

# Student Travel CHRONICLE

*Jim Corbett*

OPG WORLD SCHOOL, DWARKA  
VOL 1, 2024

*Our Journey*

*History of Jim Corbett*

*Jungle Safari*

**FLORA & FAUNA**

*Importance of National  
Parks and Biosphere Reserves*

**PLUS** HAPPY  
MOMENTS!





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**“The book of nature has no beginning, as it has no end. Open this book where you will, and at any period of your life, and if you have the desire to acquire knowledge you will find it of intense interest, and no matter how long or how intently you study the pages, your interest will not flag, for in nature there is no finality.”**

**- Edward James Corbett**





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Created as part of EdTerra's on-journey Student Media Projects



# 01. Our Journey

## *Exploring the Wildlife of India*

**J**im Corbett National Park was the first ever national park to be established in India. Located in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand, Jim Corbett National Park boasts the highest number of tigers in any national park. For wildlife enthusiasts seeking an authentic experience, Jim Corbett transports you into one of the most tranquil and well-preserved national parks. The core area of the park is 521 square kilometres, which is mostly undisturbed and allows human interaction solely for research and educational purposes.

In an effort to protect Bengal tigers and increase the tiger population across the country, Project Tiger was first executed in Jim Corbett National Park in 1973. It is now an abode for more than 200 tigers, a number achieved due to the protected forest cover and a good quantity of prey with standard conservation practices.

Surrounded by lush green forests on the foothills of the Himalayas, the park offers safaris to observe wild animals in their natural habitat and learn about the efforts undertaken to preserve the natural harmony of the living world. Youngsters gain a new perspective on life by getting out of the cities and exploring nature.



## Written by:

Ananya, Auritra, Meera, Tia, Vani, Vedanti & Venya

We started our journey at 5 in the morning. We boarded the bus at 5:30 am. We reached our beautiful destination of Jim Corbett National Park at 1 pm.

Before our safari, we participated in fun and educational activities. In Theatre Under the Sky, we performed a roleplay portraying the sad life of wild tigers who are at risk of being hunted and poached. After taking a break, we had an informative session with an inspirational naturalist and saw a documentary film on the history of Jim Corbett. Later that evening, our school generously hosted a fun dance party for us all. We grooved to the upbeat rhythms and had a gala time.

The next morning, we woke up early at 5 am and were quite excited for the journey ahead. From the bus, we transferred into safari jeeps and drove into the woods. We spotted a leopard, a jackal, deer, monkeys, and some peacocks. It was incredible to be amidst nature and observe these wonderful creatures.

Later that afternoon, we went to a fun museum dedicated to Jim Corbett National Park. We experienced many interactive exhibits at the museum. In the end, we learnt



*We felt excited to explore Jim Corbett National Park as we discovered that it was Asia's first national park*

much about the Jim Corbett National Park and the local flora and fauna. We learnt how to cooperate and work as a team. Our journey mentors were great and informative. It was a memorable experience for everyone.



*At the Dhangarhi Museum, we were awestruck by the preserved tiger displays and learnt why they are vulnerable to poaching*



*As we embarked on an exciting safari, we learnt that the Jim Corbett National Park is spread over picturesque landscapes of Pauri Garhwal, Almora, and Nainital*





# 02. *History of Jim Corbett National Park*

## *India's Oldest National Park*

**W**hen the park was formed in 1936, it was the first declared national park in mainland Asia. Beginning in the 19th century, efforts were undertaken to preserve the forest land, turning it into a reserved forest area in 1879. The idea of a national park was proposed in the early 1900s by the British administration. It was in 1930 that Edward Jim Corbett took the responsibility of demarcating the land for protection. During the Second World War, the park faced significant challenges in terms of poaching and timber cutting. Eventually, the reserve expanded as over 797 square kilometres of land was added as a buffer zone in 1991.

The national park was initially named Hailey National Park after William Malcolm Hailey, the then Governor of the United Provinces. It was later officially renamed to Jim Corbett National Park in 1956, honouring Jim Corbett who played a key role in establishing the park. Jim Corbett was a world renowned hunter and naturalist, who lived in India from 1875 to 1955. He was called to kill man-eating tigers and leopards that were frequently wreaking havoc in the villages of Garhwal and Kumaon. Growing up in the wilderness surrounding Nainital, he had a deep understanding of the way of the jungle and spoke out for the need to protect India's wildlife from extinction.





## Written by:

Aaditya, Aryan, Ayaan, Chaitanya,  
Devansh, Harsh, Tarun & Udbhav

Situated deep in the forests of Nainital district in Uttarakhand, Jim Corbett National Park was Asia's first national park. When the park was formed, it was named as Hailey National Park. But the locals did not like the name and so, William Malcolm renamed it to Ramganga National Park. After Sir Jim Corbett died, the park was renamed to Jim Corbett National Park. This was done to honour his memory as he had played an important role in establishing the national park.

Jim Corbett, short for Edward James Corbett, was born on 29th July, 1879 in Nainital. He had a great love for nature and was a gifted hunter. Mr. Corbett killed many man-eating tigers and was the main reason why conservation of tigers became a thing. He realised how mindless killing of wild animals would lead to the destruction of our ecosystem.

The park is spread over the picturesque landscapes of Pauri Garhwal, Almora, and Nainital. The park was chosen as the primary and first venue for 'Project Tiger' making it a major environmental conservation project. These parks are made for the welfare and protection of nature and mother earth. Preserving the ecosystem and nature is our responsibility.



*The Dhargarhi Museum depicts the park's history and topography where we learnt about the efforts made towards the conservation of wildlife*

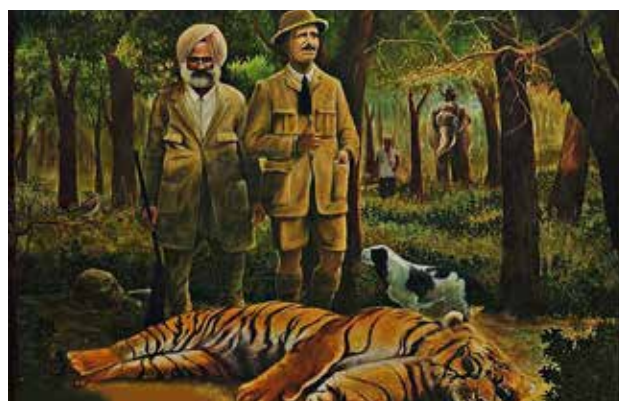


*We explored the interactive exhibits at the Dhargarhi museum, where we learnt a lot about the history of Jim Corbett National Park*

Jim Corbett National Park is made of many diverse species and we must continue saving this national park.



*We found that the museum highlights the life and work of Edward James Corbett, the British hunter, naturalist, and conservationist*





# 03. *Jungle Safari*

## *Into the Den of Tigers*

**J**im Corbett National Park has the highest density of tiger population in India, thus attracting over 3 lakh tourists annually, from all over the world. The park is divided into different safari zones for tourists: Dhikala, Bijrani, Durga Devi, Jhirna, Dhela, Garjiya, Sonanadi, and Pakhro. Each of these zones offer a window into the vast diversity of wildlife in Jim Corbett. Tourists can take the jeep safari, elephant safari, or canter safari to embark on their adventure. Such open-air safaris, especially early in the morning, are designed to connect with nature and raise awareness about wildlife conservation. It is an exciting moment to see the wild animals in their natural habitat and develop a sense of respect for the natural world.

The jungle safari into the dense forest is a perfect opportunity to learn about various flora and fauna found in the park, making it a holistic experience combining adventure and education. It turns into an exciting adventure to spot tigers, leopards, deer, sloth bears, elephants, and various species of birds. The expert guides equip the visitors with the right knowledge that enhances their safari experience.





## Written by:

Aatharv, Ansh, Ayan, Jiya, Maras, Pryanshu & Shreyash

Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand is located near Ramganga River and Kosi River. The park is blessed with rich biodiversity and astonishing geographical features. For our safari, we reached the Garji gate of the park. We all boarded our respective jeeps.

We first saw elephant dung, pine trees, and Sal trees. Next, we saw some spotted deer who were eating grass. We also saw a barking deer and heard its alarming voice. As we followed its voice, we witnessed a rare sight of a leopard resting on a tree. We saw many langurs and monkeys. Then we saw 5-7 sambar deer in the grassland who were walking along their path. Did you know that sambar deer are the largest deer in the park?

Next, we spotted the famous Hornbill on this ride. We saw diverse bird species like peacocks, bulbuls, eagles, a woodpecker, and a kingfisher.



*We discovered that the park is home to tigers as well as to several endangered species, including Asian elephants, crocodiles, and sambar deer*



*We were excited when we were able to spot a leopard during our jungle safari experience*

We learnt that some tiger spotting zones in the park include Jharna Zone, Dikhala Zone, Bijrani Zone, and Dhela Zone. In conclusion, this is an amazing park for nature lovers to enjoy their holidays. But remember to be safe and friendly towards wild animals because they are the real beauty of nature.



*After an exciting safari and seeing nature in its full glory, we were inspired to take small steps in our lives to protect the environment*





# 04. *Flora and Fauna*

## *Stepping into Nature's Untamed Beauty*

**J**im Corbett National Park is the oldest and one of the most famous national parks in the country. Established in the year 1936 as Hailey National Park, the park is known for its rich biodiversity and picturesque landscape and is a haven for flora and fauna.

The park is located at the foothills of the Himalayas and offers a wide variety of habitats ranging from grasslands to dense forests. There are over 600 species of trees, shrubs, herbs, bamboos, grasses, climbers, and ferns in the Jim Corbett National Park. The dominant tree species are Sal forests which are found in abundance in the lower and middle reaches of the park. The national park is also home to a variety of deciduous trees like teak, amla, bamboo, pine, and mahua.

Jim Corbett National Park is also known for its rich wildlife, particularly its population of tigers. India's tiger conservation program, Project Tiger, was initiated here on 1st April 1973. The park boasts to house around 260 tigers in its sanctuary. The park is also home to the Indian leopard which is spotted quite frequently. Other mammals inhabiting the park include deer species, sloth bears, Himalayan black bears, Indian grey mongoose, and the Indian pangolin. Local crocodiles (along the banks of the Ramganga River), along with the Indian python, and King cobra can also be spotted in the national park. Jim Corbett National Park, ultimately, serves as a sanctuary for its rich flora and vibrant fauna.





### Written by:

Aarzoo, Akshita G., Akshita S., Ananya, Anvi, Kashvi & Siyona

On the first day of our visit to Jim Corbett National Park, we had a session with an expert naturalist where we got to learn about the forest and the wildlife. He even answered any questions we had at the end. After that, we watched a documentary that gave us more knowledge about the same concept.

The next day, we went on an early morning safari in a jeep where the guide told us everything we needed to know about the forest. It helped us experience the forest on our own. Although Jim Corbett National Park is famous for its tiger, it has a lot of biodiversity to offer. We saw Sal trees which can last about 100 years. They're very tall.

We saw a large group of spotted deer and a barking deer with thick eyebrows. When watching the animals, we were told to stay quiet as they can get scared and run away. Jim Corbett National Park is a beautiful place to visit and is green all around. It does a great job protecting the biodiversity while letting the tourists enjoy and have fun.

While interacting with the wildlife, we learnt about a bird which has a nest on the ground. Unlike most birds who have their nests on trees, this bird nests on the ground due to their long feet and need for stability. We also got to



*The Corbett National Park has around 700 Asian elephants which can be easily spotted during the safari*

know that monkeys help deer get their food by shaking the branches to make the leaves fall. Jim Corbett National Park is truly a wonderful place to visit which offers a wonderful balance between fun and learning. This trip helped us learn about Jim Corbett's mesmerising biodiversity.



*A few rivers flow through the national park including the Ramganga, Kosi, and Sonanadi*



*We found that deer are the most frequently spotted animals in the park and that Sambar deer is the largest deer found in the park*



# 05. *Importance of National Parks and Bio Reserves*

## *Protecting All Life on Earth*

**A**s the world became more modern and urban, forests were cut down to build cities. Animals were hunted for thrills and poached for their tusks, skin, and horns. As the natural habitat for wild animals was disappearing, it led to a severe imbalance in nature. Once a country abundant in flora and fauna, India suffered immense wildlife loss. Between the start of the 20th century to 1973, the tiger population went from around 1,00,000 to a mere 268, and Indian Cheetah became extinct by 1952. National parks, biosphere reserves and wildlife sanctuaries were established as protected areas to save, preserve and manage biodiversity to bring harmony back to nature. Jim Corbett National Park has conserved several endangered species, including the Royal Bengal Tiger, Asiatic elephants, and Gharial. It has also increased their number and saved them from the threat of extinction.

Jungle safaris, bird watching, and nature walks are organised to educate common people about the importance of maintaining the delicate ecological balance. Eco-tourism initiatives promote conservation efforts and sustainable practices. National Parks thus become the perfect site for youngsters to experience the wonders of nature firsthand and develop a deep appreciation for it.





### Written by:

Aaryan, Arshita, Divyansh, Riddhi,  
Rugved, Shivansh, Siddhi & Tanisha

Many diverse species of flora and fauna exist in nature. But animals like Bengal Tigers, Leopards, Sambar deer, Himalayan Black Bear, and Asian Elephants are endangered species and won't be able to survive in open nature. This is because the population of these animals are in danger of decreasing due to hunting and poaching. So, the government has assigned protected areas called Biosphere Reserves and National Parks where these animals can thrive.

Biosphere Reserves and National Parks are protected areas which are made to conserve and save endangered species so that they don't go extinct. Biosphere Reserves are larger areas meant to conserve biodiversity in general while National Parks are smaller areas that specifically protect the wild species of the area. The importance of Biosphere Reserves and National Parks are to protect wild animals as well as plants.

Tigers are mostly conserved because there are only around 5000 left in the world. Today, it is illegal to harm them in any way. There are different zones in the Biosphere Reserves



*With over 600 domestic and migratory bird species residing here, Birdlife International has declared Jim Corbett National Park as an 'Important Bird Area'*

known as buffer zone, outer zone and core zone. Human activities are allowed in the buffer and outer zone. In the core zone, not a single human activity is allowed. The importance of the core zone is to not disturb the animals and let them live in their natural habitat.



*Along with Project Tiger, the park also follows other important conservation initiatives including the Crocodile Conservation Project and Project Elephant*



*We learnt that forest covers 73 per cent of the park and the prominent trees found here are Sal, Khair, Sissoo, and Peepal*





# 06. Moments

## Say Cheese



1. *Catching up with a quick meal as we prepare to embark on our next learning adventure*
2. *We felt proud and motivated after receiving special certificates at the end of our journey*
3. *Our visit to the Dhangarhi Museum was fun and interesting as we observed various animal taxidermy*





LIKE!

TWEET!



4. We couldn't contain our excitement as we made new furry friends during our journey
5. By completing our media projects, we were able to make our journey more engaging and educational
6. We paused to pose for a group photo, capturing the moment forever and marking an end to our educational journey





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