

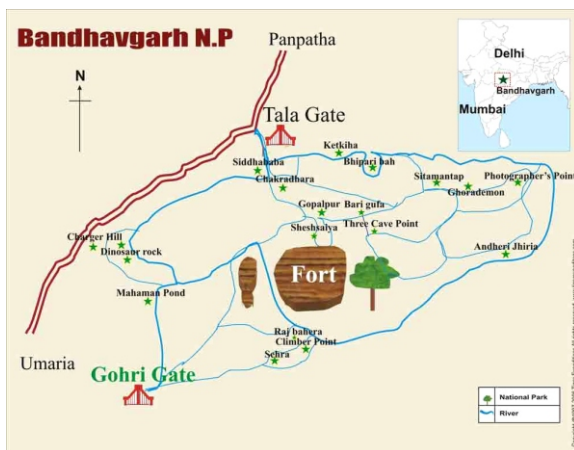
Tigers In Bhandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

If you want to see wild tigers, you should visit Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in the Central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. This Park holds a large tiger population. They are found roaming the entire Park. Tigers are basically solitary animals, coming together only momentarily sometimes to share a kill or when they are mating.



Hunting is usually carried out at night, normally alone (though a mother may kill with cubs helping or looking on).

The attack is normally made from the side or rear of the victim, and the objective is to get the prey off of its feet and to deliver a fatal bite to the back of the neck or throat. The tiger may keep his grip several minutes after death. When the tiger is ready to begin eating its kill, it drags the carcass into a dense covering and begins eating the rump. A considerable amount of meat can be consumed at one time (20-35kg), however, if the kill is to sustain an individual over several days, the amount eaten is generally less (15-18kg/day). Female tigers with young have to kill more often to feed their young and themselves as well.



In April & May, the dense tropical forest of Bandhavgarh dries up due to seasonal unavailability of water. Tigers are then often seen roaming around the jungle in search of scarce water. During these two months, the tigers are easily tracked either by the park's elephants or through the routine Jeep Safari that takes place every day, if you are lucky you may be able to spot them on every game drive you make into the Park.

At present 19 tigers are visible at Bandhavgarh. B2, the dominant male of the Park rules as commander-in-chief.

B2 and Bonka are the main male dominant tigers, Challenger, another Park male is reported to be having died in December last year. Male tigers always maintain definite territories and guard it from the presence of other males. Female tigresses have their own territories too however a male tiger may have more than one female in his territory. The Tigresses at Bandhavgarh there are Chakradhara, Sidhbaba, Jhujura & Mahaman. The Sidhbaba tigress has 2 cubs that are 12 months old; the Chakradhara Tigress has four cubs aged 23 months; Vanvaye has 3 month old cubs and the Jhujura tigress has two cubs 11 months old.

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve has become a prominent reserve for tracking the tigers. However, in summer with scorching heat the forest tends to dry up and this puts a question mark on the survival of ungulates (grass eating mammals), the scarcity of their food is a great concern as this ultimately has an adverse effect on Tiger survival with no fresh fodder and hence food for the ungulates, they disperse, this leaves the Tiger with no food in their territory.

