



Forest exploration at
Forest Rest House
guided by experienced naturalists.



Dhikala Old Forest
Bungalow
by Nishit Gupta

Dak Bungalows of Corbett

OVERVIEW:

Located deep in the jungle the forest bungalows of Corbett are remnants of the Raj era and thankfully exist today in wonderful state of preservation. Far from bustling tourism activities the Forest Bungalows also known as forest rest houses or dak bungalows of Corbett are absolutely quaintest spots not to mention the high density of wildlife surrounding it.

The British had built hundreds of dak bungalows dotted all over the mountainous and forested region of what was then called United Provinces. These scenic bungalows served as inspection bungalows for visiting forest officers. Complete with an outhouse for accompanying staff and servants, stable and a hathikhana (elephant shed). They were located 8 to 14 kilometres from each other and could be conveniently covered in a day.

Bungalows such as the Dhikala Old forest Bungalow, Powalgarh & Kaladhungi have hosted visiting viceroys, governors and numerous other VVIPs and witnessed elaborate hunting or Shikar expeditions simply called *bandobast*. Most of these bungalows were built by riversides or streams because many of these officials were keen outdoorsmen and fishermen.

Please Note:

- ***Overnight stay permits for Forest Rest Houses are issued 90 days in advance.***
- ***Forest Rest House trips can last from 06 nights to 14 nights and is exclusively tailor made.***



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Operational Itinerary:-

DAY 01 - VANGHAT | DAY 02 & 03 - HALDUPARAO | DAY 04 & 05 - LOHACHAUR | DAY 06, & 07 - DHIKALA | DAY 08 & 09 - VANGHAT

Vanghat

Internationally acclaimed eco lodge – Vanghat is located on a secluded bank of the Western Ramganga River, inside Kalagarh Tiger Reserve division of the Corbett Tiger Reserve. Accessible only by a 2km cross-country walk and raft across the river waters, Vanghat lodge is a wilderness paradise unlike anything else to be found around Jim Corbett National Park.

Vanghat takes you deep into the forest for an experience of living right where nature is untouched and thriving. You will explore every trail of the community forest on foot. Every season has a different landscape to offer and various birds and wild animals to encounter.



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Day 01:- Vanghat

Arrive Vanghat and check in at lodge.

Evening trek to Champions trail along with Ramganga river walk. This short but wholesome trail covers within itself three distinct habitats, namely Broad -leafed Moist, Grasslands and Riverine. It is a wonderful trail to acclimatize oneself to the forests of Vanghat. Pugmarks of Tigers, Leopards and signs of Elephant are regularly seen. Sambhar & Barking Deer signify the rich wildlife of the Valley.

Evening by campfire with soup & beverages followed by dinner.

Overnight at Lodge. (B, L, D).

Day 02:- Halduparao

After breakfast drive to Halduparao forest guest house. Evening jeep safari in Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.

Today we cross the wide Ramgnaga over wooden bridges and grassy patches. Crossing over Gathiorao we enter dense forest adjacent Hunt hill. This is the very spot where In February 1985 a British ornithologist David Hunt was killed by a tiger, while looking for the Brown Fish Owl. A large Haldu tree (Adina Cardifolia) is still a promising spot for these massive owls. We start our drive uphill through the wooded landscape. Ghoral a species of Goat Antelope is often spotted on the



Vanghat overview

by Nishit Gupta



Halduparao Forest Bungalow
(Kalaghar Tiger Reserve)

by Amit Shrivastava

steep slopes above the jeep trail. We soon get to Kanda Forest Bungalow for a break, immortalised by Jim Corbett in the *Maneater of Kanda*. Located at an altitude of 1085 meters Kanda offers magnificent arial views of the massive grasslands and the reservoir hemmed by Sal cladded valleys. We driver downhill into the very scenic & Mandal valley with beautifully terraced and slate roofed stone houses. The forest in this part is characterized by a unique temperate variety dominated by Himalayan Oak. We enter from the vatanvasa gate into Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary

and drive along the plain river. Sonanadai is part of Corbett Tiger Reserve and was created as a corridor to Rajaji National Park. This area is well known for its elephant population.

Arrive at Halduprawao after crossing the Plain thrice. Overnight at Halduparao Forest Bungalow.

(B, L, D)

Overnight at Forest Rest House. (B, L, D)

Day 03:- Halduparao

Morning and evening game drive in Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.

Overnight at Forest Rest House (B, L, D)



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Hot Tea at Malani

by Nishit Gupta

Day 04:- Lohachaur

Located across the northern side of the northern ridge, the rooms of Lohachaur Forest Rest are situated on either side of the forest road and stretches all the way across this part of the reserve forest area. Rathuadab is located immediately beside the track and is known to be well frequented by elephants in the summer months. Lohachaur offers a panoramic view of the river Mandal.

After breakfast drive to Lohachor Forest Rest House. Evening jeep safari in Durgadevi zone.

Overnight at Forest Rest House. (B, L, D)

Day 05:- Lohachaur

Morning and evening game drive in Durgadevi zone.

Overnight at Forest Rest House (B, L, D)



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Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) in the Ramganga valley.

by Chris Mills



Yellow Throated Martin
(*Martes flavigula bodaert*)

by Gerard David

Day 06 & 07:- Dhikala

Dhikala has always been the most popular destination in Corbett because of its sheer abundance of Wildlife and awesome location high above the banks of the Ramganga river (that provides fantastic views in every direction) The huge expanse of the lush grasslands and with the meandering Ramganga flowing into the massive Ramganga lake (reservoir) surrounded by the lush Shivalik ridges interspersed by the Himalayan foothills. Elephants are the dominant mammals of Corbett, but even these are dwarfed by the larger-than-life vistas.

After breakfast arrive at Dhikala and check in at the modest forest rest houses, followed by going by the programme planned by your naturalist for the day.

Massive deer herds, Wild boars, Lesser Cats and a region that boasts of undoubtedly the highest Tiger numbers for any landscape anywhere in the world. Sharing their habitat are various waders, storks, herons, sandpipers, plovers, ducks and geese, Ospreys, and fish eagles. Dhikala provides basic facilities with an unrivalled wildlife experience and a vegetarian restaurant.

Overnight at Forest Rest House. (B, L, D)



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Dhikala Forest Rest House
by Nishit Gupta



Dhikala Hutments

by Nishit Gupta

Day 08:- Vanghat

Morning game viewing drive in Dhikala zone. Early noon drive back to parks exit gate – take short drive to Marchula the last road head for Vanghat. Walk through local village to reach Ramganga riverfront, cross the river by bamboo raft to reach one of most isolated wilderness lodges in Northern India.

Walk around the lodge and Ramganga river.

Evening campfire with soup & beverages followed by dinner.

Overnight at Lodge. (B, L, D).

Day 09:- Vanghat

After early morning Tea/ Coffee. we start our hikes early with a packed breakfast.

Whole day is for exploring the surrounding forests on foot. Walking safari is a unique experience to explore Indian forest and there are very few pristine habitats left in India where you can walk around the buffer forests of tiger reserve.



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There are several trail options and we will cover each depending on target species and fitness of guests. During our hikes we will come across signs & sightings of various mammals and birds and will have to cross the river at 2 or 3 places. We may decide to return to camp for lunch and in the evening do another hike and return before it gets dark.

Evening campfire with soup & beverages followed by dinner.

Overnight at Lodge. (B, L, D).

Day 10:- Vanghat

Morning after breakfast, proceed for journey onwards.



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Guests on a raft in Ramganga river near Vanghat's Ruskin Bond trail.
by Christopher Mills



A walk in the forest..

by Vishal Saberwal

Envisaged:

- Halduparao - 02 nights
- Lohachaur – 02 nights
- Dhikala – 02 nights
- Vanghat – 03 nights

Tour inclusions:

- Accommodation for 9 nights at lodge/ Forest Rest Houses mentioned above on twin share basis.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary as B, L, D (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Morning & evening open 4 X 4 jeep safari inside the Corbettl. (Upto 03 guests in 1 jeep).
- Transfer to Vanghat.
- Service of English-speaking local naturalist/guide for Vanghat & FRH
- All applicable taxes at the time of quoting.



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Tour exclusions:

- Any expenses of personal nature such as telephone calls, tips, use of payable items in room mini bar, any kind of alcoholic non-alcoholic beverages (unless specified).
- Air Fare.
- Any extra jeep safari.
- Cost incurred in obtaining visa, insurance etc.
- Cost incurred in case of hospitalization or evacuation.
- Tips gratuities given to drivers/ guides, restaurant waiters etc.
- Please note that in case of any revision in government tax structure or substantial fuel hike we reserve the right to revise the tour cost. However, marginal difference will be absorbed by us.

Important:

- In case of any price hike by the Corbett Tiger Reserve you'll be duly informed and the deference will be shared equally.
- Itinerary order may change however number of days and general programme will remain the same.



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BOOKING & CANCELATION POLICY:

Booking Conditions:: A 50% advance confirms your trip with us. Balance needs to be deposited at least 30 days before trip date.

Cancellation Policy:-

- Less than 15 days before the arrival date – no refund
- Less than 20 days before the arrival date - 60% refund
- Less than 25 days before the arrival date - 75% refund
- No refund in case of road block, accident, no show etc

Important Note: *In case of any revision in government tax structure or fuel prices, Vanghat reserves the right to revise the tour price. However, marginal revision in tour price will be absorbed by us.*

Liabilities:

- We are not responsible for termination of tour or revision of itinerary in case of Force Majure factors, where things are beyond our control, such as natural calamities, riots, political strikes, flight/train delay etc.
- We are not liable to pay any compensation for any unutilized services in case of termination of tour due to any Force Majure factors.

- In any kind of Force Majeure factors we will look for the most suitable/ possible alternative services with consent of the clients or foreign associate. Any extra cost incurred for organizing alternative services would be debited to clients or the principal agents.
- In case of termination of tour mid-way due to any of the above factors retentions or penalties charged for unutilized services would be borne by the client or principal agents.

To book the above tour, please write to Sumantha Ghosh at vanghat@gmail.com. We will be happy to tailor-make a bird tour to suit the number of days that you may have.



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Asian Elephant
(*Elephas Maximus*)

by Anuradha Marwah