

# Manas

The tours to Manas exhibit the treasure trove of Bodo tribal culture that encompasses village tours, interactions with the locals, learning about rare local ingredients, cooking traditional meals with natives and dining with them. Travellers can also enjoy local dance performances and the art of hand-weaving. The Manas National Park and its neighbouring areas are a hotbed of biodiversity with lush green vegetation and a rare wealth of wildlife. The National Park abuts several small villages that are native to people of the Bodo tribe, a culturally resplendent ethnolinguistic tribe of Assam. Oblivious to the need for preservation of the rich flora and fauna of the park and lacking a consistent source of livelihood; the male members of the families of the native villages engaged in poaching activities decades ago.

While World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India in 2004 ushered a spirit of conservation amongst the locals and absorbed the men in wildlife protection activities, the womenfolk who were adept in cooking were entrusted to Mitali G. Dutta, a Culinary Specialist, to empower them and monetise their household skills. Mitali's design of a sustainable entrepreneurship model, effective training in hospitality and commercial cooking, and the persistent efforts of the womenfolk, has enabled the

