

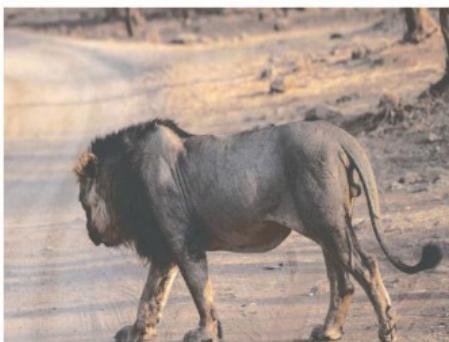


THE 7 BIGGIES OF WILDLIFE INDIA

The diversity in India's jungles is spectacular. But seven iconic species are a big draw in wildlife tourism.

INDIAN WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

INDIA - AMONG WORLD'S FAVOURITES FOR NATURE & WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY (Photos By - Rakesh Arora)



Whoa.. what amazing Indian wildlife in national parks as can't be compared with African wildlife as it is made of **Big 7**, **Asiatic Lions**, **Leopards**, **Tigers**, **One horned rhino**, **Indian gaur (bison)** and **Asian elephant** and **Wild water buffalo**. Patience and skill has to be eminent and look out for pug marks, alarm calls of deer, sambar, monkeys screeching. And deer running and enjoying wild music while holding your seats. African Wildlife is made of **Big 5** animals are the **LION**, **LEOPARD**, **RHINOCEROS**, **EROS**, **ELEPHANT**, and **CAPE BUFFALO**.

India is the canvas portraying the mega diversity of its wildlife. However, these 7 paradigmatic species are the crossroads for wildlife tourism.

The **Tiger**, an insignia for wildlife tourism in India, has been the driving force behind fetching plenty of disposable income for the economy. The Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in India emerged as the highest-earning wildlife park in 2016-17 with fascinating revenue of 23.06 Cr. With significantly vested interests in tiger survival, only 6 tiger reserves in India stand to the whopping worth of \$1.2 billion to the Indian economy. Likewise, the 4 tiger reserves of **Madhya Pradesh - Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench and Panna** - grabbed 400 per cent over and above their annual budgets laid down by the Central and State Governments.

The **Big Five of Africa** - **Leopard**, **African Lion**, **African Buffalo**, **Rhinoceros** and **African Elephant** - were attributed the title owing to the perplexity involved in hunting them. Similarly, the **Big Seven of India** - **The Tiger**, **Asiatic Lion**, **Leopard**, **Indian Elephant**, **Indian Bison**, **Wild Water Buffalo** and **One-horned Rhinoceros** - portray divinity in their respective habitat of the woodlands and grasslands laying grounds for their sustenance.

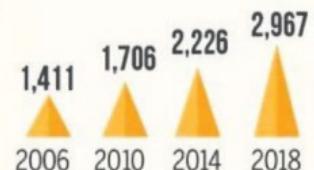
Earlier to the advent of the 19th century, the Indian tiger population was scaled to be around 10,000. However, with time passing, the number drastically declined to owe to the erstwhile rulers, Britishers and poachers interests in hunting tigers for sports and money. Later, in 1972, the Government introduced the Wildlife Protection Act. Further, Project Tiger initiated the set of Corbett National Park along with 9 reserves in 1974. With the passing of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act in 2006, a Wildlife Crime Control Board was set up. It empowered the NTCA whose recommendations were further made binding resulting in an increase in the number of tiger reserves from 9 to 50. They cover an area of 70,000 sq. km or 2.2 per cent of the geographical area of the country.

Asiatic Lion, with a movement range restricted to Gir National Park along with certain surrounding areas of

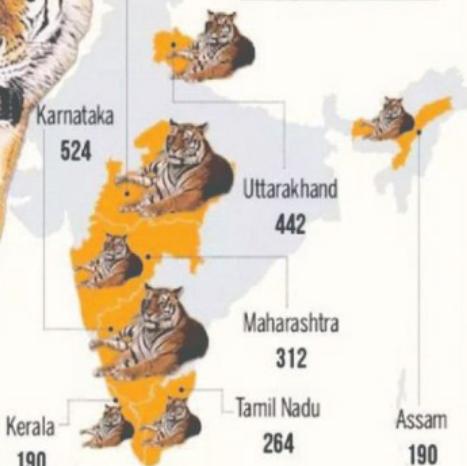
THE ROAR IS BACK



INCREASING TIGER NUMBERS



STATES WITH THE MOST TIGERS



HOW TIGERS WERE COUNTED

3.81 lakh sq. km of forests surveyed for tiger signs and prey estimation

5.22 lakh km foot surveys

3.17 lakh habitat plots sampled for vegetation and prey dung

26,838 Camera trap locations in 141 sites

M-STIPES (Monitoring System For Tigers-Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) app used to strengthen patrolling

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Gujarat, historically inhabited Western Asia, Northern India and the Middle East. However, the three big temples stationed in the sanctuary captive immense pilgrims every year posing danger to the tranquillity and habitat of the National Park. The Canine distemper virus resulted in the deaths of about two dozen in sanctuary causing havoc among the wildlife enthusiasts and naturalists across the globe. The three major roads and a railway track crossing the Gir

Protected Area have raised several conservation issues over time. Despite the conflicts being underlying, the change in values and lifestyles might experience a severe and drastic escalation in the future. **To be continued...**