

FACT SHEET

MAHUA KOTHI BANDAVGARH NATIONAL PARK

OPERATOR: A Taj Hotels Resorts & Palaces and
CC Africa joint venture
(Indian Hotels Company Limited)

RESERVATIONS

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LOCATION

Situated in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, Bandhavgarh National Park is a 448 km² renowned tiger reserve. Nestled among the picturesque Vindhya hills and lush tropical forests, this is one of India's most scenic national parks.

UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- Bandhavgarh supports one of the highest densities of tigers in India
- Twice-daily jungle safaris
- CC Africa trained naturalists
- Taj trained hospitality staff
- Elephant safaris
- Guided nature walks
- Cultural walks and cycling through a traditional village
- Birdwatcher's paradise
- Picnics in nearby wooded areas
- Intimate lodge with just 12 suites

THE LODGE

The name Mahua Kothi draws its inspiration from one of India's most beautiful trees, the Madhuca Indica, or as it is commonly known, the Mahua or butter tree. Pronounced ma-hoo-a, this tree with its fleshy off-white flowers plays a central role in festivals and rituals, as the vitamins, minerals and sugar rich flowers are used in a number of ways. The twelve charming suites or Kutiyas (jungle village huts) are newly built in the 40 acre grounds of the renowned tented camp formerly

known as Churhat Kothi. The original Kothi (homestead) comprising the guest areas remains and has been extensively renovated, but the guest accommodation is all brand new.

GUEST ACCOMMODATION

- Charming individual Kutiyas built in the vernacular style of Central India
- Each is accessed through private courtyards with shaded seating and traditional mud floors
- The architectural style is affectionately known as MP chic (MP being the state of Madhya Pradesh)
- Wooden shutters, tapered mud coloured walls (finished by hand) in lime and earth washes, open rafters with roughly hewn wooden beams, handmade pottery roof tiles, floors dressed in katni stone strips set in lime mortar
- Ensuite bathrooms with twin hand basins mounted on a wooden log, indoor shower, bath, separate w.c. and house gowns in traditional MP cloth
- Richly coloured local textiles in shades of rust and burnt orange
- Roll-down mats to keep the early morning sun out
- Ceiling fans and air conditioning
- Built-in seating in yellow situ (local cement screed)
- Yoga amenities in a bag (complete with instructions)
- Traditional Indian games of marbles and Chaupad
- Hand blended natural guest amenities
- In-room Ayurvedic massage
- Rose and Khus (Verbena) sherbets and pitchers of iced water for guests to mix themselves
- Beautiful terracotta roof that floats over the Kutiya – MP style
- Bicycles for every guest parked in the Kutiya courtyards

GUEST AREAS

- High ceilings, terracotta floor tiles, overhead fans, fireplace, and traditional sit areas and window seats
- An enormous 600 sq ft veranda runs the length of the building with generous built-in seats for star gazing
- Beaten Bastar metal and hand-blown glassware
- Huge windows to catch the jungle breeze
- Open kitchen that welcomes guest upon arrival – watch butter being churned, Masala being grounded by hand, garden fresh vegetables being chopped using traditional sickles, and Rotis being prepared on a Chulha
- Browse peacefully in the lodge's Safari Shop, idle away the hours in the library, or beat the midday heat in the swimming pool
- Guests arriving early or departing late can freshen up in the Goings & Comings room

DINING

- Bullock cart breakfast in the Baghiya (traditional garden)
- Picnic lunches under the Mahua tree
- Chowki roof dinners under a star strewn sky
- Moonlit dancing at the lake
- Discover fresh lime, exquisite teas, fine Indian wines and icy cocktails made from the distilled sap of the Mahua tree.

SAFARIS

- Discover the beautiful jungle of Bandhavgarh National Park
- Learn about the rich biodiversity of Central India from a CC Africa trained naturalist
- Travel in comfort in a specially designed Tata open 4x4 safari vehicle
- View tigers whilst riding an elephant
- Twice-daily safaris in the reserve
- Tick off Bandhavgarh's ten Star Birds (a unique Taj & CC Africa programme)
- Absorb the sights and sounds as you walk through a traditional MP village

BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK

The dramatic landscape nestled amongst the Vindhya and Satpura ranges, features tropical forests and woodlands, and steep rocky hills with flat grasslands in the valleys below. An ancient 1000 year old fort, reclining statue of Lord Vishnu, and the dense Sal jungle combined with the grasslands make Bandhavgarh one of the most beautiful parks in India.

FLORA

Bandhavgarh has a large variety of tree cover and excellent tree and foliage concentration. Approximately half the Park is covered with fine trees, while mixed forests are found in the higher reaches of the hills. In the slightly higher elevations, there is a more mixed vegetation of sali, saj, saja, and dhobin, etc. Beautiful stretches of bamboo and grasslands extend to the north. The main wildlife viewing takes place in the core of the Park with its picturesque, wooded hills.

FAUNA

Bandhavgarh supports one of the highest densities of tigers in India. Its hilly open terrain includes many large grassland meadows that offer good chances of tiger sightings. The density of its big cat population has made Bandhavgarh world famous. The Park is also blessed with a large variety of mammals: leopard, chital (spotted deer), Sambar deer, dhole, nilgai, wild boar, chinkara, sloth bear,

rhesus macaque, black faced langur, jungle cat, hyena, porcupine, jackal, fox, and wild dog.

ACCESS

Mahua Kothi is conveniently situated near major airports: Khajuraho (230 km) and Jabalpur (190 km), as well as Kanha tiger reserve (230 km).

From Delhi

- Fly to **Khajuraho** (Jet Airways; winter months only); the drive from Khajuraho to the Lodge is approximately 6 hours – 230 km (via Satna)
- Fly to Gwalior (Deccan Airways); **Gwalior** to **Umaria** by train (approximately 12 hours*); and the drive from Umaria to the Lodge is approximately 40 minutes – 30 km
- Fly to Gwalior (Deccan Airways); **Gwalior** to **Katni** by train (approximately 10 hours*); and the drive from Katni to the Lodge is approximately 2.5 hrs – 75 km
- Fly to **Jabalpur** (Deccan Airways); the drive from Jabalpur to the Lodge is approximately 4 hours – 190 km
- By train to **Katni** (approximately 13 to 14 hours); the drive from Katni to the Lodge is approximately 2.5 hrs – 75 km

*All trains from Delhi stop at Gwalior

From Mumbai

- Fly to **Bhopal** (Indian Airlines/Jet Airways); connecting flight from Bhopal to **Jabalpur** (Deccan Airways); and the drive from Jabalpur to the Lodge is approximately 4 hours – 190 km

Pick-Ups and Transfers

Skilled drivers in air conditioned luxury 4x4 sedans will transfer guests from the closest airports and railway stations. Please note all road transfers are to be booked by your preferred Indian ground handler.

Safety and Security

- At the Lodge: pathways are lit to guide guests to their rooms, along with a security escort; intercoms are used for emergencies
- In the Park: naturalists are trained in animal behaviour, first aid and outdoor emergencies; radio sets are used in all vehicles
- Doctor is available on call

RATE

- **Low season** (16 April 2008 — 30 June 2008)
(16 April 2009 — 30 June 2009):
INR 18 000 per person per night sharing
- **High season**(1 October 2007 — 15 April 2008)
(1 October 2008 — 15 April 2009):
INR 30 000 per person per night sharing

RATE INCLUSIONS

- Luxury accommodation in air conditioned Kutiyas
- All scheduled safari activities (including elephant safaris)
- All meals
- Soft drinks, house wines, house spirits and local beers
- Laundry
- Emergency medical evacuation
- All park fees and government taxes

RATE EXCLUSIONS

- Transfer to and from the Lodge
- Fine wines and spirits, cigars, etc.
- Gratuities, Safari Shop purchases, telephone calls, etc.

MAHUA KOTHI – AT A GLANCE

Weather: tropical – hot during the day. Summer (April-June) temperatures can get as high as 43-44°C, while early mornings and evenings are pleasant (18-24°C). Night time winter temperatures vary between 02-20°C, whereas days are sunny and pleasant (October-March).

Rainfall: Heavy in the monsoon season (mid June to September) and average rainfall is 1100 mm.

Best Time to Travel: October to June when game viewing is at its best.

Malaria: Mahua Kothi is situated in a malaria free zone, however malaria is possible in India and necessary precautions should be taken.

Children: are welcome. Regretfully, children 5 years and younger cannot participate in game drives. Childminders can be arranged at an additional cost. An extra bed can be arranged for children 12 years and younger sharing with their parents (no more than one triple in camp per night). Children aged 6 to 12 years are accommodated on game drives at the Lodge Manager's discretion.

Ratio of Guests to Staff: 1 to 1:5

Camp Closure: 01 July to 30 September

National Park Fees: included in price

Number of Suites	12
Maximum Guests	24
Children	Yes
Triples	1 (one triple per night in camp)
Twin Beds	All convertible to double (mattress only)
Air Conditioning	Yes
Ceiling Fans	Yes
Swimming Pool	Yes
Bath	Yes
Indoor Showers	Yes
Private w.c.	Yes
In Room Safe	Yes
Intercom	Yes
Hairdryers	Yes
Laundry	Yes
Suitable for Disabled Guests	Yes with assistance
Distance Between Rooms	10 metres
Check In	12h00
Check Out	13h00
Power	DG Backup 220 AC
Private 4x4 Safari Vehicle	Available at extra cost
Childminding	Yes
Credit Cards	Visa, MC, Amex