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### **Educational Tour 2021-2022**

Place of Educational Tour: - Bengal Safari Siliguri

Date of Tour: - 01.06.2022

Semester: - VI (Education Honours) Department of Education

### Introduction:-

Bengal Safari Siliguri, located in the foothills of the Himalayas in West Bengal, India, is a premier wildlife park and conservation centre. Established in 2016, it serves as a crucial hub for wildlife conservation, education, and research. The park spans approximately 80 hectares and is designed to provide visitors with a close-up view of the region's diverse flora and fauna. Bengal Safari aims to educate the public about wildlife conservation, the importance of biodiversity, and the ecological balance necessary for sustaining natural habitats.

The safari park is home to a wide variety of animal species, including Bengal tigers, leopards, elephants, and various species of deer and birds. It features several attractions such as the safari ride, the nocturnal animal enclosure, and the Bengal Safari Interpretation Centre, where visitors can learn about conservation efforts and animal behaviour.

This educational tour to Bengal Safari Siliguri is designed to provide students with an immersive learning experience about wildlife conservation, biodiversity, and environmental stewardship. It aims to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical observations, enhancing students' understanding of ecological concepts and inspiring a sense of responsibility towards nature.

# **Objectives:-**

### 1. Educational Insight into Wildlife Conservation:

- Understanding Conservation Efforts: The primary objective of the tour is to educate students about the various conservation efforts undertaken at Bengal Safari Siliguri. This includes learning about habitat preservation, anti-poaching measures, and wildlife rescue operations.
- Role of Zoos and Wildlife Parks: Students will explore the role of wildlife parks in conservation, including how they contribute to the protection of endangered species and support breeding programs.

### 2. Biodiversity Awareness:

- Exposure to Flora and Fauna: The tour aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the region's biodiversity. This includes observing various animal species, learning about their natural habitats, and understanding their roles in the ecosystem.

- Ecological Balance: Students will learn about the importance of maintaining ecological balance and how different species interact within their environments.

### 3. Interactive Learning Experience:

- Hands-On Activities: The tour will include interactive activities such as guided safari rides, educational workshops, and visits to the interpretation centre. These activities are designed to engage students actively and reinforce their learning.
- Observation and Analysis: Students will have the opportunity to observe animal behaviour, participate in discussions with wildlife experts, and analyse the conservation strategies implemented at the park.

#### 4. Fostering Environmental Stewardship:

- Inspiring Conservation Advocacy: By exposing students to the realities of wildlife conservation, the tour aims to inspire a sense of responsibility towards environmental protection. Students will learn about the challenges faced by wildlife and the actions they can take to support conservation efforts.
- Promoting Sustainable Practices: The tour will emphasize the importance of sustainable practices in daily life and encourage students to adopt eco-friendly habits.

# **Number of Student Participation:-**

The educational tour will accommodate 25 students in VI semester of Education Honours of Lilabati Mahavidhyalaya, along with 3 teachers. This group size is selected to ensure effective supervision and a manageable ratio of students to guides. The small group size allows for personalized attention and facilitates interactive learning experiences.

# Outcome of the Educational Tour: -

#### 1. Increased Knowledge of Wildlife Conservation:

- Understanding Conservation Practices: Students will gain a deeper understanding of the conservation practices employed at Bengal Safari Siliguri. They will learn about habitat management, species protection, and the importance of wildlife reserves in conserving biodiversity.
- Awareness of Endangered Species: The tour will highlight the plight of endangered species and the efforts made to protect them. Students will learn about specific conservation programs aimed at saving threatened animals.

#### 2. Enhanced Biodiversity Awareness:

- Exposure to Diverse Species: Participants will have the chance to observe a variety of animal species in their naturalistic habitats. This exposure will help them understand the complexity and richness of biodiversity.

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- Ecological Understanding: Students will develop a better understanding of the interactions between different species and their environments. They will learn how ecological balance is maintained and the impact of human activities on wildlife.

### 3. Interactive and Engaging Learning:

- Hands-On Experience: The tour's interactive components, such as safari rides and educational workshops, will provide students with practical experiences that complement their theoretical knowledge.
- Expert Insights: Students will benefit from direct interactions with wildlife experts and conservationists. These interactions will offer valuable insights into animal behaviour, conservation strategies, and the challenges faced by wildlife parks.

#### 4. Fostering Environmental Stewardship:

- Inspiration for Conservation: The tour aims to inspire students to become advocates for wildlife conservation. They will leave with a heightened awareness of the importance of protecting natural habitats and supporting conservation efforts.
- Adoption of Sustainable Practices: Students will be encouraged to incorporate eco-friendly practices into their daily lives and promote environmental awareness within their communities.

# **Conclusion:**

The educational tour to Bengal Safari Siliguri offers a valuable opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the world of wildlife conservation and biodiversity. By visiting this premier wildlife park, students will gain firsthand experience of the efforts made to protect endangered species and preserve natural habitats. The tour will enhance their understanding of ecological concepts, inspire a sense of responsibility towards environmental stewardship, and provide them with practical knowledge about conservation practices.

Bengal Safari Siliguri serves as an ideal location for this educational tour due to its diverse range of animal species, interactive exhibits, and commitment to conservation. The experiences gained during the tour will reinforce classroom teachings in environmental science and biology, making them more relevant and engaging.

Overall, the tour will contribute significantly to the students' academic and personal development. It will foster a greater appreciation for wildlife and nature, encourage the adoption of sustainable practices, and inspire a lifelong commitment to environmental conservation. By bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical experience, the educational tour to Bengal Safari Siliguri will provide students with a well-rounded and impactful learning experience.