

Park Safari

For gypsy safari, log-in to forest.mponline.gov.in

For cantor safari, see the MPSTDC Manager. It is not available online.

How to Reach

By Air : The nearest Airport is at Jabalpur (190 km). From Khajuraho (237km), Bandhavgarh is a five-hour drive via Panna, Satna and Maihar across stretches of the Vindhyaachal.

By Rail : The nearest railway stations near Bandhavgarh are Jabalpur (190 km), Katni (102 km) and Satna (120 km) on the Central Railway and Umaria (35 km) on the South Eastern Railway.

By Road : State/private transport ply between Katni and Umaria and from Satna and Rewa to Tala (Bandhavgarh). Taxis are available at Satna, Jabalpur, Katni, Umaria and Khajuraho.

Best Season : October to June. The Park is closed from 1 July to 30 September due to rains.

Your Host

White Tiger Forest Lodge

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White Tiger Forest Lodge

MADHYA PRADESH STATE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

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Tourist Information Counter: Khatia (Kanha National Park) Tel: 07649-277242, E-mail: khatia@mptourism.com

Jhansi - Railway Station, Jhansi, Tel: 0510-2442622, E-mail: tojhansi@mptourism.com

Khajuraho - Tourist Interpretation & Facilitation Centre, Near Circuit House, Khajuraho
Tel: 07686- 274051, Fax: 07686-272330, E-mail: khajuraho@mptourism.com **Airport Counter**, Khajuraho, Tel: 07686-274648, **Tourist Information Counter**, Railway Station, Khajuraho

Pachmarhi - Amaltas Complex, Near Tehsil, Pachmarhi, Tel: 07578-252100, Fax: 07578-252102, E-mail: pachmarhi@mptourism.com, **Tourist Office** : Bus Stand, Pachmarhi, Tel : 07578-252029,
Ujjain - Tourist Office : Near Mahakaleswar Temple, Ujjain, Tel : 0734-2552263, E-mail: toujjain@mptourism.com

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Jeep Safari in the wilds of Bandhavgarh

This is a small National Park; compact, yet teeming with wildlife. The density of the tiger population in Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India. This is also White Tiger country. These have been found in the old state of Rewa for many years. The last known was captured by Maharaja Martand Singh in 1951. This white tiger, Mohun, is now stuffed and on display in the palace of the Maharajas of Rewa.

Bandhavgarh is densely populated with other species: sambar and barking deer are a common sight, and nilgai are to be seen in the more open areas of the park.

The terrain is of great rocky hills rising sharply from the swampy and densely-forested valley bottoms. The finest of these hills is Bandhavgarh, sided with great cliffs and eroded rocks and on its highest point stands Bandhavgarh Fort, thought to be some 2,000 year old. Scattered throughout the park, and particularly around the fort, are numerous caves containing shrines and ancient Sanskrit inscriptions.

Covering 448 sq km, Bandhavgarh is situated in Umaria district among the outlying hills of the Vindhya range. At the centre of the Park is Bandhavgarh hill rising 811 metres above MSL-surrounding it are a large number of smaller hills separated by gently sloping valleys. These valleys end in small, swampy meadows, locally known as 'bohera'. The lowest point in the park is at Tala (440 metres above MSL).

The vegetation is chiefly of sal forest in the valleys and on the lower slopes, gradually changing to mixed deciduous forest on the hills and in the hotter, drier areas of the park in the south and west. Bamboo is found throughout.

There are three well-defined seasons - the cool (from middle of October to end of February), the hot (from March to middle of June) and the wet (from middle of June to middle of October). The mean annual rainfall is 1,173 mm, coming mostly in the rainy season. The temperature ranges from a maximum of 42 D Celsius in May and June, to around 4 D Celsius in winter.

Prior to becoming a National Park, the forests around Bandhavgarh had long been maintained as a Shikargah, or game reserve, of the Maharajas of Rewa. Hunting was carried out by the Maharajas and their guests - otherwise the wildlife was relatively well-protected. It was considered a good omen for a Maharaja of Rewa to shoot 109 tigers - His Highness, Maharaja Venkat Raman Singh shot 111 tigers by 1914.

In 1947 Rewa State was merged with Madhya Pradesh; Bandhavgarh came under the regulation of Madhya Pradesh. The Maharaja of Rewa still retained the hunting rights of Bandhavgarh and no special conservation measures were taken until 1968, when the areas were constituted as a National Park, since then, numerous steps have been taken to retain Bandhavgarh National Park as an unspoilt natural habitat.

What to See

The Fort

No records remain to show when Bandhavgarh Fort was constructed. It is thought, however, to be some 2,000 years old, and there are references to it in the ancient books, the Narad-Panch Ratra and the Siva Purana. Various dynasties have ruled the fort : for example, the Maghas from the 1st century AD, the Vakatakas from the 3rd century AD; the Sengars from the 5th century AD, the Baghels took over, ruling from Bandhavgarh until 1617, when Maharaja Vikramaditya Singh moved his capital to Rewa. The last inhabitants deserted the fort in 1935.

Flora and Fauna

The forests of Bandhavgarh can be classified as moist deciduous, and the National Park holds all those animal species which are typical of this habitat in Central India. Certain areas of the Park (particularly the south and west) are drier in character, and hold such species as the nilgai and the chinkara.

Sal forest occurs throughout the valleys, giving way to mixed forest which occurs where the soil is of relatively poor quality on the upper hill slopes, on rocky outcrops and in the south and west. Grassy meadow patches occur in the valley and along the nalaha.



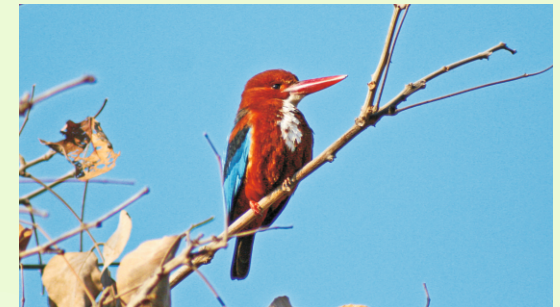
Lord Vishnu : Shesh Shaiyya deep in the forest



Deer is seen everywhere at Bandhavgarh

Wildlife

There are more than 22 species of mammals and 250 species of birds. Common langurs and rhesus macaque represent the primate group. Carnivores include the Asiatic jackal, Bengal fox, sloth bear, ratel, grey mongoose, striped hyena, jungle cat, leopard and tiger. The artiodactyls frequently sighted are wild pig, spotted deer, sambar, chausingha, nilgai and chinkara. Mammals such as dhole, the small Indian civet, palm squirrel and lesser bandicoot rat are seen



Birdlife is abundant at Bandhavgarh

occasionally. The vegetation along streams and marshes is rich in birdlife. The common ones are little grebe, egret, lesser adjutant, sarus crane, black kite, crested serpent eagle, black vulture, Egyptian vulture, common peafowl, red jungle fowl, dove, parakeet, kingfisher and Indian roller. Reptilian fauna include cobra, krait, viper, ratsnake, python, turtle and a number of lizard varieties, including varanus.

Wildlife Viewing

The main way of getting about in the park-in a motor vehicle.

Jeep safaris are best undertaken from dawn until about 10 am and from about 4 pm until dusk, as the animals are most active during these periods. A Forest Department guide must always accompany you. This guide will be able to direct you and point out wildlife.

