

DEORIA TAL- CHOPTA-
TUNGNATH AND CHANDRASHILA PEAK WINTER
TREK

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Drive from Delhi to Srinagar (350 Kms, 8 to 9 hrs), Overnight stay in hotel at Srinagar

The drive to Srinagar (the largest city in the Garhwal Himalaya) is a long one and goes from Delhi to Haridwar, Rishikesh, Devprayag, Pauri and then finally ends at Srinagar. The route from Delhi till Rishikesh is along a generally level highway and is covered fairly quickly. From here on, the road gets narrower as it starts climbing the Himalayan foothills in a series of switchbacks that have a sheer gorge on one side. After a long drive, we will finally end up at Srinagar in the evening. If you are up to it, you can walk down to the various Mahadev temples along the banks of the Alaknanda river in the evening and witness the late aarti.

Day 2: Drive from Srinagar to Sari (80 Kms, 2 to 3 hrs) & Trek from Sari^{2121 mtrs} to Deoria Tal^{2438mtrs} (3 Kms, 1 to 2 hrs), Overnight Camping.

Drive to Sari Village, the starting point of the 3 Kms trek to Deoria Tal. Gradually ascending trail through the forests of rhododendron, alpine and oak trees will end up at Deoria Tal. The path is well made and broad too. It just takes around 1.5 hours to reach Deoria Tal from Sari Village. Deoria Tal is a gorgeous lake nestled amidst elevated meadows with few huts nearby that provide accommodation.

The reflection of Himalayan range on the pristine waters of this lake is a view that will be etched in your minds forever.

Day 3: Trek from Deoria Tal to Rohini Bugyal^{2730mtrs} (8 Kms, 4 to 5 hrs), Overnight Camping

The trail to Rohini Bugyal is across rolling hills, without any steep ascents. The route passes through some of the most beautiful forests rich in a wide variety of flora. Red and pink colored Rhododendrons will greet you at every step.

You need to cross Jhandi Dhar while trekking towards Rohini Bugyal. Jhandi Dhar (2,650mts) is a ridge top which offers clear views of Kedar Dome and Chaukhamba Peaks. Chandra Shila Peak also becomes visible after trekking for a few kilometers.

There are very few water sources along this stretch, so do carry extra water! It is advisable that you carry at least two water bottles to ensure a comfortable hike.

Perched at an elevation of 2730 meters above sea level, Rohini Bugyal is a small meadow but a beautiful campsite which offers stunning views of Himalayan peaks.

Day 4: Trek from Rohini Bugyal to Bhrujgali^{3300 mtrs}(6 Kms, 3 to 4 hrs), Overnight Camping

A short hike of 6 Kms from Rohini Bugyal ends up at Bhrujgali. It takes around 3.5 hours to complete this stretch. Initially the route climbs up gradually to Tikdi Khal (2,800mts) where you'll encounter two diversions in the route. The straight trail leads to Bisuri Tal, a high altitude glacial lake whereas the trail on the right with steep descent goes towards Akash Kamini stream coming from Chandrashila.

Continue walking towards the Akash Kamini stream. After crossing the stream continue walking uphill to reach Lower Bhrujgali meadows surrounded with dense forest. It is a good camping spot but if there is time remaining, it is advisable to continue trekking towards Bhrujgali since that will save time tomorrow morning in order to be able to enjoy the dawn glow from Chandrashila. In less than an hour you'll reach Bhrujgali meadows, where you will see a well made trail that leads to Tungnath. This will be our campsite for the night.

Day 5: Trek from Bhrujgali to Tungnath^{3680 mtrs} to Chandrashila Summit^{4130 mtrs} and back to Bhrujgali and then to Chopta^{3000 mtrs}(13 Kms, 7 to 8 hrs), Drive from Chopta to Srinagar(55 Kms, 2 to 3 hrs), Overnight stay in hotel at Srinagar

Start early in the morning in order to see the sunrise from Chandrashila. This entire region comes under the Kedarnath Musk Deer Sanctuary so there are chances that you might spot wildlife in the morning including Wild Goat and Himalayan Monal. The trail from Bhrujgali to Tungnath temple is broad and well maintained. During today's trek you will be gaining altitude in a very short distance due to the climb being steep.

During the final stretch to reach Tungnath you will see a rocky cliff on the right which is known as Raavan Shila. You can take a short break here, prior to the final ascent up to Tungnath Temple.

Magnificent in its style and architecture Tungnath is considered to be more than a 1000 years old. The main temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and other small rock temples in the vicinity are dedicated to Goddess Parvati. The temple remains closed during winters.

Another 1 Km steep hike from Tungnath temple will lead you to Chandrashila Summit. The trail becomes narrow as we climb up the meadows of Chandrashila Peak. Chandrashila is the summit of the mountain on which Tungnath temple is situated. A beautiful small temple is situated on the summit along with several unique cairn structures. Chandrashila is perched at an elevation of 4,130 meters above sea level offering splendid views of the majestic Himalayan peaks including Kedar Dome, Chaukhamba, Nanda Devi, Trishul, Nanda Ghunti, Kamet, Gangotri Ranges & more.

Spend some time at Chandrashila Summit witnessing the heavenly horizon and then start descending towards Bhrujgali. Chopta is another 1 Km downhill hike from Bhrujgali that just takes around 20 mins to traverse.

Accommodation facilities are available at Chopta but we will drive back to Srinagar where we will stay for the night.

Day 6: Drive from Srinagar to New Delhi (350 Kms, 9 to 10 hrs).

This is pretty much the same return drive to Delhi, as we traverse the tricky switchbacks with the Alaknanda flowing deep below. Once the steep sectors, prone to landslides, are complete, the drive from Haridwar onwards is pretty quick and we should be in Delhi by late evening.

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