



KUARI PASS TREK FOR 8 DAYS

Category: moderate

Area: Garhwal (Uttaranchal)

Season: May to June, Sept to Nov.

The Kuari pass trek is amongst the best in the Garhwal Mountains. The trail takes you through lush green fields, remote villages and virgin forests. The close range view of Mt. Nanda Devi along with numerous other peaks is the reward that awaits the trekker atop the Kuari pass!

DETAILED ITINERARY:

Day 01: Rishikesh To Ghat: 9-10 hours

Drive to Nandaprayag and to Ghat and then to Chefna (the starting point of the trek). Night stay in camping.

Day 02: Chefna To Ghuni: 3-4 hours walk

Breakfast and begin the trek. It's a nice walk next to the river followed by an ascent through coniferous and mixed forests. The walk by a wooded ridge takes us to a village called Ramni (2550m). It is a typical Garhwal village with friendly people and attractive houses with heavy slate roofs and paved alleys surrounded by fertile fields. It has a solar-powered electricity scheme. Night stay and meals in camp at Ghuni.

DAY 03: TREK TO SEMKHERK MEADOW. (2,600m approx.)5-6 hrs.

This is a long but rewarding day. From the campsite you climb steeply for 1,000ft/300m on a good zigzagging track to emerge on open grassy grazing meadows. Snow peaks begin to emerge above the forest to the north. The path continues up through forests of rhododendron, pines and oak with more pastures for summer grazing with shepherds huts. You may meet flocks of sheep and goats moving along the track. The highest point, reached in 2¼ hours from the camp, at 3,064m/10,053ft, is the Ramni Pass, also called Binayak Top. From here it is possible to make out the Kauri Pass, which we will cross on Day 8. From now on there may be a chance to see the multi-coloured monal pheasant but they are very shy, being hunted by the locals for the pot. You then trek gently down across more pastures and open glades, then into lovely forests of horse chestnuts and walnut trees with waterfalls. From here, the trek is a zigzag descent to Camping place. Camp overnight at Semkherk.

DAY 04: TREK TO KALIAGHAT. (2700m approx.)-6 hours.

Day starts with a descent to the colourful village of Jhinjhi. The trail carries on down past small farms through woods to the spectacular suspension bridge at 1,840m/6,037ft across the Birehi Gorge, currently inhabited by a large number of monkeys. From here its a very steep climb back to 7,382ft/2,250m, where the track eases after a one and a half-hour ascent. From here the path is almost flat passing through fine rhododendron forest with long-tailed magpies flitting about. There are many streams and waterfalls as the route contours round many deep ravines. If you look down to the deep gorge below you can see the landslide and the Gauna Lake, which burst

and flood the whole of the Ganga Valley down to Rishikesh in 1898. After going round the head of a horseshoe valley you reach two lovely rivers cascading down under the path. From here there is a short climb to a spot called Kaliaghat, which is a good campsite near the village of Pana. Camp overnight.

DAY 05: TREK TO DHAKAUNI VIA SARTOLI (11,000ft/3353m approx.) – 5-6 hours.

This is another long, but spectacular day. The route traverses above the village and then starts a steep climb up into a rhododendron forest with many zigzags. It is a broad, well made track and after a number of small summits a Col is reached at 9,842ft/3,000m. The path now descends gently, traversing along the valley to open meadows with views across to the Kuari Pass. The track then traverses down around the side of the valley, across several streams, before it plunges down a very steep and loose section, much of which has been washed away by the monsoons - an awkward and loose descent.

At the bottom, you will see that the river has cut through a deep rocky, dramatic gorge to your right. This is wild country and there are no settlements where blue sheep and the Himalayan black bear are said to be roaming here. From the river, it is a very steep climb of about 3,000 feet (900 m) with a small break about half the way up to cross a large stream. A final climb brings you above the tree-line to the campsite on the large pastures where sheep and goats graze in summer, with the Kauri Pass towering above. Camp overnight.

DAY 06: TREK ACROSS KAURI PASS (KUARI KHAL) (12,000ft/3,658m) TO TALI OR KHULARA (11,155ft/3,400m). 3-4 hours to Khulara and 5-6 hours to Tali.

It is a long day today so that we can take lots of breaks on the pass to enjoy the spectacular views. We aim to cross the pass so that you will have the benefit of the clear early morning the following day. The climb up to the pass is made on a zigzag track to the top. You make a traverse along the high ridge past a shrine to Shiva before dropping down to your camp at Khulara. This is the name given to a clearing amongst the Rhododendrons about half an hour and 500ft/150m below Shiva's shrine. Here we await the spectacular views of the morning. We mostly try to go to camping at Tali as there is beautiful view of Nanda Devi (second highest peak of India) from the camp. The other option is to go down to Khulara. Camp overnight.

DAY 07: TREK TO AULI. (8,250ft/2,500m/), DRIVE TO JOSHIMATH.

Most of summer treks finish in Auli and early summer/early winter treks finish in Tapovan because of the icy conditions on the trail to Auli. It is a 3-4-hr walk to either place. It is a gradual descent to Auli down through woods and pastures and we meet our car waiting for us at Auli to drive us to Joshimath which, although having none of the elegance of its sister hill resorts, does have a charm and beauty of its own. It is the site where the famous Adiguru Shankaracharya attained enlightenment before beginning his campaign for the unification of India and the revitalization of Hinduism. There is a temple here called the Na Singh where the statue of Na Singh involves a legend that when the arm of the idol finally breaks, the road to Badrinath will be blocked. The arm gets smaller every year! It is the centre of the Indian ski scene, and the cable car up to the resort of Auli starts in the middle of Joshimath. Overnight in the Hotel Mount View.

DAY 08: DRIVE TO RISHIKESH

It is about 10 hours ride back to Rishikesh. We start from Joshimath after breakfast and will lunch on the way. We reach Rishikesh around 4-5 O'clock in the evening. Trip finishes at arrival in Rishikesh.

Costs:

Group of 2 pax	INR 34000	per person
Group of 3 pax	INR 28500	per person
Group of 4-5 pax	INR 25000	per person
Group of 6-7 pax	INR 22500	per person
Group of 8-10pax	INR 20000	per person

Note:

- *50% advance payment confirms your trip.*
- *3.09% Govt service tax is applicable on the given costs.*

COSTS include:

- *Road transportation from Rishikesh to Rishikesh by car.*
- *Accommodation in Medium Class Hotels (where applicable) on a twin sharing basis.*
- *All meals.*
- *Tents on twin share basis.*
- *Tables and chairs.*
- *Permits and entrance fees.*
- *A Fluent English speaking guide.*
- *Cooks and porters and mules.*

COSTS exclude:

- *Accommodation in Rishikesh.*
- *Personal Insurance, all alcoholic beverages and expenses of a personal nature.*
- *Good down sleeping bags can be provided at an additional cost of Rs. 100 per day. *

Note:

1. We can take a maximum of 10 people on any of our trips and a minimum 4 people. Trips for individuals or groups of 2 people can be arranged at extra cost.
2. We will transport all your belongings for you so that you only have to carry your day pack with camera, water bottle and jacket.
3. We serve three meals a day plus snacks and drinks. We provide a variety of tasty healthy food including Indian, Chinese and Western meals with lots of vegetables and fruit.

BOOKING:

Booking should be made at least a month before to find availability with us. In some cases, if you want to book with us in less than a month time, it will be nice if you can please check with us the availability.

CANCELATION:

If you need to cancel a reservation, please do so in writing (best by e-mail).

If we receive your cancellation more than 30 days before the starting date of the trip, we refund 90% of your deposit. Most of the trips attract a minimum processing charge so we keep 10%.

Cancellation between 30 and 15 days your deposit becomes non-refundable.

At less than 7 days notice (after payment is received in full), no refunds can be given.

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.

HEALTH AND FITNESS REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must be in good health and in a good physical condition. It is vital that participants with medical problems make them known to us well before departure. If you suffer from severe muscular, chest, heart or bronchial disorders, or if you are a severe asthmatic, or have high blood pressure, you are strongly advised against participating. Our trips generally take place in remote areas where there is little or no access to normal medical services or hospital facilities for serious problems.

Where necessary, evacuation can be prolonged but it is difficult and expensive. Medical and evacuation expenses will be the responsibility of the participant.