

# NORTHERN INDIA

**March 15 - 27, 2023**

**13 Days / 12 nights**

**\$3495**

**Single supplement \$590**



## **Day 00 or 0, March 13 or March 14 DEPART THE UNITED STATES**

Depending on the flights you schedule, you will need to leave the US one or two days prior to Day 1 of the tour in order to arrive in New Delhi on March 15 or 16. You might want to arrive a day early.

## **Day 1, March 15 ARRIVE DELHI**

Upon arrival in Delhi, a driver will meet and assist you at the airport and then transfer you to your hotel. The rest of the day free at leisure until meeting for our intro dinner.

**O/N Ashok Country Resort (Dinner)**

## **Day 2, March 16 MORNING BIRDING TOUR IN SULTANPUR BIRD SANCTUARY, DRIVE TO BHARATPUR**

After an early breakfast, we will drive about 50 km to Sultanpur for a morning of birding. Sultanpur National Park is a bird paradise for bird watchers, famous for both migratory and resident birds. Migratory species reach here after covering incredible distances from Europe, Siberia and Central Asia. Migratory birds start arriving in the park in September and use the park as a resting place until the following March-April. A total of around 250 bird species have been reported in the park. We will proceed to Bharatpur after lunch in order to stage for the next morning's birding, arriving in time for dinner. (210 km, 4 hrs)

**O/N Hotel Sunbird (BLD)**

## **Day 3, March 17 BHARATPUR**

Having arrived the night before, we will have a full day to spend at Keoladeo National Park or Keoladeo Ghana National Park, formerly known as the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, in Rajasthan. This park, declared a protected sanctuary in 1971, is a famous avifauna sanctuary and World Heritage Site where thousands of

rare and highly endangered birds such as the Siberian Crane come during the winter season. Over 230 species of birds are known to have made the National Park their home. It is also a major tourist center with scores of ornithologists arriving here in the hibernal season.

**O/N Hotel Sunbird (BLD)**

**Day 4, March 18 BHARATPUR**

We will enjoy a second full day birding in Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary.

**O/N Hotel Sunbird (BLD)**

**Day 5, March 19 BHARATPUR – CHAMBAL (125 KMS/03 HRS)**

We will enjoy a last morning of birding at Bharatpur, emphasizing species we might have missed at this point. After lunch, we will drive to Chambal (125 km, 3 hours) where we will check in to the hotel upon arrival. Once we are settled into our rooms, we will enjoy a bit of birding on the grounds before enjoying dinner at the hotel.

**O/N Chambal Wildlife Safari Lodge (BLD)**

**Day 6, March 20 CHAMBAL**

This morning we will enjoy a Jeep Safari of the Sarus Trail. The Sarus Crane Conservation Reserve starts around 30 km from the Chambal Safari Lodge, extending to about 100 km. It is a widespread wetland area, interspersed by cultivated fields, where large numbers of Sarus Cranes breed. Although not a protected area, since 1999 the Supreme Court of India, recognizing its importance as a habitat, has designated the area a reserve with restrictions on development. Several species of wetland birds and raptors are also found along the course of this safari.



*Gharials*

In the afternoon we will take a different type of Safari, using boats to explore the Chambal River. Set against a stunning backdrop, framed by the ravines and sandbanks, the calm waters of the Chambal River are best explored on boats. The gentle pace of the River Safari is designed to provide spectacular sightings of the gharials, muggers & turtles basking in the sun, many migratory and resident birds flying sorties, and with some luck we might enjoy glimpses of the Gangetic river dolphins breaking surface.

**O/N Chambal Wildlife Safari Lodge (BLD)**

**Day 7, March 21 CHAMBAL**

This morning we will take a second open-jeep safari, this time to The Blackbuck. The Blackbuck jeep safari heads southwest towards the countryside between the Chambal and Yamuna ravines, where we can expect excellent sightings of Blackbuck deer and numerous dry land birds, including the Indian Courser. It is also a fascinating journey through remote hamlets and habitations, a world that is strangely as connected as it appears removed from modern India. In the afternoon, we will drive to Agra to stage for our tour of the Taj Mahal.

**O/N Hotel Atulyaa Taj (BLD)**

**Day 8, March 22 AGRA – RANTHAMBORE (270 KMS/06 HRS)**

We will take advantage of smaller crowds by timing our visit to the Taj Mahal early in the morning, before breakfast, which is also the perfect time to take some stunning photos in the early morning light. We will return to our hotel for breakfast and then pack up for the drive to Ranthambore National Park, one of the largest national parks in northern India. Surrounded by the Vindhyas and Aravalis Hill Ranges, it is situated 14 kilometers from Sawai Madhopur district and about 180 kilometers from Jaipur of southeastern Rajasthan. Ranthambore is considered one of the best places to view the powerful and majestic predator, the Indian Tiger, in the wild. The Ranthambore Tiger Reserve spreads over approximately 1400 sq. km. including both the core and buffer areas. Upon arrival, we will check in at our hotel and then enjoy dinner at the hotel.

**O/N Rathambore Regency (BLD)**

**Day 9, March 23 RANTHAMBORE**

Today we will enjoy two jeep safaris, one in the morning and another in the afternoon, increasing our chances for some great sightings of tigers and other wildlife.

**O/N Rathambore Regency (BLD)**

**Day 10, March 24 RANTHAMBORE**

We will have another morning in jeeps to maximize our chances of exceptional tiger sightings. In the afternoon, we will bird nearby Surwal Lake.

**O/N Rathambore Regency (BLD)**

**Day 11, March 25 RANTHAMBORE**

We will enjoy one more day at Ranthambore. Our activity for the day will depend on how successful our tiger sightings have been, and could include another jeep safari, either morning or afternoon, and we will make an effort to “sweep up” any bird species we might have missed in the area.

**O/N Rathambore Regency (BLD)**

**Day 12, March 26 TRAIN TO DELHI**

Early this morning, we will transfer to Sawai Madhopur Railway Station to board our day train to Delhi at 7:05 AM. When we arrive in Delhi at 12:30 PM, we will be met by a driver who will transfer us to our hotel, where we will have lunch and a relaxing afternoon. We will enjoy a farewell dinner at the Ashok Country Resort.

**O/N Hotel Ibis (BLD)**

**Day 13, March 27 DEPART DELHI**

Final departure transfer to airport to board your flight for onward journey, either to Bhutan to begin our 12-day tour there, or international flights home.

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### Price Includes:

- Accommodation on full board basis
- Bottled water throughout the tour (2 bottles per day per guest)
- Meeting and assistance
- Arrival/departure transfers
- Sightseeing tour of Taj Mahal in Agra with local English-speaking guide and entrance fee
- Private AC mini Coach with driver throughout
- Four private Jeep Safaris in Ranthambore
- Two Jeep safaris and River safari in Chambal.
- Train fare for Sawaimadhopur (Ranthambore) / Delhi.
- Services of bilingual birding guide
- All applicable taxes
- Wifi and hand sanitizer in vehicle
- Services of 2 **Cheepers!** Tour leaders (Jim and Cindy Beckman)
- Pre-trip gift package including customized checklist
- Post-trip electronic final checklist and photo collection
- Gratuities for miscellaneous services such as drivers, boatmen, etc.

### Price Excludes:

- International airfare to Delhi
- Travel and medical insurance (highly recommended)
- Personal expenses such as tips, laundry, telephone, beverages other than water, camera fees, etc.
- Gratuities for birding guides, drivers, and staff at hotels and lodges (all tips are optional)

### Supplemental price for extra transfers and extra night hotel for people who want to arrive early

Transfer USD \$25 per car per transfer

Hotel USD \$90 per room per night (single and double occupancy same price) with breakfast

### Train No. & Schedule:

Sawaimadhopur / Delhi : 12059 NZM JAN SHATABDI : 0705 HRS/1230 HRS

### HOTELS USED

DELHI	HOTEL IBIS
BHARATPUR	HOTEL SUNBIRD
CHAMBAL	CHAMBAL WILDLIFE SAFARI LODGE
AGRA	HOTEL ATULYAA TAJ
RANTHAMBORE	RANTHAMBOR REGENCY

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

Deposit of \$600 required with registration with **balance is due on or before November 16, 2022.**

Checks should be made payable to *Cheepers! Birding on a Budget* and mailed with the registration form to:

**Cheepers! Birding on a Budget**

**Post Office Box 385**

**Spring Valley, OH 45370**

**Cancellation policy:****Cancellation must be made in writing (email or snail mail)**

More than 6 months prior to departure – full refund of deposit

Between 4 and 6 months prior to departure – 50% refund of deposit

Less than 4 months prior to departure – No refund of deposit

If cancellation occurs after full payment is made, a refund will be given only if the vacant spot is filled.

## **Trip insurance is recommended.**

You can compare prices and coverage offered by various trip insurance companies at these websites:

[http://www.quotewright.com/?sub\\_id=6056](http://www.quotewright.com/?sub_id=6056)

[www.insuremytrip.com](http://www.insuremytrip.com)

*Cheepers! Birding on a Budget LLC reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary if the need should arise due to unforeseeable circumstances such as weather, landslides, and other natural phenomena, as well as suggestions by local guides in order to take advantage of an unusual birding opportunity. Lodging is subject to change based on availability.*