



A Stunning Safari Lodge with conservation in its heart,
Monsoon Forest redefines the idea of conservation-based tourism.
It is also a spiritual retreat for Meditators & Yoga practitioners.
The lodge offers Ayurvedic massages & wellness programmes to the guests.
Situated in Bandhavgarh, which has the highest density of Tigers in the wild,
Monsoon Forest is just a 4-minute drive from the Tiger Reserve.

FACT SHEET

- 🌿 It's an intimate camp of only 2 Luxury Safari tents and 10 Nests (Cottages)
- 🌿 Great wilderness experience with magical outdoor dining venues
- 🌿 Yoga & Meditation – A Wellness Retreat
- 🌿 Highly experienced spiritual Yoga teachers
- 🌿 Traditional Ayurvedic massages and wellness programmes
- 🌿 10-Acre reforestation project
- 🌿 Interpretation of forest trees and plants
- 🌿 Nature walks and birding at camp
- 🌿 Jeep Safaris with experienced Naturalists
- 🌿 Elephant Safaris for Tiger viewing
- 🌿 Excursion to Bandhavgarh Fort in the Tiger reserve
- 🌿 Local village visit and cultural experiences
- 🌿 A Swimming Pool

LOCATION

An oasis of serenity amidst beautiful grasslands, forests and its glorious wild beings.
A perfect base to explore the tiger haven of India.

With breathtaking views of the forest and Bandhavgarh Fort, Monsoon Forest is spread over ten acres of grasslands, bamboo thickets and generously canopied trees. It is a perfect base to explore the magnificent forest and its wildlife, the tribal areas and the villages around it. While nature walks and safaris fill your senses, our Yoga, wellness programs & spa will nourish your mind, body and soul.

Surrounded by forest with a breathtaking view of the Bandhavgarh Fort, Monsoon Forest is just a few minutes drive from the Bandhavgarh Tiger reserve, Tala zone. With the highest density of tigers in the wild Bandhavgarh is not only the best Wildlife reserve to view this magnificent cat but also to enjoy the beauty of jungles of Central India.

GUEST ACCOMMODATION

For guests wanting a real wildlife experience, we have two beautifully crafted luxury tents set under the shade of glorious Mahua trees.

We have 10 cottages called 'Nests'. Inspired by the design of nests, these quaint eco-lodges merge into the beautiful surrounding grasslands.

You can enjoy all the advantages and excitement staying in the forest, along with all the modern amenities, comforts and luxury. Every unit is air-conditioned and has a generous living space inside, with large rope-drawn windows, custom-built furniture and a modern *en suite* bathroom. The wide verandas are an oasis where you can unwind and enjoy the sights and sounds of the forest in solitude.

The verandahs offer panoramic views of the grassland and are ideal for birdwatchers.

TARIFF

Special deals are being offered to guests. Do look up online booking link under Reservation on our website www.monsoonforest.com or call us or email us info@monsoonforest.com.

GUEST AREAS

Made of the soil, every detail considers the use of local materials and energy efficiency, the camp is closely woven around our reforestation project, the heart of Monsoon Forest.

BAITHAK - MAIN LODGE

The essence of Monsoon forest is reflected in the main lodge or the Baithak, which is also the informal reception and sitting area. Its indigenous earthy design draws inspiration from the mud houses that you see all around central India. The panoramic views provide an intimate introduction to the vast grasslands and forests of Bandhavgarh. A great place to interact with our resident expert naturalists and fellow wildlife enthusiasts over a freshly brewed cup of tea or homemade dinner, it also houses the Monsoon Forest art gallery and library where we have some of the best wildlife and tribal art, photographs, books and other collectibles.

A refreshment bar with a large selection of coffee and teas, it is the centre of our guest activities. Earth walls, roofs supported by mature Sal wood rafters and tiles from the 1930's, this is an intimate lodge with open spaces, details of local architecture blending beautifully with nature.

ROBIN'S NEST - The Unique Dining Experience

Named after the pair of Robins nesting in the glorious Mahua tree above the dining area while it was being planned, this dining area brings out the essence of Bandhavgarh.

Surrounded by vast open grasslands, the beauty of this dining area is in its unparalleled view across the forest. An impressive Sal log table and eclectic embellishments make this setting a unique dining experience.

This outdoor buffet dining area can easily accommodate up to 40 guests.

LIBRARY AND ART GALLERY

Situated in the Baithak, our art gallery and library has a collection of books, wildlife and tribal photographs, also a collection of wildlife art recording the lives of individual Tigers of Bandhavgarh over the past 15 years. The photographic record provides an astonishingly lucid insight into the recent history of the Tiger Reserve.

ADIYOGI HALL & PANCHTATVA COTTAGES

These structures facilitate the yoga, meditation & wellness programmes that are conducted at the lodge by Yogic Teachers & expert masseurs. Do write to us for detailed programmes and courses that we offer.

The lodge also offers weekend programmes for detox & stress management.

SAFARI SHOP

The in house safari shop has a selection of craft from across India, wildlife art and photographs are also on sale, for those with a deep interest in art we can organize a private sitting with artists & artisans from the area.

KITCHEN & DINING

At Monsoon Forest, while feasting your senses on the serene grassland views, you can indulge in 'satvik' soulful food at multiple dining venues.

Nutritionally balanced wholesome meals, fresh fruit juices and smoothies will help our guests detox their mind, body and soul.

In our kitchen, we mostly use produce grown by local farmers and those from our own organic vegetable garden, ensuring the freshness and nutritional value. The kitchen offers home-cooked Indian food, fresh spice and vegetables from our organic gardens and local villages add that extra zest in our traditional flavors. Whether it is a local Indian curry or a pasta preparation, they can personalize the taste to your satisfaction. We also offer a small selection of pastas and sandwiches for guests who may want a break from the 'constant curry'. Catering to most palates, we try to offer a variety of homemade vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes in our buffets.

Meals are served inside the Baithak (Main Lodge) and also in Robin's Nest under the Mahua tree. Guests may choose to have a packed safari picnic or request an intimate private dinner if they wish. Meals may also be served in the Nursery or alternatively, guests may dine in the privacy of their tent verandahs. A favorite dinner spot is our candle lit terrace - a special place for a tranquil dinner and stargazing.

We encourage our guests to get an impromptu cooking lesson or exchange recipes with our cooks.

CONSERVATION AT CAMP

Monsoons are considered sacred in India. At Monsoon Forests, we consider nature, the forests and its beings just as sacred. As Indians, we believe that our guests are God's representatives too-'Atithi Devo Bavah'.

Experience this sacredness with us at Monsoon Forest, a perfect combination of an enthralling wildlife experience and a great spiritual retreat. Our aim is to help you unravel the amazing forests of Bandhavgarh, to explore wildlife and other hidden treasures in the area with our expert naturalists.

Named after Central India's tropical deciduous forests, which are also known as monsoon forests, we started out as a reforestation project on a piece of barren land in this area, devastated by overgrazing and logging.

We are a work in progress, determined not only to bring back the forest but to make it a sanctuary for the rare and fast disappearing indigenous trees and plants of the jungles of central India, one of the last remaining homes of tigers in the wild.

We have succeeded in bringing back the forest but to make it a sanctuary for the rare and fast disappearing indigenous trees and plants of the jungles of central India, one of the last remaining homes of tigers in the wild. A walk through our botanical sanctuary, reforestation project and small farm. It will bring alive the many myths and legends surrounding the diverse flora and fauna of Central India and a chance for direct contact with the local community who are integral to all aspects of the project.

To ensure responsible and sustainable tourism, Monsoon Forest has been co-created by some of the world's and India's foremost wildlife conservationists, architects, designers and hospitality experts. We are deeply committed to being environmentally friendly. Throughout our development and operation, nature conservation has been the main guiding principle.

'WILD ABOUT PLANTS' NURSERY OF INDIGENOUS TREES

In the heart of the project is a large nursery of indigenous plants that provides growing stock for other deficient areas and reforestation projects nearby. With more than 90 species of indigenous trees and annuals, the nursery is the backbone of the reforestation project. Nearly all the plants have been grown from seed at the nursery. We encourage guest to plant trees and help us grow the forests.

BANDHAVGARH

At the heart of India is Madhya Pradesh – home to the Vindhyas and the Satpuras, to forested plateaus and winding rivers. It is home, too, to a fifth of the world's tiger population. Bandhavgarh National Park is tiger country at its best: 448 sq km of deciduous forest and grasslands, laced through with perennial streams and springs.

Bandhavgarh is uniquely famous as a forest offering nearly 100 percent tiger sightings. The density of the tiger population at Bandhavgarh is one of the highest known in India. A popular saying about Bandhavgarh illustrates the point very well: 'In any other Park, you are lucky if you see a tiger. In Bandhavgarh, you are unlucky if you don't see (at least) one.' Along with the majestic tigers, one can hope to see more than 22 species of mammals and 250 species of birds.

One can see spotted deer, sambar, barking deer, blue bull, Indian gazelle, leopard, wild dog, wolf, hyena, jackal, wild boar, sloth bear, common langur, rhesus monkey etc.

The vegetation along streams and marshes is rich in bird life. The common ones seen here are lesser adjutant stork, egrets, the blue bearded bee-eater, darter, the yellow and red-wattled lapwings, lesser whistling teal, white-eyed buzzard, black kite, crested serpent eagle, black vulture, Egyptian vulture, peafowl, red jungle fowl, parakeets, kingfishers and Indian rollers. Reptilian fauna include cobra, krait, viper, rat snake, python, turtle and a number of lizard varieties.

SAFARIS & EXCURSIONS

Jeep Safaris: Drives to explore parts of the Tiger reserve that are often remote and tucked away in magic corners of the park, our experienced naturalist will introduce you to the rich bio diversity of the park. From the majestic Tiger to the shy funnel web spiders, you will be rewarded with an insight into fine details of the natural world. We plan our Safaris keeping in mind interests of the guests and balance that with an opportunity to visit different Zones of the Tiger Reserve.

Designed for uninterrupted viewing, the 4x4 jeeps effortlessly manoeuvre through the grasslands, dirt tracks and hilly terrain as our expert naturalist points out the various species of birds and animals. Through their local network and experience, our trained local guides are usually very well informed, thereby increasing the chances of sightings of rare species.

Kindly note that as per the guidelines from the forest department, there are no safaris on every Wednesday afternoon and on the festive day of Holi.

Sher Darshan (Tiger Viewing from Elephant back): Every morning in Bandhavgarh begins with tiger tracking. Once a tiger's been sighted by the forest department elephants, visitors set out on elephant back for the Sher Darshan. Park officials keep the experience quiet and pleasant by using tokens to regulate the number of visitors. Some mornings the queues can be long, and the wait for a chance to see the tiger frustrating. But the choice is ours, to explore quiet parts of the park or wait with everyone for one of the most breathtaking sights in the world: a tiger in the wild. Note: This activity is subject to availability

Bandhavgarh Fort: The Park spreads out around the Bandhavgarh Fort, the seat of the Bhaghel rulers until they shifted to Rewa in the seventeenth century. It is an imposing presence that bears witness to a long history, with inscriptions and carvings in caves that are said to date back to between 129 and 168 AD. The Fort houses a spectacular assortment of monolithic statues of Lord Vishnu in his many incarnations, scattered around are also ruins of temples held together by ancient Ficus trees and large water tanks carved by hand. Tigers and other wildlife are frequently sighted in the forests on the fort and add to the excitement of exploration. Excursions to the fort are a must for all guests, it is a chance to explore by Jeep and walk around the ruins of a once mighty kingdom now ruled by the jungle. Note: This activity is subject to availability

Village Visit: Experience life in the village. Get an insight into the problems they face with regards to - man animal conflict. Meet the local artisans. Dine at a local village home. Experiencing a day in the life of a village women doing their everyday chores or attend a reforestation project.

Birding & Picnics: Bandhavgarh forest and its surrounding areas are well represented in terms of rich avifauna of Vindhya ranges. It has a variety of habitats-woodlands, grasslands, high hills, cliffs and ponds, catering to the needs of different bird species both resident and migratory. Around 250 avifaunal species are found here. This includes birds of prey, vultures, grebes, cormorants, ducks, kingfishers, herons, egrets, storks, hornbills, barbets, woodpeckers, flycatchers and many others. Sarus cranes visit the reserve for breeding during monsoon and may be seen up to November. Bird watching point at Bandhavgarh fort (subject to permissions from the forest department) offers fantastic overview of vulture nests.

- We organize a special birding picnic with our birding guides. Watch bird species as you enjoy a lovely picnic hamper arranged by us.

Relaxing Wednesday (Indicative itinerary for the entire day)

Visit to Ban Sagar Lake – Ban Sagar Lake is situated on the Ban Sagar Dam, built on the Sone river. Early morning drive up to the beautiful Ban Sagar Lake for some birding and picnic. The entire excursion will take about 3 hours.

Village Visit – After an exciting trip to Ban Sagar Lake, return to the lodge. Post lunch, we will visit a village, and have an insight into the lives of the local villagers, their way of life, meet the local artisans. Interact with them to understand the man-animal conflict.

Dinner – After the village visit, return to the lodge for refreshments. For your evening dinner you can chose from any of the following options

- Private dinner at the house of a local villager.
- Private dinner in the open grasslands.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHERS AND FILM CREWS

As Bandhavgarh has the highest density of Tigers in the wild it is one of the best places to document the life of this elusive cat. Our team of Naturalists and managers specialize in programmes for professional wildlife photographers and filmmakers for over 15 years. We facilitate with permits, reservations of elephants and permissions to photograph / film within the Tiger

Reserve. We are happy to assist single traveling photographers or teams / groups and will tailor design their trip according to their interest and time frame.

-  Dedicated Naturalist
-  Exclusive Jeep
-  Tiger tracking by Elephant
-  Watchtowers and hides

PICTURES OF THE LODGE

Kindly ask us for lodge pictures.

WEATHER

Central India has extreme climatic fluctuations. Winter months of December, January and February, morning game drives and late evenings are biting cold, you would enjoy the comfort of blankets and hot water bottles that are provided for morning drives. The afternoon sun is wonderful, days are crisp, warm and sunny. As we move into April summer is beginning to set in and the shade is welcome. As water holes dry up by May, wildlife is concentrated in smaller areas of the park and Tiger sighting gets better but with that the heat is extreme, afternoon temperatures can touch 46°C. The best time to visit is from October to March, The jungle is looking beautiful after the monsoons, green flushes of new leaf on the bamboo and thick undercover, misty mornings and crisp sunlight make the forest breathtakingly beautiful.

CLOTHING

There is no official dress code however, when out game viewing, we suggest muted clothing and colors that would blend with nature. October to mid November: Light fleece and a sweater or shawl November to end February: Warm Fleece, warm sweater, a light jacket, are a must, gloves and a warm cap are always welcome comforters. March to May: Shorts or light trousers and ideally cotton-clothing, a light fleece is advisable as early mornings can still be chilly.

LODGE

Number of En-suite Tents: 2
Number of Nests (cottages): 8
Number of Log Cottages: 2
Dining Areas: 2
Air conditioned Tents and Nests
Spaces for Yoga, Meditation & Massages
A Swimming Pool
Personal Bars On request
Laundry Services: Available
Selection of Wildlife films
Power 220 AC / DG backup
Suitable for Disabled Guests with assistance
Credit Cards: In process
Check in and Check out Time: 12 noon and 1 pm respectively
Cooking demonstrations: On request
Organic Vegetable Garden 1/2-acre vegetable garden and orchard
Conservation Effort Reforestation
Participatory conservation ‘Plant a Plant’ program
Guest Areas Library / Wildlife Art Gallery

ACCESS

Connected conveniently by air and train from Delhi, Mumbai and Bhopal. Monsoon Forest is also connected via charter flights to Umariya airport (32 Km) and a charter helicopter service directly to Bandhavgarh.

By Air: To Khajuraho followed by a 5-hour drive.
By Air: To Jabalpur followed by a 3 hour drive
By Train: To Umariya followed by a 30-minute drive
By Train: To Katni followed by a 1 hour 30 minute drive
By Train: To Jabalpur followed by a 3 hour drive.
By Road: From Khajuraho or from Kawardha

RESERVATION

Reservations may be made via our Delhi / Noida office, either by telephone or e-mail. Pre-payment is required to secure a confirmed reservation.

BOOKING OFFICE

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RESORT

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