

DODITAL -DARWA PASS TREK (Angler's paradise)

INTERESTING FACTS/INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLACE

Uttarkashi

Uttarkashi town is the district headquarters of Uttarkashi and is situated along the banks of the river Bhagirathi. It is well known for its ashrams and temples and also because it is home to one of the best Mountaineering Institutes in India – the Nehru Institute of mountaineering. It was named as Uttarkashi (The Kashi or Varanasi of the North) since its topography and location along the banks of the Bhagirathi bears close resemblance to the city of Varanasi that lies along the river Ganga.

Uttarkashi is very famous among adventure enthusiasts as it offers white water rafting along with some excellent trekking routes and mountaineering expeditions into the Gangotri region. Uttarkashi is also the site of a couple of hydro electric power project Tiloth Power Plant dams, Maneri Dam and Bhali Dam in Joshiyari village.

Uttarkashi is also the biggest town and main centre for trekking supplies and guides for all treks going into the Gangotri and Yamunotri regions.

Darwa Top

A steep ascent from Dodital takes one to Darwa Pass, from where yet another steep walk takes you to Darwa Top (at 4,180 metres) The peaks visible from here are the Gangotri range, with the most notable being Swargarohini, Bandarpoonch and Hanuman Tibba (which lies in Himachal Pradesh).

Yamunotri

The source of the river Yamuna lies atop a flank of Bandarpoonch mountain at an altitude of 3,293 metres, in the westernmost Garhwal Himalayas. It is also regarded as the seat of Goddess Yamuna and the shrine is named as Yamunotri in her honour. It is a popular pilgrimage location and one of the most important "char dhams" of Hindu Pilgrimage. It is located about 30 kms North of Uttarkashi.

The actual source of the river is the Champasar Glacier that is located on the Kalind Mountain 1 km away from the shrine and almost 500 metres above! (at 4,421 metres). The approach is extremely difficult and dangerous and it is regarded as inaccessible.

The deity of the temple is made of black marble and was placed by Maharaja Pratap Shah of Tehri Garhwal. There are number of hot springs gushing out of the cracks in the mountains here, which pool and form steaming ponds (or "kunds"). The most important among these is the Surya Kund. Hot springs are also found about 7 kms away at a place known as Janki Chatti.

The temple closes for winter on Diwali day and reopens in summer on the auspicious day of Akshaya Tritiya.

Janki Chatti

Janki Chatti is a small town about 3 Kms prior to the Yamunotri temple located at an altitude of 2650 metres above sea level. It is the base for all pilgrims and trekkers travelling to Yamunotri since it provides accommodation facilities and is the last village on the route. The village has a number of hot springs where pilgrims and trekkers can have a prolonged bath and rejuvenate themselves.

Sangam Chatti

Sangam Chatti is a typical nondescript town in the Garhwal highlands located at an altitude of 1,350 metres above sea level. Its claim to fame lies in the fact that it is the last motorable point for the trek that leads onto Dodital.

Saptarishi Kund

Saptarishi Kund is the source of the river Yamuna and is located about 8 kms above the Yamunotri shrine. It lies at the foot of the Champasar glacier and the trek to reach it is a steep and challenging journey over moraine and boulders with steep rock walls that would be a tough climb even for experienced trekkers. There are a couple of glacial ponds here and a pass can be viewed beyond Champasar glacier that leads to the Bandarpoonch glacier.

The Bugyals of Uttarakhand

The Bugyals (or high altitude alpine meadows ranging between approximately 9,000 to 11,000 feet) of Uttarakhand are large gently sloping verdant summer grasslands that turn into superb ski slopes during winter. They are some of the most beautiful spots in the mountains, with their beauty rivaling the meadows of the Austrian, Swiss and Italian Alps. Some of the most famous bugyals are the Auli Bugyal (that is the primary ski resort of Uttarakhand), the Bedni Bugyal which is part of the route that leads onto RoopKund lake and the Dayara Bugyal that along with the Barnala Bugyal is a huge meadow with spectacular views of the Gangotri peaks.