



IN THE PUGMARKS OF CHAMPIONS

13 NIGHTS AND 14 DAYS

DELHI - HARIDWAR - RAJAJI NP -
CORBETT NP - ALMORA - PANGOT - DELHI

The Pindari Glacier

A TOUR WITH JAMES CHAMPION, A LIVING LINK WITH A PIONEER OF INDIAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION



*H. P. Robinson & Son,
Bristol & Exeter.*

James Champion is a passionate wildlife enthusiast with a long and distinguished pedigree. His great grandfather George Charles Champion was a renowned entomologist who spent the years 1879 to 1883 collecting insects in Guatemala and Panama, and then working for the rest of his life in the Natural History Museum in London, cataloguing and describing more than 4,500 new species for science.

George Charles had seven children, two of whom became well-known foresters in India, Prof Sir Harry Champion CIE IFS, and Frederick W Champion OBE IFS, who campaigned vigorously for the protection of tigers and other wildlife in the 1920s, 30s and 40s. FWC was also the pioneer of tripwire photography in India, a system that is now known as camera-trapping and is one of the key tools in the struggle to protect India's priceless wildlife heritage today. His astonishing images, obtained using primitive and cumbersome glass-plate cameras, graced the front covers and interior pages of publications such as the Illustrated London News, Country Life, The Field, and Indian State Railways Magazine.

James has always been fascinated by wildlife, in particular birds and butterflies, and is the guardian of much of his forefathers' legacy. With the use of diaries, letters and other historical documents, he managed to retrace some of his grandfather's journeys in India, even recreating a trek that his grandparents and father (aged 8) had made to the Pindari Glacier in October 1936, staying in the same bungalows and photographing exactly the same scenes precisely 70 years later to the day. He made a similar journey in Central America in his great grandfather's footsteps in 2011, searching for and finding a butterfly, *Drucina championi*, which his great grandfather had discovered on the slopes of a volcano in Guatemala in 1880, and which had only been seen twice in the intervening years.

James is by training a university English language teacher, and this role has allowed him to spend extended periods in many different countries, providing opportunities for the observation of wildlife in six continents. He has also worked as a wildlife tour organiser and guide, a role that he relishes and which allows him to share his passion for natural history and his extraordinary family legacy with other wildlife enthusiasts.

Ever conscious of the contribution that can still be made by his grandfather to wildlife conservation, with his astonishingly modern and relevant views of the importance of forests and nature to society as a whole, James produced an acclaimed anthology of F W Champion's writings and photographs in 2013, "Tripwire for a Tiger", published by Rainfed Books. His great aim is to keep the extraordinary legacy left by his grandfather in India alive, and to inspire current and future generations of conservationists through his grandfather's evocative writings and astonishing wildlife images.

This tour will take us to some of F W Champion's favourite photographic haunts, visiting some of the Forest Rest Houses where he and his wife stayed in the 1920s and 30s, walking along some of the beautiful trails that they loved so much, looking out across the valleys towards the great Himalayan peaks of Trishul and Nanda Devi. James will read extracts from his grandfather's books around the campfire in the evenings, and show photographs taken by his grandfather, allowing us to see the changes that have taken place in the 80 years since he captured some of his most iconic images.

This will be a unique opportunity to share a nostalgic journey in the footsteps of one of India's pioneer conservationists, in the company of his grandson, who loves to share his memories with today's wildlife enthusiasts.



James Champion



The wild tiger who gave daylight
sittings for his photograph



Some less well-known friends of the
Indian jungle

Operational Itinerary

**DAY 01, 02 & 03 - RAJAJI NATIONAL PARK | DAY 04, 05, 06 & 07 - JIM CORBETT NATIONAL PARK | DAY 08 & 09 - ALMORA |
DAY 10 & DAY 11 - PANGOT**

Day 1:- Delhi to Haridwar and Rajaji National Park

Arrive Haridwar and transfer to Rajaji.

Afternoon game viewing drive in Rajaji National Park.

Overnight in Camp (B, L, D).

Day 2:- Rajaji National Park

Morning and evening game drive in Rajaji National Park.

Overnight in Camp (B, L, D).



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Wildlife in the Indian forests



The Daring of Leopards

Day 3 – Rajaji to Corbett National Park

Morning drive to Corbett (198 Km). Afternoon nature walk along the river or activities associated with Mr. F. W. Champion.

Overnight at Jungle Lodge (B, L, D).

Day 4 – Corbett National Park (Day Zone)

Morning and evening game drive in Bijrani range of Corbett National Park.

Overnight at Jungle Lodge (B, L, D)

Day 5 – Corbett National Park (Overnight Zone)

Morning drive to Dhikala observing wildlife and birds on the way. Afternoon explore Dhikala range.

Overnight at Forest Rest House (B, L, D).

Day 6 – Corbett National Park (Overnight Zone)

Full day explore Dhikala range.

Overnight at Forest Rest House (B, L, D).

Day 7 – Corbett National Park (Day Zone)

Morning explore Dhikala range. Early afternoon drive to Jungle lodge outside Tiger reserve.

Overnight at Jungle Lodge (B, L, D).

Day 8 – Corbett National Park to Almora

Morning drive to Almora, Kalmatia Sangam (135 Km). Afternoon activities associated with F.W. Champion.

Overnight at hotel. (B, L, D).



Haphazard Ramblings about
Kumaon

Day 9 – Almora

Full day activities associated with F.W. Champion.

Overnight at hotel (B, L, D).

Day 10 – Almora to Pangot

Morning drive to Pangot (107 Km) exploring the rich birdlife of the region en route. Afternoon explore the lodge surrounding.

Overnight at hotel. (B, L, D).

Day 11 - Pangot

Full day birding around Pangot.

Overnight at hotel. (B, L, D).

Day 12 - Pangot to Kathgodam

After breakfast we drive to Kathgodam to board a train for journey onwards.



Photographing Wild Animals in the
Indian Jungle



Wildlife in the Indian forests

Tour inclusions:

- Accommodation for 11 nights at hotels, homestays and camps mentioned above on twin share basis.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary as B, L, D (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Service of English speaking local naturalist.
- All payable Tiger Reserve fees.
- Train journey between Kathgodam/ Delhi on A/C Chair Car.
- Services of Naturalist tracker during trek.
- Porters wherever needed.
- 4 X4 and taxi transfers.
- All applicable taxes at the time of quoting.

Tour exclusions:

- Any expenses of personal nature such as telephone calls, tips, use of payable items in room mini bar, any kind of alcoholic non-alcoholic beverages (unless specified).
 - Air Fare.
 - Cost incurred in obtaining visa, insurance etc.
 - Cost incurred in case of hospitalization or evacuation.
 - Tips gratuities given to drivers/ guides, restaurant waiters etc.
 - Train journey between Kathgodam/ Delhi on A/C Chair Car.
- * 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.

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.

- 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. Rural Traveller 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, Rural Traveller 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.

Things To Carry:

Binoculars, personal medicines, insect repellent, camera, film rolls, batteries, flashlight, clothing in Jungle colors such as beige, brown, khaki and green as they are least disturbing to the environment, shoes made for easy walking and sandals for wading in the river, sun hats, sweaters and heavy jackets for the winter months, light cottons for the summer months, rain gear for monsoons.

All photos by **FW CHAMPION courtesy of James Champion.*



Day - 01, 02 & 03

 13 h 25 min
411 km

Day - 04, 05, 06 & 07

Day - 08 & 09

Day - 10 & 11



FWC Pindari 1936

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