



### HIGHLIGHTS

Includes bird watching time in Bharatpur, Agra, Chambal, Camp Forktail Creek, and all birding spots in and around Corbett Tiger Reserve; then a few days for Himalayan species at Mangoli valley, Nainital, Pangot & Sattal. The trip involves many hikes, days in a jeep on forest tracks, a 2-hr elephant ride; luxurious meals and stay at Camp, Dhikala FRH and small birding lodges along the way.



CORBETT TIGER RESERVE, INDIA  
 ☎: 91-5947-287804 or 91-9411107749  
 91- 8954942516  
 E: [info@campforktailcreek.com](mailto:info@campforktailcreek.com)  
 W: [www.campforktailcreek.com](http://www.campforktailcreek.com)

### BEST TIME

Mid-November to March

### OUTLINE ITINERARY



Day 1	Arrive into the airport at Delhi and transfer to a Homestay. Night in Delhi.
Day 2	Drive from Delhi to Bharatpur post breakfast. Afternoon in Keoladeo Ghana National Park. Night in a birding lodge in Bharatpur.
Day 3 & 4	Two full days of birding in and around Keoladeo Ghana National Park. Night in a birding lodge in Bharatpur.
Day 5	Bharatpur to Chambal post breakfast. Lunch at Agra and a 'Taj Mahal' visit. Arrive at Chambal by late afternoon. Night in a birding lodge in Chambal.
Day 6	An upstream river safari on Chambal River in National Chambal Sanctuary in the morning and a bird walk in the afternoon. Night in a birding lodge in Chambal
Day 7	On the Sarus Crane Trail and a downstream river safari in National Chambal Sanctuary. Night in a birding lodge in Chambal.
Day 8	Morning bird walk and then drive from Chambal to Delhi. Transfer to a Homestay. Night in Delhi.
Day 9	Early morning drive from Delhi to Camp. Arrive at Camp Forktail Creek by noon. Lunch and then a bird walk in the forests around Camp. Night in a mud hut in Camp.
Day 10 & 11	Next two days to explore on foot and bird around Camp, Bhakrakot village, Kumeria, Kosi and go on a game drive into the Bijrani zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve. Night in a mud hut in Camp.
Day 12 & 13 & 14	Camp to Lohachaur Forest Rest House in the northern bit of Corbett Tiger Reserve. Challenging days of bird watching with many walks. Nights in a room at the forest rest house at Lohachaur, within Corbett Tiger Reserve. We return to Camp on the evening of Day 14.
Day 15 & 16 & 17	Camp to Dhikala FRH in Corbett Tiger Reserve. Full day game drives in and around Dhikala. Nights in a room at Dhikala FRH complex. We return to Camp on the evening of Day 17.
Day 18 & 19 & 20	Drive from Camp to Nainital region via Mangoli Valley. Nights in a birding lodge in Nainital or Pangot. Days spent birding around Nainital, Pangot, Cheena Peak, Sattal...
Day 21	Last day of birding in Pangot and then a short drive to Kathgodam Railway Station for the overnight train to Delhi.
Day 22	In Delhi early morning. Transfer to the airport.

### PLAN WOULD INCLUDE

- Arrival and departure transfers from the airport in Delhi, as also all other inter-city transfers as mentioned in the plan.
- Accommodation at all places of stay as mentioned above.
- Meals from breakfast on Day 2 till dinner on Day 21.
- Aerated drinks, mineral or filtered drinking water, tea/ coffee from Day 9 to Day 21.
- Escorted hikes with our resident naturalist into the forests and other birding areas throughout the trip and wherever required.
- One elephant ride (2-hour each) while inside Corbett Tiger Reserve (subject to availability as it cannot be booked in advance).
- A dedicated jeep with a driver and a naturalist for all the game drives and excursions, as mentioned in the plan outlined above.
- All relevant entries fees and permits (charges levied by the forest department are subject to change without prior notice)
- Train tickets on departure.

**EXTRA EXPENSES**

Expenses of 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.



**Indian Homestay** is a small two-room bed and breakfast in south Delhi, close to the airport owned and managed by a delightfully hospitable lady. It is located in a posh residential colony, close to some of south Delhi's popular markets.

**Birder's Inn, Bharatpur** is located very close to the entrance of the park. It is a quiet, peaceful home run lodge with 20 spacious well-furnished rooms that overlook a garden flooded with fruit trees and birds. Birder's Inn has all the modern comforts like air-conditioning, hot and cold running water, sit-out and a multi-cuisine restaurant and a grill that serves a delectable variety of dishes. The Thatch acts as a watering hole for local birders, naturalists and photographers and is an excellent place to share information, updates and anecdotes.

**Chambal Safari Lodge** is an oasis of calm and tranquillity nestling in the midst of a sprawling 35 acre heritage plantation, surrounded by farmland. The plantation is part of a much larger area that was used by the Zamindars (feudal Chieftains) of Jarar to conduct their annual cattle fair (Mela).

After decades of neglect, the Mela Kothi and its grounds have been lovingly restored by Ram Pratap Singh and his wife Anu who have turned their inheritance into a charming eco-lodge.

The Chambal Safari lodge offers twelve rooms. The Mela Kothi has 2 luxurious bedrooms, a cosy sitting-room and library and numerous interesting verandas and courtyards to read, reflect and relax. 8 independent cottages with private veranda's are in the woodlands around the restored Mela Kothi and 2 small and cosy bedrooms – a twin and a single are in the restored Stables nestling under the bougainvillea creepers.

The Lodge kitchen serves authentic 'home cooked' meals with fresh organically grown ingredients. Most of the produce is from their farm or procured directly from the local farmers. Their recipes include local specialties that have been fine-tuned over generations.

They access National Chambal Sanctuary from Uttar Pradesh, at Nalgaon in Agra district.



**Lohachaur Forest Rest House** 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. Its scenic location, with panoramic view of the Mandal River, is in the midst of a moist, fern laden subtropical forest which the northern range of the Tiger Reserve is famous for. The rich landscape in the valleys of Mandal and Ramganga rivers make this a chosen spot for bird watching. Entry into this range is from Durgadevi Gate, about 5 kms from Camp. The forest rest house is 17kms from this gate.

**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 and at Lohachaur FRH a team from Camp would accompany your visit and help with hot meals right on site!

**Mountain Quail Lodge** is a small birding lodge in Pangot, at 6500 ft located on a hillside, close to a clear running stream, surrounded by dense oak and rhododendron forests. The lodge faces jungle clad hills through which can be glimpsed the high Himalayas and further below the land falls away to the plains providing a dramatic backdrop for the setting sun.

Accommodation in the lodge consists of 3 comfortable 'cottage style' suites. Each suite has a bedroom and bathroom, sitting room as well as a large outdoor patio. There is plenty of space to lie back, relax, and just enjoy the surroundings!

The meals are a selection of Indian and Continental cuisine, including some special dishes by local Kumaoni chefs. Drinking water is piped from a mountain spring and filtered.



### INTRODUCTION TO PLACES OF VISIT

**Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Bharatpur**, is heralded as one of the finest bird reserves in the world. Owing to its global, ecological, faunal and floral importance, UNESCO has deemed it a 'World Heritage Site'. Close to 425 species of birds have been recorded in and around Bharatpur. Well laid out tracks in a relatively small sanctuary enable you to see over 130 species in a single day of viewing.

Situated at the confluence of the Gambhir and Banganga rivers, the sanctuary was originally a 29 sq. km natural depression prone to seasonal flooding by rainwater, which attracted wildfowl. The Jat rulers of Bharatpur recognized the area's potential, diverted water from a nearby irrigation canal and added some bunds (dykes) to develop it as a duck shooting reserve.

Later, when hunting was stopped, it was deemed a Bird Sanctuary and eventually a National Park. Though renamed in 1981 as Keoladeo Ghana (Keoladeo after the ancient Shiva temple in the heart of the park and Ghana, meaning dense), the park is popularly known by its old name, Bharatpur.

### QUICK FACTS

- \*State : Rajasthan
- \*Area : 29 sq. Km
- \*Altitude : 174 m a.s.l
- \*Vegetation : Semi arid and marshes
- \*Water resources : Canals, sluices and dykes
- \*Winter : November to mid-February
- \*Summer : April to June
- \*Monsoon : July to September
- Best time: October to February
- \*Rainfall : 662 mm
- \*Temperature : Min 5°C - Max 47 o°C

In a semi-arid biotype the park is the only area with much vegetation. It is this fascinating tapestry of wetlands, woodlands, woodland swamps and dry grasslands that has blessed the park with a rich biologically diverse birdlife.

The principal vegetation type in Bharatpur sanctuary is tropical dry deciduous forest intermixed with dry grassland. Kadam (*mitragyna parvifolia*), Jamun (*syzygium cuminii*) and Babool (*acacia nilotica*) dominate the north-eastern area of the park.

Apart from the artificially managed marshes, much of the area is covered by medium sized trees and shrubs. The aquatic vegetation is rich in species and a valuable source of food for waterfowl.

Open throughout the year, the park is at its full glory when the migrant birds visit between October and February. A visit to Bharatpur can be coupled with excursions to Bund Baretha and Ajan Bund for the Indian Skimmer.

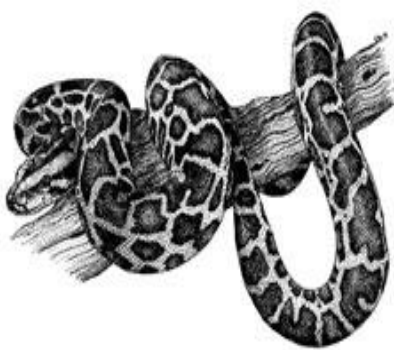


Bharatpur is an unrivalled breeding site for the Painted Stork, Purple Heron, White Ibis, Eurasian Spoonbill and the Sarus Crane, India's largest bird and the biggest flying bird in the world. The last known wintering ground in India, for the central population of the Siberian Crane, Bharatpur is also the favoured winter destination of the Bar-headed Geese and an excellent place to view various owl species such as Dusky Eagle Owl, Brown Hawk Owl and Collared Scops Owl.



Bharatpur's residents include Eurasian Wigeon, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Great Crested Grebe, Common Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Temminck's Stint, Kentish Plover, Northern Lapwing, Sarus Crane, Black-necked Stork and Pheasant-tailed Jacana.

Terrestrial birds include Blue Cheeked Bee-eater, Wryneck, Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, Oriental Skylark, Marshall's Iora, Striated Babbler, Cetti's Bush Warbler, Clamorous Reed Warbler, Rain Quail, Chestnut Bellied Sandgrouse, Bluethroat and nightjars like Savanna and Indian Nightjar. Greater Spotted Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Marsh and Montagu's Harrier are some raptors that thrive on an ample prey base.



Bharatpur is also a safe haven for several endangered avifauna such as the White-bellied Heron, Greater Flamingo, Spotbilled Pelican, Greater Adjutant, Red-necked Grebe, Pied Avocet, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruddy Kingfisher, Spotted Crake and Indian Skimmer.

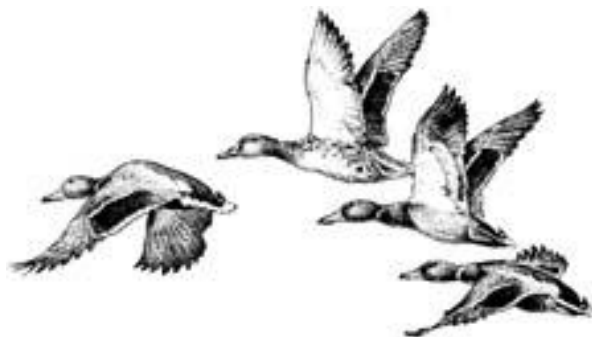
The Indian Rock Python, Soft-shell Turtles, Monitor Lizards, Fishing Cat, Otter and Porcupine are its other attractions. Other mammals here are Spotted Deer, Sambar, Nilgai, Blackbuck, Striped Hyena and Jungle Cats. In an unusual occurrence, a tigress had strayed into the park and had made it her home for four years, till she eventually died of natural causes in 2005.



**The National Chambal Sanctuary (NCS)** is a 400 km stretch of the Chambal River with 1 to 6 km wide swathe of the ravines on both sides of the river, covering an area of 1235 sq. km. The river passes through Agra and Etawah districts of Uttar Pradesh, Morina & Bhind districts of Madhya Pradesh, and Kota, Sawai Madhopur and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan. It forms a natural state boundary between Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Ancient Indian texts refer to the Chambal river as the Charmanyavati - originating from the blood of thousands of cows sacrificed by the Aryan King Rantideva. Its 'unholy' origins have certainly helped the Chambal survive and thrive untouched and unpolluted, and it remains one of India's most pristine rivers.

Granted Protected Area Status in 1979 to help revive Gharial populations decimated by indiscriminate poaching, the NCS is a 'Managed Nature Reserve' lying in the Indus-Ganges Monsoon Forest belt. The Sanctuary begins downstream of the Kota barrage in Rajasthan. Its lower limit is near Panchnada, app 5 kms after the confluence of the Chambal and the Yamuna rivers at Bhareh, in Uttar Pradesh.



The Chambal Ravines (altitude 200-500m) are the product of centuries of soil erosion by flood and rain waters. They form an incredible maze of intertwining mud cliffs, with tropical dry scrub forest vegetation, that provide shelter for numerous birds, mammals and reptiles.



The NCS is one of the last surviving habitats of the Gangetic River Dolphin. It provides protection for 1200 Gharials & 300 Marsh Crocodiles and is home to Smooth Coated Otters & 8 species of Turtles.

It boasts of a rapidly increasing and impressive bird list of over 316 species of resident and migratory birds and is gaining a reputation as one of the most reliable places to see the Indian Skimmer

**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 grasses 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 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 with a count of about 600 species (almost 50% of the total count for the Indian Subcontinent) and some of the avian attractions include a variety of Woodpeckers, Kingfishers, Hornbills, Parakeets, Shrikes, Barbets, Drongos, Minivets, Storks, Owls, Pheasants, Eagles, Vultures, Harriers...

Please download the 'bird checklist' from our website for the entire list.

**Corbett Tiger Reserve 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.**

### UPPER HIMALAYAS

A birding trip to northern India is not complete without a taste of the western Himalayan avifauna. The hill station of **Nainital** in the Kumaon hills is ideal, surrounded by forests with many montane specialties. Nainital lies at 1940m and the surrounding peaks reach over 2600m. Many interesting birds are found in the town's gardens and parks as well as in forests on adjacent hillsides.

**Mangoli Valley** which is located on the drive from Camp to Nainital/Pangot is at a lower elevation than Nainital and has a good number of altitudinal and northern migrants. This is an area of excellent open woodland, streamside vegetation and fields.



**Pangot** is a small village, 15kms from the hill station of Nainital and is separated from the town by a mountainous ridge. The entire drive is through the forested areas of Cheena Peak Range via Snow View Point and Kilbury- extremely good habitat for excellent birding. One can see a variety of Himalayan species along the way such as Lammergeier, Himalayan Griffon, Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Chir Pheasant and a variety of thrushes etc.

Almost 150 bird species have been recorded at Pangot and the surrounding areas. The numerous perennial & seasonal creeks are home to an amazing variety of flora and fauna including the Leopards, Yellow-throated Martins, Himalayan Palm Civet, Ghoral, Barking Deer, Sambhar etc

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Arrive into Delhi

Arrive into the international airport at Delhi- a driver would assist with transfer to the Homestay where you would spend the night.

#### Day 2: Delhi to Bharatpur.

Early breakfast at your homestay and then depart for Bharatpur. Arrive at your small family-run birding lodge, have lunch and then depart with a guide for Keoladeo Ghana National Park, a short walk away.

When you enter the Park, you can opt to take a cycle rickshaw (2-seater) or bicycles or simply walk. An expert naturalist would be with you at all times. Back to the hotel by sundown. Dinner and overnight stay at the lodge.



#### Day 3 & 4: In Bharatpur.

Early breakfast and then depart with your guide for a full day inside Keoladeo Ghana National Park. You would return to the hotel for lunch (unless planned otherwise) and then head back into the Park to return by sundown. Dinner and overnight stay at the lodge.

#### Day 5: Bharatpur to Chambal via Agra.

Early breakfast and then depart for Chambal Safari Lodge. On the way visit Fatehpur Sikri, the erstwhile Capital of the Mughal Dynasty, albeit for a few years. After your visit to Fatehpur Sikri, drive down to Agra for Lunch. Post Lunch you will visit the Taj Mahal, which is sheer poetry in Marble. After this, it is a mere one hour's drive to your Lodge at Chambal. Dinner and overnight stay at a birding lodge.

#### Day 6: In Chambal.

After an early breakfast, a guide would take you on an upstream river safari on Chambal River in National Chambal Sanctuary. Return to the lodge for lunch and then a bird walk in the afternoon. Return to the lodge for the evening. Dinner and overnight stay at Chambal Safari Lodge.

**Day 7: In Chambal.**

After an early breakfast, a guide would take you to protected area for the Sarus Crane, called the *Sarus Crane Trail*. Return to the lodge for lunch and after lunch you will go on another 3-hour river safari inside the National Chambal Sanctuary with a trained naturalist only this time you will be going downstream. Return to the lodge for the evening. Dinner and overnight stay at Chambal Safari Lodge.

**Day 8: Chambal to Delhi**

A bird walk in the morning, breakfast and then depart by road for Delhi. Lunch will be enroute and you will reach Delhi by the evening. Dinner and overnight at the Indian Homestay.

**Day 9: Delhi to Camp Forktail Creek.**

Early morning drive from Delhi to Camp. Arrive at Camp Forktail Creek by noon. Lunch and then a bird walk in the forests around Camp. Night in a mud hut in Camp.

**Day 10 & 11: Camp Forktail Creek, Bijrani range in Corbett Tiger Reserve and along Kosi River.**

Early morning search for the Ibisbill on the banks of Kosi and then return to Camp for breakfast. The rest of the day **in and around Camp exploring the surrounding forest and streams** for species like Great Hornbill, Chestnut Headed and Grey Bellied Tesia, Great Slaty Woodpecker, Spotted Forktail, Long Billed Thrush, Slaty Backed Forktail, Brown Fish Owl, Tawny Fish Owl, Collared Falconet, Red Billed Leothrix, Snowy Browed Flycatcher, Scaly Breasted Wren Babbler and many more. **On the second day, we leave the Camp early in the morning for a game drive into the Bijrani range** of Corbett National Park to search for the elusive Bengal Tiger. While there, we may even spot the Brown Headed Barbet, Black Stork, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Little Pied Flycatcher, Changeable Hawk Eagle, Shikra...

We would be in camp by lunch and then **an afternoon on the banks of the Kosi River** to try and spot the Forktail, Brown Dipper, Wall Creeper and Great Thick Knee.

Both days, we would be back in camp by sundown for that hot cup of tea, campfire, followed by 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. It is time to relax and enjoy carefree chatter by the fireside whilst feasting on the unique sounds and smells that your exclusive location offers, before retiring to your mud hut.

**Day 12, 13 & 14: Camp to Lohachaur Forest Rest House in Corbett Tiger Reserve**

Next three days involve challenging birding in the Mandal Range of the Corbett Tiger Reserve. Species to look out for include Long Tailed Broadbill, Little Forktail, Grey Headed Fish Eagle, Maroon Oriole, Rufous Gorge-tailed Flycatcher, Slaty Blue Flycatcher, Silver Eared Mesia, Lesser Racquet Tailed Drongo, Black Chinned Yuhina, White Crested Laughing Thrush, Small Niltava, Rufous Bellied Niltava, Bar Tailed Tree Creeper and Chestnut Bellied and Velvet Fronted Nuthatch.

We set up camp at the Lohachaur forest rest house - an old forest rest house built in the early 1900's. We would be amidst some excellent patches of fern laden, moist sub tropical jungles and would encounter a variety of wildlife and birds. The rest house is known to have visiting wild Elephants all round the year, though our site keeps us safe with the elephant trench that surrounds it.

First two nights would be spent at the Lohachaur forest rest house, escorted by our team from Camp.

On Day 14 we return to Camp Forktail Creek by evening for a refresher.

A visit to the Bhakrakot village provides an inside view of the local lifestyle and birding around the village could reap birds like the Fire Tailed Sunbird, Blue Throat, Scarlet Minivet, Black Hooded Oriole, Black Crested Bulbul, Zitting Cisticola, Striated Prinia, Crested Treeswift, Eurasian Hobby, Collared Falconet and Rufous Bellied Eagle. Overnight in a mud hut at Camp Forktail Creek.

**Day 15, 16 & 17: Camp to Dhikala Range of Corbett Tiger Reserve**

Dhikala is the largest tourist centre of Corbett Tiger Reserve. So, it also has many restrictions and walking is prohibited in this zone except in designated areas. Our stay for two nights in Dhikala would involve game drives to observe the wildlife of the area, an elephant ride to probe into the thick jungles and short walks wherever possible. Birding in Dhikala is quite an attraction and species that can be observed here include Lesser Fish Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Cinereous Vulture, Red Headed Vulture, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Pied Harrier, Black Francolin, Tawny Pipit, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Slaty Headed Parakeet, Emerald Dove and Jungle Bush Quail.

First two nights in a room at Dhikala Forest Rest House complex.



On Day 17, we start to head back to Camp and reach by late evening. Around camp you might hear the Spot-bellied Eagle Owl at night or if lucky the “sawing” of a leopard. Overnight in a mud hut at Camp.



#### Day 18,19 & 20: Camp to Nainital region

Depart from Camp post breakfast- our travels today would take us to Nainital and areas around- a drive of 4 hours. The drive in itself involves good birding.

For the next 4 days we bird around Mangoli valley, Nainital, Pangot & Sattal. The excursions would be by jeep and a great many walks.

Species to look out for are Red-billed Blue Magpies, Black-headed Jays, Bronzed Drongo, Mountain Bulbul, Blue-winged Minla, Pink-browed Rosefinch, Spot-winged Grosbeaks, Blue-fronted Redstart, Scarlet Finch, Green-Backed Tit, Yellow-browed Tit, Russet Sparrow, Great Barbet, Grey-backed Shrike, Eurasian Jay, Mistle Thrush, Orange-flanked Bush Robin, White-rumped Shama, Rusty-checked Scimitar Babbler, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Chestnut Thrush, Rufous-bellied Niltava, Mrs Gould's Sunbird, Lammergier, Himalayan Griffon, Collared Owlet, Chestnut-eared Bunting, Small Niltava and Slaty Blue Flycatcher.

All three nights in a small birding lodge at Pangot.

#### Day 21: Day in Pangot and then overnight in the train.

Wake up at leisure and enjoy your last day here.

After lunch, depart for Kathgodam Railway Station for the overnight, Ranikhet Express to Delhi. It departs at 2040 hrs.

Dinner on the way.

Overnight in the III AC compartment of the train.

#### Day 20: In Delhi/ Depart for onward journey...

You would arrive in Old Delhi Railway Station by 0500 hrs. A car would transfer you to the airport for your onward journey.

