

MOUNTAIN VIEWS AND TIGER TRAILS

Uttarakhand

Duration: 8 Nights / 9 Days



PLACES COVERED: DELHI – CORBETT – BINSAR – JHALTOLA – SONAPANI – DELHI

Start from: Delhi

End at: Delhi

Permit needed: Yes

Document required: Photocopies of valid nationality proof Photo-IDs (Passport, Driving License, Voters ID, PAN card, Adhar Card)

Explore lesser known parts of Kumaon Himalayas in the state of Uttarakhand. Kumaon lies almost south to the great Himalayan range. It is moderate in its constitution. The lie of its land is gentler in its undulations, its lore more lyrical. What permeates the open valleys is a simpler, singular faith in the presiding deity of Kumaon- Nanda Devi, the goddess of Bliss. The destinations are hand-picked and the trip is a visual sensory overload for all the lovers of the Himalayas. Almost every day, you have a 180 degree view of high Himalayan peaks. Add to this the fantastic walks, cool climes, endless cups of tea, delicious food, jungle safaris, evenings around bonfire and Voila! You have a perfect journey.

Day 01 | Delhi - Corbett- 270 kms/7 -8 hrs drive

Early morning leave Delhi for Corbett. Reach by afternoon to a Jungle Retreat in the peripheral forests of Corbett. Check into a Cottage. Freshen up and later go for an afternoon safari.

Day 02 | Corbett

Another jungle safari early in the morning. In the afternoon, we go for a walk in the jungle. Evening at leisure in the retreat. Night stay in retreat.

Day 03 | Corbett- Binsar- 5 hrs

Leave after breakfast to reach Binsar by afternoon. Check into the cottage located within the Sanctuary. The retreat in Binsar is picturesquely located. Afternoon at leisure. Night stay in retreat.

Day 04 | Binsar

Walk up to the zero point. Leave very early in the morning so that you can reach the top just before sunrise. Enjoy a spectacular sunrise view. Hike back to retreat for breakfast. After breakfast, we go for another walk in the jungles of Binsar sanctuary. Afternoon at leisure. In the evening, we go for another hike/ drive to a ridge for spectacular views at sundown.

Day 05 | Binsar- Jhaltola- 3 hrs

After breakfast, drive to Jhaltola. Reach Jhaltola in the afternoon and settle into your room. Jhaltola estate's Himalayan views stretch from Nanda Ghunti through Trishul, Mrigthugni, Maiktoli, Nanda Devi, Nanda East, Panwali Dwar, Nanda Kot, Nanda Khat, Nanda Bhanar, Lapsa Dhura, Raj Rambha, Panchachuli, and some Nepal Himalayan peaks. It is located amidst about 1000 acres of mixed forests. Last year, more than 150 species of birds were identified and photographed here. At 1700 to 2600 meters ASL, Jhaltola is a perfect habitat for birds.

Rest of the day at leisure to discover, read, indulge in photography else, the retreat has an activity center with games, a small library and an amphitheater. Hike up to sunset point in the evening. Evening around a bonfire. Night stay at Jhaltola estate. After dinner, you can for a night trek in the thick forest around you.

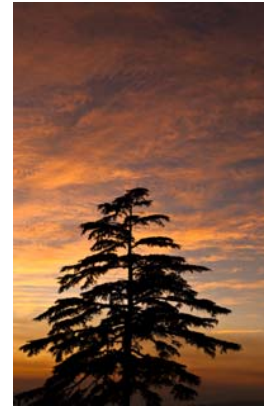
Day 06 | Jhaltola - hike to Lamkeshwar

A half day hike to Lamkeshwar. This is a 3 km uphill hike to the temple. It offers fabulous 360 degrees view. Return to retreat in time for lunch. Rest after lunch, else you could try your hand at Rock craft (rappelling, rock climbing, tyrolean traverse and Burma bridge). Evening around a bonfire. You could try star gazing. Night stay in retreat.

Day 07 | Jhaltola- Sonapani- 4 hrs

Post leisurely breakfast drive to Sonapani. On arrival check in to the rooms. Rest of the evening around a bonfire. Night stay in retreat.

Sonapani is a tiny Hamlet close to Mukteshwar. It has an interesting history. There used to be an old natural spring perceived to have medicinal properties and hence the village was named, Sonapani. Some British officers happened to



drink water from here and took to it immediately. Thereafter, water from the spring was supplied to the officers of nearest army garrison on ponies and horses. One of these officers was the decorated Captain Kushal Singh Burathoki. On his retirement, he was given a piece of land of his choice. He chose this land and named it Sonapani Estate. He built a stone structure here and spent his days farming and hunting. Today, the stone structure serves as office and staff quarters of the retreat you would be staying in. The retreat itself is flanked by Pine, Oak and Rhododendrons forest. And of course not to miss is the fantastic view of the Himalayan peaks. There are also orchards of apricot, apple, plum and peach.

Day 08 | Sonapani

Breakfast at leisure after which we drive to Mukteshwar. Mukteshwar is a quaint little town. We start our hike back to Sonapani from here. This is a lovely hike through pine forest. Sonapani is also a good area for bird watching. Enjoy a packed lunch in the forest. Back to the retreat early evening. Enjoy the evening around a bonfire. Night stay in retreat.

Day 09 | Sonapani- Delhi drop 275 kms/7- 8 hrs

We come to the end of the trip and head back to Delhi.

