

## Raptor Magic – Nov 11- 14, 2023

### Blackbuck Sanctuary , Chappar Village, Churu, Rajasthan

The Blackbuck sanctuary ( Krishna Mrug) in the small village of Chappar in Churu district of Rajasthan is the home to unbelievable range of Raptors & grass land birds

#### **History:**

Tal Chappar Sanctuary, one of the natural habitats of flora and fauna, is located in Churu district in the India state of Rajasthan. Sprawling over an area of around 719 hectares, the sanctuary is the home to endangered black-bucks. The region served as a game reservoir for the King of Bikaner and was announced as a forest reserved during 1962.

#### **About the Park:**

The park is about 8 Sq. Kms Dotted with sewan, doob, dhaman lampla, lana and moth grasses, the sanctuary has very limited plantation of khejri, salvadora, ber, ker and neem trees , essentially a grass land which is fenced and the Black bucks securely stay in the park. The park was started as a project for conservation of Black bucks , but as the grass grew and the climate of the area attracted a large variety of Raptors like Harriers , Buzzards, Falcons , Pipits, Larks, Shrikes, doves and other birds.

While the park is best place to shoot harriers like Montagu's Harrier Marsh Harrier & Pallid Harrier, the adjoining area to the park where the cows are grazed ( Gowshala) is the most happening area for Eagles , Buzzards and Falcons.

Blackbuck Female ( *Antelope cervicapra*), Taal chappar, Rajasthan...Oct 2016



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The gowshala is home to Millions of Spiny tail Lizards popularly known as “Sanda” in hindi. These Lizards live and breed here. This is the area where one can find maximum lizards per sq Meter and this attracts the big raptors. The Big birds of Prey hunt these lizards and this gives ample opportunity for the photographers to click action shots. But in November - December most of them are in hibernation so they will be a rarity.

Spiny Tailed Lizard ( *Sara hardwickii*), Taal Chappar, Rajasthan, Feb 2015



The Gowshala is also the dumping ground for dead cattle and this attracts the Egyptian Vultures and Steppe eagles. The park has many water holes, essentially ponds where water is pumped regularly, like Bhains talab, Salim Ali talab etc. These water holes attract variety of Birds and one gets ample opportunity to observe them here.

Egyptian Vulture ( *Neophron percnopterus*), Taal Chappar, Rajasthan....Oct 2016 - (White bill)



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### What can we expect in November - December :

November - December is the month of winter. This is the time the migrants have arrived and settled down along with the resident raptors. This is the best time to see the Tawny eagle, Steppe eagle, Lesser Spotted, Greater Spotted Eagle and Eastern Imperial Eagle. The whole Aquila Gang is here.

Tawny Eagle ( *Aquila Rapax*), Taal Chappar, Rajasthan.....Oct 26



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The raptors that can be seen also include Laggar Falcon, Red-headed Falcon, Pallid and Montagu's Harrier, Long-legged Buzzard and White eyed buzzard Egyptian Vulture and Common Kestrels.

Laggar Falcon ( *Falco jugger*), Taalchappar, Rajasthan...Sept 2016



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Other birds that are special here are Wheteers, Stoliczka Bushchat, Common Starling, Indian Courser, Pied Avocet, Indian eagle owl

Mammals that can be seen in this season are Black buck, Chinkara, Nilgai and Fox.

Indian Desert Fox (*Vulpes vulpes pusilla*), Taal Chappar, Rajasthan....Oct 2016



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### **How to reach Taal Chappar**

Air: Nearest Airport is Jaipur

Railway Station: Chappar, Sujangarh, Ratangarh . The trains are available from New Delhi

Road: From Jaipur via Salasar about 205 Km, From Bikaner about 140 Km.

### **Tour plan, cost and conditions:**

There will be 6 safaris in this tour

- One on 11 Nov
- Two on 12 Nov
- Two on 13 Nov ( Jorbeed Vulture Sanctuary)
- One on 14 Nov

The morning safari starts at 6:30 am when the park opens and goes on till 10:00 am

The afternoon safari starts at 3:30 pm and ends at 6:00Pm when park closes.



**What can u expect in this tour from us?**

- Guidance and tips on photography.
- Discussion on basics of bird anatomy.
- Discussion on all the species that we see and their behaviour and adaptations.
- Post-processing help.

**Things to carry :** ( this is a suggestion only...clients can take their own call on this list)

- Camera Equipment
  - A body with fast FPS as there will be action shots
  - Lens with range of at least 400 mm
  - Wide angle lens to capture the beauty of sunset and sunrise over the scenic grasslands
  - Extra Cards and battery.... If we hit on a jackpot action we might run out of space or battery.
  - Beanbags are essential as we will be clicking from the vehicle most of the times.
- Clothes
  - It is very cold at this time of year as Churu District has the record of being both the hottest and coldest area in Rajasthan. It is advisable to have a sweater or jacket and ear mufflers.
- Medicines
  - This is a remote village with basic medical facilities. So kindly carry all your required medicines.

**For any queries please call me on 9840119078 or write to me at [ogajanak@gmail.com](mailto:ogajanak@gmail.com)**

## Shots that are possible in Taalchapar

### Raptor Profile Shots

Common Kestrel - Female (*Falco tinnunculus*), Taal chappar, Rajasthan.... Sept



### Grassland Scapes

Montagu's Harrier - female - (*Circus pygargus*), Talchappar, Rajasthan



## Silhouette- Sunset

TAAL CHAPAR, RAJASTHAN



## Black-buck action

Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*), Taalichapar, Rajasthan. Feb 2015



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## Black-buck action

Taal Chappar Scape



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## Raptor Action

Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) Vs Black Kite (*Milvus migrans govinda*), Talchappar, Oct 2019



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## Jorbeer : Where Vultures dare

Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), Himalayan Griffon Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*), Jodbeer, Rajasthan, Feb 2015



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This Vulture Sanctuary is Situated in the Village of Jorbeer , near Bikaner

### History:

Jorbeer Sanctuary, is a dumping ground for the carcass of Cattle and Camels in the district of Bikaner. The sanctuary has the Camel research center on one side and the City of Bikaner on the other. As there is ample food for the scavengers and as this place is situated in the Migration route of vultures, it is heaven for them, large eagles and Kites . To arrest any encroachment by builders & villagers this area has been declared as a vulture sanctuary

### About the Park:

The main park is about 20 Sq. Kms The sanctuary has very limited plantation of khejri, salvadora, ber, ker and neem trees , essentially a desert/Scrub land which is fenced and the carcass from the district is dumped in the centre of the park. Approximately 10-30 carcass are dumped from around 40 villages around Jorbeer.

The park attracts a large variety of Raptors like Eurassian Griffon Vulture, Cinereous Vulture, Himalayan Griffon Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, King Vulture, Black Kite, Steppe Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Indian Spotted Eagle, Imperial eagle, White tailed Eagle etc.

Approximately 2000 Vultures can be found here, the migratory species Eurasian Griffon Vulture comes from Spain and Turkey , Cinereous Vulture from Middle east Asia and Himalayan Griffon Vulture from Tibet & Mongolia.

The Egyptian and King Vultures are Residents of the area

The park also has other smaller birds like Black Drongo, Wheatears, Shrikes and other scrub land species

While the park is best place to shoot vultures, the adjoining area to the park which is a scrub land dotted with Kejri and Ber trees is a good place to shoot the eagles. The pigeons found here are the yellow eyed pigeons and also the Indian Courser can be seen here.

The small rodent called the Desert Jerd can be seen here but rarely it is hunted as there is ample food in form of fresh carcass .

The park has few water holes, essentially ponds where water is pumped regularly

The presence of feral dogs pose threat to both birds and the tourists. These dogs are well fed and ferocious. They disturb the birds while feeding and roosting.

The unintentional poisoning of birds through use of diclofenac also had affected the bird population but since the ban of the drug the bird population in the park has gone up.

Cinereous Vulture (*Aegypius monachus*) , Jorbeet, Rajasthan...Nov 2019



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Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Jorbeed, Rajasthan..Nov 21



## Yellow-eyed Pigeon Found only in this part of Rajasthan

Yellow-eyed Pigeon (*Columba eversmanni*) , Jorbeed, Rajasthan...Nov 2019



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## Jorbeed Carcass Dump

Jorbeed Activity- Dog Vs Steppe eagle



### Costing :

**For 4 days /3 nights - 6 Safaris ( Including Jorbeed)**

**For Group of 5**

**Single Accommodation : Rs 44000**

**Shared Accommodation :Rs 36000**

**In case of 5 participants, we will use two vehicles.**

**In vehicle 1 there will be guide in front & 2 participants in rear**

**In vehicle 2 there will be one Participant in front & two in back**



## **For Group of 2**

**Single Accommodation : Rs 50000**

**Shared Accommodation : Rs 44000**

**In case of 2 participants, we will use one vehicle.**

**In the vehicle there will be guide in front & 2 participants in rear**

***In case the tour participants are between 2 & 5 then cost will be apportioned accordingly .***

### **This cost includes**

- **Lodging :**
  - Stay for 3 nights
  - Non Air-conditioned accommodation on twin sharing basis / Single basis as case maybe
  - The rooms are very big as in a palace in Rajasthan.
  - Check in at 12:00 noon on Day 1
  - Checkout at 11:00 am on Day 5
- **Food**
  - Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on all days.
  - Morning and evening tea .
  - Only Vegetarian food is available.
  - This park is in one of the most drought hit areas of Rajasthan so the food variety in terms of vegetables is limited.
- **Vehicle**
  - Vehicle cost for all safaris
  - For the clients to get the best opportunity to click pictures there will be only two clients per vehicle.
  - The vehicle used here are Bolero , Trax or equivalent.
  - As we will be shooting from the vehicle itself these are non-air-conditioned vehicles
- **All Safari ticket Charges/park fees**

### **The tour cost does not include**

- Cost of reaching Taal Chappar from your home.
- We will arrange a cab at additional cost to pick u up from Jaipur or Sujangarh/Ratangarh railway station. In case you come to Chappar station we would pick u up at no cost.
- Drop back to Jaipur or Sujangarh/Ratangarh is also not included in tour cost
- Any beverages, drinks , extra food items other than mentioned above is not included in the tour cost.

**Bank Details:**

Account holder: Saravanan Janakarajan

Bank : ICICI bank, Account type: Savings

Account Number: **602001317510**, IFSC code: **ICIC0000519**

Branch: Sholinganalloor, Chennai

*50% of the tour cost to be paid for confirming the seats. Rest can be paid 7 days before the tour.*