



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELLER

POSTED ON: SEPTEMBER 26, 2014 12:00 AM



Kipling Camp

Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh



The motto of Kipling Camp is "treading softly in the jungle." Photo courtesy Kipling Camp



TWO OF INDIA'S well-known wildlife conservationists are the force behind Kanha National Park's oldest lodge. Anne and the late Bob Wright set up Kipling Camp in the park's buffer zone with the motto of "treading softly in the jungle". The camp works in close consonance with the Baiga tribal community, through a cooperative they established many years ago. The organisation supports local performing and fine art.

The owners turned the bare farmland on which the camp is located, into a verdant forest. Meals are served at different locations across the property: under a mahua tree, on a patio, or even under the stars. Visitors can go on a tiger-spotting safari or birdwatching tour with in-house naturalists, or hang out with the resident elephant Tara. Kipling Camp has 15 warmly lit double rooms set up with local materials and a private cottage that overlooks a waterhole. The water body was enlarged and contoured over the years, as catchment for rainwater and remains full even during severe drought. Sewage is filtered using sand and other natural elements.

(07649-277218; 011-65196377/9811015221; kiplingcamp.com; doubles from `24,000)

- Karanjeet Kaur

Our Approach

Our list of eco-lodges was drawn up based on visits by the Nat Geo team and on recommendations from environmentalists and conservationists in India. The retreats we eventually selected fulfil three main criteria: They have taken active steps to minimise (or subsidise) their carbon footprint. They are helping preserve the region's natural and cultural history. And they have helped boost the local economy by employing the community. Unfortunately, it isn't easy to find resorts in India (or around the world for that matter) that satisfy all of these prerequisites. These retreats however, are strong examples of conscious tourism – a proposition that benefits businesses, communities, and travellers, and the planet at large. This list is definitely not exhaustive, so do write to us with your own suggestions.

Appeared in the September 2014 issues as "Go Green".

<http://www.natgeotraveller.in/magazine/month/september-2014/go-green--22-eco-sensitive-resorts-in-india-353/>