



Walking safari trek at  
Gangotri National Park  
guided by experienced naturalists.

Himalayan Tahr  
(*Hemitragus jemlahicus*)

**Kalyan.S. Sajwan**  
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# Guided wildlife treks at the source of the sacred Ganga.

## Gangotri National Park, Uttarakhand.

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Landscape</b>         | Himalayan & high altitude forests.   |
| <b>Best Time</b>         | May to June & September to November.   |
| <b>Wildlife Expected</b> | Blue Sheep or Bharal, Himalayan Tahr, Yellow-throated Marten. Himalayan Mouse Hare or Pika + 150 bird species including Himalayan Monal, Koklass and Himalayan Snowcock. |
| <b>Wildlife Reported</b> | Snow Leopard, Black & Brown Bear, and Musk Deer.   |

**DAY 01 - RISHIKESH | DAY 02: UTTARKASHI | DAY 03: GANGOTRI | DAY 04: CHIRBASA | DAY 05: BHOJWASA |  
DAY 06 & 07: TAPOVAN | DAY 08: CHIRBASA | DAY 09: UTTARKASHI | DAY 10 - RISHIKESH**



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# Overview

The Himalayas, the highest mountain system on Earth have always been a source of awe, inspiration, and spiritual solace. Home to a wide diversity of flora and fauna, this mountain range has fostered human civilization and cultures throughout the ages. The Himalayas encompass a number of unique features, including wetlands, glaciers, and the source of several rivers, truly making it the water tower of Asia. As such, it is imperative to conserve the well-being of this unique range of mountain ecosystems and its many natural species, including humanity, for the future.

One of the best-managed national parks of Uttarakhand, Gangotri National Park recently shot into fame for being a viable habitat for the Snow Leopard. The park is home to diverse Himalayan fauna. Some endangered ones include Himalayan Musk Deer, Blue Sheep, Goral, Sambar, Serow, and Himalayan Tahr. Major carnivores inhabiting the area include the Snow Leopard and the Leopard. Dominant small carnivores include the Red Fox, Yellow-throated Marten, and Himalayan Weasel. Asiatic Black Bear and Wild Boar, Pika or Mouse Hare are common in the sub-alpine and alpine zones.

Hill Partridge, Kaleej, Koklass, Monal Pheasants, and Himalayan Snowcock are commonly known in this important bird area. The presence of Cheer Pheasant in the Chir Pine forests adjacent to the GNP has also been reported.

This high-altitude park provides majestic beauty of coniferous forests and glacial world grandeur combined with lush green meadows. Gaumukh glacier, the origin of the river Ganges, is located inside the park. The Gangotri, after which the park has been named, is one of the holy Hindu shrines. The park area forms a viable continuity between Govind National Park and Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary. High ridges, deep gorges, precipitous cliffs, rocky craggy glaciers, and narrow valleys characterize the area. There is a high variation in the elevation gradients from 1,800 to 7,083m, which in turn is reflected in the diverse biomes, from subtropical communities to alpine meadows.





Bhotiya (Himalayan shepherds)

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# Operational Itinerary

## DAY 01: RISHIKESH

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Activity</b> | <b>Arrive at Rishikesh</b>   |
| <b>Gradient</b> | Gentle   |
| <b>Detail</b>   | Arrive at Rishikesh, check into your hotel. In the evening witness the sacred rituals or prayers of Holy Ganga.<br>Overnight at a hotel along the Ganges. (B, L, D). |



## DAY 02: Uttarkashi

**Activity**

**Rishikesh - Uttarkashi (1100mt)**

**Gradient**

Gentle

**Detail**

After breakfast departure for Uttarkashi. The journey takes us through Garhwal's mountain roads, which offer spectacular views of Bhagirathi valley. It takes us 6-7 hours to reach Uttarkashi. We drive a little off the main route to Gangotri to arrive at a simple but beautiful and peaceful guest house. We check in to our room and the remainder of the day is spent in exploring the surroundings.

Overnight at a guest house (B, L, D).



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Bugyal - Himalayan high altitude  
meadow

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Himalaya - Sanskrit for  
"abode of the snow"

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## DAY 03: GANGOTRI

**Activity**

**Uttarkashi - Gangotri (3000M/ 4-5 Hrs).**

**Gradient**

Uphill climb

**Detail**

Drive to Gangotri after breakfast. It is a very scenic drive all the way to Gangotri. Gaumukh, the source of the Ganges, is 18km farther upstream from Gangotri. The trek to Gaumukh is gradual, and pilgrims undertake the journey to pay homage to the river at its known source.

Overnight at Guest House (B, L, D).



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## DAY 04: CHIRBASA

### Activity

**Gangotri - Chirbasa (3400mt- 9km/4-5hrs) (Nature Trek).**

### Gradient

Undulating terrain

### Detail

After breakfast, we start an easy climbing trek to Chirbasa. The route is filled with breathtaking sights as the magnificent scenery unfolds itself at every step. In the lower elevation of the park, we can see Western Himalayan Subalpine conifer forest and on the higher elevation, we find Western Himalayan alpine shrub and meadows. These meadows are a storehouse of many rare and threatened medicinal plants. Chirpine, Deodar, Fir, Spruce, Oak, and Rhododendron are the common vegetation in Gangotri National Park.

We have lunch on the way and reach at a small isolated forest of pine at Cheerbasa.

Overnight at a camp in Chirbasa (B, L, D).



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## DAY 05: BHOJWASA

### Activity

**Chirbasa – Gaumukh (4000mt) & Back to Bhojbasa (3800mt – 13km/ 6hrs) (Nature Trek).**

### Gradient

Undulating terrain

### Detail

Day starts with small uphill climb to the main trail and then trail becomes gradual up to Gaumukh. It is about 9km and takes about 4-5 hours to reach Bhojbabsa.

Various rare and endangered species like Bharal or Blue Sheep, Black and Brown Bear, Himalayan Monal, Himalayan Snowcock, Himalayan Tahr, Musk Deer, and Snow leopard are found in the park.

We set up camp at Bhojbasa for an overnight stay but we go up to Gaumukh for acclimatization as it is around 4000m, and then return to our camp.

Overnight at a camp in Bhojwasa (B, L, D).



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Himalayan Pika

(*Ochotona himalayana*)

**Rana Sidhu**

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Gangotri Bhujvasa

**Somnath Bose**  
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## DAY 06: TAPOVAN

### Activity

**Bhojbasa – Tapovan (4400mt- 4km/ 4-5hrs) (Nature Trek).**

### Gradient

Gentle

### Detail

Blue Sheep or Bharal and Himalayan Pika are commonly sighted here and are very tolerant of humans. Himalayan Monal and Snow Cock are in good numbers but remain elusive.

Up to Gaumukh, there is a well-defined trail. But after Gaumukh, it is full of boulders on the glacier and one has to walk from boulder to boulder in some places. After crossing the moraine and glacier, we finally reach the place where we leave the Gangotri glacier below and make a very steep uphill climb to reach Tapovan from where Shivling Peak (6543m) rises, flanked by Meru (6630m), and Kedar Dome (6808m). Tapovan is surrounded by many famous peaks of the Garhwal Himalayas. You can see the peaks of Bhagirathi and Sudarshan from Tapovan, a base camp of Shivling Mountain. The view from Tapovan is definitely worth the effort. We set up camp and spend the rest of the day exploring and taking pictures of peaks with lights.

Overnight at a camp in Tapovan (B, L, D).



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## DAY 07: TAPOVAN

### Activity

**Day at Tapovan (Nature Trek ).**

### Gradient

Gentle

### Detail

We explore these high mountains with stunning views of Lammergeyer, Himalayan Griffon, and the locally common Red and Yellow Billed Chough. We can also opt walking up to ridge and have a look at Meru glacier or taking a full day walk to the Kirti Bamak glacier and to the base of peaks “Kedarnath Dome 6850 m”, Kirti Bamak 6500 m for a view of Shivling from the east.

Consequential landslides have distinctly broken up the steeper mountain sides that exist along the entire route from Gangotri to Gaumukh. The irreversible isolation caused by the landslides between forest patches including the alpine vegetation and its impact on the forest and dependent organisms must be documented. The northeastern boundary of Gangotri National Park is along the international boundary with China.

Overnight at a camp in Tapovan (B, L, D).



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## DAY 08: CHIRBASA

**Activity**

**Tapovan to Chirbasa (5 hrs) (Nature Trek).**

**Gradient**

Gentle

**Detail**

Its altitudinal range, diversity of forests, and large area has gifted Gangotri National Park with a very good representation of West Himalayan avifauna.

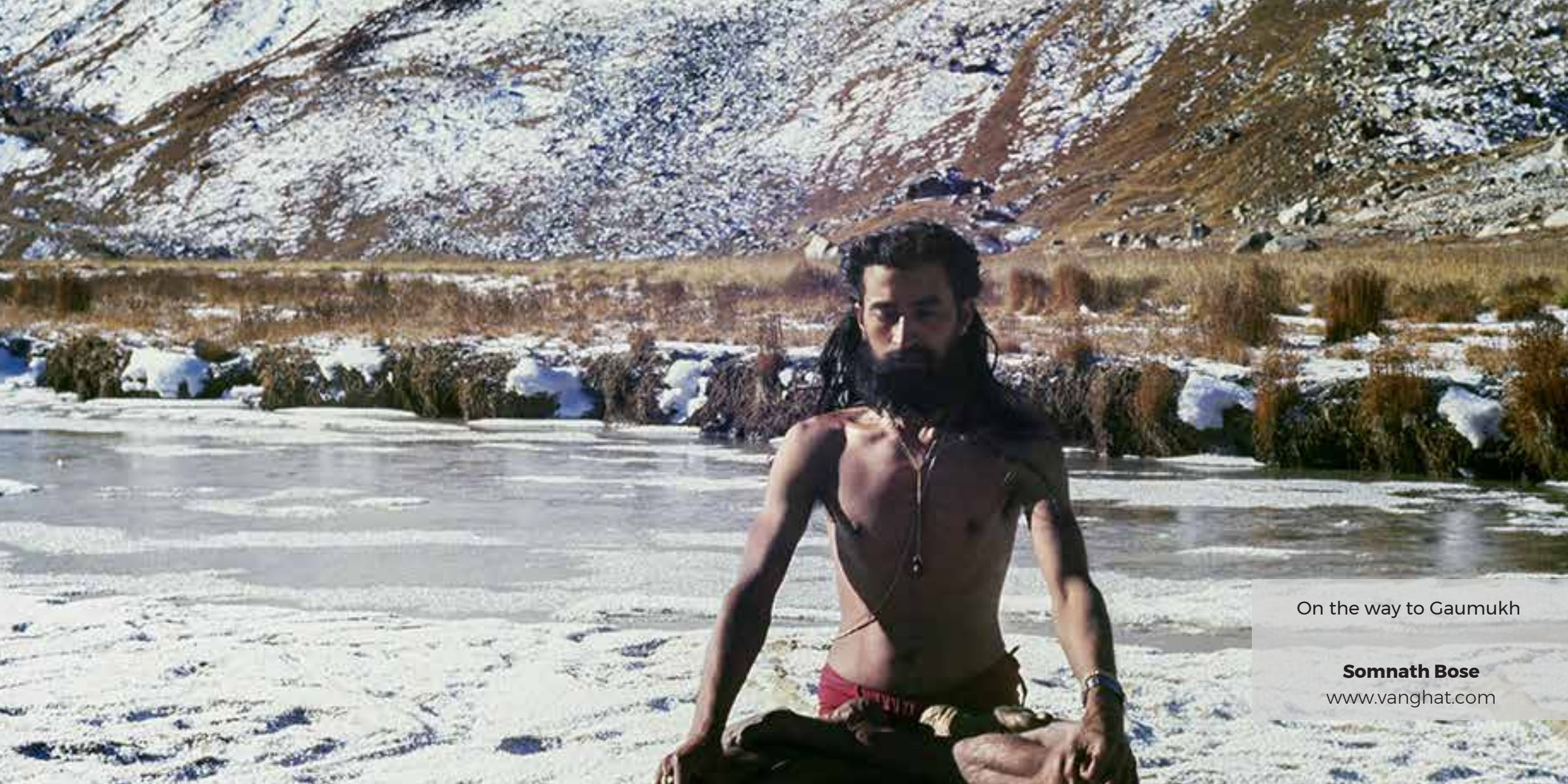
Over 150 high Himalayan species are present here, including galliformes such as Common Hill Partridge, Kaleej, Koklass, Monal Pheasants, and Himalayan Snowcock are known. There is presence of Cheer Pheasant in the Chir Pine forests adjacent to the GNP.

Morning after breakfast, we trek for 13km back to Chirbasa.

Overnight at a camp in Chirbasa (B, L, D).



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On the way to Gaumukh

**Somnath Bose**  
[www.vanghat.com](http://www.vanghat.com)





Gangotri Bhujvasa

**Somnath Bose**  
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## DAY 09: UTTARKASHI

**Activity**

**Chibasa - Gangotri & Drive to Uttarkashi (6-7 hrs).**

**Gradient**

Gentle

**Detail**

After breakfast, we trek back to Gangotri and board our vehicles to drive to Uttarkashi.

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



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On the steep climb to  
Tapovan (Old route ) from Gaumukh.  
Bhagirathi peaks in the background

**Somnath Bose**

[www.vandana.com](http://www.vandana.com)



## DAY 10: RISHIKESH

**Activity**

**Drive from Uttarkashi to Rishikesh (7 hrs).**

**Gradient**

Gentle

**Detail**

After breakfast 7 hours to drive to Rishikesh from Uttarkashi. Lunch is served on the way.

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



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## DAY 11: RISHIKESH

**Activity**

From Rishikesh to journey onwards

**Gradient**

Gentle

**Detail**

After breakfast, a 7-hour drive or take the train to journey onwards.i.



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**Tour inclusions:**

- Accommodation for 10 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.
- Services of Naturalist tracker during trek.
- Porters wherever needed.
- 4 X4 and taxi transfers.
- All applicable taxes at the time of quoting.



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**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.
- \* 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 Govt. 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.



# 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](mailto: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.

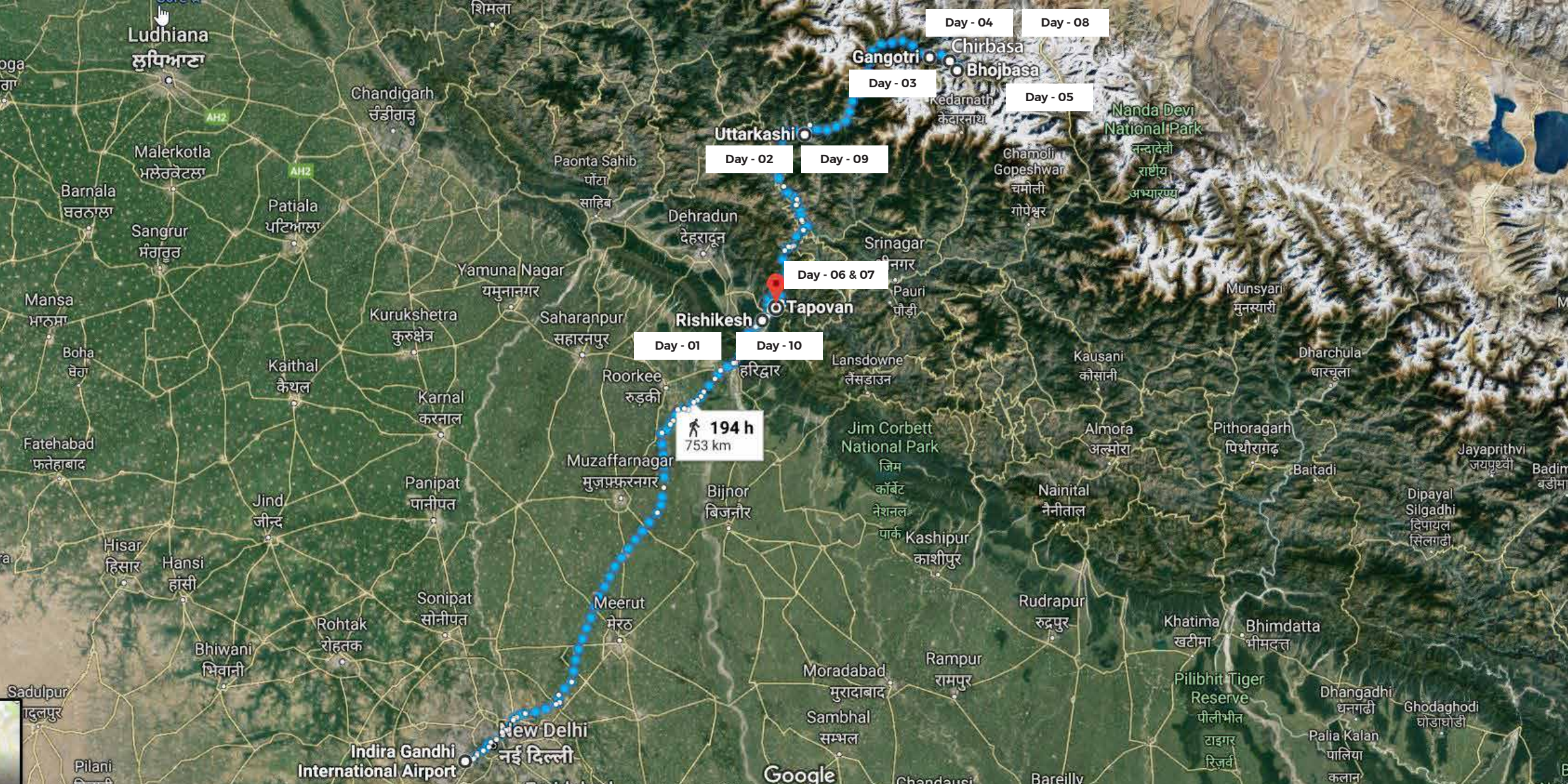
**Things To Carry:**

Binoculars, personal medicines, insect repellent, camera, film rolls, batteries, flashlight, clothing in Jungle colors such as beige, brown, khaki and green as they are least disturbing to the environment, shoes made for easy walking and sandals for wading in the river, sun hats, sweaters and heavy jackets for the winter months, light cottons for the summer months, rain gear for monsoons.



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View of the Himalayas

**Rana Sidhu**