KIANG



THE LAND OF BUSTARDS

Rajasthan Winter Birding Tour

LOCATION	Rajasthan, India
HABITAT	Wetland · Grassland · Desert
DURATION	9 Days · 8 Nights

8 — 16 DECEMBER 2026

A KIANG COLLECTIVE EXPEDITION

THE EXPEDITION

Itinerary

Nine days. Three habitats.

DAY 01
Tue · 8 Dec

Arrive Delhi

We meet you at Indira Gandhi International Airport and transfer you to your hotel. The day is yours to rest, settle in, and recover from the flight. We meet again in the evening for a welcome dinner and the tour briefing.

DAY 02
Wed · 9 Dec

Delhi to Bharatpur

We have breakfast at the hotel and leave Delhi at 9 AM. The drive south takes about four hours and brings us to Bharatpur in time for lunch. In the afternoon, we head into Keoladeo National Park on a rickshaw safari. The park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the great wintering grounds on the Central Asian flyway, holding thousands of waterfowl through December.

DAY 03
Thu · 10 Dec

Bharatpur to Tal Chhapar

We start the day with a dawn rickshaw session in Keoladeo for the morning peak. After breakfast, we begin the long drive northwest into the Shekhawati region, a journey of about seven hours with a stop for lunch on the road. We reach Tal Chhapar by dinner and retire for the day.

DAY 04
Fri · 11 Dec

A Day at Tal Chhapar

A full day in the grassland. We head out at dawn in a jeep for raptors and a search of the khejri scrub for the localised Indian Spotted Creeper. After a long midday break, we return to the field in the evening for the harrier roost, when Montagu's, Pallid, and Marsh Harriers glide in to roost by the dozen as the light fades.

DAY 05
Sat · 12 Dec

Tal Chhapar to Bikaner

We have one final dawn session at Tal Chhapar before driving three hours west to Bikaner, arriving in time for lunch. The afternoon is spent at Jorbeer Conservation Reserve, famous for its winter raptor congregation. Hundreds of Steppe Eagles, multiple vulture species, and flocks of the vulnerable Yellow-eyed Pigeon gather here through the cold months.

THE EXPEDITION · CONTINUED

Itinerary

Days six to nine.

DAY 06

Sun · 13 Dec

Bikaner to Khichan

We begin with a dawn return to Jorbeer for the morning raptor session, when the light is at its best for photography. After breakfast, we drive about three hours west to Khichan, arriving in time for lunch. In the late afternoon, we visit Khichan Lake, where Demoiselle Cranes come in waves to drink in the slanting light before they roost.

DAY 07

Mon · 14 Dec

Khichan to Jaisalmer

We are out before sunrise at the Chugga Ghar, the village feeding ground established by the local community in the 1970s. By December the gathering is at full strength, with 15,000 to 20,000 Demoiselle Cranes descending in waves to feed on grain laid out by the villagers. After breakfast in Khichan, we drive about three hours west to Jaisalmer. If energy permits, we head out for an evening session at the fringe of Desert National Park for first views of desert species.

DAY 08

Tue · 15 Dec

A Day at Desert National Park

A pre-dawn start into Desert National Park, about an hour from Jaisalmer, with permits secured in advance and local trackers on radio. Our priority target is the Great Indian Bustard, one of the world's most critically endangered birds, with fewer than 200 individuals remaining nationally and almost all of them in this region. The day also covers DNP's wider community of desert specialists, including MacQueen's Bustard, Stoliczka's Bushchat, sandgrouse at the waterholes, and a suite of larks and wheatears across the dunes and sewan grassland. We return to Jaisalmer in the late afternoon.

DAY 09

Wed · 16 Dec

Jaisalmer to Delhi

We have a final morning session at Gadisar Lake in Jaisalmer for any waterfowl and kingfishers missed earlier. After brunch, we transfer to Jaisalmer Airport for the afternoon flight to Delhi, which takes about 1 hour and 30 minutes. The tour concludes on arrival.

THE WILDLIFE

Birds & Mammals

Across wetland, grassland, and desert.

From the wetlands of Bharatpur to the dunes of Desert National Park, the circuit moves through three of India's most distinct bird habitats. Over 200 species are possible across the route, but these are the ones that anchor each stop.



WETLAND · BHARATPUR

Sarus Crane
Painted Stork
Black-necked Stork
Bar-headed Goose
Greater Spotted Eagle

DESERT · KHICHAN, JORBEER, DNP

Great Indian Bustard
MacQueen's Bustard
Demoiselle Crane
Yellow-eyed Pigeon
Stoliczka's Bushchat

GRASSLAND · TAL CHHAPAR

Indian Spotted Creeper
Montagu's Harrier
Eastern Imperial Eagle
White-browed Bushchat
Cream-coloured Courser

MAMMALS

Blackbuck
Chinkara (Indian Gazelle)
Desert Fox
Indian Desert Jird
Nilgai

WHAT TO BRING

Packing list

Layer for the cold dawns. Strip for the warm afternoons.

CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR

- Quick-dry t-shirts or shirts *(earth tones: olive, brown, beige)*
- Trekking or cargo pants
- 1 fleece layer
- 1 lightweight down or puffer jacket *(for early mornings)*
- Thermal top *(for desert safaris and dawn birding)*
- Thermal bottom *(optional)*
- 4–5 pairs of socks
- Innerwear
- Cap for sun protection
- Warm beanie or woollen cap
- Buff or neck gaiter
- Lightweight gloves *(for dawn drives)*
- Comfortable sleepwear
- Well-broken-in walking shoes or trekking shoes
- Sandals or slippers *(for accommodation)*

BIRDING GEAR

- Binoculars
- Camera body
- Telephoto lens
- Batteries
- Battery charger
- Memory cards
- Tripod or monopod
- Bird field guide or offline birding app *(optional)*
- Notebook and pen

HEALTH & PERSONAL CARE

- Personal medicines
- Sunscreen *(SPF 50+)*
- Lip balm
- Moisturizer

DOCUMENTS

A soft copy of a government photo ID, such as a passport, driver's licence, or Aadhaar card, is required for park permits and the domestic flight from Jaisalmer to Delhi. The original must be carried with you throughout the trip.

A disclaimer form will be sent ahead of the expedition. Please print, read, fill, and sign it, and hand it to your expedition leader at the first day's briefing.

THE TERMS

What's included

Everything we cover, and what we don't.

INCLUSIONS

Accommodation

All 8 nights on a twin-sharing basis, with three meals a day including tea, coffee, and snacks.

Transportation

All road transfers from Delhi to Delhi, including the domestic flight from Jaisalmer to Delhi on Day 9.

Naturalist

An expert birding naturalist with the group throughout the expedition.

Permits & Fees

All park entry fees, safari fees, photography fees, and Desert National Park tracker fees.

Equipment

A spotting scope for shared group use.

Safety

A medical kit carried by the expedition team throughout.

EXCLUSIONS

Flights to and from Delhi *(international or domestic)*

Travel insurance

Personal expenses *(laundry, drinks, tips)*

Anything not listed under inclusions

PAYMENT

A non-refundable advance of 25% confirms your booking. The remaining balance is due at least 20 days before the expedition begins.

CANCELLATION

Between 11 and 20 days before departure	**50%**
10 days or fewer before departure	**100%**

GET IN TOUCH

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We respond within 24 hours.