



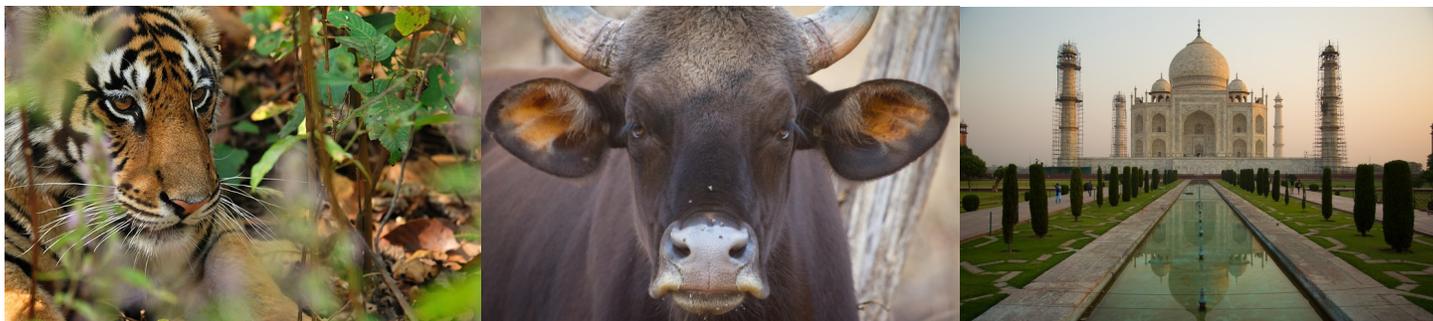
The Real Jungle Book of India

with MSU Alumna Jessica Pociask

Sponsored by the MSU Alumni Association

January 26 - February 8, 2018

\$8,088 PER PERSON (USD, double occupancy), \$9,889 per person (USD, single occupancy)



Program Includes:

- All accommodations
- All meals
- Activities mentioned in the program
- All land transportation
- Airport and local transfers
- Entrance and local guiding fees
- International tour leader
- Tips, government taxes and levies
- In-country flights
- Bottled water in transport vehicles
- Photography education and assistance

Rudyard Kipling was one of the best story tellers of the 19th century, and his characters from "The Jungle Book" have captivated generations around the world for years. One of the greatest wildlife encounters on earth is seeing a tiger in the wild, and with less than 3,000 remaining, there has never been a better time to go on an adventure -of-a-lifetime in India. Join MSU alumnae Jessica Pociask on this incredible wildlife safari to see Bagheera, Baloo, Akela, and of course, the majestic and much misunderstood, Shere Khan. Jessica will take you through India's best wildlife parks in search of the very real and incredible animals that inspired Kipling to write his timeless collection of stories about his encounters and observations of leopards, tigers, and bears in the jungle. Set your sights high. This is a trip to be remembered, and you will finish it off with a visit to one of the most beautiful buildings in the world, the Taj Mahal.



Owner & Expedition Leader

Jessica Pociask is a wildlife expert, travel writer, nature photographer and owner of WANT Expeditions, a conservation-oriented adventure company. She received a B.S. in Natural Resource Management from Michigan State University in 2007. Jessica has led more than 100 expeditions in almost 80 countries and has guided trips for several conservation organizations,

including the Wildlife Conservation Society, and holds a research position in the Entomology department in the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C.



For more information and to sign up for the tour, call (231) 620-9268 or visit wantexpeditions.com.

Detailed itinerary:

Jan 26 New Delhi/Kaziranga National Park

Arrival at Delhi's international airport. After clearing customs and immigration, our representative will greet you and transfer you to the hotel. Due to flight duration and international flight arrival schedules, no formal activities are scheduled for today. Meals today are not included in your package.

Accommodations: 4 star hotel

Jan 27 New Delhi (B,L,D)

After breakfast at the hotel, join the expert guide on an exploration trip to Delhi. As the city wakes up, head to one of Delhi's most iconic buildings where we will be transported to the time grandeur, and subsequent ruin, of the Mughal empire. Colorful, vibrant, noisy and chaotic are words that best describe what many call Old Delhi, the 7th city of Delhi, which was built by the mighty Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. From here we visit India's second largest & most aesthetically designed Mosque, the Jama Masjid. Then we walk through streets and markets of this 17th century imperial capital city of the Mughal empire where royalty once resided, and today where you savor fragrances in one of Asia's largest spice markets, be dazzled by the glitter of India's largest jewelry markets, and get a glimpse of the once-glorious Havelis (Royal Mansions) of Old Delhi. With a mix of walking and rickshaw rides, you discover hidden gems while exploring the narrow alleys and 350-yr old markets of the city built at the acme of Mughal Empire, India's most glorious monarchy. **Accommodations: 4 star hotel**

Jan 28 Kanha National Park (B,L,D)

Following an early breakfast, we'll board a plane and head to Raipur where we will be greeted by our driver, and transferred to our incredible lodge located just outside the gates of Kanha National Park. Kanha provides breathtaking vistas of grassy plains and strands Sal forests. This 366 square mile preserve was set to save two endangered species, the Tiger and the Barasingha, also known as Swamp Deer. The park offers a variety of species including Tigers, Leopards, Cheetal, Gaur, Barking Deer, and Sambhar Deer. After check-in, lunch, and a brief rest, we'll enjoy our first wildlife safari in the park, then gather for the first of many dinners where we will discuss what we've seen, where we've been, and what is still to come. **Accommodations: Luxury wildlife lodge**

Jan 29 Kanha National Park (B,L,D)

There will be two safaris today in the park to explore and experience all that Kanha has to offer, and following our morning safari, there will be a chance to go on a nature walk, visit a nearby village/school, or participate in a cooking class featuring some of India's most aromatic and sought after spices. This evening, we'll enjoy a wonderful dinner and afterwards we can opt for stargazing, or retire to bed in order save energy for the rest of the trip.

Accommodations: Luxury tented safari camp

Jan 30 Kanha/Pench National Park (B,L,D)

Today will follow much like yesterday with an early morning wake-up and safari. Then, before lunch, there will be time for visiting the school, a nature walk, or another cooking class. After lunch, we'll head back into the park for an afternoon safari

Accommodations: Luxury tented safari camp

Oct 24 Kanha National Park

After breakfast we set off on a morning game drive and after lunch and a short siesta, we will spend the entire afternoon in the bush. Tonight at dinner we will say goodbye to the fascinating Kanha National Park.

Accommodations: High-end tented safari camp

Oct 25 Kanha and Bandhavgarh National Park

Today we set off early in the morning to yet another park which has the highest tiger sightings probabilities in the world. Bandhavgarh National Park is a six hour drive from Kanha, and we will arrive for an early afternoon lunch. We will check in at our lodge and set off for an afternoon game drive to start experiencing our fourth and last national park on our voyage. Once we are back at the lodge and refreshed, we will gather in the dining room and summarize during dinner, what we have seen so far and what is lying ahead.

Accommodations: High-end wildlife lodge

Oct 26 Bandhavgarh National Park

Today our entire day is dedicated to explore Bandhavgarh National Park. The park is one of the best places to see and enjoy wildlife in India. Generally the forests have less undergrowth here, thus offering better sightings of wildlife, notably mammals, including the daylight sightings of tigers. More than 70 tigers are estimated to be in the park. The Reserve is named after the highest hill Bandhavgarh (807m) in the center of the Reserve. White tigers, now a major attraction in the world's zoos, were first discovered in Rewa, not far from here. The rivers Johilla and Son flowing on the eastern side, the river Umrar passing through the western fringes and the Bandhavgarh hill, visible from as far as 30 km, are some of the landmarks of the Reserve that we are going to explore through our morning drive, before we return for our usual siesta break. And again, the afternoon will find us in the reserve, looking for tigers, either by car or if you like, on the backs of elephants. Dinner will be served at our lodge not much after sunset.

Accommodations: High-end wildlife lodge

Oct 27 Bandhavgarh National Park

After breakfast we set off on a morning game drive and after lunch and a short siesta, we spend the entire afternoon in the bush. Tonight at dinner we will have to say goodbye to the fascinating Bandhavgarh National Park.

Accommodations: High-end wildlife lodge

Oct 28 Bandhavgarh National Park/Mumbai

Today we will try to find those species we did not see yesterday, or will try to get better images of previously spotted ones. We will return to the camp in late morning to check out and drive to Jabalpur. Once there, we check in for our

flights to Mumbai and have a quick packed lunch before we board. The short flight will land us in Mumbai just before 3 pm, allowing us to transfer to our hotel and gather for a lovely dinner, during which we can summarize what we have seen in the national parks and what lies ahead of us for the coming week. **Accommodations: 5-star Hotel**

Oct 29 Mumbai/Sasangir (Gir) National Park

Once at the airport, we quickly check in and depart towards Diu at 1 pm. Upon landing in Diu, we will have just enough time for lunch. From Diu, it is another 3 hours drive to our destination of the day – the world famous Sasangir (Gir) National Park, the only remaining home of Asiatic Lions. Upon arrival, we will take advantage of the last hour of daylight and capture some sunset and wildlife images before we have a refreshing shower and gather in the dining room for a fantastic traditional dinner.

Accommodations: High-end tented safari camp

Oct 30 Sasangir (Gir) National Park

Today we must be up before the sunrise and finish our breakfast before we drive out at first light. The park's main aim is to preserve the last healthy population of the critically endangered Asiatic Lion (a distinct subspecies of the African Lion). As well as approximately 300 lions, other smaller members of the cat family are well represented, namely the Jungle Cat, Desert Cat and the Rusty Spotted Cat, and there is also a healthy population of Leopards. Also to be found here are Sambar, Nilgai, Chinkara, Black Buck, Four-Horned Antelope, Wild Boar, Indian Flying Fox, Indian Pangolin and Indian Porcupine. For birders, an estimated 300 species are found in Gir, with notable species including Paradise Flycatcher, Black-Headed Cuckoo Shrike, Pied Woodpecker and Bonelli's. We will return to our camp for a great lunch and a short siesta, before the afternoon lights will find us out on the road again. Dinner will also be served at our camp.

Accommodations: High-end tented safari camp

Nov 1 Delhi/Agra

This morning we will start bright and early with breakfast. Afterward we will head to Agra by vehicle. This will take approximately five hours. Along the way we'll stop for interesting photographic opportunities. Following check in and lunch in Agra, we drive approximately one hour to Fatehpur Sikri. The long deserted Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri was built by Emperor Akbar in 1569 and abandoned after fifteen years. Here we will see graceful, red sandstone buildings with beautiful architectural craftsmanship, including the Jama Masjid, the Tomb of Salim Chishti, the Panch Mahal & more. The Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) is a projecting room with walls made entirely of stone latticework. On the grounds we will also search for Hiran Minar, a Deer Minaret that is said to have been erected over the grave of Akbar's favorite elephant. As the afternoon presses on, we will collect everyone, and then head back to Agra in order to witness and photograph the Taj Mahal in all of its sunset glory. The Taj Mahal truly is one of the wonders of the world and you will see it at its best when the light is playing on the

marble tomb and the reflections in the stillness of the waters presents this incredible building in all its beauty, majesty and splendor. The Taj Mahal is a monument of love built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in 1630 for his Queen Mumtaz Mahal to enshrine her mortal remains. For twenty-two years, 20,000 men labored day and night to build this masterpiece which has held the world awestruck ever since.

Accommodations: High-end hotel

Nov 2 Agra/Delhi

This morning we will wake early, enjoy a quick coffee, then rush out to visit the Taj Mahal in its second best moment, at sunrise. We will then head back to the hotel for breakfast. Following breakfast we enjoy a city sightseeing tour that includes Agra Fort and Itmad-Ud-Daulah. Agra Fort was built principally as military establishments by Akbar in 1565. This powerful fortress encompasses the imperial city of the Mughal rulers within its 2.5km long enclosure walls. From Itmad-Ud-Daulah, we return to the hotel for lunch, pack up our belongings, and then drive back to Delhi. We arrive to our hotel in the evening, check into our now familiar lodging, and enjoy a Farewell Dinner.

Accommodations: High-end hotel

Nov 3 Departure

This morning we have two different choices. If you are not interested in seeing some of the finest sites in Delhi, you can catch any flight during the day. If you do want to see Delhi, we will be more than happy to take you on a one-day additional excursion into the city, for a small additional fee. You can then choose a late evening homebound flight.

The Michigan State Alumni Association and Michigan State University, their respective employees, officers, agents, servants and representatives (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Michigan State") are acting only as agents for the tour participants with respect to travel services and shall not be responsible or liable for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or other reservations, damage, injury (including death), loss of baggage, accidents, delays, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies or insolvency's, acts of God, acts or omissions of any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or carrying out any other arrangements in connection with the tour, or any other event or occurrence beyond Michigan State's control. Further, Michigan State shall not be responsible or liable for losses or additional expenses incurred by any participant due to sickness, disease, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, quarantine, acts of God or any other cause or occurrence beyond its control. Michigan State shall not be responsible or liable for alterations or changes in the itinerary deemed necessary for carrying out the tour. Michigan State reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure. In such an event, participant's entire payment may be refunded without further obligation or liability of any kind on the part of Michigan State. Michigan State also reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour should the person's health, actions or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of any tour participant. In such an event, no refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour. Applicants for participation in this tour accept all of the terms and conditions set forth above.