



# ElACP RESOURCE PARTNER *On* ECOTOURISM

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Newsletter

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## BEST ECO-TOURISM DESTINATIONS IN INDIA

### How Wildlife Tourism Can Be a Game Changer for India

March 15, 2025

India is home to some of the world's most diverse ecosystems, with over 100 national parks and 566 wildlife Sanctuaries. From the iconic Bengal tiger in Ranthambore to the majestic Asiatic lions in Gir and the one-horned rhinoceros in Kaziranga, India's wildlife is unparalleled. Wildlife tourism is an emerging sector that has the potential to transform the economy, boost conservation efforts, and offer travellers an unforgettable experience.



#### Introduction

As the demand for eco-tourism in India rises, destinations like Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary are gaining popularity. But how can wildlife tourism

become a game changer for India? Let's explore.

#### Boosting the Economy and Local Livelihoods

One of the biggest advantages of wildlife tourism in India is its positive impact on the economy. National parks and reserves attract thousands of visitors annually, generating revenue through entry fees, accommodations, and guided safaris.

#### How Wildlife Tourism Supports the Economy:

- **Employment Opportunities:** Local communities' benefit from jobs as forest guides, safari drivers, and lodge operators.
- **Growth of Hospitality Industry:** Eco-resorts, homestays, and luxury wildlife lodges like Wildlife Luxuries cater to travellers looking for immersive experiences.
- **Handicrafts and Local Produce:** Wildlife tourists often purchase souvenirs, promoting traditional handicrafts and local products.

#### Conservation of Endangered Species

Wildlife tourism plays a crucial role in the conservation of endangered species like:

- Royal Bengal Tiger (Ranthambore, Kanha, Bandhavgarh)
- Asiatic Lion (Gir National Park)
- One-Horned Rhinoceros (Kaziranga National Park)

- Snow Leopard (Hemis National Park)

Revenue generated from tourism helps fund anti-poaching initiatives, habitat preservation, and conservation projects. Moreover, increased human presence in protected areas discourages illegal hunting and deforestation.



### **Promoting Eco-Tourism and Sustainable Travel**

As travellers become more conscious of their environmental impact, eco-tourism in India is gaining momentum. Sustainable tourism practices such as:

- Low-impact accommodations (like those offered by Wildlife Luxuries)
- Plastic-free zones in national parks
- Solar-powered lodges and campsites are essential for preserving fragile ecosystems while offering tourists a responsible way to explore nature.

### **Enhancing Awareness and Education**

Wildlife tourism is a powerful tool for educating people about biodiversity, conservation, and the importance of protecting ecosystems. When visitors experience India's rich flora and fauna firsthand, they develop a deeper appreciation for nature, which encourages them to support

conservation efforts.

### **Educational Initiatives in Wildlife Tourism**

- Guided Nature Walks & Safari Talks: Many wildlife reserves offer programs where naturalists educate visitors about animal behaviour and conservation.
- Children's Wildlife Camps: Programs designed to introduce kids to the wonders of wildlife, fostering future conservationists.

### **Strengthening India's Global Position in Eco-Tourism**

India is already recognized as a top wildlife tourism destination. However, with better infrastructure, responsible tourism practices, and increased government initiatives, it can compete with countries like Kenya, South Africa, and Costa Rica for international eco-tourism revenue.

### **Steps to Strengthen India's Wildlife Tourism Industry:**

- Improved accessibility to offbeat wildlife destinations like Tipeswar
- Enhanced community-based tourism projects
- Expansion of luxury wildlife lodges

### **Encouraging Rural Development and Tribal Inclusion**

Many wildlife sanctuaries and national parks are located in or near tribal areas. Responsible tourism can uplift these communities by:

- Providing employment opportunities in hospitality, guiding, and handicraft sales
- Encouraging cultural exchanges between travellers and indigenous tribes
- Funding community-led conservation projects

For example, Madhya Pradesh's Pench National Park has successful eco-tourism models where local tribal communities actively participate in

wildlife conservation.

### **Promoting Adventure and Luxury Travel Experiences**

Wildlife tourism is no longer just about spotting tigers – it has evolved to include:

- Luxury tented safaris and eco-lodges
- Birdwatching excursions for avid ornithologists
- Photography tours with expert guides
- Wildlife wellness retreats combining nature and relaxation

Wildlife Luxuries provide high-end accommodations while maintaining eco-friendly practices, ensuring travellers enjoy a premium safari experience.



### **Challenges and Solutions in Wildlife Tourism**

While wildlife tourism has many benefits, it also faces challenges such as:

- Over-tourism in popular reserves (e.g., overcrowding in Ranthambore)
- Human-wildlife conflict due to increased footfall
- Illegal safari practices harming natural habitats

### **How to Overcome These Challenges:**

- ✓ Promote lesser-known destinations like Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary
- ✓ Encourage responsible tourism (strict guidelines on safari behaviour)
- ✓ Invest in eco-friendly infrastructure

**Conclusion: The Future of Wildlife Tourism in India**



The future of wildlife tourism in India is promising. As more travellers seek sustainable experiences, responsible wildlife travel will continue to thrive. By focusing on conservation, community involvement, and eco-tourism, India can unlock the full potential of its biodiversity-rich landscapes while driving economic growth.

*For an unforgettable wildlife experience in India, explore Wildlife Luxuries – where luxury meets conservation in the heart of nature.*

Source:

<https://www.wildlifeluxuries.com/how-wildlife-tourism-can-help-indian-economy/>

## The growing craze for wildlife tourism in India: A journey into nature's heart

TIMESOFINDIA.COM/Mar 1, 2025, 23:18 IST



India is the country of Bengal tigers and rare one-horned rhinos. The nation has been attracting wildlife enthusiasts from all over the world since ages now. But in recent years, wildlife tourism in India has gained immense popularity and has significantly contributed to economic growth and job opportunities. It is true that India's vast ecosystems offer a unique opportunity to experience nature at its most raw and untamed. And in the last few years, there has been a noticeable growth in the number of people flocking to India's national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

### Data

As per Conservation India, wildlife tourism in India is experiencing an annual growth rate of approximately

15%. It's a benchmark for other nations. Last year, the Union Budget included provisions which aimed at promoting eco-tourism. It also aimed at prompting lesser-known destinations, expanding adventure tourism.

As per recent reports, wildlife tourism is a major driver for the broader tourism sector, which contributes roughly 5-6.5% to India's GDP. But because of the interconnected structure of the tourism industry, a specific breakdown of wildlife tourism's exact contribution to the GDP is not easily obtainable.

### India's wildlife

India boasts an incredible range of animals, from the gorgeous Bengal tiger and the elusive snow leopard to the cute Indian elephant and the pretty Indian peacock. Some of the wildlife parks here are magnet for wildlife photographers, nature lovers, and safari enthusiasts. But what makes India special is the opportunity to witness these beautiful wild creatures in their natural habitats.

Sneha Singh, a wildlife safari enthusiast and a social media influencer from London calls India the “land of unimaginable creatures”. Every year she plans a trip to India just to witness the wild beauty in their raw and natural form. “I am the kind of enthusiast who plans a trip to India annually with my family and friends. Till now, I have explored Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, Periyar and Kabini in South India, and I am now excited to explore the gems in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in my next trip.”

One of the prime reasons of wildlife tourism has exploded in India is the rise in people's interest in nature conservation. As everyone is becoming more aware of environmental issues such as habitat loss, poaching, and the

effects of climate change, there has been a growing appreciation for wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

### A booming industry in tourism



It's a fact that the tourism industry in India has always been a prime contributor to the economy. However, wildlife tourism has been gaining quite notable attention in recent years. As per the Ministry of Tourism, parks like the Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, Kaziranga National Park in Assam, Ranthambhore National Park in Rajasthan, and Sundarbans National Park in West Bengal have become a sensation among travellers.

### What wildlife tourism means

Talking to Times Travel, Shekhar Marwa, a budding wildlife photographer said, “Tourism is no longer just about observing animals in the wild. It's a complete experience which is all about jungle safaris, observing birds, nature trails, and eco-tourism. He also said that offering eco-conscious amenities will allow visitors to immerse themselves in the wilderness”.

### Year-round tourism

India's topography is such that it makes sure that wildlife can be enjoyed throughout the year. The national parks in South Indian regions are perfect for monsoon tourism and winter months are ideal for spotting animals in North India.

## The role of social media



We can't ignore the role of social media and influencers in promoting wildlife in India. Rajeev Khanna, an Instagrammer and ardent wildlife safari lover said, "I am a jungle man who enjoys the company of nature. Recently, I have noticed that the national parks I used to visit 12 years ago are a completely different sight. There are more wildlife travellers, influencers and photographers. Earlier, such parks used to host a limited number of tourists and this is a great shift in liking."

With platforms like Instagram, X, FB and YouTube, wildlife enthusiasts can share their real-time experiences.

## Photographer's paradise



We have seen some stunning pictures of tigers walking the grasslands of Ranthambhore in Rajasthan or a herd of elephants traversing through the forests of Jim Corbett in Uttarakhand. All these pictures have sparked a sense of wanderlust about India's natural beauty among travellers. The visually stunning nature of wildlife photography and the growing influence of travel bloggers has

fueled interest in lesser-known conservation parks.

There are also a number of documentaries based on wildlife and shows featuring India's wildlife. Some must-watches include India's Tiger and Our Planet. These have global audiences to the richness of India's fauna.

## Potential revenue model



There is no doubt that wildlife tourism has the potential to bring in revenue. It also carries the responsibility of ensuring the protection of India's fragile ecosystems. But there are some challenges which include over-tourism, human-wildlife conflicts, and environmental degradation, among others. To save wildlife, there is an increased focus on sustainable travel practices.

The Indian government and several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are taking steps to ensure that the tourism boom does not come at the cost of the environment. One such initiative is the promotion of ecotourism, where the focus is not only on enjoying the wilderness but also on contributing to its preservation.

In some regions, local communities are actively involved in wildlife conservation efforts, with tourism revenues being reinvested into preserving wildlife habitats. In places like the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, local tribes have become crucial partners in the effort to protect endangered species while benefiting from tourism in a sustainable way.

## The future



India's wildlife tourism sector is set to attain greater growth in the coming years. As more travellers seek authentic and immersive experiences, the demand for wildlife safaris and nature retreats is likely to increase.

However, with this growth comes the responsibility to safeguard India's natural treasures for future generations.

Source:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/travel/adventures/the-growing-craze-for-wildlife-tourism-in-india-a-journey-into-natures-heart/articleshow/118652802.cms>

## 10 best ecotourism destinations in India perfect for February

TRAVEL TRENDS, INDIA Updated: Mar 1, 2025, 15:25 IST



## 10 best ecotourism destinations in India perfect for February

What is an ecotourism destination? Ecotourism focuses on responsible travel to natural areas, promoting conservation while benefiting local communities and minimizing environmental impact. Ecotourism destinations are places where travellers can experience nature



sustainably-through wildlife safaris, trekking, birdwatching, and cultural immersion—without harming the ecosystem. So here are 10 such amazing ecotourism destinations in India that are perfect for the month of February.



### **Kaziranga National Park, Assam**

Spread across the floodplains of the Brahmaputra River, Kaziranga's grasslands and wetlands provide sanctuary to tigers, elephants, swamp deer, and over 400 bird species. February is an excellent time to visit as the weather is cool, and visibility for spotting wildlife is at its best. Jeep and elephant safaris offer incredible encounters with animals in their natural habitat.



### **Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan**

Previously known as Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, Keoladeo is among India's top birdwatching destinations. This wetland draws thousands of migratory birds, including Siberian cranes, pelicans, and painted storks. February marks the peak birdwatching season, as winter migratory species remain before departing for their breeding grounds.



### **Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand**

Jim Corbett, India's oldest national park and the first to be part of Project Tiger, is a celebrated ecotourism destination. February brings ideal weather for jeep safaris through its dense sal forests, providing visitors with opportunities to spot tigers, leopards, elephants, and gharials.



### **Mawlynnong, Meghalaya**

Celebrated as the cleanest village in Asia, Mawlynnong in Meghalaya exemplifies community-driven ecotourism. Surrounded by lush greenery, the village features enchanting bamboo treehouses and breathtaking living root bridges, offering visitors a truly unforgettable experience.



### **Munnar, Kerala**

Munnar is a green paradise of rolling tea gardens, mist-covered hills, and biodiverse forests. Nearby Eravikulam

National Park is home to the endangered Nilgiri tahr and offers spectacular views. February's cool temperatures make trekking, plantation visits, and wildlife spotting enjoyable.



### **Khonoma, Nagaland**

Khonoma, India's first green village, showcases the Angami tribe's successful conservation efforts to preserve forests and wildlife. Visitors can immerse themselves in sustainable living, explore terraced rice fields, and wander through dense, biodiversity-rich forests.



### **Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh**

Pachmarhi, the only hill station in Madhya Pradesh, is located within the Satpura Biosphere Reserve. Its lush forests, waterfalls, and caves are home to diverse flora and fauna. February is an excellent time for nature walks, as the climate is neither too cold nor too hot.



### Chilika Lake, Odisha

Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, Chilika Lake hosts thousands of migratory birds, including flamingos and pelicans. February is an excellent time for birdwatching and boat rides to explore the lake's islands and dolphin habitats.



### Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh

Namdapha, one of India's most biodiverse hotspots, is home to four majestic big cats—tiger, leopard, snow leopard, and clouded leopard. February's clear skies and cool temperatures create ideal conditions for trekking and wildlife photography.



### Agumbe Rainforest, Karnataka

One of the wettest places in India, Agumbe is a hub for herpetologists, especially those interested in king cobras. February offers drier trails for exploring its rainforests and waterfalls

Source:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/travel/destinations/10-best-ecotourism-destinations-in-india-perfect-for-february/photostory/118108692.cms?picid=118108722>

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## Tourism as a driver of employment generation in India

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### ABSTRACT -1

Tourism is often regarded as a key driver of economic growth and employment generation. This study examines the relationship between the tourism sector and overall employment generation in India. Using regression analysis, the findings indicate a moderate positive correlation (Multiple R = 0.4568); however, the R Square value (0.2087) suggests that only a small proportion of employment variation is explained by tourism-related jobs. The ANOVA results ( $p = 0.3624$ ) show that the effect of tourism employment on overall job creation is not statistically significant, implying that other economic and infrastructural factors play a more dominant role in employment generation. The regression coefficients further reveal that while an increase in the share of tourism-related jobs is associated with a rise in total employment, the relationship lacks statistical significance. These findings highlight the need for a more comprehensive tourism development strategy that integrates infrastructure improvements, skill development programs, and policy support to enhance tourism's contribution to employment. Future research should consider additional variables, such as tourism revenue and seasonal variations, to better assess the sector's impact on job creation.



Keywords: Tourism, Economic Growth, Employment Generation

Source: <https://www.allcommercejournal.com/article/479/6-1-64-597.pdf>

## **The Role of Tourists, Infrastructure and Institutions in Sustainable Tourism: A Structural Equation Modeling Approach**

by

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### **ABSTRACT -2**

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Tourists play a vital role in the development of sustainable tourism by boosting the local economy, preserving culture, and reducing environmental degradation. However, tourists' decisions to visit destinations and promote sustainable tourism are influenced by reliable infrastructure, safety, security, and trust in institutions. A well-developed infrastructure, a peaceful environment, and efficient tourism management encourage tourism and sustainability. Therefore, this research examines the effect of tourism, infrastructure, institutions, and place attachment on sustainable tourism. Additionally, the study examines the role of infrastructure, institutions, and place attachment on tourists' satisfaction in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Primary data were collected through surveys and Google forms from five tourist districts, Swat, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Upper Dir, and Lower Dir of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A total of 250 responses were collected from tourists using a proportionate random sampling technique. The data were analyzed using the partial least square structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) technique. The results show that place attachment and tourist satisfaction positively affect sustainable tourism, while infrastructure, place attachment, and trust in institutions positively affect tourist satisfaction. Furthermore, sustainable tourism was more influenced by tourist satisfaction, and tourist satisfaction was more influenced by trust in institutions and infrastructure. The study also confirmed that infrastructure mediates the relationship between trust in institutions and sustainable tourism and between trust in institutions and tourist satisfaction. The study provides valuable insight to policymakers in assessing tourists' behaviour and sustainable tourism.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Tourism; Infrastructure; Place Attachment; Tourist Satisfaction; PLS-SEM

## **Growth of Tourism Industry in Uttarakhand**

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The travel and tourism industry provides hospitality to visitors to the place as well as services that ensure the customers' demands are met. Tourism provides significant economic support to a country. Tourism has a crucial influence in a country's development, which varies between countries. This industry necessitates extensive oversight and smooth operation because it serves both inlanders and outlanders. This is influenced by a variety of elements, including infrastructure, a country's level of development, culture, safety, and, most significantly, the qualities that render a nation unique enough to make it worth a visit. Additionally, the travel and tourism industry's job are to promote the nation so that as many people as possible visit there and even inspire others to do so. Tourism, in addition to providing to clients or visitors, also caters to persons in need of employment. This industry employs people, hence lowering the country's unemployment rate. Uttarakhand has a thriving and well-established tourism business. It seeks to promote, satisfy, and employ its consumers by offering excellent amenities and recreational opportunities, and so contributes to the country's GDP. Uttarakhand's tourist business is essential and is recognized as one of the primary foundations.

**Keywords: Tourism, Hospitality, Inlanders, Outlanders, Economic Support, Infrastructure, Lowering, Employment, GDP**

Source: <https://www.interestjournals.org/articles/growth-of-tourism-industry-in-uttarakhand.pdf>

### Invitation for Article/Research paper

Dear Readers,

Research papers / Articles related to ecotourism, climate change & mitigation are invited for free publication in the EIACP newsletter. The same will be uploaded in the EIACP website with due courtesy of the author.

### Terms and conditions for publication:

- Closely related with ecotourism related subjects or climate change.
- Full paper with abstract notes.
- 1,000 words in English language.
- High resolution pictures (3,4 nos.) of the topic.

**Note:** Publication of the research paper/ article will be decided by the editorial board of the Newsletter.

Please send your valuable suggestions, queries, comments and articles to:

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This newsletter is aimed at disseminating ecotourism information and its related subjects among, environment enthusiasts, ecotourism stakeholders, students, researchers and public at large.

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