



## **Indian Safari & Wildlife Travel FAQs for Foreign Travelers**

### **Q: Do I need to carry a passport and visa for my safari trip in India?**

All foreign nationals must carry a valid **passport and Indian visa** to enter the country. Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least **six months beyond the date of your departure from India**, and that it contains at least **two blank pages** for immigration stamps.

For most safari holidays and wildlife itineraries, a **Tourist Visa** is appropriate. If you are eligible, we highly recommend applying for the **e-Visa for India**, which is convenient and can be obtained online without visiting an embassy. We strongly advise submitting your visa application **well in advance of your travel dates** to avoid any last-minute complications.

For detailed guidance on how to apply for the e-Visa and which information to provide, please refer to the accompanying **Indian e-Visa Instructions Document** provided by Nature Safari India.

### **Q: What is the probability of spotting a tiger?**

Tiger sightings are never guaranteed—it's part of the thrill of being in the wild. Technically, the odds are always 50: **you either see one or you don't!** However, **the more safaris you do, the better your chances**. We recommend a **minimum of 6 safari drives** for a meaningful chance at a sighting.

That said, in the **last 19 years**, **none of our guests have returned without spotting at least one tiger**—a testament to thoughtful planning, expert guiding, and choosing the right parks and zones.

### **Q: What kind of camera equipment is permitted inside the National Parks?**

All personal camera gear—DSLRs, mirrorless cameras, lenses, binoculars—is permitted. **Drones are strictly prohibited**. **Cine/documentary cameras** need prior permission and attract high fees. Some parks may charge extra for **large lenses (250mm+)**.

For details, refer to the **Camera Charges Document** or contact us for clarification.

### **Q: Are mobile phones permitted to be carried on safari?**



Yes, however, these are only to be used for clicking photographs or recording sounds and video. Sound playback to attracting animals and birds is strictly prohibited. In some tiger reserves like **Tadoba, carrying mobile phones is strictly prohibited.**

**Q: Are there mosquitoes around the areas of the park?**

Yes, mosquitoes are present, particularly in the **warmer months** (March to June). However, they are less common during the **peak winter season** (December to February), when the cooler temperatures help reduce their presence. It's always advisable to carry **mosquito repellent** and wear long sleeves during evening safaris, especially in the more humid months.

**Q: Do animals enter the premises of our lodges?**

Yes, most of our lodges are located in or near national parks that do not have extensive fencing. As a result, wildlife, from the smallest creatures to the largest animals, *may sometimes* wander onto the lodge premises. While this offers a thrilling and immersive wildlife experience, we always advise caution and recommend staying indoors during the night or when large animals are nearby.

**Q: Are there venomous snakes or spiders at the lodge?**

The lodge is located in a natural wildlife habitat, and while the presence of venomous snakes such as **Russell's Viper, Common Krait, Saw-scaled Viper, and Monocled Cobra** has been recorded in the area, encounters are rare. The lodge provides detailed safety briefings on handling such situations, ensuring you're well-prepared.

Regarding spiders, while they may be present, **most species in India are mildly venomous not harmful for humans**. If you have concerns, such as **arachnophobia** or known allergies to venom, the lodge staff is always available to provide assistance and ensure your comfort.

**Q: Are the safari vehicles open or with roof?**

The safari vehicles are **open-air** vehicles, providing an unobstructed view of the wildlife and natural surroundings. However, during **rainy weather**, the vehicle is equipped with a **removable soft top** that can be fitted to provide protection from the rain while still allowing a clear view of the landscape. In some reserves in south India the vehicle is permanently cover from the top.

**Q: Will there be a guide accompanying us on our visits to the national park?**



Yes, it is **mandatory** to have a **registered forest guide** accompany you on **every safari**. These guides are assigned by the Forest Department and are familiar with the park's terrain, wildlife behavior, and regulations, ensuring a safe and enriching experience.

**Q: What is the situation of emergency services and medical assistance in remote places?**

Medical facilities near national parks are **very limited**. We strongly recommend that you **carry all essential medications**, as local pharmacies may not have what you need.

- **Basic aid** may be available at lodges or in nearby towns, but the **closest clinic can be over an hour away**, and **major hospitals are 4–5 hours away**.
- **Emergency evacuations** by road are the only realistic option; air evacuation is rare and requires prior arrangements.

**Tip:** Always carry a **personal medical kit** and your **prescriptions**.

**Q: Can I take home Deer Antlers, Medicinal Herbs or Attractive Bird Feathers back home to my country?**

**Absolutely not.** Possessing or attempting to transport items such as **deer antlers, attractive bird feathers, animal bones, or plant derivatives like medicinal herbs** is a **serious offence** under the **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

These items are considered **protected forest produce** and carrying them—knowingly or unknowingly—can lead to **arrest without bail**, heavy fines, and legal complications. Even if they appear to be lying harmlessly on the forest floor, **do not pick them up**.

**Q: Is there mobile connectivity in and around the lodges?**

Mobile connectivity around national parks is often **unreliable or patchy**, especially as you get closer to the forest core zones. Signal strength and availability vary depending on the **local service provider**—with **Jio**, typically offering the widest coverage in remote areas.

Most **lodges are located in buffer zones** where limited connectivity is usually available. However, **Wi-Fi (albeit slow)** may be provided in common areas for basic communication needs.

If you experience connectivity issues, the **lodge staff will gladly assist** with any urgent calls or arrangements.



### Q: How is the Wi-Fi at the jungle lodges?

While most jungle lodges are located in remote forest areas where **connectivity is limited**, basic Wi-Fi is typically available in **common areas like the reception or lounge**. We recommend keeping expectations modest—**don't count on fast or seamless connections**, especially for video calls or streaming. That said, a few lodges may pleasantly surprise you with stronger signals than expected!

**Pro Tip:** *If staying connected is essential, consider purchasing a local SIM card with data—Airtel and Jio tend to offer the best coverage in wildlife destinations.*

### Q: Do Power surges occur in such areas?

Yes, **power fluctuations and minor surges** can occasionally occur in remote areas near national parks. These may impact sensitive electronic devices when charging.

**We recommend carrying a good-quality extension board with built-in surge protection** to safeguard your equipment (laptops, camera batteries, etc.) and to make charging multiple devices more convenient.

**Bonus Tip:** Some wildlife lodges operate on solar or generator power, so electricity may not be available 24/7. Charge devices when power is reliably on.

### Q: Should I carry extra batteries for my electronic equipment?

Yes, it's highly recommended to carry **extra batteries and chargers**, especially for cameras and other essentials. **High-quality batteries (e.g., Duracell or Eneloop)** may not be available in or near national parks, where local shops often stock only basic or unbranded options.

Additionally, power outages are not uncommon in remote regions, so having backups ensures you're always prepared.

### Q: Is liquor served at wildlife lodges?

**Most wildlife lodges located outside the park boundaries do serve alcohol**, subject to state regulations and individual lodge policies. However, **consuming alcohol inside the core zones of**



**national parks is strictly prohibited by law.** It's also recommended to enjoy alcoholic beverages responsibly and avoid excessive consumption, especially before early morning safaris.

**Please note:** Some states in India observe **dry days** or have **local restrictions** on alcohol, so it's always best to check with the lodge in advance about their specific alcohol policies.

**Q: How many hours do we spend inside the park each day?**

On a typical safari day, you'll spend approximately **7 to 8 hours** inside the park, split between **morning and afternoon game drives**. The morning drive usually lasts around **4-5 hours**, and the afternoon drive can be another **3-4 hours**, depending on the park's specific timings and wildlife activity.

**Q: Are there washrooms inside the park?**

Yes, washrooms are available, though they may not be of the highest standard and are located at **limited spots**. To ensure a more comfortable experience, we recommend giving your **naturalist a heads-up**. They can inform you when you're approaching a designated restroom area during the safari.

**Q: Can we alight from the safari vehicle to stretch our legs?**

You may alight from the vehicle **only at designated stops**, as advised by your guide or driver. To make your experience more comfortable, it's a good idea to **inform the naturalist** at the beginning of the safari if you anticipate needing a break, so they can let you know when you'll pass by a suitable restroom or rest stop along the route.

**Q: Can I enjoy a smoke inside the National Park?**

Smoking is **strictly prohibited** inside the park due to the high risk of **forest fires** caused by even the tiniest embers. For safety reasons, we strongly discourage smoking near or around park areas, as it can endanger both wildlife and the environment.

**Q: Can we explore the jungle on foot?**

Walking safaris are available in select areas of some parks, but they are **restricted to specific trails** and require prior **permission**. Please note, **night walks are strictly prohibited** unless accompanied by a qualified guide and with prior arrangements.



**Q: Will I be sharing my jeep with other people?**

For a more personalized and comfortable experience, we recommend booking safaris exclusively for your group. This ensures privacy and flexibility, allowing you to fully enjoy the safari without sharing the jeep with other parties.

**Q: Can I buy memorabilia related to wildlife at each destination?**

Yes, you can find a variety of wildlife-themed souvenirs at **designated souvenir shops** located outside the national parks. Additionally, many **luxury lodges and resorts** offer exclusive wildlife-related memorabilia for purchase. These items often include **handcrafted art, local handicrafts, wildlife photography, and apparel**.

We recommend purchasing from these local outlets to support **sustainable and ethical tourism**.