



India's Rebel Queen

A selection of splendid images by a strong-willed and powerfully passionate artist with a self-admitted feminine weakness for felines

Archana Singh - A Wildlife Photographer in Her Own Words

A designer by qualification and a photographer by passion, Archana Singh is an adept Wildlife & Nature photographer for the last few years. Having graduated from the prestigious National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, Archana has been associated with design and its intricacies for over two decades. Her foray into the world of photography began in 2006 by assisting Delhi based acclaimed photographer Akhil Bakhshi. Working behind the lens was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and it encouraged her to actually start playing with the camera. Self-learning and experimentation have brought her to where she stands today. Her journey has been one of inner discovery and has unerringly led her combine her passion for photography with her deep love of wildlife. Backed by a strong design background, she has been actively involved in designing and publishing books, calendars, walks, events &

exhibitions on wildlife for the last few years under her trademark "Orah Wildlife". She loves to capture the intrinsic beauty and emotions of these animals through her lens and to constantly push all boundaries that limit her. Her work is not mere pictures recorded on film but an expression of her personal philosophy. Every photograph that you see of hers represent Archana's refusal to be held back and to be shackled by any perceived constraints or norms. Her driving passions reverberate in the colors, light and shadows of her photography. Her camera more than just 'draws with light', it creates art! Art that is vibrant and enthused by her openness to travel and her need to absorb new ideas. She hopes that through her art she can create awareness about our wildlife, reach out to more people, educate them about the need of the hour and in turn create respect towards all God's creatures.



Muscle Power

This playful fight amongst two young sub adult Tigers was indeed a brilliant lifetime opportunity that lasted exactly 4-5 seconds. The cubs were sitting in the grass as dusk approached when suddenly one of them sneaked up behind the other and what happened next is captured in this image. This playful fight amongst the siblings is what prepares them for their survival in the wild. Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh, India
ISO 1250
F/4.5
1/500s
Canon 1DC
Canon 200-400mm with built in extender @ 200 mm

Charging Bull

As I spent an afternoon near the river photographing birds with my 800mm, I suddenly heard loud splashing sounds. Without removing my eye from the viewfinder, I saw this angry bull coming right at me. The bull came charging as if directly towards me.

Only when I removed my eye from the viewfinder did I realize that the bull was still quite far and not about to kill me.

Yala National Park, Sri Lanka

ISO 500

F/5.6

1/2500s

Canon 1DX

Canon 800mm





Ethereal beauty

This sub adult and extremely shy tigress was sitting at a place with bright light falling on her face, giving this beauty an out of this world feel. For a moment it did not appear like it was a predator's face. Ranthambhore National Park, Rajasthan, India.
ISO 2000
F/6.3
1/320s
Canon 1D Mark IV
Canon 800mm

Dance of death

At the end of my day's safari these two Monitor Lizards came tumbling on to the road right in front of our jeep. I thought they were a mating pair, but was told that it was a territorial fight to the death between two males. Yala National Park, Sri Lanka
ISO 640
F/4
1/5000s
Canon 1DC
Canon 200-400mm
with built in extender @ 200 mm



Full Throttle

This image was captured in the scorching African sun one afternoon. The lionesses were resting with six cubs.

Suddenly they tensed and within seconds the cubs disappeared. Upon turning I saw a male lion of another pride approaching them.

Within seconds, these peaceful moms had turned into these vicious beasts and the poor lion did not stand a chance and made a hasty retreat.

Selous Game Reserve, Southern Tanzania, Africa
ISO 200
F/6.3
1/400s
Canon 1D Mark IV
Canon 200-400mm with built in extender
@ 200 mm





The kill

This tigress shot out of the jungle straight in front of our jeep and sat in the middle of the track observing a herd of wild boars. She sat and carefully watched them, stalking them and eventually making a kill. Wild boars are tough opponents and it took her half an hour to keep the deadly grip before he passed.

Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh, India
ISO 320
F/5.6
1/600s
Canon 1DC
Canon 200-400mm with built in extender
@ 560 mm



Hide and seek

The quest for the tiger, quite often than not, leads to some unique photo opportunities as was the case with this Sloth Bear.

ISO 400
F/5.6
1/250s
Canon 1DC | Canon 200-400mm with built in extender @ 400 mm

Watching you

The Leopard in picture was very far away and sitting on its favorite tree, enjoying a warthog kill.

Yala National Park, Sri Lanka
ISO 1250
F/5.6
1/320s
Canon 1DC
Canon 200-400mm with built in extender @ 560 mm





Oh deer!

I made this image when everyone on safari that morning was busy photographing a tigress. Having taken several pictures of the tiger, I turned around to observe a herd of Spotted Deer and it was really fascinating to watch their reaction as they smelled or sensed the tiger approaching from very far.

Ranthambhore
National Park,
Rajasthan, India
ISO 200
F/5.6
1/600s
Canon 1DX
Canon 200-
400mm with built
in extender
@ 280 mm



Incredible haul

This image was captured after spending close to almost thirteen hours with this mother leopard. She managed to make this kill of a Thompson's gazelle after three failed attempts. What was absolutely incredible to witness was the way she hauled this kill up an almost vertical tree.

Serengeti
National Park,
Tanzania, Africa
ISO 1250
F/8
1/500s
Canon 1D
Mark IV
Canon 200-
400mm with built
in extender
@ 461 mm

Armored Knights

A mother Indian rhino and her calf take a stroll through the beautiful forest as the filtered morning light on them makes them appear like figures out of a historic movie.

Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India
ISO 400 / F/4 / 1/250s

Canon 1DX Mark II / Canon 200-400mm with built in extender @ 400 mm



And time stood still

On a bright sunny afternoon, tigress T-19, popularly known as Krishna, sits for a while to rest, in a burnt out dead foliage, due to the extreme harsh summer conditions. I saw the burnt out background and the bright yellow orange coat of the tiger and thought to myself - if the Tiger decides to strike a pose in this backdrop, it will really pop out.

Ranthambhore National Park, Rajasthan, India.
ISO 400 / F/10 / 1/200s
Canon 1DC / Canon 800mm



King of my jungle

This image is special to me. During the tsunami of 2012, this tree washed ashore and has hence laid in the vast field ever since. Over time it transformed into this beautiful piece of driftwood. A few years later as I was following a leopard, I spotted this piece of driftwood, so intricate in nature that I was instantly drawn towards it. And the leopard actually went and sat on the tree - just as I had wished.

Yala National Park,
Sri Lanka
ISO 1250
F/5.6
1/500s
Canon 1DX
Canon 800mm

After a long wait, the tigress came out of the thick grass. Anticipating her and with no clear space to see the tiger let alone photograph it, I quickly moved my jeep to beat everyone and grab a good spot. There was only one open space in the entire area and since that was the only space where one could get a clear picture from, I stopped and laid myself on the floor of my jeep. She came to the exact spot as I had anticipated. She was soon joined by her sub adult cub, who literally went and gave mommy a hug and this was indeed a touching moment for me.

Ranthambhore National Park, Rajasthan, India
ISO 800 / F/5.6 / 1/250s
Canon 1DX / Canon 200-400mm
with built in extender @ 560 mm



Where's Mommy?

These two tiny cubs of a popular tigress called Noor (T-39) come out of their cave when they hear their mom call out from a distance. Their tiny eyes have that look of anticipation so beautifully expressed.

Ranthambhore National Park, Rajasthan, India
ISO 2000 / F/5 / 1/400s
Canon 1DC / Canon 200-400mm with built in extender @ 400 mm

**Catch me
if you can**

I found this tigress, popularly known as T-39, aka Noor, waiting near a waterhole one morning. This

Sambar deer, approached the waterhole without sensing the tiger's presence. I waited, for what could be one hell of a photo opportunity. The deer did not sense

the tigress approaching him until she was very close. The deer ran for his life and both disappeared behind a small hill.

Ranthambhore
National Park,
Rajasthan, India

ISO 2000

F/5.6

1/400s

Canon 1DC

Canon 200-
400mm with built

in extender

@ 236 mm



Mischief Mongers

These two cubs of a Tigress called Krishna (T-19) are seen here in a difficult terrain, following their mom on a long trek to a kill she had made. Even though the mom was walking on the path along with her third cub, these two naughty ones decided to climb on this rocky hill side, giving an excellent backdrop. The trek was difficult but they seemed to enjoy it. A typical cub behaviour displayed in this image - how they are always up to something mischievous, and find their own games.

Ranthambhore National Park, Rajasthan, India
ISO 1250 / F/5.6 / 1/160s
Canon 1DX / Canon 70-200mm with built in extender @ 115 mm



The Angry Leopard

A tigress was staring upwards. I glanced and hanging right on top of us, on this frail looking tree, was a scared female leopard.

Ranthambhore National Park, Rajasthan, India
ISO 500

F/9 / 1/500s Canon 1DX

Canon 200-400mm with built in extender @ 280 mm

