SEASON 2026–27 · RELEASED 1 NOVEMBER 2026

ODISHA FOREST DEPARTMENT · VISITOR HANDBOOK

# Similipal Tiger Reserve

2,750 sq km of Sal forest, grassland and hills in Mayurbhanj, Odisha, and the world's only home of wild black (pseudo-melanistic) tigers. Tourism here is community-run, so every booking supports forest villages.

242 bird species | 104 orchid species | 42 mammal species | Barehipani Falls ~399 m

**Open from 1 November 2026**
Day visits through Kalikaprasad and Pithabata gates

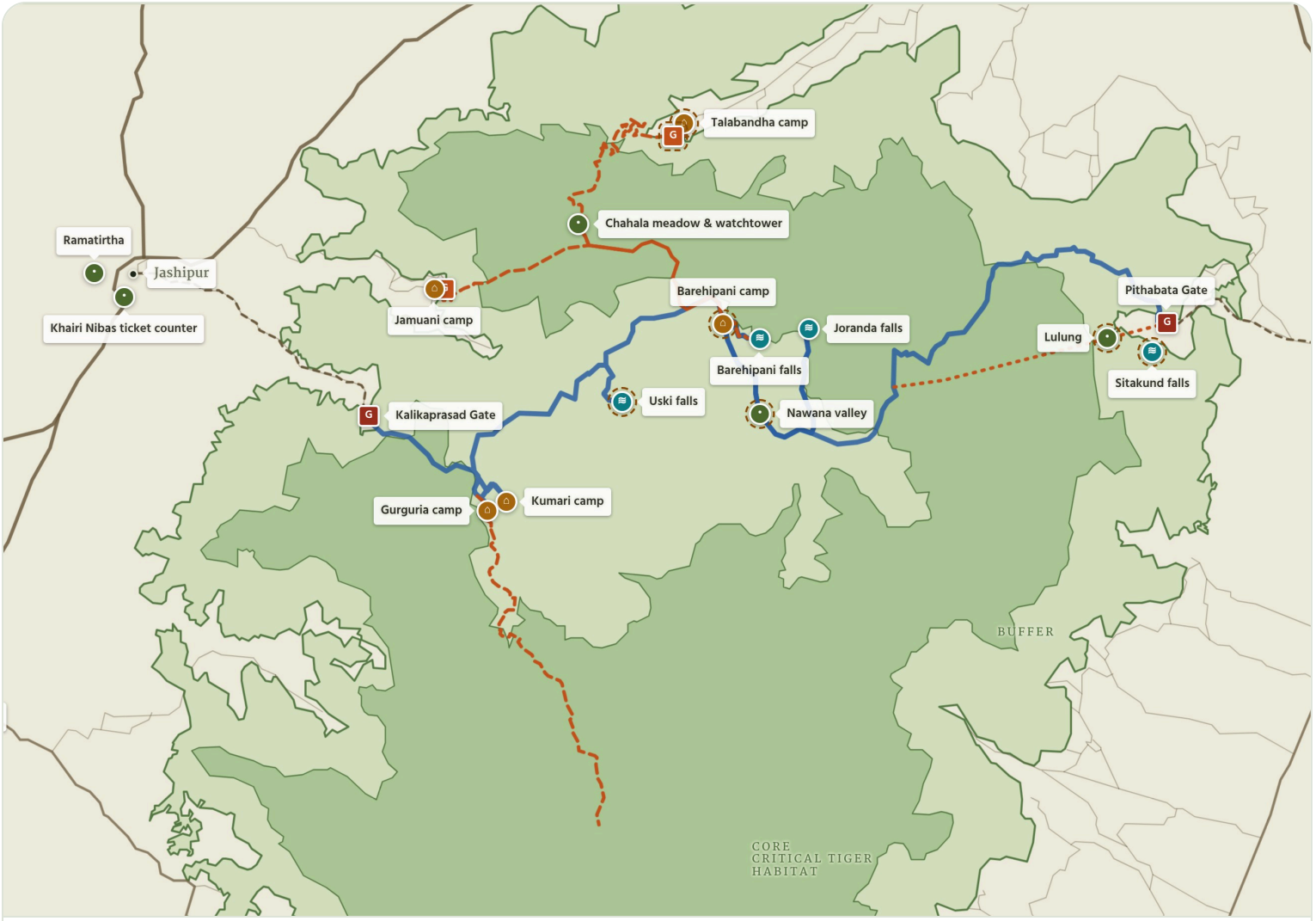
**All five nature camps**
Jamuani, Talabandha, Gurguria, Kumari and Barehipani

**Monsoon Retreat, July to October**
Camps stay open; day visits close (dates on similipal.org)

★ **Best way to visit: stay at least one night in a nature camp and take a safari.**
Recommendation of Similipal Tiger Reserve

# Explore the map INTERACTIVE

The map uses the official STR boundary and forest-road layers. Open the interactive version online to tap any place for directions and switch routes on or off.




Interactive map: claude.ai/artifact/1tKsBJmceWyjstkrw9ArPG

# Three ways to visit PLAN

## Waterfall day visit

**For the waterfalls, with rare animal sightings along the route.**

- Enter at **Kalikaprasad** (Jashipur) or **Pithabata** (Baripada), **6–9 AM**
- Book the permit online (before 7 AM) or at the counter if quota remains
- A registered nature guide is compulsory
- Car must be an LMV/SUV with 180 mm+ ground clearance
- Exit the reserve **before sunset**

★ BEST NATURE STAY

## Nature camp stay

**Stay in pure nature with local cuisine, guided hikes, treks and birdwatching, and ethnic dances in the evening.**

- Book on ecotourodisha.com; entry fees are paid with the booking
- Enter from dawn to dusk with your booking and photo ID
- Jamuani and Talabandha need no gate entry
- Check-in **12 noon**, check-out **11 AM**
- All meals included

## Open-jeep safari

**For wildlife: melanistic tiger, elephant, gaur, leopard and sambar, with visits to the core and its meadows.**

- Starts from **₹4,500 per vehicle**; exact price on ecotourodisha.com
- Morning **5:30 AM**, afternoon **~3 PM**, about 3–4 hours
- Boarding at Jamuani, Talabandha, Gurguria, Barehipani or Pithabata
- Guide and driver come with the jeep; report 30 minutes early

# Waterfall day visit: fees and timings DAY VISIT

| FEE | AMOUNT |
|---|---|
| **Indian visitor** | ₹100 per person per day |
| **Foreign visitor** | ₹200 per person per day |
| **Children up to 3** | Free |
| **Own vehicle** | ₹100 per vehicle per day |
| **Nature guide** | Paid in cash at the counter |

| WHEN | TIME |
|---|---|
| **Day-visitor entry** | 6:00–9:00 AM |
| **Leave the waterfalls** | By 4:00 PM |
| **Exit the reserve** | Before sunset |
| **Vehicles per day** | 60 (35 Kalikaprasad, 25 Pithabata) |

Collect permit and guide at Khairi Nibas, Jashipur (for Kalikaprasad) or at the Pithabata gate counter. Carry the printed permit, photo ID for every visitor, vehicle RC and driving licence. Best months: November to February. Nature camp guests pay entry fees with their camp booking on ecotourodisha.com.

# Day tourism circuits DAY VISIT

Two circuits, one from each entry gate. Your guide rides with you; leave the waterfalls in time to exit before sunset. Both circuits are closed during the monsoon (July to October).

## Route A: from Pithabata

Baripada side · about 8–9 hours gate to gate

1. **Lulung** river picnic spot, before the gate
2. **Pithabata Gate**, 6–9 AM; permit and guide at the gate counter
3. **Sitakund Falls**, 10 minutes inside the gate
4. **Joranda Falls** viewpoint
5. **Nawana valley**
6. **Barehipani Falls** viewpoint; lunch at the community canteen (pre-book)
7. Exit at Pithabata or Kalikaprasad Gate before sunset

## Route B: from Kalikaprasad

Jashipur side · about 9–10 hours

1. **Ramatirtha** crocodile centre (optional, outside the gate)
2. **Kalikaprasad Gate**, 6–9 AM; permit and guide at Khairi Nibas, Jashipur
3. **Gurguria Orchidarium** and pine forest
4. **Uski Falls**, a short walk
5. **Barehipani Falls**; lunch at the canteen
6. **Joranda Falls**
7. Exit at Kalikaprasad or Pithabata Gate before sunset

Toilets at the Barehipani and Joranda viewpoints and the camps. Carry your own water; refills only at camps and the canteen. You can exit by either gate, Pithabata (Baripada side) or Kalikaprasad (Jashipur side), whichever suits your onward journey.

# Nature camps STAY

Open

### Jamuani

Near the Khairi river; 24–26 km from Jashipur, no gate. AC tree houses.

Open

### Talabandha

Among mango orchards, Chahala zone, no gate. AC tents, swimming pool.

Open

### Gurguria

Pine forest beside the Orchidarium; via Kalikaprasad Gate.

Open

### Kumari

Kumari valley, inside a green village; via Kalikaprasad Gate.

Open

### Barehipani

Dense Sal forest near Barehipani Falls; 46 km from Jashipur.

Check live rooms and prices, and book only at ecotourodisha.com/destination/similipal. Camps fill up on weekends and holidays. Mobile network is limited at the nature camps inside the reserve.

JULY TO OCTOBER

## Monsoon Retreat

The nature camps stay open through the monsoon. Spend the rains in green, misty forest with guided hikes, treks to small waterfalls near your camp, and monsoon birdwatching.

- **Open:** all nature camps, with a camp or safari booking
- **Safaris:** Jamuani, Talabandha and Barehipani–Chahala, in the buffer zone only
- **Gate:** Kumari, Gurguria and Barehipani camps via Kalikaprasad; Jamuani and Talabandha need no gate
- **Closed:** waterfall day visits, and the Gurguria and Pithabata safaris
- Hikes, treks and birding are for camp guests only

# Suggested itineraries TRIPS

## 1 day

Waterfall day visit

1. 7:30 AM reach Pithabata or Kalikaprasad Gate
2. Sitakund, or Gurguria Orchidarium / Uski
3. Joranda viewpoint, then Nawana valley
4. Barehipani Falls; pre-booked canteen lunch
5. 2 PM start back; exit before sunset

## 2 days / 1 night

Camp and Chahala safari

1. Day 1: Kalikaprasad → Orchidarium → Uski → Jamuani or Kumari camp → afternoon Chahala safari → tribal cultural evening
2. Day 2: nature walk and birding → Barehipani and Joranda → Nawana valley → exit before sunset

## 3 days / 2 nights

Gurguria and Barehipani

1. Day 1: Ramatirtha → Kalikaprasad → Gurguria camp → pine-forest walk → Orchidarium
2. Day 2: 5:30 AM Gurguria safari → Uski → Barehipani camp → 3 PM Barehipani–Chahala safari
3. Day 3: dawn birding → Joranda → Nawana valley → Sitakund → exit Pithabata

## 4 days / 3 nights

Black Tiger Expedition

1. Day 1: Jamuani camp → afternoon Chahala safari → melanistic tiger briefing
2. Day 2: 5:30 AM Jamuani–Rajpal–Chahala safari → Uski → Orchidarium → Kumari camp, Santali programme
3. Day 3: Kumari village walk → Talabandha camp → 3 PM Talabandha–Chahala safari
4. Day 4: Barehipani and Joranda → Nawana valley → Sitakund → Lulung → exit Pithabata

# Pack and follow the rules RULES

## Carry

- Photo ID for every visitor and booking slip
- Mosquito repellent, full sleeves (malaria zone)
- Earth-toned clothes, trekking shoes, a warm layer
- Water in reusable bottles, torch, binoculars
- Cash and fuel: no ATM or fuel inside, and mobile network is limited

## Do

- Travel with your guide and follow their instructions
- Stay on the road and drive slowly
- Keep silent near wildlife
- Carry all waste back out
- Leave before sunset

## Don't

- Bring alcohol, plastic, drones, speakers or pets
- Step out of the vehicle except at viewpoints
- Feed, chase or tease animals
- Light fires or smoke in the forest
- Bathe in waterfalls or cross barriers

# Help and emergencies CONTACTS

## In an emergency, call at once

**112** Police / emergency

**108** Ambulance

**101** Fire

Mobile network is limited inside the reserve, so tell your guide or the nearest camp staff at once. Then inform the Ecotourism Cell, Jashipur on **+91 76828 06145**. Nearest 24×7 hospital: PRM Medical College & Hospital, Baripada.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Ecotourism Cell, Jashipur (general queries, WhatsApp)** | +91 76828 06145 |
| **Nature Camp Marketing Manager (camps and safari)** | +91 70325 37785 |
| **Email** | ecotourismatsimilipal@gmail.com |
| **Official notices** | www.similipal.org |
| **Book camps and safaris** | www.ecotourodisha.com/destination/similipal |

Season 2026–27 edition, released 1 November 2026. Based on the Similipal Tiger Reserve tourist knowledge base, 26 October 2026. Dates, fees and routes can change; confirm on similipal.org and ecotourodisha.com before you travel.