



Forest Focus:

NAGARHOLE (Also known as "Kabini" and "Rajiv Gandhi National Park")

Karnataka's Nagarhole National Park is 643 sq. km (248 sq. miles) of forest and home to tigers, elephants and langurs. Around monsoon (July to October) the park is usually closed due to flooding, but summer (April to May) and winter (November to February) months are a treat for wildlife enthusiasts. The park is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, which stretches across the southern Indian states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, encompassing several reserves in its 5,500 sq. km, and providing a refuge to approximately 100 species of mammals and 350 species of birds.

Nagarahole has an astonishing abundance of wildlife, especially the Asiatic elephant. The backdrop of the distant misty blue Brahmagiri mountains, the natural sounds of the jungle, the gurgling streams and rivers, and the twittering of the birds make sure that the wildlife park remains a memorable experience.

To read more about Kabini [click here](#)





Lodge of the month:

Red Earth Kabini

Red Earth is promoted by Ravi and Rachel. Ravi is a Coffee planter while Rachel is a film maker. They have spent many years living and planting coffee in Papua New Guinea before shifting back to India.

While they have no prior hospitality background, their warmth and gracious plantation style hospitality can easily surpass any luxury hotels. Kabini has been rated as one of the top five destinations worldwide for wildlife. Red Earth is located in beautiful surroundings absolutely untouched by development and yet very close to civilisation. It is situated on the back waters of the Kabini dam and therefore surrounded by water on two sides.

The river Kapila across which the dam has been built divides the Bandipur and Nagarhole national parks. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has been identified the Bandipur - Nagarhole corridor as India's best bet for long term wild life conservation. Our reasons to choose Red Earth Kabini

1. Red Earth is completely into sustainable tourism. 95% of their staff are from the local community.
2. The name red earth has come from the colour of the soil. The same soil has been used for construction of the resort.
3. The soil has been rammed, compressed and then baked in the sun for the construction of the cottages. This technique is called rammed earth construction.
4. The roof of the cottages are unique- while the inner

layer is made up of bamboo mats and the outer layer is made up of elephant grass.

5. The floor tiles inside the cottages are handmade glass tiles.

6. All of these techniques or arts are dying Red Earth, in its attempt towards sustainable tourism, tries to ensure their survival.

For more information on Red Earth including picture gallery, [click here](#)





Jungle Lore:

Kadu Kuruba

The term Kadu Kuruba is derived from *Kadu* meaning forest, and *Kuruba* refers to the tribe they belong to. *Kadu Kurubas* inhabit the area of Wynad, Niligiris and the Mysore hills of southern India.

They speak a dialect which is a mixture of Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam and is known as kadu - kuruba. Physical characteristics of the tribe include a short stature, round head with a broad face and a broad nasal profile. They also have thick lips and rough hair. Kadus are very tough and expert in living in forests. These people specialise in crafting bamboo utensils. Their socio - economic status is relatively low.

February saw two committed art teachers from Germany whom the resort had invited to teach art in the local tribal school. One of the paintings was of a jungle depicting a tiger killing a human. This painting was by a 9 year old Suresh who had lost his father to a maimed and old tiger. The man animal conflict is an on-going issue here. Encroachment into the jungles by people has shrunk the forests and animals now stray to human inhabited areas for easy prey.

To read more about Kadu Kuruba tribes [click here](#)

An Indian Escape is involved in volunteer tourism in various National parks in the country. Kabini/ Nagarhole is one such example.

Write to us if your guests would like to come and participate in any such community projects.

