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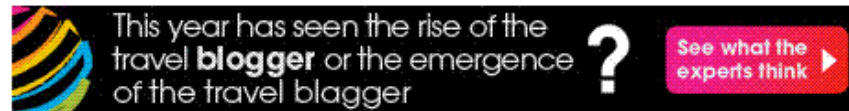
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## Temporary ban on tiger tourism in India is removed

Friday, 19 October 2012 11:39 |

A ban on tiger tourism imposed by the Supreme Court of India early this summer, preventing visits to key tiger habitats, has been lifted in time for India's peak season.

The ban was removed on October 16 and as of October 20, sightseeing will be allowed once again to many areas of the National Parks.

Tourism within tiger reserves will be limited to 20% of the core area, but in most parks the tourism zone is well within this boundary.

People in India, had been fighting the ban looking to protect the forests, the livelihoods of many local communities and the conservation efforts for the tiger population itself.

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The veto on tiger tourism 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 the animals. In fact, the highest densities of tigers can be found today in the most heavily visited reserves including Corbett, Kaziranga and Bandhavgarh and numbers in these parks have increased.

At the same time, unseen and unloved sanctuaries and forest corridors have lost tigers and wildlife to poaching, grazing, neglect and agriculture pressures.

Hotels, conservation charities and operators, including Ampersand Travel, are pleased the ban has been revoked. Founder and managing director for Ampersand Travel, 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, 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.

For more information or to book call 020 7289 6100 or visit [www.ampersandtravel.com](http://www.ampersandtravel.com)

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