



### SOURCE OF THE SACRED GANGES WITH SHADOW OF THE MIGHTY SHIVLING

This trek and tour visits a remote and highly spectacular part of the Indian Himalaya. Garhwal, celebrated in Hindu mythology and religion is locally known as the **'Abode of the Gods'**. In this massif, beyond the Hindu shrine at Gangotri, the mighty Ganges River has its source. Emerging from a glacier, this great river rushes down to the plains in a torrential flurry. Our itinerary includes two short treks. The first trek is a warm up and takes us off the beaten track from the small village of Raithal to Dayara Bugyal **"Nature's Own Gardens"** and Bakaria Top for great panoramic views of the Garhwal Himalaya. We then move on to Gangotri where the trek starts from Gangotri Temple, dedicated to Mother Goddess Ganga on the bank of Bhagirathi River which is the main tributary of Ganga River. Winding through Bhojbasa, Gaumukh source of the Sacred Ganges, and continue trek to The massif overlooks the sprawling meadow of **Tapovan** at 4,463 meters, which is considered as one of the alpine meadows in India and is crisscrossed by several small streams and dotted with flowering plants. And where Shivaling and other mighty peaks are almost close enough to touch. We also visit the holy town of Haridwar where the



River Ganges exits the Himalayan foothills, Rishikesh on the banks of the Ganges located in the foothills of the Himalayas in northern India, it is known as the 'Gateway to the Garhwal Himalayas' and 'Yoga Capital of the World'..

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**TREK HIGHLIGHTS:-**

Fantastic view of mighty Himalayan peaks from Tapovan Mt.Shivling, Bhagirathi groups, Meru, Satopanth, Kedardome etc.

Trek to the source of the Sacred Ganges. (Gomukh)

Grand Pilgrimage centers of Haridwar, Rishikesh, Uttarkashi and Gangotri

Terraced fields and typical villages.

Trekking following the pilgrimage trail till Gangotri glacier (Gaumukh) and above.

Interaction with pilgrims and holy Saints (Sadhus)

Witness the soul-soothing Ganga Aarti ceremonies in Rishikesh and Haridwar.

Visit culturally & spiritually important cities.

Visit best meadows in the world.

Optional tour to Agra & Jaipur to see the beautiful Taj Maha & Pink city.

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Area: Garhwal Himalayas

Trek & Tour Duration: 17 Days

Trek Grade: Tough

Altitude: maximum 4,500, average 3,300m

Travel: by bus, Car, bus and on foot

Activity: Trekking & Sightseeing tours

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**DAY 01: ARRIVE AT DELHI**

Reception at the airport, transfer to the hotel, overnight at hotel

**Four start Hotel**

Meals included: breakfast & dinner.

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**DAY 02: DRIVE FROM DELHI TO RISHIKESH {224KMS – 7 HRS}**

Drive to Rishikesh, afternoon check in at the hotel.

“Sanctuary of Saints and Sadhus” Rishikesh is situated on the bank of river Ganga and is surrounded on three sides by the Himalayan ranges. It is a great pilgrimage centre of India, also visit ancient temples and Ashrams. At Trivani Ghat, by the evening is held the “Ganga Aarti”, which is most fascinating religious ritual in the world. The Grand Aarti is the prayer in which the religious songs are chanted in the praise of the Goddess Ganga, the pilgrims light a bowl of butter lamp with fresh flowers in it and offer it to the Goddess by floating to into the river.

**Standard hotel**

Meals: included: breakfast & dinner.

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**DAY 03: DRIVE FROM RISHIKESH TO UTTARKASHI AND TO RAITHAL {185 KMS – 8 HRS}**

We continue heading north into the hills following the Bhagirathi River all the way to Uttarkashi, an important pilgrimage centre on the banks of the Bhagirathi River, famous for its ashrams and temples and the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering. The drive takes us through many small towns and terraced farmland. A short way after Uttarkashi we leave the main road to Gangotri and climb into the hills. Ahead we will start to see the mountains of Garhwal – Srikanta, Gangotri Group of peaks. We spend tonight in the small Garhwali village of Raithal.

**Basic hotel**

Meals included: breakfast & dinner.

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**DAY 04: TREK FROM RAITHAL TO DAYARA BUGYAL {7 KMS – 6 HRS}**

Today we now start the first of our two treks. This short first trek will be great for acclimatization and also affords wonderful views of the Indian Himalaya. More remote than the Source of the Ganges trek we still get wonderful views from spectacular campsites. On a clear day we are woken by a wonderful sunrise across the valley of Srikanta and Gangotri group of peaks 1, 2 and 3. We set off trekking after breakfast and the trail climbs all morning through mixed forest of oak, rhododendron and pine. We stop for lunch at Goi campsite, a clearing in the forest, where there is a small temple and great mountain views. It is another couple of hours climbing to our camp at Dayara Bugyal. We are now above the tree line and meadows and ridges stretch out all around us. Our camp is a little further on than the shepherd huts in a quiet bugyal (a high altitude meadow). From camp on a clear day we get views of Srikanta, Gangotri 1,2 and 3, Joanli, Draupadi Ka Danda and Bandarpunch 1, 2 and black peak.

**Full-service Camping (sleeping altitude 3,450m)**

Meals included: breakfast, lunch & dinner.

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**DAY 05: TREK TO SYARI BUGYAL**

For the energetic there is an optional walk to a fantastic viewpoint called Bakaria Top at 3,800m (for those who do not want to do the peak they can go with the cook and ponymen direct to camp). Please note if you do the optional walk the distance covered will be 6.8 miles or 11km and it will take 6-7 hours. We will carry a packed lunch and set off up a series of bugyals (meadows) and ridges. We are almost above the treeline now and open meadows and distant mountain views surround us. It will take around three hours to Bakaria Top and the climb is well worth the effort. On a clear day we have magnificent panoramic views of the Garhwal Himalaya - Srikanta, Gangotri 1,2 and 3, Joanli, Draupadi Ka Danda and Bandarpunch are some of the named mountains but there are many more without names. In the far distance we can even spot Uttarkashi. We descend a short way for lunch and then trek down easy ridges to join the main trail, which undulates up and down ridges to our camp tonight at Syari Bugyal, where we spend two nights.

**Full-service camping (sleeping altitude 3,400m)**

Meals included: breakfast, lunch & dinner.

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#### **DAY 06: DAY WALK TO SURYA TOP THEN ON TO UCHLARU TOP (3,900M)**

We spend two nights at the beautiful Syari Bugyal and for those who want to we can trek to the fantastic viewpoint at Surya Top, the highpoint of this warm up trek. From camp we ascend onto the ridge above us and follow the ridge climbing all the time. As we gain height the views become more and more spectacular. It will take us about 4hrs to Surya Top and further to Uchlaru Top at 3,900m. From here we get amazing views as we are even closer to the great Himalayan peaks. We take a packed lunch so we can enjoy the views and in the afternoon we descend to our camp.

**Full-service camping (sleeping altitude 3,400m)**

Meals included: breakfast, lunch & dinner.

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#### **DAY 07: DESCEND TO RAITHAL VILLAGE**

Today is the last day of our acclimatization trek. We descend back to the tree line and enter thick forest. As we descend we can still see the mountains ahead and in spring the rhododendrons, gentians and primulas add an extra dimension of colour. We finally emerge from the forest at the village of Raithal, where we started our trek.

**Basic hotel (sleeping altitude 2,250m)**

Meals included: breakfast, lunch & dinner.

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#### **DAY 08: DRIVE FROM RAITHAL VILLAGE TO GANGOTRI 3,415M {75KMS - 3HRS}**

Our warm up trek is now complete and we head further north and closer to the mountains, to the start of the Source of the Ganges trek at Gangotri. The road follows the valley as it winds its way into the hills, still following the Bhagirathi River. The higher it gets the narrower it becomes and we start to see impressive rock spires and snow capped peaks rising above the valley. We will arrive in Gangotri by lunch

time via Gangnani its thermal water springs, Gangnani is a perfect place for rejuvenation. The thermal water spring at Gangnani is called Rishikund and have the afternoon to explore the temples. Gangotri (3,415m) is the seat of the Goddess Ganga. It is an important Hindu pilgrim town and origin of the River Ganges. It was here that the Goddess Ganga descended when Shiva released the river from the locks of his hair. The river here is called the Bhagirathi and it only becomes the Ganges after it's confluence with the Alaknanda at Devprayag.

**Basic hotel (sleeping altitude 3,415m)**

Meals included: breakfast, lunch & dinner.

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**DAY 09 TREK FROM GANGOTRI TO BHOJWASSA 3,790M {14 KMS - 6HRS}**

We now begin the second trek to the source of the Ganges called Gaumukh. It is 18km from Gangotri, which will take us one and a half days. The trek starts with an easy climb surrounded by magnificent scenery. We pass the Gangotri national park check post for the Gangotri Conservation Project, and continue following the river with impressive cliffs on our left. We get wonderful views of Mount Manda (6,510m), the Bhagirathi Massif and other surrounding peaks. We continue ascending through forests of pine and birch to Bhojwasa (which means home of birch trees). Ahead we can see the glaciated boulders and Bhagirathi peaks towering over the Gaumukh springs. A short distance above camp we will get our first views of Shivling (6,543m), the spectacularly shaped Matterhorn of India.

**Full-service camping (sleeping altitude 3,790m)**

Meals included: breakfast, lunch & dinner.

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**DAY 10: TREK FROM BHOJWASA TO GAUMUKH AND ON TO TAPOVAN**

From Bhojwasa we trek gradually uphill for 4km to Gaumukh. This is the actual source of the Ganges and is where the many pilgrims will trek to. The river starts at the snout of the Gaumukh glacier and is one of the holiest places for Hindus to visit. We leave the pilgrims behind as we cross the Gangotri glacier. Ascending the lateral moraine we follow a steep cairned trail that leads to the east side of the glacier. We continue on to Tapovan (4,500m), probably the most spectacular camp of the trip with stunning views of Shivling, Meru, Kharchkund and the Bhagirathi peaks. The peaks are so close we can almost touch them and here is some of the most stunning Himalayan scenery. We spend 2 nights here to enjoy the spectacular setting.

**Full-service camping (sleeping altitude 4,500m)**

Meals included: breakfast, lunch & dinner.

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**DAY 11: DAY WALK TO MERU BASE CAMP**

Spend a day in Tapovan, with time to enjoy the stunning scenery and views or take an optional walk to Meru base camp. The trail follows the right side of the valley and ascends the rocky moraine towards Meru base camp. The views are even more stunning as Shivling rises dramatically above us. Called the Matterhorn of India it is an impressive sight and from camp we can see the face called the Shark Fin,



which to date has only been climbed once. We may spot Blue Sheep here up on the grassy plateau of our camp. We return to camp for lunch and the afternoon is free to enjoy the views and we can visit an ashram that is close by.

**Full-service camping**

Meals included: breakfast, lunch & dinner.

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**DAY 12: TREK FROM TAPOVAN TO CHIRWASSA {16 KMS – 6 HRS}**

Hopefully we will get a ast stunning sunrise over the great peaks around us before we leave this mountain arena and retrace our steps down the valley past Gaumukh and Bhojwasa to Chirbasa.

**Full-service camping (sleeping altitude 3,800m)**

Meals included: breakfast, lunch & dinner.

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**DAY 13: TREK BACK TO GANGOTRI & DRIVE TO UTTARKASHI {7 KMS TREK – 2 HRS + 100KMS DRIVE – 4 HRS}**

We finish our trekking today with a short walk back to Gangotri, where we meet our transport for the drive down the valley to Uttarkashi for the night. The drive is approximately 100km and will take about 4 hours.

**Basic hotel**

Meals: included: breakfast & lunch.

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**DAY 14: DRIVE FROM UTTARKASHI TO RISHIKESH {150 KMS - 6 HRS}**

Road in direction of Rishikesh, afternoon visit the Temples and the Ashrams, rest time at leisure, overnight stay at the hotel.

**Standard hotel**

Meals: included: breakfast & lunch.

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**DAY 15: DRIVE FROM RISHIKESH TO HARIDWAR {23KMS – 1 HRS}**

Full day excursion to the ancient temples and Ghats.

Haridwar literally means, “The Gateway to God”. Town stands on the right bank of the Ganges at the foot of Shivalik Mountain. It has been a sacred place from time immemorial and is one of the most important pilgrimage on the Ganges. It is one of the four pilgrim Centre (others are Prayag, Ujjain and Nashik) where Kumbha is held every twelve year. According to mythological belief millions of Hindus take a holy dip in the sacred river of Ganges, seeking emancipation from the worldly sins. Meditation or worship at Har-ki-Pauri is one of the most fascinating religious ritual in the world. The Grand Aarti (religious prayer) on the Ghat of the Ganges when charged with the

emotions, the air resounds with the music and the chants offered as a worship to the Goddess Ganga. By the evening the pilgrims float hundreds of little flower bowls into the river with oil lamps. Also visit the Daksha Mahadev temple; night in hotel.

**Standard hotel**

Meals: included: breakfast & lunch.

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**DAY 16: DRIVE FROM HARIDWAR TO DELHI {240 KM - 6 HRS}**

Morning train to Delhi, check in at the hotel, half day visit to the Red fort, Jama Masjid and Shanti Van; rest time free, evening transfer to an international airport, flight to onward destination.

**Standard hotel**

Meals: included: breakfast & lunch

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**DAY 17: DEPARTURE DELHI: -**

After breakfast transfer to Airport and flight back to home.

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{{ Tour & Services over @ Delhi International Airport }}

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**COST OF THE TRIP: -**

**PER DAY & PER PERSON INR 7000 - USD \$100**

{Special rate available for group booking}

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**COST INCLUDES AS FOLLOWING: -**

01. All accommodation at Road heads in Hotel / Guest Houses / Tourist Bungalows during the travel.
02. All meals hygienically cooked and served by our specially trained staff for westerners except in Delhi, Haridwar & Rishikesh.
03. All transportation as per above itinerary by Car/coach as per group size.
04. Services of English speaking professional trekking & tour guide, cook, and camp staff.
05. Porterage/Ponny during the entire trek.
06. All tourist taxes during the travel.
07. Visit to all important temples and places during the entire trip
08. All camping gears as; Tents, Mattress, camping chairs and folding table, dinning tent and Toilet tents etc.
09. Portage of food, camping & kitchen equipment on the trek.
10. Portage of personal baggage on trek.
11. Trekking permits and camping fees on the treks.
12. National Park permission.

13. All Sightseeing tours
14. All Taxes
15. Hotel in Delhi, Haridwar & Rishikesh Only dinner & Breakfast basis and from Uttarkashi to Uttarkashi include all meals.

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**COST NOT INCLUDE AS FOLLOWINGS:-**

01. Personal expenses such as tips, telephone calls, drinks, postage, laundry and souvenirs.
02. International flights and departure taxes.
03. Visa and passport fees.
04. Travel insurance {Necessary to buy}
05. Emergency evacuation.
06. Items not specified in "Cost Includes".
07. Camera fees during the trekking.
08. Sleeping bags.
09. Any extra meals.
10. Medical expenses, Medical box with oxygen cylinder.
11. Personal gears used for trekking / expedition
12. Any extra costs incurred due extension / change of the itinerary due to natural calamities, flight delays, road blocks, vehicle Breakdown etc. factors beyond the control of our organization.

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**Accommodation and meals**

Accommodation is based on 3 star category in Delhi / Rishikesh / Haridwar, In hilly area there are limited choices of accommodation sub. to the each places. Neat and clean local standards of hotels, Fixe camps or guest houses will be provided.

While traveling Indian vegetarian meals is served, Non veg. is strictly forbidden due to religious mater. Indian recipes are bit on spicy side, Breakfast and dinner will be served at the hotel, Lunch packed or in local restaurant or in hotel sub. to the schedule.

While trekking you will be assisted by kitchen team with all necessary items including two men spacious tent, mattress, dining tents from 4 persons onward, toilet tents and all necessary items. Our chef will prepare verities of Indian, Chinese and Continental vegetarian meals, Chefs on trek are used to cook for the western guest and pay their attention to dose the spice, Breakfast and dinner will be served at camp, lunch is always packed, Afternoon snacks is served with hot beverages as of tea and coffee.

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**Mode of Transport**

Sub. to the number of person in group, for 2 to 4 + guide by Toyota Innova / Scorpio / Zyro. for more than 5 persons Tempo travelers or mini bus. All vehicle will be air-conditioned, except in hilly area air-condition of any vehicle can not be regularly used due to steep uphill



drive, So you have to co-operate with. For the Autumns, winter and spring season, when temperature goes down, if you required heater except minibus each of those mentioned vehicle have the heating facilities except while uphill drive .

When trekking your baggage will be transported by Mule / horse and Porters for second part from day 8 onward.

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### **Road**

you can face land slide due to rainfall and can be blocked for a days or more, you may miss the places expected to visit, or will visit the unexpected places, to regulate the situation the team at the spot will do the best possible at the moment. Here road are rough, and are being widen, So please don't compare the driving time as estimated in developed nation.

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### **GOLDEN TRIANGLE EXTENSION**

A visit to the incredible Taj Mahal and other great Moghul cities close to Delhi is an excellent way to begin or end a visit to Northern India. The five-day Golden Triangle extension can be booked before or after your main itinerary. The Taj Mahal in Agra was built by the Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631, and is one of the most beautiful sights on earth. Close by is the imposing Red Fort of Akbar with its beautiful courtyards and palaces and let's not forget the deserted royal city of Fatehpur Sikri. The extension also visits the Pink City of Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan, which is one of the most attractive and colourful cities in India

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All our independent itineraries are completely flexible and can be customised to your requirements.

If you would like more information please feel free to contact us: [info@trekkinginindia.net](mailto:info@trekkinginindia.net) **OR** call: 0091 – 9719016952.

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