

Condé Nast Traveller



COMPLIMENTARY WITH
AUG-SEPT 2014 ISSUE

INDIAN EDITION

INTO THE WILD

How to plan the perfect safari: where, when, how
with advice & tips from the experts

Meet
India's
safari
addicts

PLUS

THE WILDLIFE
LOVER'S
BUCKET LIST
TANZANIA
GALAPAGOS
CANADA
RANTHAMBORE
KENYA
TADOBA
MADAGASCAR
AUSTRALIA
SOUTH AFRICA
KABINI
AND MANY MORE

THE BLACKBUCK LODGE

GUJARAT A stylish retreat fit for a secluded getaway to the Velavadar Blackbuck National Park

Spread across 70 lush acres along the park — which is located close to the Gulf of Cambay in Gujarat — this campsite boasts 14 luxury villas. Air-conditioned with an uncluttered sense of décor, the cottages are spacious. They feature king-size beds (8ft long), which earned high praise from one of its VIP guests, actor Amitabh Bachchan, who spent three nights here. The cottages boast huge windows that let visitors enjoy starlit skies from the comfort of their beds. They come with attached verandas, too, where visitors can sunbathe and take in views of the wild while slumped in a deck chair. Its bathrooms boast a separate dressing area as well as an open-air shower.

The resort will soon have a plush pool as well as a full-fledged spa and health club for guests to make use of. Until then, enjoy sauntering through untamed grasslands as you make your way from the cottage to the main restaurant, which serves scrumptious Indian, Chinese and European cuisine. After a day spent exploring the park, relish a 'bush dinner' in the wild — a prerequisite for an authentic safari experience — by digging into the lodge's signature dishes.

The Velavadar Blackbuck National Park is made up of grasslands punctuated by dams



and two scenic rivers, Alang and Parvillo. And while myriad species of birds call this region home, it is the blackbuck that reigns supreme here. This is where visitors will find the largest concentration of this species of the Indian antelope anywhere in India. The striped hyena and Indian wolf also roam these plains freely.

A birder's paradise, guests at the lodge are encouraged to go on nature walks to see eagles, falcons and endangered vultures soaring high in the sky. In the winters, this park hosts the world's largest harrier roost, with the montagu, pallid and marsh variety migrating here in large numbers. Floricans, pelicans, cranes, storks, ducks and herons gathered around its many lakes and seasonal streams are a magnificent sight to behold.

WHEN TO GO:
October-March

GETTING THERE: The lodge is a one-hour drive from Bhavnagar airport, which has daily flights from Mumbai. Alternatively, fly directly to Ahmedabad from major Indian cities. Velavadar is a three-hour drive from the city.

CONTACT

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 **the Blackbuck Lodge**
LUXURY IN THE WILDERNESS