

JOURNEY TO THE SACRED HIMALAYA

Day 01 Welcome to Delhi

Fly overnight at Delhi. Transfer to hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Day 02 Delhi - Dehradun - Harsil

After breakfast, transfer to airport for flight to Dehradun. Arrive Dehradun and leave for Uttarkashi by surface (290 Kms/08 - 09 hours). Reach Harsil, One of the most beautiful valleys in the world. On arrival check in for dinner and overnight at campsite.

Day 03 Harsil - Gangotri - Uttarkashi

After breakfast, leave for Gangotri and on arrival take a holy dip in the River sacred The Ganges, also called Bhagirathi at its origin. Perform Pooja at the Gangotri Temple. Later, return back to Camp resort and Proceed for Uttarkashi. Dinner and overnight at campsite.

Gangotri: Beyond the gorge where the Jadh Ganga meets the Bhagirathi heralding the approach of the Gangotri temple, the narrow, Bhagirathi Ravine, dramatic and beautifully wooded, opens out into a valley flanked by jagged snowy peaks. At the end of this portion of the valley stands a simple edifice to the Goddess Ganga built in the eighteenth century, where Bhagirath sat and prayed for 5,500 years and where came the Pandavas to atone for the death of their kinsmen. Standing on pillars on the right bank of the river at a height of 3,200 metres (10,500 ft), the slopes surrounding the temple indicate the level of the bed of the past giant glacier, while the tiny village is full of giant deodars and conifers. Here the river flows north, giving the village its name Gangotri - Ganga turned North.

Day 04 Uttarkashi - Guptkashi

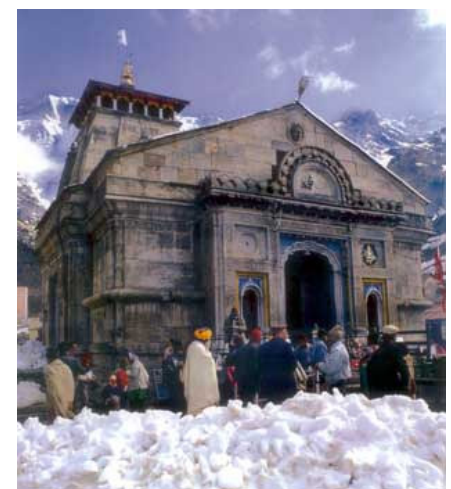
After early breakfast, leave for Guptkashi (228 Kms/08 hours) by surface. Reach Guptakashi late in the evening. Transfer to campsite. Dinner and overnight at campsite.

Day 05 Guptkashi - Kedarnath

After early breakfast, board the Helicopter from Phata Helipad (5 Kms) for Kedarnath. Arrive Kedarnath and transfer to guest house. Later, perform Pooja & Darshans at Shri Kedarnath ji. Dinner & overnight at guest house.

Kedarnath: Amidst the dramatic mountainscapes of the majestic Kedarnath range stands one of the twelve 'Jyotirlingas' of Kedar or Lord Shiva. Lying at an altitude of 3584 mts. on the head of river Mandakini, the shrine of Kedarnath is amongst the holiest pilgrimages for the Hindus.

Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the exquisitely architected Kedarnath temple is said to be more than a 1000 years old. Built of extremely large, heavy and evenly cut gray slabs of stones, it evokes wonder as to how these heavy



slabs were handled in the earlier days. The temple has a "Garbha Griha" for worship and a Mandap apt for assemblies of pilgrims and visitors. A conical rock formation inside the temple is worshipped as Lord Shiva in his Sadashiva form.



Day 06 Kedarnath - Guptkashi - Joshimath

After breakfast, board Helicopter for Guptkashi. Arrive Guptkashi and leave for Joshimath by surface (175 Kms/06 hours), one of the most beautiful sites on the whole trip. Reach Joshimath and transfer to Campsite. Dinner & overnight at campsite.

Day 07 Joshimath - Badrinath

After breakfast, leave for Shri Badrinath ji, on arrival transfer to hotel. Later, take the holy Darshan and spend time visiting Mana village the last village before the Tibet border. Dinner & overnight at hotel.



Badrinath: Cradled in the twin mountain ranges of Nar and Narayan is the holiest of the four main shrines, Badrinath along the left bank river Alaknanda. With the splendid Neelkanth mountains as the backdrop, it is an important destination on the scared itinerary of every devour Hindu. Once the spot was carpeted with 'badris' or wild berries and hence was famous as 'Badri Van'.

Badrinath is considered the holiest of the four important shrines in Garhwal. The town is at an altitude of 3,133 m. above sea level, situated on the left bank of river Alaknanda and exactly between the two mountains Nara and Narayan. The shrine is dedicated to Vishnu, the preserver and falls in the religious itinerary of every devout Hindu.



The present temple was built about two centuries ago by Garhwal Kings. It is a conical structure, 15 m. tall and has small cupola of a gilt bull and spire. There are 15 idols in the temple complex, each sculpted in black stone. The principal idol represents Vishnu in a meditative posture and is flanked by Nara-Narayan. Legend dates it prior to the Vedic age though it is believed to have been re-established by Adi Shankaracharya, an important Hindu saint in 8th century A.D. Some of the other images include Laxmi (Vishnu's consort), Garuda (Vishnu's mount), Shiva & Parvati and Ganesha.



The temple has been renovated several times due to damages by avalanches. It looks fairly modern now due to the colourful "Singh Dwara" or the main entrance gate. It has three parts- Garbha Griha (the sanctum sanctorum), Darshan Mandap (for pujas) and Shobha Mandap (for devotees to assemble). The revered shrine is still alive with myriad legends from mythology. Its sanctity is emphasised in the ancient scriptures as "There are many sacred spots of pilgrimage in the heavens, earth and the nether world, but there has been none equal to Badri, nor shall there be".



Day 08 Badrinath - Auli

After late breakfast, leave for Auli by surface (2 hours drive). Reach Auli and transfer to hotel. Dinner & overnight at hotel.

Day 09 Auli - Rudraprayag

After late breakfast, leave for Rudraprayag by surface. Reach Rudraprayag and transfer to hotel. Dinner & overnight at hotel.

Day 10 Rudraprayag - Rishikesh

After breakfast, leave for Rishikesh by surface. Reach Rishikesh and transfer to hotel. In the evening, experience Ganges Aarti at Parmarth Ashram. Dinner & overnight at hotel.

Day 11 Explore Rishikesh

After breakfast, full day at Rishikesh including visit to Vashisht Cave, Parmarth Ashram, Sivananda Ashram and Gita Ashram. Evening is free to explore local markets. Dinner & overnight at hotel.

Rishikesh, situated on the Right Bank of river Ganga and surrounded on three sides by Himalayan ranges is known from medieval time as a celestial abode. It is a great pilgrimage centre of India, attracting a large number of pilgrims. It is believed that Bharat, brother of Lord Rama, subjected himself to severe penance here. A temple known as Bharat Temple was later constructed at the site and the town of Rishikesh sprang up around the temple. It has since been the abode of saints and sages from where they sojourn before undertaking the arduous pilgrimage that lay ahead on the distant Himalayan peaks. This is the gateway to the kingdom of Gods and pilgrimage to Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri. The other tourist places of interest are Rishikund & Raghunath Temple, Triveni Ghat, Bharat Temple and Laxman Jhoola.



Day 12 Rishikesh - Dehradun - Delhi

After breakfast, transfer to airport for flight to Delhi. Arrive Delhi and tour terminates.

END OF TOUR



TOUR COST

Based on following Hotels

City	Hotel	Category	No of Nights
Delhi	City Park or similar	4 Star	01
Harsil	Chardham Camp or similar	Deluxe Tents	01
Uttarkashi	Chardham Camp or similar	Deluxe Tents	01
Guptkashi	Chardham Camp or similar	Deluxe Tents	01
Kedarnath	Punjab & Sind Awas or similar	Guest House	01
Joshimath	Chardham Camp or similar	Deluxe Tents	01
Badrinath	Sarovar Portico or similar	3 Star	01
Auli	Cliff-top Club or similar	Mountain Resort	01
Rudraprayag	Monal Resort or similar	Mountain Resort	01
Rishikesh	Vasundhara Palace or similar	3 Star Deluxe	02

<u>Based on</u>	<u>11 - 14 Pax</u>	<u>15 - 29 Pax</u>	<u>Above 30 Pax</u>
Per Person on Twin Sharing Basis	- USD 4091.00	USD 3605.00	USD 3335.00
Single Supplement	- USD 527.00	USD 527.00	USD 527.00

*** The above quotation is valid for 2009 only. If there will be any increase in Government imposed taxes or airfares, then the same will be charged extra.

What's included:

- *Accommodations* on Single/Double rooms.
- *Meals:* Daily breakfast & Dinner per person.
- Private airport/hotel transfers by air-conditioned vehicles.
- Exclusive services of a resident program escort for entire trip.
- Private air-conditioned vehicles for land travel.
- Mahayagya performed by the group of prominent preists.
- Exclusive services of resident representatives at all transfers.
- Airfares: Delhi - Dehradun - Delhi & Fata - Kedarnath - Fata.
- All interstate taxes, gasoline, parking, toll taxes and driver allowances.
- All luxury taxes and value added taxes.
- 10.30% Government Service Tax.

What's excluded:

- Departure taxes and visa handling fees (Visa is required to visit India).
- Any beverages (hard & soft)/Table Drinks, items of personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, travel or any kind of insurance etc.
- Any video or camera fees at monuments.
- Tips and gratitude to drivers, bellboys, representatives, guides and escorts.
- Any international airfares.
- Consultation/astrological reading charges.
- Charity & Donations at Temples, Ashrams and astrological centers.