

## Corbett National Park - 4 days

# go guide

don't leave home without it



A World Of Discovery



Backing onto the forest-covered slopes of the Himalayan foothills, Corbett is one of India's finest national parks and is known for its rich and varied wildlife including tiger, Asian elephant, species of deer, leopard, langur, wild boar and birdlife.

### WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET

#### Trip Highlights

- Corbett National Park - The wildlife and rich flora and fauna of the park

#### What's Included

- Return transfers by air-conditioned chauffeur driven car from Delhi
- 3 nights standard National Park lodge accommodation including all meals at the Claridges Corbett Hideaway or similar. Includes 3 breakfast, 3 lunch, 3 dinner
- 5 game drives (am/pm) by shared jeep or Canter

#### What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### Day 1 :

Delhi - Corbett National Park. Drive to Corbett National Park. Afternoon and evening at leisure. **Overnight - Corbett NP** (L, D)

#### Days 2-3 : Corbett NP

Corbett National Park. Over the coming days you'll enjoy morning and afternoon game drives (5 in total, spread throughout your stay) in shared jeeps or Canters.

Corbett is India's first national park and one of its finest. It is notable not only for its rich and varied wildlife and birdlife but also for its scenic charm and magnificent mountain and river views. The park comprises the broad valley of Ramganga River backing onto the forest-covered slopes of the Himalayan foothills.

There is an immensely rich flora – 110 species of trees, 51 species of shrubs, 33 species of bamboos and 27 species of climbers. The valley floor is covered with tall elephant grass, lantana bushes and patches of Sal and Sheesham. The fauna is as rich as the flora. The park has always been noted for its tigers, which are seen quite frequently. There are leopards too but they are seldom seen. In all there are over 50 species of mammal alone.

Corbett is a bird-watcher's paradise with over 600 species, and since the creation of the Kalagarh Dam on the Ramganga River, large numbers of waterfowl have been attracted here. **Overnight - Corbett NP**

#### Day 4 : Corbett National Park - Delhi

Corbett National Park - Delhi. Later we return to Delhi in time for your departing flight. **Overnight - Corbett NP** (B)

#### Festival India

India is a country of colourful festivals and special events. Two of the biggest festivals in the Hindu calendar are Diwali (Deepavali) and Holi. Meanwhile, the Pushkar Camel festival in Rajasthan brings together one of the most colourful spectacles on earth.

Diwali – the Festival of Light is the happiest festival of the Hindu calendar. At night, countless oil lamps are lit to show Rama the way home from his period of exile. In all the festival lasts 5 days. On day 3, time is spent worshipping Lakshmi – the goddess of fortune. Traditionally, this is the beginning of the new financial year for companies. Diwali has also become the Festival of Sweets. Giving sweets has become as much of a part of the tradition as lighting oil lamps and firecrackers. It is also celebrated by

the Jains as their New Years Day. For Diwali dates this year and next, please visit our website.

Holi – the Festival of Colour is one of most exuberant Hindu festivals, with people marking the end of winter by throwing coloured water and powder (gulal) at one another. It gets quite mad! Don't wear good clothes on this day, and prepare to duck! On the night before Holi, bonfires are built to symbolise destruction of the evil demon Holika. It is mainly a northern festival; there is no real winter to end in the south, so it isn't as widespread there. Please visit our website for Holi dates this year and next.

If you are interested in visiting India whilst one of the above or many other festivals are on, head to the India - Unique Adventures section of our website.

#### Fabulous Food

India's vast range of climates, cultures and peoples has produced a very diverse culinary repertoire. Curry is the word that springs to mind when people think of India food. Believe it or not, there is no such thing as 'curry' in India. It's an English invention, an all-purpose term to cover the whole gamut of Indian spicing. Although all Indian food is certainly not curry, this is the basis of Indian cuisine. Curry doesn't have to be that hot it'll blow your head, although it can be made that way, if you ask! Rather, for the most part Indian food is very, very aromatic, since the spices used by Indian chefs and cooks in India don't arrive in the cooking pot via a pre-packed tub of spice.

Indian chefs and cooks have about 25 spices on their regular list and it is from these that they produce the curry flavour.

Normally spices are freshly ground with a pestle and mortar, and blended in certain combinations to produce varying flavours and heat. It is the freshness of the spices that transform the dish. Curries can be vegetable, meat-lamb, mutton or chicken in content, though never beef. The cow is sacred to the Hindu people and India in general, so it is extremely rare to see beef on any menu across the country. Lamb also substitutes beef at McDonalds in India. Ask for a Maharajah Mac!

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This Go Guide has been compiled with care and good faith. It gives an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the traveller and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown are subject to change though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go



## Thalis

Thalis are an all-purpose Indian dish offering a variety of curried vegetable dishes, relishes, poppadams, puris or chapatis and a mountain of rice. Often served on a metal tray with a number of small bowls known as katoris holding each dish or just small indentations moulded into the metal tray, Thalis are consistently tasty and cheap.

## Camera Fees

Money changing facilities are not usually available at National Park hotels and lodges. All National Parks charge a daily fee for the use of both cameras and video recorders. The fee is payable direct to the National Park upon your arrival.

## Tiger Spotting

India is one of the very few places where this rare and enigmatic big cat can still be glimpsed in the wild, stalking through dense forest and undergrowth - a solitary predator with no natural enemies, save one. The tigers we hope to view in their natural habitat are wild, unhabituated animals - not exhibits available on demand. As such, viewing cannot be guaranteed. The usual method of transportation in India's national parks is shared jeep or Canter (a larger vehicle), though some parks may offer elephant back viewing (strictly number-controlled and not guaranteed). Keep your eyes peeled for tigers, and if you do spot one, it will only serve to enhance your Indian experience.

## Travel Operators for Tigers

Travel Operators for Tigers (TOFT), is a UK based campaign, set up to encourage sustainable wildlife tourism in tiger reserves and national parks. Funds generated through TOFT will be used to fund tiger conservation initiatives and local community development, through their two partner conservation organisations - Global Tiger Patrol and the Environmental Investigation Agency. on the go are now members of TOFT and we are happy to pledge a USD\$20 contribution to TOFT for each of our clients that choose to travel on a wildlife tour to India with us.

## Tippling

Tippling is much a part of Indian Culture. For a job well done we would suggest that you reserve the following amount per person per day to cover tips along the way.

- INR400 (USD\$8.50) if the day includes local guide & sightseeing
- INR200 (USD\$4.50) if the day excludes local guide & sightseeing

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## Climate

India has a three-season year known as the hot, the wet and the cool. The best time to visit is between late September and April when temperatures are cooler and therefore ideal for sightseeing. In the summer months of May to July it is less crowded and conditions are perfect for sightseeing and photography, although parts of India are extremely

hot. July signals the start of the monsoon or wet season that continues until early or mid September. Although the weather is humid, the days are punctuated by intermittent rainfall and the monsoon is India is actually quite spectacular and quite refreshing.

## Health Requirements

It is recommended that you be vaccinated for Tetanus and Polio, if you haven't had a booster in the last ten years. Food and waterborne diseases are more common, so we recommend vaccinations for Typhoid(valid 3 years) and Hepatitis A (validity varies). You are also advised to take anti-Malarial medication.

## Currency

The Indian Rupees (INR) is non-exportable and only available in India. Pounds Sterling, US Dollars and Euros are easily exchanged upon arrival at any major bank or your hotel. ATM's are also available in all major towns and cities.

If planning on using your ATM card whilst in India, please let your bank know of your travel plans prior to departure to avoid your bank assuming that the transaction is fraudulent and blocking your card. Exchange rates are subject to fluctuation.

USD 1 = INR 45

GBP 1 = INR 75

EURO 1 = INR 65

AUD 1 = INR 47

## Time

India is 5 hours 30 mins ahead of GMT.

## Essential Packing

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.
- A photocopy of your passport data pages.
- The voltage in India is 230-240V. Most outlets in India accept round 3 pin plugs (not a UK, European or USA plugs). You should pack a Universal Adaptor and check that it is suitable for India.
- Insect repellent to guard against pesky mosquitos
- Spare camera batteries/memory card so you can go snap happy.
- Consider packing some pencils, pens or modest educational supplies that can be given to village schools or street children.
- If you fancy a tippie, take advantage of Duty Free buys.
- Buy some Indian Rupees at the airport on arrival.
- Buy a phrasebook and practice your holiday Hindi.
- Keep a supply of small notes for local transactions.

## Holiday Money

Funds collected in India for entrance fees and tip kitty (if applicable to your holiday) or optional excursion that you may wish to participate in are payable in local currency (INR).

## Pre-Tour Accommodation

If arriving on day 1 of a holiday, that includes an airport arrival transfer (as indicated in the 'What you Get' section of this Go Guide) we will be at the airport, ready to transfer you to your hotel. Further if you are booking pre-tour accommodation with us an airport arrival transfer will also be provided. If arriving prior to 9am on day 1 (essentially on a flight that arrives very, very early in the morning) you will need to purchase a night of pre-tour accommodation to save you waiting until standard hotel check in time, which is generally 2pm.

## Arrival Transfers

If your tour or short stay includes an airport arrival transfer (as indicated in the 'What you Get' section of this Go Guide) from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, our arrival procedure is as follows:

Arrive to Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, where after you have attended to customs and immigration formalities, please proceed to the arrival hall. Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative who will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall, holding a prominent on the go tours logo signboard, ready to escort you to our awaiting transportation and onward to your tour start hotel

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight to India is delayed please call the emergency contact number as stated on your tour voucher and our local office who will then advise on the best course of action.

If travelling on our Captivating Kerala tour (with arrival via Kochi Airport) or one of our 'Short Stays' where an airport arrival transfer is included in your holiday, the procedure for meeting you at the airport is the same as those detailed above.

## Visas

All foreign nationals must obtain a visa for a visit to India and it is essential the visa be procured prior to travel. A 6 month single entry visa (valid from the date of issue) is issued for most nationals planning to visit India. If you are planning to visit a neighbouring country such as Nepal, Bhutan or Sri Lanka and return to India you will require a multiple entry visa which must be procured in advance of travel. In order to obtain this, you will need to provide the embassy with a detailed itinerary and full flight information, showing the dates and ports of exit and re-entry to India.

If you are a resident in the UK we offer a visa service to save you the inconvenience of having to queue at the embassy, please visit our website or contact us for further information.

Visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement prior to departure is solely the responsibility of the traveller and not of on the go. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of return from India.