



SOURCE OF THE GANGES TREK: GAUMUKH & TAPOVAN



Camping at Tapovan with Shivling Peak in the background



Gaumukh

GRADE: Moderate+

SEASON: May – November **FIXED DEPARTURE DATES:** Sep 7-13, Oct 2-8, Oct 5-11, 2008

NO. OF DAYS: 7

NO. OF TREKKING DAYS: 5

MAXIMUM ALTITUDE: 4463 m/14639 ft (Tapovan)

You begin the trek at Gangotri, which is bustling with sages and sadhus (holymen) who have journeyed here to pay homage at the source of the Ganges, the most revered river in India. The spiritual intensity of Gangotri, one of India's most sacred pilgrimage sites, is palpable as you witness the daily puja at the temple, and the Hindu devotees bathing at the water's edge.



Bhagirathi peaks

The trek to Tapovan takes one through Gaumukh (Cow's mouth), said to be the source of the Ganges. One sees water gushing out of a snout like opening and towering rocks and the thick chunks of hardened ice of the glacier. The awe-inspiring view is no doubt revered by one and all. One can catch a glimpse of sadhus taking a dip here as part of their penance as it is believed that a dip in these holy waters washes away one's sins. As you weave your way from Gangotri to Tapovan, every twist in the trail reveals another stunning snowclad Himalayan giant. The campsite at Tapovan must rate as one of the most awe-inspiring spots in the world, as you gaze at the Shivling peak rising like a great deity before you and not to mention the twin Bhagirathi peaks.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 01: HARIDWAR – GANGOTRI

(Drive/265 kms/8-9 hrs)

Upon arrival at Haridwar transfer to Gangotri. Check into hotel/guesthouse for overnight stay.

DAY 02: GANGOTRI – BHOJWASSA

(Trek/14 kms/4-5 hrs)

After breakfast set out on the trek towards Bhojwassa. This trek of 14 kms will take us about 5-6 hrs. The area gets its name from the *bhoj* leaves that were used as paper during the ancient times. Overnight in tents.

DAY 03: BHOJWASSA – GAUMUKH – TAPOVAN

(Trek/10 kms/6-7 hrs)

After an early breakfast we start on our hike to Tapovan via Gaumukh. Today's trek is of 10 kms and will take us about 6-7 hrs, moving at a leisurely pace. Tapovan is a *bugyal* (high altitude meadow) situated at the base of the Shivling peak. Overnight in tents.

DAY 04: TAPOVAN

Like we always say. 'Do your own thing' today. Explore the meadows of Tapovan, attempt a short climb or just chill out, soaking in the beauty of this truly amazing landscape. Overnight in tents.



DAY 05: TAPOVAN – CHIRBASSA

(Trek/17 kms/4-5 hrs)

Retrace your steps to Chirbassa. Overnight in tents.

DAY 06: CHIRBASSA – GANGOTRI/HARSIL

(Trek/7 kms/2-3 hrs)

We will trek down to Gangotri for a couple of hours and either stay in Gangotri or drive down to Harsil. Evening at leisure. Overnight in hotel/guesthouse.

DAY 07: GANGOTRI/HARSIL – HARIDWAR

(Drive/265 kms/8-9 hrs)

Early morning drive to Haridwar. TRIP ENDS HERE.

COST OF THE TRIP

Rs. 16800 per person* on departure dates (Sep 7-13, Oct 2-8, Oct 5-11, 2008)

The following rates apply on non departure dates:

For 2 pax: Rs. 21000

For 3-4 pax: Rs. 18200

For 5+ pax: Rs. 16800

*3.09% Service Tax extra

COST INCLUDES

- All **road transfers** by a Toyota Qualis from and back to Haridwar
- **Accommodation** in 3/4 season tents during the trek on twin sharing basis and in a guesthouse/hotel in Harsil/Gangotri
- **All meals** beginning with breakfast on Day 01 to lunch on Day 07. All meals would be vegetarian.
- **Mules/Porters:** For carrying camping equipment, rations, vegetables and some amount of personal gear of the clients (one bag not weighing more than 15 kgs).
- **Professional guide** (trained from Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi) and **kitchen staff** would accompany the group

- **Camping equipment**

Camping equipment provided on the trek

- 3/4 season Mountain Hardwear (www.mountainhardwear.com) or Lafuma (www.lafuma.com) alpine tents
- Camping Mattresses
- Camping stools
- Mess Tent
- Toilet tent
- Basic Medical kit

COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel between Delhi and Haridwar (can be arranged by us on request)
- Sleeping bag (can be hired from us)
- Any meals/services not mentioned above
- Any charges for video cameras, still cameras, etc.
- Alcohol, soft drinks, beverages, etc.
- Personal expenses like tips, telephone calls, laundry, etc.
- Any costs arising out of unforeseen circumstances like landslides, road blocks, bad weather, etc.
- Insurance

PAYMENT TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Full payment to be made in advance at the time of booking the trek
- Payment to be made by Cheque/DD in favour of GREAT INDIAN OUTDOORS (P) LTD. payable at New Delhi/Gurgaon
- Payment for this trip will not be adjusted against any future trips
- Cancellation policy
 - >30 days: Full refund (after deducting any expenses that have been incurred for hotel bookings, transport, etc.)
 - 21-30 days: 75% of trip cost will be refunded (after deducting any expenses that have been incurred for hotel bookings, transport, etc.)
 - 14-21 days: 50% of trip cost will be refunded (after deducting any expenses that have been incurred for hotel bookings, transport, etc.)
 - <14 days: No refund

TRANSPORT OPTIONS (DELHI – HARIDWAR – DELHI)

TRAIN: Delhi – Haridwar

Train	ETD	ETA	1A	2A	3A	SL	CC	2S
Shatabdi Express	0655 hrs	1122 hrs	825	-	-	-	435	-
Janshabdi Express	1525 hrs	1925 hrs	-	-	-	-	345	107
Mussoorie Express	2215 hrs	0535 hrs	926	546	394	151	-	-
NZM-DDN AC Special	2305 hrs	0400 hrs	873	515	373	-	-	-

TRAIN: Haridwar – Delhi

Train	ETD	ETA	1A	2A	3A	SL	CC	2S
Janshabdi Express	0623 hrs	1115 hrs	-	-	-	-	345	107
NZM-DDN AC Special	1025 hrs	1440 hrs	873	515	373	-	-	-
Shatabdi Express	1813 hrs	2245 hrs	890	-	-	-	475	-
Mussoorie Express	2320 hrs	0720 hrs	926	546	394	151	-	-

ROAD

There are frequent Public Transport buses available from Delhi to Haridwar. These buses depart from Delhi ISBT every 30 mins. or so and take about 5 hrs to cover the distance. The same is also applicable on the return journey. A private vehicle could also be arranged for if you require the same.

PAYMENT TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Full payment to be made in advance at the time of booking the trek
- Payment to be made by Cheque/DD in favour of GREAT INDIAN OUTDOORS (P) LTD. payable at New Delhi/Gurgaon
- Payment for this trip will not be adjusted against any future trips
- Cancellation policy
 - >30 days: Full refund (after deducting any expenses that have been incurred for hotel bookings, transport, etc.)
 - 21-30 days: 75% of trip cost will be refunded (after deducting any expenses that have been incurred for hotel bookings, transport, etc.)
 - 14-21 days: 50% of trip cost will be refunded (after deducting any expenses that have been incurred for hotel bookings, transport, etc.)
 - <14 days: No refund

LIST OF ESSENTIALS

1. Sleeping bag
2. Shirts / T-shirts
3. Trousers / Track Pants
4. Windproof jacket
5. Fleece / Full-sleeve Woollen sweater
6. Thermal inner wear (upper & lower)
7. Woollen cap
8. Mittens (Woollen gloves)
9. Scarf
10. Woollen socks (extra pairs to be carried)
11. Comfortable Trekking/Hiking shoes (shoes with a thick sole are recommended)
12. Raincoat / Poncho
13. Towel
14. Water bottle
15. Cap / Hat
16. Walking stick / Trekking pole
17. Sunscreen Lotion
18. Lip Balm
19. Torch / Flashlight (with extra batteries)
20. Medicines, if requiring any specific medication
21. Camera (with extra film rolls)
22. Sunglasses
23. Personal toiletries
24. Books, if you like reading

Carry your stuff in a duffel bag, soft shoulder bag or a rucksack. Avoid suitcases, trolleys or any other hard luggage. Also carry a small knapsack to carry your personal items like cameras, water bottles, etc. while walking during the day. Each person should carry a maximum of 15 kgs of luggage on the trek.

Do get in touch with us for any items that cannot be sourced by you, as we could suggest retail outlets from where they could be bought or the same could be leased from us.

DISCLAIMER

Great Indian Outdoors (P) Ltd. takes utmost care to ensure safety of its clients. However in the case of any unforeseen mishaps, Great Indian Outdoors (P) Ltd. will not be liable for any injuries caused or for loss of life. All disputes rising due to the above are subject to the jurisdiction of the courts in New Delhi/Delhi only.