

Itinerary for North India trip with Arcatour Hosted by Dr. Manuela Seifert,

Day 1 : Depart from Home

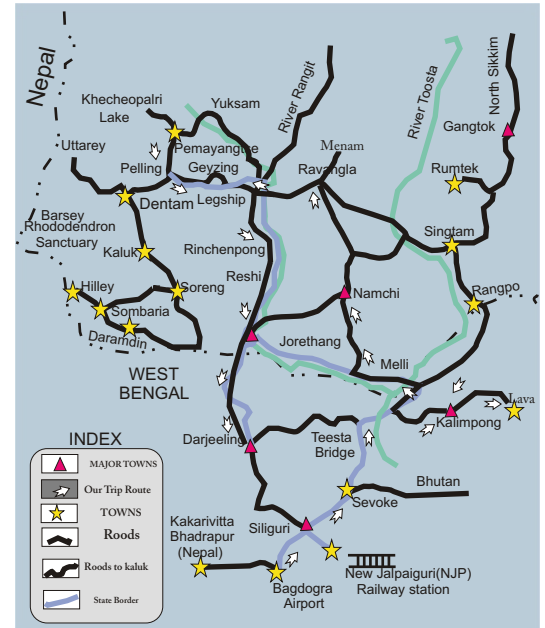
We board connected flight ZRHLX 146 at 12.30 hrs from Zurich to Delhi.

Day 2 : Arrive Delhi

We arrive in Delhi International Airport at 0035 hrs Welcome and assistance by Mr. Vivek Sharma and transfer to Hotel Shanti Palace, New Delhi. Overnight stay in **hotel Shanti Palace**.

Day 2 : Delhi - Ramnagar

Following breakfast explore Delhi, visiting national museums, Lunch at original Mughal kitchen called Karim's. Following lunch drive to Akshardham Temple. It is a Monument to World Peace, and is nicknamed "India's Spiritual Theme Park". Return to hotel. After dinner transfer to Delhi Railway station to board Corbett link express to Ramnagar at 2240 hrs. Over night in the train. (B, L, D)



We have managed to book a complete 1st or 2nd AC railway compartment in this train so whole of this train section is personal & locked. We had already discussed the matter with Indian railway authorities who have given us their assurance.

Day 3 : Ramnagar - Corbett Tiger Reserve

The train arrives Ramnagar railway station at 0545hrs. This is Corbett National Park's head office. On arrival we will wash & Fresh & take breakfast in Tree Top Country Inn before we start our journey to our Camp, which is in the heart of Corbett Tiger Reserve. For two nights we are staying inside the core area of the park upon arrival transfer to forest lodge Dhikala and continue our excursion into the Park and overnight in **Dhikala forest lodge**. (B, L, D)

And for one night we are staying in Tree Tops, Country Inn, Located in the foothills of Himalayas. All modern facilities and amenities of Indian standard are available for you comfort. (B, L, D)

Day 3 / 4 : Corbett Tiger Reserve

Morning and afternoon safari at Corbett Tiger Reserve in Dhikala Zone. Overnight stay in **Dhikala Forest Lodge**. (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Corbett Tiger Reserve

Morning safari in Corbett Dhikala Zone. After breakfast transfer to Tree Top Country Inn resort. Afternoon safari at Corbett Tiger Reserve in Bijrani Zone. Overnight stay in **Tree Tops, Country Inn**. (B, L, D)

Corbett Tiger Reserve

Situated in Kumaon hills in Nainital district, with picturesque hilly ridges covered by Sal trees, down hill are grasslands and bamboo forest, park is named after the famous hunter and naturalist, Jim Corbett who recounts many fascinating tales of hunting down man-eating tigers.

Mammals (50 species): tigers , elephants, himalayan palm civet, indian gray mongoose, common otter, blacknaped

hare, porcupine, the leopards are mostly found in the hilly terrains of park contrary to the sloth bear, which is found in the lower regions of the park. Also consists of the cat family like leopard cat, jungle cat and fishing cat. The dole or wild Dog and jackal are found in the southern parts of the national park other creatures are the langur, rhesus monkeys, Chital, Sambhar, barking and hog deer.



Birds Life: 585 species are reported - about half of the total species found in the entire Indian subcontinent! You can see parakeets, owls, orioles, drongos, thrushes, babblers, bulbuls, cuckoos, doves, bee eaters, rollers, flycatchers, warblers, robins, chats, finches, fork-tails, hornbills, kingfishers and good place for observing birds of prey. Park forms a natural crossroad and meeting ground for avian species from high altitude (himalayan) areas, plains and eastern and western regions.

Reptiles and Amphibians: 35 species with two varieties of crocodile that is long snouted gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) and mugger (*Crocodilus palustris*) - on the banks of Ramganga River, king cobra, Common krait, Russel viper, Python and Monitor lizard.

Pisces: Barbus tor, Barbus Chilinoideus, Labeo calbasu, Oxygastro bacaila, Due to biogeographic diversity, the Park is a natural haven for the flora and fauna of the plains, the sub mountainous regions and high altitude areas of mixed woodland that spans the outer Himalayas. At the lower level are winding strips of alluvial grasslands or chauras (beloved to many species of deer) crossed by numerous watercourses. The lifeline of the Park is the sparkling Ramganga river which provides safe harbor to mahaseer fish, crocodile and otter. Stately stands of sal and diverse mixed forest cover hills and valleys, fodder and foliage for large herds of elephants (about 300 plus Asiatic elephants). Sharp spurs in the terrain make it an idyllic habitat for shy species like the tiger.

Safari's mode: Elephant/4x4 Jeep Safari is the most convenient mode to sight the Corbett national park.

Day 6 : Corbett National Park- Delhi

Morning excursion into the park. After lunch transfer to Ramnagar Railway station to board in train #5013 Link Exp. to Delhi.

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Day 7 : Delhi- Guwahati

The said train arrives Delhi at 0405 hrs. On arrival transfer to **Hotel Shanti Palace**, New Delhi. For wash & fresh. After breakfast transfer to the domestic airport for our flight at 1100 hrs to arrive Guwahati at 1315hrs. Upon arrival transfer to hotel. Overnight stay **hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati.** (B, L, D)

Day 8 : Guwahati- Kaziranga Tiger Reserve

After breakfast drive for 4 hrs to Kaziranga Tiger Reserve, where it becomes apparent that the people of Assam have a more pronounced Asian influence than those of any place visited. Assam is the biological crossroads for the flora and fauna of the Malay Peninsula, China, Himalayas and the Indian subcontinent. Here, the forests are primarily tropical evergreen rather than the deciduous type found in dryer areas. Arrive late afternoon at the **Bon Habi Resort.** (B, L, D)



Day 9/10 : Kaziranga Tiger Reserve

Two full days at Kaziranga, exploring the park by open 4X4 WD Jeep and on elephant back. Accommodation at **Bon Habi Resort.** (B, L, D Daily)

Kaziranga Tiger Reserve: UNESCO world heritage site.

Kaziranga's forests are known for their great bio-diversity, comprising mixed savannah grassland together with evergreen, moist deciduous and swamp forest. Kaziranga's sprawling valley of 430 sq. kms is one of the last strong holds of the Great Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros. It was an alarming depletion in their numbers, due to hunting and poaching that led to the conservation of this area in 1926.

Mammals : Rhinoceros unicornis (rhino) make their largest home anywhere in the world, about 1000 massive wild buffalo - ferocious bovine can weight up to 915 kilograms, Indian Bison, herd of elephants, wild boar, Barasinghas

(swamp deer) and hog deer, hoolock gibbons, capped langur, Sloth Bears, leopards, Jungle Cats, Otters, Hog Badgers, Jackal and the Tigers.

Birds Life : is also an ornithologist's delight the grasslands are raptor country with crested serpent eagle, the Pallas fishing eagle and grey headed fishing eagle can be seen circling over the marshes. The water-bird species include swamp partridge, bar-headed goose, whistling teal, the Bengal florican, storks, herons and even pelicans. The numerous water bodies are rich Reservoirs of food (including fish) and thousands of migratory birds, representing over 100 species, visit the park seasonally from as far as Siberia. Major migratory birds are the grey pelican, black-necked stork, lesser adjutant stork, Pallas's fish eagle, grey-headed fish eagle, about 25-30 Bengal floricans, swamp partridge, grey peacock-pheasant, great pied hornbill, green imperial pigeon, and silver-breasted broadbill.

Reptiles: rock python, monitor lizards,

Mode of Safaris:

1) We will observe the wildlife from 4X4 wheel driven open Suzuki Jeeps.

2) Elephant back- Seeing these rare and majestic large cats in their natural habitat is truly an unforgettable wildlife experience and boarding elephant is easy, and the cushioned platforms are very comfortable.

In addition to elephant rides, several watch towers have been set up for elevated viewing of the wildlife park.

Day 11: Kaziranga Tiger Reserve - Guwahati - Bagdogra- Kalimpong

After breakfast, depart for Guwahati to board flight #IC0879 at 1415hrs to arrive Bagdogra at 1510hrs. Upon arrival, drive for 80 km 3 hrs to Kalimpong. Over night stay in **hotel Silver Oaks, Kalimpong.**

Day 12: Kalimpong - Lava (35 kms/1 hrs) Excursion

Lava is a prime birding destination in this region. It is a small bazaar once a halting place for convoys relating to Bhutan & Sikkim trade. Surrounded by very large tracts of protected forests ranging an elevation between 1600 and 2400 mtrs, it includes the remote and uninhabited Neora Valley National Park which a paradise of bird watchers forest lovers.

Evening return to Kalimpong. O/n in **hotel Silver Oaks.**



Day 13 : Transfer from Kalimpong - Damthang Forests - Ravangla, 2200. This day we undertake a drive through Forests. En route stop at various places for bird watch and road side nature scenic. This is journey through forest valley of rivers where 1000 types of birds take shelter. The main bird to be seen are Shikra, Red Jungle Fowl, River Lapwing, Green billed Malkoha, White throated Kingfisher, Crested Kingfisher, Chestnut headed Bee eater, Indian Roller,

Dollarbird, Great Barbet, Greater Yellow nape, Black backed Wagtail, Small Minivet, Scarlet Minivet, Black crested Bulbul, White cheeked Bulbul, Red vented Bulbul, Black Bulbul, Golden fronted Leaf bird, Orange bellied Leaf bird, Common Iora, Blue Rock Thrush, Chestnut bellied Rock Thrush, White capped Redstart, Hair crested Drongo, Green Magpie, Himalayan Swiftlet, and oriental White Eye. We complete this journey of 80 Kms only by evening and enjoy the entire day watch and proceed basis. This is only because of attractive nature scenic. Arrive and transfer to Hotel. Overnight in **Babumoshai Resort, Ravangla.**

Day 14 : Ravangla- Menam (10, 800ft.) A Trek for 12 Kms Ravangla Wildlife Bird Sanctuary.

It is a walking distance 12 km up from Ravangla .It is a trek spot and can be visited on foot. A traditional meditation site for the monks, it is also a vantage location for spectacular view of the mountains at sunrise. The forest is a diverse of colors during spring. A natural habitat of the red panda, Himalayan black bear and many species of deer. If the time permits then also visit main sighting places i.e Temi Tea Garden, Ralang hot spring, Ralang Monasteries Tashiding Monastery. Overnight at **Babumoshai Resort.**

Day 15 : Ravangla- Pelling- Pemyangtse - Sangacholing (approx 6 hrs tour).

After breakfast undertake this journey of 55 kms with birding halts enroute at selected spots. Arrive Pelling at lunch time. Pelling offers the spectacular views of Eastern Himalayas. To-day we go for bird watch for full day in the adjoining areas including visit to Pemayangtse and Sangacholing Monasteries. Overnight at **hotel The Elgin Mt Pandim, Pelling.**

Pemyangtse

We bird for the full day visiting Pamayangtse & Sanga Choling Monasteries - which are prime birding sites. Birds we are likely to see are Mountain Hawk Eagle, Black Eagle, Himalayan Griffon, Common, Oriental and Indian Cuckoo, White-throated Needletail, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Lesser Yellownape, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Hoary-throated and Rusty-fronted Barwing, Striated, Grey-sided and Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush, Rufous-winged and White-browed Fulvetta, Whiskered Yuhina, Cutia, White-browed Shrike-Babbler, Rufous Sibia, Blyth's, Ashy-throated, Lemon-rumped and Yellow-browed Warbler, Dark-breasted Rosefinch and Red-headed Bullfinch etc.

Day 16 : Pelling to - Khechopalri Lake

Drive to Khichepheri Lake for birding. Some of the best birds are migrant waterfowl, Black necked grebe, Baer's Pochard, Speckled wood pigeon, Emerald Cuckoo, Blue-winged and Scaly Laughing thrush, White-naped Yuhina. Overnight at **hotel The Elgin Mt Pandim, Pelling.**

Khecheopari Lake, Sikkim

Khecheopari Lake is a sacred lake 29kms from Pelling and at an altitude of 1800m. Undisturbed forests and reeds surround the lake. The path leading to the lake was good for tesias and wren-babblers, although both were heard more often than seen. Some of the birds seen here are Mallard, Goosander, Bay Woodpecker, Golden-fronted Leafbird, Slaty-backed Flycatcher, Hodgson's Redstart, Chestnut-headed Tesia, and Little Bunting.

Day 17 : Pelling -Bagdogra- Delhi

After Breakfast at 0800 hrs departs for Bagdogra (via Legship-Melli-Siliguri-142 Km/ 0400 Hrs Drive) to board flight # IC0879 taking off at 1550 hrs for Delhi. Arriving Delhi at 1740hrs. Our farewell dinner at **hotel Shanti Palace**, New Delhi. We transfer to the airport for the international flight check-in. (B, L, D)

Day 18 : Back home

Meet our connecting flights LX 147 at 0120 hrs to Zurich.



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