

NANDA DEVI TREK



The Garhwal Himalayas is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Where else can you stand at the moderate height of 7,992 feet and gaze closely at 23,310 feet ice capped Himalayan summits. The area is of incomparable beauty. Its high glacier fed lakes are reached so quickly that one is surprised to be in the remotest of areas in such a short time. Garhwal Himalayas gives birth to Ganges, the holiest of holy rivers in India. On this trek you will have a fine view of Neelkanth, Nanda Devi, Panchchuli, Gauri Parbat and Trishul peaks.

Duration: 13 Days (Delhi -Delhi)

Grade: Moderate

Activities: Trekking,

Season: June, Sep. Oct.

NANDA DEVI SANTUARY OPEN TIMINGS: 01ST JUNE TO 04TH OCT.

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI, AT LEISURE

Meeting and assistance upon arrival thereafter transfer to the Hotel.

WELCOME TO INDIA – One Nation, countless destinations. A land of rich ancient heritage, its history of 5000 years, philosophy, religions and fabulous historical monuments all add to its bewildering diversity to create a unique and colorful mosaic. This is the wonder that is India. Enjoy and experience it now, neatly packaged just for you by Mercury Himalayan Explorations.

Delhi – Capital of modern India. Many dynasties and rulers have flourished on its regal soil over the last 3000 years. The legacy still survives in many monuments varying from the 13th century mausolea of the Lodi Kings to that of India's Parliament House and the Presidential Estate. Here medieval palaces and bazars exist beside a modern metropolis. Delhi is a city waiting to be explored.

Overnight stay at Hotel.

DAY 2: TRAIN TO RISHIKESH

After breakfast transfer to railways station to connect Shatabdi Express for Haridwar. Meeting and assistance upon arrival thereafter transfer to hotel. Lunch at hotel. After lunch sightseeing tour of Rishikesh, Laxman Jhoola (a large suspension bridge) to visit the 13-storey temple on the other side and visit perhaps Triveni Ghat, Bharat Temple and/or the place Lord Rama bathed at Rishikund. The

northern part of the town is called Muni-ki-Reti and refers to the silver shores of the river where the rishis of old meditated. Across the Ganga, large, sprawling but well-maintained ashrams teach yoga and publish books on the scriptures. At sundown each evening there is a service at the side of the river, at the bathing ghat in the middle of Rishikesh at which tiny candle rafts are lit and let out into the choppy water to float away into the dusk. This is highly recommended as it has a very special ambience at this time. Overnight at Hotel Neeraj Bhawan.

DAY 3: DRIVE TO JOSHIMATH. (1,890m)

Drive to Joshimath another early start for the long drive up the Ganges and Alaknanda rivers to Joshimath. We travel along an asphalt road that now takes the pilgrims in buses and cars, but many holy men still walk. The road is often tortuous but full of spectacular views of the Ganga, Alaknanda and their ever steepening surrounding banks and hillsides Along with a lunch stop we may have time to get in a swim in the river, an auspicious thing to do. Overnight Uday Palace Hotel.

DAY 4: AT LEISURE IN JOSHIMATH

After a long day on the road we take a well-deserved rest. Joshimath is an interesting little town. Really a pilgrimage staging post it is perched on a steep slope several hundred metres above the river and is usually teeming with pilgrims preparing to go on the last stage up the Alaknanda gorge to Badrinath. But there are important shrines here too, especially the Na Sing temple complex, and the temple and ancient tree under which the great Hindu philosopher Shankara gained enlightenment. Overnight Uday Palace Hotel.

DAY 5: JOSHIMATH - LATA ROAD HEAD (2000 M)- LATA VILLAGE (2317 M)

After breakfast drive 25 kms to Lata village road head and 01 kms trek to Lata village. This is the last human habitation on our trekking route. Trekking would be given on exposure with the unique culture and customs of the region. Visit Lata village and the famous Nanda Devi temple. Overnight in tent.

DAY 6: LATA VILLAGE LATA KHARAK (3689 M)

After breakfast 08 kms trek to Lata Kharak. The first day of the trek is probably the toughest and involves a steep ascent of almost 1524 m with a break at Belta. Today's trek can be anything from 6 to 10 hours depending upon the individual trekkers. However it is an excellent beginning from the point of view of acclimatization. The camp at Lata Kharak is situated on the height of 3689m and high plateau surrounded by towering rocky Pinnacles. Overnight in tent.

DAY 7: LATA KHARAK -JHANDI DHAR -BAGFYANA SATKUL –DHARANSI PASS (4250)

After breakfast 08 kms trek to Dharansi Pass . Wake up at down to breath taking view of Mount Bithartoli-Himal (6354 m), Nanda Ghunti (6309 m), Ranthi Peak (6003 m) Dronagiri (7066 m) and the vast view of Kunwari pass, Auli, Urgam Valley and Lata Village. After breakfast trek begins with a steep climb up to Jhandi Dhar and further up to Bagfyana pass. From Bagfyana the trail passes through a very narrow gorge of Satkula with steep ascents and descents and finally one arrive at the meadows of Dharansi pass where we stop for the overnight near the water point. Overnight in tents.

DAY 8: DHARANSI PASS DEBRUGHETA (3500 M) AND BACK TO DHARANSI PASS

After breakfast 07 kms trek (one way) to Dharansi Pass. Like the inner sanctuary, the prominent Malthuni-Bethartoli ridge, between Dharansi Pass and Debrugheta, also divides the outer sanctuary. Both these ridges from magnificent Pass to Rani Kholi and up to Donidhar is a gradual descent and

then from Donidhar to Debrugheta is a steep descent of 750 m till one cross the improvised bridge over the stream. Afternoon return trek to Dharansi Pass. Overnight in tent.

DAY 9: DHARANSI PASS, SATKULA, BAGFYANA, JHANDI DHAR, HITOLI CAMPSITE

After breakfast trek up to Jhandi Dhar of about 7 kms and further steep descent of 5 kms, through the rich forest of Rhododendron, Birch and Raga fur.

Overnight in tents at Hitoli campsite.

DAY 10: HITOLI CAMPSITE, TOLMA VILLAGE, SURAI THOTHA ROAD HEAD, JOSHIMATH

After breakfast 5 kms trek down to Tolma village through the rich forest of Thuner, Kail, Ddevdar and Surai. Then further trek down 3 kms to road head Surai Thotha. Drive to Joshimath 30 kms. Overnight in Hotel.

DAY 11: JOSHIMATH – RISHIKESH

After breakfast drive to (230 kms. / 09 hrs) Rishikesh. Packed lunch en route.

Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel.

DAY 12: RISHIKESH – DELHI

Morning at leisure. Afternoon transfer to railway station on time to connect Shatabdi Express for Delhi (1800 hrs / 2230) . Meeting and assistance upon arrival thereafter transfer to hotel.

Overnight stay at Hotel.

DAY 13: DEPART DELHI

Breakfast at Hotel. After breakfast transfer to airport on time to connect flight for onward destination.