



**Wildlife and Forestry Services & Pugdundee Safaris Present**

**Professional Naturalist Training Course**  
**(PRONAT- II 25th-Aug To 15th Sept-2020)**  
**(Extension- 15th Sept To 18th Sept-2020 )**

# Course Overview

Every season we receive applications for the position of naturalist which arrive from two kinds of candidates, the ones for who becoming a naturalist has been a constant dream and the others who are willing to give up their stable jobs to explore the career path of a lodge naturalist. PRONAT has been curated with this experience from applicants and a belief that no prospect should be turned down for the lack (or presence) of a certain education background or domain experience. For such candidates who deeply desire to learn about nature or launch their professional careers as a naturalist, Wildlife and Forestry Services in association with Pugdundee Safaris presents Professional Naturalist Training Course (PRONAT).

As experienced lodge operators & wildlife professionals, we realize that forest is an observatory of the passionate nature lovers, but professional success as a naturalist requires more. To pursue the profession of a Naturalist, there are three parts that should occur simultaneously –

- Appreciation towards all forms of nature.
- Knowledge of habitats and ecosystems.
- Ability to not just comprehend but also interpret complexity of forest in the simplest ways.

PRONAT is a twenty one night's program that focuses intensely to elevate passionate nature enthusiasts into professional naturalist with knowledge on the above. There is an additional 3 nights extension available for guiding techniques. With the completion of this course, the participants will be ready to get inducted as trainee or lodge naturalists in nature based tourism sector, start leading nature based tours or just enjoy nature from a different perspective.

The program offers–

- Course delivery from subject experts
- Excellent opportunity of peer learning
- First hand exposure to the actual life of a naturalist
- Certificate of accomplishment



# Who Should Join

- Have you been longing to gain scientific knowledge about forests and creatures– big and small?
- Have you been looking to give boost to your career as a professional guide/ conservationist?
- Or maybe you wish to quit the routine and experience the distantly fascinating life in natural settings?

## **Hawks by Profession**

Professional naturalist and field guide courses are essential for those wanting to pursue a conservation–orientated career, including the life skills and discipline needed for nature reserve jobs or work as a professional field guide or a wildlife tour leader. For those with experience of wildlife tourism/education, qualification in Hospitality /environment science, PRONAT will help the prospects in evolving their skills into professional requirements of the tourism industry.

## **Hawks by Character**

Explorers and enthusiasts who wish to learn about Indian Wildlife or kick start their career as nature guides and lodge naturalists are welcome. The enriching experience peer learning and professional guidance while living in a remote boot camp could be a life changing experience. To those who are looking to ditch the routine city life, PRONAT will provide quintessential technique for inculcating new hobbies like specie identification, or interpreting tracks and signs.





- Life in the camp will be an adventure for the ones who are passionate about nature and can minimally appreciate lack of internet as much as the presence of it.
- The candidate should be willing to learn from the experts as well as the experience of peers (Forest life is also about team work and life skills).
- Expert's will deliver lectures in English. An understanding and speaking fluency in English language is a must.
- Candidates joining PRONAT to take up guiding as a profession must obtain a valid LMV driving license prior to beginning of the course. This is mandatory for candidates taking the extension for guiding techniques.
- Candidates joining for the purpose of exploring and expanding their knowledge on wildlife must be willing and enthusiastic towards the course curriculum.
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- At the end of a course, candidate's will be required to take a practical and theoretical examination. The qualifying candidate's will be rewarded with a completion certificate.



## About us and trainers

“Wildlife & Forestry Services”, a professional wildlife management & forestry consultancy firm in association with “Pugdundee Safaris”, a leading sustainable wildlife tourism company are organizing this course.

Wing Leader – Kartikeya Singh is the course coordinator and lead trainer.

Associate trainers are Nikhil Bhopale, Nariman Vazifdar & Vikram Ahlawat.



**Kartikeya Singh** – Kartikeya holds a Master’s Degree in Ecology & Environment and has eight years of research experience working with Wildlife Institute of India during which he studied the ecology of Indian Wolves and the Asiatic Lions. Kartikeya has also worked as an additional photographer on several documentaries produced by BBC and other eminent production

houses. A proficient trapper of wolves and other canids, he has expertise in catching, anesthetizing and radio collaring wild animals. In 2011, he was one of the specialists involved in the reintroducing Gaur from Kanha to Bandhavgarh. Kartikeya is also a specialist trainer who regularly conducts training for frontline forest department staff, guides and naturalists.

**Nikhil Bhopale** - has worked on several research projects as an Ornithologist and Herpetologist. He has spear-headed effective conservation projects across India and has been a recipient of several awards for nature conservation. A biodiversity expert, an eco-tourism consultant, a hands-on mentor, an experienced trekker, a knowledgeable author, a wildlife photographer and above all, Nikhil is a committed conservationist. He has been a faculty for



BNHS educational courses and also co-authored ‘**Book of the Indian Subcontinent – A Field Guide**’ published by BNHS and Oxford University Press.





**Nariman Vazifdar** - Wildlife especially reptiles has fascinated him for as long as he can remember; this committed him to a life dedicated to wildlife conservation and research from an early age. Kanha and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, The Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Center for Herpetology, The Gerry Martin Project and Turtle Survival Alliance are some of the places where he has had the opportunity to work and further develop his skills to conserve, protect and create awareness about these lesser known and feared animals.

**Vikram Ahlawat** - is a Master Trainer with RLSS (Royal Life Saving Society) since 2009, which is one of our country's leading organizations for First Aid and Life Guard training. An avid swimmer and sportsman, Vikram has a varied experience in life saving trainings.



## What will you learn

As a stepping-stone into the world of natural systems, diversity in subjects has been at the core of the course design. Candidates will be provided introduction to the following subjects:

Birds

Butterflies

Amphibians

Field guiding as a profession

(Only in extension)

Help creating a guided nature experience

(Only in Extension)

Techniques of Guiding (Only in extension)

Reptiles

Trees

Mammals

Animal behavior

Conservation management

Camera trapping

Tracks & Signs

Animal tracking



## Modules covered

Module 1 Birds

Module 2 Butterflies

Module 3 Reptiles

Module 4 Amphibians

Module 5 Mammals

Module 6 Trees

Module 7 Tracks & Signs

Module 8 First Aid

Module 9 Conservation

Module 10 Understanding guest and their expectation – **Only in extension**

Module 11 Techniques of Guiding and the guiding sequence – **Only in extension**

Module 12 Visual Aids, Behavioural Aspects, Do's and Don'ts & Misc. – **Only in extension**





<b>Meals</b>	Three simple home cooked meals along with morning and evening tea.
<b>Laundry</b>	Available and chargeable
<b>Air conditioning</b>	No
<b>Basic Housekeeping</b>	Provided

## What to carry

- Earthy coloured outdoor clothing
- Personal clothing (6–8 sets)
- Outdoor footwear for walking and floaters
- Guide books (mammals, birds, trees, reptiles, amphibians & butterflies)
- Laptop
- Camera (with spare batteries) /tripod/monopod
- Binoculars and Torch
- Light fleece
- Rain gear (ponchos/parasols)
- Water bottle
- Notebooks
- Working internet connection (Only BSNL and Jio work at Satpura)



## Reaching the campus

Satpura Tiger Reserve is well connected from all parts of India by road, air and rail.

- It is 136 kms south east of Bhopal, the closest airport to Satpura.
- Itarsi is a prominent railway junction with trains from all across the country and is just 70 kms away.
- Sohagpur is the nearest railway station around 18km away.
- Satpura is just 19 kms from a prominent state highway and 70 kms away from the national highway 12.

## Rules & Regulations

Candidates joining the course are expected to abide by the PRONAT rules & regulations. Candidates are expected to thoroughly read the attached consent form and acknowledge the same with date and signatures.

- Adhere to the timings and instructions provided by the course coordinator.
- Possession & use of alcohol and any form of drugs is strictly prohibited on the campus.
- Smokers will have to declare in advance. Smoking in common areas and accommodation is prohibited.
- Refrain from any form of sexual misconduct.
- At the time of submission of form, send us a copy of Aadhar card and license.
- Cancellation policy applies.
- Candidates joining PRONAT will have to sign an indemnity bond.

## Certification

Over the course duration, all participants will undertake written tests, oral presentations and practical evaluations (walk evaluation and drive evaluation) to receive a field guide certification from the course coordinator on completion.

# Fees

## **If enrolled till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

### **Main course (21-nights / 22-days)**

On triple sharing: INR 75000 + plus GST per person

Single room can be booked at a supplement of INR 45000 + plus GST

### **Extension (03-nights / 04-days) – for additional modules**

On triple sharing: INR 12000 + plus GST per person

Single room can be booked at a supplement of INR 8000 + plus GST

## **\*If enrolled post 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020\***

### **Main course (21-nights / 22-days)**

On triple sharing: INR 80,000 + plus GST per person

Single room can be booked at a supplement of INR 50,000 + plus GST

### **Extension (03-nights / 04-days) – for additional modules**

On triple sharing: INR 12000 + plus GST per person

Single room can be booked at a supplement of INR 8000 + plus GST

**Seats available – 18**

**To enroll, you are required to deposit 25% fee at the time of filling the application form. Balance amount is payable latest by 06<sup>th</sup> Jun- 2020.**

## **Cancellation policy:**

1. Initial deposit once paid is non refundable
2. 50% cancellation charges between 31-59 days from the commencement of course
3. 100% cancellation charges within 30 days from the commencement of course

### **Bank details are as follows:**

**Account Name:** Wildlife and Forestry Services

**Account Number:** 34142497348

**IFSC Code:** SBIN0030288

**Bank:** State Bank of India

**Branch:** Fazalpura, Ujjain

**Type:** Current Account



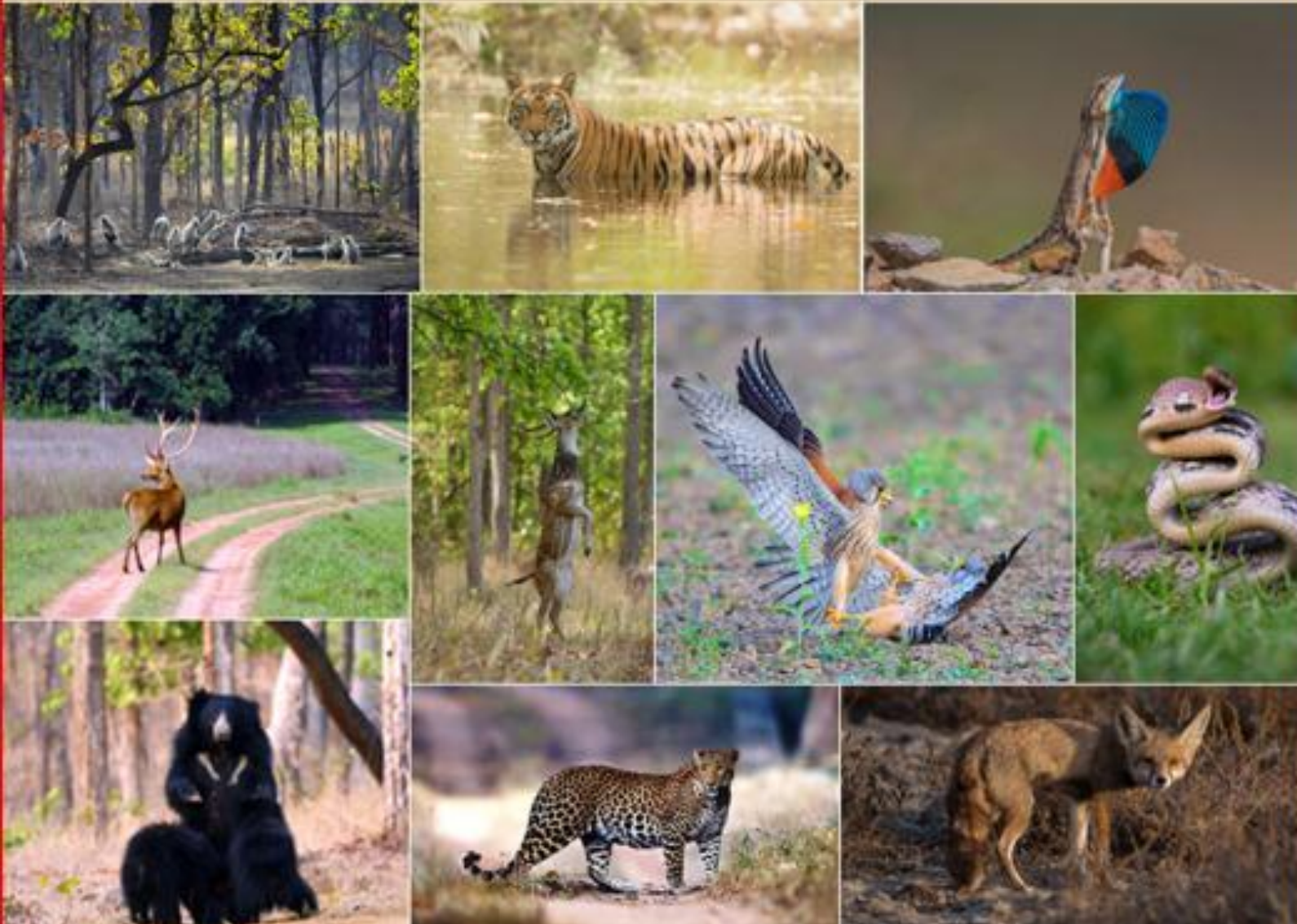
# Inclusions

- Triple sharing (same gender sharing) with attached facilities.
- Three simple home cooked meals along with morning and evening tea.
- Safaris in buffer zones for training purpose.
- Nature walk, indoor and outdoor learning sessions.
- Scheduled training classes.
- Course material.

# Calendar

## Training Calendar (25<sup>st</sup> Aug to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020)

Date	25th Aug	26th Aug	27th Aug	28th Aug	29th Aug	30th Aug	31st Aug
<b>Modules</b>	Introduction	Module 1	Module 1	Module 1	Module 1	Module 2	Module 2
	Ice Breakers	Birds	Birds	Birds	Birds	Butterflies	Butterflies
Date	1st Sep	2nd Sep	3rd Sep	4th Sep	5th Sep	6th Sep	7th Sep
<b>Modules</b>	Module 3	Module 3	Module 4	Module 4	Module 5	Module 5	Module 6
	Reptiles	Reptiles	Reptiles	Amphibians	Amphibians	Mammals	Mammals
Date	8th Sep	9th Sep	10th Sep	11th Sep	12th Sep	13th Sep	14th Sep
<b>Modules</b>	Module 6	Module 8	Module 8	Module 8	Module 8	Module 9	Module 9
	Trees	Trees	First Aid	First Aid	First Aid	First Aid	Conservation
Date	15th Sep	16th Sep	17th Sep	18th Sep			
<b>Modules</b>	Conclusion & Guiding	Guiding & Conclusion	Guiding & Conclusion	Guiding & Conclusion			



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