

Tour Report

Nagarhole's Tigers, Wild Dogs & Leopards

16 – 25 February 2025

Leopard



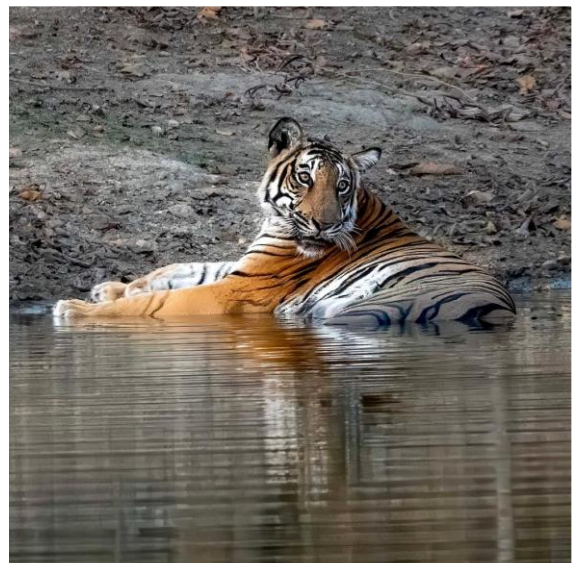
Indian roller



Striped-necked mongoose



Tiger



Compiled by Ashwin HP

We received the group early at the airport, drove to the hotel for breakfast and made our way straight to Kabini River Lodge, where we will stay for a week and do 14 drives in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. We reached the lodge in good time for lunch and were ready for our evening drive.

Monday 17 February 2025

Day 1:

PM: We did our first drive in Zone A, as we entered we saw lots of spotted deer, gaur, and black-footed langur. Later in the evening heard a lot of alarm calls from spotted deer. We moved accordingly and waited just to get a glimpse of a male leopard moving through the bushes. We waited for a while, before heading out back to the lodge.

Tuesday 18 February 2025

Day 2:

AM: This morning we were in Zone B. It was quite misty/ foggy this morning and due to this, we could mostly see and spot langurs, sambar, and spotted deer.

PM: This evening we drove around quite a bit, while doing so, one of our guests spotted a sloth bear walking towards us on the road. It stood for a while before walking into the forest. We saw it for a while before losing it. We saw quite a lot of birds like the green imperial pigeon, yellow-footed green pigeon, and a changeable hawk-eagle. We saw three elephants at a waterhole drinking just before exiting the park.

Wednesday 19 February 2025

Day 3:

AM: This morning was also a little foggy, but was still visible. The first thing we saw this morning was a balle female tigress, sitting on the road as though she was waiting for us. After a few minutes, she got up and walked into the bushes. It was an amazing sighting, quiet and still, so we tried to track her again. During this time we were on the powerline road, where we spotted a Malabar trogon pair. We lost track of the tigress, so we let go and decided to start afresh, which resulted in a leopard sighting. We also saw a Malabar giant squirrel, a golden oriole and other interesting birds.

PM: This evening we saw a herd of elephants having a mud bath at the tiger tank, seeing elephants in water and mud bathing we just spent all the time watching them. Later we received information about a tiger near a waterhole which we again spent a good amount of time on, also on the way back we saw a leopard.

Thursday 20 February 2025

Day 4:

AM: This morning it was extremely foggy, and because of this, sighting anything was quite difficult but we still managed to see spotted deer, sambar deer, langur and wild boar.

PM: This evening we were on the track of the balle tigress when we received word of a leopard on a tree. We quickly reached the spot and found the leopard perched high in a fork of a very large tree. After a while the leopard was not doing much, so we decided to go do our own thing, which resulted in the balle tigress walking on the road. She even made a halfhearted attempt to catch a young fawn of a spotted deer. It was an exciting evening for the group. We also did see an Indian pitta amidst all of this.

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Friday 21 February 2025

Day 5:

AM: Again this morning it was completely foggy with visibility being quite poor, so it was spotted deer, wild boar, sambar and langurs for the morning.

PM: This evening we were trying to track down the magge female, a dominant female who rules the magge area. Where we had heard alarm calls and were waiting, she was trying to avoid all the jeeps and move without being seen. Finally, we did see her drinking in a large waterhole. We just stayed put with her for a long time, after she left the waterhole we moved.

We saw a big tusker grazing not very far from where we had seen the tigress. We also saw a gaur and sambar in the evening.

Saturday 22 February 2025

Day 6:

AM: This morning was quite foggy and was not very clear but we could see things. While driving along our guest spotted a large male tiger in a ditch right next to the road. Later he came onto the road and crossed right in front of our jeep, it was a very exclusive sighting for us. The tiger was Lord Cutlip. Later on, we saw a magge tigress again, and she gave us some very good viewing before disappearing into the bushes. We also saw elephants and gaur for the morning.

PM: This evening, in the first few minutes of our drive, we waited at a water body in hopes that the heat would entice something to come to the water. Waiting here, we heard a lot of alarm calls coming from ahead of us, so went ahead to investigate. Later the langurs also joined to give out alarm calls, which meant there was a predator on the prowl. The calls hinted towards a leopard, so we moved towards a fireline where one could see more than 100 meters into the forest. As the calls moved closer, we saw a big male leopard walk out of the bushes and cross the fireline. We again went back towards the water point hoping he would visit for a drink, but nothing happened. We moved on only to find another female leopard on a tree and we spent the rest of the evening watching her. Other species seen included an elephant.

Sunday 23 February 2025

Day 7:

AM: Today was bright, nice, light and clear. Hearing alarm calls, a few jeeps were waiting for the balle female tigress. We also waited and were rewarded by her sighting where she moved out of the bushes and crossed the road a few times. We had multiple sightings of her this morning. So we left her and tried for more only to see elephants and gaur this morning.

PM: This evening we were on the river, and saw many birds including, Malabar pied hornbills, osprey, grey-headed fish eagle, red-headed vulture and common snipe. We also saw a big tusker on the Bandipur side and sambar, before heading back.

Monday 24 February 2025

Day 8:

AM: This was our last drive in the park and it was bright and clear. We spotted gaur, sambar, langur and lots of birds, before we headed back.

Later after breakfast we checked out of the lodge and reached Bengaluru, to our hotel. The next morning

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the group had their flights to their destinations.

Images by Rosie Smith

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Checklist for Nagarhole's Tigers, Wild Dogs & Leopards



Species Seen
MAMMALS
Tiger
Leopard
Sloth bear
Elephant
Gaur
Sambar deer
Spotted deer
Barking deer
Black-footed langur
Malabar giant squirrel
Bonnet macaque
Ruddy mongoose
Striped-necked mongoose
Five striped palm squirrel
BIRDS
Pond heron
Great egret
Intermediate egret
Little egret
Cattle egret
River tern
Green shank
Wood sandpiper
Common sandpiper
Common snipe
Green sandpiper
Painted stork
Woolly-necked stork
Open billed stork
Grey heron
Black headed ibis
Red naped ibis
Purple swamphen
Indian cormorant
Little cormorant
Great cormorant
Oriental darter
Grey jungle fowl
Grey partridge

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Jungle babbler
Rufous babbler
Yellow billed babbler
Red whiskered bulbul
Red vented bulbul
Magpie robin
White rumped shama
Asian brown flycatcher
Black drongo
Ashy drongo
Racket tailed drongo
Greater flameback
Lesser flame back
White bellied woodpecker
Brown capped pygmy woodpecker
Streak throated woodpecker
Yellow footed green pigeon
Green imperial pigeon
Spotted dove
Blue rock pigeon
Common myna
Jungle myna
Brahminy myna
Chestnut tailed starling
Blyth's starling
Jungle crow
House crow
Golden oriole
Common woodshrike
Malabar pied hornbill
Indian grey hornbill
Crested hawk eagle
Crested serpent eagle
Grey headed fish eagle
Osprey
Greater spotted eagle
Shikra
Malabar trogon
Lesser hill myna
Tickells blue flycatcher
White breasted waterhen
Black shouldered kite
Black kite
Brahminy kite

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