



# India - Lions, Birds, Tigers & More Photography Workshop

Rann of Kutch, Velavader, Gir, Agra, Chambal, Keoladeo (Bharatpur)  
and Bandhavgarh

*Segment 1: February 15 - February 26, 2013*

*Segment 2: February 26 - March 5, 2013*

*Segment 3: March 5 - March 11, 2013*

**India** is the home of the endangered Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*), and has some of the best opportunities for photographing other mammals and migratory birds from as far as Siberia. This trip is geared towards capturing images of Indian wildlife, landscapes, ancient architecture and local village people. The tour is in three parts and you can register for one, two or all three segments.



The **first segment** will take us from Delhi to the Rann of Kutch for wild asses, foxes, and vast salt flats. We then spend time in Velavader for some incredible birds and the black buck. Sasan Gir is

the next stop for lions and other wild life. The Wild Ass, Asiatic Lion and Black Buck are all on the endangered species list. We return to Delhi concluding this segment.



The **second segment** takes us to Agra where we photograph the Taj Mahal by sunset and sunrise.



The trip has been scheduled to coincide with the full moon. We then

drive to Chambal for bird photography and a river safari to capture images of the Gharial, Crocodiles and shore birds including Skimmers, Ibis and European Spoonbills to name a few. Next we drive to Fatehpur Sikri to photograph ancient moslem architecture and then continue to Bharatpur. The Keoladeo sanctuary in Bharatpur boasts over 300 hundred species of migratory birds, owls and water fowl. We will drive back to Delhi concluding the second segment.



Our **third segment** takes us from Delhi to Jabalpur by air and then a drive to Bandhavgarh for tigers, jackals, the Indian Bison, wild boar and many other species of mammals and birds. We return to Jabalpur to fly back to Delhi, concluding this segment.



**Note:** At the end of July 2012, the Indian Supreme Court placed a temporary ban on tourism in any of the tiger reserves. It is expected that the ban will be lifted. If it is not, we will be canceling the third segment.

**Rann of Kutch:** This is the only place in the world where you can see the famous and rare Asiatic Wild Ass (Onager) and birds such as Macqueen's Bustard, Lesser and Greater Flamingos, Small and Oriental Pratincoles, Great White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Montagu's and Pallid Harriers. The Sociable Lapwing is sometimes seen in nearby fields outside the sanctuary.

**Sasan Gir:** Gir National Park is the only place in the world to see Asiatic Lions. The park also boasts a healthy Leopard population, Golden Jackal, Jungle Cats, Wild Boar, Spotted Deer, Striped Hyena, Antelopes and Gazelles to name a few. In addition, avians such as the Collared Scops and Mottled Wood Owls, Painted Sandgrouse, Tawny-bellied Babbler, White-eyed Buzzard, Black Ibis and Small Minivet, Fly Catchers, Flamingoes and the European Spoonbill are abundant.

**Agra** - The Taj Mahal truly is one of the wonders of the world. It is a monument of love built by the Mughal Emperor Shahjehan in 1630 for his Queen Mumtaz Mahal to enshrine her mortal remains. For twenty two years 20,000 men labored day and night to build this masterpiece which has held the world in awe ever since.

**Chambal** The National Chambal Sanctuary is home to an impressive bird list of over 330 species of resident and migratory birds and is gaining a reputation as one of the most reliable places to see the Indian Skimmer.

Apart from the birds, Chambal boasts about 1200 Gharials & 300 Marsh Crocodiles, Turtles and Smooth Coated Otters. The river safari is a unique experience, unlike anything on the Indian wildlife circuit. The boat ride on the calm clean waters of the Chambal River combined with the dramatic landscape and close-up views of the amazing abundance of wildlife are the highlights of the river safari.

**Keoladeo** National Park or Keoladeo Ghana National Park formerly known as the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary. This sanctuary has over 300 species of birds. The sanctuary is 11 sq. miles and is comprised of marshes scrubland and grassland ideal for migratory birds. Painted Storks, Owls, Eagles and other raptors, White Spoonbills, Egrets, Purple Herons, Bee Eaters, and Kingfishers, are just a few of a very long list.

**Bandhavgarh** has the highest density of tigers among all the national parks and sanctuaries in India. Photography from 4WD jeeps and elephant back will allow for spectacular opportunities for photographing this truly magnificent and awe inspiring feline. In addition, Bandhavgarh boasts the Gaur (Indian bison), Sloth Bear, Leopard, Porcupine, Wild Boar, Sambhar and Spotted Deer (Cheetal) and a large variety of raptors and other birds.





## *OBJECTIVES*

This is primarily a wildlife photography trip, focused on capturing great images of Indian wildlife, especially the lions. To provide a well rounded experience of the region, we have included opportunities for cultural and architectural photography. We will depart early in the morning for our photo safaris and return only after it has got too hot and the animals have retreated into the shade. The early start means that we may often leave after a very light breakfast (tea or coffee, some fruit and cereal). We will ensure a supply of sandwiches and snacks in the vehicles.

We have selected parks which offer the best game viewing opportunities. Our itinerary is also structured to maximize your chances of wildlife photography in the early morning and late afternoon. After our morning drives we will have lunch, download our images and have open session discussions and reviews. After our evening drives we will have dinner and meet for downloads, reviews and instructional sessions.

We will also spend the time seeking out some of the lesser known, but no less interesting, species that are found in these parks: chital, sambar, gaur, hyenas, buffalo, jackals, various species of monkey and more, as well as an amazing variety of birdlife.

## *RECOMMENDED GEAR*

For mammals, a fast lens 300mm is recommended - 400mm would be ideal. Zoom lenses like a 100 - 400 or 200-400 are ideal. A 500mm prime is an excellent choice for smaller creatures. Do bring a macro lens if you have one, however, this is not essential.

For Bandhavgarh a tripod is not necessary as most of the photography will be from jeeps or elephant-back. Beanbags will be provided and are a better alternative. Tripods and gimbal heads are recommended for Keoladeo.

## *WORKSHOP SESSIONS*

During some of our down time, the program will include some classroom sessions devoted to teaching exposure theory, composition and field techniques on how to photograph wildlife and birds including birds in flight.

You will gain a better understanding of both the technical side of wildlife photography, and most importantly the subject.

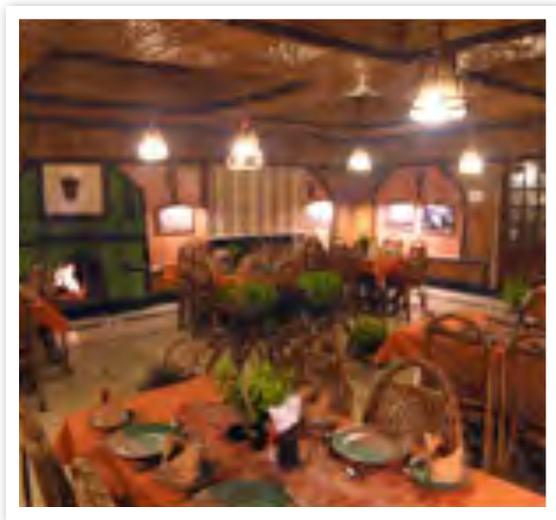
In the field you will be provided instruction based upon your needs. We will cover:

- Light Quality and Quantity
- Temperature
- Direction, side and backlighting
- Exposure
- Metering for the best exposure

How to obtain tack sharp images:

- Focus Modes - Auto and Manual
- Flight shot Techniques – hand held and using a tripod with an appropriate lens mount
- Panning technique
- Perspective
- Subject isolation





### *Clothing*

February temperatures in the parks range from a low of 36 to a high of 80 degrees Fahrenheit. During the months of February through early March, morning drives into the parks are cold and layered clothing is suggested. A warm winter parka, hat and photographers gloves are ideal. The days however are extremely pleasant and a light sweatshirt can more than suffice. Evenings and nights get chilly once again.

### *Accommodation & Travel*

Our photo tours and workshops (unless otherwise stated) include all accommodations in comfortable hotels and lodges, meals, wildlife, scenic, architectural and cultural photo opportunities as listed and all local transfers. Note on hotels: We have chosen comfortable, upper-end hotels offering good food, well-appointed rooms and a relaxed, personalized ambience. The selected hotels have a track record of supporting local environmental standards and awareness.



### *Registration*

Registration is limited to a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 10 photographers.

The trip fees are as follows:

Segment 1: \$ 4,850 (Single supplement \$ 650)

Segment 2: \$ 1,690 (Single supplement \$ 285)

Segment 3 \$ 2,150 (Single supplement \$ 375)



Fees include accommodation, experienced local guides, park entrance fees, camera fees, all transportation within India including flights, luxury coach travel and all safari transportation. This includes the jeeps for wildlife photography and rickshaws within the park in Bharatpur. Jeeps will be limited to no more than two photographers per vehicle and where applicable, will include the services of an experienced and registered tracker/guide. All other locations will be traveled to and from by luxury coach or by air.

## *Itinerary*

February 15	<b>SEGMENT 1:</b> Arrive Delhi (Night in Delhi)
February 16	Breakfast then fly to Ahmedabad and after lunch drive to Dasada - Rann of Kutch - PM Safari* (B, L, D)
February 17	Safari for wild asses with a packed breakfast. Return for lunch. Evening safari for wild asses by sunset (B, L, D)
February 18	Bird photography at sunrise. Packed breakfast. Return for lunch. PM safari in the 'bets'(B, L, D)
February 19	Am safari in the 'bets' with packed breakfast. Return for lunch. PM safari for bird photography (B, L, D)
February 20	AM safari then breakfast and depart for Velavader. Lunch in Velavader and then evening safari for Black Buck (B, L, D)
February 21	AM and PM Safaris in Velavader. (B, L, D)
February 22	Early morning, Black Buck Safari . After breakfast drive to Sasan Gir. Check in to the lodge have lunch. PM Safari in Gir National Park* (B, L, D)
February 23	AM and PM safaris in the Gir National Park (B, L, D)
February 24	AM and PM safaris in the Gir National Park (B, L, D)
February 25	AM and PM safaris in the Gir National Park (B, L, D)
February 26	AM Safari and after breakfast drive to Diu or Rajkot, Lunch en route and fly to Mumbai with a connecting flight to Delhi. Overnight in Delhi. Participants who are doing only this first segment will have the next day to explore Delhi on their own and catch a retuning flight in the evening. Transport to the airport will be provided.
February 27	<b>SEGMENT 2:</b> Late morning drive to Agra and photograph the Taj Mahal at sunset and Full Moon. Monument fees are included for the sunset photo opportunity. Images of the Taj at moonrise (6:58 PM) will be taken from a suitable location outside the boundary. (B, L, D)
February 28	Photograph the Taj Mahal at sunrise from across the river. Breakfast then check out. Drive to Chambal. Check-in at Chambal Safari lodge - Afternoon/Evening photo walk in and around the lodge (B, L, D)
March 1	Morning and Evening Safari in Chambal. The AM safari will be a boat safari on the river Chambal. (B, L, D)

March 2	Morning Safari in Chambal. Check out after Lunch and drive to Bharatpur via Fatehpur Sikri. Monument fees are included. (B, L, D)
March 3	Morning and evening photo safaris (B, L, D)
March 4	Morning and evening photo safaris (B, L, D)
March 5	Morning safari then drive to Delhi - spend the night in Delhi. Depart Delhi - returning home for those doing Segments 1 & 2 or only Segment 2 - Transport to the airport will be provided. (B, L)
March 6	<b>SEGMENT 3:</b> Fly to Jabalpur and drive to Bandhavgarh. Afternoon photo safari* (B, L, D)
March 7	Morning safari and afternoon visit to the village (B, L, D)
March 8	Morning afternoon safaris (B, L, D)
March 9	Morning afternoon safaris (B, L, D)
March 10	Morning afternoon safaris (B, L, D)
March 11	Morning drive to Jabalpur and Fly to Delhi - free day in Delhi There will be some time to explore Delhi on their own and catch a returning flight in the evening. Transport to the airport will be provided. (B and Farewell Dinner) - Return flights home.

\* Safaris on the days of arrival at the various locations will be on a time permitting basis.

Participants departing Delhi after Segment 1 or 2 will be provided a place for safekeeping of their luggage and a place to freshen up and relax.

## *Information*

Contact us at 617.759.0010 or email [s.verma@me.com](mailto:s.verma@me.com)

Additional details, enrollment forms, and release forms are available at:

<http://www.shivverma.com/workshops/>