

RUINSARATAL YAMUNOTRI PASS

INTRODUCTION

The Har ki dun valley is a region known for its profusion of flowers. Its meadows linked with two routes to Ruinsara Tal. A name that conjures images of shimmering mist over gentle ripples of water, Ruinsara Tal is on the edge of the tons glaciers. According to folklore of this region, the Pandav brothers of the Indian epic Mahabharata ascended the majestic Swargarohini peak on their last leg of journey to Indralok. From Osla, the trail meanders along a stream, to a glacial rivulet that passes through boulders, the gateway into the birch forest. Following the trail, one finds Ruinsara Tal hidden between a small ridge and the left wall of the valley. With enough space to camp, there are even rock shelters that provide protection against surprise showers. The trail further goes up to the Bandarpunch Base Camp, from where an excellent view of the famous Bali Pass can be enjoyed. The trek route from Ruinsara Tal to Yamunotri Pass, goes through dense forest and is somewhat difficult compared to the route from Osla to Ruinsara.

TREK DETAILS

Season: April to mid-May

Maximum Altitude: 4500 m Yamunotri Pass

Grade: Moderate

Duration: 8 days on trek

Roadhead for trek: Train/drive from Delhi to Dehradun. A day drive from Dehradun to Taluka (220 kms/7-8 hrs). On way back from Dehradun train/drive to Delhi.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 0: Delhi - Dehradun

Board Mussoorie express from old Delhi railway station at 2215 hrs to reach Dehradun early next morning by 0700 hrs.

Day 1: Dehradun – Mori (Camp Mystic River) (185 kms/5-6 hrs)

Meet our representative, freshen up and have breakfast.

Later drive from Dehradun to Mori (5-6 hrs) via Mussoorie, Kempty falls, Purola to reach Camp Mystic River Mori, GIO's exclusive riverside camp. Overnight stay at the camp.

Day 2: Mori - Taluka – Osla (2560 m/8396 ft) (13 kms/4-5 hrs)

Early morning drive to Taluka 45 kms (2 - 2 & 1/2 hrs) a small hamlet nestled in laps of nature. This is the base from where the trek starts. Today we trek 13 kms to reach Osla. Today's trek is through beautiful forests of Chestnut, Walnut and Willows. A gradual ascent brings you to the picturesque Osla village along the swift rivulet. On arrival set campsite for overnight stay.

Day 3: Osla – Ruinsaratal (3500 m/11480 ft) (18 kms/6-7 hrs)

Today we start trekking early towards Ruinsara Tal. The Trek from Osla to Ruinsara Tal is through, terraced mountain fields, lush green grassy lands and conifer forests. On arrival at the lake set campsite for overnight stay.

Day 4: Ruinsaratal

The day is for rest / acclimatization / exploration.

Day 5: Ruinsaratal – Thange (4000 m/13120 ft) (12 kms 5-6 hrs)

Today we start trekking further towards Thange. The climb is gradual and terrain really beautiful. Overnight stay in tents.

Day 6: Thange - Yamunotri Pass (4500 m/14760 ft) (10 kms/ 5-6 hrs)

Start trekking towards Yamunotri pass. Today we ascend gradually to reach the Yamunotri pass from where we enjoy the sight of beautiful Himalayan peaks dominating the horizon. Set campsite for overnight stay.

Day 7: Yamunotri Pass - Yamunotri (3150 m/10332 ft) (10 kms/4-5 hrs)

Today we descend towards Yamunotri, one of the most famous pilgrimages of the Hindus. From the Yamnotri pass, the trail is generally downhill. Overnight stay in guest house / forest bungalow. today.

Day 8: Yamunotri - Hanumanchatti – Mussoorie (2000 m/6560 ft)

Trek 13 km down to Hanumanchatti the road head. From here drive to Mussoorie "The Queen of hills", overlooking the Doon valley.

En-route visit Lakhmandal- a site associated with the heroes of the epic 'Mahabharata'. There is an ancient temple and cave formations which are of great interest. Overnight stay in hotel at Mussoorie.