

# INDIA

Wildlife Safari • March 6-20, 2021

Dear Travelers and Friends:

We invite you to join us as we explore the wildlife and wild places of India on our popular **India Wildlife Safari!** This trip is a magnificent introduction to the national parks, sanctuaries, and exquisite cultural antiquities of India, from tigers to the Taj Mahal, including three premiere national parks.

This year we will return to **Kanha National Park** where we will stay in an exquisite lodge, as we do at Bharatpur. Both of these lodges were built by our friend and colleague who descends from Indian royalty on his family's historic property. Please see the lodge photos on our web site.

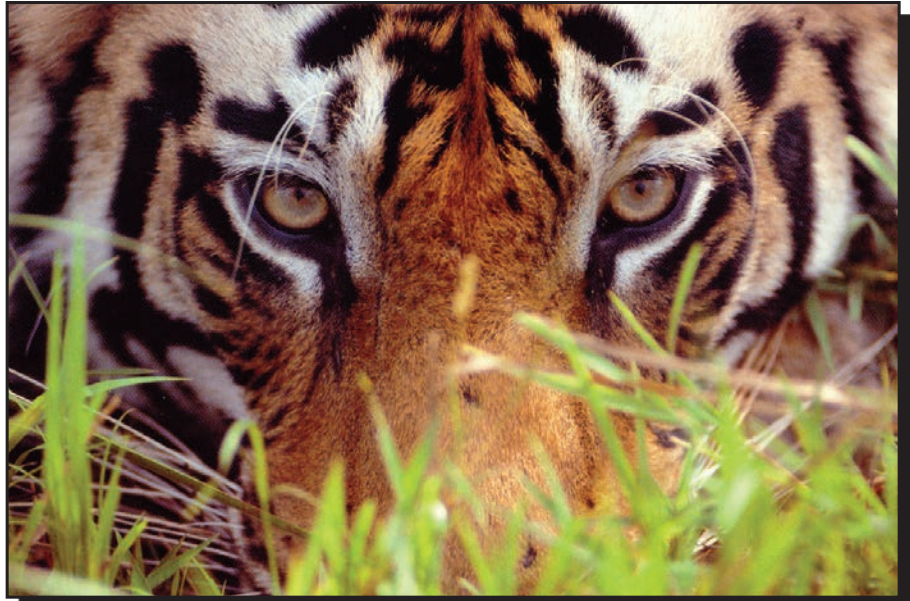
Leading the safari will be our excellent Indian naturalist. He will be joined by local guides, park wardens, and other guests to give different perspectives and insights into the Indian subcontinent.

We'll begin our India Safari in Delhi, and will then go by train to **Ranthambore National Park** (famous for its tiger populations, diverse species of deer, large crocodiles, waterfowl and birds) where we'll stay in comfortable, rustic stone cottages.

We will take the train to **Bharatpur Sanctuary**, the best place to see birds in India. Herons, egrets, and ibis line the waterways. Vultures, hawks, falcons and many flycatchers perch in isolated trees. On forest walks, we will look for colorful butterflies, flowers, and iridescent pheasants.

Near Bharatpur are the **Taj Mahal** and **Fatehpur**, two of the most famous sites in India. Both are intriguing and we'll have time to savor the beauty, artistry, and cultural significance of each site.

We will then fly to **Raipur** where we will drive to our exquisite lodge at **Kanha National Park**. This is one of the largest parks in India and is also part of Project Tiger, one of India's most important



conservation efforts. We will travel by jeep and elephant (for tiger viewing) into a variety of habitats for wildlife viewing.

All of this, and more, awaits you in India! We invite you to join us as we explore this magical land of intrigue.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Betchart  
President  
Betchart Expeditions Inc.



## ITINERARY

### Days 1/2 — USA to Delhi

Depart from Newark or other airports for Delhi. Arrive Delhi late afternoon of Day 2; transfer to *Hotel*.

### Day 3 — Delhi & Ranthambore National Park

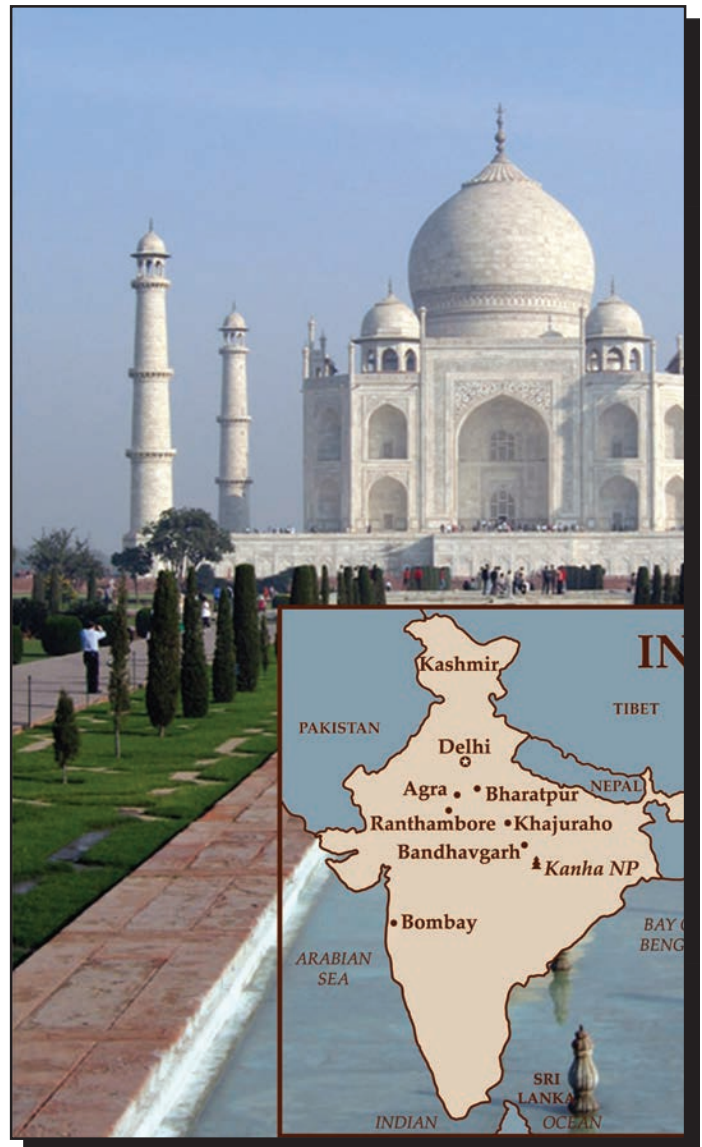
Morning at leisure to begin getting acquainted with the festivity and color of New Delhi. Welcome lunch and trip orientation. Then enjoy an afternoon exploration of the city, including Humayun's Tomb (aptly called the predecessor to the Taj Mahal), and Qutb Minar, one of the perfect towers of the Persian Islamic mosque, and the Iron Pillar, which is in perfect condition after 1,500 years. An orientation drive through New Delhi will include the Embassy area, Government Building, and Birla Temple. Drive past the Jantar-Mantar Astronomical Observatory and Connaught Place, the main shopping center. Evening train to Ranthambore National Park and the rustic, well-located *Ranthambhore Kothi Hotel* (3 nights).

### Days 4/5 — Ranthambore National Park

For the next two days, we will explore the outstanding Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan's first Project Tiger Reserve. Named after a 1000-year-old fort which stands high overlooking the reserve, Ranthambore has splendid, dramatic terrain of rocky, steep hills, valley, and open land around pools. Enhanced by structures that testify to its heroic past—old guard posts, pavilions, and ruins of palaces—Ranthambore hosts a profusion of wildlife including tiger, Asiatic deer with splendid horns, leopard, nilgai, sambar, common langur, crocodile, waterfowl, peacocks, and land birds. Morning and afternoon excursions into the park will allow excellent opportunities to look for tiger and other wildlife.

### Day 6 — Ranthambore to Bharatpur Sanctuary, Keoladeo Ghana National Park

Today, we will take the train and then have a short drive to Bharatpur Sanctuary in Keoladeo Ghana National Park. Check into our beautiful accommodations at *The Bagh* (the "Garden") *Lodge*. The Bagh is a heritage hotel set in 12 acres of a two hundred year-old garden in Bharatpur, Rajasthan. It is located just four hours away from Delhi, Jaipur and Gwalior. The Bagh offers visitors an opportunity to experience quiet luxury near Keoladeo Ghana National Park, one of the most famous bird sanctuaries in the world. Gulmohar, the main restaurant, specializes in the wonderful vegetarian cuisine of the Braj region. *The Bagh* (3 nights).



### Day 7 — Keoladeo Ghana National Park (Bharatpur Sanctuary)

Today we will enjoy the vast array of Indian birdlife in Keoladeo Ghana National Park. This park has the distinction of being a preserve actually created by a majaraja for his own personal pleasure by the construction of small dams and dykes. Now the park attracts numerous waterfowl, such as the local Sarus crane, white ibis, grey heron,

painted stork, and a number of migrant ducks, geese, and eagles, as well as the rare Siberian crane.

Bharatpur is one of the best bird sanctuaries in India. As we depart for the sanctuary, the mists roll away, exposing the apparently endless expanse of silvery water covered in places by red waterfern. The awakening world seems to be full of birds of all sizes, species, and colors. Darters, cormorants, pintail, bar-headed geese, egrets, eagles, jacanas, and dozens of other birds are everywhere while the







spectacular Sarus cranes greet the sun with their wild whooping calls. We will scan the waters for Siberian Crane and with any luck these elegant and rare birds will be here spending the winter (but this cannot be guaranteed). There are many walks to follow around the "Bounds" and the habitat varies from shallow lakes of the reserve to flooded forest and dry savannah. Bharatpur is always a memorable experience!

**Day 8 — Agra and Taj Mahal**

This morning, we will explore Fatehpur Sikri. Once a Mogul capital, the deserted 17th century city surpassed even the grandest cities of Europe in its time, and is beautifully preserved. Within its walls, see the Halls of Public and Private Audience and the Gateway of Victory, built from red sandstone with inlays of mother-of-pearl. The white marble Tomb of Salim Chisti is in one of the vast courtyards.

In Agra, we will visit the Agra Fort and Taj Mahal. Built by emperor Akbar, the maze of courtyards, mosques, and private chambers of the fort echo the story of the Mogul Empire. The magnificent buildings reflect the skill of the ancient Indian architects and artists. The Taj Mahal—built as a monument to love by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife—is unsurpassed in detail and fine, delicate handiwork.

**Days 9/10 — Delhi to Raipur & Kanha**

Morning drive to Delhi and flight to Raipur. Overnight at the *Babylon*

*International Hotel*. The next day we will drive to *The Baagh Lodge*, a forest retreat adjacent to Kanha National Park where we will stay 3 nights. The resort is situated on the border of Kanha National Park, home to India's majestic tigers and numerous mammals, reptiles and bird species. The luxury property is surrounded by the park's jungles and traditional tribal villages in the Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh, a central Indian state. *The Baagh (3 nights)*.

**Days 11/12 — Kanha National Park**

For the next three days, we will explore Kanha National Park by jeep to look for tigers and other wildlife.



Kanha National Park is one of India's national treasures. In 1973, it became one of the preserves under Project Tiger to preserve natural resources, wildlife, and the majestic Indian tiger. The 1005 square kilometer park is home to diverse flora and fauna, including leopard, jackal, wild dogs, Indian Bison, wild pigs, monkeys, many varieties of deer, and innumerable birds. It is an amazing and delicate ecosystem that requires constant monitoring to sustain and maintain its endangered species.

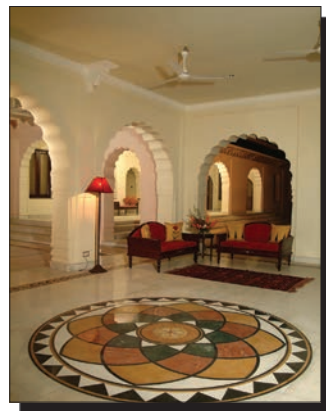
This area in Central India was the inspiration for Rudyard Kipling's classic, the "Jungle Book" with all of

the wild characters from pythons and sloth bears to elephants and tigers. Today, you can see all of these animals and more.

The park itself is divided into five separate sections: Kisli, Kanha, Mukki, Bhaishanghat, and Supkar. It encompasses meadows, plateaus, mountainous ranges, jungle, ponds, and lakes. A buffer zone around the park and well-maintained corridors linking it to other National Parks helps to ensure the survival of endangered species. While we are there, we will stop by the Kanha Museum, an information center about the park and surrounding area.

**Days 13/14/15 — Kanha—Nagpur—Delhi—USA**

This morning, we will continue to relax at *The Baagh* and enjoy wildlife-viewing opportunities. We will then drive to Nagpur and the *Pride Hotel*. On Day 14, we fly to Delhi for our return flight to the USA, which departs in the evening. We will arrive back in the USA on the morning of Day 15. Take connecting flights home for the end of the expedition.



**RESERVATIONS** #1603

**Yes!** I/we want to join the **India Wildlife Safari, March 6-20, 2021**, offered by **AAAS Travels, ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions**. Please reserve \_\_\_ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: AAAS    Sigma Xi    ACS    Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

\_\_\_ Twin \_\_\_ Single \_\_\_ Twin Share with a friend *or* \_\_\_ assign a roommate

\_\_\_ Nonsmoker \_\_\_ Smoker

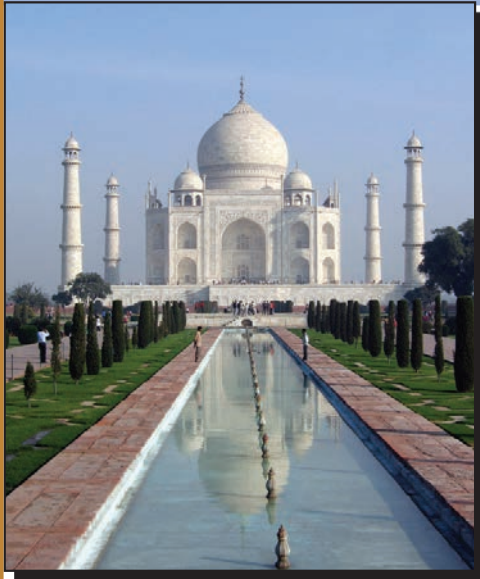
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail To: India Wildlife Safari 2021  
Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road  
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

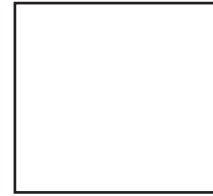
# AAAS Travels ACS & Sigma Xi Expeditions

BETCHART EXPEDITIONS Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435



Join us on our...  
**INDIA Wildlife Safari!**  
March 6-20, 2021  
A delightful wildlife and  
cultural extravaganza!

"The parks are very worthwhile and  
the tiger sightings were splendid! We  
had superb site guides and  
wonderful cultural performances!"  
— past trip participants



## COSTS & CONDITIONS

**Safari Fee:** \$3,995 per person for 15 days + air fare of approximately \$1,695 from the USA to Delhi, round trip, plus \$595 in-tour flights.

**What to Expect:** This safari is planned for the wildlife and travel enthusiast who would enjoy exploring national parks in India and visiting areas of striking cultural interest. Travel by motorcoach, train, sleeper train, jeeps, and scheduled flights, with daily outings on foot of one-half to two miles at a leisurely pace suitable for wildlife observation and photography. Temperatures are typically in the 70's to 90's. It is an ideal time to visit but can be cold at night. Some motorcoach or jeep travel may be over rough, bumpy roads. A spirit of adventure and flexibility will make this a marvelous travel experience. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or group meals, please.)

**Safari Fee Includes:** Land transport by coach and train; group airport transfers; accommodations in first class hotels and safari lodges adjacent to the national parks based on twin share; all meals in India from Day 3 to 14; entrance fees; baggage handling; tips to drivers and local guides; leadership, administration.

**Safari Fee Does Not Include:** Air fare (quoted separately); India visa fee; independent transfers; personal items such as alcoholic beverages; gratuity to safari leaders; laundry, telephone calls, soda, bottled water, snacks; or foreign airport departure taxes.

**Air Fare & Airline Ticketing:** Please contact **Taunya** at (800) 252-4910 for group flight information to India. In-tour flights are on a local Indian airline. All in-tour air bookings and ticketing will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**Accommodations:** Are based on two persons sharing a twin-bedded room in a first class hotel in Delhi. We will stay in resort cottages at Ranthambore and at two exquisite lodges at Bharatpur and Kanha National Parks. If you do not have a roommate, or we cannot assign one, you must pay the single supplement of \$995.

**Reservations, Deposits, and Payments:** To reserve a place on this expedition, please mail the completed reservation form with a deposit check for \$500 per person to: **Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435; (800) 252-4910.** The balance is due 60 days before departure.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit for this expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure upon written request received by Betchart Expeditions Inc., less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 60-day period unless your place can be resold, then only the \$100 handling fee applies. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other expedition features. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered.

**Questions?** Please call **Taunya DeYoung:**

Telephone: (800) 252-4910  
or (408) 252-4910  
Fax: (408) 252-1444  
Email: [betcharttaunya@gmail.com](mailto:betcharttaunya@gmail.com)

On the Web: [www.betchartexpeditions.com](http://www.betchartexpeditions.com)

## RESPONSIBILITY

*Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, and American Chemical Society (ACS) act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.*

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