

**Vital Information**  
**For**  
**Volunteers, Researchers and Students**



**Corbett Gram Vikas Samiti**

Corbett's Village- Chhoti Haldwani, Kaladhungi

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# Index

<b># Who We Are</b>	<b>2</b>
○ About Corbett Gram Vikas Samiti	
○ About Corbett Village Eco-Tour	
<b># Area of Operation</b>	<b>2</b>
○ Brief History of Corbett's Village	
<b># Accommodation</b>	<b>4</b>
○ Home Stay	
○ Bathrooms and Toilets	
<b># Food and Beverages</b>	<b>5</b>
○ Aranya- A Community Diner	
<b># Climate and Weather</b>	<b>5</b>
<b># Facilities in Our Area</b>	<b>6</b>
○ Communication	
○ Medical	
○ Money	
<b># Health and Safety</b>	<b>7</b>
<b># Items to Carry</b>	<b>7</b>
<b># Important Points to Consider</b>	<b>8</b>
○ Clothing	
○ Culture and Customs	
<b># Possible Assignments</b>	<b>8</b>
<b># Recommended Readings and Field Guides</b>	<b>10</b>
<b># Travel Options</b>	<b>11</b>
<b># Regulations and Guidelines</b>	<b>12</b>
<b># Project Cost</b>	<b>13</b>

## Who We Are

### **About Corbett Gram Vikas Samiti**

Corbett Gram Vikas Samiti came into existence in the year 2004, which is registered under Societies Registration Act 1860. It is group of active and skilled nature enthusiasts and conservationists, who are working together with a common mission for conservation of nature and Corbett's legacy.

### **About Corbett Village Eco-Tour**

Corbett Village Eco-Tour is an endeavor of Corbett Gram Vikas Samiti (CGVS) towards Community Based Tourism. Corbett Gram Vikas Samiti is a non-profit organization registered in the year 2004 under Societies Registration Act, 1860. CGVS is a group of nature enthusiasts who intend to conserve natural resources through various livelihood interventions. Since its inception in the year 2004, CGVS is focusing on various aspects of Community Based Tourism in Jim Corbett's Village-Chhoti Haldwani. The organization is providing an additional source of income to the local community through its various interventions and thus weaning them away from their forest based livelihood. Eventually CGVS is contributing in reducing human pressure on forests, conservation of local culture as well as flora and fauna of this region.

## Area of Operation

Corbett Gram Vikas Samiti works in whole Kumaon region of Uttarakhand state but primarily focusing on historical village of Jim Corbett i.e. Chhoti Haldwani and areas nearby Corbett Tiger Reserve.

### **Brief History of Chhoti Haldwani**

**Chhoti Haldwani** is a small village that was once owned by the hunter turned conservationist Jim Corbett. Jim Corbett- conservationist, writer, painter, photographer, musician, a man of many trades, was well known for his remarkable hunting abilities.

Growing up in Nainital and Kaladhungi, he learnt how to handle a rifle at an early age and killed his first leopard at an age of 10 years. Corbett was initially a hunting enthusiast who killed for sport, his mind-set soon changed as his respect for wildlife and big cats grew, and he decided never to shoot unless wild animals threatened human lives or livestock. From 1907 to 1938, he killed 10 large man-eaters in Kumaon (one of which was the Champawat Man-Eater that took 437 lives).



Popularly called 'Carpet Sahib' by the villagers, Edward James Corbett was a third generation Irishman, who was born and lived in India until 1947. He bought the small hamlet of Chhoti Haldwani in 1915 from Guman Singh Barua in Rs. 1500/- to develop it into model village and settled some forty tenants there. Total area of the village was 221 acres at that time. From this, he rented out plots to the villagers. He assisted in clearing their land for agriculture, providing irrigation (incredibly, the stone-lined canals are still

carrying water), helping build a wall to keep animals out of the fields and in many other ways, helping secure their livelihoods. Corbett tried to develop agriculture in Chhoti Haldwani so that the villagers had enough to eat and they could earn by selling the surplus. During his time, Corbett attempted several horticultural experiments. Corbett bought hybrid seeds of banana and large kernel maize from Africa and even tried to grow coffee. When he left for Kenya in 1947, Corbett handed over ownership of the plots to the tenant-families and continued to pay land revenue on behalf of the villagers from Kenya right until his death, a deed that makes his tenants fondly remember him even today. Grateful for his affection and generosity towards them, the villagers treated Corbett like family. One of the greatest legacies he left behind was helping to set up India's first national park in 1936, which was named "Corbett National Park" in 1957 in his honor. Today the village has over 150 families of about 750 people.

**"Often as I walked along its paths as the sun went down, with the evening light on the ripening corn and the blue hills in the background, I would think that there could not be a more beautiful village in the world".- Maggie Corbett on Chhoti Haldwani**

## **Accommodation**

### **Home Stay**

Away from hustle and bustle of hectic daily lives of city dwellers, away from the polluted streets and crowded corners of plains, in the lap of foothills of Kumaon lies the serene beautiful village of Jim Corbett- the Chhoti Haldwani.

Staying at the historical village provides an aesthetic experience of rural lifestyle and an opportunity to interact with the villagers. Entertaining folk musical evenings of Kumaon, workshops on different cuisine and film shows enrich the experience of staying in the village.

You will have a pillow, mattress and quilts/sheet provided but you may wish to bring your own sleeping bag for outside camps. Accommodation will be on twin sharing basis (with same sex).

## **Bathrooms and Toilets**

Bathroom and toilet facilities vary from home stay to home stay however all of the home stays will have clean, private and hygienic bathrooms and toilet. In some home stays pot is of Indian style and bucket bath will be there but in others western commode and shower facility is available. During winters (November to March) hot is provided on request.

## **Food and Beverages**

### **ARANYA - A Community Diner**

While staying in Corbett's Village, enjoy nutritious and savory Kumaoni food along with soft drinks at Aranya. It is a community diner which is organized by host families. Food (breakfast, lunch and dinner) is prepared and served by host family/ies. Food will be mostly vegetarian and hygienically prepared traditional Indian cuisine. Filtered water will be provided to all the researchers, volunteers and students.

## **Climate and Weather**

Climate in Uttarakhand varies with geography of the region; it's extremely hot in plains and extremely cold in the plains at the same period. Our area is situated in the foothills of Shivalik range therefore climate is mild here. There are three seasons in our area:

**Winter** : October to March

**Summer** : April to June

**Monsoon** : July to September

During winter temperature ranges from 04 - 25 °C while in summer it is hot and dry where temperature reaches up to 40 °C during day time. *Winter season is best for birding*

*especially for migratory birds, however, Summer season is best for wildlife viewing especially for mammals and birds (April).* Monsoon season is usually off season for tourism activities in this area as main zones of Corbett Tiger Reserve remains closed from 15<sup>th</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> October. June and July are hot and humid months while August and September are comparatively cooler and pleasant. *This season is best for viewing reptiles and insects.*

## Facilities in Our Area

### Communication

Telephone booths, internet cafes, fax and postal services are available in Kaladhungi. GSM and CDMA cell phone service providers like Idea, Vodafone, Reliance, Uninor, Airtel and Cellone are available with roaming services. On request internet service is available in our office, home stays and dining area too but you should have your own Laptop.

### Medical

All basic health care facilities are available in Kaladhungi. Government hospital and private practitioners are available although they are not as good as European or American hospitals. A very efficient Ambulance service is also available 24 hrs. *Visitors are requested to obtain personal medical travel insurance.*

### Money

₹ (Indian Rupees) is a restricted currency in this area. You can change your currency at Delhi airport however travelers' cheques are accepted and money exchange is available at Nainital which is 34 kms from our place. ATM counters and Western Union Money Transfer facilities are available at Haldwani and Bazpur which are 25 kms from our place.

## Health and Safety

You must contact to your local doctor at least 2-3 months prior to arriving in India regarding vaccination. You are advised to keep insect repellents with you for mosquitoes and other small insects especially during monsoon season. Water borne diseases are a common problem in most of the foreigners arriving in India so you are requested to drink filtered/boiled water and to carry water purifying tablets with you as in some areas filtered water is not available.

Personal safety and safety of your belongings is important when you arrive in India. In our area safety is not an issue but as you travel to metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai etc. please exercise alertness and care especially at night.

## Items to Carry

- **Binoculars:** Binoculars are necessary for jungle trails, 8X40 or 10X50 are good for birding.
- **Personal Laptop:** for assignment work.
- **Walking Shoes:** for hiking and trekking
- **Sandals:** for wading in the river
- **Sleeping Bag:** for Camping
- Pens and Paper
- Roll mat
- Personal medicines (including mosquito repellent etc)
- Camera
- **Flashlight:** for moving round at night
- Water purification tablets

## Important Points to Consider

### Clothing

Clothing should be of neutral forest colors like green, grey, brown, light brown, khakhi etc.

### Culture and Customs

You are going to stay and work in a rural area where you won't have big restaurants, bars, night clubs etc. Villagers are curious about foreigners therefore don't consider their behavior rude or intrusive. Local customs may be strange for you at first and you may be strange for local people, don't be shocked with these customs and try to learn from them.

## Possible Assignments

**A. Organic Farming:** Following work can be carried out under this assignment:

- a. Recording various composting techniques in the area with beneficiary and other details like time of implementation, production, cost benefit ratio etc.
- b. Quantity of Chemical fertilizers and organic fertilizers being utilized by the farmers in the area.
- c. Harmful Effects of chemicals being used in vegetables and fruit crops
- d. Crop pattern being followed by the local farmers
- e. Problem in organic farming

**B. Documentation of Flora and Fauna of the Area**

- a. Introductory training at Wild Life Institute of India
- b. Documentation of various trees and shrubs found Kaladhungi Range
- c. Documentation of various mammals and reptiles of Kaladhungi Range

**C. Study of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants found in and around Corbett's Village**

- a. Identification and listing of MAP found in Kaladhungi Range
- b. Documentation of all identified MAP with their uses and scientific details

**D. Listing of Bird Species of the Area (More than 350 Species)**

- a. Identification and listing of various bird species of the area
- b. Documentation of season-wise availability of birds
- c. Documentation of Endangered Bird Species of the area
- d. Suggestions for improving habitat of birds

**E. Documentation of Various Historical Places mentioned by Jim Corbett in his Books**

- a. Identification and discovering various places mentioned by Jim Corbett in his book *My India and Jungle Lore* in and around Chhoti Haldwani
- b. Mapping GPS locations of all discovered places
- c. Adding these places to various web links

**F. Comparative Study on Chhoti Haldwani of Corbett's Time and Now**

- a. Demographic and Socio-Economic Study by developing a survey format
- b. Availability of Natural resources
- c. Infrastructural development

**G. Study of Road Kills on nearby Roads**

- a. Documentation of various animals killed in road accidents on Kaladhungi-Nainital, Kaladhungi-Ramnagar, Kaladhungi-Haldwani and Kaladhungi-Bazpur Road (on 10 kms stretch)

## H. Documentation of Vulture Sights and Strength of Vulture (with Species)in the Area

- a. Identification of various vulture species found in the area
- b. Nesting sites of these vultures
- c. Identification of most suitable place for removing dead animals

If you have any other activity in your mind, please feel free to contact us.

## Recommended Reading and Field Guides

### 1. About Jim Corbett and His Experiences in Our Area

#### a. Jim Corbett's Books by Oxford University Press

- **My India:** Will give you an idea about the lifestyle and culture of Indian people especially focusing on our area.
- **Jungle Lore:** It is one of the best books for nature enthusiasts as it gives a good insight into our forests.
- **Man Eaters of Kumaon:** It gives exciting tales of hunting man eating tigers and leopards from 1907-1938 by legendary Jim Corbett.
- **Carpet Sahib:** This book is a biography of Jim Corbett by Marten Booth, easily available in our area on most of the souvenir shops.

### 2. Birding

- a. **Birds of Northern India** by Richard Grimmett & Tim Inskipp Excellent field guide for all birds in Northern India.
- b. **Birds of the Indian Sub-Continent** by Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp & Tim Inskipp, *Oxford University Press*. Very good field guide for birds of Indian Sub-Continent.

### 3. **Mammals and other Wildlife**

- a. **A Field Guide to the Mammals of the Indian Subcontinent** by KK Gurung & Raj Singh. A nice field guide for Indian mammals, including pugmark identification pictures.
- b. **Indian Wildlife** by *Apa Publications GmbH & Co.* An illustrated overview of the Indian and Nepalese natural environment and wildlife, also with sections on National parks including Corbett.
- c. **Snakes of India** by Romulus Whitaker & Ashok Captain. The best field guide for Indian snakes.

## Travel Options

### Visa

Visa is mandatory to enter India. Type of visa is entirely depends on you, however a six months tourists visa is the most commonly obtained.

### Flight for India

To reach our place from anywhere you need to come to Delhi therefore a flight to New Delhi from abroad is recommended. It is recommended to hire pre-paid taxi/auto-rickshaw to reach the railway station or hotel or bus terminus.

### Taxi for Our Place

If you wish to come to our place by a private taxi, arrangements can be made to pick you up from Delhi airport/hotel.

### Train from Delhi

There are two trains to reach our place from Delhi; one is in the evening time UTR Sampark Kranti, Train No. 5035 and departure time 04:15 pm from Old Delhi Railway

Station which arrives at Haldwani at 08:06 pm. Another train is Ranikhet Express, Train No. 5031 and departure time 10:40 pm from Old Delhi Railway Station which arrives at Haldwani at 04:50 am. For more details and online booking please visit [www.irctc.co.in](http://www.irctc.co.in). You need to book your ticket at least 2-3 weeks in advance to guarantee availability.

### **Bus from Delhi**

There are regular buses from Inter State Bus Terminus at Anand Vihar to Haldwani. Bus takes around 08 hrs to reach Haldwani. There are general, semi-deluxe, deluxe, hi-tech and AC buses available for Haldwani. You can choose with your comfort. There is no need of advance booking and you can get tickets from the bus itself.

### **Transportation from Haldwani**

Haldwani is 25 kms away from our place. There are regular buses from Haldwani to our place i.e. Kaladhungi. It takes about 30 minutes from Haldwani to Kaladhungi by bus. Buses are available from 06: 00 am to 06:00 pm daily. If you are arriving late in the night or early in the morning, we can arrange pick up from Haldwani by taxi.

## **Regulations and Guidelines**

All the visitors here are treated as family members. Therefore your cooperation is needed for maintaining this home stay. You can support us by following these guidelines:

1. **Do not drink alcohol and smoke** openly while in the village.
2. **Do not litter**, put all the garbage in dustbins provided at home stay.
3. Help us to **maintain a peaceful atmosphere** at home stay as host family is residing besides you.
4. Room service is not available here therefore follow **self service**.
5. **First aid box** is available at "Aranya".
6. For any **queries** please see "Useful Information" available at home stays.

7. We **don't serve non-vegetarian food** therefore don't request for it, however if you wish to have, we can arrange outside the village.
8. Do not visit the village and nearby forest area without **Facilitator**
9. **Do not harm any property** of home stay or village
10. Please request the facilitator or host family for buying or eating any **crop, fruits, flowers, vegetables** etc. being grown inside the village

Breaching these rules can result in termination of your stay and all costs being non-refundable.

## Project Cost

Total cost per person per day will be ₹ 700.00 on single share.

Total cost per person per day will be ₹ 500.00 on twin or triple share.

Project cost is inclusive of:

- Accommodation in home stays
- Tea (Twice a day), Breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Filtered water
- Toilet paper
- Personal guide for field activities
- Training for project work
- Assistance for documentation of project
- Transportation for project work
- Equipments required for project work

Project cost doesn't include:

- Travel cost to our place
- Snacks or extra food other than above mentioned meals.
- Personal Travel Insurance
- Medical Expenses

- Soft Drinks
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Any other Personal Expenses



**“Take Nothing but Pictures  
Leave Nothing but Footprints”**

