



HIGHLIGHTS

A multi-day hike on the trail of 'Man-eater of Mohan', a famous story written by Jim Corbett in his book titled 'Man-eaters of Kumaon'. The hike traces the exact trail Corbett once walked on when he hunted and finally killed the man-eating tiger in the early 1900's. It involves a three day hike of moderate difficulty through lush forests tracking wildlife on foot, great Himalayan views, camping in the jungle, a day in a jeep on forest tracks viewing birds, animals, insects, flora... and luxurious meals and stay at Camp.



CORBETT TIGER RESERVE, INDIA

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BEST TIME

Mid-October to March



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 hike (starting the 'Man-eater of Mohan' trail) with overnight camping in the forest.
- Day 3 Full day hike (on the 'Man-eater of Mohan' trail) with overnight camping in the forest.
- Day 4 Full day hike (on the 'Man-eater of Mohan' trail) and return to Camp. Night at Camp.
- Day 5 Full day game drive to the Bijrani range of Corbett Tiger Reserve. Night at Camp.
- Day 6 Depart for onward journey post breakfast.

PLAN WOULD INCLUDE

- Accommodation at Camp for three nights and at a various camp sites within the forest in mobile tents for 2 nights.
- All meals from lunch on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 6, aerated drinks, mineral or filtered drinking water, tea/ coffee.
- A dedicated naturalist and tracker for the multi-day hike into the forest around the camp.
- One elephant ride (2-hour each) while inside the National Park (subject to availability as it cannot be booked in advance).
- A dedicated jeep with a driver and a naturalist for the game drive into Bijrani.
- All relevant entries fees and permits (charges levied by the forest department as subject to change without prior notice)
- A pilot jeep/ porters with supplies, chef and other assistants from Camp for the duration of the overnight stay in the forest.

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.



Camping in the forest would be in two-men tents which are fully functional complete with mattresses, pillows and duvet. The toilet tent would be a dry pit with a thunder box on top. Meals would be taken care of by the team from Camp and would be a lavish mix of Indian or Continental cuisine. Our resident naturalist, cook and Camp staff would escort the whole trip and reach each place before us in pilot jeeps with all supplies. They would have each place ready for us by the time we get there.



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 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, 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*)...

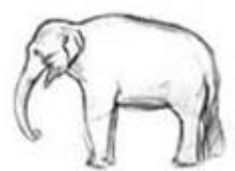
Corbett is also a bird watchers paradise and some of the avian attractions include a variety of Woodpeckers, Kingfishers, Hornbills, Parakeets, Shrikes, Barbets, Drongos, Minivets, Storks, Owls, Pheasants, Eagles, Vultures, Harriers...

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.



The **MAN-EATER OF MOHAN** hike is a special trip for people who want to explore the jungle on foot. The hike traces the exact trail 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 if timed well, spend a night with the Bhutia's (nomadic shepherds of the Himalayas) who winter in our forest. The second day of the walk takes us on a ridge about 1200m and offers spectacular Himalayan views to the north and a lovely view of jungle canopy to the south.

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, 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 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: Camp Forktail Creek to Bhutia Dera

Early in the morning, after breakfast, we depart from Camp through the old forest batia (walk trail) into the Chilkia Range of Almora Forest Division.

This forest range serves as a buffer to the Tiger Reserve and is also the wintering grounds for the Bhutia Tribe (nomadic shepherds in the Himalayas). A fresh water stream that falls enroute would be our site for a packed lunch.



We would be at the Bhutia Dera (settlement of the nomadic tribe) by evening. After a quick wash, relax with the Bhutia's (subject to them being there, depending on the time of year) and listen to their exciting tales of the Himalayan jungles.

Dinner would be served and shared with the Bhutia's and then retire early into the camping tents.

Day 3: Bhutia Dera to Patharia via Kartkinaul

Post an easy breakfast we follow the old district board road to Kartkinaul village. This is the track, which was used by Jim Corbett when he visited the area in search of the man-eating tiger in the early 1900's.

We would walk past Borad – a pretty village set amidst thick Sal forest. Our route today is through dense Sal forests with thick Lantana undergrowth with a short, steep climb.

At Karkinaul, we would visit the Foresters hut where "Carpet Sahib" once stayed. The Forester's Hut is located on a ridge that offers great views of the Ramganga and Kosi valley. A rickety old watchtower still stands, close by, offering even better views.

From here it is an easy walk to Patharia, the ridge that overlooks Camp and the Kosi valley. We would walk along the path where Corbett shot the man-eater of Mohan in a thick wooded ravine.

Hot tea would be waiting our arrival at the campsite. After a wash, have hot dinner specially prepared by our chef and then settle into the camping tents pitched close by.

Day 4: Patharia to Camp Forktail Creek

After a leisurely and lazy morning walk back to Camp- it is an easy down-hill walk and we would be in Camp just in time for hot lunch.

After the much needed wash and scrub, relax and lounge about Camp. Your hosts and naturalist would be around to share your experiences of the last few days.

Dinner and overnight stay at Camp Forktail Creek.

Day 5: 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 leftover 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 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.

