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Temporary ban on tourism to India's Tiger Reserves is removed ahead of the start of peak tourism season

Karnataka, India (IN) - by traveller

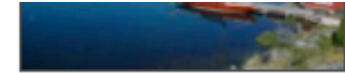
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Earlier this summer the Supreme Court of India imposed an interim ban on Tiger Tourism in India in key tiger habitats, stopping one of the top attractions for tourists to the country. On 16th October the ban was lifted and as of 20th October, tourism will be allowed once again to many of the core areas of the National Parks. Whilst tourism within the tiger reserves will now be limited to 20% of the core area of the Reserve, in most reserves the tourism zone is well within this area.

The ban has been fought by a huge number of people in India, looking to protect the forests of India, the livelihoods of many local communities and the conservation efforts for the tiger population itself. The ban was seen by many as a victory for poachers and illegal grazers, as well as mistakenly creating the perception that wildlife tourism within Indian tiger parks harms tigers. In fact, the highest densities of tigers can be found today in the most heavily visited Tiger Reserves including Corbett, Kaziranga and Bandhavgarh and actually numbers in these parks have increased. At the same time, unseen and unloved sanctuaries and forest corridors lost all their tigers and wildlife to poaching, grazing, neglect and agriculture pressures.

The temporary ban on Tiger Tourism has been lifted to the relief of hotels, conservation charities and operators including Ampersand Travel. Founder and Managing Director James Jayasundera said, "We are all relieved that this temporary ban has been lifted and once again responsible tourism to the parks of India can continue. I am pleased to see that common sense has prevailed."

Ampersand Travel, one of the top specialists to the Indian subcontinent can arrange trips to all the top tiger parks in India. A 7 night trip including 3 nights at Bandhavgarh National Park (Kings Lodge) and 4 nights at Kanha National Park (Kanha Earth Lodge) starts from £2,315 per person including international flights, Full Board at National Parks and Game drives.