



HIGHLIGHTS

Though a short trip, it packs in a lot with three full days of game viewing and tracking, with overnight stay in one of the most specie rich ranges of Corbett Tiger Reserve.

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. Breakfast and then depart for a full day game drive into the Dhikala Range. Night in room in Dhikala FRH complex.
- Day 2 Full day game drive in and around Dhikala with a try for an elephant ride. Night in room in Dhikala FRH complex.
- Day 3 Full day game drive in and around Dhikala. Return to Camp by afternoon. Time permitting, a walk into the forest. Dinner and then depart for the railway station.



PLAN WOULD INCLUDE

- Accommodation at Dhikala FRH (subject to availability) for two 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 three 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.



Dhikala Forest Rest House Complex is the largest tourist rest house complex within Corbett Tiger Reserve. It stands atop the left bank of Ramganga River, overlooking the expansive grasslands called 'chaurs', further below which is the huge Ramganga reservoir, the heart of Corbett. The grasslands of Dhikala are home to a small but endangered population of Hog Deer.

Being the largest complex, accommodation varies from simple dormitory bunk beds, to more comfortable rooms, to the old heritage building in middle of the complex called the "Old FRH".

Over the last few years each place of stay within the Tiger Reserve, has been tastefully restored, making it a very pleasant stay. In addition, the team from Camp inspects and readies each room prior to the arrival of our guests. Essential toiletries, bed and bath linen are taken from Camp and replaced for the duration of your stay. Meals at Dhikala are at the restaurant in the complex which serves wholesome clean vegetarian food.

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.

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 edwardsi*), Small Indian Civet (*Viverricula indica*), Indian Crested Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), Asiatic Jackal (*Canis aureus*), Yellow-throated Marten (*Martes flavigula*) etc.

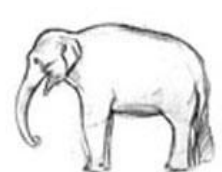
Corbett also boasts of a rich variety of faunal species. About 50 species of mammals, about 600 species of birds, 26 species of reptiles, 7 species of amphibians and many insect species are found in the reserve.

There have also been rare sightings of Serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*) and the Himalayan Black Bear (*Selenarctos thibetanus*).

The Muggor 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, Khinnanauli, 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 0: Overnight in the train

Board the overnight, Ranikhet Express from Old Delhi Railway Station at 2245 hrs. Overnight in the Illrd AC compartment of the train.

Day 1: Camp then Dhikala Forest Rest House

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

After wash and change and a lavish breakfast at Camp, depart for the Dhikala Forest Rest house.



Enter through the Dhangari gate and enroute, visit the Gharial pool, Champion road and High Bank (these are great observation points on the Ramganga River). Arrive at Dhikala by lunch.

Post lunch game drive to the Dhikala 'chaur' (grasslands) to observe the varied bird and mammal species found in the area.

Back at sundown. Dinner and overnight in a room at the Dhikala FRH complex.

Day 2: Full day game drive at the Dhikala range

A brand new and exciting day to view the forests, wildlife & birds at Dhikala. Viewing would be split on elephant back (subject to availability) and game drives. We would be back at Dhikala for breakfast and lunch, but otherwise, the entire day we would be out in different areas of the Park viewing the interesting flora and fauna. Back to Dhikala by sundown, followed by tea and an early dinner. Overnight in a room at the Dhikala FRH complex.

Day 3: Dhikala to Camp and then depart by train.

We start the day early, with a game drive to your most favourite part of the area from your experiences in the last couple of days. Back to Dhikala for breakfast and lunch, post which we drive back to Camp Forktail Creek, 35 kms away.

We would drive past and visit High Bank, Champion Pool, Gharial Pool and the interpretation centre at Dhangari gate.

Arrive at Camp by afternoon, time permitting, a short forest hike.

Early dinner and depart for Ramnagar Railway Station for the overnight train to Delhi.

