

# INDIA PERSPECTIVES

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**HOUSEBOATS: FLOATING  
LUXURIES OF INDIA**

**PROGRESS**  
JAN DHAN YOJANA

**HERITAGE**  
MADURAI'S RICH PAST

**CONVERSATION**  
VIRAT KOHLI



# Green and wild

Wildlife resorts in India are ideal for adventure with a touch of luxury amid natural surroundings

text | Anil Mulchandani

India is one of the most rewarding nations for a wildlife holiday with scores of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries that support a diversity of mammals, avians and reptiles. As some of the national parks and sanctuaries reopen in October after being closed during the monsoon months, we take you to five resorts to get up close and personal with some of the country's most sought-after flora and fauna. Whether it is the ethnic Kabini Orange County in the south or the ultra-luxe Oberoi Vanyavilas in the north, each of these resorts is ideal for a green holiday.

## KABINI ORANGE COUNTY

*Nagarhole National Park, Karnataka*

The Kabini River, along the southern boundary of Nagarhole National Park, offers fine views of herds of elephants that come to feed on fresh grass and drink water as well as bathe in the backwaters of Kabini Dam. As you approach the resort from Mysore, Kabini Orange County looks like a tribal village with its mud-plastered traditional entrance and thatched roofs of low-



rise buildings. The cottages look like tribal huts with mud-and-dung plaster, cane doors framed from eucalyptus trees and exposed thatched roofs. You can choose from pool huts which have large dining, drawing/ bedroom areas with an open courtyard and a private pool else opt for open-to-sky jacuzzi huts.

The resort's motorboats takes guests on a wildlife tour where they can watch a variety of waterbirds like lesser eagles, waterfowls, adjutant storks, black-headed and kingfishers. As reservoir water recedes over months, the fresh grass is a big draw for Asiatic elephants, sambars and Indian bison.

You can opt for a boat to cross over from the resort to the entrance of the Nagarhole National Park from where the resort's vehicles take guests on a wildlife safari. Nagarhole is known for its herbivore density – besides elephants, you get to see herds of Indian bison, spotted deer, sambar deer, barking deer, wild boars, tigers, leopards, sloth bears and wild dogs.