

# GO **X** TREME

with



**RUCK SACK**  
TOURS PRIVATE LIMITED  
ADVENTURE TOURS OPERATORS

# [RUCK SACK TOURS]

A BOUTIQUE TRAVEL COMPANY



Started in 1986 as an entrepreneurial venture with zero capital and no readymade business our team consists of people from diverse fields who share a common passion for travel. Our experience and backgrounds lend innovative thinking in addressing, design and operational issues of

**TAILOR MADE HOLIDAYS.** We have personally visited nearly all the destinations featured in our brochure.

Today - though we refuse to grow big - we are small enough to care and large enough to deliver.

## IN SEARCH OF EXCELLENCE RUCK SACK TOURS

### OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2005 - "HALL OF FAME AWARD" BY ADVENTURE TOUR OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA  
Prestigious international award
- 2002 - "Piolet d'Or" (The Golden Ice Axe) for climbing Unclimbed Shark Fin Route on the Central Meru Peak in 2001 awarded to Valeri Babanov and in
- 2000 - "Piolet d'or" for making the First ascent of the direct North Pillar Of Shivling Peak to Thomas Huber and Iwan Wolf Both travelled with Ruck Sack
- 1998 - Indian Mountaineering Foundation Certified Maximum Foreign expeditions handled
- 1998 - Spanish Trishul "With you Himalayas are closer"
- 1993 - First ascent Kedarnath South Face - by Italians- Mandelli writes "our success also belongs to Rani and Shashank the Ruck Sack Team"



**India** is different for everyone. India excites the imagination of tourists like no other country does and with very good reasons too. On the visible are thousands of historical monuments and on the invisible level there is the sheer mystic of India.

Wide range of Adventure holidays offered in the choice of direction is the less travelled road that offers more.....are

## Mountain Climbing

Indian Himalayas offer the vast possibilities of climbing in a rather less familiar terrain with more challenging peaks in the range of six to seven thousand meters. Many majestic mountains still await a first ascent.

We are fully geared to provide all logistical support from airport to base camp & back (e.g. cargo clearance, accommodation, transport, trekking & camping gear, portable gas cartridges & oxygen bottles, Gamow bag, support staff like camp manager, cook, assistant, high altitude porters, etc), as well as administrative support like liaison with various Government departments for getting necessary clearances & permits and also monitoring & expediting any rescue operation in case of emergency requirement.

During the course of our twenty years of operation in this field, we have successfully handled more than 100 climbing expeditions in Indian Himalayas for the climbers from Japan, Korea, America and Europe.



# Trekking in the Indian Himalaya

Since ancient times, Himalaya has been revered as the abode of the gods and attracted Hindu pilgrims for trekking to shrines located high in the mountains like Amarnath, Yamnotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath etc. to seek salvation.

And in modern times, a trekking expedition is more of discovering nature and discovering one's self. The rarefied air, exercise and wholesome food are the ideal combination for rejuvenating both mind & body.

Once introduced, trekking in the Indian Himalayas is like a passionate affair that prompts one to return here again & again.

The Himalaya extends over 2500kms from west to east and passing through five different states of India, namely 1. Jammu & Kashmir, 2. Himachal Pradesh, 3. Uttarakhand, 4. Sikkim & 5. Arunachal Pradesh. Each region has its own attractions and superb trekking possibilities.



## Ladakh and Zaskar

The northern most part of Indian Himalayas is also known as 'Little Tibet'. This is one of the most remote regions of India, having rich cultural heritage with Buddhist monasteries set in spectacular moonscape scenery.

### 1. Markha Valley Trek »» 08 - 10 Days

This valley, running parallel to Indus Valley & Stok range, is a contrast of dry barren slopes with deep reddish hue, and green of dense growth of thorny shrubs & willow trees. This trek also offers several climbing opportunities around Nimaling, to not so technically difficult peaks

### 2. Zaskar Trek »» 10 - 20 Days

This is an isolated region south of Ladakh, comprises of two main valleys along the river Stod -originating from Pensi la in the west and river Lunak -originating from Shingo la area in the east. Both valleys converge at Padam to form the river Zaskar that flows through deep gorges to meet the Indus at Nimmu. Padam-Darcha trek along river Lunak & Darcha-Lamayuru are two of the most popular treks in Zaskar, crossing a number of high passes of around 5000 m

### 3. Rupshu Trek »» 15 Days

This is an extension of Markha trek, culminating at picturesque Tso Moriri - the brackish water lake at 4000 m, 28 kms long and 8 kms wide, is surrounded by nomadic people known as Khampas who live in large movable family tents, with their herds of goat, cows and yaks.

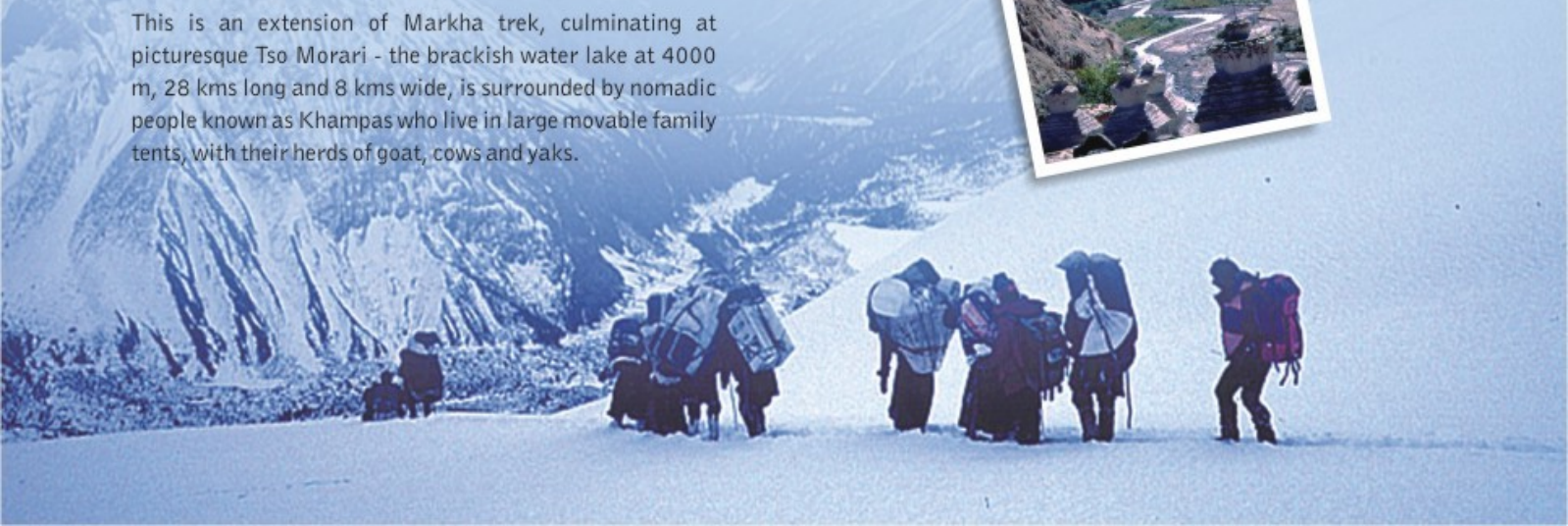
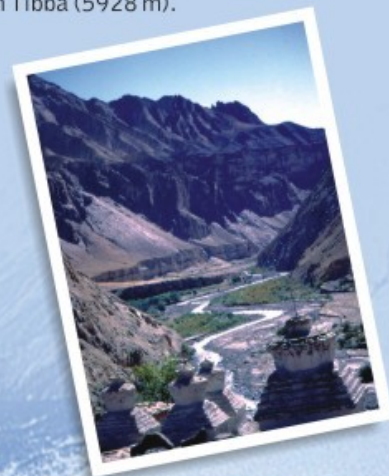
## Himachal Pradesh

The land of contrast with lush green forest, alpine meadows, eternal snowy peaks, vast-barren landscapes, ancient Hindu Temples, old Buddhist monasteries and mighty rivers.

Manali is the most popular base as various treks originate from here.

### 1. Beas Kund »» 03 - 04 Days

Between the Bara Bengal and Pir Panjal ranges lies Beas Kund, the source of the river Beas, which, like all such sources in India, has a sacred aura. This is an easy trek with horde of climbing possibilities. It is surrounded by trekking peaks namely, Friendship (5289 m), Shitidhar (5250 M), Ladakhi (5342 m), Manali (5669 m) and Hanuman Tibba (5928 m).



## 2. Hampta Pass »» 05 Days

Moderate to strenuous trekking, over the Hampta pass on Pir - Panjal range - a watershed divide for two mighty rivers Beas and Chenab. From Manali, the route extends beyond Jagatsukh to the junction of the Jarbi and Hamta nalas. There is a profusion of flowers as one ascends above the Beas valley to the crest which offers the excellent views of the high peaks on this range such as Indrasan & Deo Tibba and peaks opposite in Lahaul range.

## 3. Pin Parvati Pass »» 11 Days

A strenuous trek goes from Parvati valley in Kullu to Pin valley in Spiti involves crossing over a high pass (5400m) with crevassed snow field on either side and contrasting stages of lush forest to barren landscapes.

## 4. Bhaba pass + Parang la »» 5 Days + 8 Days

Bhaba pass is less strenuous than Pin Parvati Pass trek. It starts from Satluj valley in Kinnaur and finishes in Pin valley in Spiti. From here, there is a option to continue the trek on to the Rupshu valley (Tso Moriri Lake) in Ladakh via Parang la (5600m).

## 5. Kang la + Shingo la »» 8 Days + 9 Days

The trek passes through one of the most beautiful valleys of Himachal Pradesh - Miyar valley and cross a rather tough pass Kangla (5450m) to Padam in Zaskar valley of Ladakh. And to complete the circuit, you may opt to continue on the popular Padum - Darcha trek via Shingo la (5080m).

## Uttarakhand (Garhwal and Kumaon)

This most revered river the mother goddess Ganga is not only synonymous with Indian civilisation but also with the state of Uttarakhand. It is here that she is born in the high Himalayan ranges.

Uttarakhand's mighty glaciers, gargling rivers, deep valleys, verdant forests, undulating buggys (alpine meadows) & high snow capped peaks, offer some of the most exciting treks.

## 1. Along The Ganges Trail »» 5 to 12 Days

From the huge glaciers that inch their way down from the massive peaks of Shivaling - the Matterhorn of India, Chukhamba, Kedarnath and Bhagirathis, the holy river Ganges is born, to start her great journey to the sea. On this trail one finds Hindu pilgrims and holy men (Sadhus - unmistakable with their saffron garb and matted hair), some of whom have travelled from the far ends of India on a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage.

## 2. Roop Kund - Kuari Pass »» 6 to 12 Days

The trek over the Kuari Pass was popularized by Lord Curzon when he was British Viceroy of India. This trek is on the outer rim of Nanda Devi Sanctuary - the best described by Eric Shipton in his book - 'A Vision of such beauty is worth a world of striving'. Since the legendary trek through Rishi gorge to the Inner Sanctuary is closed to all trekkers & climbers due to ecological reasons, this trek offers partial substitute with some of the best views of the peaks in and around Nanda Devi Sanctuary.

## 3. Valley of Flowers »» 4 Days

In 1931, Frank Smythe, a noted British mountaineer and botanist, lost his way and chanced upon this valley and was so impressed by the wildflowers that he described it as the Valley of Flowers. From July to September there are more than a thousand varieties of ferns, herbs & exotic flowers that bloom.

4. Har ki Doon, Pindari Glacier, Milam Glacier & Nanda Devi East Base Camp are some of the other most popular treks of 7 days to 15 days duration.



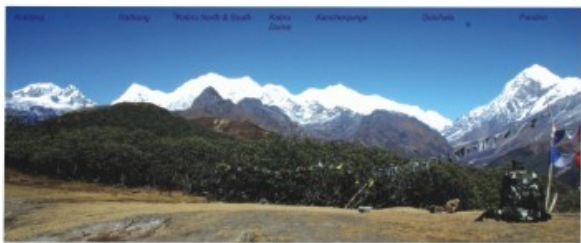
## Darjeeling and Sikkim

This area in North East of India is tucked between Nepal and Bhutan and flanked to the North by the vast expanse of The Tibetan plateau. The guardian deity - Mt Kanchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world, rises majestically in the sky.

Darjeeling and Sikkim complement each other with traditional tourist attraction of the British Raj's residual charms & world famous Darjeeling tea on one side, and with less commercialized Sikkim hills, renowned for it's over 500 species of orchids and rhododendron.

### 1. Singalila Ridge Trek »» 04 - 05 Days

A well - defined trail, through the forest to the grassy ridge, is along the Nepalese border and affords an excellent view of Kanchenjunga range and glimpses of Everest, Lhotse and Makalu.



### 2. Kanchenjunga Trek - West Sikkim »» 8 to 12 Days

The trek goes through the lush forest of rhododendron, high yak pastures and huge glaciers to the base of Mt. Pandim & further on to Guichala for an impressive views of Mt. Kanchenjunga, Talung & Kabru. Return is either on the same route or through a longer route via Singalila ridge.

### 3. Kanchenjunga Base Camp »» 8-9 Days

This trek, much less frequented, narrow, wild and desolate goes to the Green Lake - the base camp of Kanchenjunga from the North side and requires special permission at present. The trek, along the Zemu river and Zemu Glacier further up, affords the most memorable views of Mt. Siniolchu - described as one of the most beautiful mountains in the world, Mt. Simvo, Tent Peak, Nepal peak, Sugar-loaf & of course Kanchenjunga.



# Mountain biking in Himalaya

The trips can be organised for both cycle & motor bike enthusiast. We provide 500cc Bullet Enfield motor bike along with necessary spares, tools & a mechanic.

**Garhwal & Kumaon** - The part of the trip follows the first Himalayan car rally route, starting and finishing at the foothill towns of Haldwani & Dehradun respectively. This is a moderate tour through Shivalik ranges with highpoints at Mukteshwar, Jageshwar, Chakori, Gwaldom, Chopta, Chamba, Mussoorie, offering views of the majestic `Great Himalayan Range` on one end and varied terrain on the other the crisscrossing rivers, finest forests, historical monuments, religious shrines and traditional lifestyle. Best period is from Mar to April & Oct to mid Dec. Total distance can be varied from 400kms to 700kms and maximum height gain is approx. 3000m only.

**Manali to Leh** - This trip is one of the Great Himalayan traverse — crossing three important ranges namely Zaskar, Great Himalayan Range & Pir Panjal — four high passes Tanglang la 5340m (the second highest motorable point in the world), Lachalangla 5065m, Baralachala 4830m & Rohtang pass 3980m. It offers a tremendous variety of landscape and culture from the lush green Kulu-Manali valleys with Hindu temples, through the semi-arid plains of Lahaul to the Tibetan-influenced high plateau of Ladakh



dotted with ancient Buddhist monasteries. In this programme you may also reach Khardungla (5602m) the world's highest motorable road, and as well opt for a longer run to finish the trip at Srinagar via Kargil. Total cycling distance: 500kms to 1000kms and best period is from June to September.

**Darjeeling/Sikkim/Bhutan** - This trip gives you a deep insight into the eastern part of Himalayas - The evergreen forest, tea plantations, colorful markets, Buddhist monasteries, panoramic views of Kanchenjunga & Bhutan mountain ranges, lovely old colonial buildings of British era in Darjeeling with Himalayan railway train listed as a `World Heritage Site` of UNESCO, quiet & charming country side of Bhutan. Total cycling distance will be approx : 700kms plus a bit of driving between Dooars in India to Thimphu in Bhutan. Best Period is from Mar, April & Oct, Nov.



# Sailing on Ganges

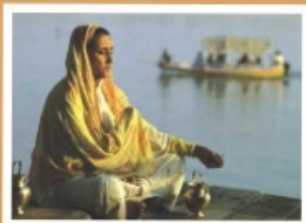
The Ganges or the River Ganga is not only known for its significance as the holiest river of India but also for the ultimate adventure it bestows on water sports like river rafting & canoeing while in Himalayas. However, much later after it's descending on the plains, a lesser known and equally exciting adventure is the Sailing on the Ganges.

Our journey is between the two of such great cities - Allahabad and Varanasi both important pilgrimage centres in India with an ancient civilization of over 2000 years. A distance of 125kms between these two cities by a straight road may be covered in a couple of hours, but we let you soak in the atmosphere for full five days to complete this stretch through the winding river course. This is the most colourful and interesting stretch of this legendary river. Beautiful landscapes, simple country-side, people religiously flocking the river banks, age-old temples, migratory birds, Gangetic Dolphins, and above all,

camping on the virgin river islands with nobody around ..... are the endless perks for this trip.

This leisurely trip is on an exclusive wooden boat, with the boatmen and a kitchen crew. On each boat, we have mattresses and pillows where four persons can sit easily and relax on board while enjoying the landscape. Breakfast and dinner is served on the island while lunch and evening tea is on the board.

Best period is from November to March.



# Camel Safari

Camel Safari is popular in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan the Western part of India. It is not just a safari it's about riding through sun, sand and serenity.. A rich culture of this living desert is best explored on camelback.

The ideal duration of Camel Safari is from 3 to 4 days while it fits in between the visits to the three historic cities of Bikaner, Jaisalmer & Jodhpur known as the 'Great Desert Triangle'. The camel trek passes through the open plains, short grasslands, shifting sand dunes in the vast desert dotted with small villages & Dhanis a sort of farm houses away from the main village. During the course you may come across many sheep/camel herders and a bit of wild life Antelopes (Black Buck, Chinkara Gazelle & Nilgai), desert hare, desert fox etc.

Best months are from November to February



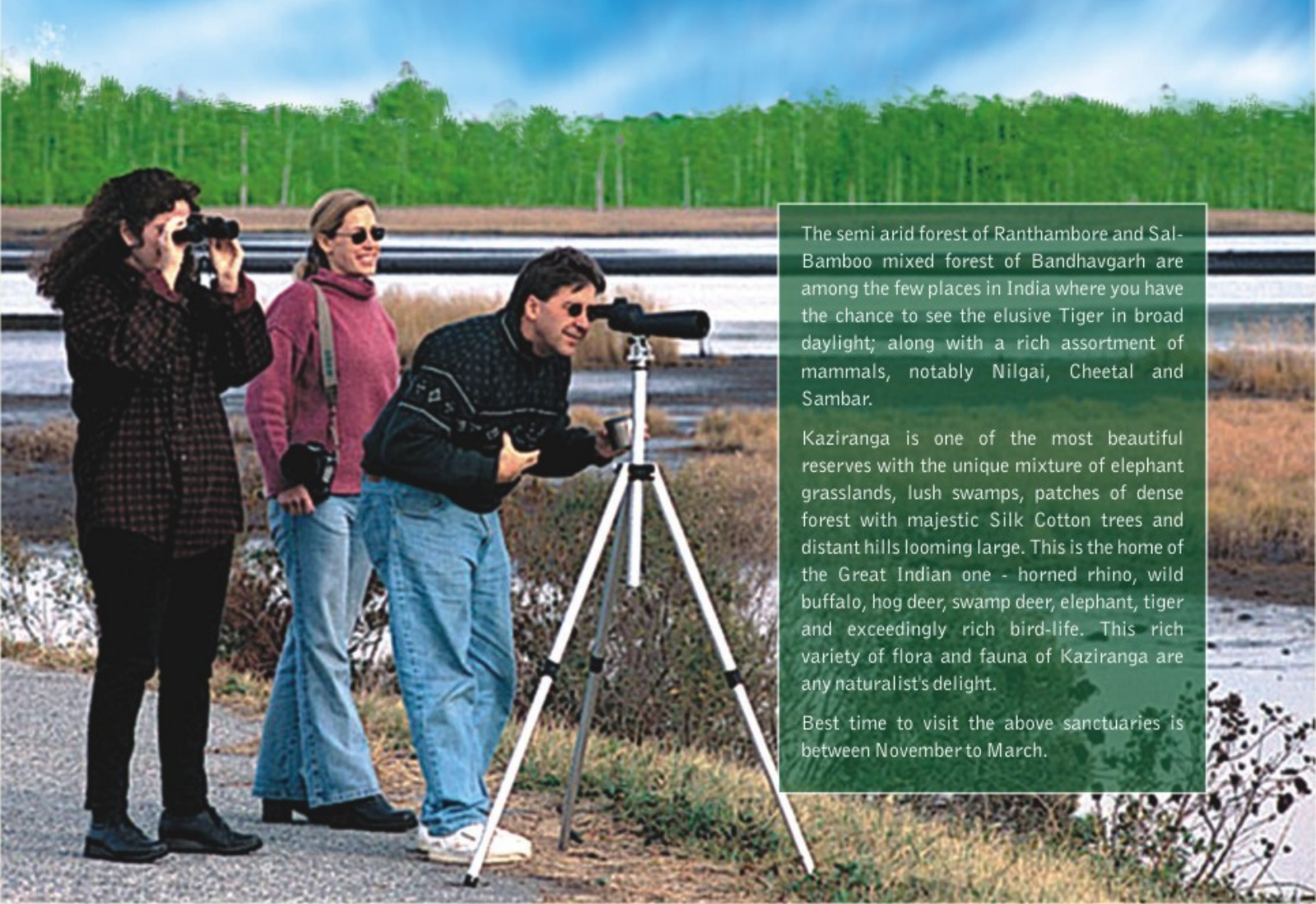
# Wildlife & Bird Watching Tours

India has some of the finest South Asian wildlife areas with a rich variety of habitats and forests. The interesting fact, that it is only in the Indian subcontinent that both the tiger & the lion can be found, is a tiny indicator of the vast variety of habitats available. Just as tiger hunts alone and duck behind cover, needs forest, the lion requires good visibility to pounce on their prey, needs savannah grasslands.

Out of approx. 570 National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries, five are included in the list of twenty eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India. And these are Nanda Devi National Park, Keoladeo Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, Kaziranga National Park, Manas Wildlife Sanctuary and Sundarbans National Park. Other premier national parks are Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Ranthambore, Corbett, Madhumalai & Periyar.

A classical itinerary covers wildlife areas alternate with the colours of Jaipur, the magic of Taj Mahal and the exquisite temples of Khajuraho, i.e. starting from Delhi to Jaipur - Ranthambore - Bharatpur - Agra - Khajuraho - Bandhavgarh - Delhi - Guwahati - Kaziranga - Guwahati - Delhi -- 16 to 18 days.

The marshy land of Bharatpur National Park plays host to thousands of winter migrating Aves between October to March. With over 300 species, it is recognized as one of its kind in the world.



The semi arid forest of Ranthambore and Sal-Bamboo mixed forest of Bandhavgarh are among the few places in India where you have the chance to see the elusive Tiger in broad daylight; along with a rich assortment of mammals, notably Nilgai, Cheetal and Sambar.

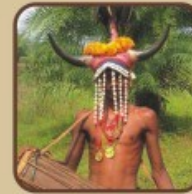
Kaziranga is one of the most beautiful reserves with the unique mixture of elephant grasslands, lush swamps, patches of dense forest with majestic Silk Cotton trees and distant hills looming large. This is the home of the Great Indian one - horned rhino, wild buffalo, hog deer, swamp deer, elephant, tiger and exceedingly rich bird-life. This rich variety of flora and fauna of Kaziranga are any naturalist's delight.

Best time to visit the above sanctuaries is between November to March.

# Special Interest Tours

## Tribal Tours

In this rapidly changing world with modern civilization, there remain still some pockets in India where tribes coexist in their traditional & primitive lifestyle. One such area is between Orissa & Chattisgarh, states in the south east part of India, where the local hill tribes are seen in their traditional dresses during the weekly markets at the road-head, connected by foot paths to their villages. A classical tribal itinerary covers Bhubaneswar Puri Konark Gopalpur on sea Baliguda Rayadaga Jeypore Jagdalpur Kanker Kwardha Raipur >> Duration 15 days >> Best period is from November to February.



Similarly, North East state of Arunachal, has a number of tribes and tour start from Dibrugarh Pasighat Along Daporijo Ziro Itanagar Bomdila - Tawang Dirang - Tezpur and finish at Guwahati >> Duration 15 days >> Best period is from Mid October to Mid March.

## Horse Safaris

Horse safari is considered an exclusive vacation and a more exciting variation of the camel safari. Though it is organised in the same state of Rajasthan, the terrain is completely different. It passes close to villages, ruined historical monuments, temples, lakes and a wildlife sanctuary all surrounding the Aravalli hills. Well trained Marwari Horses an indigenous breed of the Mewar region of Rajasthan, are provided with English saddlery. Our itinerary covers: Delhi Jodhpur Jojawar start four-days safari to Kesuli Ranakpur Ghanerao and finish at Kumbhalgarh Udaipur Delhi >> Best period is from Mid October to Mid March



## Health and Wellness

The spa retreats mainly focus on the ancient science of Yoga & Ayurveda to relax & rejuvenate body, mind & soul. This could be an ULTIMATE to some after an Adventure activity



# India - The land of Unity in Diversity



- When in India where past present and future co-exist in exquisite patterns of harmony visit to TAJ MAHAL is a must
- Forts and Palaces of Rajasthan - Delhi-Alsisar-Mandawa - Bikaner - Jaisalmer - Jodhpur-Kumbalgarh - Udaipur - Deogarh - Pushkar-Jaipur - Agra - Delhi
- South India offers a variety of options ranging from Ayurveda and Spas Beaches and Backwaters Wildlife Temples Heritage and Culture Spice plantations and much more with a difference
- Where shopping is an adventure flowering silks, shimmering brocades, elaborately designed jewellery, painted pottery, carved marble and intricately woven carpets.....
- INDIA - A LAND OF PROMISE - COME AND EXPLORE



Incredible India



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