

### **Bandhavgarh: Why does this national park almost guarantee you a tiger sighting?**

Bandhavgarh National Park, one of the most popular national parks in India is located in the Vindhya Hills of the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh. In 1968 the Bandhavgarh National Park was declared as a National Park which is spread across the area of 105 km<sup>2</sup> and then in 1982 it was increased to 448.84 km<sup>2</sup>. The name Bandhavgarh was said to be given by Hindu Lord Rama to his brother Lakshmana to keep a watch on Lanka.

Bandhavgarh National Park endowed with many endangered wildlife species like tigers, Indian bison, chital and langurs. Besides these, nilgais, chausingha, chinkara, wild boars and jackals can also be seen in the park. The vicinity of Bandhavgarh is being flourished with an outsized biodiversity, the place which is also being illustrious to grip highest density of tiger population in India. Moreover, the park also beholds the largest breeding population of leopards and various species of deer.

Over the years, the park has shown a great increase in the count of the tiger species and this is the reason why tiger tours are so eminent to attract large amount of tourists at its vicinity. In 1993, the park was integrated in the Project Tiger Network, in thoughtfulness of its significance and potentiality.

#### **Type of vegetation in the park helps in tiger sighting:**



Image source: <http://www.kvtholidays.com/tours/in-search-of-tigers>

The vegetation of Bamboo forests, immense spreading grasslands makes it comparatively easier to spot a tiger here, than in other national parks like Corbett or Kaziranga. Almost guaranteed sightings of Tiger have helped the guides and regular tourists to understand tigers of Bandhavgarh, more deeply than at any other place. In Summers, due to aridity in trees, fall of leaves in trees and disappearance of bushes causes more penetration capacity to watch distant animals also

#### **Visiting the park at right time:**



In addition to the bamboo flora, the season also helps in guaranteed tiger sightings in the National Park. Central Indian jungles are well-known for the summer heat and greater visibility. Tigers are fond of water and habitually to cool off themselves, they love summers. Typically, sun showers greatest heat mostly from mid April to June, and so you can get the best Tiger sightings during that period.

The quench for thirst entices them to come out in the open ponds, lakes and other water bodies. All key waterholes and manmade saucers in the park are claimed by different Tigers. There comes a time when things get so conventional that you know which tiger will go to which water body and when the Tiger will visit for quenching its thirst. Tigresses with cubs specially can't stay away and it is not uncommon to see cubs playing in the water bodies and stay there for at least 15-20 minutes at a time.

Locally a period called Nau Tapa is popular and well known by the guides and local people of the park, meaning the nine hottest days of the season. This may not have any scientific backing but is followed austere by the locals, all major travel and outside work is put off.



Image source : <http://www.theholidayindia.com/blog/bandhavgarh-national-park-a-land-of-tigers-and-birds/>

**Right area of the park:**



With the maximum tiger sighting during summers, it is the best time to take bizarre photography of tigers. In Summers, Tala Zone which have hills of sand-stone claims to have good number of active water sources that retain water for longer period. The area state cooler during day time helps in far better tiger sighting than any other tourist zones of Bandhavgarh National Park.