

## Kumaon Trekking (Ralam Valley and Birje Ganga Pass Trek)



Kumaon Trekking is ideal for those trekkers who wish to encounter tough challenges amidst splendid Himalayan surroundings. Starting at Munsyari (2290 mts.) the trek route winds its way up the Gori Ganga river past Rargari, Mapang and Martoli to Sumdu. From here the route goes up to the snow clad Birje Ganga pass (4666 mts.) and descends to Ralam village. The views are magnificent with peaks such as Rajrambha, Chaudhara, Chirang We and Suitilla on the eastern side. This trek is primarily porter based.

**Day 0 :** Arrive in Delhi : Check into your choice of hotel, preferably in Central Delhi.

**Day 1 :** Take the overnight train from Old Delhi railway station to Kathgodam (Train No. 5013, Departure-22:40 hrs IST).

**Day 2 :** Arrive at Kathgodam 06:30 hrs. Received by Wayfarer escort and transferred to waiting vehicle after brief rest. Drive to Vijaypur (210 kms, 6 hrs).  
Check in at Wayfarer Retreat.

**Day 3 :** After breakfast drive to Munsyari(115 kms, 4 hrs) along a road that winds itself up to a height of 2748 mts before descending into the glorious

Munsyari valley. Check in at Wayfarer Mountain Resort for a good rest.

**Day 4 :** After breakfast drive for 6kms to Dumar and then the trek begins. Our destination is past Lilam village to Rargari (10 kms) where we camp for the night.

**Day 5 :** Today is a strenuous walk along a gorge past the Gori Ganga river. The route is fairly up and down but generally eases off before reaching the camp site at Mapang(3100 mts, 9 kms).

**Day 6 :** You are in high mountain country now and the tree line disappears giving access to vast stretches of Alpine pastures. The day's walk is past Lhaspa and Rilkot to a magnificent and deserted hamlet called Martoli(3385 mts, 12 kms)

**Day 7 :** Martoli to Sumdu (3070 mts, 10 kms). The walk is pleasant today and we have excellent views of a good number of major peaks as we descend through the Gori Ganga gorge . To night we camp on a plateau near the village of Sumdu.

**Day 8 :** Sumdu to Ralam village (3700 mts, 11 kms) across Birje Ganga pass (4666mts) : Today is a strenuous day. We descend for a short distance from Sumdu and then start climbing for four hours to the Birje Ganga pass. Once on the pass a wide panorama opens up in front which has to be seen to be believed. Facing you are Rajrambha(6895 mts), Chaudhara, Suitilla and several others. But the best view is towards the west. The entire northern wall of the Nanda Devi Sanctuary is clearly visible, with the twin peaks dominating the heights on the left. You could spend hours counting the peaks and staring at this view with a sense of wonder. We camp at Ralam after a steep descent of 5 kms.

**Day 9 :** Ralam to Sarpudyar (3015 mts, 16 kms.). The route is wilder as we are deep inside the Ralam valley and there is a steady descent upto the huge cave called Sarpudyar with several large boulders around it. We camp here for the night.

**Day 10 :** Sarpudyar to Pantu (2100 mts, 10 kms): The day's walk is through several meadows with constant ups and downs till we reach the village Pantu where we camp for the night.

**Day 11 :** We descend along the Gori Ganga gorge upto Suringarh and then climb steadily to Dumar where we get on to a waiting jeep that takes us to Wayfarer Mountain Resort.

**Day 12 :** Munsyari to Ranikhet (240 kms). It is time to bid farewell to Munsyari and its mountains. Today we board a vehicle that drives us to Ranikhet through Vijaypur, Bagheswar and Kausani. We check in for the

night at Wayfarer Solitare. [more...]

**Day 13** : Ranikhet to Kathgodam (90 kms). Today is another day when we can chill out and relax. Late afternoon we board a vehicle that drives us to Kathgodam. There is also the option of leaving Ranikhet after breakfast and driving to the legendary Jim Corbett Park. The train to Delhi departs from Kathgodam at 20:40 hrs.