

# Birds, Lions and Tigers



Days: 16

Price from: 2340 USD  
International flight not included

Comfort: ★★★★★

Difficult: ★★☆☆☆

🐾 Wildlife

This is a fascinating journey through exotic Rajasthan and the western state of Gujarat, exploring the region's rich cultural heritage and natural abundance. Tigers at Ranthambore, lions at Sasan Gir, birdlife at the Bharatpur and Hingolgarh sanctuaries can be seen together with a kaleidoscope of historic forts, fascinating palaces, vibrant towns and remote villages to make this tour an unforgettable experience.

The tour begins with a visit to the magnificent Taj Mahal and nearby Fatehpur Sikri, the 16th-century Mughal capital, before arriving at Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, home to hundreds of rare species including egrets, kingfishers and the spectacular migratory Siberian cranes. We continue our journey to famous Ranthambore National Park, one of the best places to see tigers in the wild. A highlight of the trip is a two-night stay in the Pink City - Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan. Few places in India showcase such a glittering array of sights: imposing Amer Fort, the bejeweled City Palace, Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds) and the teeming city bazaars.

On reaching Gujarat, our focus moves back to the natural world: we visit the otherworldly salt flats of the Rann of Kutch, famed for its population of Asiatic wild ass, and Sasan Gir National Park, home of the last surviving population of the majestic Asiatic lion. We take safaris into the park in search of the big cats and other wildlife. En route between these two far-flung natural wonders, a stopover in the atmospheric old town of Bhavnagar is included to provide a fascinating glimpse into Gujarati life.

Our Wild West adventure ends with a visit to the nearby Hingolgarh Bird Sanctuary, before a drive takes us to the Gujarati capital, Ahmedabad, followed by an enjoyable train ride south to Mumbai.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Asiatic lions at Sasan Gir National Park
- Tigers at Ranthambore National Park
- Elephant ride at Amer Fort, Jaipur
- Rann of Kutch, the salt flats located on western tip of Gujarat
- The colourful, exuberant city of Jaipur

## Day 1. Traditional welcome and transfer to the hotel



Delhi 📍

- Arrive at the **International airport** of Delhi. After the traditional welcome, transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

🏠 Accommodation

Florence Inn

## Day 2. Way to one of the seven wonders of the world



Delhi 📍  
 🚗 250km - ⌚ 5h 30m  
 Agra 📍

## Delhi - Agra

- After the breakfast, we will drive towards Agra, around 4 hrs drive (Famous for many splendid Mughal era buildings) and known as city of **Taj Mahal**. The city was first mentioned in the Indian epic Mahabharata, where it was called Agrevana (meaning "the border of the forest"). Although Agra's history is mainly associated with Mughal Empire, the place was established much before it and has linkage since Mahabharata period. The golden age of the city began with the Mughals. It was known then as Akbarabad and remained the capital of the Mughal Empire.
- Visit the Agra Red Fort, a historical fort in the city of Agra and its walls are richly adorned with red sandstone. Till 1638, this fort was main residence of the emperors of the Mughal Dynasty. Thereafter the capital of Mughal was shifted from Agra to Red Fort in Delhi.
- Visit of Taj Mahal, a 17th century marvel in poetic description. One of the **Seven Wonders of the World**, the Taj is a dream in white marble with exquisite pietra dura (stone inlay) work. **Shah Jahan**, the fifth Moghul King, built this beautiful mausoleum in memory of his beloved wife, **Mumtaz Mahal**, who died at the birth of her fourteenth child.

☕ Breakfast	Florence Inn
🏠 Accommodation	Howard Plaza

## Day 3. Head towards Bharatpur enroute visiting Fatehpur Sikri



Agra 📍  
 🚗 60km - ⌚ 1h 30m  
 Bharatpur 📍

## Agra - Bharatpur

- In the morning we drive to Bharatpur, famous for Keoladeo National Park and Bird Sanctuary. En-route we visit Fatehpur Sikri, the deserted royal city constructed by the Mughal Emperor, **Akbar**. This impressive and well-preserved citadel served as the political capital of Akbar for 14 years until in 1585 he abandoned Fatehpur Sikri due to dearth of water. Afternoon is free.

☕ Breakfast	Howard Plaza
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel Surya Vilas Palace

## Day 4. Morning Rikshaw Ride in the park and journey to Ranthambore



Bharatpur 📍  
 🚗 240km - ⌚ 5h  
 Ranthambhore 📍

## Bharatpur - Ranthambhore

- Thereafter, we leave for the visit of the **Keoladeo Ghana National Park**, a World-heritage listed Bird Sanctuary and a Ramsey sight. It is home to egrets, ducks, coots, storks, kingfishers, owls, eagles and harriers. The Maharaja of Bharatpur diverted water from a nearby irrigation canal into this lowland and later used to organize the hunting parties for his guests. It was converted into a Bird Sanctuary in 1956. There are now over 360 species of birds. In the afternoon, we do a guided visit to the Park on **Cycle rickshaw** to experience the vast nature and its offerings. Overnight at the hotel.
- In the afternoon, we drive to the Ranthambore National Park.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel Surya Vilas Palace
🏠 Accommodation	Om Rudrapriya Holiday Resort

## Day 5. Two games drives in the Park



Ranthambhore

- Today we have **Two game drives** to the park to wander through the jungles to find the elusive tiger. We wake up early morning and leave for our first safari in the Ranthambore National Park. We track the tigers and other wildlife through the morning and return to the hotel for breakfast. After relaxing for the rest of the pre-lunch session we leave for another foray into the jungle after lunch to catch glimpses of some more animal and bird species. At the end of this adventurous day we return to the hotel and relax.

🍽 Breakfast	Om Rudrapriya Holiday Resort
🏠 Accommodation	Om Rudrapriya Holiday Resort

## Day 6. Way to Pink City



Ranthambhore  
🚗 180km - ⌚ 4h 30m  
Jaipur

### Ranthambhore - Jaipur

- In the morning, we drive to Jaipur - popularly known as the Pink City that is the **colorful capital** of Rajasthan. With its rich cultural heritage and colorful past it is now one of the most important heritage cities in India. The city was established in 1727 by **Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II**, the then ruler of Amer. Also known as '**The City of Victory**', Jaipur was the first planned city of its time with imposing forts, dazzling palaces, beautiful gardens and markets. Evening is free to explore the **colorful bazaars** of Jaipur.

🍽 Breakfast	Om Rudrapriya Holiday Resort
🏠 Accommodation	Suryaa Villa Jaipur

## Day 7. Exploration of town



Jaipur

- After the breakfast we drive to the ancient capital of Amer, 11 km from Jaipur. Famous for its massive Amber(amer) Fort, Amer was the ancient capital of Kachwaha dynasty for 6 centuries. We take an **Elephant ride (Optional)**, an experience to remember for a long time, to reach the Fort situated on the hill. Having appreciated its beauty and captured that in our cameras we visit City Palace Jaipur, a perfect blend of Rajasthani and Mughal architecture. Next, we visit Jantar Mantar, a Solar Observatory built in the 18th century; an astronomical treasure house that measures time according to the movement of the Sun to an error of just 2 seconds with solar devices that give accurate astrological predictions as well till date. We also visit Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), a five-storied facade of pink sandstone. It was built in the year 1799 to allow royal ladies to watch processions and other the festivities on the road through its 953 \_\_\_'jharokas'\_\_\_ or small windows without being seen by the public.

🍽 Breakfast	Suryaa Villa Jaipur
🏠 Accommodation	Suryaa Villa Jaipur

## Day 8. Fly to Ahmdabad and exploration of town



Jaipur  
✈ 534km - ⌚ 1h 15m  
Ahmedabad

### Jaipur - Ahmedabad

- In the morning, we will be transferred to the **Airport** to board our flight to Ahmedabad.
- Ahmedabad is one of the jewels of Gujarat state. Beautifully carved historicals monuments such as Step well at Adalaj , The Rani Mosque etc make this town unavoidable during the trip to Gujarat. We visit Calico Textile Museum, one of the finest textile museums in the world and housed in one of Gujarat's famous carved wooden havelis (mansions). The museum displays a magnificent collection of rare textiles dating back to the 17th century. Gandhi Ashram or the Sabarmati Ashram, located near Vadaj, was once the residence of Mahatma Gandhi who founded it in 1915, and today without doubt, it is the biggest tourist attraction in Ahmedabad.

☕ Breakfast	Suryaa Villa Jaipur
🏠 Accommodation	Pride Plaza Hotel Ahmedabad

## Day 9. Drive to Zainabad



Ahmedabad 📍  
🚗 114km - ⌚ 2h 40m  
Zainabad 📍

### Ahmedabad - Zainabad

- We visit **Modhera Sun Temple**. Architecture of this temple has similitude with that of **Konark Sun Temple and Khajuraho Temples**. King Bhimdev got it constructed during 1026-27 but it was devastated by the raid of Mahmud of Ghazni. The sanctum sanctorum was scientifically designed so that radiation emerging from rising and setting of Sun during the day of equinox fell on beautifully carved statues constructed by Suryavanshi Solanki Rajputs, in the memory of their beloved God.
- Today we drive from Ahmedabad to Zainabad, a picturesque town situated on the outer periphery of Rann of Kutch. On the arrival, we would be transferred to hotel. Rest of the evening is free to explore the surrounding.

☕ Breakfast	Pride Plaza Hotel Ahmedabad
🍴 Lunch	Desert Courses
🍷 Dinner	Desert Courses
🏠 Accommodation	Desert Courses

## Day 10. Excursion in Rann of Kutch



Zainabad 📍

- This morning, we do a **Jeep safari** in the Rann of Kutch, a large area of salt marshes located in the Thar Desert mostly in **Gujarat** and the southern tip of Sindh in Pakistan. It is a seasonally marshy region, the word Rann meaning "**Salt marsh**", alternating with medaks, elevated pieces of land where vegetation grows. Kutch is the name of the district where this region is situated. **This safari** is altogether a different experience from all that we have seen and experienced by now. In the evening, we do a **Village tour** to explore the area further.

☕ Breakfast	Desert Courses
🍴 Lunch	Desert Courses
🍷 Dinner	Desert Courses
🏠 Accommodation	Desert Courses

## Day 11. Way to cultural capital of Saurashtra



Zainabad 📍  
🚗 220km - ⌚ 4h  
Bhavnagar 📍

### Zainabad - Bhavnagar

- Today we drive to Bhavnagar. It was a princely state until 1948 when it was merged into independent India. The city offers vibrant shades of traditional Gujarati Culture. On arrival, check-in at Hotel. Later, we can visit following places such as Gandhi Smriti, Barton Library and Takhteswar temple etc.

☕ Breakfast	Desert Courses
🏠 Accommodation	The fern Iscon Club & Resort



## Day 12. Way to the Park of Gir



Bhavnagar 📍  
🚗 225km - ⌚ 5h  
Sasan Gir Forest National Park 📍

### Bhavnagar - Sasan Gir Forest National Park

- Today, we visit the Gandhi Smriti - a memorial that has a library of Gandhian books and photographs providing glimpses into the life of Mahatma Gandhi. It also has a fine collection of art objects representing the culture of the Saurashtra Region.
- Later, we drive towards the Sasan Gir Forest National Park.

☕ Breakfast	The fern Iscon Club & Resort
🍴 Lunch	The Fern Gir Forest Resort
🍷 Dinner	The Fern Gir Forest Resort
🏠 Accommodation	The Fern Gir Forest Resort

## Day 13. Two safaris in Gir Forest



Sasan Gir Forest National Park 📍

- Today, is the day for some adventure when we get to do **Two game drives** (Morning/Afternoon) into Sasan Gir National Park to look for **Asiatic lions**. Gir Forest National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is the sole home of the pure Asiatic Lions (**Panthera Leo Persica**) and is considered to be one of the most important protected areas in Asia due to its supported species. The ecosystem of Gir, with its diverse flora and fauna, is protected as a result of the efforts of the government's Forest Department, wildlife activists and NGOs. The count of 2,375 distinct fauna species of Gir includes about 38 species of mammals, around 300 species of birds, 37 species of reptiles and more than 2,000 species of insects. The carnivorous group mainly comprises **Asiatic lions, Indian Leopards, Bengal Tigers, Sloth bears, King Cobras, Jungle Cats, Striped Hyenas, Golden Jackals, Indian Mongoose, Indian Palm Civets, and Ratels**.

☕ Breakfast	The Fern Gir Forest Resort
🍴 Lunch	The Fern Gir Forest Resort
🍷 Dinner	The Fern Gir Forest Resort
🏠 Accommodation	The Fern Gir Forest Resort

## Day 14. In the lapse of nature - Hingolgarh Sanctuary



Sasan Gir Forest National Park 📍  
🚗 195km - ⌚ 4h  
Hingolgarh 📍  
🚗 80km - ⌚ 1h 30m  
Rajkot 📍

### Sasan Gir Forest National Park - Hingolgarh

- This morning, we drive in the direction to Hingolgarh Bird Sanctuary. It is a natural habitat and it is a delight for Ornithologist and nature amateurs to observe the different variety of birds. Covering the forest area of 654.07 hectares, this sanctuary has dry deciduous scrub forests which dominates the landscape.
- The sanctuary gets full of life during rainy season with beautiful shades of green color all around and the area buzzing with life and various life forms. Due to the presence of grasslands and scrub forests, the sanctuary has a unique composition of wildlife. The most prominent **wildlife species are Chinkara, Nilgai, Indian porcupine, Indian hare, Mongoose, Wolf, Hyenas, Jackals** etc. The unconfirmed presence of a leopard has been occasionally reported by the local people. The sanctuary is remarkably rich in birds with 230 species and has 19 species of snakes of which 3 are venomous.

### Hingolgarh - Rajkot

- After the visit, we head towards Rajkot where we have a night stay.

☕ Breakfast	The Fern Gir Forest Resort
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## Day 15. Drive back to Ahmedabad



Rajkot 📍  
🚗 230km - ⌚ 5h  
Ahmedabad 📍

- After the breakfast, we drive to Ahmedabad. Upon arrival, we have free time to explore the local bazaar of the city.

🍳 Breakfast

The Fern Residency

🏠 Accommodation

Pride Plaza Hotel Ahmedabad

## Day 16. Board The return Flight



Ahmedabad 📍

- We are transferred to the International airport for our onward travel to our next destination.

🍳 Breakfast

Pride Plaza Hotel Ahmedabad

## Itinerary map



## Individual price per person

2-3	4-5	6-8	9-12
2590 USD	2510 USD	2480 USD	2340 USD

### Included

- Accommodation for 11 nights on the basis of double room in the hotels mentioned or equivalent on breakfast basis
- 02 nights on Full board in hotel in Zainabad
- 02 nights on Full board in Sasangir
- All ground transportation included in the program using private air-conditioned vehicle with English speaking driver
- Park and monuments entrance fees as described in the programme
- Excursion to Rann of Kutch in Open Jeep - Seat Sharing basis
- Two game drives in Sasan Gir in private Jeep
- Two Game drives in Private Jeep - Seat Sharing basis in Ranthambore National park
- Rickshaw ride in Bharatpur
- English speaking Local city guide as mentioned in the programme (Till 05 Pax)
- English speaking tour leader throughout the trip (From 06 Pax onwards)
- Govt. Taxes

### Not included

- International flight tickets
- Travel insurance
- These rates will not be valid for peak season from 20 December 2019 to 10 January 2020 , Christmas and New Year's extra supplement cost will be charged during this period
- Domestic flight tickets for the sector: (Jaipur - Ahmedabad)
- Lunch and Dinner through out the trip except Full board in Zainabad and Sasangir National Park
- Miscellaneous Expenses - drinks, souvenir, personal expenses etc.
- Tips for driver and other local staff
- Charges for Camera in the monuments and Parks
- The cancellation and baggage insurance, assistance and repatriation
- Indian Visa
- All services not mentioned in "Inclusion"