



# OUTWARD BOUND INDIA - HIMALAYA

TO SERVE, TO STRIVE AND NOT TO YIELD

## Shipton Tilman Trek

### FAST FACTS

Who is it for: Ages 16+

What is it: 10 Day Journey

Where is it held: Uttarakhand

Cost : contact us



OUTWARD BOUND  
INDIA - HIMALAYA

## BACKGROUND

Finding your 'True North', heading out on that journey of life that enters you into the adult world. Are you ready? Do you know your path, your strengths, your challenges? This Outward Bound programme provides the journey and the chance to test your mettle, discover yourself and emerge a more confident and easy walking version of the person that started. The course will take you on a challenging journey in the Indian Himalayas. It is a classic high Himalayan route, part of the Shipton - Tillman trail of discovery to the base of Nanda Devi. It's also called Curzon's trail after one of Britain's viceroys to India - Lord Curzon.

The sights are breathtaking, the route challenging and the discoveries immense.



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## SUGGESTED ITINERARY

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### **DAY 01: ARRIVAL IN HARIDWAR - SHIVPURI - PREPARATIONS AND PLANNING**

Arrival at haridwar railway station, you will meet OBH facilitator at station drive towards Shivpuri camp for one and half hour.

Once at the camp there will be an introduction to the instructors detailed camp briefing, allotment of tents and contracting. You will be divided into groups and start planning for the trek. You will be issued rucksacks and sleeping bags, mess tins etc and will pack for the trek.

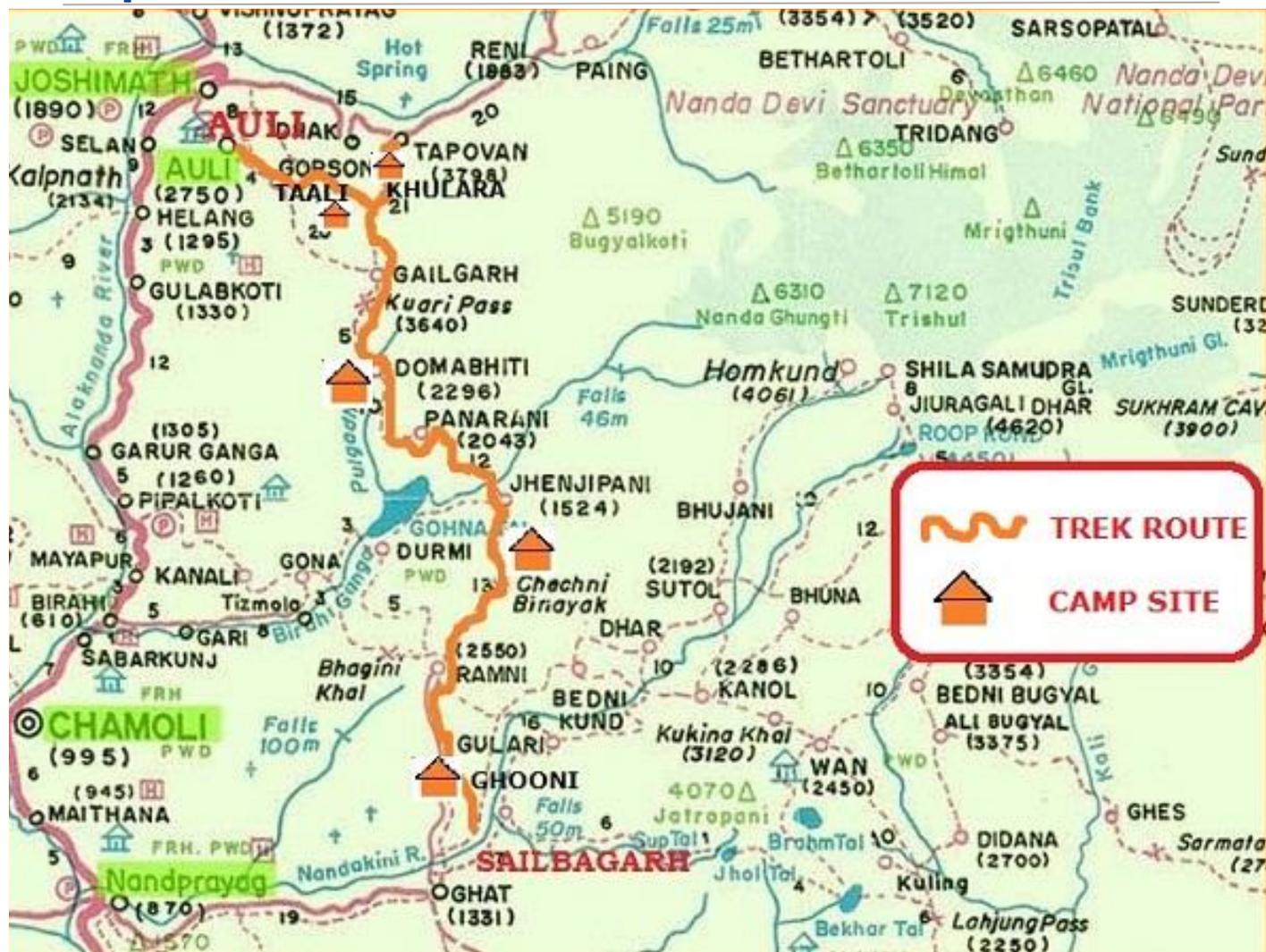
**Overnight at Shivpuri Camp.**



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### DAY 02: DRIVE - RISHIKESH TO GHAT

Kuari Pass trek begins with a nine to ten hour drive, so the plan is to leave immediately after breakfast. We drive to Ghat and then on to Chefna, the starting point of the Kuari Pass trek. We will drive past regions of huge significance to Hindu religion - four of the five *Panch Prayags*, Devprayag, Rudraprayag, Karnprayag and Nandprayag - the sacred river confluences in the Garhwal Himalayas.



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### **DAY 03: TREK : CHEFNA TO GHUNI**

After breakfast we will start trek Chefna to Ghuni. It's a nice 6 KM walk next to the river followed by an ascent through coniferous and mixed forests. The walk along a wooded ridge takes us to a village called Ramni at 2,550 meters (8,366 feet). It is a typical Garhwal village with warm, friendly people and quaint but attractive homes built with heavy slate roofs along paved alleys, surrounded by fertile farmlands. A solar-powered electricity scheme provides electricity to this village. You climb up till Ramni Pass at 3,064 meters (10,053 feet) often called Binayak Top. The Kuari Pass trail passes through clusters of village settlements and leads to an open plateau above Ghuni in the Chamoli District, which is where you will pitch tent for the night. Overnight at camp in Ghuni.

### **DAY 04: TREK : GHUNI TO SEMKHERK**

This is a long day but the views make it all worth it. It's a steep climb from the campsite - about 300 meters (1,000 feet) on a zigzag track that leads to open, high altitude meadows. Look up, just above the forest line and you get your first glimpse of snow-capped peaks! The path continues uphill through forests of rhododendron, pine, and oak that intermittently break into green pastures - summer fodder for the livestock owned by the nomadic shepherds that live in the region. You may even get to meet flocks of sheep and goats moving along the track. About 2 Hrs:15 Min into the trek you will reach Ramni Pass at 3,064 meters (10,053 feet) often called Binayak Top. From this point, you can see Kuari Pass, but you'll have to wait till Day 8 to actually get there! Keep an eye out for exotic birds especially the Himalayan Monal Pheasant with its multi-coloured plumes.

Hunted by local poachers for its exquisite blue feathers they are very shy, and prefer to stay away. The last part of this day's Kuari Pass trek is a gentle down hill across more pastures and open glades, through lovely forests of horse chestnuts and walnut trees and past waterfalls and little rivulets. A zigzag descent and soggy socks later, you've reached your camping place for the night. The meadows of Semkherk, at an altitude of 2,600 metres (8,530 feet) give you a glorious view of two of Trishul's peaks!

Camp overnight at Semkherk.



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### DAY 05: TREK - SEMKHERK TO KALIAGHAT

Day 5 of the Kuari Pass trek starts with an almost constant descent - into the colorful village of Jhinjhi, pretty much the last village you will see while on this trek. It's a lovely little hamlet, that has just one school with a single teacher and around 25 - 30 curious little children. The trail continues past small farms and through wooded paths that lead straight to the Birehi Gorge. Once you cross over the spectacular suspension bridge, it's a very steep climb to almost 2250 meters (7,382 feet) after which trail levels out a bit - this is a challenging trail and should take you around 2 - 3 hours depending on your fitness levels. It's a rewarding climb though - once the track evens out you pass through rhododendron forests and can spy long-tailed magpies flitting about. The route circles around deep ravines and little rivulets and waterfalls dot the area. Your campsite for the night is Kaliaghat, reached after a short ascent, near the village of Pana. Camp overnight at Kaliaghat.

### DAY 06: TREK - KALIGHAT TO SARTOLI

You wake up to a misty morning - the village below is all covered in mist, and you're hoping the sun will make an entrance pretty quick! Dhakauni is at the base of Kuari Pass and the campsite itself is above the tree line at 3,600 meters (11,811 feet). So yes, this is going to be another long day on the Kuari Pass Trek! The trail traverses above the village and then starts a steep climb into a rhododendron forest. About two hours later, you reach Sartoli meadow from where you get a clear view of Kuari Pass. You walk through the crests and troughs of valleys, past several little streams, and then plunge down a very steep and loose section, much of which has been washed away by the monsoons. The loose rubble and soil makes it a slow and awkward descent to the river below - into wild country that is home to the blue sheep and the Himalayan black bear. It is yet another steep climb up from here; cross a large stream and a final climb later you emerge into large pastures of land well above the tree-line. Look up and there's the wondrous Kuari Pass towering above - and suddenly, you are breathless for different reasons altogether! Overnight at campsite.



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### **DAY 07: TREK - ACROSS KUARI PASS AND TO TALI**

The day starts early today - so you don't miss out on the magnificent early morning views at Kuari Pass. The trail from Dhakauni climbs through the forest,, pass the tree-line...and then you wait. Wait for the spectacular Himalayan views that the early morning sunrise will bring you! Capture this in your mind's eye or on your cameras, it's not a view you will get to see often! The shutterbug in you might just go crazy for a while and many photographs later the trail descends to a bifurcation to Tapovan & Tali. The trail to Tali leads to a ridge with a temple and prayer flags fluttering in the wind, and from here the two massifs of the divine Nanda Devi come into view. Her name means Bliss-Giving Goddess and truly the sight leaves you speechless.

On a clear day you would be able to see Dronagiri, Trishul, Changabang, Hathi Parbat and Rishikot as well. This is where you will settle for the night - in a meadow amidst rhododendron trees gazing up at this panoramic view of the Himalaya.

Overnight at campsite.

### **DAY 8: TREK - TO TAPOVAN AND DRIVE TO JOSHIMATH**

The trail from Tali is a gradual climb across the mountain ridge which narrows down until it reaches three grassy dunes, collectively called Gorsons Top. Over here the Himalaya achieve a kind of astounding perfection; the view is of a formidable fortress standing guard over the Nanda Devi Sanctuary, a place Sir Edmund Hillary once called a "God-gifted wilderness", and from the center, rises the divine Nanda Devi, all all 7,817 meters of her! Time stands still here and you now understand why the Himalaya enthralled Lord Curzon (after whom this trail is often called) as much as it did.

From here, its a gradual descent to Tapovan, through woods and pastures, when we finally meet our vehicle at the road head to drive on to Joshimath. A little hamlet often referred to as the gateway to the Himalaya - several trekking and climbing expeditions start from Joshimath. It is also one of the four cardinal institutions established by Adi Shankara, the great Hindu philosopher of the early 8th century.

Overnight at Joshimat.

### **DAY 9: DRIVE TO SHIVPURI**

This is a 235 KM stretch and we start the journey immediately after breakfast. Lunch will be enroute. Once at base camp you will clean the equipment , handover all the expedition equipment and have time to freshen up.

### **DAY 10: DEPARTURE**

There will be a certificate ceremony for all students followed by breakfast. After breakfast depart for your onward destination.



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## WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Accommodation in tents/hotels as per the itineraries.
- All meals as per the itinerary.
- Professional instructors and facilitators for the duration of program.
- Transport from arrival at Haridwar/Dehra Dun
- Travel and medical insurance

## WHAT IS EXCLUDED?

- Any flight cost
- Cold drinks and mineral water
- Expenses arising out of any unforeseen circumstances, natural disasters or delays due to illness.

## BOOKING POLICY

We will need 50% advance to confirm the trip at-least 4 months prior to trip dates.

Balance payment to be made on start of trip.

## CANCELLATIONS

- A month prior to trip date : 30% of total cost
- 15 days prior to trip date : 50% of total cost
- 07 days prior to trip date : 75% of total cost
- Within 7 days of trip : 100% of total cost

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