

Har ki Dun Trek

INTERESTING PLACES

Mussoorie

Mussoorie is 35 kms away from Dehradun lying on a ridge at an average altitude of 6,580 feet. The highest point is Lal Tibba at 7,500 feet where you can get an uninterrupted view of the Doon valley and the Shivalik ranges to the south. There are a number of places of historic importance as well as natural beauty worth visiting, such as the Gun Hill, the Kempty Falls, St Mary's church (the oldest Christian church in the Himalayas) and Sir George Everest's House and Laboratory.

Dhanaulti

Dhanaulti is a popular hill station located 24 kms away from Mussoorie and is a very popular destination for tourists from the plains, with its verdant forests of oak, Deodar and rhododendron. It is famed for its panoramic view of the Garhwal Himalayas early in the morning on a clear sky, spreading all the way across the horizon.

The Swargarohini Range and Legend

As per the Mahabharata legend, after the Great War was over, the Pandavas racked with guilt over the slaying of their cousins, decided to do penance and seek absolution. They renounced their worldly trappings and moved into the forests of Uttarakhand, finding the path to ascend to heaven and be rid of the cycle of rebirths. Enroute, feeling thirsty, they came across a lake guarded by a Vaksha, who warned the brothers that they would die if they drank the water unless they answered his questions. All the brothers died by ignoring his warnings except for the eldest "Yudhishtira". Yudhishtira, the wisest of them all, listened to the questions and answered them all satisfactorily, and was allowed further progress up the mountain to ascend to heaven. The mountain path that he took on his ascent to heaven was along the Swargarohini range massif, which is why this group of 4 peaks is immortalized and revered in Hindu mythology.

Ruinsara Tal

Ruinsara Tal is a beautiful high altitude glacial lake lying at the foothills of the Swargarohini massif. The lake lies in a huge open meadow surrounded by forested ridges and massive looming peaks around it. It is usually clubbed in with a trek to the Bali Pass, a lesser known but spectacular Pass that takes one up, close and personal with the Swargarohini peaks.

Borasu Pass

Borasu Pass lies at 5450 metres above sea level and is part of the ancient trade route between garhwal and Kinnaur. The pass is rarely attempted and is a unique trek for enthusiasts. It follows the route of the Har ki Dun trek till the Har Ki Dun valley and from there goes to Maninda Tal after which a steep ascent begins crossing Lamjunga, onto the base known as “Pass Ke Neeche” – meaning Under the pass (literally!) and then up and over it. The views are magnificent with a whole host of peaks visible from here along the virgin snowfields on top of the Pass. From here the trail goes all the way down to Chitkul which lies in the Baspa valley in Himachal Pradesh.

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