

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 five day trek passing through the multi-coloured mountain range ornamented with villages, monasteries, temples and stupas and the incredible Taj Mahal.

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.

Our Indian adventure, wouldn't be complete without a visit to the immense and beautiful Taj Mahal – the biggest monument ever created for love!



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart Manchester

Depart Manchester for Delhi, India.

Day 2: Arrive Delhi sightseeing

Arrive Delhi and transfer to the hotel where you have some free time. 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 before boarding the overnight sleeper train – an exciting true Indian experience.

Day 3: MacLeod Ganj

Arrive Pathankot early morning where we will be met and transfer approx. 3hrs to McLeod Ganj, Dharamsala at 1750m. 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: McLeod Ganj to Kareri Village (2,070m)

7hrs trekking

After an early breakfast our trek begins! We walk past Tibetan Children's Village and continue on to Satobari Village and begin our steep descent through thick pine forest to Ghera Village. We stop for lunch after crossing a small stream over a wooden bridge, then start our ascent to Kareri Village. After around two hours we reach the top of the ridge and continue along the ridge, enjoying the views of the valley below. Arrive in Kareri in the afternoon and set up camp in a lovely meadow just outside the village.



Day 5: Kareri to Bal (2,330m) 7-8hrs trekking

We enjoy an early breakfast then begin our trek by making a gradual ascent to a lovely mountain village. We stop here to enjoy the distant views of the Dauladhar range and enjoy a hot cup of chai. Afterwards, continue through the open meadow and pine forest before beginning our descent through the valley to a beautiful mountain stream. We stop for lunch and maybe a dip, then begin our ascent to Bal village, passing through dense mixed forest of bamboo, oak and pine. We set up camp for the night just outside Bal village, near a rushing river and in the shadow of Camel peak (5,300m).



Detailed itinerary

Day 6: Bal to Triund (3,000m)

7-8hrs trekking

We begin today's trek by crossing a suspension bridge before a steep ascent through the rhododendron and pine forest, with spectacular views back to Dharamsala. We continue for about two hours, until we reach a small chai shop. After a short rest, and a cup of hot sweet chai, we recommence our ascent, passing Gaddi tribal people taking their cattle to the high pastures of Lak and Triund, on the way. Triund is an alpine meadow on top of a ridge with breathtaking views of the peaks of Dhauladhar on one side and Kangra Valley on the other. We will make the most of this beautiful campsite and stay here for two nights.



Day 7: Triund to Lake Got (3,500m)

6-7hrs trekking

Today we will trek to Lake Got, the highest point of our trek (3,500m) and a grazing ground for the local Gaddi shepherds. After a steady ascent through conifer and oak forest and across alpine meadows we arrive at our destination, which is located at the base of a glacier. We have the opportunity to walk on the glacier itself to reach Lahes Cave – an overnight shelter used by shepherds travelling over the mountains with their sheep. After lunch we make our return descent to our campsite at Triund.



Day 8: Triund to Bhagsu Nag Village (1,740m) , MacLeod Ganj

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 MacLeod Ganj. Tonight we celebrate our achievements with a special dinner.

Detailed itinerary

Day 9: Dharamsala to Delhi

Free time to visit the Tibetan Bazaar and the Monastery before we board the overnight sleeper train back to Delhi.

Day 10 : Delhi to Taj Mahal

Arrive Delhi 0545am and transfer 4-5hrs to Agra, stopping for lunch on the way.

Guided visit to the stunning Taj Mahal, one of the seventh Wonders of the World.

Overnight dinner and hotel, Agra.

Day 11: Transfer back to Delhi and departure

Transfer back to Delhi. Day rooms will be available at a hotel before transferring to the airport early evening for flight back to Manchester.

Day 12: Arrive Manchester

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This itinerary is complex and subject to change

Challenge grade

Moderate to tough

Best time of year

January-April, October- December

