

SAFARI GUIDEBOOK

LUXURY CONSERVATION CENTRAL INDIA SAFARI

REWILD
SAFARISSM



PREPARED FOR THE
COLUMBUS ZOO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 - Preface

5 - India Facts

Section 1: Before Departure

9 - Before Departure

10 - Passport

14 - What to Bring

22 - Money

23 - Health

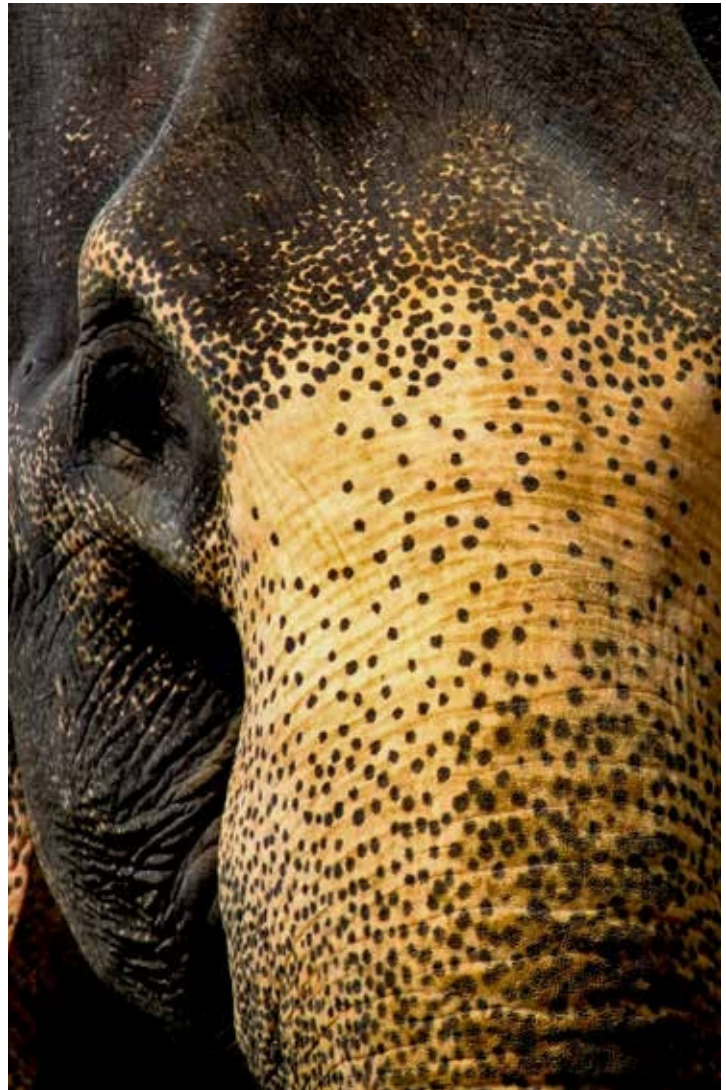
Section 2: On Safari

30 - Valuables/Lost Luggage

31 - Health

36 - Communications

37 - Safari Ethics and Etiquette



Be prepared for your safari adventure to
India with this personal guidebook.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & FOUNDER

Thank you for traveling with Rewild Safaris! We have created this Safari Guidebook to assist you as you prepare for your Indian adventures. Furthermore, you will receive additional information specific to the countries you will visit. Knowing what to expect and being completely prepared are two of the most important factors that will enable you to thoroughly enjoy your explorations of India.

Please take the time to review your Safari Guide now and be sure to let us know if you have any questions. Then, a couple of weeks before your departure, we suggest you review this again to make sure you are fully prepared for your safari.

Again, thank you. I look forward to assisting you as you prepare to explore India and her amazing wildlife destinations.

Tom LaRock
President and Founder
Rewild Safaris

PREFACE

This Safari Guide contains all the information you will need before going on your safari. It is divided into two sections: **Section One: *Before Departure*** contains important information that you will need before you leave. Please read it now for this reason. **Section Two: *On Safari*** contains details and reference materials that will help you during your safari. Please make sure you review it before your safari departs. **Please contact us if you have any questions.**



INDIA FACTS

About India

Central India's lush forests and diverse ecosystems make it a premier wildlife destination, home to some of the country's most iconic national parks. The region, encompassing parts of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh, boasts a rich tapestry of flora and fauna, with the majestic Bengal tiger as its crown jewel.

At the heart of this wilderness lie three renowned national parks: Bandhavgarh, Kanha, and Pench. Bandhavgarh, known for its high density of tigers and camera-friendly big cats, offers visitors unparalleled opportunities for wildlife photography. Kanha, often called the "Queen of Central India," stands out for its conservation efforts and stunning sal forests, which provide a picturesque backdrop for tiger sightings. Pench, immortalized in Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book," adds its own charm to the region's wildlife tapestry.

These parks are not just about tigers; they harbor a diverse array of wildlife including leopards, sloth bears, wild dogs, and various deer species. The region is also a haven for birdwatchers, with hundreds of avian species calling these forests home.

Conservation efforts in Central India have been largely successful, with tiger populations showing promising growth. The parks employ strict protection measures and engage local communities in conservation initiatives, creating a sustainable model for wildlife preservation.

For visitors, these parks offer an immersive safari experience, with expert naturalists guiding them through the wilderness. Whether it's tracking a tiger through Bandhavgarh's dense undergrowth or observing a herd of barasingha in Kanha's meadows, Central India promises unforgettable wildlife encounters.

INDIA FACTS

(Continued)

Time Zone

India operates on Indian Standard Time (IST), UTC +5:30.

Languages

The official languages of India are Hindi and English, with numerous regional languages spoken across different states. English is widely used, especially in urban areas and tourist destinations.

Seasons & Climate

Tropical Climate: Central India experiences warm weather year-round, with average temperatures ranging from 20°C to 35°C (68°F to 95°F). The hottest months are April and May.

Monsoon Seasons:

Southwest Monsoon (June to September): Brings heavy rainfall and cooler temperatures.

Northeast Monsoon (October to December): Has a lesser impact but still contributes to rainfall.

Dry Seasons:

Winter (November to February): Cooler, with temperatures between 10°C and 25°C (50°F to 77°F).

Summer (March to May): Hot and dry, often exceeding 40°C (104°F).



INDIA FACTS

(Continued)

Understanding Cultural Differences

The most important principle to remember when traveling in India is respect. Respect for the local culture, traditions, and beliefs is paramount. Start by learning as much as you can about India's culture and rituals before your trip.

An easy and appreciated way to break the ice with locals is to greet them in their language. Learn a few words like "Namaste" (Hello), "Shubh prabhat" (Good morning), "Aap kaise hain" (How are you), "Dhanyavad" (Thank you), or "Alvida" (Goodbye) and use them when meeting people. This will often be met with big smiles and welcoming gestures.

Indians typically avoid physical contact when greeting. A respectful bow, with your hands pressed together at chest level, is the correct way to say hello or meet new people. Keeping your tone of voice low and remaining calm is also the best way to resolve conflicts. Personal dignity and appearances are very important to locals. Never point at someone with your finger or embarrass them in front of others. The best way out of an argument is to calmly explain your point and try to find a common solution.

Remember, you are visiting a country with a culture very different from your own, with its own etiquette and taboos. Learn what is acceptable and what is not, and behave accordingly.

How to Dress in Public

Indian culture is generally conservative, especially in rural areas. Dress appropriately at all times, particularly when visiting temples or other places of worship.

When visiting government offices or embassies, men should wear long trousers and shirts, while women should cover their shoulders and knees. In cities and urban areas, it is inappropriate to go around in a bikini or bare-chested. For jungle trekking, cover as much of your body as possible to avoid insect bites.

By following these guidelines, you can ensure a respectful and enjoyable experience in India.

SECTION 1

BEFORE DEPARTURE



BEFORE DEPARTURE

Please read this entire guide before your departure.

It contains important information to help you prepare for your safari. We recommend you bring this safari guide with you on safari.



Get a Passport (or Check your Passport)

If you already have one, make sure it will remain valid for at least six months **after** the date of your return from your safari. If it doesn't, please get a new passport now. We suggest that you have at least two blank pages in your passport.



Obtain the Required Visa

You will need to obtain a visa ahead of time to enter the country you are travelling to. A visa is valid for 12 months from the date it's approved, so apply early.



Talk to a Medical Professional/Travel Health Clinic

This safari guidebook provides you with important information on the various precautions you may choose to take, but it is ultimately up to you to consult with your own medical professionals to determine your personal precautionary health measures.



Book International Flights To/From Home

Rewild Safaris does not make international flight arrangements. Please consult your landing page for options for assistance with these flight arrangements.



Send Us a Copy of Your International Air Confirmations (as soon as you receive them)

We need to provide your flights details to our team in Botswana to coordinate all your arrangements. Send to inquiry@rewildsafaris.com

PASSPORT/VISA

Please visit the U.S. State Department's website for complete information.

http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

If you have a passport, make sure that it will remain valid for at least **six months after the date of your return** from your safari. **Your airline may have been instructed to not let you board your flight if this requirement is not met.**

If you have changed your name (are newly married, for instance) be sure that we have your name as it appears on your passport. Your safari arrangements must be confirmed using your passport name. Please note that, if a name change is required, the airlines and other providers of services will charge a fee, which will be added to your safari balance.

If you have a passport that has expired within the last 15 years, or one that will not remain valid for at least six months after the date of your return home, you will need to renew it. Renewal requires an application, two passport photos, your latest passport, and payment of the renewal fee.

If you are getting a U.S. passport for the first time, or if your old one expired more than 15 years ago, you will need to provide proof of citizenship, proof of identity and two 2"x2" photos. For complete details, please visit this website:

http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html

If you are applying for your passport, please make sure to leave enough time to obtain any travel visas you may need.

Please ensure you have **at least two blank visa pages** in your passport per country visited on your itinerary for the travel visas and entry/exit stamps you may obtain. Endorsement pages cannot be counted as visa pages. If you do not have the minimum of blank pages, we strongly recommend you obtain a new passport.

You may use a professional passport/visa service to assist you with any passport-related transaction. An additional fee will be charged by the passport/visa service. You may use any service you wish. We have found The Travel Documents Company (<https://www.traveldocs.com/>) to be highly effective in providing personalized assistance with passport and visa services.

PASSPORT/VISA

(Continued)

Passport agencies of the U.S. Department of State are located in several cities and there are over 7,000 locations which accept passport applications throughout the U.S. Please visit this website to locate one near you: <http://iafdb.travel.state.gov/>

If you require expedited service, we strongly recommend you use a professional passport/visa service. Please note that additional time may be needed to obtain visas. If you apply for expedited service directly to the State Department, be sure to specify your departure date on your application. This is very important: passports are processed by the State Department in the order of departure date. Application forms that simply arrive by overnight services do not receive expedited treatment. The State Department charges an additional fee to expedite the processing of your passport.

Loss or theft of a valid passport is a serious matter and should be reported in writing immediately to Passport Services, Department of State, Washington, D.C., or to the nearest passport agency. If you are abroad, it should be reported to the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy. We strongly suggest you make a photocopy of your passport and carry the photocopy with you, separate from your passport. In case of loss, this will help expedite the paperwork for obtaining a new one.

In addition, **we require that you provide Rewild Safaris with a copy of the photo page of your passport, so we may book your hotel and transportation reservation in India.**

If you experience any problem in obtaining a passport, please call us and we'll assist you.

Make sure you have enough blank pages in your passport for entry and departure stamps when traveling. Blank amendment or endorsement pages cannot be used for entry and departure stamps.

Ensure your passport is valid for at least six months from your date of entry.

Visa

A Visa for India is required and is good for 12 months from the time it is approved.

You can apply for an Indian visa online through the official Indian government e-Visa website. A link can be found on your safari landing page under ETA/Visas.

PASSPORT/VISA

(Continued)

Visa (continued)

Eligibility for e-Tourist Visa: International

- Travelers whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sightseeing, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, short duration medical treatment or casual business visit.
- Passport should have at least six months validity from the date of arrival in India. The passport should have at least two blank pages for stamping by the Immigration Officer.
- International Travelers should have return ticket or onward journey ticket, with sufficient money to spend during his/her stay in India.
- International Travelers having Pakistani Passport or Pakistani origin may please apply for regular Visa at Indian Mission.
- Not available to Diplomatic/Official Passport Holders.
- Not available to individuals endorsed on Parent's/Spouse's Passport i.e., each individual should have a separate passport.
- Not available to International Travel Document Holders.

Instructions for e-Tourist Visa:

- Applicants of the eligible countries/territories may apply online minimum 4 days in advance of the date of arrival with a window of 30 days (for 30 days e-Tourist visa) OR minimum 4 days in advance of the date of arrival with a window of 120 days (for 1 year/ 5 years e-Tourist visa).
- Recent front facing photograph with white background and photo page of Passport containing personal details like name, date of birth, nationality, expiry date etc. to be uploaded by the applicant. The application is liable to be rejected if the uploaded document and photograph are not clear / as per specification.
- e-Visa fee is country/Territory specific. Bank transaction charges of 2.5% will be charged additionally on applicable e-Visa fees. The fee must be paid at least 4 days before the expected date of travel otherwise application will not be processed. To know the fee applicable on your Country/Territory please visit https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/eTV_revised_fee_final.pdf
- e-Visa fee once submitted is non-refundable as the fee is for processing of the application and is not dependent on either Grant or Rejection of Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA).
- Applicant should carry a copy of Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) along with him/her at the time of travel. Please confirm that your ETA status is shown as 'GRANTED' on this website prior to commencement of your journey. Applicants can track the status of their application online by clicking <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>
- Biometric details of the applicant will be mandatorily captured at Immigration on arrival in India.

PASSPORT/VISA

(Continued)

Visa (continued)

- The validity of e-Visa will be 30 days from the date of arrival in India.
- Double entry is permitted on e-Tourist Visa and e-Business Visa. Triple entry will be permitted on e-Medical Visa.
- e-Visa is valid for entry through 24 designated Airports (i.e., Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bagdogra, Bengaluru, Calicut, Chennai, Chandigarh, Cochin, Coimbatore, Delhi, Gaya, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Tiruchirappalli, Trivandrum & Varanasi) and 3 designated seaports (i.e. Cochin, Goa, Mangalore). However, the foreigner can take exit from any of the authorized Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) in India. This facility is in addition to the existing Visa services.
- e-Visa can be used for maximum of two times in a calendar year i.e., between January to December.
- e-Visa is non-extendable, non-convertible & not valid for visiting Protected/Restricted and Cantonment Areas. If you intend to visit Protected/Restricted/Cantonment areas, you will require prior permission from the Civil Authority <http://www.mdoner.gov.in/content/rappap-restrictedprotected-area-permit>
- Applicants can track the status of their application online by clicking visa status.
- Please be careful while making payment of the e-TV fee. If the number of unsuccessful attempts is more than three (03), then the application id would be blocked, and the applicant would be required to apply again by filling the application form once more and regenerating a new application id.
- The Visa fee payment status updating may take up to 2 hours due to technical reasons/network delays. Applicants are advised to wait for 2 hours before payment of Visa fee again. In cases, where Visa fee has been deducted but status is not updated, the applicants are advised to verify their payment status by clicking on 'Verify Payment/Pay Visa Fee' tab or by clicking on the link Verify Payment.
- Before re-applying, the applicants are requested to wait for 4 hours for payment status updating, after final submission of the application form and payment of the fee. The payment status updating may take up to 4 hours.
- Nationals of Yellow Fever affected countries must carry YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION CARD at the time of arrival in India, otherwise they may be quarantined for 6 days upon arrival in India. Please visit our Ministry of Health & Family Welfare latest guidelines regarding yellow fever countries [here](#).
- **For any assistance call 24/7 Visa support center at +91-11-24300666 or send email to indiatvoa@gov.in**

WHAT TO BRING



Documents

Before your departure, we will provide you with additional information that will help you on safari. Take this safari guide and other information with you. **DO NOT put any important documents in the luggage that you check through.** Always keep these items with you in your carry-on luggage. **And don't forget your passport!**

Important: Anyone travelling with children under 18 years will need to present an **unabridged birth certificate** at port of entry.



Luggage

Most people tend to take too much clothing and gear on safari. Pack light and plan on taking only one medium soft-sided suitcase or duffel bag. The size limitation is required so that all bags can easily fit into your safari vehicle or light aircraft. Both have a limited amount of space for luggage. Plan on using your carry-on as your day bag during game drives.

Keep one carry-on bag in your possession at all times with important items such as medications, tickets, passport, etc.

When traveling within India, most domestic flights have luggage weight restrictions.

Cabin Baggage Allowance: You can carry a maximum of 7 kg bag, which includes a laptop and a duty-free shopping bag. The maximum size of your cabin baggage should not exceed 115 cm (55cm+35cm+25cm).

Passengers are allowed to bring certain items free of charge in addition to their baggage allowance, as long as they comply with applicable security regulations. These items include

- An overcoat wrap or blanket.
- An umbrella or walking stick.
- A lady's handbag, lady's pocketbook or lady's purse.
- A reasonable amount of reading matters for the flight.
- A small camera and/or a pair of binoculars.
- Infant's food for consumption in flight.

WHAT TO BRING



Luggage (continued)

Passengers are not allowed to carry anything on the aircraft that does not fit under the seat in front of them or in the attached storage compartment. If a passenger's hand baggage is too large, heavy or unsafe then baggage will be included as checked baggage.

Checked Baggage: They allow only 1 piece of check-in baggage, up to a maximum of 15 kgs (We have added 5 kg more so total would be 20 kg per person). Dimensions of the checked-in baggage should not exceed 158 CMS (62 inches) in overall dimensions (L+W+H)

International airlines have varying weight allowances for your checked luggage and may charge an extra fee for more than one checked piece of luggage. Please check with your airline for their allowance. Please check with all your international airlines now to determine if your carry-on luggage meets their specific requirements.

We strongly recommend you consider securing your checked baggage with locks approved by the U.S. Transportation Safety Administration (TSA). Additional details are available at this TSA website: <http://www.tsa.gov/travel/travel-tips>.

We recommend you place tracking device, such as an Apple AirTag, in your checked luggage so you can track the location if the baggage is misplaced.



WHAT TO BRING

(Continued)



Clothing

Once again, travel light. Casual wash-and-wear summer clothing is appropriate for your safari. India has a tropical climate with distinct dry and wet seasons varying across the island. The annual temperature ranges from 82-90°F,

The western and southern coasts, along with the hill country, are driest from November to March, while the eastern coast shines between May and September. Expect tropical showers year-round, except in the arid north.

Remember, although you are traveling to India, some of the locations you may visit may be cool in the morning and evenings when the sun is down.

During the day, wear pants, jeans, shorts, or a lightweight skirt, and lightweight, comfortable, and moisture-wicking top, preferably khaki, tan, or another neutral color, so as not to startle those animals and birds which have color vision. Bring a sweater, fleece top or summer jacket for the early mornings and evenings, and for night game drives.

Laundry service is available at most locations. The staff will give you instructions on sending clothes to be washed and they will generally be returned the next day. For cultural reasons, laundry service for underwear may not be offered. Occasionally, the weather may not provide ideal drying conditions and your pressed laundry may be returned slightly damp. We simply hang any damp items up and let them continue to dry. We suggest carrying a small container of powdered detergent (such as Woolite) for rinsing out your more delicate items yourself.

WHAT TO BRING

(Continued)

Clothing (continued)

Traditional khaki safari clothes are not required but many of our travelers tell us that dressing the part adds to the fun of their safari and simplifies the choices of what to take. Here are some websites that feature safari-type clothing, as well as other travel items:

BASS PRO SHOPS: <https://www.basspro.com>

COLUMBIA: <https://www.columbia.com>

KUIU: <https://www.kuiu.com>

PATAGONIA: <https://www.patagonia.com>

TILLEY: <http://www.tilley.com>

ORVIS: <http://www.orvis.com>

MAGELLANS: <http://www.magellans.com>

SUN PRECAUTIONS: <http://www.sunprecautions.com>

Please keep in mind that airplanes can be quite cool during overnight international flights. Dress so you will be warm and comfortable during your flight.



Footwear

Comfort is the key. Any good walking shoes or hiking shoes are usually sufficient unless you have specific ankle issues that may require higher-top shoes, as the ground can be uneven.



Headgear

We strongly recommend a wide-brimmed soft cloth hat for protection from the intense sun. It can be folded and put in a pocket or bag and is less likely to blow off than a stiffer-brimmed hat.



Bring a Rain Jacket

Rainstorms can occur at any time, especially during monsoon season from June to September. The lodges generally provide umbrellas if they are needed.

WHAT TO BRING

(Continued)



Camera

Virtually everyone who wishes to take photographs on their safari uses a digital camera, mobile phone or tablet. Most people find that a digital camera with a zoom lens rated between 70 and 300mm allows them the greatest flexibility in taking wildlife photos. The zoom feature is handy for framing your photo, and the longer focal length will bring your subjects closer to you.

Digital cameras store their image files on memory cards. It's easy to fill up a card when using a digital camera, so we suggest you bring more than one. Some travelers bring a dedicated hard drive to store image files, allowing the cards to be reused throughout the safari.

If you purchase new photographic equipment for your safari, please test it to ensure it functions properly. And be sure to bring extra batteries, even if your equipment uses rechargeable batteries. Batteries can run out of power while you are on a game drive, and a spare will ensure you won't miss a great photo opportunity. You will likely not be able to purchase another battery while on safari.



Bring Binoculars

Everyone who goes on a wildlife safari should have his or her own pair of binoculars. If you don't already have some, purchasing a good pair of binoculars is a wise investment. Binoculars are an essential tool for seeing birds and smaller animals and watching animals' behaviors at a distance. Choosing the right binoculars can seem a confusing challenge. Most of our travelers have found binoculars ranging in size from 7 x 35 to 10 x 50 useful on safari.



WHAT TO BRING

(Continued)



Electrical Appliances

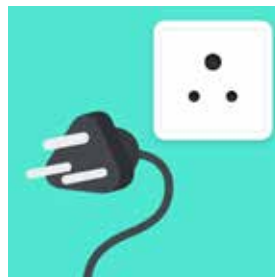
You will need adapters to slip onto your appliance plugs so that they will fit into the electrical sockets in India. If you travel to more than one country, you may need additional adapters. Therefore, you can play it safe and bring a kit of adapters or a single adapter with several plug options. These adapters are available online and in many sporting goods stores, luggage stores and other retailers selling travel gear.

For more information about power systems around the world, please visit this website:
<https://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plug-voltage-by-country/>.

When you are gathering the items, you will be taking on safari with you, be sure to grab a travel adaptor. The electric current is 230-volt AC (50cycles) throughout India. Many different types of plugs and sockets are infused. Travelers with electric shavers, hairdryers, tape recorders and other appliances should carry a plug adapter kit.



Type C



Type D



Type M

CHECKLIST - CLOTHING

Clothing

Lightweight, comfortable, and moisture-wicking blend clothing in neutral colors (avoid dark blue clothing which may attract insects during daylight hours)

Lightweight rain jacket (during monsoon season, June to September)

3 or 4 short or long sleeve shirts – based on personal preference (long sleeve will protect you better from insect bites and sun burn)

3 or 4 pairs of light-weight, quick-drying pants or shorts

Sleepwear and leisurewear

Windbreaker/sweater/sweatshirt/fleece (for early mornings or late evenings)

3 or 4 pairs of underwear and socks

Swimsuit (and light cover-up garment)

Wide brimmed hat (for sun protection)

Comfortable walking shoes or light-weight hiking boots (running/tennis shoes are fine)

Flip-flops or sandals (for poolside)

Wraparound for visiting temples (if you wear shorts)

Carry-On or On Your Person

Passport, airline confirmations

Credit card, cash (due to security concerns, do not use debit cards in India)

Medications (do not pack medications in checked luggage)

Spare pair of prescription glasses or contact lenses if you wear them. If you wear contacts, we suggest you also bring along a pair of glasses. Eye drops.

A copy of your eyeglass prescription in case you lose or break your glasses

Cameras, digital memory cards, extra batteries, lens cleaning items

Photocopy of your passport photo page (Keep this separate from your passport)

Ear plugs, neck rest, eye shade for your overnight flights

Spare set of underwear & socks in the unlikely event your luggage is delayed

Something to read during your flights

CHECKLIST - MISCELLANEOUS

Miscellaneous Items

- Portable external battery to charge your phone
- Charging cables
- Toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Small flashlight
- Pre-moistened towelettes or baby wipes
- Small travel towel
- Waterproof bags
 - Facial tissues
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Binoculars
- Sunscreen and lip balm (A minimum SPF of 30 is recommended)
- Powdered laundry detergent (for your personal delicate items)
- Transformer for converting 120 volts to 220 volts, if your appliance does not operate on dual voltage.
 - Electrical adapter plugs
- Security pouch for carrying your passport and money
 - At least one extra pair of glasses or contact lenses
 - A copy of your eyeglass prescription in case you lose or break your glasses
 - Sunglasses (preferably polarized)
- Daypack (which doubles as your carryon luggage)
 - Retractable hiking pole (optional)
- Medications for diarrhea, colds, sunburn, upset stomach, etc. Basic first-aid kit (band-aids, antiseptic ointment, aspirin, etc.) Prescription medications you may need Written copy of your prescriptions with the chemical name of the medication (Keep this separate
 - from your medications)
- Small notebook or journal and pens
- Sewing kit, rubber bands, duct tape
- Your favorite snacks that are not subject to heat damage (nuts, hard candies, mints, granola bars)
 - TSA approved luggage locks
- Sports drink hydration tablets for staying hydrated and quickly replenishing trace elements (available at sporting goods stores)

MONEY

Currency & Credit Cards

Regarding money exchange, money change in Delhi is better. The only thing you would need money for is tipping, which can be done in USD. Shops can also take foreign currency up there. There will be very limited shops that will be open.

When travelling anywhere, always keep your money and valuables with you. Never leave them in your room or leave them unattended in vehicles.

Tipping

We would like to inform you that tipping is completely a matter of a guest's service satisfaction. For your information, here is a general guideline for tipping:

- Airport Representative: INR 300 – INR 500 (USD 4-7) per transfer.
- Driver: INR 500 (USD 6-7) (Delhi City)
- Local Guide: INR 1500-2000 (USD 20-25) for half day/full day sightseeing Delhi.
- Bellboys at hotels: INR 20-30 per piece of baggage per entry.
- At restaurants: Approx 10% of your billed amount.
- Driver: INR 500 (USD 6-7) per drive per vehicle between national parks.
- Resident naturalist: INR 500 (USD 6-7) per safari.
- Park guide: INR 100-200 (USD 2-3) per safari. This is the guide who comes in the vehicle every day from the Forest Department.
- Jeep driver: INR 200-300 (USD 4-5) per safari.
- Jungle Lodges: Common Tipping in the tipping box: INR 500 Per Person per day (we do not recommend individual tipping).
- Accompanying Indian Tour Leader: USD 12-15 Per person per day

In some cases, the Resident naturalist from the lodge will also be driving the vehicle, so tips can only be given to him/her. Whenever the Resident naturalist is not driving, a tip can be given to the Jeep driver separately.

HEALTH

General Health Considerations

Before you leave for an extended vacation, especially to an international destination, we recommend you consult your physician and a professional travel clinic. **Make the doctor's appointment at least eight weeks before your departure.** You may need some prescriptions, inoculations (some of which need to be taken well before your departure), and perhaps some special advice that relates to your own physical condition. You should get a physical examination if you haven't had one recently. Discuss your itinerary and describe your planned activities with your doctor if you have any questions about your fitness.

Let us know if you have any medical conditions requiring special care or medications.

In addition to getting specific inoculations and drugs, it is also a good idea to bring along some general medicines. A broad-spectrum antibiotic is advisable. Be aware that some antibiotics (like tetracycline) can cause hypersensitivity to the sun. Diarrhea medicine is also advisable, as is medication for itches or rashes.

Be sure to bring enough of the prescription medicines that you are currently taking.

If you have any special condition or allergy that might require attention overseas, have your physician write a letter describing the nature of the condition and the treatment - send a copy to us and carry the letter with you. If you need medical care away from home, your temporary physician can treat you more efficiently and effectively.

If you have severe allergies that require an Epi-pen, please be sure to bring them.

Medical Insurance

Any additional expenses resulting from medical conditions or emergencies are your responsibility. Please review the details of your travel insurance coverage and check with your insurance agent to ensure you are adequately covered while travelling overseas.

HEALTH

(Continued)

Health Precautions for India

There are certain health precautions that you should take for your visit. It is beyond the scope of this publication to advise you of precisely what you need as requirements change, and they vary among individuals. It is up to each traveler to consult their physician for specific advice.

You will be travelling in a part of the world where medical care is not well developed. You will often be far from any medical facility or doctor, and it could take several hours to get help. Although emergency medical evacuation services are available in India, it is sometimes impossible to contact them immediately. Although simple first aid may be available, and there are some simple medical facilities in parks and reserves, your guides, drivers, and other personnel cannot be relied upon for any but the most basic first aid.

Inoculations

You may need to get certain inoculations before you leave. Requirements vary from country to country. Please consult your physician or a professional travel clinic about your personal needs.

You'll find the CDC's recommendations here: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.htm>.

Please consult your safari landing page for our recommended online health travel professionals.

Eyeglasses & Contact Lenses

If you wear eyeglasses, take an extra pair along on the trip. If you wear contact lenses, you should take an extra pair of contacts and a backup pair of regular glasses. A copy of your eyeglass prescription will make it easy to replace your glasses if necessary.

CPAP Machine

If you use a CPAP machine, please know that some lodges and camps may not provide 24-hour electrical service. Portable, battery-operated CPAP machines are currently on the market, and you should consider purchasing and bringing one with you if you need your CPAP every night.

If you can only bring a CPAP that requires overnight electricity, please contact us at inquiry@rewildsafaris.com to confirm that the lodges and camps on your itinerary can accommodate that.

CHECKLIST - HEALTH

Health

Consult your physician and/or a professional travel clinic eight weeks before your departure.

Plan ahead and get the necessary inoculations well before your departure.

Ask your medical professional for a recommendation for malaria prevention medication. Let your doctor know if you are or may become pregnant.

Let Rewild Safaris know of any medical issues you may have, and carry a letter from your physician with relevant information.

Carry your prescription medicines by hand and bring written copies of all your prescriptions if you need to replace any while on safari.

Take some personal medications for infection, headache, upset stomach, allergies, and diarrhea. Get advice and prescriptions from your doctor.

Take out additional medical travel insurance if your insurance advisor recommends it after reviewing your policy and the travel insurance provided.



SAFETY

General Risks of Travel

We make every effort to assure you a safe, healthy, and rewarding journey. Any travel, however, involves some risk. Whether you make your own arrangements or go with a group, the new and wonderful things that travel offers can be dangerous. Although such risks can be greatly minimized and will not pose a serious threat to you, no one can guarantee you the same level of safety or health that you might enjoy at home. Health and safety standards vary widely worldwide, and we have little control over local conditions or practices.

Travel Advisory

From time to time, the U.S. State Department issues travel advisories regarding travel to and within various countries as they deem appropriate. You may review their website at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to get in touch with us to discuss them.

TRAVELLING TO/FROM HOME

Flight Information

Rewild Safaris does not make international flight arrangements. If you would like to work with a professional air travel agent, please contact Cathy King of King Travel at adventuretrips@hotmail.com or call her at 828-421-5000.

Once you have confirmed your international flight arrangements, please provide us with a copy of your flight confirmation by send it to inquiry@rewildsafaris.com. We need this so our Rewild Safaris team can meet you when you arrive in India.

Consider arriving at your initial destination a day or two earlier than called for in your itinerary. The most important reason is to prevent a delayed or cancelled flight from causing you to arrive in India after the planned start of your safari. Should this happen, we will arrange for you to catch up with the group. However, you may incur additional costs if you cannot start your safari on the day designated in your itinerary. While travel insurance may cover additional expenses, travelling early is the best way to ensure this does not happen.

We will happily arrange additional accommodations for your early arrival and confirm the price before finalizing them. We can also arrange for you to see some of the local attractions if you wish.

Domestic flights within the United States may also be delayed or cancelled. If you have to fly to an international gateway airport, we suggest you book the earliest flight on the day of your departure or consider flying a day earlier and spending the night at an airport hotel.

Flying Departure Times

Minimum check-in time for domestic flights is 2 hours; regional and international flights is 3 hours. This applies in North America and India.

TRAVELLING TO/FROM HOME

Returning Home

If you will be flying to your hometown upon your return, allow at least 2 1/2 to 3 hours between your international and domestic flights. Upon returning to the United States, you must proceed through immigration, retrieve your baggage and go through customs. If you have nothing to declare, go through one of the green lines.

If you are flying to your home, look for an interline check-in counter before leaving the area. You can take your bags to this counter and transfer them to your next flight. You don't have to carry them with you to another terminal. If you leave the customs hall, you can't get back in, so do this before you leave the area.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection offers an expedited arrival program, Global Entry, that makes returning to the U.S.A. an easier and simpler process, avoiding the long lines that occur at Immigration when hundreds of travelers arrive simultaneously. The details are available here: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/trusted-traveler-programs/global-entry>

We recommend you review the U.S. Customs Service's guidelines before you depart. You will find them at <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/know-before-you-go> .

SUGGESTED READING

This list and its descriptions reflect our opinions on some of the best books about India and its wildlife. It is by no means a complete list of our favorites.

- **"The Land of the Tiger: A Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent"** by Valmik Thapar
Offers an in-depth look at India's wildlife, with a focus on tigers, their habitat, and conservation efforts.
- **"Tigers in the Emerald Forest: Ranthambore and the Southern Labyrinth"** by Bikram Grewal
Although primarily about Ranthambore, this book provides great insights into the behavior and conservation of tigers in India, relevant to other tiger reserves.
- **"The Last Tigers of Bengal: A Journey Through Sundarbans"** by Sy Montgomery
While focused on a different region, it provides a compelling narrative on the survival of tigers, which will enrich your understanding of the species.
- **"The Wild Heart of India: Nature and Conservation in the City of Joy"** by T.R. Shankar Raman
A collection of essays exploring India's rich biodiversity and the challenges of conservation.
- **"Wild India: A Wildlife Guide and Phrasebook"** by Guy Treweek
A practical guide to the wildlife of India, including key species to look out for, with some local phrases that might be useful.
- **"Central India: A Traveller's Companion"** by David Abram
Focuses on Central India's history, culture, and natural beauty, providing context to your visit.
- **"India's Wildlife History: An Introduction"** by Mahesh Rangarajan
Offers a historical perspective on India's wildlife and conservation efforts, setting the stage for your safari experience.
- **"Jungle Lore"** by Jim Corbett
A classic memoir by the famous hunter-turned-conservationist, offering insights into the Indian jungles and wildlife.
- **"The Man-Eating Leopard of Rudraprayag"** by Jim Corbett
Another classic, focused on Corbett's encounters with a notorious leopard, showcasing the challenges of life in the Indian wilds.

SECTION 2

ON SAFARI



VALUABLES

Valuable Tips

One of the recurrent travel problems is losing items or having belongings stolen. Most people are not used to a nomadic way of life and don't keep track of their possessions very well while on the move.

Remember that travelers are usually conspicuous, and thieves thrive on carelessness. Here are some important points to keep in mind wherever you travel:

- **Avoid wearing flashy items** like jewelry and fancy clothes in public. It's best to leave your jewelry at home. You may be particularly vulnerable while standing in lines, baggage-claim areas, and crowded public places where pickpockets lurk. Men should not carry a wallet in their pant pockets. Women should carry bags with any flaps held toward them. Hold onto bags tightly in crowded places or leave your purse at home. **Do not talk to strangers on the street. Don't listen to any plea for help** or any other line you may be given. Con artists of all sorts abound, so ignore them and continue on your way.
- They have very convincing stories and are unbelievably good. If someone persists, ask the manager for assistance in a shop or other public place. **Always keep all your important items in a safe place.** Spreading valuables in different places rather than in one bag or pocket is best. It's best to keep your passport on your person at all times. **Always keep your carry-on bag with you while you are travelling.** Don't leave money or credit cards in your hotel room unless there is a safe. Don't leave your purse, day pack or camera bag unattended.
-

Lost Luggage

It is a sad but true aspect of air travel that bags get delayed or lost. It doesn't happen often, but it does happen, and there is not much that we can do to prevent it. The hopeful note is that the odds of it happening to you are thousands to one. But if it does happen, please don't let it spoil your safari.

Fortunately, delayed bags are more common than lost bags. Our local team will help you purchase whatever you may need. **Keep your receipts for reimbursement** to take advantage of your baggage delay and loss insurance. Your travel insurance company may help locate your luggage if the airlines need help identifying its location. To help your luggage find you, we recommend **placing your home address and a tracking device, like an Apple Airtag**, to help the airlines get it to you.

HEALTH

Travel Fatigue

Air travel experts and experienced travelers have techniques for combating travel fatigue. Here are some things you should do to reduce travel fatigue:

- Get plenty of **rest the day before you leave.**
- **HYDRATE! Avoid alcohol during the flight and drink plenty of other liquids.**
- **Eat lightly during the flight.**
- Exercise. You can **get up and stretch and walk about while on the plane.** Roll your feet, rotate your head, and contract and relax your leg muscles.
- **Stretch out** if there are some unoccupied seats. Take off or loosen your shoes.
- **Use earplugs and an eye mask to sleep during your flight.** You may ask your flight attendant to let you rest when they offer meals or other services.

Jet Lag

When you travel across time zones, your circadian rhythms (or body clock) are thrown off schedule. India operates according to the same time zone as India, which is 10 ½ hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (New York) & 5½ hours ahead to GMT (Greenwich Mean time). There is no daylight savings time. Your watch will tell you it's time to wake up, while your body convincingly argues that it's time to sleep. Coupled with general travel fatigue, jet lag can cause impaired body and mental functions.

Chief among the symptoms are restlessness and fatigue, digestive problems, altered kidney and bowel functioning, pronounced reaction to alcohol, cloudy vision and short-term memory loss. Several factors can influence the seriousness of jet lag: the number of time zones crossed, the length of the flight, whether there is a stopover during the journey, and the departure and arrival times.

There are several things you can do to alleviate jet lag.

First, follow the suggestions given above to combat general travel fatigue.

Second, in preparation for your journey, you can consciously adjust your diet and sleeping patterns before your departure to put you more in sync with your destination's time frame.

We suggest you visit The National Sleep Foundation's informative website to learn more about jet lag.

<http://www.sleepfoundation.org/article/sleep-topics/jet-lag-and-sleep>.

HEALTH

(Continued)

Digestive Disorders

Stomach and intestinal upsets are common complaints wherever people travel. They range from mild discomfort to diarrhea and vomiting. The vast majority are harmless and quickly pass.

Some digestive upset is inevitable for many people. Readjustment of the body clock and exposure to new flora and minerals in the water cause part of it.

According to one study, the biggest cause of traveler's stomach upset is overindulgence in rich foods and alcohol, not bacteria in the water supply. Depending on the destination, there may be health hazards from drinking the local water or eating certain foods.

Food & Water in India

Good sanitation, fresh foods, and good food preparation techniques keep health problems minimal while on safari in India. At the places we stay and eat, there is no need to avoid seafood, dairy products, or other foods. As a precaution, some travelers do avoid raw vegetables and salads.

Only drink bottled or treated drinking water throughout your safari. Bottled or treated water is also served at meals, in your accommodations and is used for making ice cubes. **Do not drink any other water at any time during your time in India (including tap water).**

Always use bottled or treated water for brushing your teeth and rinsing your mouth.

Traveler's Diarrhea

Traveler's diarrhea is a common malady throughout the world. When it occurs, there are two things you can do: stop it with medications or let it run its course. Several medications can usually stop it.

Some physicians argue, however, that diarrhea is nature's way of ridding the system of harmful toxins and shouldn't be stopped prematurely. You should consult your physician on whether and under what conditions you should take diarrhea medicine.

HEALTH

(Continued)

Avoid Dehydration

During your flight, drink plenty of liquids and avoid alcohol. After you arrive, continue to drink lots of liquids. If you aren't careful, you can quickly become dehydrated. You may find you need to drink more non-alcoholic beverages than you do at home.

Sports drink hydration tablets mixed with bottled water may quickly help you feel refreshed if you feel dehydrated. As an example, we never travel without these tablets:

<https://guenergy.com/products/hydration-drink-tabs>.

Respiratory Ailments

Travelling increases the risk of contracting sniffles, throat infections, and other maladies. There's not much to be done except to take something along for the symptoms.

For the comfort of others, smoking is not permitted in the safari vehicles or during meals. Many lodges and camps do not allow smoking in their rooms or tents.

Sun

Don't underestimate the effects of the intense sun. It feels good, but its effects quickly accumulate. Sunburn and sun poisoning can result, and both can cause real discomfort and illness.

Wear a wide-brimmed hat and use sunscreen with a minimum SPF of 30 whenever you are exposed to the direct rays of the sun. You can always roll the sleeves up if you get too warm.

Blue Lizard sunscreen was recommended by our dermatologist. Here is their website:

<https://bluelizardsunscreen.com/>.

HEALTH

(Continued)

Motion Sickness

For travelers prone to motion sickness, various methods of travel may cause significant discomfort. Travelling in the back of a bouncing Land Rover or flying in a small aircraft may trigger motion sickness symptoms.

If you are subject to motion sickness, please review CDC's information about the prevention and treatment of motion sickness at this website: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/motion-sickness>.

Emergency Medical Care

Should you become seriously ill or injured, you may need to leave the safari. This may mean hospitalization or taking an early flight home. You may consider purchasing travel insurance to cover any such medical emergencies. Rewild Safaris can provide you with a reference to our preferred Travel insurance provider to provide you with a quote for travel insurance at your request.

Medical emergencies are extremely rare, but rest assured that, in such emergency cases, Rewild Safaris and our teams in India will provide all the assistance we can to help you obtain the best treatment and appropriate transport back home. Be advised, however, that medical treatment and evacuation may mean that you'll have extra expenses. Please consult your insurance professional to determine if your health coverage is adequate for your situation.

Post-Travel Health

Some diseases may not manifest themselves immediately. If you become ill after returning home, tell your doctor where you have travelled. Most people who acquire viral, bacterial, or parasitic infections abroad become ill within six weeks after returning home. However, some diseases may not manifest immediately (malaria may not cause symptoms for six months to a year after returning home). Tell your physician where you have travelled within the past 12 months.

SAFETY & ACCIDENTS

Keep in Mind

The places in India we visit are generally safe. As in large cities worldwide, tourists in any city can be easily spotted by those who may wish to take advantage of them. **Do not leave your guide or group.** If you wish to leave the group, ask your guide to accompany you.

While it is true that most accidents occur in the home, where we spend most of our time, travelling away from home can certainly increase your risk of accidents. When travelling, you are in new, unfamiliar territory. You are often distracted, enthusiastic, or tired enough to make mistakes and forget the little hazards around you.

Take care. And keep these tips in mind:

- Watch your fingers when the vehicle doors are being closed.
- Go slowly when entering or leaving a vehicle to avoid bumping your head or losing your footing.
- Watch your footing when walking on rough ground where there may be rocks or holes. There may be unmarked open holes in the sidewalks or streets in towns.
- Brace yourself when the vehicle is going over bumpy roads or through the bush, especially if you are standing; better yet, sit down when going over bumpy roads or when the vehicle is going fast.
- Never feed the monkeys, baboons, birds, or any wildlife. They're cute, but they'll want more if you give them food. When they don't get it, they can get frustrated and nasty and may follow you and bite you to get more food.
- Do not stray from your lodge, camp, or vehicle. Walking is prohibited in national parks and reserves unless it is properly supervised. If you stop for a picnic or "bush stop," don't walk more than twenty feet from the vehicle or group.
- Don't approach any wildlife on foot without your guide; stay at least 200 yards from any wild animals you see on foot. Never approach the edge of any body of water without a guide.
- Take special care when crossing the street in the cities – following the British tradition, the direction of traffic is reversed!

COMMUNICATIONS

Mobile Devices

If regular communication is important to you, mobile phones are effective in many of our safari destinations. Your current mobile phone service provider can help you evaluate your options. However, mobile phone service may not be available or may be unreliable at the destinations you visit. In addition, please note that text service and email may not be available on your mobile phone in some locations.

Regarding Wi-Fi, it is only in Leh, but it is also slow. In Ulley, there will be no Wi-Fi and no mobile phone works there.

We will do our best to inform you what may be available, but please remember that Wi-Fi may not be available at the time of your visit, and bandwidth may be very limited when available.

Please note that satellite phones are not allowed in India.

Emergency Contacts

You will be given contact information before your departure that we suggest you share with your family and friends. It will contain the direct phone numbers they may use if they need to contact you while you are on safari. We recommend they first call the direct numbers in India if they need to contact you. Even with the latest technology, it can take several hours for messages to be transmitted through Rewild Safaris while you are on safari.

RECOMMENDED: The best method of communication with emergency contacts while on safari, as well as those back home that we have found, is the messaging app **WhatsApp**. That's often the quickest way to get emergency assistance, but also the most reliable in non-emergency situations as it works over Wi-Fi, when it is available.

SAFARI ETHICS & ETIQUETTE

Adhering to the following guidelines will help everyone enjoy their safari to the fullest.

- Do not encourage your guide to stray from the roads in locations where it is not permitted.
- Please do not ask your guide to approach any wildlife so close that it may be frightened or harassed. Guides must follow certain rules and regulations to protect the environment, wildlife and travelers. Stiff penalties are imposed on guides who break the rules. If you wish to get closer to an animal, ask your guide, but accept their decision if you are close enough.
- Do not crowd animals. If you see several vehicles near an animal already, your guide may suggest waiting or moving to another location.
- Do not disturb animals in any way. Please do not make loud sounds or throw anything to attract an animal's attention.
- Do not hang out of vehicle windows or sit on top of the vehicle's roof. Do not get out of a vehicle within 200 yards of any game animal.
- Do not discard litter of any kind. Besides being unsightly, litter can choke or poison animals, including birds.
- Do not pick, cut, or destroy any vegetation or remove any object from the parks and reserves, particularly bones, feathers, or other animal trophies.
- Avoid abrupt movements or loud talking that can startle or scare away wildlife.
- Never feed animals, including birds.
- Watch that everyone has finished taking their photos before making any movements in your vehicle. Even the slightest movement can cause a photo to be out of focus.
- Smoking is not permitted in vehicles or at meals on this safari.
- Many Indians consider having their picture taken without their approval to be highly offensive. Please do not photograph people, including from within your vehicle, without obtaining the subject's necessary permission first.
- Conserve water whenever possible. It is one of India's most precious resources.
- **Smoking:** Effective 2nd October 2008, the Government of India has introduced "No-Smoking" legislation for hotels, restaurants, and all public places. As a consequence, smoking is prohibited in all parts of the hotel except in designated bedrooms and designated places having open areas where smoking is permitted. **Please also avoid smoking in safari vehicles.**

MISCELLANEOUS ADVICE

Every effort has been made to ensure your comfort and well-being, but there will be times when you may experience discomfort and annoyance. You can expect bumpy roads and a certain amount of dust. Small discomforts can become magnified when travelling, especially after a couple of long flights. **Please remember that patience and a sense of humor often serve as the most effective responses.**

We at Rewild Safaris pride ourselves on a quiet and gentle approach to wildlife viewing. For example, rather than spending a few minutes simply photographing resting, but alert wildlife before moving on, we often stop to observe the habitat's residents for an extended period. We have seen other vehicles arrive and quickly leave after taking a few photos. Our patience has often been rewarded, giving our travelers rare and rewarding experiences. By patiently sitting quietly, you can also take in other sights, sounds, and smells that will add to your lasting memories of India.

The pace of your safari is not rushed, but the days may be full and active. **Please remember that game drives, nature walks, and other activities are all optional.** Do not feel obliged to go along with the group on a particular game drive if you would rather stay and enjoy the view. In short, adjust your own pace. If you get tired, please slow down.

Take advantage of the quiet time between game drives. Many of our travelers keep a journal of their adventures. It is also a good time to simply observe the world around you. You may not have noticed the variety of colorful birds or the scampering of small mammals around you. Catch up on that reading you've been looking forward to. Bring a sketchbook and capture your own personal vision of the sights around you. When appropriate, spend a few minutes listening to a member of the camp staff tell you about his or her family. Take this quiet time back with you as part of your memories of your Indian safari adventure!