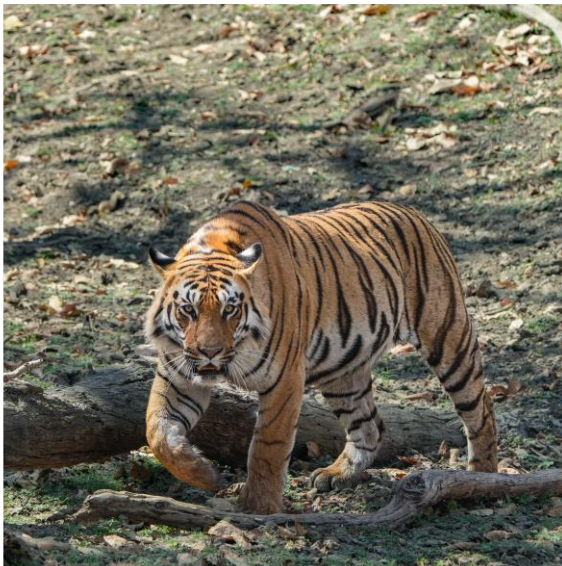


Tour Report

Ultimate Tiger Safari

6 – 16 March 2026

Bengal tiger



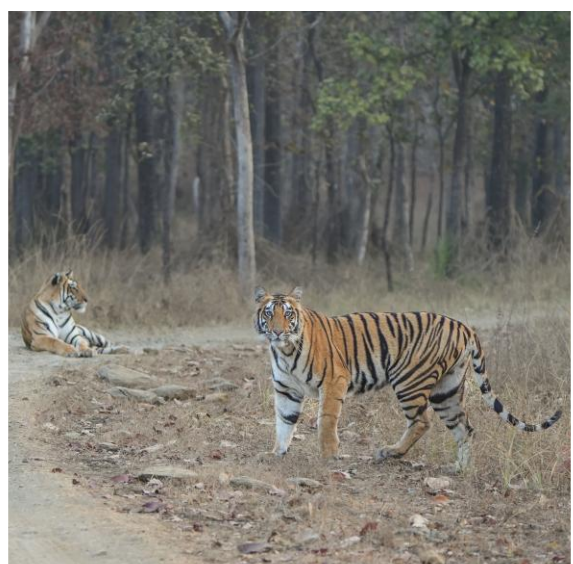
Leopard



Bengal tiger



Bengal tiger



Compiled by Akarsh Suresh

Saturday 7 March 2026

Day 1:

After meeting the group at Nagpur Airport, we travelled to Pench Tiger Reserve following breakfast in Nagpur. Upon arrival at the lodge, we enjoyed lunch before taking a relaxed bird walk around the property. After a long day of travel, the afternoon was kept easy and restful before dinner and overnight stay.

Sunday 8 March 2026

Day 2:

Morning Safari

The morning began with beautiful views of the dry deciduous forest, glowing with the red flowers of flame-of-the-forest trees, evoking scenes straight from *The Jungle Book*. Even before entering the park, we were rewarded with a sighting of a jungle cat.

Shortly after the gates opened, we encountered two dholes moving along the track. Alarm calls in the distance drew our attention towards a waterhole, where we found a large male tiger resting in the shade. The sighting became even more memorable as he later entered the water, swam across the lake, and walked directly towards our vehicles.



Afternoon Safari

The afternoon drive focused on the park's waterholes during the heat of the day. Painted storks and lesser adjutants were active around the wetlands. A sudden sambar alarm call alerted us to a predator nearby and, after carefully scanning the area, we briefly saw a male tiger emerge from the bushes before disappearing once again into the forest.

Monday 9 March 2026

Day 3:

Morning Safari

Being the first vehicle into the park felt promising, and the forest delivered immediately. A large male tiger was found walking calmly along the track before pausing briefly to look towards us and disappearing into the forest.



Later in the morning, news arrived of a leopard feeding on a langur kill in a tree. We soon located the young leopard resting on the branch beside its prey, occasionally feeding before settling down to sleep.

Afternoon Safari

We returned to the area in the afternoon and found the leopard still resting after its heavy meal. Exploring other sections of the park produced excellent birdlife along the riverbanks, including asian openbill, lesser whistling duck, and river tern.

Tuesday 10 March 2026

Day 4:

Morning Safari

Bird activity was excellent throughout the morning. Sightings included lesser flameback, greater racket-tailed drongo, white-throated kingfisher, and common kingfisher.

Suddenly, spotted deer alarm calls erupted nearby. Several vehicles gathered and began scanning the surrounding tracks. Some left after assuming the calls were false alarms, but patience proved worthwhile when a huge male leopard burst from the bushes and crossed directly in front of our jeep before vanishing once more into cover.

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Afternoon Safari

The afternoon produced one of the most extraordinary wildlife moments of the tour. We first encountered a very young langur infant sitting beside its dead mother. Soon afterwards, alarm calls began nearby and the forest fell silent.



A tigress emerged from the bushes and walked directly towards the langur carcass. She picked up the dead langur and disappeared into the forest, while leaving the infant untouched. It was an unforgettable and emotional natural history encounter.

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Wednesday 11 March 2026

Day 5:

Morning Safari

Our final safari in Pench began with discussions about the remarkable sightings from previous days. Soon after entering the park, another male tiger appeared, walking gracefully along a dry riverbed through the soft morning haze.

It was a fitting conclusion to our time in Pench Tiger Reserve, a park that once again delivered unforgettable tiger sightings and exceptional wildlife experiences.

After breakfast, we departed for our next destination, Bori Tiger Reserve.

Thursday 12 March 2026

Day 6:

Morning Safari

Entering the park before sunrise produced an excellent sighting of a small Indian civet crossing the track in the darkness. We explored several water bodies throughout the morning and, although big cats remained elusive, the safari ended with wonderful views of the rarely seen four-horned antelope.

Afternoon Safari

Knowing that a tigress and her three subadult cubs had made a recent kill nearby, we focused our search in that area. Our efforts were rewarded with excellent sightings of all three cubs resting close to the carcass, with one individual approaching very close to the vehicle.

A beautifully camouflaged jungle cat sitting quietly in the grass added to an already memorable safari.

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Friday 13 March 2026

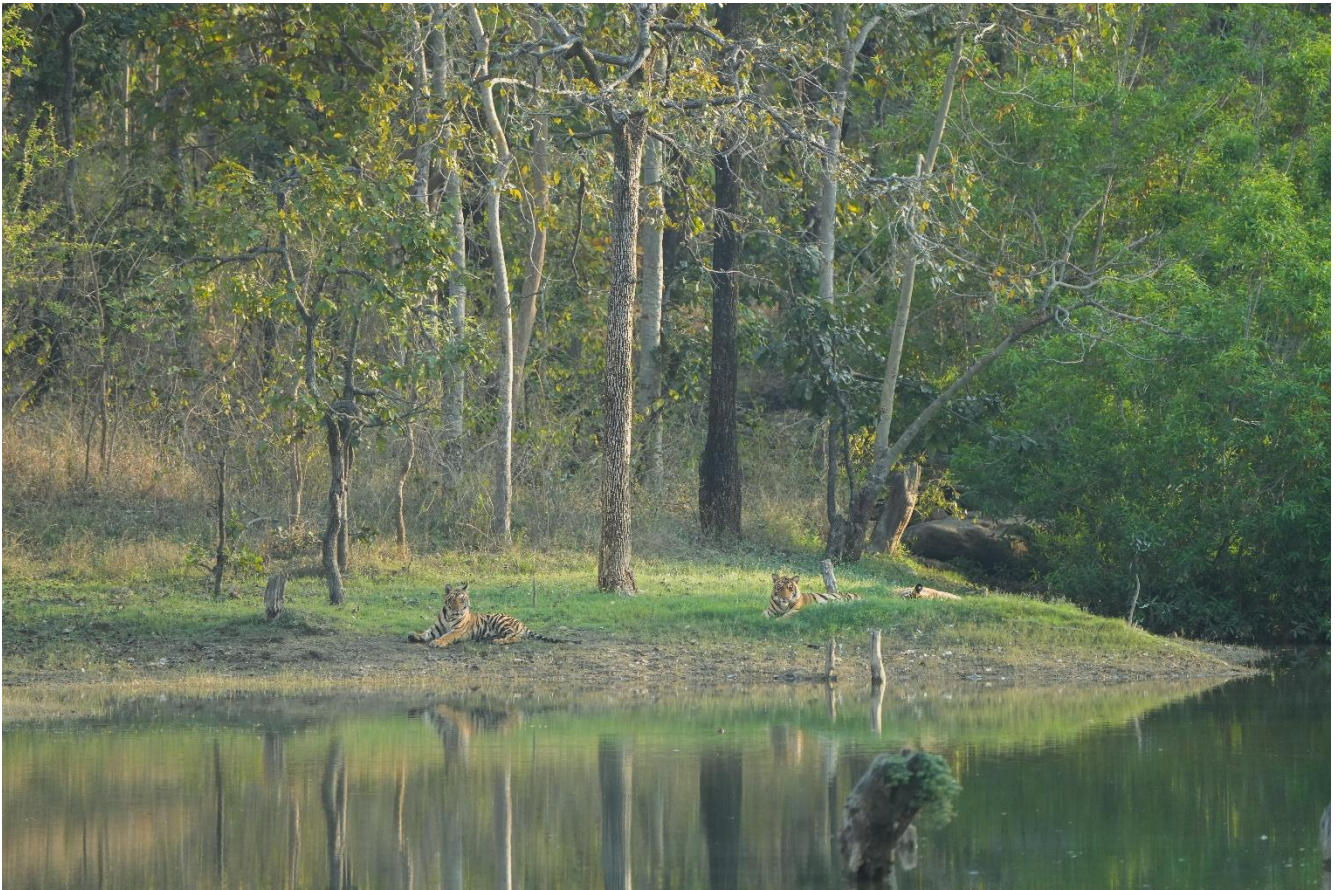
Day 7:

Morning Safari

The forest was quiet during the early morning hours. Activity finally came from above us when two giant squirrels were found feeding on figs and leaping energetically through the canopy. Fresh pugmarks were seen throughout the drive, although no big cats appeared.

Afternoon Safari

Later in the day, we located three tigers resting beside a lake at some distance. We spent considerable time observing them, hoping they would become active, but the warm afternoon temperatures encouraged them to remain comfortably inactive near the water.



Saturday 14 March 2026

Day 8:

Morning Safari

A chilly morning meant blankets and hot water bags were much appreciated as we entered the park. Soon afterwards, three tigers appeared directly on the road, blocking our path completely. They remained there for several minutes before slowly disappearing back into the forest.

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Afternoon Safari

The afternoon was spent searching for leopards and sloth bears, although neither species appeared. We revisited the area where the tigress and cubs had previously been feeding, but they too had moved on. Just as we approached the exit gate in fading light, the forest offered one final surprise — a tiger sitting quietly beside the road only a short distance from the gate.

Sunday 15 March 2026

Day 9:

Morning Safari

Our final safari began with prolonged views of a jungle cat actively hunting through the grasslands. We followed the cat for some time as it moved carefully through the habitat searching for prey.

Other sightings included Eurasian thick-knee before we returned to the lodge to conclude a truly memorable journey through Pench and Bori Tiger Reserves.

Later, we departed for Nagpur to catch our onward flights home.

Images by Akarsh Suresh

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Checklist for Ultimate Tiger Safari

WILDLIFE
WORLDWIDE

TRAVEL
EXPERIENCE
CONSERVE

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
	BIRDS											
1	Lesser whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>			✓	✓						
2	Ruddy shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		✓	✓	✓						
3	Indian peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4	Grey junglefowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Grey francolin	<i>Ortygornis pondicerianus</i>	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		
6	Savanna nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus affinis</i>		✓	✓							
7	Little swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>					✓					
8	Greater coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>		✓					✓			
9	Asian koel	<i>Eudynamys scolopaceus</i>			✓							
10	Common hawk-cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>		✓	✓					✓	✓	
11	Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
12	Eurasian collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓		✓		✓				
13	Spotted dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
14	Yellow-footed green pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>	✓	✓								
15	White-breasted waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>		✓	✓							
16	Indian stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus indicus</i>										✓
17	Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
18	Yellow-wattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>				✓						
19	Red-wattled lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Bronze-winged jacana	<i>Metopidius indicus</i>				✓						
21	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			✓	✓				✓		
22	Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				✓						
23	River tern	<i>Sterna aurantia</i>		✓	✓	✓						
24	Asian openbill	<i>Anastomus oscitans</i>			✓							
25	Lesser adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>		✓				✓	✓			

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26	Asian woolly-necked stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>					✓	✓	✓			
27	Little cormorant	<i>Microcarbo niger</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Great cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			✓	✓	✓					
29	Black-headed ibis	<i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i>	✓			✓		✓	✓			
30	Indian pond heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Eastern cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
32	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
33	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
34	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>				✓						
35	Black-winged kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
36	Red-vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
37	Dusky crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne concolor</i>								✓	✓	
38	Common tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>			✓					✓		
39	Large grey babbler	<i>Argya malcolmi</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
40	Jungle babbler	<i>Argya striata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Bank myna	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>		✓	✓	✓						
42	Common myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
43	Indian pied myna	<i>Gracupica contra</i>			✓	✓						
44	Orange-headed thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>				✓	✓					
45	Oriental magpie-robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
46	Pied bush chat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>			✓	✓	✓					
47	Purple sunbird	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>				✓	✓					
48	White-browed wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
	Mammals											
1	Rhesus macaque	<i>Macaca mulatta</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Bengal sacred langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Indian hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i>					✓	✓				
4	Indian giant squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i>						✓	✓			
5	Indian palm squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Indian flying fox	<i>Pteropus medius</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	
7	Northern red muntjac	<i>Muntiacus vaginalis</i>					✓	✓				
8	Chital	<i>Axis axis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
9	Sambar	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

10	Gaur	<i>Bos gaurus</i>			✓	✓	✓					
11	Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Chowsingha	<i>Tetracerus quadricornis</i>						✓				
13	Eurasian wild pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
14	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>			✓	✓	✓					
15	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Jungle cat	<i>Felis chaus</i>							✓	✓	✓	
17	Ruddy mongoose	<i>Urva smithii</i>			✓	✓	✓					
18	Dhole	<i>Cuon alpinus</i>		✓								
19	Golden jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>		✓	✓	✓						
	Reptiles and amphibians											
1	Oriental garden lizard	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>				✓	✓					