

Mahabharata the Pandavas wanted to meet Lord Shiva and seek his blessings. But Lord Shiva evaded from Guptkashi to Kedarnath, as he did not want to meet Pandavas. Guptkashi is at the elevation of 1319 mt.

Sonprayag: On the main Kedarnath route, at the height of 1,829 mt, it's a holy confluence of Sone river and Mandakini in the Himalayas. According to Hindu belief, a dip into the holy confluence at Sonprayag, leads one to ultimate salvation. Kedarnath is at a distance of 19 km from Sonprayag, Triyuginarayan, which is supposed to be the marriage place of Shiva and Parvati, is at a distance of 12 km by a motorable road and 5 km on foot from here.



Be one with nature

Triyuginarayan: This magnificent temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu, lies in the village of Triyuginarayan, on the ancient bridle path that connects Gangotri to Shri Kedarnath. According to a legend, it is the place where Shiva got married with Parvati during the Satyug. The fire for the divine wedding was lit in the huge four-cornered Havan Kund. Vishnu himself was the master of ceremonies. Remnants of that celestial fire are believed to be burning in the Havan kund even today. Pilgrims offer wood to the fire that has seen three Yug hence the name Triyuginarayan.

Agastyamuni: Situated on the bank of river Mandakini, at a height of 1,100 mt, Agastyamuni, is nearly 18 km, from Rudraprayag. Every year a large fair is held here, to celebrate Baisakhi with great joy.

Chopta: It is located at a height of 2900 mt above sea level, amidst captivating surroundings. It is the most picturesque place in the entire Garhwal region. It provides a breath taking view of the magnificent Himalayan ranges like Chaukhamba, Kedarnath etc. and surrounding areas. The trek to the famous Tungnath temple starts from here.

Tungnath: The highest point to have a temple of Lord Shiva, at a height of 3,680 mt, and an important pilgrimage centre. The temple has 2.5 ft. tall idol of Shankracharya is placed alongside the lingam. At Tungnath, Lord Shiva's hands were supposedly seen. During winters priests move from this temple to Makkumath, 19 km away.

Chandrashila: Chandrashila just above Tungnath is the most accessible peak of the Uttarakhand Himalayas, at an altitude of 4090 mt, especially since most of the other peaks are difficult to scale.

Syalsaur: A fairytale location, 29 km from Rudraprayag is an upcoming resort developed by GMVN.

Kartikey Swami: 38 km from Rudraprayag on the Rudraprayag - Pokhri route is a village Kanak Chauri from where a 3 km trek leads to Kartikey Swami temple. This place has a temple with idol of Lord Shiva's son Kartikeya, situated at a elevation of 3048 mt.

Contact for Air Service (From Augustmuni to Kedarnath)

- (i) Pawanhans Helicopters Ltd. Helipad Ph.: 01364-256825
- (ii) Prabhatham Helicopters, Fata Ph.: 9411514590



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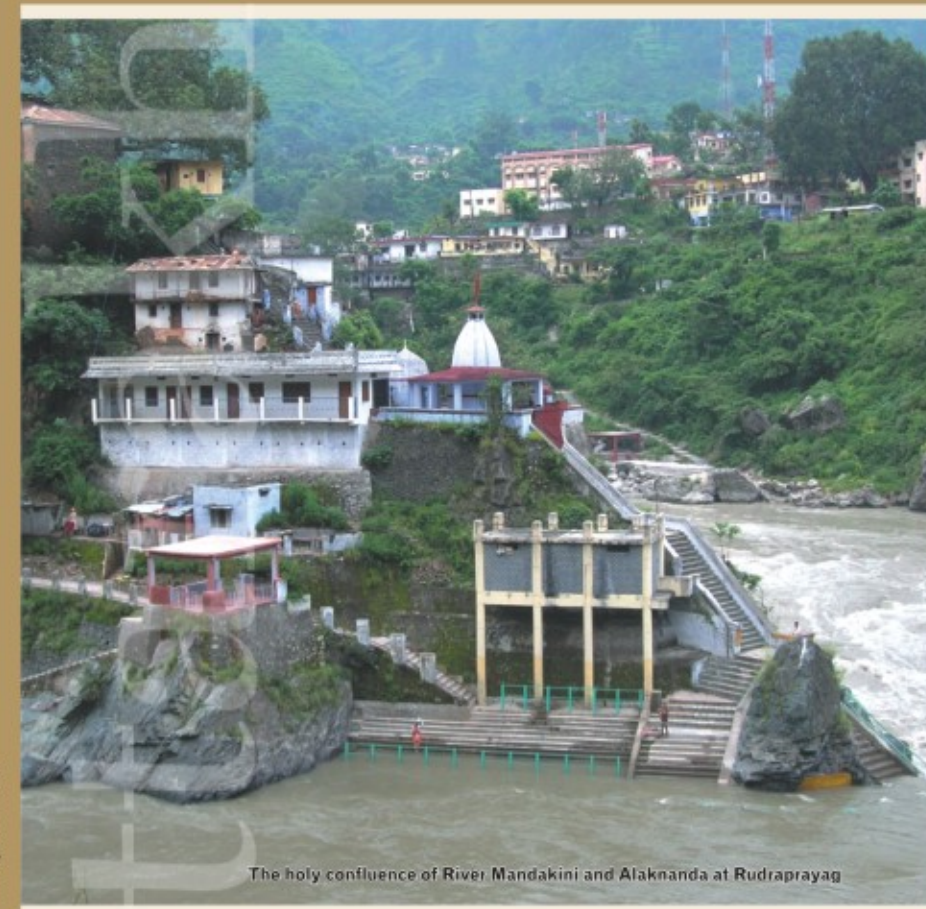
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Rudraprayag

The Blessed Land



The holy confluence of River Mandakini and Alaknanda at Rudraprayag

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Rudreswar Temple, Rudraprayag

Named after Lord Shiva, Rudraprayag is located at the confluence of the holy rivers Alaknanda and Mandakini. Till few years ago, Rudraprayag was a part of district Chamoli and Tehri. On 16th September 1997, the Kedarnath Valley and some parts of district Tehri and Pauri were conjoined together to form Rudraprayag as a new district.

Rudraprayag has a total area of 2,328 sq. km., and is located at 610 mt. above sea level. According to 'Puranas', the divine messenger Narada meditated here to appease Lord Shiva. Shiva appeared in his 'Rudra' (violent) incarnation to bless him. It is where Sati, the wife of Shiva was reborn after self-immolation at her father's place.

The centre point of the town is the ancient temple of Rudranath (Shiva). It is a picturesque location, abundant with natural beauty and peaks.

How to Reach

Air: The nearest airport is Jolly Grant at a distance of 158 km.

Rail: The nearest railhead is Rishikesh, 138 km. For Reservation, please contact at: **Railway Reservation Centre, Rudra Tourist Complex, Ph: 233347.**

Road: Nearest major town is Srinagar. Being at the crossroads of Kedarnath (84 km) and Badrinath (160 km), Rudraprayag is easily accessible by roads. All the important places of the Garhwal region are connected with the town, through buses.

Where to Stay (STD Code: 01364)

- Rudra Tourist Complex (GMVN) Ph.: 233347

- PWD Inspection Bungalow -
- Balbir House, Samirpur -
- Monal Resort, Ph: 233901-06
- Sanghrilla Resort, Ph: 233157
- Birla Dharamshala, Ph: 233327
- Dharamshalas of Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee, Ph: 233230
- Kali Kamali Dharamshala Ph: 233318
- Budhi Kedar Mandir Samiti Ph: 233230
- Hotel Suri, Ph: 233316
- Pinaki Hill Resort, Ph: 233363

What to See

Confluence of Mandakini & Alaknanda: Where the Alaknanda from Alkapuri and the Mandakini from Kedarnath, two of the most beautiful among the Himalayan rivers, meet, the confluence is known as Rudraprayag. The mingling of the waters of the two rivers providing an unending delight to the visitors and this spectacular fascinating scene can be viewed from the special vantage point, the Naradshila, which is approached by a long flight of stairs. On the way to confluence, there is a small temple dedicated to Jagdamba Devi (the Goddess of Power).

The Temple of Rudranathji : Another ancient temple of Rudranathji, where Lord Shiva is worshiped in the name of Rudranath. Legend is that Sage Narada meditated here for several years. Lord Rudra as being pleased, blessed him. Narada was given training of shastriya music by Shiva and granted him "Veena" (Lute), hence he became a repository of shastriya music.

Koteshwar Mahadev: The cave temple of Koteshwar Mahadev is just 3 km. away from Rudraprayag on the bank of Alaknanda river. There are many naturally formed Shivlingas in the cave on which water drops on this Lingas continuously. During the months of August and September, thousands of devotees come here to pay their homage to the deity.

Tour Packages:

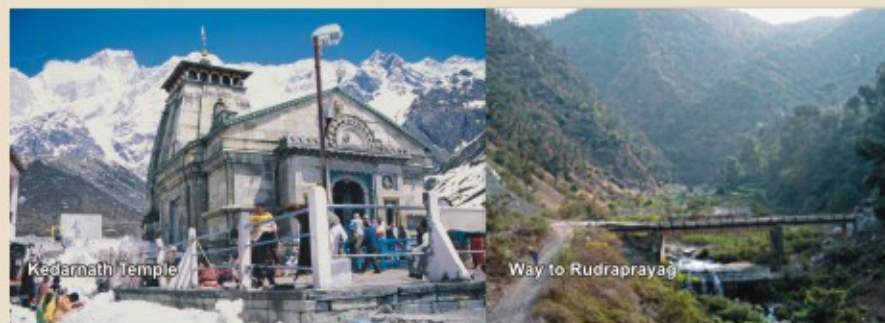
Devbhoomi Nature Retreats, Ukhimath, Rudraprayag,

Ph.: (01364) 264215, 264221, 9411183003

Booking Office, Dehradun, Ph.: (0135) 3296549

Tourist can contact for Char Dham Tour Packages / Reservation at the following GMVN Offices:

- (1) **Tour Office (GMVN), Near Natraj Chowk, Rishikesh, Ph: 0135-431793, 430799, 432648, Fax: 2430372**
- (2) **Public Relation Officer (GMVN), Indraprastha, Barakhanba Road, New Delhi, Ph:011-23350841,Fax: 23327713**
- (3) **Public Relation Officer (GMVN), Tamilnadu Tourist Complex, Wallajaah Road, Chennai - 600002, Ph: 044-25363524**
- (4) **Public Relation Officer (GMVN), Govt. House Campus, M.I. Road, Jaipur, Ph: 0141-2378892**



Kedarnath Temple

Way to Rudraprayag

- (5) **Public Relation Officer (GMVN), Room No. 224, Marshal House, 33/1, 2nd Floor, Netaji Subhash Marg, Kolkata, Ph: 033-2610554**
- (6) **Public Relation Officer (GMVN), 301, Aswamedh House, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380009 Ph: 079-26564245, Fax: 079-26421214**
- (7) **Drona Travels (GMVN), Dehradun, Ph: 0135-2653309, 2654371**
- (8) **Public Relation Officer (GMVN), by M.T.D.C. CDO Hutments, Maidam Kama Road, Mumbai, Ph: 022-2024415, 2027762, Fax: 022-22843197**
- (9) **Public Relation Officer (GMVN), Uttarakhand Tourism, 29/2, 2nd Floor, Nanjappa Mension, K.H. Road (Shanti Nagar) Bangalore, Ph: 080-2249378**

• **For more information about Rudraprayag, tourist can contact at : District GMVN Tourist Office, Ph: 01364-233995**

Bank: (i) State Bank of India : Ph 233221
(ii) Uttarakhand Sahkari Bank -

Hospital: (i) Rajkiya Hospital : Ph 233221
(ii) Bora Narsing Home : Ph 233761

Petrol Pump: (i) Alaknanda Petrol Filling Station Badrinath Road : Ph 233221
(ii) Hindustan Petroleum Srinagar Road -

Population (According to 2001) : 227439

Temperature Winter Max : 18.1°C, Min : 10.4°C
Summer Max : 30.9°C, Min : 25.7°C

Beyond Rudraprayag

Panch Kedar Trek: Panch Kedars are the five different forms of almighty Lord Shiva, they are Kedarnath - 3584 mt, Madmaheshwar - 3289 mt, Tungnath - 3680 mt, Rudranath - 2286 mt, Kalpeshwar - 2134 mt. These five places are known as the Panch Kedar. The mountain - scape from each temple is profoundly fascinating and valleys full of rich flora & fauna. Being long distance treks, it is advised to avail the services of local guides with all other logistical arrangements.

Kedarnath Temple: Situated at an altitude of 3584 mt and at the origin of river Mandakini, Kedarnath one of the twelve jyotirlingas is amongst the holiest pilgrimage of Hindus. Doors of this holy temple get closed at the approach of winters and re-open from the 1st week of May. This is the time when pilgrims flock here from all over India. The distance from Gaurikund to Kedarnath is a 14 km trek.

Gauri kund: Situated at an altitude of 1982 mt, it is the last bus station on the Kedarnath route. Gaurikund is a hot water pond with an ancient temple dedicated to Goddess Gauri. According to legend, Parvati meditated here for a long time, to win Shiva as her consort. Ultimately, she succeeded, and the cosmic couple was wedded at Trijuginarayan, near Gaurikund.

Ukhimath: Lord Shiva is worshiped in the Onkareshwar temple here during the winter months. In Ukhimath, there are temples which are dedicated to Usha, Aniruddha, Shiva, Parvati and Mandhata.

Guptakashi: A place of great religious importance. It's called the Kashi (Benaras) of the hills. The ancient Vishwanath Temple is at the centre of the town. The Ardhnarishwar temple is another important religious centre. Manikarnik Kund, which is believed to be at the confluence of Ganga and Yamuna, is at a distance of 3 km. It is believed that after the battle of