The Wild South

8 NIGHTS / 9 DAYS · INDIAN EDITION

Chetan Kumar · Wildlife Photographer & Expedition Leader

THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

Time in the field.
A personal way of seeing.

Nine days across Bandipur, Kabini and Bhadra. The flagship journey balances big-cat country with reservoir light, birdlife and Western Ghats habitat, giving photographers a broader body of work.

The route

Bandipur 3 nights · Kabini 3 nights · Bhadra 2 nights

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 route builds from predator habitat into a different visual rhythm at Bhadra. Repeated sessions in Bandipur and Kabini create depth; forest and water bring a wider range of subjects to the final chapter.

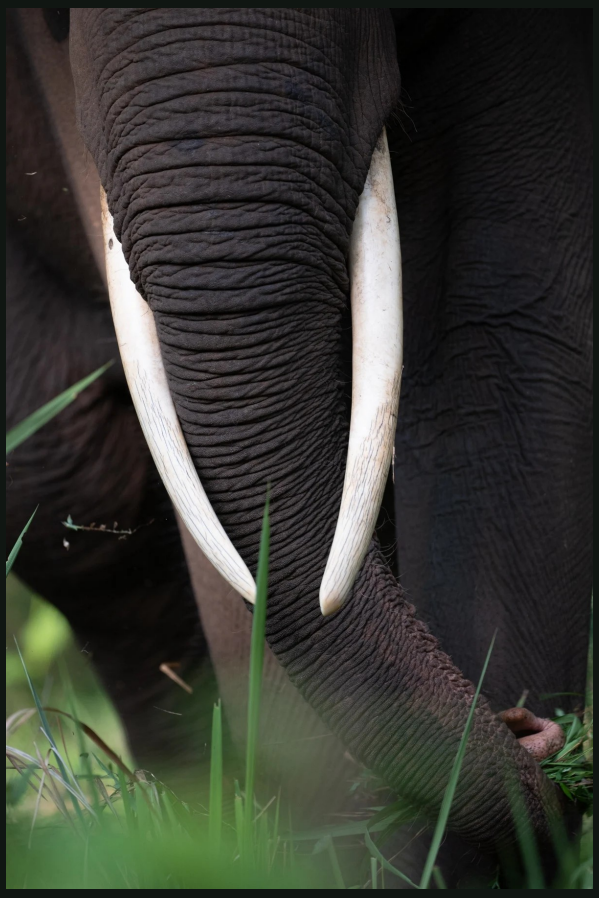
Read freely, decide in your own time

This brochure is a proposed itinerary. Availability, the final price and complete booking terms are confirmed personally. No email or payment is required to explore the journey.

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 in Bandipur

Arrive at the lodge at the agreed time. Travel to Bandipur is arranged separately, or quoted on request. Settle in, prepare equipment and meet Chetan for a field briefing before the first scheduled wildlife session, subject to arrival and operations.

DAY 02

Bandipur · Tracking and light

Morning and afternoon field sessions focused on tracking cues, behaviour, composition and responding to changing light and subject distance.

DAY 03

Bandipur · Revisit and refine

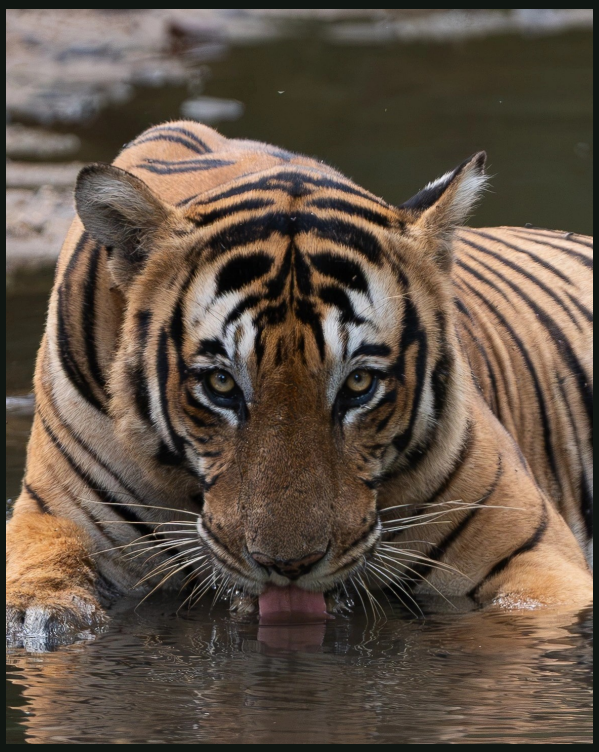
A second complete day in Bandipur allows photographic ideas to develop across repeated sessions. Rest and selected image review fit between drives.

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

FOREST JOURNEY · DAYS 4-6

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.



Kabini · the drinking tiger encounter
Photograph © Chetan Kumar

DAY 04

Bandipur to Kabini

A final Bandipur session, subject to the programme, then transfer to Kabini. Begin the Nagarahole chapter after check-in, with the afternoon session dependent on arrival and lodge scheduling.

DAY 05

Kabini · Environmental stories

Morning and afternoon sessions explore predator habitat, elephants, gaur, dhole and wider compositions. Review images at midday if time permits.

DAY 06

Kabini · Time in the field

Another full day gives the group time to respond to developing wildlife activity. Chetan guides settings, anticipation and framing throughout both scheduled sessions.

FOREST JOURNEY · DAYS 7-9

Bhadra

Western Ghats forest and the Bhadra reservoir invite a shift of attention. A wooded shore, a bird in motion or the spacing of light across water can become the centre of the photograph. The landscape rewards an interest that extends beyond big cats.

Bhadra · the leopard’s look back
Photograph © Chetan Kumar

DAY 07

Kabini to Bhadra

A morning session subject to the transfer schedule, breakfast and the journey to Bhadra. Settle beside the reservoir; any afternoon wildlife experience depends on arrival time and the lodge programme.

DAY 08

Bhadra · Forest and water

Scheduled wildlife experiences may combine jeep and boat sessions according to lodge operations. Photograph birdlife, mammals, reservoir light and Western Ghats scenery, followed by a final image-review conversation.

DAY 09

Final session and departure

A final scheduled wildlife session, subject to operations, followed by breakfast and checkout. Finish with image-selection guidance. Onward travel from the final forest is arranged separately; a Bengaluru transfer can be quoted on request.

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.

Bhadra

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

Rooming and meals

Indian flagship circuits include a private room by default and lodge package meals. Optional twin sharing offers a saving; room pairing is confirmed personally. No specific view, room number or additional amenities are promised.

YOUR ARRANGEMENTS

What is part of the journey.

Included

- Private-room accommodation throughout the circuit
- Meals supplied within the selected lodge packages
- Scheduled lodge wildlife experiences and forest entry charges
- Applicable camera and long-lens fees for scheduled wildlife sessions
- Ground transfers between the listed forests
- Personally led tracking, behaviour interpretation and wildlife photography guidance by Chetan Kumar
- Selected image-review and post-processing sessions

YOUR ARRANGEMENTS

What is separate.

Excluded

- International and domestic flights
- Indian visa and travel or medical insurance
- Personal camera equipment and equipment insurance
- Alcohol, laundry, tips and personal expenses
- Additional activities, safaris or transfers outside the agreed expedition programme
- Travel to the first forest and from the last forest; Bengaluru airport transfers quoted separately

₹2,55,000 per person with a private room, based on five photographers plus Chetan. Prefer to share and save? Optional twin sharing: ₹2,25,000 per person. Room pairing, departure availability and smaller departures require confirmation in your personal quote.

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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Instagram: @trchetankumar

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.