



Email: contact@ficuswildlife.net

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Indian Wolf, Asiatic Lion and Leopard

Gujarat's southern (Kathiawar) Peninsula, has two of India's excellent parks, protecting among India's rarest predators. Gir National Park's dry deciduous forests are well known as the last refuge of the the Asiatic Lion, where the species thrives, along with a good population of Leopard. The tropical grasslands at the Blackbuck National Park (Velavadar) are considerably smaller than Gir, off-the-beaten track, but no less interesting for its resident population of Indian Wolf and large herds of Blackbuck in an increasingly rare grassland habitat.

On this tour, our primary focus will be on finding and observing the top mammalian predators of these locations. There will also be ample opportunity to appreciate the overall diversity of these parks, including for their excellent birds (over 300 species possible), small mammals and other highlights typical of the dry forests and semi-arid grasslands of the region.

Dates

TBA

Please note that we can customise schedule for independent and small group travel

Costs (per person)

TBC

Price Inclusions

Transfers and Transport, ex-Ahmedabad
Accommodation
Food
Naturalist cum Tour Leader
Local Guide
Entrance Fees
Safaris/activities

Itinerary Outline

Day 1 & 2: Blackbuck National Park, Velavadar (AM Transfer from Ahmedabad, Gujarat)



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Day 3, 4 & 5: Gir National Park

Day 6: PM Arrival in Ahmedabad

Facilities

Accommodation: Comfortable accommodation in heritage hotel in Bhavnagar and Quaint resort in Gir

Food: Largely local and pan-Indian

Transport: Road transfers in MUV's

Difficulty level: Easy

Best Time to Visit

October to June

For Whom

Wildlife Enthusiasts & Photographers

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 & 2, Blackbuck National Park (Velavadar): We leave Ahmedabad around 9 AM on Day 1 and reach Bhavnagar, our base to explore Velavadar, for lunch. We spend two days exploring the location's tropical grasslands for one of India's rarest predators, the Indian Wolf and its main prey, Blackbuck, among an interesting mix of mammals.

Velavadar's tropical grasslands provide a safe haven for large herds of Blackbuck - a patchily distributed antelope, in the dwindling grasslands of India. These elegant, photogenic antelope are among India's quickest animals and superb displays of their athletic prowess can often be seen in the park. Velavadar is also among the best places to see Indian Wolf - a subspecies of the Grey Wolf - as well as providing reasonable chances for another sub-continental rarity, the Striped Hyena. Jungle Cat and Indian Fox are the other mammalian highlights from Velavadar. Velavadar hosts a large mixed roost of Eurasian Marsh, Pallid and Montagu's Harriers and the rare Stolickza's Bushchat. Although rarely seen outside of the Monsoon, the grasslands are one of the few remaining strongholds of a breeding population of Lesser Florican.



WILDLIFE & NATURAL HISTORY TOURS

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Day 3, 4 & 5. Gir National Park: We leave Velavadar after morning activity and breakfast on Day 3 and reach Gir early in the evening. We spend the next 3 days exploring the dry deciduous forests of Gir primarily for Asiatic Lions and Leopard.

Gir is most famous as the last refuge of Asiatic Lions in the world and these majestic animals are typically easily seen in the Park's tourism zone. Other interesting mammals found here include the Leopard - one of the best places in India to see them - and its dry forests include species like the Four-horned Antelope and Striped Hyena that are typically difficult to see in wetter forests of Peninsular India. The large park (by Indian standards) also protects a wide variety of flora and fauna, including over 250 birds, a large population of Mugger Crocodile and other representatives of both the wetter forests of peninsular India as well as arid habitats of India's northwest.

Day 6, Ahmedabad: After morning activity and breakfast on Day 6, we drive to Ahmedabad. We reach Ahmedabad in the evening on Day 6.

FYI and Guidelines

1. Gujarat in general and the locations we visit in its southern peninsula are politically stable, safe to travel in, generally crime free and very tourist friendly.
2. Weather updates based on dates of travel
3. Please bring a pair Binoculars to best appreciate animals that do allow close approach. We will have a pair of Binocs to share among us, but we recommend that you bring your own for more timely viewing
4. It is best to wear dull shades of greens and browns (clothing) to blend into the environment.
5. A hat and sunblock are recommended and sunglasses will be useful.
6. Please bring essential medication with you, since the local outlets will not always carry what you are looking for. Do check with your doctor on medication and medical safety before you travel to the region.

Terms and Conditions

1. Maximum group size for these tours is 6.
2. Tour costs are per person based on twin sharing basis ex-Ahmedabad and is all inclusive (transport, accommodation, food, personnel and all taxes and fees). Personnel includes a naturalist/tour leader and resource persons locally. Alcoholic beverages, porter charges, laundry and ala carte snacks are extra. Please check with us on specific items are included in the published tour costs.



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3. Bookings are confirmed only upon full payment of the tour cost and at least one month in advance from the proposed departure date
4. Our preferred mode of payment is through electronic transfers into our bank account. Relevant details will be provided to you once you are ready to make the payment. Alternatively we accept demand drafts/cheques in the currency of your choice.
5. If you are paying in foreign currency, we might have apply a currency surcharge on the published rates, if the INR appreciates against your currency at the time of payment.
6. In the unlikely event in which we are forced to cancel the tour we will refund you the entire booking amount. In case we are unable to conduct the tour due to circumstances beyond our control (for e.g. forces of nature, political conditions), we will make every effort to refund as much of the booking amount as possible.
7. In case you to cancel your booking more than one month in advance from the tour date, we will refund *at least* 50% of the tour cost (assuming tour costs are fully paid). The precise refund beyond this will be dependent on the refund policies of our travel partners that we use on tour. In case you cancel your booking less than 1 month from the start of the tour, we will refund 10% of your booking amount

Disclaimer and Emergency Contact

Participants should be aware of unlikely, but potential risks involved during wildlife tours and general travel. This may include, among other things, injuries or fatalities associated with general travel, snake bites, field activities and encounters with wildlife. We require that all tour participants sign this disclaimer that acknowledges the risks associated during our conducted tours and relieves us of any liabilities arising out of the same. This also acknowledges that you have read and abide by the terms and conditions mentioned in the document.

Name of participant:

Age:

Emergency contact person:

Relationship:

Tel no:

Email:

Signature and Date: