



HIGHLIGHTS

Days walking on forest tracks viewing birds, animals, insects, flora... with luxurious meals and stay at Camp.

BEST TIME

Mid-October to March



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 a full day escorted hike. Return by evening. Night in Camp.
- Day 2 Depart early morning for a full day hike. Return by evening. Night in Camp.
- Day 3 Morning bird walk around Camp, breakfast and then a short hike. Return by afternoons, pack, early dinner and depart for the railway station.

PLAN WOULD INCLUDE

- Accommodation at Camp for two nights.
- All meals from breakfast Day 1 to dinner on Day 3, aerated drinks, mineral or filtered drinking water, tea/ coffee.
- A dedicated naturalist and tracker for the hikes into the forest around the camp.
- 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.

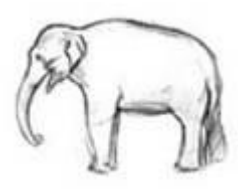
Besides, being home to the Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Corbett is also the northern most tract of habitat for the Asiatic Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) and one can see large herds in the grasslands during the summer months. Other mammals of the reserve include the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Jungle 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 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 tibetanus*).

The Muggler 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, 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...



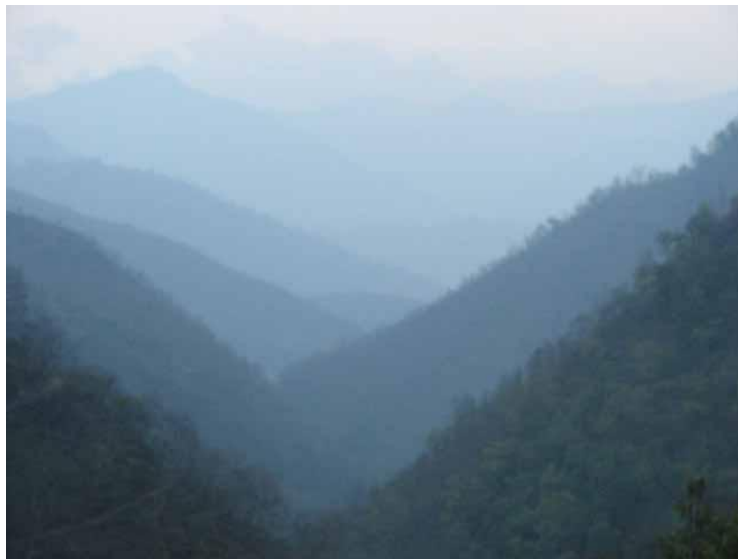
Corbett National Park has three main tourist zones.

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, Khinnauli, 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.

DETAILS ON FULL DAY HIKES IN THE FORESTS AROUND CAMP



Most day hikes leave early in the morning just before sunrise. Being located in the middle of some of the finest Sal forests, a walk in any direction is rewarding. Different areas offer different landscapes, terrain, fauna and flora. Corbett Tiger Reserve lies to our south, the high Himalayas to our north, so options are limitless.

The day starts at Camp's 'Dhaba' close to the campfire where we assemble for hot coffee or tea and then start the walk with our team of trackers and naturalist.

Walking through the cool of our magnificently alive forests is an excellent opportunity 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 will help identify some key plant, animal and bird species. Identification of hoof, pug and pad marks; forest smells, from 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 will be made.



Packed meals are normally by a forest stream, on the ridge overlooking snow-capped Himalayan peaks or on a knoll quietly watching an elephant.



An abridged version of the **MAN-EATER OF MOHAN** hike is also possible on a full day hike. The hike traces the exact trail Jim Corbett once walked on when he hunted and finally killed the man-eating tiger in the early 1900's.

The bridle path, the old district road, an old Forester's hut and other structures from Corbett's time still exist. With his book in hand you can literally get to the spot where he shot the man-eater.

We also visit the village of Kartkinaula and the ridge behind Camp located at 1200m, offering spectacular Himalayan views to the north and a lovely view of jungle canopy to the south.

If timed well we could meet with the vanishing nomadic tribes who visit our area.

A little on them...

Bhutia are nomadic shepherd who supposedly have the longest migration route alive in mankind! They live in the high Himalayas and have sheep that live off the alpine meadows in the summer months. Come winter and they start walking south towards us covering over 500kms in about 2-3 months; sometimes 500 sheep, 3 stocky horses and 3 Tibetan Mastiffs accompanying 3 men!

We are as far south as they venture out and base themselves in pockets of land clearings within the forest where they live for over a month in the winter shearing the sheep, selling the wool to the closest town while grazing their brood each day.

Gujjars are a semi-nomadic tribe that co-exist in these forests. They are cattle herdsman and provide milk to small towns nearby. They depend on these forests for cattle fodder – one of the main reasons they face criticism from those around. They are warm people and great hosts. If we are ever lucky to meet them, we could spend a whole day sharing experiences of their lifestyles and listening to their jungle lores.

Chunnars are a local tribe from Bageshwar (a bustling valley in the Himalayas located at the confluence of Gomti and Saryu Rivers) who visit in our winter months and carve vessels out of wood. The wood used is only one particular kind, locally called 'sandan' -*Ougeinia dalvergioides* and the beautiful vessels carved are specially used as water proof storage pots. The beauty of their art is that their carving device is powered by water! A very basic turbine by channelising bits of a stream.



So after our long and exciting day in the forest we return to Camp by sundown for tea and then a wash followed by talks around the campfire on conservation, our forests and wildlife and our observations on them.

Early dinner, post which you could retire early in locally handcrafted mud huts or spend time with your hosts around the Campfire.

