trip*
Apr 24, 2025	Apr 30, 2025	Habitat Club Pricing Available   Pairs with our Grand India or Nepal & Bhutan trip*
Apr 30, 2025	May 6, 2025	Pair with our Grand India trip or Snow Leopard Photo Expedition*
May 9, 2025	May 15, 2025	Pair with our Grand India or Nepal & Bhutan trip*
May 14, 2025	May 20, 2025	
May 16, 2025	May 22, 2025	





# **Dates & Pricing Summary:**

Prices: From \$9495 (+ Air)

**Group Size:** 

Please note that on Make It Private departures we have a minimum group size of half the maximum size of our regularly scheduled departures.

Physical Requirements: Easy to Moderate

Departure	Return	Notes
May 22, 2025	May 28, 2025	
May 29, 2025	Jun 4, 2025	





### **Pricing**

2025 Prices

> Trip Price \$9495 to \$9795

**Single Occupancy:** For a single room add \$1995. **Deposit:** \$1500 per person (nonrefundable)



#### **India Tiger Quest Itinerary.**

Trip prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars.

#### Included

> Trip price includes: Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), local guides and lodge staff, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through lunch on final day, some gratuities, still camera fees, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

#### Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees, optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance. Note: India requires additional fees for video camera usage in parks, which is not included in your trip fee.

## **Physical Requirements**

#### Easy to Moderate

In order to participate in this trip, you must be able to walk unassisted (without the use of walking aids) at a steady pace for at least one mile over uneven terrain, climb a short ladder to get into and out of our safari vehicles, and tolerate daily excursions in extremely hot conditions. Although we avoid the hottest part of the day during our outings, note that temperatures can be very high and may exceed 110°F. Activities include a city walking tour that could be as long as three miles, walking with luggage through crowded airports and train stations, and walking on sometimes dark and uneven paths at our accommodations. Wildlife drives in the park take place on very rough and bumpy dirt roads with many ruts and potholes, in extremely dusty conditions. Travelers with back problems or other health issues that could be exacerbated by such conditions should take this into consideration. The trip also involves very early morning starts (before dawn) and long days filled with activities, which can be very tiring, especially in the heat.

On custom or private departures with smaller groups, our ability to accommodate varying levels of physical abilities or interests is limited, since these trips are staffed with a single Expedition Leader who may be assisted, pending availability, by local guides.

## **Important Information About This Trip**





#### Wildlife Encounters

Most of our guests travel to India to encounter the country's wildlife. While nature experiences in India are indeed outstanding, there is a fundamental difference between a safari in the Indian jungle and a typical African safari. At times, guests lured to India by tourist brochures promising "tiger safaris" can be disappointed to see fewer animals than they expected, or at least fewer than they might normally expect to see in Africa. It is not that India's surviving jungle habitat is sparsely populated with wildlife, but, similarly to places like Costa Rica where the forest vegetation is very dense, animals have mastered the art of camouflage and can be difficult to spot, even during the summer season when foliage is thinner.

That said, we have carefully designed our India itineraries to capitalize on the best conditions to spot tigers. We don't think you'll find a better opportunity to maximize your chance to view and photograph tigers than this trip affords. But various factors can affect potential sightings, including inclement weather, which creates small pockets of water that allow the animals to remain hidden in the forest, rather than being forced into the open to frequent waterholes. The secret to a successful Indian nature adventure lies with the expertise of our Expedition Leaders and park rangers, as well as your knowing what to expect as a traveler, and in understanding that the privilege of stepping into a wild and untouched natural realm is a reward in itself.

#### Safari Vehicle Routes

Rather different than in nearly every other country we travel to, in India the driving routes in national parks are pre-assigned and must be followed. In most parks this is generally not a problem, but when searching for tigers, this can be frustrating as they simply may not be visible on a given route on a given day. There are five different driving routes inside Ranthambore National Park, and our hope is that we are able to utilize different routes on different days. However, the park service allocates routes at random for each vehicle, so there is no guarantee that vehicles will get a different route for each wildlife drive. We understand that the main purpose of your journey is to view tigers, but please understand that there is a chance that the vehicle to which you are assigned could take the same route multiple times. Thank you for participating in this adventure knowing that this may be the case.

Also, on rare occasions, you may see film crews during your time inside the park. These crews have special permits in order to film inside park boundaries and, as a result, they do enjoy certain advantages that a regular tourist does not, such as spending the entire day inside the park and having access to places where others cannot go. Please know that while there are indeed limiting factors to the tiger-viewing experience in India, we have taken great pains to ensure that this special India tiger safari provides the very best viewing and photography opportunities possible.

## **Mandatory Insurance**

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend





purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

## **Getting There & Getting Home**

Arrive in Delhi at any time on Day 1 of the itinerary. You are free to depart Delhi anytime after 8 pm on the final day.

We can best serve you if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, as we are intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may find special web rates or better fares online.



#### **Extension Details:**

Agra & the Taj Mahal Extension \$1995

Land of the Snow Leopard \$10995

Snow Leopard Quest Photo Expedition \$11995

Wild & Ancient Himalaya: Nepal & Bhutan \$13295

# **India Tiger Quest — Ranthambore 2025 Extensions**

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#### **Agra & the Taj Mahal Extension**

No India adventure is complete without a visit to the fabled Taj Mahal and red sandstone Agra Fort, exquisite and magisterial monuments to the imperial splendors of the Mughal age. \$1995



#### **Land of the Snow Leopard**

On a winter adventure in far-north India, join a quest to view one of the world's most elusive cats. Stay in the very midst of its high alpine habitat at our private, deluxe ecolodge in a small village in Ladakh.

**\$10995** (+air)



#### **Snow Leopard Quest Photo Expedition**

In the company of expert spotters, track the world's most elusive big cats in their native Himalayan habitat on our small-group winter photo safari to the remote alpine heights of Ladakh in farnorth India.

**\$11995** (+air)







### Wild & Ancient Himalaya: Nepal & Bhutan

Explore mountain heights and jungle lowlands on this soulful journey through the cultural and wildlife treasures of two neighboring Himalayan nations—including rhino tracking in Chitwan National Park. \$13295 (+air)





#### **Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together**

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