



HIGHLIGHTS

A short trip which could prove very lucky as it includes two full days in a jeep viewing and tracking birds, animals & flora of the Bijrani range of Corbett Tiger Reserve, forest hikes, a 2-hr elephant ride, luxurious meals and stay at Camp Forktail Creek.

BEST TIME

Mid October to May



CORBETT TIGER RESERVE, INDIA

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OUTLINE ITINERARY

- Day 0 Overnight in the train boarded at Delhi.
- Day 1 Arrive at Ramnagar and transfer to Camp. Free day in Camp with a short hike into the forest in the afternoon. Night in Camp.
- Day 2 Full day game drive into the Bijrani range. Night in Camp. .
- Day 3 Full day game drive into the Bijrani range and then depart for the railway station.

PLAN WOULD INCLUDE

- Accommodation at Camp Forktail Creek for 2 nights.
- Meals from breakfast on Day 1 to dinner on Day 3, aerated drinks, mineral or filtered drinking water and tea/ coffee.
- Escorted hikes into the forests around Camp.
- A dedicated jeep for two full day game drives with a driver and a naturalist.
- Entry fees (charges levied by the forest department are subject to change without prior notice).
- A 2-hr elephant ride inside the National Park (these rides cannot be booked in advance and are subject to availability).
- A dedicated jeep for arrival transfer from Ramnagar Railway Station and then again on departure.

EXTRA EXPENSES

Expenses of a personal nature such as beverages (except those mentioned above) laundry, telephone calls, internet, souvenirs and tips.

INFORMATION ON FOOD AND ACCOMMODATION

Camp Forktail Creek is a small jungle camp located on the north-eastern periphery of Corbett Tiger Reserve, India (23 kms from the town of Ramnagar). It is set amidst dense Sal forests and accommodation is in locally handcrafted ensuite mud huts. Elaborate and sumptuous home-cooked meals accompany each trip with enjoyable, courteous and knowledgeable naturalists, who have been in the region most of their lives.

Camp is in a village which does not have electricity but ample lighting is provided with solar powered lamps and lanterns and candles.



INTRODUCTION TO YOUR PLACES OF VISIT

Corbett Tiger Reserve is India's first and one of her finest Tiger Reserves. It supports a strong historical background, which can be traced to the early 1800's when its forests were private property of the rulers of the princely state of Tehri Garhwal.

Nestling in the foothills of the mighty Himalayas, Corbett Tiger Reserve lies mainly in the hilly districts of Nainital, Almora and Pauri Garhwal. At present the Tiger Reserve covers an area of 1318.54 sq km and includes within it Corbett National Park (520.82 sq km) Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary(301.18 sq km) and Reserve Forest (496.54 sq km)



Three rivers feed Corbett Tiger Reserve - Ramganga, which flows in from the northeast and meanders through the Park to form the reservoir at Dhikala. It is then dammed at Kalagarh, in the southwest; Sonanadi, a tributary of Ramganga River flows in from the northwest; Palain, another tributary of Ramganga flows in from the north. Besides these, Mandal River flows in through the northeast, forming a portion of the northeastern boundary and merging with the Ramganga River at Domunda. The Kosi River forms the eastern boundary of the reserve but does not enter the park at any point.

Corbett Tiger Reserve has three distinct topographic zones within it...

-the Shivaliks in the north -the Bhabar tract of the Patlidun valley and -the swampy Terai in the south
The reserve has an elevation ranging from 400m to 1200m, thus having a rich diversity of flora, fauna and habitats.

The most dominant tree in these mixed deciduous forests is Sal (Shoera robusta); it accounts for about 73% of the floral coverage. The valleys thrive with grassland locally called 'chaurs' and riverine forests. About 110 species of trees, 51 species of shrubs and 33 species of grass and bamboo are listed in Corbett.

Corbett also boasts of a rich variety of faunal species. About 50 species of mammals, about 600 species of birds, 26 species of reptiles, 7 species of amphibians and many insect species are found in the reserve.

Besides, being home to the Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Corbett is also the northern most tract of habitat for the Asiatic Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) and one can see large herds in the grasslands during the summer months. Other mammals of the reserve include the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*), Leopard Cat (*Felis bengalensis*), 4 kinds of deer - Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*), Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*), Spotted Deer (*Axis axis*), Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Rhesus Monkey (*Macaca mulatta*) & Langur Monkey (*Presbytis entellus*), Ghoral or Mountain Goat (*Nemorhaedus goral*), Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa*), Sloth Bear (*Melursus ursinus*), Indian Grey Mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsinyla*), Small Indian Civet (*Viverricula indica*), Indian Crested Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), Asiatic Jackal (*Canis aureus*), Yellow-throated Marten (*Martes flavigula*) etc.

There have also been rare sightings of Serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*) and the Himalayan Black Bear (*Selenarctos thibetanus*). The Mugger or the fresh water Crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*), Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*), Common Otter (*Lutra lutra monticola*), Smooth-coated Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*), Small-clawed Otter (*Aonyx cinerea*), turtles and a variety of fishes; Golden Masheer (*Barbus Tor putitora*), Goonch (*Bagarius marelli*), Trout, etc are seen in and around the Ramganga River.

Reptile species include Monitor Lizard or the Bengal Monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*), King Cobra (*Ophiophagus Hannah*), Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*), Indian Trinket Snake (*Elaphe Helena*), Common Indian Krait (*Bungarus caeruleus*), Spectacled or Indian Cobra (*Naja naja*)...

Corbett is also a bird watchers paradise and some of the avian attractions include a variety of Woodpeckers, Kingfishers, Hornbills, Parakeets, Shrikes, Barbets, Drongos, Minivets, Storks, Owls, Pheasants, Eagles, Vultures, Harriers...



Corbett National Park has three main tourist zones.

One is called the **Bijrani Range**, entry is through Amdanda Gate. Though this is a much smaller range, it is preferred for day-visits and has many criss-cross tracks, making wildlife tracking a joy. One could do a game drive here in the morning or afternoon, or the whole day. One could also stay overnight at the Bijrani Forest Rest House (FRH) and Malani FRH- both in this zone. Two-hour elephant rides are possible in Bijrani in the morning or afternoon but they are subject to availability and cannot be booked in advance. **This zone is open from mid-October to end June.**

The other range, a much larger range, is collectively referred to as **Dhikala**. Entry here is through Dhangari gate and is restricted to those who have a permit to stay overnight in any one of the Forest Rest House's within this section of the Park, namely, Sultan, Gairal, Sarpduli, Khinnanuli, Dhikala or Kanda. Each of these rest houses has a superb location- Dhikala taking the cake, being located by the reservoir of the Ramganga River which in turn is surrounded by vast grasslands. Apart from being beautiful, it's great for wildlife sighting. Two-hour elephant rides are possible at some of the rest houses in the morning or afternoon but they are subject to availability and cannot be booked in advance. **This zone is open from mid-November to mid-June.**

The third, lesser known range is **Lohachaur** with excellent fern laden patches and moist sub tropical jungles. Entry here is through Durgadevi gate. This is the best zone for birding. This is also the zone where multi-day elephant safaris are permitted by the forest department. Lohachaur and Kanda are the two bungalows accessible in this zone, where overnight stays are possible. **This zone is open from mid-November to mid-June.**



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive at Camp.

Arrive at Ramnagar Railway Station at 0500 hrs. Our jeep and driver would assist with transfer to Camp, a drive of 40 mins-23kms.

After a wash and change, have breakfast, relax, read in the Machan from our library and explore the environs of Camp.

After a sumptuous lunch, we would take you on an escorted nature and bird walk into the Sal forests surrounding Camp. It is an excellent opportunity to walk in the cool of the forest, to be close to nature and to appreciate the varied plants, insects, birds, mammals and reptiles that inhabit this part of the country.

THE QUIETER YOU ARE, THE MORE YOU WILL SEE.

The walk will offer an in-depth knowledge on animal and bird signs in our jungles. We shall help identify some key plant, animals and bird species. Identification of hoof, pug and pad marks; forest smells, tracking in our forests to jungle survival skills...

Most walks are rewarded with a leopard or tiger pug mark and should we find one on this walk, plaster casts could be made.

Back to Camp by sundown for campfire and dinner, which is leisurely and personal.

Along with the excellent cuisine, your guide and hosts will amuse and amaze you with their stories of exciting experiences. Then it is time to relax once again and enjoy carefree chatter by the fireside whilst feasting on the unique sounds and smells that your exclusive location offers, before retiring to bed in a mud hut.

Day 2: Full day game drive into the Bijrani range

Early morning, depart in an open 4WD jeep with the in-house driver and naturalist for a full day game drive to the Bijrani range to observe the wildlife of the area. Entry here is through Amdanda Gate, 20 kms from Camp.

7 kms further in from the gate is the Bijrani Forest Rest House and the elephant mount spot. From here many criss-cross jungle trails lead into the forest, making tracking in this small range a pure adrenalin rush!



Breakfast and lunch would be served inside the Reserve, specially packed by the Chef at Camp.

After a full, action-packed day in the forest, we head back to Camp by sundown, just in time for that hot cup of tea. After a quick wash, join your hosts by the campfire for drinks and snacks and resume the discussions left over from the previous night. For those of you weary from the long day, dinner would be ready under the Thatch after which you could settle into your comfortable bed in a mud hut.

Day 3: Full day game drive into the Bijrani range and then depart for the railway station.

A repeat of the previous day with a visit to your favourite spots from the previous day. We'll try for an elephant ride if not already done the previous day.

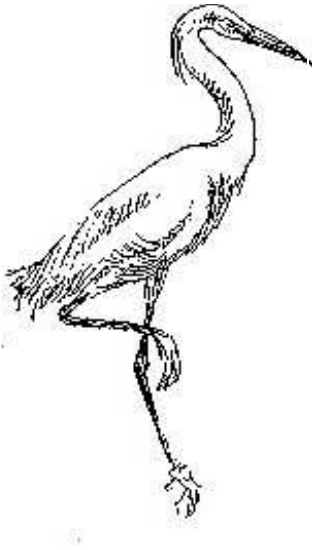
Return to Camp by sundown.

Wash and change, have an early dinner and depart for Ramnagar Railway Station for the overnight, Ranikhet Express at 2115 hrs for Delhi. Overnight in the IIIrd AC compartment of the train.

You would be in Old Delhi Railway Station by 0500 hrs the next day.



IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO REPEAT A FULL DAY GAME DRIVE INTO THE BIJRANI ZONE ON DAY 3, YOU COULD CHOOSE TO DO SOMETHING ELSE FROM OUR SUGGESTIONS BELOW...



- ♣ Do an escorted hike with packed breakfast up to the ridge behind Camp for Himalayan views on clear winter days with a dedicated naturalist. You could also opt to drive there and back.
- ♣ Go with packed lunch by a forest stream/ river. A dedicated jeep to take you there and back could be organised.
- ♣ Go angling with prior intimation. You will drive to the Ramganga River about 12 kms away with an angling guide and spend the day fishing for Mahseer or Goonch. You will leave Camp post breakfast (or earlier) and be back by 1700-1800 hrs depending on the time of year.
- ♣ Full day hike into the forests around Camp with a dedicated naturalist/ tracker.
- ♣ If you are interested in birds, we could do a full day game drive into the Lohachaur range of the Tiger Reserve (described above) instead of a second trip into Bijrani.
- ♣ Just relax in Camp. Read from our extensive library, stroll around Camp, lounge in one of the many hammocks or in the Machan- a double levelled open structure, great for nature gazing or bask in the sun in your own private verandah/ sun-room.

