

Satpura Under Canvas *The Pachmarhi Trail*



The Satpura Tiger Reserve is an extensive forest park that protects a broad array of unique Central Indian flora and fauna. This beautiful reserve is cradled in the Mahadeo Hills of the Satpura range, a region characterised by fascinating deep valleys, narrow gorges, cascading waterfalls and rich vegetation. It is perfect trekking country.

During the British Raj, the state of Madhya Pradesh was known as the Central Provinces. The forest department of this province had its first headquarters in Pachmarhi. Captain James Forsyth, a man largely responsible for establishing and operating the headquarters, ascended to Pachmarhi using the same route as we shall take on this trek.

The Pachmarhi trail is a one of a kind opportunity to explore tiger country on foot. The Satpura Tiger Reserve is a magical wilderness and its hilly terrain makes for ideal walking country. Believed to be a bridge between the Eastern Himalayas and the Western Ghats, the Satpuras are home to some of India's most unique and fascinating wildlife.

The trail covers 32kms of varied habitat, during which guests will stay from one to three nights in exclusive mobile camps. The campsites are in carefully-chosen scenic spots on the banks of the Denwa River.

Day 1: Satpura National Park (Reni Pani Lodge)

You will be met by your driver/guide on arrival at Bhopal airport and transferred by road to Satpura National Park, where you stay one night at Rani Pani Jungle Lodge (full board with game activities).



Reni Pani Jungle Lodge

Reni Pani Jungle Lodge is an exquisitely designed conservation and wildlife focused lodge situated just outside Satpura National Park. It features 12 luxury cottages encompassing three distinct designs, a cosy central meeting place called the Gol Ghar, and a jungle pool located on the edge of its seasonal nullah.

The property is spread over 30 acres of striking forest cover, typical of the Satpuras. The site features the kind of surroundings that any nature lover would want: magnificent trees, a sprawling meadow, a seasonal nullah, uneven yet beautiful topography and waterholes that attract several species of bird and mammal.

Depending on the time of your arrival, we can arrange for an afternoon game drive in Satpura National Park.

Sapura National Park

Satpura National Park, which covers an area of 524 km², takes its name from the magnificent Satpura range in central India. The park was set up in 1981 conservation zone for tigers. The terrain of the national park is extremely rugged and consists of fascinating deep valleys, sandstone peaks, narrow gorges, thickly dense green forest of Sal and other medicinal herbs and the Tawa reservoir. As the very heart of this unique eco-system, Satpura National Park is rich in bio-diversity.

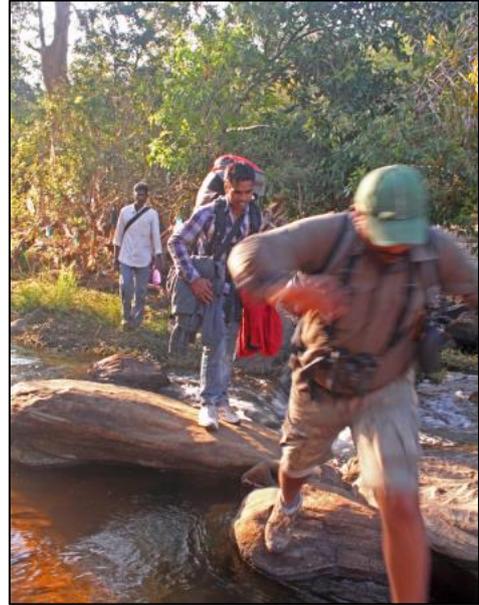


Species known to reside in Satpura include spotted deer, leopard, tiger, porcupine, gaur (Indian bison), sloth bear, dhole (wild dog), black buck (unique to Satpura), pangolin, langur, marsh

crocodile, and more. The Indian giant squirrel, almost extinct elsewhere in India, is also among the unique attractions of Satpura National Park. Sightings of gaur, dhole, sloth bear and leopard are generally very good compared to the other central Indian game parks, though of course never guaranteed. Tiger sightings, on the other hand, are not as common as in nearby Bandhavgarh, Kanha or Pench National Parks, but do occur.

The bio-diversity of Satpura is stunning, with over 1,300 species of plant providing a habitat for an equally diverse array of birdlife. Flora includes teak, sal, tendu, mahua, stone-apple, bamboo forest and tall grasses.

The guides who work in Satpura are excellent, and although tigers are hard to spot, with the aid of your guides you have a good chance of seeing both sloth bear and giant squirrel.



Day 2: Start Pachimari Trail (Jhela Camp)

Depart Reni Pani Jungle Lodge at 6am and travel by road to Matkuli, a village in the foothills of the Satpuras. This is a two hour drive on a state highway through agricultural towns and villages. From Matkuli, you continue the short distance to Manakachar, the starting point for the Pachmarhi Trail. A packed breakfast will be served here.

At 9am you start the 8km trek towards Jhela, where your first camp is located. The trail crosses open woodland until you reach the Denwa River. Once you join the Denwa you will follow its courses to Jhela, which is located on its banks.



These areas lie within the reserve and you are likely to encounter several species of bird including the crested serpent eagle, grey hornbills, common kingfishers, jungle prinias, blackhooded orioles, golden fronted leafbirds, amongst others. Since we will be on the fringe of the reserve and buffer area, you should also be on the look out for mammals.

Arrival at Jhela will be around 2pm, the camp will have been set up in advance of your arrival and lunch will be served. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to explore the camp surrounds or perhaps enjoy a siesta. Overnight at Jhela camp.



Day 3: Trekking along the Denwa River (Dehlia Camp)

Wake to the sounds of the flowing Denwa River and an early breakfast at 7am. Today you embark on a 7km walk along the banks of the Denwa River. Your goal is Dehelia Camp, which is located on a picturesque sandy beach on the Denwa River.

As you walk along the Denwa, you will be able to witness some of the magical scenery that Satpura offers in the form of high sand banks, narrow waterways and a beautiful confluence with the Bainganga River. You may need to wade through knee deep water at times in order to reach Dehlia Camp!

En route you may see crested serpent eagle, kingfishers, grey wagtails and Tickel's blue flycatcher. There is also a steep cliff that is used by the endangered Indian vultures as a nesting site.

Expect to reach Dehlia Camp, where lunch will be served, early afternoon. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Overnight at Dehlia camp.

Day 4: Trek to Pachmarhi (Reni Pani Lodge)

Breakfast will be served at 7am followed by a 10km trek to Pachmarhi. The first half of the journey will mainly be on light hilly terrain. Once you reach Kanchighat, the mid way point, you will start the 6km ascent to Pachmarhi, but not before a brief stop for refreshments. There is a beautiful perennial stream at Kanchighat where you can take a dip and admire the local birdlife; look out for red-whiskered bulbul, Indian nuthatch, yellow tit, oriental white-eye, and beautiful damselflies like the stream glory and jewel.

As you begin the gradual ascent to Pachmarhi you will also be able to witness a transformation in the forest as the predominantly teak forest of the lower foothills gives way to dense forests of sal. There are stunning vistas along the way, so take the time to enjoy the walk at a slow and steady pace. You should reach Pachmarhi by 2pm, when you will be met by your driver and transferred to a nearby hotel for lunch.

After lunch and rest, you return to Reni Pani Jungle Lodge for one night (full board).

Day 5: Onward arrangements

A morning wildlife activity or safari is included in the cost of your tour today.

After breakfast and the morning's safari, transfer back to Bhopal airport for your onward travel arrangements, or perhaps travel to nearby Bandhavgarh National Park for further wildlife sightings.



***Note:** This is a sample itinerary, which can be adapted to suit your requirements and level of fitness. Up to 3 nights can be spent camping. A one night program is also offered which involves less walking—ideal for those guests who just want to enjoy the camping experience without the strain of a long walk.*

The Pachmarhi Trail represents a one of a kind opportunity to explore tiger country on foot. Satpura is the only Tiger Reserve in Central India where comfortable mobile camping and trekking in the core area of the reserve is possible.

Price Guide:

Price available on request. Please [contact us](#) for a detailed quotation based on your group size and preferred travel dates.

Includes:

- Return transfers from Bhopal airport to Reni Pani in exclusive chauffeur driven vehicles
- Accommodation and meals as described
- One shared safari and one wildlife activity at Reni Pani
- All currently applicable taxes

Excludes:

- International and domestic flights
- Gratuities
- Travel Insurance – ask us for a quote
- Items of a personal nature