



AUDEN'S COL TREK



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LOCATION

UTTARAKHAND, INDIA



BEST TIME

Mid April to June



DESTINATION

AUDEN'S COL TREK



TAKE A PHOTO

SUNRISE, SUNSET,
SNOW CAPED MOUNTAINS



DIFFICULTY

DIFFICULT



HIGHEST ALTITUDE

18,000 ft



AVERAGE TEMPERATURE

DAY TIME: -2°C to -5°C
NIGHT TIME: -5°C to -10°C



BASE CAMP

GANGOTRI



DURATION

15 DAYS & 14 NIGHTS



LAST ATM

GANGOTRI



TREK DISTANCE

95 KMS





OVERVIEW

Auden's Col is the holy grail of trekking in the Western Himalayas - hailed by many as being more difficult than Kalindi Khal, which is one of the most dangerous treks in India. As a mountain pass hanging at the impressive altitude of 5,490M, this impossibly high, glaciated pass between the ginormous Gangotri and Jogin massifs is the climax of a long, treacherous journey between the pilgrimage towns of Gangotri and Kedarnath.

Starting from the high mountain town of Gangotri, which is possibly one of the best trailheads in the country, the trek takes you high in the Garhwal Himalayas in the massive Gangotri glacial region. The mighty Bhagirathi flows loud and proud, from its glacial source at the foot of Chaukhamba, down through vast meadows and dense deodar forests. Auden's Col is by no means a monotonous landscape. You climb through dense birch and oak forests on the first day, onto vast, unending meadows with panoramic views of the Gangotri and Jogin

SHORT ITINERARY



DAY 1

Make your way to Gangotri (3,415M)



DAY 2

Rest and acclimatization at Gangotri (3,415M)



DAY 3

Gangotri (3,415M) to Nala Camp (3,760M)



DAY 4

Nala Camp (3,760M) to Gangotri Base Camp (4,500M)



DAY 5

Rest and Acclimatization at Gangotri Base Camp (4,500M)



DAY 6

Gangotri Base Camp (4,500M) to Auden's Col Base Camp (4,720M)



DAY 7

Auden's Col Base Camp- Auden's Col-Khatling Glacier Camp



DAY 8

Khatling Glacier Camp (5,000M) to Zero Point (3,870M)

SHORT ITINERARY



DAY 9

Rest Day at Zero Point (3,870M)



DAY 10

Zero Point (3,870M) to Chowki (3,580M)



DAY 11

Chowki (3,580M) to Masar Tal (4,135M)



DAY 12

Masar Tal (4,135M) to Vasuki Tal (4,135M) via Mayali Pass (5,000M)



DAY 13

Vasuki Tal (4,135M) to Kedarnath (3,590M)



DAY 14

Kedarnath (3,590M) to Gaurikund (1,985M)



DAY 15

Gaurikund (1,985M) to Dehradun (430M)

DETAILED ITINERARY



DAY 1

MAKE YOUR WAY TO GANGOTRI (3,415M)

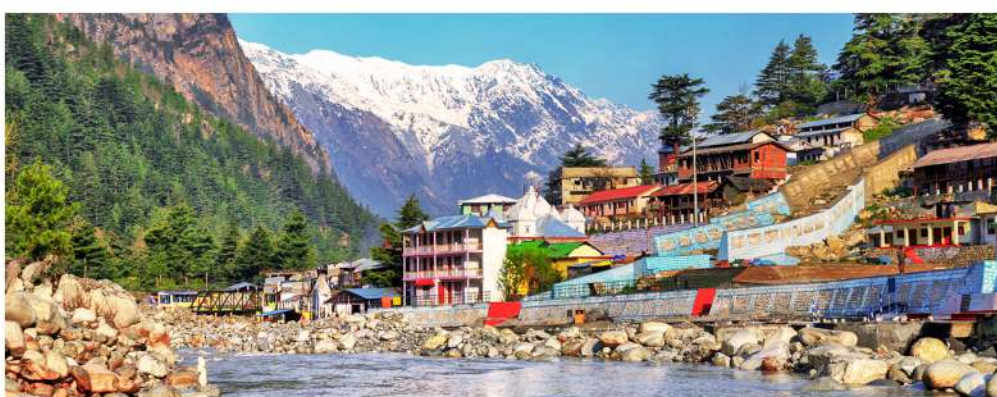
The trek begins from Gangotri which is a mountain city on the banks of River Bhagirathi and is known to be the origin of the holy River Ganga. Located in the Greater Himalayan Range, legend says that this is where Goddess Ganga descended when Lord Shiva released the river from the locks of his hair. This holy city which lies at an altitude of 3,415M is a 245 km drive away from Dehradun – the closest city with an airport. If you have signed up with Himalayan Daredevils for a drive from Dehradun to Gangotri, the day starts early. Everyone assembles at the meeting point by 7 in the morning so we can start our long drive up to Gangotri, a holy mountain city in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. Although there's nothing more on the agenda for today other than the 8-9 hour drive, it is better to leave as early as possible for two reasons: One, so we can reach as early as possible and give our bodies enough rest for what's coming the next day. And, two, roads on the mountains are unpredictable and it is always better to account for delays when we start. It is also better to reach before it gets dark.

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 2

REST AND ACCLIMATIZATION AT GANGOTRI (3,415M)

Day two is reserved for rest and for acclimatization to the altitude. This is important to allow your body to adapt to its new environment and reduce chances of adverse health conditions. You can go around and explore the market, delve into the colors and culture of this high-mountain town and visit some places nearby. A little movement around the city would be good for acclimatization. Also, use this time to go through your checklist and do some last-minute shopping for what you might be missing for the trek. While the body acclimatizes, we take this time to get together with the group for a debriefing session where we get to know each other better and delve into the happenings of the next few days - schedule, what to expect, basic do's and don'ts in the mountains, how to maintain the sanctity of the environment and other such matters of importance. We also go for a short acclimatization walk in the evening to adapt to this new environment better.



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 3

GANGOTRI (3,415M) TO NALA CAMP (3,760M)

Altitude: 10,240 ft – 11,990 ft Distance: 6 km The trek will take approximately 3.5 to 4 hours. The trek from Gangotri to Nala Camp includes a walk to the Rudugaira valley, which is surrounded by pine trees. The trail also takes you past the remnant of the Rudugaira Glacier. You will be able to admire the awe-inspiring views of the surrounding mountains, including the Gangotri group of peaks. During this hike, you will experience the awe-inspiring beauty of nature and the Himalayan landscape. It's a beautiful walk through the woods with a view of the Himalayas. The trip to Nala Camp involves an overnight stay at a camp near the Rudragaira River.



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 4

NALA CAMP (3,760M) TO GANGOTRI BASE CAMP (4,500M)

Distance: 7 km On the agenda today is a 740M altitude gain across a short distance of 7 kms. Needless to say, the ascent up to Gangotri Base camp will be steep and grueling. Going further ahead from the Nala Camp, the trail climbs to the upper grazing grounds which, if you are lucky, will offer up countless herds of Bharal (Himalayan Mountain Goats) sprinting around these high mountain lands. After crossing a few streams, we begin our climb up a steep spur which will take us straight to Rudugaira Base Camp which is surrounded by famous peaks such as Gangotri I, II, III and Jogin III. From here we continue on towards Gangotri base camp which is approximately 4 kms from our campsite. A short while into our trek, we get our first glimpse of Auden's Col. The view is absolutely spectacular. Covered in white, the col appears benign as it straddles a precarious ridge from the mighty Jogin I on the east and an equally formidable ridge running from the Gangotri III peak on the North West. We pitch our tents at Gangotri Base Camp (4,500M) which is going to be our home for two nights.

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 5

REST AND ACCLIMATIZATION AT GANGOTRI BASE CAMP (4,500M)

Today is reserved for acclimatization to the altitude since we gained quite a bit of height in the last two days and have also entered a much different terrain. After a late breakfast we go for an acclimatization walk. On climbing just a few hundred meters from the campsite, we get our first view of Auden's Col which is inspiring to say the least. We end the day early so as to get optimum rest.



DETAILED ITINERARY



DAY 6

GANGOTRI BASE CAMP (4,500M) TO AUDEN'S COL BASE CAMP (4,720M)

Altitude: 15,300 ft – 16,090 ft Distance: 5 km Time: 4 hours

The next day's adventure is a six-hour hike to the Auden's Col Base Camp, which is located at the base of the Auden's Col. It will take approximately eight hours to traverse the high altitude moraine, cross the Jogin group, and descend to Auden's Col Base Camp. If you've done any kind of mountaineering before, you can consider completing this challenging expedition. The trek from Gangotri to Auden's Col begins at base camp and ascends to Auden's Col. The ridge is steep, and difficult, with many rocky climbs and deep valleys. The route also passes through dense Moraine landscapes, which make this a difficult trek, but rewarding. This is one of the more challenging routes in the Garhwal Himalayan region. After a six-hour hike to Auden's Col Base Camp, you'll cross the Jogin group and the Gangotri Range. From there, you'll arrive at the base camp at the foot of Auden's Col. The next day, you'll continue hiking to this ridge, and it's worth it. The trail is not easy, but the views are spectacular.

DETAILED ITINERARY



DAY 7

AUDEN'S COL BASE CAMP- AUDEN'S COL- KHATLING GLACIER CAMP

Altitude: 16,000 ft – 18,030 ft – 16,800 ft Distance: 5 km
Time: 10-12 hours Today is THE day. We will be crossing the formidable yet spectacular Auden's Col which lies at the confluence of four huge massifs: Jogin I and Gangotri III flanking us on either side with the Jogin glacier behind us and Khatling lying in front of us. Expect this to be a tiring day. We continue on the moraine-ridden terrain until we reach the glacier. After a short while on the glacier, we hit a patch of ascent with a gradient between 30-50 degrees which will need to be navigated with caution. We rope up for this steep patch, which spans close to 1.5 kms, for utmost safety. The climb up to the col should take close to 3 hours. However, the climb up is not the main challenge for today. The descent from the col is tricky and requires navigating a steep and narrow gully inclined at an angle of 70-75 degrees. Once this gully is crossed, however, the glacier flattens out – the broadened valley giving way to views of massive icefalls, glaciers and formidable peaks in the region. A short walk down the glacier brings us to our camp for the night.

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 8

KHATLING GLACIER CAMP (5,000M) TO ZERO POINT (3,870M)

Altitude: 16,800 ft – 12,700 ft | Distance: 9 km | Duration 8-9 hours | To trek to the Zero Point, you must first ascend the mighty Khatling Glacier. This is the longest glacier trek in the world. You will start your journey at the terminal moraine, which is covered with snow. Continue on your way to the Khatling Glacier Camp, which is situated at the end of the steep descent. Then, continue to descend towards the flat land below the moraine. On the ascent, you will follow the icy Auden Col glacier with an inclination of 30 degree – 50A degree. It will take you about 30 minutes to reach Khatling Glacier Camp. At this point, you will have to rappel for 300 meters, which is challenging, but worth it for the spectacular views. To get to Zero Point, you will have to climb up steep slopes. The trek is not strenuous, but it can be long. For instance, if you're in good



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 9

REST DAY AT ZERO POINT (3,870M)

Ah, a well-deserved respite! Today's itinerary offers a sigh of relief after the strenuous hikes of the past two days. Instead of tackling another challenging trek, we'll base camp at Zero Point, allowing your body and mind to recuperate amidst the tranquility of the mountains. This rest day is crucial for rebuilding your energy reserves and ensuring you're fully prepared for the adventures that lie ahead. Spend the day soaking in the fresh mountain air, reveling in the breathtaking scenery, and unwinding with your fellow trekkers. You can catch up on sleep, read a book, engage in light games, or simply practice mindfulness, reconnecting with nature's serenity. Zero Point today translates to a boundless opportunity for rejuvenation, ensuring you're brimming with energy to conquer the upcoming trails.



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 10

ZERO POINT (3,870M) TO CHOWKI (3,580M)

Distance: 7 km Today we will be leaving the land of snow and making our own way to the warmer reaches of the valley. After 3 kms of continuing our walk along the river, we reach the meadows. Chowki, our grassy campsite after spending days in rocks and snow, is a 4 km walk from here.



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 11

CHOWKI (3,580M) TO MASAR TAL (4,135M)

Distance: 8 km We will be making our way to one of the most isolated lakes in the Garhwal region, Masar Tal, today. Stationed at an altitude of 4,135M, this pristine, high-altitude lake rests to the east of the snowy Khatling glacier. The route starts off as a steep ascent with a view of Thalay Sagar- a gorgeous peak of 6,904M that lie 10 kms southwest of the holy site of Gaumukh. After the initial ascent, we cross a ridge over the valley which takes us straight to Masar Tal. We camp by this scenic lake.



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 12

MASAR TAL (4,135M) TO VASUKI TAL (4,135M) VIA MAYALI PASS (5,000M)

Distance: 8 km We will be making our way to one of the most isolated lakes in the Garhwal region, Masar Tal, today. Stationed at an altitude of 4,135M, this pristine, high-altitude lake rests to the east of the snowy Khatling glacier. The route starts off as a steep ascent with a view of Thalay Sagar- a gorgeous peak of 6,904M that lie 10 kms southwest of the holy site of Gaumukh. After the initial ascent, we cross a ridge over the valley which takes us straight to Masar Tal. We camp by this scenic lake.



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 13

VASUKI TAL (4,135M) TO KEDARNATH (3,590M)

Distance: 7 km We will finally be making our way to Kedarnath today – which happens to be one of the holiest shrines to Shiva. As one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, Kedarnath sees a lot of pilgrims in the months when the area is not buried under snow. Kedarnath is a 7 km trek from Vasuki Tal which takes about 3-4 hours to cover. We visit the temple in the evening and spend our night in a warm bed in a hotel, after days on cold, uneven surfaces.



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 14

KEDARNATH (3,590M) TO GAURIKUND (1,985M)

Our descent today takes us on a scenic 14-kilometer journey to Gaurikund. This well-marked trail offers a welcome change compared to the more strenuous hikes we've tackled. As we make our way down, keep an eye out for breathtaking vistas and charming local villages. The gentle slope allows for a relaxed pace, perfect for enjoying conversations with fellow trekkers and reflecting on the incredible experiences of the past few days. By the afternoon, we'll arrive at Gaurikund, a holy town nestled amidst the mountains. Here, we'll trade our tents for the comfort of a guesthouse or hotel, allowing us to unwind and rejuvenate before our onward journey.



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 15

GAURIKUND (1,985M) TO DEHRADUN (430M)

Distance: 252 km Drive. The drive back down to Dehradun is alongside the fierce Ganga River. This scenic stretch of road winds its way through foothills and alongside the holy Ganges River. While the drive itself is roughly 9 hours, take some time to soak in the beauty of the Ganges and the surrounding landscape. Consider stopping at a roadside viewpoint or pull-off to capture panoramic photos or simply stretch your legs and take a break from the car.

You should expect to get to Dehradun by late evening, so plan your arrival activities accordingly. This could be checking into your hotel, grabbing a delicious meal, or simply relaxing and unwinding after an unforgettable trek.



INCLUSIONS

- 1. Meals During the Expedition (Starting dinner on Day 1 till Dinner on Day 14).Hotel Stay in Gangotri, Kedarnath & Gauri Kund on twin/triple sharing basis**
- 2. Services of a English Speaking Trek Leader certified in AMC (Advance Mountaineering), special rescue course from NIM, Emergency wilderness Responder course**
- 3. Forest fee, permits & Camping Charges (Upto the amount specified for Indian Nationals)**
- 4. 4 season camping tent , Thermal rated sleeping bags & mattress. Micro spikes, Ice Axe, Gaiters, Carabiners, Harness, and Helmet, as required**
- 5. UIAA Safety Equipment like Static Rescue Rope, Harnesses, Carabiners & pulleys with the Leader. First Aid Certified Local Trek guide with extensive trek experience of the route, Cook, Helper**
- 6. Services of Porters for carrying common camping equipment like tents (twin sharing basis), sleeping bags & Services of kitchen stuff**

7. Exhaustive first aid kit with a portable oxygen cylinder of 5 ltrs capacity

EXCLUSIONS

1. Forest Charges for carrying still/video cameras etc.

2. Meals during hotel stay & any kind of road journey

3. Personal expenses like tips, telephone calls, laundry, etc

4. Travel Insurance, if any

5. Transport- Sumo-8000 Rs onside (5 to 6 trekkers) Tempotraveller 15000 Rs onside (Shared by 11 to 12 trekkers)

6. Anything which is not mentioned in Inclusions list

7. GST(Goods & Service Tax) at the rate of 5%.

FITNESS/ DIFFICULTY

A high altitude trek in the Himalayas requires substantial fitness. Your body needs to train itself to tolerate more work with lower levels of oxygen. Therefore, on treks, cardiovascular training is essential.

As a measure of your fitness, we require you to be able to run at least 5 km in 40 minutes by the time your trek starts. If you are 45 years or above, try to cover 5 km in 50 minutes. This is a minimum requirement.

If you prefer cycling over running, then try to cover 20 km in 60 minutes.

Unable to perform the same can make your trek difficult. Trekkers who have not adequately prepared might be asked not to continue the trek at any point.

The team of Himalayan Daredevils has the right to reject trekkers who do not meet our eligibility requirements at the base camp

Cancellation Policy

Life is unpredictable and we understand that sometimes you have to cancel or change your trip dates and it is our endeavor to make it as easy as possible for you. However, please understand that we plan everything including guide fees, permits, accommodation and ration in advance. Therefore, any cancellation means inconvenience and certain losses to the people involved in various stages of the programme. Keeping that in mind, our cancellation charges are as below –

Cancellations prior to 30 days from the start of the event: **Get a monetary refund with 15% of cancellation charges.**

Cancellations between 30 days and 15 days to the start of the event: 50 % refund as cash.

Cancellations less than 15 days to the start of the event: No refund.

Cancellations will be accepted only by email.

Note: The Himalayan Daredevils reserves the right to cancel a programme before departure in the event of logistical problems arising due to natural calamities, strikes, wars or any other circumstances that make the event inadvisable. In this case, we will refund 50% of the event fees.

Itinerary Changes & Trip delays:

We plan itineraries based on the information available at the time of planning and in rare circumstances, they are subject to change. In the event that the itinerary is changed or delayed due to unforeseen circumstances such as bad weather, transportation delays, government intervention, landslides etc., we will always aim to give you the best experience possible. However, The Himalayan Daredevils not be held responsible for the cost of delay or changes.

CONTACT US

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