

Private Bespoke Expeditions

FROM 6 NIGHTS · PERSONALLY LED



Chetan Kumar · Wildlife Photographer & Expedition Leader

THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

Time in the field. A personal way of seeing.

From six nights, for one to five paying photographers plus Chetan. Choose the length, forests and photographic priorities; the route is designed around the time you have, rather than fitting every park into every trip.

The route

Your choice of Bandipur, Kabini / Nagarahole and Bhadra

Small by design

Maximum five paying photographers, plus Chetan. Your photographic interests and experience shape the guidance. No particular vehicle allocation or exclusive park access is implied.

Why this journey

The seven-day journey below illustrates a six-night Bandipur and Kabini route. It is a starting point, not a fixed departure or an included promise. A longer journey can add time in either forest or a considered Bhadra chapter.

An illustrative itinerary

The seven-day route that follows is a six-night Bandipur and Kabini example, not a fixed departure. Your private itinerary can be longer and include other combinations. The final personal proposal defines each day.

FOREST JOURNEY · DAYS 1-3

Bandipur

Dry woodland, grassy openings and denser forest give Bandipur a changing visual rhythm. A broad elephant portrait and a small detail in the undergrowth can belong to the same morning. The reserve forms part of the connected southern landscape that large mammals depend on.

**DAY 01**

Arrive and find your rhythm

Meet at the agreed arrival point, travel to the first forest and settle in. Prepare equipment and discuss photographic priorities. A first wildlife session depends on arrival and the confirmed programme.

DAY 02

First forest · observe

Morning and afternoon scheduled wildlife sessions. Work on light, composition and the behaviour actually encountered. Leave time between outings for rest and conversation.

DAY 03

First forest · return with intent

Return to the landscape with ideas from the previous day. Selected image review helps shape the next session.

Bandipur · a study in gesture and texture
Photograph © Chetan Kumar

FOREST JOURNEY · DAYS 4-5

Kabini / Nagarahole

Kabini opens into the Nagarahole landscape, where wooded habitat and water create very different ways to frame wildlife. Its connection with neighbouring forests matters as much as a single sighting: this is habitat used by both large herbivores and predators.

**DAY 04**

A second forest, if your route includes one

A final session may fit before transferring to the next base. The route, travel time and any afternoon outing are agreed in the personal itinerary.

DAY 05

Second forest · explore its character

Scheduled field sessions introduce a different habitat and visual rhythm. Guidance follows your interests, equipment and experience.

Kabini · the drinking tiger encounter
Photograph © Chetan Kumar

FOREST JOURNEY · DAYS 6-7

Kabini / Nagarahole / continued

In Chetan's drinking-tiger encounter, previous-day movement informed the search; the photograph came after finding the tiger and repositioning the vehicle onto a bridge. The story shows how observation and a considered viewpoint can change a frame without claiming certainty about what comes next.



DAY 06

Make room for your own story

A further day gives time to develop photographic ideas, review the sequence of images and prepare for a final outing.

DAY 07

A final morning and departure

A last scheduled session, breakfast and departure according to the agreed plan. Any post-trip support is specified in the personal proposal.

Kabini · the drinking tiger encounter
Photograph © Chetan Kumar

PHOTOGRAPHY WITH CHETAN

Before the shutter. Beyond the sighting.

A photograph can begin before the animal enters the frame. Notice the light, the space and what is changing around you; use those observations when an opportunity arrives.



Chetan Kumar

**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER
& EXPEDITION LEADER**

Over a decade in photography, beginning with landscape and street work, and more than three years focused on wildlife. Chetan personally leads each journey, connecting observation with practical decisions about light, settings and composition.

Selected image reviews and post-processing discussions help guests develop the photographs afterwards. The field programme always follows the actual encounter and forest rules.

In Kabini, information about a tiger's previous-day movement informed a search. Finding the animal drinking and moving to a bridge produced the direct portrait. The encounter is a reminder that observation and viewpoint can matter as much as the moment itself.

STAYING CLOSE TO THE JOURNEY

Rest. Review. Return.

Time between outings is part of the experience: meals, a pause from the field and room to look at the photographs already made.

Bandipur

Bandipur Safari Lodge · proposed Viceroy cottage. These are proposed bases and categories, subject to availability. The written offer confirms the actual allocation.

Kabini / Nagarahole

Kabini River Lodge · proposed Maharaja cottage. These are proposed bases and categories, subject to availability. The written offer confirms the actual allocation.

Rooming and meals

International flagship circuits include single occupancy and lodge package meals. Standard stays offer the quoted twin-sharing or single room basis. Bespoke journeys confirm rooming and meals individually. No specific view, room number or additional amenities are promised.

Private bespoke note: the named bases relate to the illustrative route. Other requested combinations and preferences are priced separately in your personalised offer.

YOUR ARRANGEMENTS

What is part of the journey.

Included

- Personally led private journey with Chetan Kumar
- Field photography guidance and selected image reviews
- Accommodation, occupancy, meals, safari formats, ground transfers and camera fees itemised in the personalised proposal

Excluded

- Flights, visas, travel or medical insurance, personal equipment and personal expenses unless expressly included
- Any extra activity, service or night outside the agreed personal programme

The written offer confirms the final price and tax breakdown. No provisional international expedition price is published. Indian Standard prices are shown on the website only after the required trip details.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

A little preparation. More room for the forest.

Plan the arrival with Chetan

Agree the Bengaluru meeting and departure arrangements before booking flights. Arrival times, road conditions and park schedules affect transfer-day outings. Extra city nights and services outside the agreed programme must be quoted separately.

Come ready for the field

Bring your camera, suitable lenses, spare batteries and memory cards, a rain and dust cover, comfortable neutral-coloured clothing and any personal medicines. A laptop is useful for image review, but your equipment and experience can be discussed before travel.

Share the needs that affect your journey

Tell Chetan about mobility, dietary or other practical requirements before confirmation. Vehicle access, steps, walking surfaces and lodge facilities vary. Specific accessibility arrangements must be confirmed individually; avoid sending medical records through the enquiry form.

Respect the encounter

Follow forest staff and guide instructions, remain in permitted areas, keep noise low and give animals space. Do not bait, feed, crowd or disturb wildlife. Photography never takes priority over safety or an animal's natural behaviour.

Travel documents and protection

Carry the identification required by your confirmed booking. International guests arrange their own passport, visa, flights and suitable travel or medical insurance. Discuss camera-equipment cover with your insurer. Do not upload identity documents to this website.

BOOKING & PAYMENT SUMMARY

A place, personally confirmed.

Begin with a personal proposal

Share your preferred journey, dates, rooming and photographic interests. Review the written price, inclusions, exclusions and complete terms before deciding. This website currently accepts enquiries only; no payment is collected and no place is automatically reserved.

10% initial reservation payment

Once payment collection is launched, the intended first payment is 10% of the agreed expedition value. CK Safaris then checks and seeks to hold the required arrangements. This initial payment alone does not confirm the expedition.

Written hold confirmation, then 48 hours

When CK Safaris sends written confirmation that the booking hold is secured, you have 48 hours to bring total payment received to at least 75% of the expedition value. The initial 10% counts towards that total; the usual additional amount is 65%. The written notice will state the deadline and time zone.

If the payment deadline is missed

The hold lapses or is cancelled if total payment received has not reached at least 75% within that 48-hour window. The cancellation charge is 50% of the initial booking payment. For an initial payment of exactly 10%, that charge equals 5% of the expedition value.

If the requested booking cannot be confirmed

CK Safaris will offer appropriate alternative dates or a full refund of the initial reservation payment. A date change requires your agreement.

Before any payment is requested

The final balance due date, cancellation rules after confirmation and refund processing arrangements are still being finalised. Complete terms will be supplied for your acceptance before payments open. No final balance deadline has yet been set.

CANCELLATION & REFUND SUMMARY

Clarity before commitment.

A booking that cannot be secured

If CK Safaris cannot confirm the requested booking after the initial reservation payment, you may choose appropriate alternative dates or a full refund of that payment.

A confirmed hold that expires

If the 48-hour deadline is missed, the hold lapses or is cancelled and 50% of the initial booking payment is retained as the cancellation charge. This is not 50% of the expedition value.

Terms still to be completed

Guest cancellation before hold confirmation, cancellation after the 75% stage, date changes, no-shows, interrupted trips and operator cancellation need a final written schedule. Treatment of any part-payments beyond the initial reservation payment also needs to be defined. Refund timing, method and any payment-processing or currency charges are not yet set.

Request a change in writing

For an existing enquiry, use the same conversation with Chetan and identify your proposed journey and dates. Ask for written acknowledgement. No online cancellation or refund is processed on this site.

No payment while terms are incomplete

The current site is for planning and enquiries. CK Safaris will provide the complete cancellation and refund terms before inviting a reservation payment.

THE WILD REMAINS WILD

Come with curiosity. Leave room for surprise.

Wildlife is wild. Sightings, particular animals or species, and photographic opportunities cannot be guaranteed. Activities, safari formats, timings and routes may change because of weather, forest conditions, regulations and operational circumstances.

An enquiry, not a reservation

Payments are not active on the website. Explore the complete itinerary, send your preferred dates and review a personal proposal. Final booking and cancellation terms must be agreed before any payment is requested.

Begin the conversation

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[Explore the journey online >](#)
[Read full guest information >](#)

CK SAFARIS · OCTOBER 2026

Photography © Chetan Kumar. All photographs are from the supplied archive.

Proposed programme; complete departure arrangements are confirmed in writing.