

Wildlife of the Western India...

Our Jewel of the West expedition takes us explorations of the colourful western states of Gujarat. As a



wildlife-focused expedition we will visit national parks and reserves such as those at Sasan Gir and the Rann of Kutch, in search of the rare Asiatic Lion and the elusive Khur, a rare wild horse. Gujarat also has thriving populations of Leopard, Sloth Bear, Wolf, and Blackbuck, all of which we will search for, and the wetlands of this state support huge congregations of birds, making the bird watching here excellent. For birders, there are several regional endemics and globally threatened species to seek out, including vultures, bustards, hypocolius, White-naped Tit, and Stoliczka's Bushchat, while the roost gathering of raptors, particularly harriers, at Velavadar National Park is one of the world's largest and most impressive. Travel in India for nature, however, is not just about wildlife, wherever we travel we are engaged in cultural experiences, and enjoy the spectacular cultural diversity of this western region of India.

ITINERARY...

02 FEB'26/MON

ARRIVE MUMBAI

(Meals Aloft)

On your arrival at International airport in Mumbai and after clearing customs & immigration, our representative will receive and escort you to your hotel.

Mumbai was given by Portuguese as dowry to Charles II of England when he married



Catherine. The group of seven islands was leased to the East India Company who offered freedom of business and religion to persons who came and settled here. Initially a few Parsis and Gujarati came but soon a sizeable population began to thrive here. This was way back in the 17th century. Today also Mumbai is a city of migrants. People from all over the country have come and settled here. This gives the society of Mumbai multi-lingual and multi-cultural colours.

Stay overnight in Mumbai.

03 FEB'26/ TUE

MUMBAI – RAJKOT – GIR

(B, L & D)

After breakfast, transfer to airport to board the flight to Mumbai.

6E-821 (Indigo Airline)
Mumbai/ Rajkot
1110/1225 hrs.
Flight timings are subject to change.

Arrive at Rajkot airport and drive to Gir (160 Kms/ 4 hrs)

Gir National Park is the home of the Asiatic Lion and is considered to be one of the most important protected areas in Asia for the species it supports. The ecosystem of Gir, with its diverse flora and fauna,



is protected as a result of the efforts of the Government forest department, wildlife activists and NGOs. The forest area of Gir and its lions were declared as "protected" in the early 1900s by the then Nawab of the princely state of Junagadh. This initiative assisted in the conservation of the lions whose population had plummeted to only 15 through slaughter for trophy hunting. Apart from lions, Gir also has one of the largest leopard populations in any park in India, making it a good place to see big cats of a different kind. Other wildlife to look out for at Gir includes: the Four-Horned Antelope (the only four-horned ungulate in the world), Indian Gazelle, Spotted Deer, Blue Bull, Wild Boar, Wolf, Hyena, Jackal, Jungle Cat and other mammals. The Kamleshwar reservoir in the middle of the sanctuary is also home to a record number of Marsh Crocodiles.

Stay overnight in Gir.

04-05 FEB'26/ WED-THU
GIR
(B, L & D)



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As dawn breaks we leave for the jungle for our morning safari in an open 4 x 4 custom-made six-seater Gypsy jeep. A tapestry of dry deciduous forests, acacia scrub and grassland, fed by rivers and reservoirs, Gir is the last abode of the Asiatic lion and has a thriving population of Panther (Leopard), Sambar, Chital (Spotted Deer), Nilgai (Blue Bull Antelope) and Wild Boar. Gir is also one of the major habitats of Chousingha (The world's only Four-Horned Antelope) and Chinkara (Indian Gazelle) that are hard to spot in the teak forests along the game drive trails. Among the many birds of Gir, Changeable Hawk Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Shaheen Peregrine Falcon, Laggar Falcon, Shikra, Painted Sandgrouse, Quails, Black-Booded and Golden Oriels, Marshall's and Common Iora, Asian Paradise Flycatcher, Tickell's Blue, Verditer and Asian Brown Flycatchers, Yellow-Crowned, Brown-Capped Pygmy, Black-Rumped Flameback Woodpeckers, Green and Blue-Cheeked Bee-Eaters, Coppersmith Barbet, Common, Lesser Pied and White-Throated Kingfisher, Blossom-Headed Parakeet, Hoopoe, Black, Ashy and White-Wellied Drongos, Rufous Treepie, Large Cuckoo Shrike, Small Minivet, Red-Vented and White-Eared Bulbul, Tawny-Bellied, Yellow-Eyed, Jungle and Large Grey Babblers, Grey-Breasted, Ashy, Rufous-Fronted, Plain, Jungle and Graceful Prinias, Zitting Cisticola, Clamorous Reed-Warbler, Booted Warbler, Greenish Warbler, Lesser and Hume's Warbler, Orphean Warbler and Blyth's Reed Warbler, are among the many birds that could be seen here.

Afternoon leave for jeep safari.

Stay overnight in Gir.



NATUR RESOR

06 FEB'26/FRI:

GIR – VELAVADAR

(B, L & D)

After morning safari, drive to Velavadar (**Approx. 5 hrs**) which is famous for its elegant Black Buck and a host of other wildlife species.

The unique grassland ecosystem of **Velavadar National Park** is vital in supporting herds of antelopes, and in conserving other important local species such as wolves, foxes, jackals, wild boar and all species typical of savannah grasslands and thorn scrub.

The local avian cast is also diverse including larks and sand grouse, but it is towards dusk that Velavadar takes on another significant role as the roosting site for harriers. Raptors that have been out hunting during the day return here to sleep in safety, these are mainly Montagu's and Pallid harriers and sometimes their numbers exceed 2,000 birds making this the largest known harrier roost in the world. You can also find Fan throated lizard, Barred wolf snake,



Checked keelback, Common krait, Indian/Spectacled cobra, Russel's viper, Saw-scaled viper and Indian softshell turtle.

Arrive and check in at lodge.

Stay overnight in Velavadar.



NATUR RESOR

Blackbuck lodge: Overlooking the green flora and fauna, our The Blackbuck Lodge offers a stunning view of the Blackbucks and even the Blue Bull Antelope. Adorned with rough-hewn stone carved walls, gleamy wooden furniture, striking wildlife portraits on the wall and luxurious amenities that ensure a cosy stay.

The Blackbuck Lodge in Velavadar features 4 opulent accommodations: The Villas, The Plunge Pool



Villa, The Pool Villa and The Blackbuck Suite. Designed with aesthetic modern interiors, these luxury cottages offer a peaceful sojourn. Surrounded by the serene forests of Blackbuck National Park, these ultra-luxe cottages at our lodge in Velavadar are built in such a way that it exposes the occupants to the wondrous grasslands of Bhal. These ensuite rooms also feature a patio and a seating area that allow guests to relax amidst the beauty of nature.



NATURRESOR

07 FEB'26/SAT:

VELAVADAR

(B, L & D)

Morning and evening explore the Velavadar National Park by 4 x 4 open jeeps. During safari



we will try and get some good close up encounters with the many blackbuck, Indian gazelles and nilgai that live here and then when we return in the afternoon we will switch our focus towards the rarer predators here. Evening is much better for trying to find the striped hyena, Indian wolves and possibly desert cats as they are all mostly nocturnal and begin their daily routines in the later afternoon / early evening. We will make try to find striped hyena's den and hopefully we can see this beautiful species which would make a great end to this incredible mammal watching experience. Jackal, Jungle Cat and hare are more easily seen and Indian Fox on the periphery. Sirkeer Malkoha, Painted Francolin, Chestnut Bellied and Spotted Sandgrouse, Rufous Tailed, Crested and Syke's Larks, Red Rumped Swallows, Desert and Variable Wheatears and other birds are seen and many raptors visit specially Short Towed Snake Eagle, Imperial, Steppe, Tawny, Greater and Lesser Spotted Eagles, Laggar Falcon, Hobby, Common Kestrel, Red Necked Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, White Eyed and Long Legged Buzzard, Black Shouldered Kite, Shikra, Eurasian Sparrow Hawk and occasionally Northern Goshawk.

Stay overnight in Velavadar.



NATUR RESOR

08 FEB'26/SUN:

VELAVADAR – DASADA

(B, L & D)

Morning jeep safari in Velavadar National Park, drive to Rann of Kutch (**Approx. 4 hrs**).

The 'Little' Rann of Kutch is a 4950 sq. km. saline desert in the Kutch Peninsula of western India that is dominated by vast salt pans, shrubby islands, seasonal nullahs, marshes and rocky hillocks or Dungars of volcanic origin. This unique landscape was originally part of the Arabian Sea. As the land separated from the sea by geological forces, it became a vast, featureless plain encrusted with salt that is inundated with water during the monsoon rains.

Though a bleak landscape, it is rich in biodiversity and is an ecologically important area for



wildlife and many local and migratory water birds. The Little Rann is best known as the world's last refuge of the Indian Wild Ass (khur). The stand out mammal species here are the Asiatic wild ass (otherwise known as Gudkhur); they are not found anywhere else in the world and are endangered as India's population continues to grow the battle for space and resources is an ever-present threat for the wildlife here. The wild ass is a handsome chestnut brown member of the equus genus (horse family). Capable of reaching high speeds when galloping across the Rann, the wild ass is usually seen in small herds and we will hope to find some whilst here. Besides the Khur we will also look for White-footed Desert Fox, Golden Jackals, Wolf, Desert and Jungle cats and Striped Hyena. The Dasada area is also rich in bird



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life with a wide range of birds of prey, bustards, sand grouse, larks and chats to look for. Its wetlands support flocks of flamingos, spoonbills and pelicans, as well as geese and cranes.

Stay overnight in Dasada.

09 FEB'26/MON:

DASADA-BERA

(B, L & D)

Early morning safari to the Little Rann of Kutch. During safari we will explore the salt



encrusted desert driving from 'bet' to 'bet'. The bets are slightly elevated 'islands' that have less salt and have vegetation including grasses and scrub. These bets are home to most of the wildlife found here, including the beautiful and endemic Asiatic wild ass and other predators. Hyenas, foxes, jungle and desert cats seek refuge in burrows hidden among the shrubs. Wolves, once common, can still, on occasion, be seen roaming the vast flatlands in search of prey. Nilgai or blue bull - the largest south Asian antelope - along with the smaller elegant blackbuck and chinkara gazelle occupy the edges of the Rann. In common with all desert herbivores, those of the Rann have also adapted to extract moisture from certain types of vegetation, in this case from the *salvadora* leaves and grasses they consume. The Rann is host to a rich assemblage of smaller mammals, reptiles and insects but undoubtedly the crowning glory belongs to an altogether different class of fauna.



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There is nothing so exhilarating and uplifting than the sight of literally thousands of wild creatures packed densely on the ground or filling the air in giant flocks. The 'Little' Rann plays host to over 250 species of resident and migratory birds. The habitat diversity, location on a major migratory corridor and the proximity to the waters of the Gulf of Kutch have all contributed to making the Rann a veritable paradise for birds.

Most of these migrants congregate in the saline and freshwater marshes that dot the salt flats. Vast flocks of both lesser and greater flamingos dredge shallow saline waters for algae, shrimps and larvae looking from a distance like a shimmering pink haze blurring the horizon. Flocks of waders, manoeuvring in tight aerobatic formations or feeding in the shallows; ducks, geese and huge flocks of common and demoiselle cranes, some numbering close to a thousand birds or more, can be encountered while birding. Sandgrouse, sociable lapwings, houbara or macqueen's bustard, various wheatears and larks are attracted by the grasslands. This high concentration of birds in the marshes naturally attracts a full complement of raptors - hunters of the skies. Star species like the peregrine falcon, imperial eagle, Marsh, Montague's and Pallid Harriers - quartering the grasslands and marshes on elegant, upswept wings - Eurasian hobbys, kestrels, pallid scops owls and the low-flying short-eared owls. As much as the presence of these raptors, the fact that the Rann is a flat, treeless landscape creates a unique scenario. With few large trees to perch on, the raptors are forced to rest on the ground all night and wait for the thermals to build every morning before flying out.

Later drive to Bera. (**Approx. 6 hrs**).

On arrival check in at lodge.



Bera: Until recently, Bera was an unknown part of Rajasthan. It gained its popularity in recent



times, because of its amazing leopard sightings. The backdrop of Aravalli Hills, with scrub land vegetation such as cactus and Keekar, small hillocks with caves provide the perfect setting for Leopards. In Bera, it is the Rabaris who live amongst the Leopards. The Leopards do prey on domestic livestock but this relationship has been built between man and animal, that leopards are not bothered by villagers walking by them.

The best time to see the leopards is morning and late evening. Hence, our safaris will be done during those times. There are also possibilities of seeing Nilgai, Jungle Cat, Crocodiles at Jawai Bandh (Dam), Osprey, Black Shouldered Kite, Sarus Cranes, Asian Openbill Stork, Black Ibis, Ruddy Shelduck, Pelicans, to name a few.

Stay overnight in Bera.

10 FEB'26/TUE:

BERA

(B, L & D)



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An early start to your morning game drive (exclusive), certainly before the sun is up, our customized 4x4 jeep, with a driver tracker and naturalist on board will convey you expertly to



every corner. Leopards are Bera/Jawai's predominant attraction and thriving population of the felines has always ranged across this region. The mystery of the big cat is unraveled for guests by informed guides, and yet, a measure of that mystery remains long after a sighting is over, to be relived forever.



Stay overnight in Bera



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11 FEB'26/WED:

BERA- UDAIPUR-DELHI

(B, L &D)

After morning safari, checkout and drive to Udaipur (**Approx. 3 ½ hrs**). On arrival check in at hotel.

6E-2149 (Indigo Airline)

Udaipur/ Delhi

1700/1820 hrs.

Flight timings are subject to change.

Meet upon arrival and transfer to hotel.

Stay overnight in Delhi.

12 FEB'26/THU

DELHI – BHOPAL-SATPURA

(B, L & D)

Early morning transfer to Delhi airport for board flight to Bhopal.

6E-2112 (Indigo Airlines)

Delhi – Bhopal

dep. 0705 / arr. 0825 hrs

Flight timings are subject to change.

Meet upon arrival and drive to Satpura (**Approx. 4 hrs**).

Satpura National Park is located in south Hoshangabad district in Madhya Pradesh. The 524 Sqkm Park is the core area of the Panchmarchi Biosphere Reserve that includes Bori wildlife sanctuary to its south-west and Panchmarhi wildlife sanctuary to its north-east. The park has an elevation of 320-1,352m with tall sandstone mountains, narrow gorges, ravines, waterfalls, streams and dense forests near the Mahadev hills in the Pachmarhi plateau. The area boasts of two unique species of treed – the sal and the teak besides wide varieties of ferns, mango trees, butterflies and birds.

Upon arrival at Satpura check into the lodge.

Evening enjoy exclusive jeep safari in the Satpura National Park.

Stay overnight in Satpura.

Note: National park in Madhya Pradesh (Central India) will remain closed on Wednesday. However, alternatively we can organize various activities at the lodges like bird watching in and around the lodge or a village safari.

13-14 FEB'26/FRI-SAT:

SATPURA

(B, L & D)



Satpura offers visitors and opportunity to explore the landscape in several ways including game drive, night game drives and canoe / boat safaris. During your stay in Satpura National Park we will provide only 02 jeep safaris for morning and afternoon.

Jeep Safaris: This is the best way to explore large areas looking for wildlife. Although Satpura



is a tiger reserve it is better known for sightings of Sloth Bear, Leopard and Indian Wild Dogs. The game drives are the best way to see these and other mammals. Game drives are also a great way of seeing birds.

Stay overnight in Satpura.

15 FEB'26/SUN:	SATPURA-BHOPAL-DELHI	(B, L &D)
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Morning jeep safari in the park.

Later transfer to Bhopal airport (**Approx. 4 hrs.**) for board flight to Delhi

6E-587 (Indigo Airline)	Bhopal – Delhi	dep. 1725 / arr. 1845 hrs
<i>Flight timings are subject to change.</i>		



Upon arrival in Delhi, transfer to hotel.

Stay overnight in Delhi.

16 FEB'26/MON: DELHI-DEPARTS (B)

On time departure transfer to Delhi airport for board flight for home.

Hotel Envisaged

City / No of nights	Hotels	Category
Mumbai/ 1	The Leela	Premier City View Room
Gir/ 3	Taj Gir Serai	Superior Room
Velavadar/ 2	The Blackbuck Lodge	The Villa
Dasada/ 1	Rann Riders	Safari Cottage
Bera/2	Bera Safari Lodge	Junior Suite
Delhi / 1	Roseate House	Deluxe Room
Satpura/3	Reni Pani Jungle Lodge	Luxury Room
Delhi / 1	Roseate House	Deluxe Room

Our cost includes:

- Accommodation on double/twin sharing basis at hotels in their base category (unless otherwise specified) mentioned or in similar category with meals as indicated (B, L, D stand for breakfast, lunch and dinner respectively).
- All meals with combination of packed lunch / hot lunches to be served as required depending upon feasibility.
- Entrance fee to places of visit / monuments and national parks/sanctuaries.
- Services of Air-Conditioned Tempo Traveller for up to 04 paying pax and Mini coach for up to 07 paying pax for all transfers, drives and sightseeing as per the itinerary.
- Drives between Bhopal-Satpura-Bhopal we will provide 01 Air-Conditioned Toyota Innova Crysta (**max 3 paying pax per vehicle**) for smoother and faster driving experience on narrow country side road.
- Services of explorer guides with walking experiences during city sightseeing tour.
- Jeep Safaris in national parks by 4x4 jeeps as mentioned in itinerary inclusive of entry fee to park, naturalist services.
- **One still camera per person at national parks in Gujarat (Gir/ Velavadar & The 'Little' Rann of Kutch).**
- Meeting / assistance at the time of arrival and departure at airport / railway station and during check in/out at hotels in major cities.
- **Mandatory Government service tax.**



Cost does not include:

- Any Airfare, any insurance fee (supplement given for domestic sector)
- Anything not mentioned in inclusion above.
- Any Visa fee (India Visa is must for all the visitors before boarding on their flight except nationals of 11 countries who enjoy visa on arrival. For more details visit Indian Visa <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/>)
- Any optional tour.
- **Services of accompanying tour leader.**
- Any expenditure of personal nature like tipping, tabled drinks, laundry, tip, telephone calls, soft/ hard drinks, still/video camera fee (if any) etc. However, supplement for the same has been quoted above.
- Anything ordered from room service at any hotel including mineral water (other than what being offered by the hotels on their compliment).
- Any sudden increase in price due to steep hike in fuel cost, change in government tax policy or for any reason beyond our control like acts of god, natural calamity, law and order situation, riots etc. and any forced change in itinerary for any unforeseen situation or reason beyond our control.

NOTE:

- Kindly note that on every Wednesday afternoon the safari drives are not conducted in all the National Parks at Madhya Pradesh. However, alternatively we can organize various activities at the lodges like nature walk/bird watching in and around the lodges.
- **Air timing is subject to change** - Airfare is quoted on the basis of best available average fare which is subject to change. This fare can be low or can be higher at the time of booking. Exact fare will be advised at the time of booking.
- Standard check in time is 1400 hrs and check out time is 1200 noon at most of the hotels.