

KUARI PASS TREK

The Kuari Pass trek is also known as The Curzon Trail (named after the former British Viceroy)

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE PLACE

Joshimath

The name Joshimath is derived from “Jyotir-math” where “math” can be translated as a monastery. It is the northernmost monastery among those established by the seer Adi Shakaracharya, who had travelled extensively in the Garhwal Himalayas. It lies in the Chamoli district, and is the base for a number of treks and expeditions to some of the highest and most picturesque peaks in India. It has a number of interesting temples with their associated myths, none more so than the Narsinh Temple.

Narsinh Temple

This is the main temple of Joshimath and is dedicated to Lord Vishnu in his avatar of “Narsinh”, half man and half lion. As per the local mythology, if and when the right hand of this idol of Narsinh breaks (and it is currently on the verge), the mountains of Jay-Vijay en-route to the Badrinath shrine, will come together in a cataclysmic event, and the deity of Lord Badrinath in the Badrinath shrine shall disappear and re-appear from the ground as a solid black stone 10 kms away from Joshimath, at Bhavishya Badri. This may not seem far removed from a possible disaster, since the region lies on a fault line and is prone to seismic events!

Auli

Auli is a ski resort in the state of Uttarakhand and lies a few kms above Joshimath. It is surrounded by spectacular peaks, primary among them being the tallest peak that lies completely within India – Mt. Nanda Devi. The Auli ski resort has a ski lift and an artificial lake that is frozen over and is used to generate snow for preserving the ski slopes if the powder snow is inadequate. Auli also has a Hanuman temple in memory of a short rest that Lord Hanuman is said to have taken while on his way to get the Sanjivani herb.

Auli is also the training centre for the ITBP (Indo Tibetan Border Police) who are regarded as one of the best warriors guarding our borders.

Tapovan

Tapovan is a beautiful little wooded hamlet that literally means forest of meditation. It is 15 kms away from Joshimath and has hot springs and a small temple. It is the one of the start/end points of the complete Curzon Trail.

Vasudhara Falls and Badrinath

If you go for the trek during summer, it is worth going on a day excursion to Vasudhara Falls. You can drive to Mana village from Joshimath (the last Indian village before the Tibet border) and then trek 3 kms to Vasudhara Falls. The trail is over largely rocky terrain until you come to a tall cliff that is approximately 500 feet high, from where the waters of the Vasudhara river (which later on joins the Alaknanda) gush through with spectacular force. You can see the Chaukhamba, Balakun and Nilkantha peaks as also the bottom of the Satopanth glacier rolling down to the bottom of the Vasudhara river.

From here, you can also plan a trek to Laxmi Van forest and then further on to Satopanth Glacier. This will however require camping and we will make all necessary arrangements if informed in advance.

Another short excursion is possible from Mana village, where you could go upto the holy shrine of Badrinath which is 9 kms away. Usually the trip to Vasudhara Falls and Badrinath can be done together in a single day, if you leave early in the morning. The trek to Satopanth Glacier however takes a couple of days.

IndMassif.com