


Kumaon Himalayan Experience



*Stay at 2 different locations at the lap of nature, get amazed by
pristine beauty of the Uttarakhand Himalayas.*



In the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, lies the pristine, almost unexplored region of Kumaon. Kumaon offers some of the most stunning scenery of the entire Himalayas including loftiest Himalayan peaks, oak and rhododendron jungles, terraced fields and fast moving rapids and rivers.

Most importantly, Kumaon region is inhabited by simple and pious people, who have been able to preserve their unique culture and traditions in spite of the onslaught of the modern. Kumaon is also famous for its old temples, Jageshwar and Chitai, wildlife sanctuaries, Binsar and Corbett and hill stations, Almora, Bhimtal and Nainital.

DAY 1

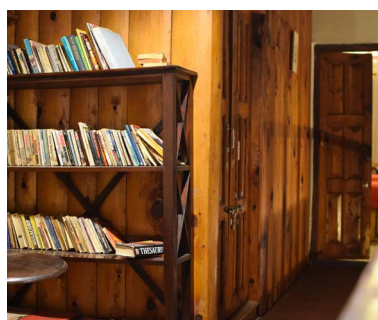
Delhi – Fredy's Bungalow, Bhimtal

You will be met at Kathgodam Railway Station and driven (1.5 hrs) to Fredy's Bungalows. A short uphill drive, along two-kilometers of Kucha road from Bhimtal Lake, leads you to Fredy's Bungalow.

city-dwellers seeking to renew their spirits. A steep 10-minute mountain trail, adjacent to the bungalow, leads to 'the Ridge' with its breath-taking view of the Sattal Lakes below and Nainital in the distance. A level walking track from the bungalow offers an easy 30-minute walk to these lakes, which are otherwise more than 10 km, and 45 minutes, by motor road.

Accommodation: Fredy's Bungalow
Meals: None

The imposing colonial-style homestead nestles among cypress and deodar trees, on a peaceful wooded hillside, overlooking the Bhimtal valley and the mountain slopes beyond. Located in the midst of acres of dense oak forest, this is a peaceful haven where only the sounds of nature break the silence: the wake-up song of the resident Whistling Thrush, the sharp call of a Barking Deer in the distance; the hoot of a Spotted Owl signaling dusk. This part of the Kumaon Lake Region, home to a large variety of flora, fauna and aquatic life, has always attracted bird-watchers, butterfly-collectors and nature lovers as well as writers in search of solitude and



DAY 2

Fredy's Bungalow, Bhimtal

Full-day at leisure or explore the nearby area, go for short treks to Sattal lake or Bhimtal lake and also do boating there or we can arrange a picnic lunch around the property also and the neighbouring countryside in a walking tour.

Accommodation: Fredy's Bungalow

Meals: Breakfast.



DAY 3

Day 3: Fredy's Bungalow – Almora - Itmenaan Estate

This morning after a leisurely breakfast, you will be driven (5 hours) to Itmenaan Estate.

En route to Almora, stop over briefly at the famous temple Kainchi Dham, This place has achieved recognition owing to the ashram of the famous Shri Neem Karoli Baba Maharajji.

Kainchi is a term used for two sharp hairpin bends of the motor road in local dialect hence the name. It has NO relation with scissors. Founded by the famous Maharaj Neem Karoli Baba in 1962 and is very well maintained and kept neat and clean.

Late Apple founder Steve Jobs and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg also had visited this temple before they actually became very famous. According to Steve, he got the inspiration to found Apple, during his stay in India. Steve visited Kainchi Ashram, and it's where he is believed to have got the vision to create Apple. Mark Zuckerberg mentioned that he had visited a temple in India during the initial days of Facebook on the advice of late Apple founder Steve Jobs, according to an Economic Times report.

After visiting the Kainchi Dham, en route to Almora, stop over briefly at the charming Chitai

Temple, which is located just outside Almora town. The Chitai Temple is dedicated to Golu Devta, who is considered to be the God of Justice. As one approaches the temple, the first thing that strikes you is hundreds of bells hanging at the entrance. People come to the temple to make a wish to Golu Devta; those who are not able to personally visit the temple, write letters to Him seeking justice. Once a wish is fulfilled people come and hang a brass bell on any of the temple walls, and hence the sea of bells all over the temple.

After visiting Chitai temple continue to the Almora Zoo, where you can see some Himalayan Leopards caged in the Zoo.

After visiting the Zoo, if time permits, you can visit the famous Jageshwar Temple. The temples at Jageshwar are believed to have been constructed between the 8th century and the 18th century. The architecture belongs to the Nagara style of North India, characterized by a tall curved spire surmounted by an amalaka (capstone) and a kalasha crown.

After visiting the temple complex, you will be driven to Itmenaan Estate. Then you will walk downhill to the estate (10 mins).



Itmendaan Estate

A photograph of a traditional Kumaoni style stone house. The house is built with rough-hewn stone and has several windows and doors with dark red wooden frames. A large section of the wall is covered in dense green ivy. To the left, there are stone steps leading up to a small balcony or entrance area with a wooden railing. The house is set in a rural, mountainous area with trees in the background.

Set in a peaceful rural setting in the Kumaon Himalayas, the 10-acre estate includes virgin pine, oak and rhododendron trees, terraced fields laden with seasonal fruits and vegetables, and to top it all, a small private perennial natural spring. The estate offers panoramic views of the Himalayas including the majestic Nanda Devi.

The 100-year-old traditional Kumaoni style stone house on the estate has been painstakingly restored and offers 3 tastefully designed en suite bedrooms. There is also the newly built Deodar Cottage. In and around the house are abundant places for you to unwind and relax - the courtyard overlooking the mountains and verdant valleys, the semi open-air dining area, numerous nooks and corners perfect for reading or for fulfilling your spiritual quest.

DAY 4



Itmenaan Estate – Nayal - Naugaon village walk

The ideal time to start the walk is after breakfast at around 10 am. The first leg is a descent of 200 meters from Itmenaan Estate to the local stream through oak, pine and deodar trees. A traditional water flour mill on the stream, gives an idea of the ingenuity of the villagers. The banks of the stream are an ideal place to laze around, soak in the sunshine or just play in water.

The next leg is an uphill walk to village Naugaon through terraced fields cut along the slopes in the mountains. There is an opportunity to participate in farming with the villagers who will happily let guests lend a hand and shall share their traditional agricultural wisdom. A picnic lunch is usually organized in one of the terraced fields.

On reaching the village, a 300 meters ascent from the stream, one gets a sense of having traveled back in time. It is not hard to imagine that the village would have looked the same a century back. All houses are constructed in traditional Kumaoni architecture with locally available materials. The villagers are untouched by city life and still lead a contented sustenance lifestyle. Many of them are kind enough to offer guests a cup of tea in their house. After spending time in the village and experiencing a totally different way of life, it is time to visit the local temple and pay obeisance to the gods. The little village temple that falls on the final leg of the walk is dedicated to the local deity, Siam.





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*Walk Duration: 3-4 Hour
Accommodation: Itmenaan Estate
Meals: Breakfast,*

DAY 5

Itmenaan Estate



*Full-day at leisure or explore the estate and admire mesmerising valleys and snow clad peaks
And the neighbouring countryside in a walking tour.
Or you may just choose to laze around or read a book,
later in the evening enjoy the warmth of campfire
and gaze at the countless stars in night time milky sky.*

Accommodation: Itmenaan Estate

Meals: Breakfast



DAY 6

Itmenaan Estate

After a leisurely breakfast you will drive to your onward destination.

Accommodation: None

Meals: Breakfast

******End of the Arrangements******



Details

USEFUL INFORMATION

• *Intensity Level of Walks:* High levels of fitness are not required to do this program. You can set your own pace making the walk 'easy' or 'moderate'. However, you need to be in general good health and used to walking.

• *Shoes:* The path will be rough at some stretches and hence we advise sturdy shoes/boots with excellent soles.

• *Essentials in your bag:* Strong sun-screen, sunglasses, lip-balm, insect repellent, personal medication and a hat to ward off the high daytime UV. If you suffer from mountain driving sickness, please carry appropriate medication.

• *Best Time of Travel:* Barring peak rainy seasons of June, July, August you can undertake this walking tour any-time of the year. Each month of travel has its own charm:

o *Oct/Nov:* Cool weather and the

mountains views are good

o *Dec/Jan/Feb/Mar:* Cold but the mountain views at their best

o *Apr/May:* Cool weather, mountains views to get hazy but rhododendrons in bloom

o *June/July/Aug/Sept:* Pleasant weather but mountains views are hazy

Address:

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