India

Small mammal expedition

13th to 25th January 2028 (13 days)

Fishing Cat extension

25th to 27th January 2028 (3 days)



Jungle Cat by David Hoddinott

Tour Highlights:

- *Searching for an exceptional diversity of small cats, including Jungle Cat, Asiatic Wildcat, Rusty-spotted Cat and the extremely elusive Caracal.*
- *Extended dawn, dusk and night-time field sessions for Asiatic Wolf, Striped Hyena, Bengal Fox, Indian Desert Fox, civets, hedgehogs and bats.*
- *Boat safaris on the Chambal River for Ganges River Dolphin, Gharial, turtles and riverine wildlife.*
- *Leopard-focused safaris among the dramatic granite hills and community-managed landscapes of Jawai.*
- *Exploring the Thar Desert for Indian Desert Cat, desert rodents, Indian Gazelle and rare desert birds, including Great Indian Bustard.*

- *Optional extension to Bhitarkanika for Fishing Cat, Leopard Cat and Jungle Cat in mangrove and riverine habitats.*

India supports an extraordinary variety of mammals across a remarkable range of habitats, from the wooded Aravalli hills and the ravines of the Chambal to Rajasthan's dry scrub, granite outcrops and sweeping desert landscapes. This specialist itinerary has been designed around active searching at the times when elusive carnivores, small cats, civets, bats and nocturnal mammals are most likely to be encountered.

The journey begins around New Delhi with mammal and bat watching before continuing to the Chambal River, where boat safaris offer opportunities for Ganges River Dolphin, Gharial and several scarce turtles. Several nights around Kailadevi provide our best sustained chance of finding Asiatic Wolf, Striped Hyena, Jungle Cat, Rusty-spotted Cat and other secretive mammals. We then travel to Jawai for Leopard before concluding in the Thar Desert near Jaisalmer, where desert cats, foxes, hedgehogs, rodents and bats become the focus.

An optional extension visits Bhitarkanika, where boat and walking explorations through mangrove-lined waterways target Fishing Cat, Leopard Cat and Jungle Cat, alongside a rich assemblage of reptiles and birds.

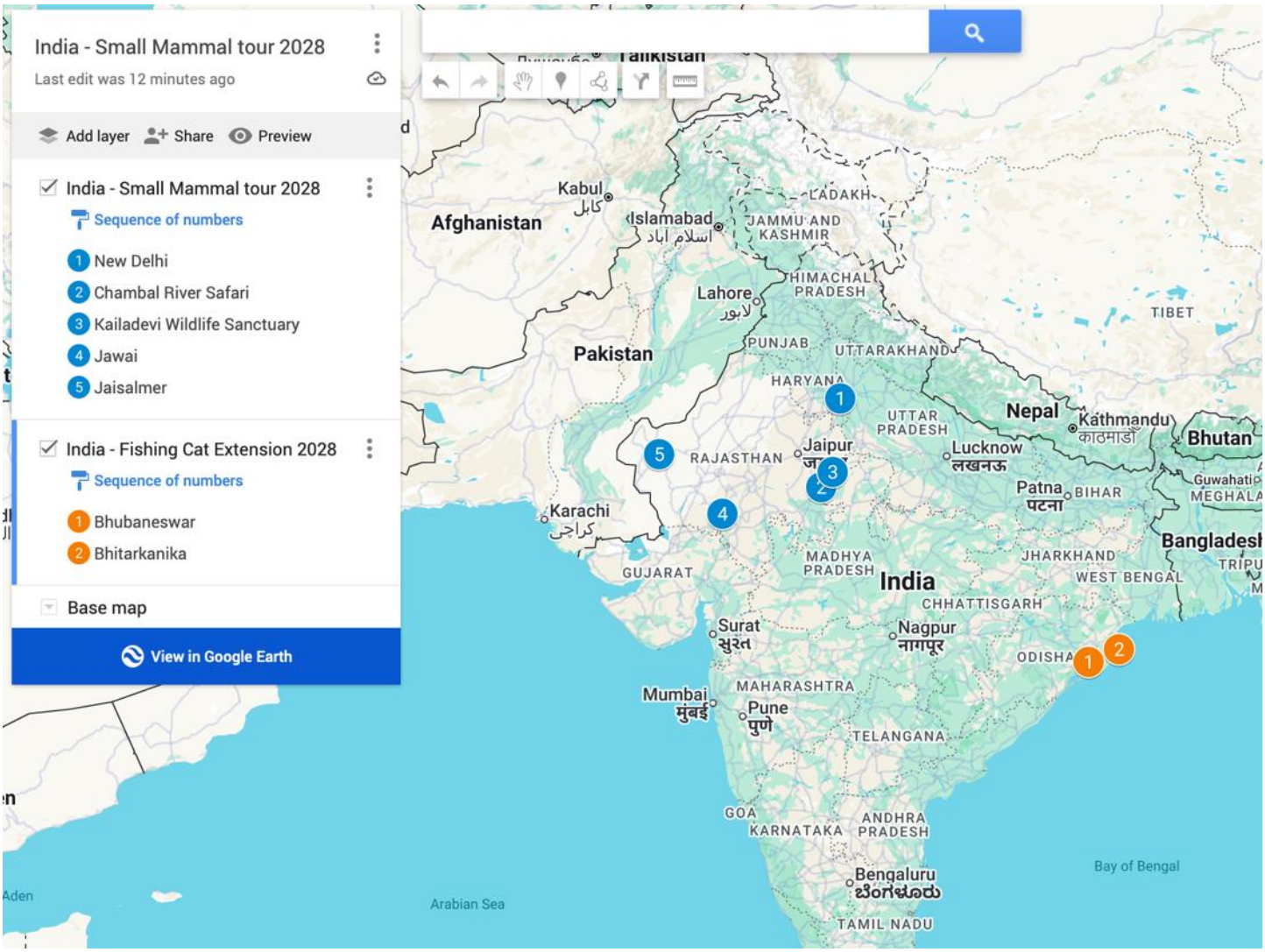
Itinerary & Map

Main tour

Day 1	**Arrival in New Delhi and overnight**
Day 2	**Explore the Aravallis**
Day 3	**New Delhi to Chambal River, and afternoon boat safari**
Day 4	**Explore the Chambal River and surrounds**
Day 5	**Chambbal Riverl to Kailadevi Sanctuary**
Days 6 -8	**Explore Kailadevi Sanctuary**
Day 9	**Kailadevi to Jawai**
Day 10	**Explore Jawai**
Day 11	**Jawai to Jaisalmer**
Day 12	**Jaisalmer and Desert National Park**
Day 13	**Jaisalmer to New Delhi for final departures**

Fishing Cat extension

Day 1	**New Delhi to Bhudaneshwar**
Days 2 & 3	**Explore Bhitarkanika**
Day 4	**Return to Bhudaneshwar for internal flight to New Delhi. Final departures.**



The tour in detail

Day 1: Arrival in New Delhi. On arrival at New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. India's capital lies at the meeting point of the fertile Gangetic plains and the ancient Aravalli hills, and even its urban fringe supports a surprising variety of wildlife.

Should arrival times permit, we will make a relaxed afternoon visit to a nearby wetland, wooded park or area of semi-arid scrub for our first introduction to northern India's birds and mammals. Depending on the locality and prevailing conditions, we may encounter Indian Grey Hornbill, Rose-ringed and Alexandrine Parakeets, Black-rumped Flameback, Indian Robin, Purple Sunbird, Common Tailorbird, Large Grey Babbler, Shikra and Black-winged Kite. Wetter areas can add egrets, herons, kingfishers, lapwings and a selection of wintering ducks and waders.



Indian Flying Fox by Keith Valentine

Weather permitting, a short evening walk will introduce us to some of the region's nocturnal wildlife. As the light fades, Indian Flying Foxes may commute overhead, while smaller insectivorous bats begin feeding around gardens, streetlights and patches of woodland.



Plum-headed Parakeet by David Hoddinott

Day 2: New Delhi and the Aravallis. Before dawn, we travel into the Aravalli landscape to search for mammals moving through the cool early-morning scrub. These exceptionally ancient hills survive around Delhi as a broken mosaic of rocky ridges, thorn forest, open grassland, dry streambeds, former quarries and restored native woodland. The local biodiversity parks have been developed partly to conserve Delhi's indigenous Aravalli flora and fauna, with undulating slopes, rocky plateaux, seasonal water bodies and cave systems creating varied wildlife habitat.

Once daylight improves, we explore on foot, working through open scrub, woodland edges and rocky gullies. The wider Delhi region as supporting more than 300 bird species across a mosaic of wetlands, Acacia woodland, farmland, pasture and semi-desert and likely birds include White-bellied Drongo, Black-winged Kite, Indian Grey Hornbill, Plum-headed and Rose-ringed Parakeets, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Indian Robin, Large Grey Babbler, Indian Silverbill and Yellow-throated Sparrow. Winter visitors may include Brooks's Leaf Warbler, Western Crowned Warbler, Bluethroat, Black Redstart, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Crested Bunting and White-capped Bunting, while Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Black-rumped Flameback, Common Woodshrike and Small Minivet may occur in better-wooded patches.

Around dawn and dusk we may encounter Spotted Owlet, Indian Scops Owl, Indian Nightjar or Large-tailed Nightjar. After a farm-to-table breakfast, we visit several known roosting localities in search of Indian Flying Fox, Fulvous Fruit Bat, Naked-rumped Tomb Bat and mouse-tailed bats. We will also try for the difficult Blyth's Horseshoe Bat, with additional species possible depending on access, season and roost conditions.

Day 3: New Delhi to Chambal. After breakfast, we drive for approximately five hours to the Chambal region and check in at our lodge. The surrounding landscape is strikingly arid despite the presence of the broad, relatively unpolluted Chambal River. Deep ravines, sandy banks, exposed islands, agricultural fields and scattered thorn woodland create excellent conditions for both river specialists and dry-country birds.



Ganges River Dolphin by Adam Walleyn

During the afternoon we take our first boat safari. We travel slowly along the river, scanning sandbanks and low islands for the Endangered Indian Skimmer, one of Chambal's signature birds. Black-bellied Tern, River Tern, River Lapwing, Great Thick-knee, Small Pratincole, Sand Lark and Ruddy Shelduck are among the other characteristic species. Raptors may include Bonelli's Eagle, Laggar Falcon, Short-toed Snake-Eagle and Long-legged Buzzard, while Indian Eagle-Owl occasionally roosts on the ravine faces.

The wildlife interest extends well beyond birds. We will watch for the fish-eating Gharial, Mugger Crocodile, Indian Tent Turtle, Indian Softshell Turtle and, with good fortune, the rare Red-crowned Roofed Turtle. Ganges River Dolphin occurs in this section of the river but can be difficult to locate, often revealing itself only through a brief surfacing or splash.



Gharial by Adam Riley

Leopard has occasionally been recorded in the wider ravine system, although a sighting would be exceptionally fortunate. Jungle Cat is a more realistic feline target, though still elusive.

After returning to the lodge, we search the grounds and surrounding woodland for Common Palm Civet, owls and bats. Indian Flying Fox and Greater Short-nosed Fruit Bat are usually conspicuous, while several smaller insectivorous species may be found around buildings, mature trees and water.

Day 4: Chambal. We return to the river for an early-morning boat safari, when the light is soft, bird activity is high and reptiles often begin basking along the banks. Repeated exploration is valuable here because the positions of skimmers, terns, dolphins and crocodilians can change according to water level and disturbance.

Our birding again concentrates on Indian Skimmer, Black-bellied Tern, River Tern, River Lapwing, Great Thick-knee and Sand Lark. Winter visitors may include Red-crested Pochard, Greylag Goose, Bar-headed Goose, Desert Wheatear, Pallas's Gull and Black Stork. Long-legged Buzzard, Bonelli's Eagle, Laggar Falcon and Short-toed Snake-Eagle may patrol above the ravines. Nearby dry grasslands and cultivated country can support Indian Courser, Isabelline Wheatear and Painted Sandgrouse; the northern itinerary similarly notes that the grasslands adjoining Chambal are productive for coursers, larks and wheatears.

After breakfast and a break during the warmer part of the day, we explore the surrounding countryside. Nilgai, Golden Jackal and Jungle Cat are among our principal mammal targets, while Indian Hare, Indian Grey Mongoose and various rodents may also be seen. Scrub and agricultural margins should produce Indian Roller, Green Bee-eater, Bay-backed Shrike, Rufous-fronted Prinia, Common Babbler, Large Grey Babbler, Indian Silverbill and Yellow-wattled Lapwing.



Indian Skimmer by Greg de Klerk

The evening is again devoted to civets, owls and bats, with the possibility of Indian Scops Owl, Spotted Owlet, Indian Eagle-Owl and nocturnal mammals around the lodge and nearby farmland.

Day 5: Chambal to Kailadevi Sanctuary. After breakfast, we drive to the Kailadevi Sanctuary area and settle into Ramathra Fort, an atmospheric historic property overlooking farmland, scrub and low hills.

Kailadevi forms the northern extension of the greater Ranthambhore landscape. Its terrain includes dry deciduous woodland, thorn scrub, open grazing areas, rocky plateaux and deeply

eroded ravines. The sanctuary extends towards Ranthambhore National Park and supports a broad assemblage of predators, ungulates and dry-country birds.



Striped Hyena by Lev Frid

From late afternoon into the evening, we explore by jeep. Our search focuses on Asiatic Wolf, Striped Hyena, Golden Jackal, Jungle Cat, Rusty-spotted Cat and Asiatic Wildcat. Leopard, Sloth Bear, Indian Crested Porcupine, Nilgai, Indian Gazelle, Indian Hare, Indian Long-eared Hedgehog, Indian Hedgehog, Common Palm Civet and Small Indian Civet are also possible.

Birding will continue throughout the drive. Open stony ground and cultivated fields may hold Indian Courser, Painted Sandgrouse, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Indian Bush Lark, Greater Short-toed Lark, Tawny Pipit and Desert Wheatear. Thorn scrub can support White-eared Bulbul, Rufous-fronted Prinia, Common Woodshrike, Bay-backed Shrike, Yellow-throated Sparrow and flocks of babblers. As dusk approaches, we will listen and watch for Indian Scops Owl, Spotted Owlet, Dusky Eagle-Owl, Indian Nightjar and Large-tailed Nightjar.

Depending on the month, the fort complex may hold Naked-rumped Tomb Bat, Fulvous Fruit Bat, Indian Flying Fox and other bats. The safari normally begins at approximately 16:30–17:00 and ends between 20:30 and 21:30, with snacks and drinks carried in the vehicle.

Days 6–8: Kailadevi Sanctuary. Over three full days, we undertake early-morning and afternoon-to-evening jeep explorations. Repeated coverage gives us the best realistic chance of encountering Kailadevi's elusive predators, whose movements are influenced by livestock, water availability, weather and human activity.

Caracal is exceptionally rare and difficult to see, but the sanctuary is one of the few places on this route where it remains a possibility. We will also devote considerable attention to Jungle Cat, Rusty-spotted Cat, Asiatic Wildcat, Asiatic Wolf and Striped Hyena. Tracks, territorial markings, alarm calls and information from local observers will all help guide our searches. More regularly encountered mammals may include Nilgai, Indian Gazelle, Golden Jackal, Indian Hare, Indian Grey Mongoose, Wild Boar and Northern Plains Langur.



Indian Gazelle by Adam Riley

The mornings will also provide dedicated birding in open grassland, dry scrub, ravines, farmland and scattered woodland. Rock Bush Quail, Common Babbler, Jungle Babbler, Tawny-bellied Babbler, Large Grey Babbler, Painted Sandgrouse and Indian Courser are among the characteristic dry-country species. Rank grass and cultivated margins may produce Blue-breasted Quail, Small Buttonquail, Bluethroat, Siberian Stonechat, Tawny Pipit, Greater Short-toed Lark and various buntings.

Wintering Common and Demoiselle Cranes may be found in open fields or around seasonal water, while raptors can include Pallid and Western Marsh Harriers, White-eyed Buzzard, Steppe Eagle, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Laggar Falcon and Red-headed Falcon. Woodland

and village edges may hold Indian Grey Hornbill, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, Black-rumped Flameback, Indian Roller, Plum-headed Parakeet, White-bellied Drongo and Common Woodshrike.

Nocturnal outings offer opportunities for Dusky Eagle-Owl, Brown Fish Owl, Indian Eagle-Owl, Indian Scops Owl, Spotted Owlet and nightjars, alongside civets, cats, hyenas, porcupines, hedgehogs and bats.

Day 9: Kailadevi Sanctuary to Jawai. After an early breakfast, we undertake the drive to the Jawai landscape. This remarkable region of Rajasthan's Pali district is characterised by massive granite outcrops, scrub-covered plains, agricultural fields, seasonal river courses and the broad waters of Jawai Dam.



Nilgai by Adam Riley

Jawai is celebrated for the way in which Leopards occupy natural caves and crevices in the granite hills while sharing the wider landscape with Rabari pastoral communities, livestock and village temples. The unfenced nature of the area makes it an especially compelling example of coexistence between people and large carnivores.

After checking into our lodge, time permitting, we embark on an evening safari. We scan the granite ridges and cave entrances for Leopard while remaining alert for Rusty-spotted Cat, Jungle Cat, Golden Jackal, Striped Hyena, Indian Fox, Nilgai and Indian Gazelle.

Birds around the rocky hills may include Indian Eagle-Owl, Brown Rock Chat, Rock Bush Quail, Painted Sandgrouse, Laggar Falcon, Shikra and Short-toed Snake-Eagle. Open scrub and farmland can hold Indian Courser, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Rufous-fronted Prinia, Bay-backed Shrike, White-eared Bulbul and flocks of Indian Silverbill.

Day 10: Jawai. Early-morning and late-afternoon jeep safaris are devoted primarily to locating Leopard. The animals often emerge onto exposed ledges during the cooler hours, and Jawai's granite formations provide excellent vantage points and distinctive photographic settings. Time will be spent scanning favoured caves, ridgelines and boulder fields while watching for alarm calls and the movements of local livestock.



Painted Sandgrouse by Clayton Burne

Between Leopard searches, we enjoy the region's varied birdlife. Indian Eagle-Owl may occupy rocky recesses, while Laggar Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, Short-toed Snake-Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle and White-eyed Buzzard can be seen around the hills and open plains. Brown Rock Chat, Indian Robin, Eastern Red-rumped Swallow, Dusky Crag Martin and Streak-throated Swallow are associated with the rocky terrain and nearby settlements.

Jawai Reservoir adds an important wetland element to the visit. Depending on water levels and season, its shallows and margins may support Greater and Lesser Flamingos, Sarus Crane, Black Stork, Painted Stork, Eurasian Spoonbill, Great

Thick-knee, River Lapwing, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Knob-billed Duck, Indian Spot-billed Duck and a variety of migrant waders. Mugger Crocodile is also possible around the reservoir.

Day 11: Jawai to Jaisalmer. After an early breakfast, we undertake the long drive west to Jaisalmer. As we progress deeper into the Thar Desert, the landscape becomes increasingly open and arid, with dunes, stony plains, sparse scrub, dry cultivation and isolated villages.

Roadside birding may produce Indian Roller, Black-winged Kite, Egyptian Vulture, Laggar Falcon, Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse, Greater Short-toed Lark, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Variable Wheatear and Desert Wheatear. We eventually settle into a simple tented camp near the desert sanctuary.



Egyptian Vulture by Daniel Danckwerts

Should time permit, we make a late-afternoon jeep excursion inside the sanctuary. If our arrival is delayed, we instead explore accessible habitat outside the protected area, where open fallow fields and scattered scrub can still be productive for desert birds and mammals.

Day 12: Jaisalmer and Desert National Park. Morning and afternoon jeep and walking explorations take us into Desert National Park and the surrounding Thar Desert. The park protects a dramatic mosaic of undulating dunes, rocky outcrops, gravel plains, dry grassland, salt-lake depressions and sparse xerophytic scrub, habitats supporting one of India's most distinctive bird communities.

Our principal avian target is the Critically Endangered Great Indian Bustard. Once widely distributed across India's dry grasslands, it is now confined to a few highly restricted areas, making the Jaisalmer region central to its survival.

The supporting cast of desert birds is exceptional. Open gravel and short grass may hold Cream-colored Courser, Black-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Ashy-crowned Sparrow-Lark, Bimaculated Lark and Greater Short-toed Lark. Dunes and rocky ground can support Desert Lark, Striolated Bunting, White-capped Bunting, Trumpeter Finch, Desert Wheatear, Variable Wheatear and Red-tailed Wheatear. Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse may fly to drinking sites in the morning, while the highly localised White-browed Bush Chat is possible in areas of scattered bushes and fallow cultivation.



Great Indian Bustard by Rob Williams

Raptors form a major component of the desert birding. Possibilities include Pallid Harrier, Short-toed Snake-Eagle, Steppe Eagle, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Laggar Falcon, Red-headed Falcon, Eurasian Griffon, Cinereous Vulture, Egyptian Vulture and, more rarely, Indian, White-rumped or Red-headed Vultures. The attached Western itinerary likewise highlights the area's coursers, sandgrouse, larks, wheatears, eagles, falcons and threatened vultures.

Mammal searches concentrate on Asiatic Wildcat, the desert form of Red Fox, Indian Gazelle and Indian Long-eared Hedgehog. After dark, we explore the outskirts of Jaisalmer and suitable



White-rumped Vulture by Adam Riley

sandy or rocky habitat for Indian Desert Jird, Indian Gerbil, Indian Hairy-footed Gerbil, Common Soft-furred Rat and Indian Bush Rat.

Depending on the month and access to known roosts, bats may include Greater and Lesser Mouse-tailed Bats, Egyptian Tomb Bat, Blyth's Horseshoe Bat and Greater Short-nosed Fruit Bat. In warmer March conditions, Sind Sand Gecko, Spiny-tailed Lizard and other desert reptiles may also be active.

Day 13: Jaisalmer to New Delhi. After breakfast, we transfer to Jaisalmer Airport for our flight to New Delhi. Guests departing the tour will continue to the international terminal for their onward flights. Those joining the Bhitarkanika extension connect with the evening flight to Bhubaneswar.

Day 13: New Delhi to Bhubaneswar. Guests continuing on the extension connect with the evening flight from New Delhi to Bhubaneswar. On arrival in Odisha's capital, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Day 14: Bhubaneswar to Bhitarkanika. After an early breakfast, we drive for approximately four hours to Bhitarkanika. The reserve lies within the estuarine delta of the Brahmani and Baitarani river systems and protects an intricate network of mangrove forest, tidal creeks, mudflats, saline rivers, islands and freshwater wetlands. Official Odisha sources describe it as India's second-largest mangrove ecosystem and note that more than 215 bird species have been recorded in the wider area.

Once permits have been secured, we begin with an evening boat safari through the narrow canals and mangrove-lined waterways. Our primary mammal target is Fishing Cat, which hunts along muddy banks, creek margins and quieter pools. Leopard Cat and Jungle Cat are also possible, although all three are secretive and sightings require patience and considerable luck.

The birding begins immediately. Exposed branches over the creeks are favoured by Black-capped, Collared, Stork-billed, Common, White-throated and Pied Kingfishers. Brown-winged Kingfisher is a particularly important mangrove specialist, while shaded forest edges may hold Mangrove Pitta, Pin-striped Tit-Babbler and Chestnut-capped Babbler. White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Brahminy Kite and Short-toed Snake-Eagle may pass overhead, and Brown Fish Owl can sometimes be found roosting beside quieter waterways.



Mangrove Pitta by David Hoddinott

At low tide, mudbanks attract Marsh Sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper, Eurasian Whimbrel, Eurasian Curlew, Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Tibetan Sand Plover, Common Greenshank and Wood Sandpiper. Reed-fringed pools and mangrove openings may produce Black Bittern, Yellow Bittern, Cinnamon Bittern, Ruddy-breasted Crake and White-breasted Waterhen.

Saltwater Crocodiles are a major feature of Bhitarkanika and are often seen resting on exposed mudbanks. Bengal Monitor, Asian Water Monitor, Indian Rock Python and Checkered Keelback are further possibilities. Monocled and Spectacled Cobras occur, although encounters are naturally unpredictable.



Brown Fish Owl by Adam Riley

Day 15: Bhitarkanika. We spend a full day exploring both within and outside the sanctuary, using a combination of boats and walks. Tidal conditions will influence the sequence of activities, since falling water exposes feeding mudflats while higher tides allow access to narrower mangrove channels.

Early and late excursions focus on Fishing Cat, Jungle Cat and Leopard Cat. We will quietly scan creek edges, mudbanks, fishing clearings and embankments for movement, tracks and other signs. Spotted Deer, Wild Boar, Rhesus Macaque, Smooth-coated Otter and Indian Grey Mongoose may also be encountered.

Birding will be a major component of the day. The network of waterways allows repeated searches for Brown-winged, Black-capped and Collared Kingfishers, Mangrove Pitta, Brown Fish Owl, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Black Bittern and Pin-striped Tit-Babbler. Open estuarine sections can hold terns, gulls, cormorants, Oriental Darter and large numbers of herons and egrets.

Where access and seasonal conditions permit, we may visit the vicinity of Bhitarkanika's extensive heronries. Odisha Tourism highlights the Bagagahana heronry near Surajpore Creek, where large numbers of colonial waterbirds breed in the mangroves. Likely species around such colonies include Asian Openbill, Black-headed Ibis, Little Cormorant, Oriental Darter, Purple Heron and several egrets.



Leopard Cat by Keith Valentine

The mangrove forest itself offers a very different birding experience from the dry country of Rajasthan, with many species detected first by voice and views often obtained through narrow gaps in the vegetation.

Day 16: Bhitarkanika to Bhubaneswar and New Delhi. We make a short final morning exploration, concentrating on any important birds or mammals missed during the previous excursions. Depending on tide and departure time, this may involve a brief boat trip, a walk along a forest trail or birding around agricultural wetlands outside the sanctuary.

We then drive to Bhubaneswar Airport for the flight to New Delhi. On arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel, the international airport or your onward arrangements.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Moderate. This tour is suitable for participants with a broad interest in mammals, birds, and other wildlife, but it involves some long travel days, repeated early starts, and several late-evening or nocturnal excursions. India can feel intense for first-time visitors, and some tolerance is required for traffic, noise, unfamiliar food, variable infrastructure, and long periods in the field.
General ease		Moderate. Many large mammals, river animals, and open-country birds can provide excellent views, but several of the tour's principal targets are rare, nocturnal, or highly elusive. No sightings are guaranteed.
Accommodation		Generally comfortable to very comfortable. Accommodation near Jaisalmer is in a simpler tented camp, and facilities in remote areas can be more basic than those in larger towns. The Bhitarkanika extension will also use simpler accommodation due to its remote setting.
Walking / Trails		Mostly on gently undulating roads/lodge gardens. Wildlife viewing is primarily vehicle-based or boat-based, supplemented by short walks.
Vehicles / Roads		Busses or minibuses, domestic flights, boats, and 4x4 or open safari vehicles. Several long road transfers are necessary. Road quality is variable and can be poor, with slow traffic and uneven surfaces. Boarding boats may require negotiating steps, uneven banks, or simple landing areas.
Photography		Good to excellent for larger mammals, crocodilians, river wildlife and birds in open habitats. Photography of nocturnal mammals, bats, small rodents, and secretive cats is considerably more challenging and may be limited by distance, vegetation, low light, or brief sightings. Flash photography may be limited where it could disturb wildlife
Annoyances		Long drives, slow traffic, poor road conditions, dust, noise and strong smells may be encountered. Food can be spicy, although less-spiced options can usually be requested. Early-morning jeep and boat excursions can be very cold, particularly in Rajasthan, while daytime temperatures may become warm. Mosquitoes and other insects may be noticeable around wetlands and mangroves. Wildlife searches can involve extended periods of waiting, and the rarest target species may not be seen despite sustained effort.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 13 of Small Mammal tour;
- All meals from dinner on day 1 to lunch on day 4 of the Fishing Cat Extension;
- Bottled drinking water;
- All lodgings;
- All ground transportation during the tour (including train transport);
- Boat excursion on the Chambal River and at Bhitarkanika;
- All reserve entrance fees;
- All guiding services
- Tips for local guides, drivers and services.

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (including mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour-related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes made need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as closely to the original program as possible.**

- Roads outside of Indian cities are poorly maintained, causing vehicles to travel very slowly. To make best use of our time, we use several train journeys to cut travel times and increase both comfort and safety. Our local agents, tour leaders and porters ensure that all your luggage is stowed aboard at embarkation, as well as taken off and transferred to our vehicles at disembarkation.
- Rest rooms on trains vary in cleanliness. Facilities are of the squat toilet type.
- **We no longer make use of any OVERNIGHT trains on our northern India tours.**
- It is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 20 kg (44 lb) for check in luggage and 8 kg (+-18 lb) for hand luggage.
- This tour does not require a high level of fitness, but participants should be in good general health and reasonably fit as some of the birding will be done on foot and may require walking for several hours at a time.

- It is not permissible to leave the vehicle in parks with potentially dangerous animals, except at designated sites.
- If you have any physical or medical limitations or conditions, please notify us in advance of departure.
- For much of this tour we will be far away from modern medical facilities.
- Accommodation throughout the trip is of a good standard, and the hotels and resorts that we make use of range from comfortable to rather luxurious. There is no camping on this trip.
- Overnight temperatures, particularly in the Himalayan foothills, can be quite cool and it is advisable to bring layered clothing for warmth and convenience.
- The open jeep tours can be very cold (especially in the mornings), do ensure you bring sufficient warm clothing, including gloves, scarf/buff and a beanie (woolly hat).

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour begins in New Delhi on day 1, and as this is scheduled as an arrival day; you are free to arrive at any time. The tour will conclude in the late afternoon in New Delhi on day 13.

The extension begins in New Delhi on day 1. Depending on flight schedules, we may depart Delhi for Bhubaneswar on the evening of Day 1, or in the morning of Day 2. The tour will conclude in the late afternoon in New Delhi on day 13 after an internal flight from Bhubaneswar.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi (IATA: DEL) is the main port of entry for international flights into India.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.