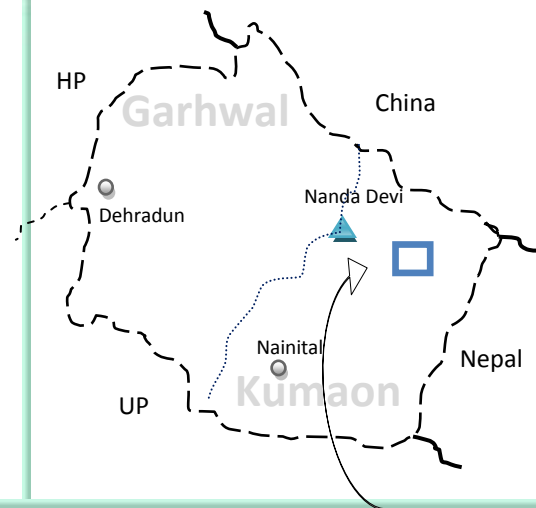


## MUNSIYARI-*THE CRADLE OF PANCHA CHULI*

**What is it?** A group holiday to the land of Gods. June 5<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> 2010.

Imagine a land of rolling green hills covered with thick forests of Pine and Rhododendron, orchards of peach, plum, apricot and apple and crystal clear lakes seeped in mythology. Go higher up to meadows of luxuriant grass where blue sheep and Ibex graze. Climb further up amidst the perennially snow covered peaks of the Great Himalayan range. And then cross over to moon- scape terrain of the trans-Himalaya. This is Kumaon, the land of Gods, and this is where we are heading to this summer.



### Mukteshwar

As we cross the first range in the Himalaya, the Shivaliks, where lies Nainital, we enter the middle Himalayan region with its thick jungles teeming with wildlife, bubbly streams, wide valleys and the ancient hill tribes. Set on the side of a mountain facing Almora towards the west and a clear view of the greater Himalayan range to the North, Sonapani, an estate owned and run by a local family amidst peach and apricot orchards (in full bloom in June), will be our first stop.



### Munsiyari

Very few places in the Indian Himalaya offer a panorama as stunning as Munsiyari. You feel like God has created this amphitheatre in which you occupy the centre seat and the 5 majestic peaks of Pancha Chuli group are painted in an arc on a huge canvas in front of you. Opened to visitors just a few years back, Munsiyari is the last road head in Kumaon, beyond which lie the Johar valley and then, Tibet.



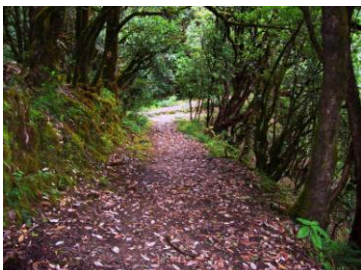
### Khaliya top trek

Want to feel mountaineers high? Khaliya top is a high altitude meadow situated at 3500M and just a short 8km hike from Munsiyari. Within 3 hours you are transformed to a different world altogether and within touching distance from the peaks. The entire Nanda Devi range from Trishul to Pancha Chuli and further into Nepal is visible. An ideal trek for beginners.



# Itinerary

Date	Activity	Remarks	You have to...
<b>Fri, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2010</b>	Reach Delhi by evening. Overnite train to Kathgodam. (Ranikhet Express).	The best way to get to Kathgodam, the starting point is by the overnite train. Please make sure you are in Delhi latest by 7 p.m.	Book your Mumbai-Delhi and Delhi-Kathgodam train tickets.
<b>5<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Reach Kathgodam early morning (6 a.m). Drive to Sonapani in Mukteshwar. (~2.5 hours)	The short drive to Mukteshwar passes through the lower hills in Kumaon and you will be in Sonapani for breakfast. All the fruits and veggies are grown on the property and taste delicious. The cottages are made using locally available material and are really comfy	
<b>6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Explore Sonapani via short jungle walks and chill out in the fruit orchards.	The retreat is located in the middle of the jungle that lends itself to be explored on foot. Optional Rappelling also at one of the best locations I know of.	
<b>7<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Drive from Mukteshwar to Vijaypur. (~5 hours). Stay overnite in cottages.	Drive to Munsiyari is a long one and is best done over two days. Vijaypur is an excellent stopover with one of the best views of the Himalayan range in the entire Kumaon. A hidden gem, if there was one.	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Drive early in the morning to Munsiyari. (~2 hours)	We are truly amidst the greater Himalaya now and the view from Munsiyari is beyond words. And I wont even try to describe.	
<b>9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Start the short trek to Khaliya top. (~8 km). Camp at the top in a meadow amidst rhododendrons.	An early start means you will be up there by lunch time. Guides, porters and cooks will accompany you and set up the campsite and make hot food as you revel in the surroundings.	
<b>10<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Back from Khaliya top in the morning. Rest in Munsiyari.	An optional climb to a nearby top in the morning will test your lungs but provide a Sunrise view beyond comparison.	
<b>11<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Drive to Binsar. (~4 hours)	This time we break the journey in the sanctuary at Binsar.	
<b>Sat, 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Drive to Kathgodam early in the morning. Catch the train to Delhi.	The 9:50am train will reach Delhi by 3pm. Book your flight anytime after 7 pm.	Book your train/ air tickets.



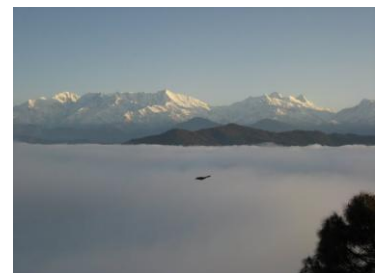
Binsar walk



Sonapani cottages



70 feet rappelling rock



Scene from Vijaypur

## Cost for the trip:

The cost of the trip = **Rs 25000/-** per person

Cost includes: Stay and food (except when in transit), transportation and the trek to Khaliya top.

Does not include Mumbai-Delhi- Mumbai air/ train tickets and Delhi- KGM-Delhi train tickets.

Note: The group size for this trip will not exceed 12 and will be on first come first serve basis. Get on the advance list by making a payment of Rs 2500 before 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2010. Confirm your place by making the full payment before 1<sup>st</sup> April. Please check the cancellation policy on our website.

Payment options:

### 1. Cheque/ DD:

For 'Connect with Himalaya'.  
403, Ram Krishna Chambers  
Linking Road, Khar west  
Above Reebok showroom  
Mumbai -400052

### 2. Online transfer/ Deposit to:

Account name: Connect with Himalaya  
Bank: Axis bank  
Branch: Springfield- Lokhandwala, Mumbai  
Current A/C #: 415010200003681  
IFSC: UTIB0000415, SWIFT: AXISINBB002

## What to get along?

The Himalayan Summer is a delightful season with long warm days and cool nights. Temp ranges from 10 to 25 degrees. A warm sweater/ light jacket and a woolen cap will do. Get a pair of comfortable walking shoes along too. You can get very nice warm sweaters, socks, gloves, etc from the local handicraft shops. Please note that the global climate change has a major effect on the Himalaya in the form of unseasonal rains, etc, so be prepared for some showers. A poncho is good enough. Detailed list will be provided on signing up.

## Making a contribution:

There is always a way of giving back to the place and people where we go for our holidays. The biggest way we can make a contribution in this trip is by supporting local co-operative initiatives like the Kumaon women weavers group and other handicraft initiatives. (There are hardly any NGO's in Munsiyari). We have of course planned this trip involving the locals at Mukteshwar, Munsiyari and Binsar.

## Get connected:

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Pictures from our earlier trip [here](#)

## GIFT THIS TRIP

You can chose from gift vouchers starting from Rs 5000.

Write to us with the name of the receiver and the denomination of the voucher.