

# Gomukh Tapovan Trek

Tour My India Itinerary

2009-2010

## Outline Itinerary

**Day 01** Depart from Australia

**Day 02** Delhi – Haridwar - Rishikesh

**Day 03** Rishikesh – Uttarkashi

**Day 04** Uttarkashi - Gangotri

**Day 05** Gangotri - Bhojwassa

**Day 06** Bhojwassa – Gomukh - Tapovan

**Day 07** Tapovan

**Day 08** Tapovan - Nandanvan

**Day 09** Nandanvan - Bhojwassa

**Day 10** Bhojwassa - Gangotri

**Day 11** Gangotri – Uttarkashi

**Day 12** Uttarkashi – Haridwar - Delhi

**Day 13** Delhi Departure



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**Introduction**

The Holy River Ganges is the most sacred river in the Hindu religion and its source at Gomukh on the Gangotri glacier and many other peaks. Gomukh is one of the holiest places for Hindu pilgrims who come here to witness the birth of Mother Ganga. The trek takes you to Gomukh (cows mouth), the mythological source of the River Ganges, which is at the snout of the Gangotri glacier.

**Day 01****Depart from Australia**

We depart from the Australia for our overnight flight to Delhi. We arrive into in the early hours and transfer to our hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

**Day 02****Delhi – Haridwar - Rishikesh**

In the morning after breakfast drive to Rishikesh via Haridwar. Upon arrival at Rishikesh check in to hotel. Evening free to explore the area. Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

Haridwar is the gateway to the four pilgrimages of Uttaranchal. It's a starting point on the journey to the sacred sources of the Ganga and the Yamuna Rivers. According to legend, Prince Bhagirath performed penance here to salvage the souls of his ancestors who had perished due to Sage Kapila's curse. The penance was answered and the river Ganga trickled forth from Lord Shiva's locks and its bountiful water revived the sons of King Sagara. In the tradition of Bhagirath, devout Hindus stand in the sacred waters here, praying for the salvation of their ancestors. The holy city of Haridwar is home to some of the most sacred Hindu rituals. Round the year, devotees from all over the country flock here in their thousands to perform "Poojas" or prayers. Renowned for the "Maha Kumbh Mela" which appears every 12 years and the enchanting "Aarti" at "Har Ki Pauri" which captives the beholder with hundreds of burning wick lamps floating down the Ganges this town has been distinguished for centuries in the Indian society.

**Day 03****Rishikesh – Uttarkashi ( 175 kms / 5-6 hrs )**

After morning breakfast proceed for Uttarkashi (1150 mts), which takes 5-6 hrs drive. Upon arrival check-in at Hotel. Evening free to explore the surrounding by your own. Overnight stay at hotel.

Uttarkashi is the principle town in the region. Nehru Institute of Mountaineering is situated here. It is also the gateway to many mountaineering and trekking expedition in Gangotri area.

### **Day 04**

#### **Uttarkashi – Gangotri ( 3048 mts / 10,000 ft ) Drive ( 95 kms )**

After morning breakfast drive to reach Gangotri via Harsil (approx 25 km before Gangotri (3048 mt) by covering approx 95 km in 4-5 hrs. On arrival check-into Hotel and enjoy overnight stay.

There is a beautiful Gorge at Bhairon Ghati over which there is a steel guarder bridge. Gangotri is the place where the Goddess Ganga descended on Earth from Heaven. There is a Temple of Goddess Ganga where thousands of devotees throng to pay homage to her.

Gangotri: The shrine of Gangotri is situated at an elevation of 3200 m surrounded by deodars and pines. The original temple was constructed by the Gorkha General Amar Singh Thapa. Every year people from all around the world visit this shrine. A number of ashrams and dharamshalas are located on the other side of the river. It is believed that Raja Bhagirath used to worship Shiva on a slab of rock "Bhagirath Shila" situated near the temple. Submerged in the river there is a natural Shivling where, according to mythology, Lord Shiva sat when he received the Goddess Ganga in his matted locks. A days trek takes one to Gomukh, the source of the mighty Ganges.

### **Day 05**

#### **Gangotri ( 3048 mts / 10,000 ft ) – Bhojwassa ( 3792 mts / 12440 ft ) 13 kms trek/ 5-6 hrs)**

In the morning after having breakfast we command our trek further to Bhojwassa via Chirbasa (3600mt). From Gangotri we move along the beaten track towards Chirbasa, which is on tree line. The entire trek today is along the roaring Bhagirathi River. Beyond Chirbasa the terrain becomes really desolate and barren. In fact, it has been referred to as Artic Tundra by many trekkers. From Chirbasa we trek further to Bhojwassa, the entire trail passes through dense forest. After we arrive Bhojwassa there is a small temple and a potential campsite near down the river. We make our camp near river side. Afternoon free to explore the area and to enjoy excellent sunset on Bhagirathi group of peaks. Dinner and overnight stay in tents.

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.

**Day 06****Bhojwassa ( 3792 mts / 12440 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 trek from Gomukh to Tapovan is ascent steep, and as we climb, the views of the surrounding peaks become clearer. They 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.

**Gomukh:** The Gomukh glacier is the source of Bhagirathi (Ganges) and is held in high esteem by the devout who make sure not to miss the opportunity to have a holy dip in the bone chilling icy water.

**Tapovan:** Tapovan is an ideal location for the tourists looking for peace and adventure. Tapovan is located on an altitude of 4463m / 14640ft above sea level. Tapovan is base camp for Shivlinga peak in Utrakhand hills. One can also have a nice view of Bhagirathi peaks from Tapovan Meadow. Every year this place has been visited by thousands of tourist including foreigners for adventure activity like mountaineering & trekking.

**Day 07****Tapovan ( 4463 mts / 14640 ft )**

Free to acclimatize, relax and enjoy the magnificent snow clapped peaks, flora & Fauna and mountain landscape. Dinner and overnight stay at the camp.

grips and foot - holds but many of them are deceptive too. Dinner and overnight stay in tents.

**Day 08****Tapovan – Nandanvan ( Trek 4-5 hrs )**

We trace back to Nandan van 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

**Day 09****Nandanvan – Bhojwassa ( Trek 4-5 hrs )**

Early morning enjoy the sunrise on high peaks. After breakfast trek down to Bhojwassa. Arrive Bhojwassa and camp. Dinner and overnight stay at the camp.

**Day 10****Bhojwassa – Gangotri (Trek 4-5 hrs )**

After morning breakfast trek down to Gangotri, Dinner and overnight stay at the camp.

**Day 11****Gangotri - Uttarkashi**

In the morning after breakfast drive to Uttarkashi. On arrival check in to hotel. Overnight stay.

**Day 12****Uttarkashi – Haridwar - Delhi**

Morning after breakfast drive to Haridwar. On arrival transfer to railway station to catch AC train for Delhi at 18:05 hrs. Arrival at Delhi by 22:45 hrs and then transfer to hotel. Overnight stay.

**Day 13****Delhi Departure**

Transfer to international airport according to your flight schedule.