

Kalindi Khal Trekking Expedition 2016



Overview

About Kalindi Khal Trek

Region: Garhwal Himalayas of Uttarakhand

Style of Trek: Indian Leader

Altitude: 5946 m/19500 ft

Duration: 18 Days (6 days travel and 12 days trekking)

Best Season: Mid July – August- Early September

Grade: Challenging - Tough

Group size: Maximum: 12 clients plus leader

Minimum: 4 clients plus Indian Leader

Total Trekking: 100 kms

Set at an altitude of 5,947 meters, the Kalindikhal Pass on the base of Kalindi Peak, which is at an elevation of 6,102 meters, and surrounded by several other snow clad mountains is the world's highest trekkable mountain pass, which is located in the Garhwal Himalayan region. The journey en route Kalindikhal Pass unfolds some of the majestic peaks of the Indian Himalayan range. From the cluster of 6 thousanders, the Shivling at 6,543 meters, Meru at 6,630 meters, Kedar Dome at 6,808 meters, Bhagirathi I, II and III at 6,512 meters, 6,454 meters and 6,856 meter respectively, Nilkantha at 6,506 meters, Chandra Parvat at 6,728 meters and Avalanche Peak at 6,413 meters are some of the prominent ones along the trek to Kalindikhal Pass. From the clump of 7 thousanders, the Mt. Kamet at 7,756 meters, Mt. Mana at 7,272 meters and Abi Gamin at 7,355 meters are visible during a bright sunny day. Further, the trail cut across several small gushing Kalindikhal Pass Trek streams and passes through the alpine meadows and forest enriched with wide range of Himalayan trees and varied species of Himalayan animal and birds and finally steep climb trespasses some of the dangerous glaciers, above 5,000 meters like the Suryala Bamak and

Sweta. The trek to Kalindikhal Pass also covers some of the high altitude lakes of India, the Vasuki Tal at 4,800 meters approximately and Arwa Tal at 3,910 meters. The Kalindikhal



Pass trek, which is one of the toughest treks in the Indian Himalayan belt, located in the Garhwal Himalaya, requires some serious acclimatization and prior high altitude trekking experience is recommended. Most of the trail goes through a thick bed of snow and cuts through several glaciated and narrow tracks. The trek involves the use of ice axe, crampons and fixed rope and thus it is one of the adventurous journeys in the Garhwal Himalayan region.

The Kalindikhal Pass trek commences from the Bhagirathi Valley, from an altitude of 3,048 meters at Gangotri, which is one of the major Hindu pilgrimage sites and one of the sites from the Char Dham Yatra. From Gangotri the trail leads to Bhojbasa, which is at an elevation of 3,792 meters, cutting through a thick alpine bed dotted with wide range of Himalayan trees. Thereafter the journey snakes through the rocky terrain and expunged into Gaumukh at 3,890 meters, which is another sacred site of the Hindu pilgrims. Gaumukh is the mouth of the Gangotri Glacier and the origin of River Bhagirathi. From Gaumukh the trail winds upward to Tapovan, one of the high altitude meadows at an elevation of 4,463 meters and is a picture perfect campsite with the Bhagirathi group of peaks at the backdrop and crisscrossed by bubbling streams and dotted with wild flowers. Herds of Bharal (blue mountain goats) are a common sight from here on steep mountain ledges. From Tapovan, the journey continues towards Vasuki Tal via Nandanvan, cutting through the glaciated tracks of Chaturangi and glimpse of Meru and Bhrigupanth. From Vasuki Tal the trail starts further strenuous as it steps on to the thick bed of snow and heads to Suralya Bamak at 5,480 meters followed by Sweta at 5,500 meters. Thereafter a gradual climb to Kalindi Base and thence further upward to the summit of Kalindi. The downhill trail follows to Arwa Tal at 3,910 meters and thereafter leads off at Mana village via Ghastoli. The Kalindi Pass trekking tour later wheels to Rishikesh enroute Badrinath.

Kalindi Khal Treks Highlights:



- Trek from Gangotri, venerated temple town
- Savour sights of Bhagirathi, Shivling, Bhriagu Parbat
- Climb up along the Chaturangi Glacier
- Trek through crevasses and tricky stretches
- Scale around 6000m Himalayan Pass

Best Time to Visit Kalindi Khal Trek

Best time to travel to Kalindikhal trek is in summers (mid June) and Monsoon (July to early September).

Kalindikhal trek in summers:

The weather of Kalindikhal Trek remains salubrious and pleasing during summers. The Himalayas are distinctly visible and the cool breeze adds charm to the vacation.

Kalindikhal trek in monsoon:

Serenity and solitude are at its best during monsoon at Kalindikhal Trek. The region is blessed with snowfall during winters and the accommodation options also remain few. But you can see the best of Kalindikhal trek during monsoon as it looks like Heaven on earth.

How to Reach Kalindi Khal Trek

Nearest Railhead: Haridwar (225 kms)

Nearest Airport: Jolly Grant Airport Dehradun (215 kms)

Uttarkashi can be reached from Haridwar/Rishikesh very easily with direct busses or shared jeeps. It takes about 6 - 7 hours to reach. Busses are available early morning, and it is advised you leave early to reach early or to give yourself contingency time on mountain roads

Where is the Kalindi Khal Trek?

Kalindikhal Trek is a mountain pass situated in the central Garhwal region. It connects the mountain peaks Shivling, Bhagirath Group of Peaks, Kedardome and many more and is at a



height of around 5946m. The trek that takes you half way round Garhwal from the Bhagirathi Valley to the Alaknanda Valley. A trip only for those who have done high altitude treks before; its very mention gives a thrill to even the most seasoned of climbers.

The trek starts from Gangotri and takes you through Nandanvan, the base of the Bhagirathi peaks, a place that offers an unparalleled view of the Shivling peak. The trail moves on to Vasukital (4900 M). With towering peaks all around the lake, its surface shimmers like a pearl and is the source of the Vasuki Ganga that drains into the Mandakini. We proceed to cross the Kalindikhal pass (5968 M), a tough climb from where you feel that there is little else left to be seen. It is as if you are a part of this majestic setting of snow peaks. The trail then descends to Arwatal and to Mana the last village on the Chinese frontier. The trek fittingly ends at Badrinath with a visit to the holy temple.

Kalindi Khal Trek Programme

Day 01: Delhi – Haridwar - Rishikesh

In the morning transfer to Delhi railway station and take an AC train for Haridwar at 06:50 hrs. After arriving in Haridwar meet our guide and transfer to Rishikesh, check into your hotel. Evening time is free for leisure activities. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 02: Rishikesh – Uttarkashi (170 kms/ 5 -6 hrs)

Morning after breakfast proceed for Uttarkashi (1150 mts), which takes 5-6 hrs. Upon arrival check-in at Hotel. After lunch visit NIM (Nehru Institute of Mountaineering) Institute & Museum. Later come back to hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Uttarkashi: Situated at a distance of 145 km from Rishikesh and at an elevation of 1158 m on the bank of river Bhagirathi, this picturesque town acquires importance because of very significant pilgrimage centers: Gangotri, Yamunotri.



Day 03: Uttarkashi

Spare day for medical test, permit verification and visit the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) etc. Overnight at hotel.

Day 04: Uttarkashi - Gangotri (3048 m/10,000 ft) Drive (100 kms/4-5 hrs)

Morning after breakfast drive to reach Gangotri via Harsil (approx 25 km before Gangotri (3048 mts) by covering approx 95 km in 4-5 hrs. On arrival check into Hotel/Guest house.

Day 05: Gangotri – Bhojwassa (3792 m/12440 ft) Trek (14 kms /5-6 hrs).

In the morning met our trekking crew and brief introduction with entire crew. Later after breakfast start first days trek to Bhojwassa following the river Bhagirathi on right bank by covering approx 14 kms in 4-5 hrs. Trek is full of fascinating Himalayan sights and you can have beautiful views of snow clapped peaks around. Upon arrival at Bhojwassa, set up camp for overnight stay.

Day 06: Bhojwassa - Gomukh (3890 mts/12760 ft) - Tapovan (4463 mts / 14640 ft)

Early in the Morning enjoy the panoramic view of Bhagirathi group of peaks. After breakfast trek to Gomukh (3890mt), the source of the Ganges. Gomukh is where the water of Ganga trickles down from the glaciers. The sages called it 'Gomukh', because in the distant past, it probably appeared like a cow's mouth. Explore the area and trek to Tapovan, one of the finest high altitude alpine meadows in the area. The trek from Gomukh to Tapovan is ascent steep, and as we climb, the view of the surrounding peaks becomes clearer. The appear to be just a stone's throw away. Tapovan known for its beautiful meadows that encircle the base camp of the Shivling peak, Tapovan is a very pleasant surprised spot with a large meadow complete with bubbling streams, wildflowers and campsites. Herds

of Bharal (blue mountain goats) are a common sight from here on mountain ridges. On the far side of the glacier the Bhagirathi I, II, III (6454mt), provide an equally impressive backdrop. It is also the



little wonder where Sadhus and saints choose this spot for extended meditation during the long summer month. Arrive Tapovan and camp. Dinner and overnight stay in camp.

Day 07: Tapovan - Nandanvan (Trek 4-5 hrs)

We trace back to Nandanvan via Gomukh glacier. The route from Tapovan leads from the upper section of the meadow till down and onto the glacier. From Gomukh turn towards Nandanvan (4340m) and steering on right one will be on top of the Gangotri glacier. The glacier runs between two ranges and the landslides make a layer of rocky moraine on the ice which makes the walking easier. The glacier walk is very slippery and a slight lack of concentration would be dangerous. Huge crevasses gaped here and there. After a walking for about a kilometer there is a vertical ascent. Big rocks enroute offer grips and foot - holds but many of them are deceptive too. Dinner and overnight stay in tents.

Day 08: Nandanvan – Vasuki Tal (4880 m/16000 ft) **Trek** (6 kms / 4-5 hrs).

Morning trek along with Chaturangi Glacier to reach Vasuki Tal, a beautiful base for Mt Satopanth and Mt Vasuki Parbat with a small lake. The trek is steady upward. Arrive in 5-6 hours and overnight stay in tents.

Day 09: Vasuki Tal – Khara Pathar (Suralya Bamak) (5480 m/17975 ft) Trek (6 kms/3-4 hrs).

Morning after breakfast start trek to Suraiaya Bamak (Khara Pathar) with packed lunch. Dinner and overnight in camp. Camping on Moraine

Day 10: Khara Pathar – Sweta Glacier (8 kms / 4-5 hrs).

Morning after breakfast trek 10 Km to reach Sweta Glacier) (5500 mts). Dinner and overnight stay in the camp.

Day 11: Sweta Glacier - Kalindikhal Base

Morning after breakfast set out for Base camp. Overnight stay in tent.

Day 12: Kalindi Base – Kalindi Peak

In the morning after breakfast set out for Kalindi peak summit. Overnight stay in tent.

**Day 13: Kalindikhal - Raja Parav (4910 m/16105 ft) Trek (12 kms / 6-7 hrs).**

Mornings after breakfast proceed your trek (12 km) to Kalindi Pass (5947 mts). Spend some time at the spot and then trek down to Raj Parav for dinner and overnight stay in the camp.

Day 14: Raja Parav - Arwa Tal

Morning after breakfast proceed your trek to reach Arwa Tal (3910 mts) 13 km from Raj Parav. Overnight in the camp.

Day 15: Arwa Tal – Ghastoli (3796 m/12450 ft) Trek (16 kms / 5-6 hrs).

Morning after breakfast proceed your trek to reach Ghastoli (3796 m), which is 16 Km from Arwa Tal. Dinner and overnight stay in the camp.

Day 16: Ghastoli - Mana – Badrinath (3096 m/10155 ft) Trek (18 kms / 5-6 hrs).

Morning after breakfast start trek to Badrinath situated on the bank of Alaknanda, standing like twin sentinels over the valley are the Nar and Narayan peaks, and in the distance soars the resplendent Neelkanth peak. A seven hrs walk brings you to Mana Village, the last village before the border, where you break for lunch. Later a 2 kms drive brings us to town of Badrinath. On arrival check into hotel. Afternoon visit the temple of Badrinath. Return to hotel for Dinner & Overnight.

Day 17: Badrinath – Rishikesh

Morning after breakfast drive (290 km) down to reach Rishikesh. On arrival check-in the Hotel for overnight stay. In the evening after wash and change visit Laxman Jhula, Thirteen storied temple, Geeta Ashram, Parmarth Niketan and later join the Aarti ceremony at Triveni Ghat. Latter return back to the Hotel for overnight stay.

Day 18: Rishikesh - Delhi (225 kms)

In the morning transfer to Haridwar railway station and from here catch AC train for Delhi at 06:30 hrs. Arrival at Delhi by 11:45 hrs.

Trip & Services Ends Here



Fixed departure with dates of Kalindi Khal Trek 2016

02nd - 07th July 2016

03rd - 08th July 2016

09th - 14th July 2016

COST OF THE TRIP

Rs. 95,000 per person* (For a Minimum of 4-6 People) Indian Nation

USD 1885 per person* (For a Minimum of 4-6 People) Foreign Nation

Click here for photo gallery: <http://www.kalindikhaltrek.com/picture-gallery.html>

COST INCLUDES

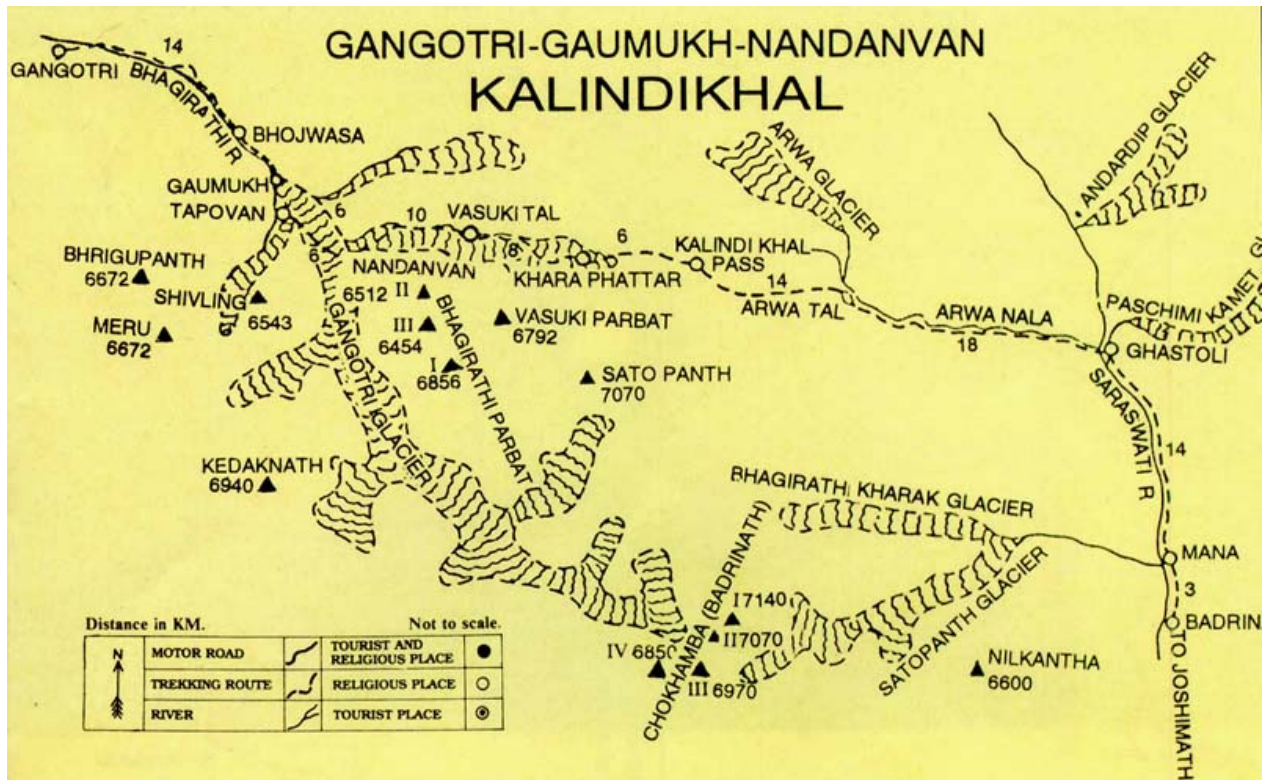
- **Train:** AC Train from Delhi to Haridwar & back
- **Transport:** All road transfer by Car from Haridwar to trek pint & back.
- **Accommodation:** Hotel/Guest House at all the places according to itinerary.
- **Meals:** All meals on trek. At the hotel/guest house only breakfast will be serving. Meals will be mix of Indian Chinese and Continental.
- **Camping equipment** like tents, mattresses, mess tent, dining tent, camping stools, table etc
- **Professional and experienced** English speaking local trekking guide who knows the area very well
- **Cook and High altitude porters**
- **All necessary Permits**
- **Inner Line Permit**

COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Enroute meal
- Any meals / service not mentioned above
- Liquor, soft drinks, bottled water, beverages, etc.
- Personal expenses like tips, telephone calls, laundry, etc.
- Any costs arising out of unforeseen circumstances like landslides, road blocks, bad weather, etc.
- Travel insurance,
- Evacuation expenses, etc.
- Camera fee

Note: The trek will run for a minimum of 4 people

Kalindikhal Route Map



N.B:

- 1: The best time for this trek is Mid June to Early September
- 2: The inner line permit is a must for touring in this region.
- 3: Permit will issue from District Forest Officer (DFO) Uttarkashi & District Magistrate (DM) Uttarkashi.
- 4: The copy of the permit, list of the trekkers and guide, cook & porters and the photos should reach not only to the District Administration of Chamoli (DM of the district and SDM of Joshimath) but also to the In Charge of the ITBP camp at Ghastoli as after Gangotri that is the only human settlement.
- 5: All Trekkers, Guide, Porters, Cook & helper also go through medical test
- 6: All trekkers, Guide, Porters, Cook & helper must be insured
- 7: All Trekkers, Guide, Porters, Cook & helper must be well equipped with the adventure gear like tents, sleeping bag, snow shoes, gloves, rain proof jacket etc
- 8: Always carry your Identity card along with you
- 9: Always use registered organisation for this trek

Kalindikhal; Trekking Equipments List

Duffel bag	Down/synthetic camp booties
Sunglasses	Light gloves
Sleeping bag & Air Mattress	Flashlight/Headlamp with extra batteries
Sleeping bag liner	Camera
Daypack	One liter water bottles wide mouthed
Trekking Boots	Water purification/filter
Camp shoes/sneakers	Pee bottle
Tevas and/or sandals	Film
Cotton socks	Note book with pens and pencils
Gore-Tex jacket	Lip balm
Light wind jacket	Sunscreen / Moisturiser
Down jacket/vest	Camp towel/towel/sarong
Fleece jacket/vest	Personal toiletries
T-shirts	Personal medicines
Underwear	Money pouch/belt
Trekking pants	Energy bars
Thermal tops	Vitamin tablets
Thermal bottom	Extra passport photos
Warm hat	Bandana/scarf
Sun hat/baseball cap	Wind- and rain-gear with hood
Swiss Army Knives (Classic pocket tool)	Neoprene Supports
Two cotton shirts/T-Shirts	One warmer (jacket with hood)
One pair cotton trousers or shorts	Walking stick / Trekking pole
Note: Carry your Satellite phone for this trek	

At Last, Just Carry Lots of Enthusiasm.....