



Guided Walking
Safari
VANGHAT
3 Nights & 4 Days



Himalayan Goral,
(*Naemorhedus goral*)
Kalyan Singh Sajwan

Guided Walking Safari – Vanghat

Kalagarh Tiger Reserve (Division Corbett Tiger Reserve), Uttarakhand

Landscape	Broad-leafed & riverine forest of the western Himalayan foothills.
Best Time	October till April.
Wildlife Expected	Ghoral Goat Antelope, Otters, and Rhesus & Langurs Primates. Over 400 bird species including 50 raptor species.
Wildlife Reported	Tiger, Leopard, Asian Elephant, and Serow etc.

DAY 01, 02 & 03: VANGHAT



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Overview

On the northern fringes of the famed Corbett Tiger Reserve, on the banks of the Ramganga Reserve, the wildlife -rich community forests near Vanghat lodge offer the finest walking safari experience in the western Himalayan foothills. Expert local lodge guides are fine track ers and bird experts. Riverine forests along the Ramganga offer sightings of Otters, Ghoral and Serow mountain goats, as well as Barking Deer and Sambhar. About 50 species of birds of prey indicate the rich bird life of the valley - raptors like the Lesser Fish Eagle, Pallas's Fish Eagle and Mountain Hawk Eagle are commonly sighted. Great Hornbills are often heard and seen above the valley. The presence of Tigers, Leopards & Asian Elephants adds great adventure to this walking nature excursion.



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Vanghat walking safari
Vishal Sabharwal

Operational Itinerary

DAY 01:

Activity

Arrive Marchula – Trek to Vanghat. Overnight at Vanghat – 1.8 Km

Gradient

Gentle

Detail

Once you arrive at the Ramganga valley, the Baluli suspension bridge is a visible and prominent landmark. It is here that you leave your taxi and if you are self-driving you park your car at our parking near the Solluna resort. You will be greeted by your guide and porters who will guide you to remote Vanghat.

This walk over the Ramganga suspension bridge and then through the sleepy village of Baluli and riverine forest is an excellent introduction to the valley and can prove to be the most personally satisfying way of reaching the Lodge.



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At the end of this trail, a short ride on a bamboo raft give you a taste of the adventures to come and ferries you to remote Vanghat.

It's refreshing to watch Mahseer and Kalabas fishes in the crystal-clear waters of the Ramganga. The birdlife here - the White capped and Plumbeous water Redstarts, Pied and Grey wagtails - is fairly abundant. The loud shrill call of the Lesser and Pallas's fish eagles greets visitors to this densely wooded wildlife valley. The Ramganga valley is home to over 50 species of birds of Prey.

Lunch is followed by an hour-long rest. Before your trek you'll be briefed by your trekking forest guide on various aspects of safety and precautions.

Evening trek

Champions trail – 3km

Gradient

Gentle



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This short but wholesome trail covers within itself three distinct habitats, namely Broad -leafed Moist, Grasslands and Riverine. It is a wonderful trail to acclimatize oneself to the forests of Vanghat. Pugmarks of Tigers, Leopards and signs of Elephant are regularly seen. Sambhar & Barking Deer signify the rich wildlife of the Valley.

Evening by campfire for soup & beverages followed by dinner.

Overnight

Vanghat (B, L, D)



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Plum-headed parakeet,
(*Psittacula cyanocephala*)
Georgina Steytler



Yellow-throated marten,
(*Martes flavigula*)
Georgina Steytler

DAY 02:

Activity

Ruskin Bond Trail – 8 km

Gradient

Mostly Gentle with about 1.5 km of steep climb.

About

Early tea/ coffee at the Hide, our dining thatch, followed by a safety briefing.

Few forest walks will be more beautiful than this one hence we named it after one of Uttarakhand's favorite forest authors. We cross over the Ramganga over a bamboo raft and after the initial 100 meters of steep walk along an Elephant trail (yes it's amazing to realize that the Asian Elephant is such a hill animal) this forest hike goes up to the plateau of the abandoned Barasi village where we regularly spot Leaf Birds, Crimson Sunbird, Long tailed Minivets, Chestnut Bellied Rockthrush, Maroon and Black Hooded Oriole and often in the bushes Sambhar, Barking and locally rare Spotted Deer. As the trail runs along the Ramganga, Lesser & Pallas's fish eagles are often sighted as they scan the



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abundant fish in the river. We enter the dense patch of the Broadbill cascade - a magnet for Gorals, Sambhar & Lagur. The elusive Himalayan Serow goat antelope has sometimes been spotted here. Since the trail runs on a vantage point overlooking the Ramganga, Smooth Coated Otters have often been sighted. Brown and the rare Tawny fish Owl patiently await on their favorite perches overlooking the Ramganga below. Pallas's and Lesser Fish Eagles regularly turn up. Do spend some quiet quality time at the stone benches we lovingly call the tea shop overlooking the Ramganga bend with great opportunity to observe wildlife as you sip a refreshing cup of tea. Breakfast will be served in the forest.

Return back to lodge for lunch.

Evening trek

Great Hornbill trail – 2km

Gradient

Steep



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Detail

This somewhat steep trail is amidst Sal forest and offers a marvelous view of the meandering Ramganga. Common green Magpie, Red billed blue Magpie, Long tailed Broadbill are often sighted here. It's a wonderful sight to encounter Great Hornbills here since we are at a vantage point - so heavily built are these birds that one can hear their wings flapping when they fly over the forest.

Today our guide will give you a wildlife presentation over campfire whilst you relish hot soup and beverages followed by dinner.

Overnight

Vanghat (B, L, D)



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Barking Deer, (*Muntiacus*)
Christopher Mills



Vanghat overview
Nishit Gupta

DAY 03:

Activity

Bagroti hill trek – 14 km

Gradient

Mostly steep with about 4 km of gentle trek

Detail

After early tea/ coffee we cross over the Ramganga yet again, on the bamboo raft. The Sal dominated forest of Barasi offer signs of tiger & leopard spoor, Elephant signs too are in **abundance**. Birds found in the immediate vicinity are Tesias, Green Magpies, Nepal Wren Babblers, and Scimitar Babbler, etc. Great Hornbill, Lesser & Pallas's Fish Eagles are commonly sighted.

The small cascades we pass offer regular sightings of Forktails, Brown Dippers & Wallcreeper. The waterfall in the Barasi forest is one of best spots for the rarely sighted forest beauty the Long -tailed Broadbill and the unusual looking Long- billed Thrush.



As we gain altitude to the sleepy village of Bagroti, wildlife sightings get more Himalayan with Ghoral and Barking Deer. Birdlife will be dominated by Himalayan Griffons & the majestic Lammergeyer. The genuine smiles and the warm hospitality of these forest mountain dwellers will humble you. Co-existence of Man & Wildlife is evident here, and so are the challenges. Hot breakfast may be served at Barasi and lunch at Ghiroli amidst spectacular landscape. We arrive back at Vanghat by late afternoon and depart for onward destination. Please note – The trek above is recommended for minimum 3 nights. Longer staying guests may combine it with camera trap & hide photography.

Evening trek

Riverside trek – 2km.

Gradient

Easy

Detail

Most of this hike is amidst a broad trail cut amidst grassland habitats and bushes rich in edible berries of Ber and lantana are home to astonishing flocks of Slaty headed, plum headed rose breasted Parakeets, Bluethroated, Coppersmith, Lineated and Great Barbets, Red whiskered, Himalayan & Black Crested Bulbuls. The grassland will



have Humes, Grey headed and chestnut headed, puff throated Warbler, Grey breasted Ashy and striated Prinia. Woodpeckers are fulvous breasted, grey capped pygmy, and Grey Headed, Lesser Yellow Nape And Greater Yellow - nape. The fascinating tiny Collared Falconet is often seen hunting down birds as big as themselves, and bigger. Grasslands resound with constant calls of White Crested Laughing thrushes and the often heard but shy Rusty cheeked Scimitar Babbler. The riverine ecosystem of the Ramganga is incredibly rich and boasts of rare but locally common species like Lesser & Pallas's fish eagle, Mountain Hawk Eagle. Altitudinal migrants that the valley eagerly awaits post monsoon are little and Spotted Forktails, Brown Dipper and the magical Wall creeper. Wildlife presentation over campfire whilst you relish hot soup and beverages followed by dinner.

Overnight

Vanghat (B, L, D)



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Mountain Hawk Eagle,
(*Nisaetus nipalensis*, earlier
treated under *Spizaetus*)

Gerard David



Guided walking safari
Robi

DAY 04:

Activity

Morning trek around Vanghat before departure – 2 – 4 km

Gradient

Easy

Detail

An easy trail around Vanghat takes us into a rich Broad -leafed Moist forest and runs for about 750 meters amidst towering broad-leafed trees of Jamun (Syzygium cumini) Tun (Toona sinensis) Sal (Shorea robusta) Rohini (Mallotus philippensis), Kanju (Pongamia pinnata) etc. Numerous s kulking species such as Chestnut headed Tesias, Blue winged Minla/ Siva, Red billed Leiothrix, Common Green & Red billed blue Magpies, Tawny & Brown fish Owl, Black chinned Babbler, Himalayan Blue Tailed, White Throated, Redbreasted, Slaty Blue, Little Pie d Yellow bellied Fly catcher etc are often spotted.

After hot breakfast depart for onward destination.

Overnight

N/A



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Broadbill cascade
Robi



Hotel Envisaged:

- Vanghat – 03 Nights.

Cost inclusions:

- Accommodation for 03 nights at lodge/ Camp mentioned above on twin share basis.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary as B, L, D (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Guided walking safari at Vanghat.
- Service of English speaking local naturalist/guide for Vanghat.
- All applicable taxes at the time of quoting.



Cost exclusions:

- Any expenses of personal nature such as telephone calls, tips, use of payable items in room mini bar, any kind of alcoholic n on-alcoholic beverages (unless specified).
- Air Fare.
- Any Transports.
- Cost incurred in obtaining visa, insurance etc.
- Cost incurred in case of hospitalization or evacuation.
- Tips gratuities given to drivers/ guides, restaurant waiters etc.
- Please note that in case of any revision in government tax structure or substantial fuel hike we reserve the right to revise the tour cost. However, marginal difference will be absorbed by us.



Important:

- Itinerary order may change however number of days and general programme will remain the same



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BOOKING & CANCELATION POLICY

Booking Conditions:

A 50% advance confirms your trip with us. Balance needs to be deposited at least 30 days before trip date.

Cancellation Policy:

- Less than 15 days before the arrival date - no refund
- Less than 20 days before the arrival date - 60% refund
- Less than 25 days before the arrival date - 75% refund
- No refund in case of road block, accident, no show etc



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- ❖ The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credit will be given for services not used. We recommend that you obtain travel insurance upon booking.
- ❖ It is mandatory for guests to present valid photo identification at the time of check -in.
- ❖ The inclusion of extra bed with a booking is facilitated with a folding cot or a mattress as an extra bed.
- ❖ Early check-in or late check-out is subject to availability and may be chargeable by the lodge. The standard check -in time is 1 PM and the standard check-out time is 11 AM.
- ❖ The room tariff includes all taxes. The amount paid for the room does not include charges for optional services and facilities (such as room service, mini bar, snacks or telephone calls). These will be charged at the time of check -out.
- ❖ The hotel/lodge reserves the right of admission. Accommodation can be denied to guests posing as a couple if suitable proof of identification is not presented at check -in. Vanghat Lodge and associates will not be responsible for any check -in denied by the hotel/lodge due to the aforesaid reason.



Important Note:

In case of any revision in government tax structure or fuel prices, Vanghat reserves the right to revise the tour price. However, marginal revision in tour price will be absorbed by us.

- ❖ To book the above tour, please write to Sumantha Ghosh at vanghat@gmail.com. We will be happy to tailor -make a bird tour to suit the number of days that you may have.
- ❖ Do write to us if you want us to pick you up from Delhi airport, make arrangements for accommodation in Delhi, taxi and organize guided tours in Delhi or Rajasthan.



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Hide - Vanghat Dining area
Nishit Gupta