

Mt Kamet Expedition

At 7,756 m, Mount Kamet remains one of India's great classical expedition mountains—remote, formidable, and historically significant. The climb is typically undertaken over 25–30 days and requires prior permission through the Indian Mountaineering Foundation and related expedition clearances. Since Nanda Devi has remained under long-standing mountaineering restrictions, Kamet is widely regarded as India's highest major peak open to climbing expeditions.

Mana Pass Cycling Event

Usually held in late September, the Mana Pass MTB Challenge has emerged as a flagship adventure sports event in the high Himalaya. Rising to around 5,632 m, and following a nearly 50 km downhill route from Mana Pass, it brings a compelling spirit of endurance and extreme sport to a frontier road long shaped by caravans, pilgrims, and mountain crossings.



PEAKS, LAKES & THE SCALE OF THE FRONTIER

The high country around Mana Pass is defined by an immense mountain skyline. The broader frontier region is associated with Kamet, Abi Gamin, and Mana Peak, while the pass itself forms part of one of the great high-altitude border landscapes of the Garhwal Himalaya. What gives the region its character, however, is not altitude alone. It is the layering of frontier road, sacred waters, caravan memory, glacial terrain, and mythic geography. Here, the mountains do not merely rise; they accumulate meaning. Mana Pass is not only a place to reach, but a landscape to absorb – slowly, attentively, and with full awareness of its scale and sensitivity.

WHEN TO VISIT

As the seasons turn

June to September

the main access season, when snow recedes and the high road becomes more workable.

August to September

especially favourable for the Mana Pass stretch, depending on weather and permissions.

HOW TO REACH

By Air

Nearest airport: Jolly Grant Airport, Dehradun — about 367–370 km from Mana Pass via road approach through Chamoli.

By Rail

Nearest practical railheads: Rishikesh / Haridwar — about 325–350 km from Mana Pass, depending on route and railhead used.

Heli Access

Helicopter services are available up to Badrinath on select Char Dham / charter routes.

By Road

- Badrinath to Mana Pass ~ 52 km
- Rishikesh to Badrinath ~ 286 km

REGISTER BEFORE YOU TREK

Mana Pass lies in a **highly regulated border zone**. Travellers must obtain the required Inner Line Permit (ILP) before proceeding, and movement remains subject to security clearance, weather, and administrative approval.



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Mana Pass

Where the Himalayas Open to History

A journey to India's highest frontier of altitude, myth, and majesty.



www.visitchamoli.com

A FRONTIER OF ALTITUDE, MEMORY & TRADE

High in the upper reaches of Chamoli, Mana Pass rises to about 5,632 metres, placing it among the world's highest frontier passes. The road to it is widely described as the world's third-highest motorable road, making the journey as extraordinary as the destination itself.



For centuries, caravans carrying salt, wool, borax, and grain crossed these heights between the Indian Himalaya and western Tibet. Pilgrims and explorers followed the same route; in 1624, the Portuguese Jesuits António de Andrade and Manuel Marques became the first recorded Europeans to cross into Tibet through Mana Pass.



SHIVALIK
THIS ROAD LEADS TO
MANA PASS
WORLD'S HIGHEST MOTORABLE
ROAD CONSTRUCTED BY BRO
HEIGHT - 18399 FT
DISTANCE - 53 KM
75RCC 391 RMPL 21 TF

Even today, this is a landscape shaped less by urgency than by wind, stone, and memory - a frontier where altitude, history, and myth converge.

THE ROAD BEYOND MANA

Beyond Mana Village, the valley opens into a stark high-altitude world of scree, glacial water, plateaus, and exposed frontier light. The route to Mana Pass extends roughly 47-50 km beyond Mana, through a tightly regulated border zone where access remains seasonal and permit-controlled.

HIGH-ALTITUDE LAKES ON THE ROUTE Deo Tal (~Lake of Gods)

Located about 3 km before Mana Pass Zero Point, Deo Tal lies at around 5,450 m and is revered in local belief and associated with the origin of the mythical river Saraswati, it is among the most striking high-altitude freshwater lakes on this frontier route, its still glacial waters appearing in an otherwise stark, wind-cut landscape.



Nag Tal / Nagtaal

Seen on the Mana Pass route before Deo Tal, Nag Tal is one of the smaller glacial lakes of the upper valley, often mentioned alongside Rajas Tal. Though far less prominent than Deo Tal, it forms part of the distinctive sequence of alpine waters that gives the road to Mana Pass its rare high-mountain lake character.

Nag Tal / Nagtaal



Saraswati in the Upper Valley

Along the route beyond Mana, the Saraswati moves through a dramatic mountain course, disappearing into rocky channels and gorges in the upper valley before reappearing powerfully near Bhim Pul below Mana Village - one of the most memorable hydrological and mythic features of the region.

GHASTOLI, TREKS & THE HIGH BORDERLANDS



On the road to Mana Pass lies Ghastoli, a remote high-altitude outpost in the Saraswati Valley near the confluence of the Arwa and Saraswati streams. Cold, sparse, and wind-cut, it marks the shift into a distinctly trans-Himalayan landscape and serves as an important staging point in the region's adventure geography.

FROM GHASTOLI: MAJOR HIGH-ALTITUDE JOURNEYS

Kalindi Khal Trek

A world famous high-altitude trek linking Gangotri to the Ghastoli-Mana side (Badrinath), the Kalindi Khal trek is usually completed over 14-20 days and rises to about 5,942-5,950 m

It is one of the Garhwal Himalaya's most demanding glacier-crossing trek routes, known for its long icefields, moraine stretches, and the rare experience of linking the Bhagirathi and Alaknanda basins on foot.

