

Dharamsala Trek

India, Kingdom of Gaddis



Ultimate Challenges

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Dharamsala Trek, India

Kingdom of Gaddis

Travel to India and experience this stunning 5 day trek passing through the multi-coloured mountain range ornamented with villages, monasteries, temples and stupas.

India is a land that truly suspends belief and defies description. Stretching from the frozen barrier of the Himalayas to the tropical greenery of Kerala, and from the sacred Ganges to the sands of the Thar Desert, India's boundaries encompass incomparable variety. This superb trek takes us to Dharamsala, in the Kangra valley, Northern India against the backdrop of the dramatic Dhauladhar Mountains. Once a British hill station, today Dharamsala has become the synonymous to the Tibetan government in exile and the home of Tibetan leader the Dalai Lama.

This stunning trekking challenge passes through the Kingdom of Gaddi, a semi nomadic race who spends many months wandering the high pastures with their sheep. The trek offers splendid views of the Daula Dhar mountain Range, trekking through the mountain villages with terraced fields, dense mixed forests of oak, rhododendron, pine and bamboo, which offers some of the best camping spots throughout the trek, along with the rivers and streams, together with mixed forest offering some fine bird-watching. The journey also offers a visit to the H.H. Dalai Lama's monastery and residence.



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart London

Depart London for Delhi, India

Day 2: Arrive Delhi sightseeing - overnight train to Pathankot

Arrive Delhi and transfer to the hotel where you have the morning free. After lunch there is a guided visit to Red Fort and a chance to enjoy a cycle Rickshaw ride through the silver market. In the evening we will have dinner in a local restaurant before boarding the overnight train to Pathankot.

Day 3: Pathankot to Dharamsala

Arrive Pathankot early morning and transfer 3hrs to Dharamsala (McLeod Ganj 1750m). Arrive at our hotel in time for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore the town, known as little Lhasa.

In the evening we will visit the residence of H.H. Dalai lama and soak up the spiritual and atmospheric atmosphere monastery. After dinner in the hotel we will have a full trek briefing about the challenge ahead.

Day 4: Dharamsala (McLeod Ganj) to BOA village 1600m to Konal 5-6hrs trekking

After an early morning breakfast we drive approx. 2hrs to Boa Village situated on the banks of river Brahal, en-route we will be rewarded with fine views of the Dholodhars. Our 12km trek starts with a 2 hour steep ascent to Batuni a remote tribal village, from here another half hour takes us to Lingru Nag temple (Snake God) which is a great place for lunch. After lunch we descend to our camp at Konal village, the trek is through the forest, terraced fields and small villages , overnight in tents.



Day 5: Konal to Kareri 1975m 7-8hrs trekking

From camp we begin our 14km trek. We make a steep ascent for about 4hrs to the top of the ridge through the mixed forest, from top ridge we have fine views of the valley below, before continuing another hour trek along a good trail to Kareri Village (2070m). We camp in a lovely meadow on the banks of Laund River, surrounded by rolling hills and distant views of the mountains and villages with their houses with slate roofs on the other side of the river. This evening we enjoy a campfire.



Detailed itinerary

Day 6: Kereri to Bal 2330m 7-9hrs trekking

Another early start as we continue our trek with a very gradual ascent, through small bushes to a lovely mountain village. We experience the way of life by sharing a cup of tea (hot Chai) with a local family. The village also offers distant views of the Dauladar Mountain Range, we continue through the open meadows and pine forest to another village with lovely houses, and then descend through the valley to a beautiful mountain stream a perfect place for lunch.

After lunch we begin our gradual ascent for about one hour and then have a steep climb through a dense mixed forest of bamboo, oak and pine to the Col, offering beautiful views of the valley. From the top it is another 30 min gradual ascent to the Bal (2330m). We pass through Bal along the terraced fields to another beautiful camping place with a gushing river nearby and distant views of Camel Peak (5300m), overnight in tents.

Day 7: Bal to Triund 3000m 6-8hrs trekking

After breakfast we cross the river over a suspension bridge and then have a steep ascent through mixed forest of rhododendron and pine for about 2hrs. We come to a ridge where there is a small chai (tea) shop. After a short rest we then have a gradual ascent to our highest point - the whole path is flocked with the Gaddi Tribal people taking their cattle to high pastures of Triund, our campsite for the evening.



Day 8: Triund to Bhagsu Nag Village 1740m 5-6hrs trekking

From camp we trek over a grassy ridge for about 4kms with fine views of the valley below and the snowy peaks on other side, from here, we start a steep descent through the mixed forest of oak, rhododendron, and bamboo to the small Bhagsu Nallaha (stream). After crossing the river by hopping over boulders to a small Chai Shop and short rest, we continue our gradual descent to a waterfall, which is the perfect place for lunch. After lunch we trek to Bhagsu Nag Village, which has a lovely temple and natural springs - great for a refreshing dip! Our jeeps will be waiting here for a short ride of 15 mins to our hotel in Dharamsala. Tonight we celebrate our achievements with a special dinner.



Detailed itinerary

Day 9: Dharamsala to Pathankot

After breakfast we will visit the Tibetan Bazaar and the Monastery. After lunch in our hotel we transfer back to Pathankot railway station for our overnight sleeper train to Delhi.

Day 10 : Delhi to London

We arrive into Delhi very early in the morning and transfer to a local restaurant. After breakfast, we continue our onward journey to the airport for the flight home.

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This itinerary is complex and subject to change

Challenge grade

Moderate to tough

Best time of year

January, February, March , November and December



Why choose Ultimate Challenges

- We have over 16 years experience running pioneering charity challenges e.g. Kilimanjaro , the Inca Trail, California Bike
- We choose the most unexplored and upcoming regions for our amazing expeditions
- We are built on a team of Senior Event Fundraisers
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- We use the best ground agents, the most experienced trek staff and doctors to ensure your supporters have a safe and memorable challenge
- We operate an Ethical Code of Conduct with all our ground handlers to ensure fair treatment of all our local staff. We have high health and safety expectations and all our partnerships are conducted with respect for local cultures and environmental concerns
- We offer an end-to-end service to ensure our charity partners are given full support from our experienced staff ensuring you maximise your income

Our pricing policy

We believe that we are very competitive and offer excellent value for money. However, it can be confusing when comparing prices, as small alterations in an itinerary, can make a substantial difference. We would be happy to review proposals you may have received from other tour operators, as we are confident that we can beat any genuine quote.

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