



GANGOTRI AND THE SOURCE OF THE GANGES

Magnificent mountains, spiritual pilgrims and the River Ganges make this trek one of the most fascinating in the Indian Himalaya.

This trek takes us deep into the heart of the Garwhal Himalaya. Known as the *dev bhoomi* or Land of the Gods, this is a region that abounds with mythology, mysticism and mountain magic. Travelling north-west from Delhi, we first encounter the Ganges (or Ganga, India's most sacred river) at Haridwar. An auspicious site, this emotive place is considered as the gateway to the gods and the evening ceremony on the river is a memorable and moving experience. Trailing the river upstream, we begin our trek at Gangotri, a sacred place where, legend has it, the purifying waters of the Ganges first tumbled to earth from heaven. Ascetics, sadhus, pilgrims and hermits flock here and the hardy brave the chilly waters of the main bathing ghat. By trekking upstream we find the true physical source of the river at Gaumakh, where an icy torrent emerges from Gangotri Glacier. From here we visit the high altitude meadow of Tapovan, below the 6000m peak of Shivaling. A trek into the spiritual heartland of India that encounters stunning mountain scenery as well as intense devotional scenes.

Duration: 14 days; 6.5 days walking.

Day by Day

Day 1 Arrive Delhi

Day 2 Travel by train to Haridwar. At leisure in this holy town on the banks of the Ganges. Hotel

Day 3 A longer day of driving through the foothills to the small town of Uttarkashi. Hotel.

Day 4 A spectacular drive on mountain roads to Gangotri (3050m), the start point of our trek. Simple guesthouse.

Day 5 Walking upstream along the pilgrim trails to Chirbasa (3600m). Camping.

Day 6 Trekking to Gaumakh (3890m) the true source of the Ganges. Camping.

Day 7 A day to enjoy the surroundings and acclimatise. Camping.

Day 8 A harder day across glacial moraine to Tapovan (4350m). Camping.

Day 9 A day on the high altitude meadow below Shivling and the 6000m Bhagirathi peaks. Camping.

Day 10 Walking back down the valley to Chirbasa. Camping.

Day 11 An early start for the return trek to Gangotri and then by road to Uttarkashi. Hotel.

Day 12 We retrace our steps to Rishikesh and explore this unusual town on the Ganges. Hotel.

Day 13 An early start for the return drive to Delhi. Late afternoon/evening transfer to the airport.

Day 14 Arrive London.

Hotels in Delhi: The Oberoi Maidens, the Siddarth or the Connought. Comfortable en-suite guest houses and forest rest houses elsewhere.

Important: Before you travel please check your **Tour Voucher** and **Arrival Information** for the latest joining instructions. This will be sent to you upon receipt of final payment.

All itineraries are subject to change without prior notice.