


# The Sanctuary Guide to Corbett



## In Alaska, Fish & Wildlife Always Come First

Alaska is home to some of the world's healthiest fish and wildlife populations, and one of the most important natural discoveries—the Pebble Project.


Pebble is just a exploration project today. But already we're setting new standards for environmental care.


We are applying the world's best and most advanced science to study everything from habitat to hydrology, wildlife to wetlands. Hundreds of environmental scientists, engineers and technicians are working together to design a project that protects the health and productivity of Alaska's fish and wildlife populations.

Final decisions about Pebble are years away, but our commitment to protecting Alaska's fish and wildlife is already being to get there.

The Pebble Partnership may be a mining company—but for us, as for you—fish and wildlife must come first.


There is a lot of talk about Pebble—but all of it is based on fact. Get involved and learn the facts today.





### INSIDER TIPS FOR WILD PLACES

1. Study the destination and make your travel arrangements in advance.
2. Remember wildlife reserves are designed for the safety of wildlife, not for the convenience of visitors. Be grateful for the fact that forest staff protect our wildlife and do not judge them on their ability to cater to your every whim.
3. Travel light.
4. Wear earth colours, not bright ones. Camouflage patterns break up your outline, encouraging animals to behave more naturally.
5. Carry a torch or head lamp (especially if you plan on trekking in the dark, or through caves) with spare batteries. Never dispose of batteries in wilderness areas.
6. Wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Don't use new shoes for long treks.
7. Field guides to help you identify birds, mammals, reptiles and flowers are now easily available. This is one weight you will be glad you carried.
8. Respect nature and follow rules. In a wildlife reserve, DO NOT speak loudly, feed wild animals, dispose off plastic, paper or battery waste, disembark from vehicles without permission, play loud music, or walk unaccompanied by an expert.

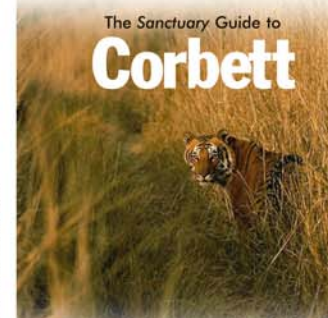


**Sanctuary**

In association with **tigers**

... per cent of the proceeds of the book will go to the Park Guard Welfare Fund.

## The Sanctuary Guide to Corbett



About a breathtaking wilderness, nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas, whose history is almost as hypnotic as its natural history.

The Corbett Tiger Reserve has been described as the 'land of our, trumpet and song' for almost as long as books have been written about this amazing wildlife haven. While similar parcels of grassland and riverine forest fell to agriculture and industry in the past century, the Corbett National Park managed to survive, thanks to perceptive individuals such as naturalist-photographer F.W. Champion and hunter-conservationist Jim Corbett, after whom the park was named. After India gained her independence, another series of valiant men took charge.

Spread over two districts – Garhwal and Kumaon, Corbett has been described as the 'finest jewel in the crown of Uttarakhand', a hill state replete with culture, religion, myth and legend, almost all inspired by the mighty Himalayas.

With its diverse habitats and three distinct seasons – summer, monsoon and winter, this tropical forest is literally bursting with life. Tigers, elephants, as many as 557 species of birds, plus a pulsating panoply of aquatic life forms including shrews, moogers and mahoeer fish make Corbett one of India's most popular wildlife destinations.

FLORA AND FAUNA

BIRDING

HISTORY


ACCOMMODATION

MAP

CONSERVATION

TOP TEN TRAILS

THE WILDLIFE GUIDE THAT TAKES YOU TO ROADS LESS TRAVELLED.



INSIDE BACK COVER AD

BACK COVER

SPINE

COVER

FLAP

### WHERE TO STAY

Corbett is one of the few parks in India where accommodation inside the park is available. There are also a number of places to stay from good value rest houses to high quality lodges and tented camps in and around Corbett.

**BUDGET REST HOUSES**  
 Rest House at Khimnawali and Bijani, inside the park, offer true jungle experiences, but accommodation is limited, and they remain largely unchanged since British times, when they were used by District officers meeting in and around the area. However, many have been renovated and are very well kept.

**BIRANI FOREST REST HOUSE**  
 Nine kilometers from Ramnagar. Only six rooms available. Elephant rides available (morning and evening).

**SARAPALI FOREST REST HOUSE**  
 Located within the park. You must make prior arrangements for food and transportation.

**DIBHALA FOREST REST HOUSE**  
 Located at the edge of the Pulkhan valley, it offers a spectacular view. Reservations are tough to get and must be made in advance at:

- Main reception office of Corbett Tiger Reserve at Ramnagar: 05947-251489
- Reception Centre at Kinohar: 01382-224823
- Chief Wildlife Warden, Chandernagar, near the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun: 0135-2644691

**FOREST REST HOUSES IN THE CORBETT TIGER RESERVE**  
 The many forest rest houses in Corbett, though basic, offer visitors a rustic and out-of-the-world experience. One of the most popular is the Old Forest Rest House in Dhikali, built over a hundred years ago. It overlooks the Dhikali and Phulki creeks. The Sulah rest house, located in one of the most beautiful stretches of the forest is a good option for tourists. It is the first rest house as one drives down from Dhangrahi towards Dhikali. The Sarapali rest house lies on the Dhangrahi-Dhikali road, downstream of Gaikal on the southern bank of the Ramnagar. This is a good place to watch for elephants, tigers and crocodiles. Take a short detour off the Dhangrahi-Dhikali road to check out the Gaikal rest house, on the banks of the Ramnagar river. Here one is presented with amazing views of the fast-flowing river and is perfect for a good day of wildlife-viewing. The more recently-built Khimnawali rest house is strategically located next to the creek and provides easy access to other parts of the park. The drive towards the Kanda rest house on humpy roads is not easy, but very worth the effort. Located in the northern part of the park, it is the highest rest house at about 1,100 m, and provides glimpses of its Himalayan floral and faunal heritage. Other rest houses in the park include Malani, Bijani and Jhina. The Bijani rest house was popular during colonial times as the area around it was part of a shooting block. The Jhina rest house lies



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**STOP CLIMATE CHANGE BEFORE IT CHANGES YOU.**

### CONSERVATION ISSUES

on the road from Ramnagar to Kalagah, just inside the southern boundary of the park. Once farmland, this is now being developed as a grassland habitat and offers excellent birding. The rest houses like Lohachari, Ratsadahi, Haldapara and Harkhand are good places to watch wild elephants. Of course, you need permission from the Officer of the Field Director at Ramnagar before visiting any of these lodgings.

**QUALITY LODGES OR RESORT ACCOMMODATION**  
 There are a number of wilderness camps, lodges and resorts to choose from. Below are PUG certified and audited providers. For details on PUG Certification Requirements, see page xxx

**CAMP FORESTAL CREEK PUG Rating – Quality Practice**  
 A small, personal camp offering award / award has, it is renowned for the birding experience it offers as well as experienced naturalists. They provide experience off the beaten track at an affordable price. Ritish Saxi / Minakshi Pandey Village Bhikhar, P.O. Mohan (via Ramnagar), Dist. Almora – 244715, Uttarakhand. Tel: +91 5947-287804 info@campforestal creek.com www.campforestal creek.com

**INFINITY CORBETT WILDERNESS PUG Rating – Good Practice**  
 Luxury motel with excellent views of the river Kosi. BEF managed and customer friendly. Dilip Khatri/Rina Khatri P.O. Dhikali, Via Ramnagar, Dist. Nainital, Uttarakhand – 244715, Tel: (05947) 251279/251280/284157 Mobile: +91 9997192985 Fax: +91 5947251280 infinity.corbett@rediffmail.com www.infinityresorts.com

**CORBETT HIDEAWAY PUG Rating – Under Process**  
 A large cluster resort with several activities on offer. Vibhas Prasad/Mukund Prasad Zero, Garja, Dhikali, Dist. Nainital, Ramnagar – 244 715, Uttarakhand. Tel: +91 5947-284132 / 284134 Fax: +91 5947-284133 vibhas.prasad@leisurehotels.in/ http://www.leisurehotels.in/

**CORBETT RIVERVIEW BRETREL PUG Rating – Under Process**  
 Modern villa hotel situated on the Kosi River with all modern amenities. Vibhas Prasad/Mukund Prasad Zero, Garja, Dhikali, Dist. Nainital, Ramnagar – 244 715, Uttarakhand. Tel: +91 5947-284132 / 284134 Fax: +91 5947-284133 vibhas.prasad@leisurehotels.in/ http://www.leisurehotels.in/

**HIDEAWAY RIVER LODGE PUG Rating – Under Process**  
 Small resort camp in a wilderness setting. Vibhas Prasad/Mukund Prasad Zero, Garja, Dhikali, Dist. Nainital, Ramnagar – 244 715, Uttarakhand. Tel: +91 5947-284133 vibhas.prasad@leisurehotels.in/ http://www.leisurehotels.in/

**CONSERVATION ISSUES**  
 Virtually no national park or sanctuary in India is free from threats. Corbett is no exception. Shrewd priorities, past and present, have fonged this once continuous forest belt. Financial allocations are far below the true worth of the natural assets contained in the Corbett Landscape. Ducking, wood cutting, human intrusions, fire and even uncontrolled tourism are only some of the problems that plague the wildlife of Corbett. Yes, the Corbett Rajaji Landscape contains one of India's finest, most vital wildernesses. The Corbett Rajaji corridor, a vital passage for elephants and tigers, is being pinched by proposed highways, temples, factories, resorts and even an army ammunition dump at Raiwala. The Challa canal (see map on page xxx) bifurcates the habitat, and polluting factories that have encroached on forest lands pose serious threats. An exotic, invasive weed, *Lantana camara* has taken over vast acreage in the park, as has wild miconia (*Gonolobus*). The irrigation culvert at Kalagah, which should have been abandoned over a decade ago, continues to disturb the wildlife of the area. The same is




EDITORIAL PAGES AND TWO HALF PAGE ADS

EDITORIAL PAGES