

Valley Of Flowers Trekking Itinerary

DAY 0:

Travel from Delhi to Kathgodam railway station. The best option is to take the New Delhi Kathgodam Shatabdi Express from New Delhi railway station. Train departs at 06.00 hours & reaches Kathgodam station by 11.30 hrs. At Kathgodam station you would be met by Wayfarer & driven by car to Ranikhet for overnight stay in our Snow View hotel (95 kms / 3.5 hrs).

DAY 1:

Drive from Ranikhet to Joshimath (220 kms.; 8 hrs.) : The drive from Ranikhet is across some of the most scenic countryside in Kumaon and Garhwal Himalaya. The well laid out mountain road winds itself past some of the popular towns and villages of this region such as Kausani, Baijnath, Gwaldham, Karnprayag, Nandprayag, Chamoli and Pipalkoti. Starting early we get to Joshimath by evening. Overnight stay is in a rest house / three star hotel.

DAY 2:

Drive from Joshimath to Govindghat (1828 mts./22 kms.; 2 hrs.) : A less than two hour drive along the Alaknanda river brings us to Govindghat. From here our trek starts. On a given day there are hundreds of Sikh pilgrims headed for the Shrine at Hemkund, and alighting from our jeeps we join this joyous group heading up to Ghangaria. The ascending mule track climbs past terraced fields and vegetation to the hamlet of Pulna (3 km). From here the trail is a little wilder and more forested, with occasional glimpses of snow peaks. The 7 kms. from Pulna to Bhyundar Village are a steady ascent and the altitude is moderate. Shortly after Bhyundar, the trail crosses the Laxman Ganga, over a bridge elevated by giant boulders. The trail is steeper now but Ghangaria is only 3 km. away. Our campsite is beyond Ghangaria in a relatively isolated area.

DAY 3:

Day visit to Valley of Flowers : Current Government regulations do not permit any camping within the notified area of the valley and entry to the valley is restricted to permit holders only. The trail is well chalked out, and is a delightful ramble as it climbs gently through a coniferous forest, before descending to a bridge, and check-post that mark the official entry to the Valley of Flowers. Climbing up a rocky trail, with the forest behind us, the first flowers begin to appear. Every morning after breakfast, trekkers would be escorted into this garden of Eden to explore different cross sections of the Bhyundar Valley. Packed lunches, flasks full of hot beverages as well as assorted refreshments would also be arranged. By evening the group would be escorted back to our base camp at Ghangaria where dinner would be served after a round of refreshments.

DAY 4:

Day visit to Valley of Flowers.

DAY 5:

Day visit to Valley of Flowers.

DAY 6:

Gangharia to Hemkund and back to Gangharia (4329 mts./6 kms.; 4 hrs each way) : Hemkund is a special place and a “must see”. Situated at a height of 4329m, the place has a lake on whose banks are a Lakshman Temple and a Gurudwara of Guru Govind Singh. Guru Govind Singh is revered by Sikhs, Hindus and others and over the years Hemkund has acquired international acclaim.

DAY 7:

Gangharia to Govindghat and back to Joshmath : We follow the same track and return to Govindghat, where we board a waiting jeep that drives us to Joshmath. However for those who wish to visit the famous Hindu shrine of Badrinath, special arrangements can be made and the trip extended by a day with overnight stay in a rest house at Badrinath.

DAY 8:

Joshmath to Ranikhet (220 kms./ 8 hrs.).

DAY 9:

Ranikhet to Kathgodam (90 kms.) : Today is a day when we can chill out and relax. Late morning we board a vehicle that drives us to Kathgodam. There is also the option of leaving Ranikhet after breakfast and driving to the legendary Jim Corbett Park. The train to Delhi departs from Kathgodam at 15:35 hrs and arrives at New Delhi station by 21.10 hours.