

PLAN NOW

SAFARI READY

Everyone loves the idea of a wildlife adventure, but preparation is key. We spoke to four insiders to get you the intel you need



KARAN BANA
Tree House
Hillways,
Bandipur

How to dress: Thick colours such as khaki and beige, which blend in with the environment and are not skin-irritating. Avoid bright, flashy clothing as it tends to startle animals off. In summer, pack light cotton tops, shorts and trousers, hats, sunglasses and comfortable footwear – sandals or walking shoes. Carry sunscreen to protect your skin. In winter, due to the wind factor, it can get very chilly, especially in the open jeep. Remember to carry gloves, warm jackets or fleeces and hats. www.treehousehillways.com



RTESH SURI
Pattadakur Safari
Lodge, Bandipur

What to carry: Most wilderness areas don't have basic amenities, so a trip requires a fair bit of planning. Anticipate your needs to make the best of your time in the jungle. Carry essentials with extra batteries, insect repellent, **small** memory cards for your camera and water bottles to stay hydrated. Avoid carrying anything that might make a noise, such as mobile phones. Wildlife sightings depend a lot on how early – but sounds draw animals early. <http://pda.pattadakur.com>



RAVI RAMU
Primrose Villas,
Chikmagalur

What to expect: "Some reserves don't allow private vehicles. You may need to hop into a forest department jalopy, which may have seen better days. Keep your expectations realistic. Count yourself lucky if you see a gaur, or Indian bison, and blessed if a tiger shows up. Your guide makes a big difference, so do your research and pick someone patient and experienced. Guides are more alert in the mornings and rather jaded by the evening, so make the effort to wake up early." (www.primrosevillas.com)



ANAND MISHRA
The Tree
Bandipur

What not to do: Mobile phones must be switched off before the safari begins, as the noise disturbs animals. When you do spot one, don't call out or behave in a way that might startle it. Don't carry any reflecting objects into the jungle. These may scare creatures away. Also, if you're taking pictures, avoid using a flash as the sharp burst of light will bother them. Roll up from driving Bandipur: the forest is home to the wild, so do not venture there. www.thetree.in



On safari in Corbett National Park

PHOTOGRAPH: ALAMY