

# CORBETT EXPERIENCE



## TOUR SUMMARY

**Region:** Kumaon foothills of Nainital district, Uttaranchal

**Duration:** 05 Days/04 Nights by road

**Route:** Delhi – Corbett – Delhi

**Season:** Mid-November to June

**Price:** From USD 655 onwards per person sharing (land only)

**Category:** Accommodation in fully serviced tented camp & Forest rest houses with private facilities. Park drives in exclusive safari vehicles accompanied by local naturalist

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## HIGHLIGHTS

Stay at a century old colonial forest bungalow inside India's oldest national park

Wildlife sighting by open jeep safari & elephant ride

Nature walks through adjoining forests and the added charms of a forest camp an



Photo: Aditya Singh

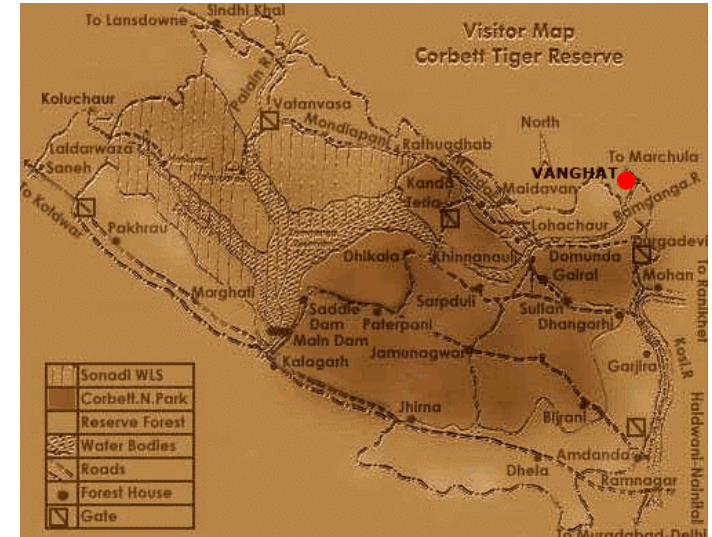
## INTRODUCTION



Corbett not only has the glory of being India's oldest and most reputed national park, it is also the place where Project Tiger was first launched. It is one of the few tiger reserves that permit overnight stays in the heart of the national park. Wildlife viewing is done in open 4 wheel drives and on elephant back, though another way to observe wildlife is from watchtowers, built next to the forest rest houses. The park has a high tiger density, is the northernmost extend of the Asian elephant and home to rare species like otters and the endemic fish eating crocodile – the Gharial.

Dhikala, the heart of the park, is the most popular destination in Corbett because of the sheer abundance of wildlife present here and its superb location. The huge expanse of lush grasslands is where the Ramganga drains itself into a massive 100 sq km reservoir. These grasslands are surrounded by the lush Shivalik ridges and interspersed by the foothills of the Himalayas. Elephants are the dominant mammals here, but even they are dwarfed by the overwhelming landscape. Massive herds of deer, wild boars, lesser cats reside here and this region harbours the highest density of tigers anywhere in the world. Dhikala is also a good place to look for birds of prey, over 50 species of raptors alone reflect on the rich bio-diversity of the area.

We will cover diverse habitats of the park with the added privilege of exploring the forest on foot around Bhakrakot (something not permitted inside the Tiger Reserve). Situated in the midst of a dense Sal forest on the north-eastern periphery of Corbett, walks in the surrounding forests of the camp offer spectacular birding and occasional sightings of animals on foot.



## OUTLINE ITINERARY

- Day 01:** Delhi – Corbett National Park (by road)
- Day 02:** Corbett (Bijrani zone)
- Day 03:** Corbett (Dhikala zone)
- Day 04:** Corbett (Dhikala zone)
- Day 05:** Corbett – Delhi (by road)

## What our guests have to say about this tour?

“Do you want to leave, no? Neither do I! This is my 4th visit to India & the first time in Corbett. I have been staying here for the last 8 days at Jhirna, Malani, Dhikala, Lohachaur and Vanghat River Lodge and have no doubts that it is one of the finest National Parks of India. Few Highlights: 4 Common Green Magpies, 8 Great Hornbills in a Ficus tree, wonderful sighting of a Sloth Bear that climbed down from a creeper and came right beside the Gypsy. 166 birds, 10 different Tigers (with 25 'findings' pugmarks, alarm calls, etc), Smooth-tailed Otters and beautiful trees and other vegetation! It will be interesting to compare my next experience here in Nov/ December.”

**From: Peter Thomas, France (Corbett forest rest house tour)**



Photo: Nanak Dhingra

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### CORBETT FACT SHEET

**State :** Uttaranchal

**Area :** 1380 sq. km (Combining Core and buffer forest)

**Altitude :** 400 to 1210 m above mean sea level

**Vegetation:** Moist deciduous, Tropical dry deciduous, Subtropical Conifers

**Water resources:** Ramganga, Mandal, Plain, Sona Nadi, lakes and small rain fed streams

**Winter:** November to February

**Summer:** March to June

**Monsoon:** June to October

**Rainfall:** 1400 - 2800 mm

**Temperature:** Min 0°C - Max 42°C

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**Corbett**, established in 1936 and renamed in 1957 after the legendary hunter-turned-naturalist Jim Corbett, Corbett has the glory of being India's first National Park. Corbett is situated in the central foothills of the Himalayas, between the Himalayan and Sivalik ranges, which accounts for its rich bio-diversity. On account of its high density of tigers, elephants and a spectacular array of birds, Corbett is aptly described as the land of 'Roar, Trumpet and Song'. It also happens to be the northernmost extend of the Asian Elephant.

Corbett's lifeline is the Ramganga river, which meanders through dense forests before it drains into a large reservoir surrounded by grasslands that stretch for miles. This zone, known as Dhikala, lies at the very heart of the park and offers great opportunities for wildlife viewing. The ridge to the north marks the boundary of the park at Kanda, the highest point in the reserve, with panoramic views of Corbett. The quaint, century old Malani Forest Bungalow, located on the southern ridge, is closest to the core area of the jungle in the Bijrani zone.

A virtual haven for birdwatchers, Corbett and its adjoining areas host as many as 650 species of resident and migratory birds. On its steep slopes you'll find elusive goat antelopes like Goral and the Serow, while the Ramganga river is home to the endemic Gharial (fish eating crocodile), Muggers (Marsh Crocodiles) and otters. Staying in old colonial rest houses scattered across the park, coupled with wildlife sightings from elephant back and open 4X4s, make Corbett an unforgettable experience.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Day 01: DELHI TO CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

- Drive from Delhi to Corbett by surface (270 km/5 hrs) and transfer to Camp (***pick up details to be advised by you***)
- Hike into the surrounding forest to explore prime wildlife habitats on foot and look for mammals and birds. Pugmarks of Tigers and leopards reveal their movement patterns. Bird lovers will be enchanted with a large number of raptors and owls. Forktails, Hornbills and Woodpeckers are fairly common at this stretch of the forests
- Later in the evening our naturalist would brief you about the tour and acquaint you with the park by the campfire
- Overnight at Camp Forktail Creek
- L, D

### Day 02: CORBETT (BIJRANI ZONE)

- After a hot cup of tea or coffee we will head out for a full day game drive and elephant rides to the Bijrani range of the park. Breakfast and Lunch is served at the Bijrani Forest Rest House
- We return to the camp by sun down
- Overnight at Camp Forktail Creek
- B, L, D

### Day 03: CORBETT (DHIKALA ZONE)

- Early morning we will enter through Dhangari gate for Dhikala zone en route stopping at advantage points for wildlife viewing
- Arrive Dhikala and check in
- Later we go into the vast Dhikala savanna along the forest edge, a good place to sight Asian elephants and look for Tigers on jeeps and elephant back. Birds like Black & Grey Francolin, Rain & Jungle Bush Quail, Small & Barred Buttonquail, Red Spurfowl, Emerald Dove, Indian Roller, Dollarbird, Chestnut-Shouldered Petronia, Large Grey & Jungle Babbler, the Red Jungle Fowl are found in large numbers. Long Billed, Cinereous & Redheaded vultures are often seen on large dead trees in the grassland. Short Eared & Grass Owl may also be seen during dusk. Night Heron may be heard often as they fly right over the Dhikala campus
- Overnight at Dhikala Forest Rest House
- B, L, D



Photo: Nanak Dhingra

#### Day 04: CORBETT (DHIKALA ZONE)

- Morning game drive into the surrounding forest or elephant ride into the surrounding forest
- After Breakfast we leave for the Ramganga reservoir. Completed in 1974 the present area of this lake is about 80 sq Kms. Packed with fish, Muggar & the fish eating Gharial Crocodile thrive here as do Pallas's Fish Eagle, White-Tailed Eagle, Grey-Headed & Lesser Fish Eagle and the Osprey. The Lake and large areas of marshy reeds and riverine tracts upstream is ideal habitat for various migratory & resident birds. About 20 species of owl are found here, more common being the Asian Barred Owlet, Long Eared Owl, Brown Fish Owl & similar looking though less common Tawny Fish Owl. In the Dhikala complex itself one could spot the Indian, Savanna or Grey Nightjar
- Overnight at Dhikala Forest Rest House
- B, L, D

#### Day 05: CORBETT TO DELHI

- Early morning game drive in a mix of dense deciduous forest, grassland and riverine forests, the presence of large water body & its location on the foothills has endowed this region with extremely rich avifauna. Over 50 species of raptors is a certain indicator of that richness. Altitude of this area varies from 400m- 1100m
  - Later depart by surface for Delhi (290 kms / 6 hrs drive) stopping at the advantage points
  - Arrive Delhi and transfer to the local destination **(to be advised by you)**
- END OF OUR SERVICES*



Photo: Nanak Dhingra

**TARIFF: VALID FROM 15 NOV, 08 till 30 APR, 09**

**USD 655** per person on twin/double share room basis

There would be a **3.09 %** service tax applicable on the above quote

**COST INCLUSIONS:**

- Accommodation for 04 nights on twin/double share room/tent basis with private facilities: inclusive of all applicable taxes at the time of quoting
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary as B, L, D (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- All transfers, drives, excursions and sightseeing by air-conditioned car; game drives by exclusive jeeps
- Service of an English speaking local guides/ naturalists: inclusive of guiding and park entry fees payable
- Assistance on arrival and departure at each destination

**COST EXCLUSIONS:**

- Any expenses of personal nature such as telephone calls, laundry, aerated drinks etc.
- Meals are not included in the cost unless specified in the inclusions
- Camera fees to be paid extra directly in monuments/park
- Elephant rides at Corbett to be paid directly as per the safari availed (Approx. USD 9 per person per ride)
- Tips/ gratuities paid to naturalists, drivers, bellboys, waiters etc.
- Cost incurred in obtaining visa, insurance etc.
- Cost incurred incase of hospitalization, evacuation etc.
- International departure tax

**NOTES:**

- Driving time mentioned above are indicative
- Elephant safaris subject to availability
- Christmas and New Years supplement would be charged as applicable
- In case of any revision in government tax structure or fuel price between now and time of travel the same will be debited to you. However, we will absorb the difference up to 3%
- In case of any revision in internal airfare and hotel rates between now and time of travel the same will be revised

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

- Overseas Bank Wire Transfer. Cost of transfer to be borne by the client. Wire transfer details is provided in invoice

**PAYMENT POLICY:**

- 20%** upon receipt of invoice. Booking will be confirmed up on receipt of this 20% non-refundable deposit
- 80%** balance 60 days prior to the date of travel

**CANCELLATION POLICY:**

- If cancelled prior to 60 days of travel date - non refundable 20% deposit
- If cancelled prior to 30 days of travel date - 50% (50% refund)
- If cancelled less than 20 days of travel date - 100% (0% refund)

**REQUIREMENTS FROM TRAVELERS:**

- Passport details required for making reservations with local airlines and forest department. Please provide full name as it appears on passport, age, address and nationality

## ACCOMMODATION



### **CORBETT: FULLY SERVICED FIXED CAMP (02 NIGHTS)**

Situated in the village of Bhakrakot, north- eastern periphery of Corbett Tiger Reserve. Camp is surrounded by mixed deciduous forests that are extremely rich in wildlife and bird-life. Spacious safari tents on raised wooden floors are well spaced for privacy. Each tent has a deck and a fully functional toilet.



Photo: Fixed camp at Corbett

***(In case you would like us to suggest suitable alternates to the hotels mentioned above to suit your budget or choice please let us know)***

### **CORBETT: DHIKALA FOREST REST HOUSE (02 NIGHTS)**

The Dhikala complex is the largest visitor accommodation facility inside the Corbett Tiger Reserve. Dhikala has been renovated in 2006 and has clean accommodation with attached facilities. A multi-cuisine vegetarian restaurant, well-stocked library and forest department's riding elephants that make it the preferred stop for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers. Wildlife documentaries are featured every evening under a thatch at the campus



Photo: Rooms at Dhikala forest rest house

## RECOMMENDED EXTENSIONS

### GOLDEN TRIANGLE

AGRA, JAIPUR (04 NIGHTS)

### RANTHAMBHORE

RANTHAMBHORE NATIONAL PARK (04 NIGHTS)

***Above extensions are inclusive of a night in Delhi before departure***

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## FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT



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## WHY BOOK WITH US?

Apart from being the best showcase of Indian wildlife, our tours are designed or customized keeping in mind that it's your vacation! We address all your concerns about comfort, hygiene, food, eco-friendliness and intra India travel.

We work closely with our identified network of local naturalists and guides, the 'insiders' who have the knowledge to make your wildlife experience both exciting and enriching.

We customize tours to a great degree, our professional travel specialists will work with you every step of the way, ensuring that we come up with tailor made travel programs to meet your exact specifications and budgets.

While our choice of city hotels is impeccable, on safaris and wildlife trips we ensure that you stay in the best lodges, forest bungalows and tented camps that retain the character of the area without compromising on comfort.

Our commitment to ecologically responsible tourism makes us ideal travel partners. We spend most of the tour fee within that area itself, to a much greater extent than any other tour operator, thereby encouraging maximum local participation and creating sustainable economic alternatives to natural resource exploitation.

The fact that most of our clients are repeat customers or references serves as an ideal testimonial and reflects on our expertise.

***Wild encounters are a matter of chance but the company you keep helps***