

# Travel & more

## DO DHAM YATRA ( Kedarnath - Badrinath )

Routing: Delhi – Haridwar - Rudraprayag – Kedarnath - Rudraprayag - Badrinath – Joshimath - Rishikesh - Delhi

07 NIGHTS / 08 DAYS

### Day 1: Delhi - Haridwar (230 kms/6-7hrs)

Arrival Delhi Railway Station, Meet & Assist further drive to Haridwar. Later drive to Haridwar transfer to your Hotel. Visit Har-ki-Pauri for Ganga Aarti in evening. Back to your hotel, Night halt.

**Haridwar:** Haridwar, lying at the feet of Shiva's hills, i.e., Shivaliks, in the Haridwar district of Uttaranchal Pradesh, is a doorway. Suryavanshi prince Bhagirath performed penance here to salvage the souls of his ancestors who had perished due to the curse of sage Kapila. The penance was answered and the river Ganga trickled forth from Lord Shiva's locks and its bountiful water revived the sixty thousand sons of king Sagara. In the tradition of Bhagirath, devout Hindus stand in the sacred waters here, praying for salvation of their departed elder. It is doorway to the sources of the Ganga and the Yamuna, 3000 to 4500 meters up into the snowy ranges of the central Himalayas. The 'Aarti' worship of the Ganga after sunset and the floating 'dia' (lamp) is a moving ritual.

### Day 02: Haridwar - Rudraprayag - Guptkashi (210kms/7-8hr)

Drive to Guptkashi enroute visit Devprayag. Check in Hotel, night halt.

### Day 03: Guptkashi - Kedarnath (30kms by road & 14kms Trek)

Morning drive to Gaurikund, Trek start from Gaurikund to Kedarnath (3584 mts) on foot or on by pony / Doli. Tour members should carry personal medicines, heavy woolen, toiletries and clothes for an overnight halt at Kedarnath. Check in Hotel. Later visit Kedarnath Temple. Night halt.

**Gaurikund:** At a distance of 5kms from Sonprayag and at an altitude of 1982 meters., one can take bath in the hot water pond here and visit the Gauri Temple. This is the place where Goddess Parvathi meditated to attain Lord Shiva. It is the base for a trek to Kedarnath.

**Kedarnath:** The Kedarnath shrine, one of the 12 jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, is a scenic spot situated, against the backdrop of the majestic Kedarnath range. Kedar is another name of Lord Shiva, the protector and the destroyer. According to legend, the Pandavas after having won over the Kaurava in the Kurukshetra war, felt guilty of having killed their own brothers and sought the blessings of Lord Shiva for redemption. He eluded them repeatedly and while fleeing took refuge at Kedarnath in the form of a bull. On being followed he dived into the ground, leaving his hump on the surface. The remaining portions of Lord Shiva appeared at **four other**

# Travel & more

places and are worshipped there as his manifestations. The arms appeared at Tungnath, the face at Rudranath, the belly at Madhmaheshwar and his locks (hair) with head at Kalpeshwar. Kedarnath and the four above-mentioned shrines are treated as Panch Kedar.

## **Day 04: Kedarnath - Rudraprayag (14Kms Down Trek & 75kms/3hr by Road)**

Early morning, after Temple Darshan trek down to Gaurikund. Later, drive to Rudraprayag via Guptkashi. Check in Hotel at Rudraprayag. Night Halt.

**Rudraprayag:** It is the confluence of river Mandakini and river Alaknanda.

## **Day 05: Rudraprayag - Badrinath (165kms/7hr)**

Drive to Badrinath via Joshimath. Check in Hotel. Later visit Badrinath Temple. There are other interesting sight seeing spot like Mana, Vyas Gufa, Maatamoorti, Charanpaduka, Bhimkund and the "Mukh" of the Saraswati River. Just within the three kms of Badrinathjee. Overnight stay at Badrinath.

**Badrinath:** one of the 'Four Dhams' is one of the most celebrated pilgrimage spots of the country and is situated at an elevation of 3,133 meters, guarded on either side by the two mountain ranges known as Nar & Narayan with the towering Neelkanth Peak providing a splendid backdrop. This revered spot was once carpeted with wild berries. Thus the place got the name "Badri van", meaning "forest of berries".

**Tapt Kund :** Natural thermal springs on the bank of the river Alaknanda, where it is customary to bathe before entering the Badrinath temple.

**Narad Kund :** A recess in the river, near Tapt Kund, forming a pool from where the Badrinath idol was recovered.

**Brahama Kapal :** A flat platform on the bank of river Alaknanda. Hindus perform propitiating rites for their deceased ancestors.

**Sheshnetra :** 1.5kms. away is a boulder having an impression of the legendary serpent, better known as the Sheshnag's eye.

**Charanpaduka :** 3kms. away is a beautiful meadow where the footprint of Lord Vishnu is seen on a boulder.

**Mata Murty Temple :** Devoted to the mother of Sri Badrinathji. Other important temples include Sesh Netra Temple, Urvashi Temple and Charanpaduka.

**Mana Village :** Inhabited by an Indo-Mongolian tribe, it is the last Indian village before Tibet.

# Travel & more

**Vasundhara** : As the name suggests, vasundhara is a magnificent water fall. This place is 5 kms. from Badrinath out of which 2 kms. is motorable upto Mana.

**Bhim Pul** : On the other side of Mana village, a massive rock forming a natural bridge, lies over the roaring Saraswati river. It presents a spectacular view of water thundering down through the narrow passage under the rock and is believed to have been placed there by Bhim, the second eldest among the five Pandava brothers.

**Vyas Gufa (cave)** : Near Mana Village, this is a rock-cave where Ved Vyas is believed to have composed the Mahabharata and the pauranic commentaries.

**Day 06: Badrinath - Joshimath (44kms/3hr) / Pipalkoti (85kms/4hr) / Kirtinagar (200kms/7-8hr)**

Early morning, pilgrims after having a bath in the Taptkund have the Darshan of Badrivishal. Brahamakapal is significant for Pinddan Shraddh of ancestors (Pitrus). Later drive back to Joshimath / Pipalkoti / Kirtinagar. Check in Hotel. Overnight stay.

Joshimath is situated on the slopes above the confluence of Alaknanda and Dhauliganga. Of the four 'Maths' established by Adi Shankaracharya, Joshimath is in the Badrinath to Joshimath and installed in the temple for people to worship. There are many temples in the township most important is the temple of Nir Singh in commotion of Lord Vishnu. The left arm of this deity is with time and the popular belief holds that the day the the arm completely withers Badrinath valley will cease to exist and the Gods will transfer the residence into the neighboring Niti Valley at Bhavishya Badri. Joshimath is connected by regular bus service to Rishikesh, Haridwar, Badrinath and many other centres in the region.

**Day 07: Joshimath - Rishikesh (256kms/8-9hr) / Pipalkoti – Rishikesh (210kms/7-8hr) / Kirtinagar – Rishikesh (105kms/3-4hr)**

Drive to Rishikesh, the 'place of sages' is a celebrated spiritual town on the bank of Ganga and is surrounded by Shivalik range of the Himalayas on three sides. It is said that when Raibhya Rishi did hard penances, God appeared by the name of " Hrishikesh " and this area hence firth came to be known as Rishikesh.

Check in Hotel. At evening visit Ganga Aarti at Parmarth Niketan. Overnight stay.

**Day 08: Rishikesh - Hardwar - Delhi (250kms/7-8hr)**

Morning visit Rishikesh Temples & Sight Seeing – Laxman Jhulla, Ram Jhulla, Triveni Ghat & Bharat Mandir. Drive back to Delhi. On Arr. Delhi, transfer to Railway Station / Airport. Tour Terminate.