



Walking safari trek to
The Valley of Flowers
guided by experienced naturalists.

Hemkund Shahib

Ajay Bhat

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Guided floral and birding trip to a world heritage (UNESCO) site National Park in the Garhwal Himalaya.

	Kalagarh Tiger Reserve (Division Corbett Tiger Reserve) & Binsar (Almora), Uttarakhand	
Landscape		Himalayan & high altitude forests.
Best Time		July to September.
Wildlife Expected		Blue Sheep or Bharal, Himalayan Tahr, Yellow-throated Marten. Himalayan Mouse Hare or Pika + 150 bird species including Himalayan Monal, Koklass and Himalayan Snowcock.
Wildlife Reported		Snow Leopard, Black & Brown Bear, and Musk Deer.

DAY 01 - RISHIKESH | DAY 02 - JOSHIMATH | DAY 03 - GOVINDGHAT | DAY 04 - VALLEY OF FLOWERS |
DAY 05 - HEMKUND SAHIB | DAY 06 - JOSHIMATH | DAY 07 - RISHIKESH



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Overview

Nestled in the upper expansions of Bhyundar Ganga and far interior Garhwal Himalayas, the Valley of Flowers is a splendid National Park of Uttarakhand. Picturesque in its beauty and famous for its charming meadows of alpine flowers, the park has a diverse range of flora. Our naturalists, along with regional botanists, will guide you through this World Heritage Site, situated at an altitude of 3,250m to 6,750m, offering mountains, meadows, and spectacular views with the river Pushpawati flowing through the conical shaped vale. Lush alpine meadows were crisscrossed by shepherd trails and punctuated by waterfalls. When Smythe, one of the first European mountaineers, stumbled upon this valley with its profusion of flowers, he became so profoundly affected that he gave Bhuindhar its now famous name. His subsequent writings on the valley evoked a great deal of interest among people, both at home and abroad.

The valley is full of high Himalayan flowering herbs. Some of the most conspicuous flowering plants that visitors can enjoy are Purple Ipomea, Stuart's Primrose, Musk Thistle, Stalked Gentiana, blue and yellow Himalayan poppies, Himalayan Lily, and Himalayan Rose. The most prominent species are Brahma Kamal, Anemone, Geranium, Marsh Marigold, Primula, Liliun, Potentilla, Ranunculus, Inula, Corydalis, Pedicularis, Arisaema, Ligularia, Morina, Impatiens, Saxifrages Bistorta, Anaphalis, and Sibbaldia.

The valley is home to about 161 Himalayan bird species. Notable amongst them are Grandala, Himalayan Bluetail, Dark-sided Flycatcher, Eurasian Wren, Silver-eared Mesia, Variegated Laughing-thrush, Common Hill Partridge, Himalayan Snowcock, Black Francolin, Himalayan Monal, Golden Eagle, etc. It is also rich in high-altitude mammals such as Bharal, Ghoral, and Tahr. Musk Deer and Himalayan Brown Bear have been reported too, but are rare.



Operational Itinerary

DAY 01: RISHIKESH

Activity	Rishikesh
Gradient	Gentle
Detail	Arrive at Rishikesh. Ganga Aarti in the evening.

Overnight at a hotel on the banks of the Ganga. (B, L, D)



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DAY 02: JOSHIMATH

Activity Rishikesh - Joshimath

Gradient Gentle

Detail Arrival in Joshimath in the evening. Free to relax and acclimatize. Joshimath (altitude 1800 m), is a small town in the Garhwal hills on the banks of Alaknanda River, home to the Sankracharya temple. Our cozy homestay is dwarfed by the higher Himalayan peaks all around with marvelous views of Hatiparwat Mountain right in front and the sacred Alaknanda River gushing below.

Overnight at a hotel on the outskirts of Joshimath enroute Valley of Flowers (D).



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DAY 03: GOVINDGHAT

Activity Joshimath – Govindghat (22km).

Gradient Uphill climb

Detail After an early breakfast, meet your guide. After a briefing, drive from Joshimath to Govindghat, a small hamlet on the confluence of Alaknanda and the roaring Laxman Ganga. Govindghat is the start point for our guided botanical trek.

From Govindghat to Chhanghria (14km), A beautiful trek route with magnificent views. Chhanghria is situated at the confluence of the rivers Bhyundar Ganga and Pushpawati, which forms Ashman Ganga that later meets the Alaknanda River at Govindghat. It is the last human habitation in the Bhyundar valley.

Overnight at a hotel in Govindghat (B, L, D).



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Pink-browed rosefinch
(*Carpodacus rodochroa*)

Dushiyant Parashar

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Valley Of Flowers

Dushiyant Parashar

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DAY 04: VALLEY OF FLOWERS

Activity Ghanghria – Valley of Flowers (8km) .

Gradient Uphill climb

Detail Departure early after breakfast. The first part of the trek is through thick forest along the Pushpawati River. Later we trek to open meadows to witness the floral richness of this UNESCO World Heritage park. A packed lunch will be served during the trek along with hot tea and light snacks.

Return to Ghanghria in the evening for dinner and overnight stay (B, L, D).



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DAY 05: HEMKUND SAHIB

Activity Changhria – Hemkund Sahib (12km).

Gradient Undulating terrain

Detail Departure early after breakfast. Today the first leg of the trek will be uphill to the sacred Hemkund Sahib, devoted to the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singhji. It is mentioned in Dasam Granth, a work dictated by Guruji himself. Its setting is a glacial lake surrounded by seven mountain peaks, each adorned by a Nishan Sahib on its cliff. After seeking blessings of the Guru, we will explore remote corners of the lake. Hemkund Sahib is full of flowers and the most prominent are Brahamkamal, Blue Poppy, Bistorta, and Potentilla. Gurudwara langar serves hot Prasad which is divine.

Return to Changhria in the evening for dinner and overnight stay (B, L, D).



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DAY 06: JOSHIMATH

Activity Changhria – Govindghat (14km trek) and drive to Joshimath (22km drive).

Gradient Gentle

Detail After breakfast, we start our downhill trek back from Changhria to Govindghat. Hot lunch on the trek route. Drive from Govindghat to Joshimath. Time permitting, a stroll in the small but busy Joshimath local market area, a visit famous Shankaracharya Math (shrine), Kalpavriksha and Narsimha temples.

Overnight at a hotel on the outskirts of Joshimath enroute Valley of Flowers (D).



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DAY 07: RISHIKESH

Activity Joshimath – Rishikesh

Gradient Gentle

Detail Arrival at Rishikesh. Ganga Aarti in the evening.

Overnight at a hotel on the banks of the Ganga. (B, L, D)



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Brahma Kamal
(*Saussurea obvallata*)

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Geranium wallichianum
(*Geraniaceae*)

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DAY 08: RISHIKESH

Activity	Rishikesh to journey onwards
Gradient	Gentle
Detail	Morning after breakfast, drive or take a train for journey onwards



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Campanula latifolia
(*Campanulaceae*)

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Brahma Kamal
(*Saussurea obvallata*)

Gerad David
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Tour inclusions:

- Accommodation for 07 nights at hotels and homestays on twin share basis.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary as B, L, D (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Service of English speaking local naturalist.
- All payable Tiger Reserve fees.
- Train journey between Kathgodam/ Delhi on A/C Chair Car.
- Services of Naturalist tracker during trek.
- Porters wherever needed.



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- 4 X4 and taxi transfers.
- All applicable taxes at the time of quoting.

Tour exclusions:

- Any expenses of personal nature such as telephone calls, tips, use of payable items in room mini bar, any kind of alcoholic non-alcoholic beverages (unless specified).
- Air Fare.
- Cost incurred in obtaining visa, insurance etc.
- Cost incurred in case of hospitalization or evacuation.



- Tips gratuities given to drivers/ guides, restaurant waiters etc.
- Train journey between Kathgodam/ Delhi on A/C Chair Car.
- * Please note that in case of any revision in government tax structure or substantial fuel hike we reserve the right to revise the tour cost. However, marginal difference will be absorbed by us.

Important:

- In case of any price hike by the Corbett Tiger Reserve you'll be duly informed and the deference will be shared equally.
- Itinerary order may change however number of days and general programme will remain the same.



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BOOKING & CANCELATION POLICY

Booking Conditions:

A 50% advance confirms your trip with us. Balance needs to be deposited at least 30 days before trip date.

Cancellation Policy:

- Less than 15 days before the arrival date - no refund
- Less than 20 days before the arrival date - 60% refund
- Less than 25 days before the arrival date - 75% refund
- No refund in case of road block, accident, no show etc.



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- The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credit will be given for services not used. We recommend that you obtain travel insurance upon booking.
- It is mandatory for guests to present valid photo identification at the time of check-in.
- The inclusion of extra bed with a booking is facilitated with a folding cot or a mattress as an extra bed.
- Early check-in or late check-out is subject to availability and may be chargeable by the lodge. The standard check-in time is 1 PM and the standard check-out time is 11 AM.
- The room tariff includes all taxes. The amount paid for the room does not include charges for optional services and facilities (such as room service, mini bar, snacks or telephone calls). These will be charged at the time of check-out.
- The hotel/lodge reserves the right of admission. Accommodation can be denied to guests posing as a couple if suitable proof of identification is not presented at check-in. Rural Traveller will not be responsible for any check-in denied by the hotel/lodge due to the aforesaid reason.



Important Note:

In case of any revision in government tax structure or fuel prices, Rural Traveller reserves the right to revise the tour price.

However, marginal revision in tour price will be absorbed by us.

- To book the above tour, please write to Sumantha Ghosh at *vanghat@gmail.com*. We will be happy to tailor - make a bird tour to suit the number of days that you may have.
- Do write to us if you want us to pick you up from Delhi airport, make arrangements for accommodation in Delhi, taxi and organize guided tours in Delhi or Rajasthan.



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Things To Carry:

(Expected minimum temperature may be 5 to -1 degree Celsius below freezing point)

All luggage only as a soft luggage (will be carried by mules/porters)

Backpack/day pack with rainproof cover (for you to carry)

Rain coat/umbrella

Good shoes suitable for trekking

Long sleeve shirts / T-shirts

Woolen trousers / trek pants

Thermal wear (top + bottom)

Sweater / Jacket / Cardigan

Fleece jacket / Shawl

Windcheater/windproof jacket

Woolen hand gloves

Muffler / Woolen Cap / Ear Band

Woolen socks

Cotton socks

Undergarments

Hydration pouch

Sunglasses



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Sun screen lotion

Lip balm

Torch/head torch

Sleeping bags & mattress (weather suitable good quality will be provided by us)

Camp sandles/floaters

Personal medicines (including knee cap, if needed, if any, as per your physician's prescription)

Personal toiletries

Extra batteries for your camera

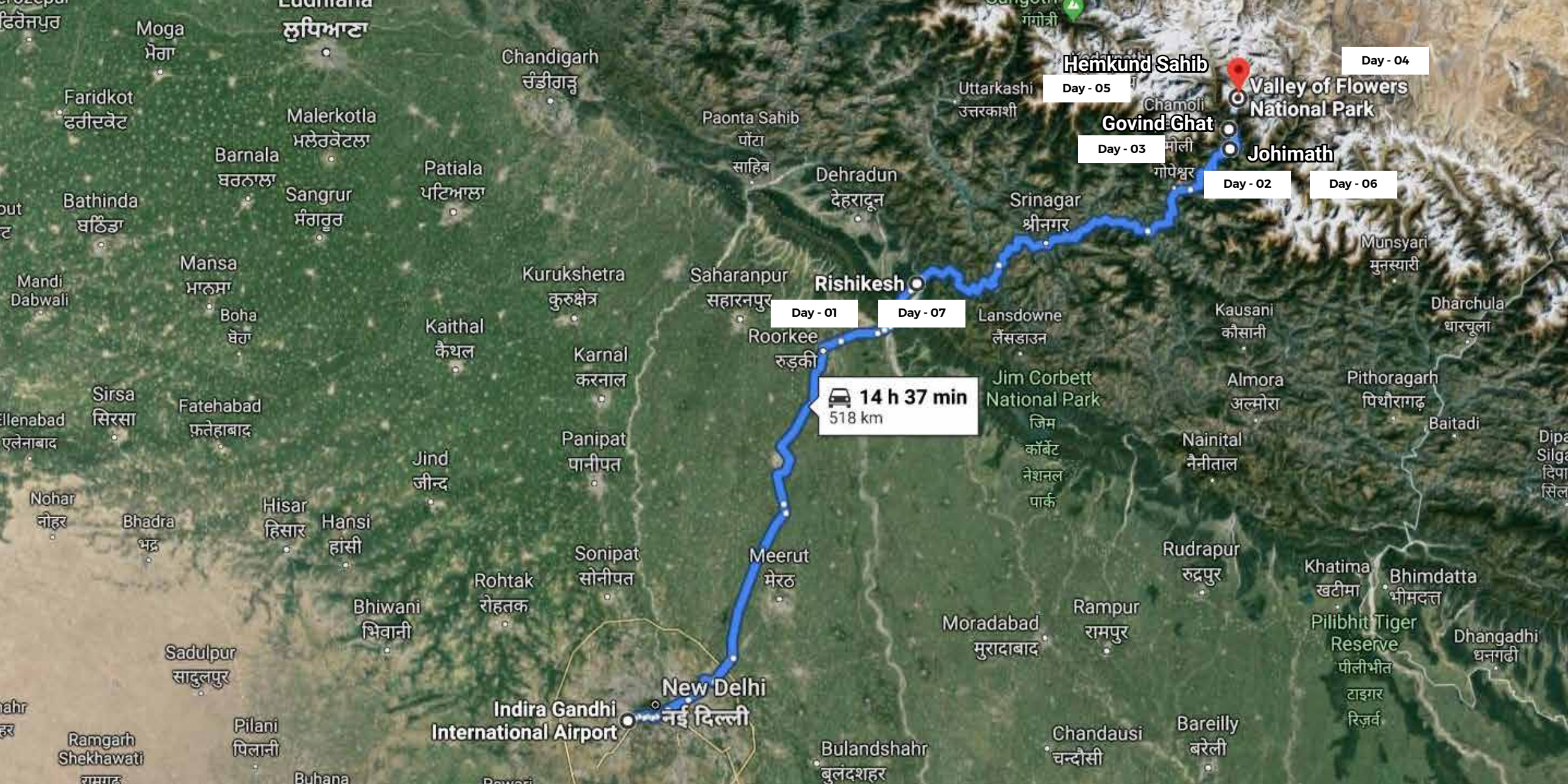
Snow Cap*

Trekking sticks*

*Available on hire



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Dushiyant Parashar

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