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Tour Report
Nagarhole's Tigers, Wild Dogs & Leopards
16 – 23 March 2026

Tiger



Elephant



Wild dog



Osprey



Compiled by Narendra M.

The guests arrived at Bangalore Airport early in the morning on 16th March 2026, where I received them. After breakfast, we started our journey to Kabini River Lodge, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, Karnataka.

Monday 16 March 2026

Day 1:
Kabini River Lodge
Clear sky

Upon reaching the lodge, the guests were given an orientation about the lodge, the National Park and the safari schedule, and settled in the rooms to get some much-needed rest after the long day to get ready for our first safari in the afternoon.

PM: Our first safari in Nagarahole was in Zone B, which also covers the backwaters of Kabini. As the day was very hot, most of the wildlife was active near the forest streams and backwaters. We spotted several herbivores including chitals, gaur, common langur, Indian giant squirrel, and a herd of elephants on the opposite bank of Kabini.

Tuesday 17 March 2026

Day 2:
Kabini River Lodge
Clear sky

AM: This morning, we were in Zone A. Our focus was on tracking the predators. We did see fresh tiger pugmarks and heard strong alarm calls from langurs; the tiger remained elusive. Most of the time was spent watching birds and herbivores. One of our guests also spotted a tusker in the thickets, which did not come out as expected but it remained hidden while feeding. Crested serpent eagle, changeable hawk eagle, white-bellied woodpecker, and Indian roller were among the highlight birds.

PM: The afternoon safari in Zone B was very quiet due to warm weather in the early hours. But nature did keep some surprises; as the safari was coming to an end, a female leopard and a subadult cub crossed the track in front of the safari jeep and disappeared into the thickets close by.

Wednesday 18 March 2026

Day 3:
Kabini River Lodge
Clear sky

AM: This morning, we decided to track the magge female tiger and her two cubs but were unsuccessful. We did spot many giant squirrels and a pair of striped-necked mongoose, which actively engaged in foraging.

PM: The weather was highly overcast this afternoon. We decided to stay away from the backwaters area to escape the rain and to track the magge female tiger. But nature had other plans; it rained heavily and our hopes of spotting the big cat were fading. To our surprise, a male tiger quickly emerged from the thick lantana bushes and was about to cross the road. On noticing the jeep, it retreated. After waiting patiently for some time, we spotted him crossing the road ahead of us and disappeared into the forest. The herd of chitals and the flock of peafowls present were also clueless about his presence. He was famously known as ''Rana''. We were lucky to spot him once again near a waterhole nearby before the safari ended.

Thursday 19 March 2026

Day 4:
Kabini River Lodge
Overcast weather

AM: The morning was slightly foggy; later, the weather became clear. We spotted a herd of gaur resting very close to the safari road. Other highlights included ruddy mongoose, Indian giant squirrels, woolly-necked stork, brahminy kite, grey-headed fish eagle, oriental honey buzzard, green imperial pigeon and blue-bearded bee eater.

PM: There was no predator movement in the afternoon safari. We did manage to spot most of the general wildlife.

Friday 20 March 2026

Day 5:
Kabini River Lodge
Pleasant and warm

AM: We tracked a female tiger most of the safari; heard multiple strong alarm calls given by the prey species for predators that eluded us on this drive. We did spend a good time with a small family of elephants grazing very close to the road. Bird sightings included orange-headed thrush, Tickell's blue flycatcher, small minivet, various types of drongos, blue-faced Malkoha, etc.

PM: The afternoon safari in Zone A was very lucky for us as we spotted one of the iconic species as part of our tour: a pack of wild dogs (Dhole) which had three adults and four pups. The alpha female gave us a good opportunity to photograph different behaviours. The pack later came out and headed away from us following the trails of prey animals.

Saturday 21 March 2026

Day 6:
Kabini River Lodge
Pleasant and warm

AM: We explored various regions of Zone B in search of the big cats. Following the alarm calls, we spotted another pack of wild dogs, which had two adults and four pups all well fed, emerging from the thickets to quench their thirst at the waterhole where we were waiting. We managed to spot this family one more time. We also had a beautiful sighting of a small family of elephants, blue-tailed bee-eater, blue-faced Malkoha, and streak-throated woodpeckers.

PM: We were in search of the big cats, which have been eluding us for the last two days. The day was too warm which gave us great hopes, as chances of spotting wildlife around water bodies are high. We constantly checked all the water bodies repeatedly. The second half of the safari was filled with a lot of activity. We spotted a tusker which had just taken a mud bath; later, a herd of 12 elephants emerged after bathing from the water hole. The elephants kept us engaged for a long time with their various behaviours. One of the female elephants was seen constantly scratching her body on a tree. Finally, when we reached another water body, we were blessed with a fantastic sight of a female tiger sitting in the water. She was seen swimming in that pool briefly before she came out, marked her scent and started walking alongside our vehicle.

Sunday 22 March 2026

Day 7:
Kabini River Lodge
Pleasant and warm

AM: The forest was quiet after the previous night's rains. We still managed to sight a few elephants, ruddy mongoose, and other general wildlife.

PM: This afternoon we were on the boat safari which is a unique experience where the Kabini River separates two tiger reserves: Bandipur and Nagarahole. We spotted numerous birds including the osprey, grey-headed fish eagle, cormorants, darters, woolly-necked stork, painted stork, and ibises along with a lot of elephants; a total of 22 individuals in different herds, three marsh crocodiles basking. Towards the end of the safari, we also spotted two packs of smooth- coated otters.

Monday 23 March 2026

Day 8:
Kabini River Lodge
Pleasant and warm

AM: This was our last safari of the tour. We had a brief action-packed moment as we saw a pack of seven wild dogs which had three adults and four pups, attempting to bring down a massive male wild boar. The wild boar was not ready to give up and was fighting back. Eventually, the pack had to give up their opportunity as they did not have sufficient strength to bring down the wild boar.

We left Kabini and drove to Taj Yeshwantpur, Bangalore to settle down for the night before taking the flight the next day early in the morning.

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Checklist for Nagarhole's Tigers, Wild Dogs & Leopards

	Common Name	*Scientific Name*	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
	MAMMALS									
1	Indian leopard	*Panthera pardus fusca*		✓						
2	Bengal tiger	*Panthera tigris tigris*			✓			✓		
3	Asiatic wild dogs	*Cuon alpinus*					✓	✓		✓
4	Spotted deer	*Axis axis*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Sambar deer	*Rusa unicolor*	✓		✓	✓			✓	
6	Gaur	*Bos gaurus*	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
7	Asian elephant	*Elephas maximus*	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
8	Wild boar	*Sus scrofa*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	Malabar giant squirrel/Indian giant squirrel	*Ratufa indica*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10	Three striped palm squirrel	*Funambulus palmarum*		✓	✓	✓				
11	Indian grey mongoose	*Herpestes edwardsii*			✓					
12	Ruddy mongoose	*Urva smithii*			✓	✓		✓	✓	
13	Stripe-necked mongoose	*Herpestes vitticollis*			✓		✓	✓		✓
14	Smooth coated otter	*Lutrogale perspicillata*						✓	✓	
15	Northern plains gray langur	Semnopithecus entellus	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Bonnet macaque	*Macaca radiata*	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
17	Fruit Bat							✓		✓
	BIRDS									
1	Grey francolin	*Ortygornis pondicerianus*			✓					
2	Red spurfowl	*Galloperdix spadicea*		✓						
3	Grey jungle fowl	*Gallus sonneratii*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4	Indian peafowl	*Pavo cristatus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Indian spot billed duck	*Anas poecilorhyncha*	✓				✓		✓	
6	Painted stork	*Mycteria leucocephala*					✓		✓	

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7	Asian openbill	*Anastomus oscitans*							✓	
8	Wooly-necked stork	*Ciconia episcopus*	✓			✓			✓	
9	Black-headed ibis	*Threskiornis melanocephalus*							✓	
10	Red-naped ibis	Pseudibis papillosa	✓						✓	
11	Indian pond heron	Ardeola grayii		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Grey heron	*Ardea cinerea*	✓				✓		✓	
13	Cattle egret	*Bubulcus ibis*			✓		✓			
14	Great egret	*Ardea alba*	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
15	Little egret	*Egretta garzetta*	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Darter	*Anhinga melanogaster*	✓				✓		✓	
17	Little cormorant	*Microcarbo niger*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Great cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	✓						✓	
19	Brahminy kite	*Haliastur indus*	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
20	Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	✓			✓			✓	
21	Grey-headed fish eagle	*Haliaeetus ichthyaetus*			✓	✓			✓	
22	Crested honey buzzard/oriental honey buzzard	*Pernis ptilorhynchus*				✓		✓		
23	White-rumped vulture	*Gyps bengalensis*				✓		✓		
24	Red-headed vulture	*Sarcogyps calvus*	✓				✓		✓	
25	Crested serpent eagle	Spilornis cheela	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
26	Shikra	Accipiter badius								✓
27	Greater spotted eagle	*Clanga clanga*					✓		✓	
28	Crested hawk eagle/changeable hawk eagle	*Nisaetus cirrhatus*	✓	✓	✓					
29	White-breasted waterhen	*Amaurornis phoenicurus*		✓	✓					
30	Yellow-wattled lapwing	*Vanellus malabaricus*							✓	
31	Red-wattled lapwing	*Vanellus indicus*	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
32	Comon greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*							✓	
33	Wood sandpiper	*Tringa glareola*	✓				✓			✓
34	River tern	*Sterna aurantia*							✓	
35	Rock dove/rock pigeon	*Columba livia*		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
36	Green imperial pigeon	*Ducula aenea*		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
37	Eurasian collared dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*						✓	✓	
38	Spotted dove	*Spilopelia chinensis*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
39	Yellow-footed green pigeon	*Treron phonyceptaurus*					✓	✓	✓	
40	Rose-ringed parakeet	Psittacula krameri			✓	✓	✓			

41	Plum-headed parakeet	Psittacula cyanocephala			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
42	Malabar parakeet	Psittacula columboides			✓	✓	✓		✓	
43	Jacobin cuckoo/pied cuckoo	Clamator jacobinus			✓					
44	Common hawk cuckoo	Hierococcyx varius		H			✓	✓		
45	Blue-faced malkoha	Phaenicophaeus viridirostris					✓	✓	✓	
46	Southern coucal/greater coucal	Centropus sinensis		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
47	Jungle owlet	Glaucidium radiatum					✓			
48	Brown fish owl	Ketupa zeylonensis			✓					
49	White-rumped spinetail	Zoonavena sylvatica							✓	
50	Crested tree swift	Hemiprocne coronata	✓							
51	Little swift	Apus affinis							✓	
52	Common hoopoe	Upupa epops		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
53	Indian roller	Coracias benghalensis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	White-throated kingfisher	Halcyon smyrnensis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
55	Common kingfisher	Alcedo atthis				✓			✓	
56	Green bee-eater	Merops orientalis				✓		✓		✓
57	Blue-tailed bee-eater	Merops philippinus			✓					
58	Indian grey hornbill	Ocyceros birostris			✓			✓	✓	
59	White-cheeked barbet	Psilopogon viridis				✓			✓	
60	Coppersmith barbet	Psilopogon haemacephalus								✓
61	White-bellied woodpecker	Dryocopus javensis		✓		✓			✓	✓
62	Brown-capped woodpecker	Picoides nanus	✓							
63	Streak-throated woodpecker	Picus xanthopygaeus		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
64	Lesser goldenback/black-rumped flameback	Dinopium benghalense	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
65	Small minivet	Pericrocotus cinnamomeus	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
66	Long-tailed shrike	Lanius schach			✓		✓	✓	✓	
67	Greater racket-tailed drongo	Dicrurus paradiseus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
68	Black drongo	Dicrurus macrocercus	✓		✓					
69	Ashy drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus	✓					✓		
70	White-bellied drongo	Dicrurus caerulescens		✓	✓	✓				
71	Bronze drongo	Dicrurus aeneus		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
72	Black-hooded oriole	Oriolus xanthornus		✓						
73	Asian paradise flycatcher	Terpsiphone paradisi				✓				
74	Rufous treepie	Dendrocitta vagabunda			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

75	Indian jungle crow	Corvus culminatus	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Great tit	Parus major		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
77	Red-rumped swallow	Cecropis daurica				✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	Ashy wood swallow	Artamus fuscus						✓	✓	
79	Red-whiskered bulbul	Pycnonotus jocosus	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
80	Red-vented bulbul	Pycnonotus cafer		✓	✓					
81	Jungle babbler	Turdoides striata	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
82	Indian nuthatch	Sitta castanea				✓		✓		
83	Lesser hill myna	Gracula indica								✓
84	Jungle myna	Acridotheres fuscus	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
85	Common myna	Acridotheres tristis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Brahminy starling	Sturnia pagodarum		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
87	Ornage-headed thrush	Geokichla citrina					✓			
88	Indian blackbird	Turdus simillimus								✓
89	Oriental magpie robin	Copsychus saularis	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
90	Tickell's blue flycatcher	Cyornis tickelliae		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
91	Grey wagtail	Motacilla cinerea			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
92	Forest wagtail	Dendronanthus indicus							✓	
93	White-browed wagtail	Motacilla maderaspatensis				✓		✓	✓	
94	Paddyfield pipit	Anthus rufulus							✓	
95	Black-winged stilt	Himantopus himantopus							✓	
96	Spotted redshank	Tringa erythropus							✓	
97	Little tern	Sternula albifrons							✓	
98	Alexandrine parakeet	Psittacula eupatria				✓				
99	Indian cuckoo	Cuculus micropterus		H				H		H
	AMPHIBIANS									
1	Common toad	*bufo bufo*		✓						
2	Bi colored frog	*Clinotarsus curtipes*			✓					
	BUTTERFLIES									
1	Common crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*		✓						
2	Blue tiger	*Tirumala limniace*		✓						

	REPTILES									
1	Marsh crocodile/ mugger	*Marsh crocodile*	✓	✓			✓		✓	