



Bob Rupani drove to a dozen national parks in a Land Rover for his book, *Tracking The Tiger*. **Joy Chaudhari** reviews it.

**W**hy is a book about tigers being reviewed in the pages of Autocar India? First of all, because it's written by Bob Rupani, who is known as an auto journalist. There's another side to Bob, that of a wildlife enthusiast. It's this facet of him that has gone into the making of this coffee-table book, *Tracking The Tiger*. Supporting this project is Land Rover, and Bob drove around in one, through different national parks for this book.

The blurb on the book's jacket says '50 days

in India's best tiger reserves'. Plus the cover has a close-up picture of a tiger's face. With so much tiger on the cover, you'd expect it to be a book about tigers. But it isn't just about them. And that's a good thing. Open the book and you will find pages of excellent pictures of birds, elephants, jackals, deer, rhinos, bears, monkeys, and crocodiles, apart from tigers. Though the tiger is the spine of this book, it takes the reader on a journey through a dozen national parks across India, capturing their rich flora and fauna. All captivatingly photographed by Dhritiman Mukherjee who was commissioned specially for this book. Dhritiman, whose photographs have been featured in publications like National Geographic Traveller India, BBC Wildlife Magazine, New York Times, Outlook and others, is one of India's top wildlife photographers. And this book shows you why.

The special thing about this book is that Bob did not approach any government, or other agency to seek special permission to shoot or access restricted areas. Bob and Dhritiman traveled to a dozen national parks and shot the pictures you see in the book, as any normal tourist can with a good camera. So every picture is captioned with the date and time when it was taken. The idea of *Tracking the tiger* is to give the readers a taste of what they can expect to see if they visited these places.

Each of the dozen national parks covered get their own chapter. Bob introduces you to each one of them in enough detail to get you interested enough to plan your next trip. But not so much information, as to overwhelm you. This book would rather let the pictures do the talking.

If you are planning a holiday to one of India's national parks, this book is a great introduction for a traveler. Or if you just like looking at great wildlife photography. It's available for Rs 2,500 at Amazon India and Flipkart, apart from selected bookshops. **AI**

## Q&A BOB RUPANI, AUTHOR

### What was the most difficult part about producing this book?

Selecting the pictures. We had so many wonderful pictures that we had to leave out because of the lack of space. We have had to leave out twice the number of pictures, from the ones you see in the book.

### What's the best way to spot animals – on foot, in a car or on an elephant?

Though elephants can take you deeper in the bush, I personally don't like it, since I find it unnatural to look down on animals. And anyway, since 2012, elephant safaris have been banned in India. Though your chances of spotting an animal is low, walking is the best way to experience the forest. The car is your option if you want to spot an animal, since you can cover more distance.

### What are the qualities a car should have to make a good safari vehicle?

First of all good visibility, preferably an open top. Second is a quiet and refined engine, especially when starting, so that you don't disturb the animals. And good ground clearance.

