**Fact Sheet**

**Hotel Address** The Sarai at Toria

Mela Wali Galli

Village Toria

P O Dhamna

District Chhatarpur

Khajuraho

47101

Madhya Pradesh

India

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**Location** This delightful lodge sits tucked away in rural countryside on the banks of the Ken River and has one of the most diverse range of activities to offer. It is five minutes from the Panna Tiger Reserve and only thirty minutes drive from the World Heritage site of Khajuraho, in Madhya Pradesh. A short track leads to a stunning, grassy oasis where the cottage rooms are set in small village formation in the midst of the swaying grasses. The main reception area is situated at the highest point and looks over the river to the park hills beyond. It’s impossibly pretty in all seasons and the mud cottages blend seamlessly into their setting. Stone lined paths link the cottages to the lovely open sitting and dining area. In winter this becomes a cosy haven where camp fires blaze on colder nights. It is earthy, charming, fits perfectly with its environment and its attention to detail provides utmost comfort and elegance.

**Style** The owners are passionate and renowned conservationists and wildlife and its habitat are their passion. They have created a very special place that is small and intimate and provides luxury without excess. The style is simple but no comfort is spared and it has been beautifully and tastefully done. Muted furnishings are easy on the eye and fit with the rural environment. There is no other lodge in the area to compare with The Sarai at Toria.

**Accessibility**  **By Air:** To Khajuraho followed by a 20 minute car journey

**By Train:** To Khajuraho followed by a 20 minute car journey

**By Road:** From Khajuraho, Panna, Orchha, Gwalior, Kanpur, Lucknow, Bandhavgarh

**Transfers:** The hotel is happy to arrange transfers (at extra

cost) from either the airport or the railway station to / from

the hotel.

**Accommodation** There are 8 delightful rooms housed in cottages spread around the ground. Some are linked so perfect for groups or couples. Others are stand alone. All have a small sit outs and verandahs and they are well spread out and private. Made of mud and thatch, they are warm and welcoming. Big beds with attractive furnishings make getting up in the early mornings a struggle. Locally sourced artefacts are in all the rooms and everything here is about being simple and local but stylish and comfortable. Tadlac-like bathrooms in fun colours invite you to spend hours in the shower (showers only), and the rooms are lofty, spacious and have everything you need.

All rooms have overhead fans (the rooms are designed so that a/c is not needed) and hot water bottles are provided on colder nights. Hair dryers can be provided on request. There are no TVs nor DVD players. No bathrobes are provided. Tea and coffee making facilities are provided in your room. The rooms are at ground level but have steps to approach from the pathways so wheelchair access is possible but not perfect. No wifi in the bedrooms.

Unlimited, complimentary filtered water is provided daily. The nightly rate includes all meals, snacks, soft drinks, wi-fi and also an in-house activity, such as the boat ride.

**Dining** Dining takes place in the main lodge and is always a fun, intimate affair, after drinks by the camp fire. On warmer nights, al fresco dining on the terrace is also a treat, under the stars. The Sarai is known for its excellent food; it serves delicious table d’hote menus of Indian and Continental cuisine. Special dietary requests are easily handled. Much of the produce served is locally grown and the wonderful salads and fresh herbs are grown in the Sarai’s own organic garden

Coffee and tea are served early each morning if going out on a game drive.

**Meal times** Breakfast 07.30am to 10.00am

Lunch 12.30pm to 14.30pm

Dinner 20.00pm to 22.00pm

**Children** The resort accepts children of all ages. Two children under 12 may be accommodated in their parent’s bedroom for an extra charge. There are interconnecting rooms available for families. Child care and baby-sitting services can be provided upon request.

**Dress code** There is no official dress code and it is extremely relaxed. However, when out on safari, we suggest dark, earthy, muted clothing that will not show up too much against the vegetation. A windproof jacket is useful as the wind chill factor of an open jeep can reduce the temperature by several degrees. A sun hat is recommended. Very casual with nothing smart needed. Warm clothes are essential for the early mornings in winter as it is cold in the jungle at that time. Warm but relaxed clothes for the evenings. It can warm up in the day so light clothing if wanting to relax in the grounds – cater to all climates.

**Check-in / out time** This is fairly flexible. As per most hotels, it tends to be midday to midday but extended check-outs and early check-ins can be arranged should a room be available.

**Electricity The Sarai runs on solar power but also has a back up generator, so electricity is 24 hours. India also runs on** 220-240 volts and international plugs are provided in all the rooms. Although outdoor solar lights line the path, torches are also provided in each room to use for coming to the dining are at night.

**Credit cards / currency** The hotel does **not** accept any credit cards. There is NO money changing facility. Only rupees as payment are accepted.

**Mobile telephones** Most networks work here but some can be sporadic.

**When to go / climate** Madhya Pradesh has some major climactic fluctuations. During December and January, it can be cold in the mornings and evenings and warm clothes are essential. However, during the daytime it is usually lovely - warm and sunny. It begins to get fairly hot in late March and April but the Sarai closes mid April before the real summer heat sets in. It is also closed during the monsoon which breaks in late June or early July and lasts until September. October and November are still warm but not cold or wet. The best time to visit is from November to March. It is generally a dry heat with little humidity, except during early October.

NOTE: The wind chill factor of an open jeep can mean it can be very cold in the early morning safari drives during the months of late November to February. Although blankets are provided, warm jackets, and hats are essential at this time. Go for layering as the sun brings a big temperature difference.

**Opening and closing** Open from 1 October to mid April.

**Pests** Due to the ecological balance at the Sarai, mosquitoes are not a major problem but they can come out in the evenings and early mornings in the warmer months. All rooms have natural insect repellent and full insect protection screens on the windows. A natural environment that includes dragonflies and geckos ensures a mosquito presence well lower than you will meet in more urban areas.

**Facilities** Complimentary WI-FI in the sitting room / dining room

Sitting room

Library

Sit outs in the grounds, with jhulas

Organic vegetable garden

A local barber will provide head massages

The lodge owns its own jeep

The lodge owns its own boat

Bicycles

Yoga mats provided in each room

**Possible excursions** Visits to the famous temple town of Khajuraho

Spend time here during the annual Dance Festival in Khajuraho

Wildlife safaris in Panna Tiger Reserve

Boatrides on the Ken River

Bird watching and village walks

Rural bicycle tours

Day excursions to Kalinjar or Ajaygarh forts

Visit to Raneh Falls

Visits to local markets

Yoga on request

Cooking demonstration

**Average length of stay** Two or three nights, but people often stay longer. Given the remote, wilderness location and how much to see and do, it is a good idea to allow enough time to enjoy plenty of safari drives, to explore the area and to switch off and just enjoy being there.

**Reservations** T: +91 124 4062 480 / 481 2356 004

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W: www.saraiattoria.com

**Payment / cancellation** Pre-payment is compulsory if requiring a confirmed, advanced reservation. 100% refunded if cancelled 30 days prior to arrival. 50% refunded if cancelled 30 to 7 days prior to arrival. No refund if cancelled 7 days or less prior to arrival.

There is no minimum stay requirement, although 1 night is not recommended.

**Seasonal surcharges** No surcharges apply at Christmas and New Year.

**Government Taxes** Taxes apply

**Ownership & management** Raghu Chundawat and Joanna Van Gruisen