



### HIGHLIGHTS

One of our most popular trips for wildlife enthusiasts with time. It is an exciting mix of two of the most specie rich ranges within Corbett Tiger Reserve, involving four days in a jeep on forest tracks, viewing birds, animals, insects, flora; short hikes into the forest; a 2-hr elephant ride; luxurious meals and stay at Camp and within the Tiger Reserve.

### BEST TIME

Mid-November to May



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### OUTLINE ITINERARY

- Day 1 Arrive at Camp Forktail Creek by noon. Lunch and then a short hike into the forest. Night in Camp.
- Day 2 Full day game drive into the Bijrani range of Corbett Tiger Reserve. Night in Camp.
- Day 3 Camp to Dhikala range. Full day in and around Dhikala. Night in a room at Dhikala or Sarpduli FRH complex.
- Day 4 Full day game drive at the Dhikala range with a try for an elephant ride. Night in a room at Dhikala or Sarpduli FRH complex.
- Day 5 Dhikala to Camp. Full day game drive at the Dhikala range. Return to Camp. Night in Camp.
- Day 6 Depart for onward journey post breakfast.

### PLAN WOULD INCLUDE

- Accommodation at Camp Forktail Creek for three nights and Dhikala or Sarpduli FRH (subject to availability) for two nights.
- All meals from lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 6, aerated drinks, mineral or filtered drinking water, tea/ coffee.
- Escorted hikes into the forests around Camp.
- One elephant ride (2-hour each) while inside the National Park (subject to availability as it cannot be booked in advance).
- A dedicated 4WD open jeep with a driver and a naturalist for all the game drives.
- All relevant entries fees and permits (charges levied by the forest department are subject to change without prior notice).
- Accompanying chef and other assistants, from Camp, for the overnight stay in Sarpduli FRH.
- A pilot jeep for staff and supplies.

### 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 the middle of the complex called the "Old FRH".



**Sarpduli Forest Rest House Complex** is a charming 2-room bungalow, built in the early 1900's with architecture typical to the smaller forest bungalows made in those days; 2 ensuite bedrooms with a central dining area and a deep verandah running all along the front of the structure.

Though it is centrally located, its seclusion and scenic location by the Ramganga River make it a memorable stay.

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. The team also takes care of fresh meals right on site!

### 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)

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.



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 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 edwardsi*), 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 yarelli*), 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*)...

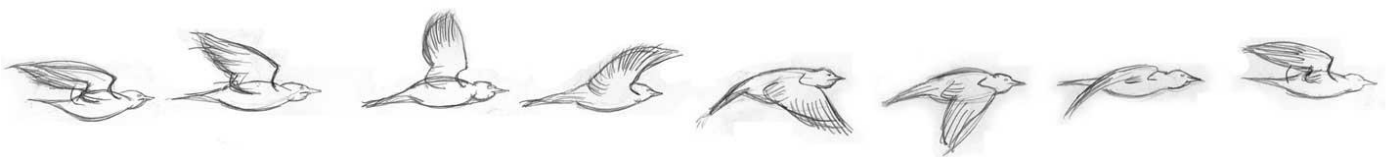
Corbett is also a bird watchers paradise and some of the avian attractions include a variety of Woodpeckers, Kingfishers, Hornbills, Parakeets, Shrikes, Barbets, Drongos, Minivets, Storks, Owls, Pheasants, Eagles, Vultures, Harriers...

#### 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 1: Arrive at Camp Forktail Creek

Arrive at Camp Forktail Creek by lunch. After wash and change and 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: Camp to Dhikala range

Early breakfast at Camp and then depart in an open 4WD jeep with the in-house driver and naturalist for the Dhikala Forest Rest House complex.

We would enter through Dhangari gate- 6 kms from Camp and our route would take us past Gharial Pool, Champion Pool on Champion road and High Bank – each one of them, great observation points on the Ramganga river. We would be in Dhikala complex by lunch.

Post lunch a game drive to the Dhikala “*chaur*” – grasslands, to observe the varied bird and mammal species found in the area.

We would return to Dhikala or Sarpduli (depending on where we are staying for the night) by sundown for tea, followed by a much needed wash and then dinner.

Overnight in a room at the Dhikala or Sarpduli FRH complex.



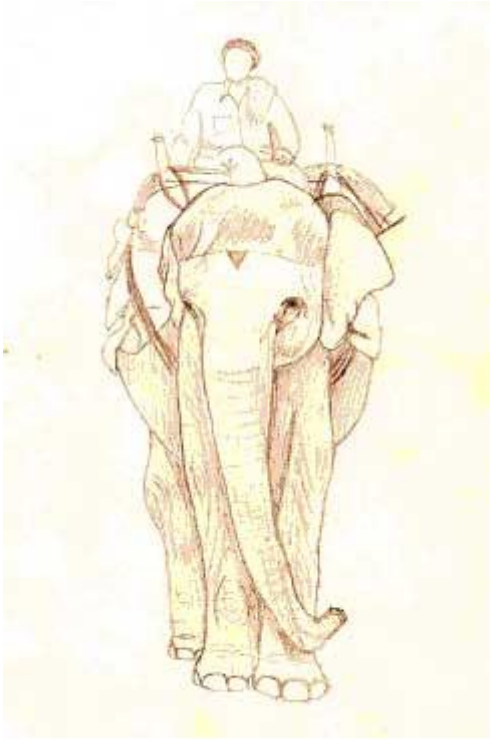
#### Day 4: Full day game drive at the Dhikala range

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/ Sarpduli 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 or Sarpduli by sundown, followed by tea and an early dinner.

Overnight in a room at the Dhikala or Sarpduli FRH complex.

**Day 5: Dhikala to Camp**

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 evening where you can take a leisurely wash and join your hosts by the campfire for drinks, snacks and dinner.

This time it will be you telling the stories!

Night in a mud hut in Camp.

**Day 6: Depart for onward journey**

Wake up at leisure and have a lavish breakfast at Camp.

Bid goodbye to your naturalist and the rest of the team and depart for your onward destination after breakfast.

