



Uttarakhand

Includes →

Rishikesh	414
Haridwar	422
Rajaji National Park	426
Dehra Dun	426
Mussoorie	430
The Char Dham	434
Joshimath	437
Corbett Tiger Reserve	441
Nainital	444
Almora	448
Kausani	451

Best Cultural Experiences

- Kedarnath (p435)
- Hem Kund (p439)
- Haridwar (p422)
- Nanda Devi Fair (p449)

Best Off the Beaten Path

- Munsiyari (p451)
- Tungnath & Chandrisilla (p439)
- Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary (p450)
- Har-Ki-Dun (p440)

Why Go?

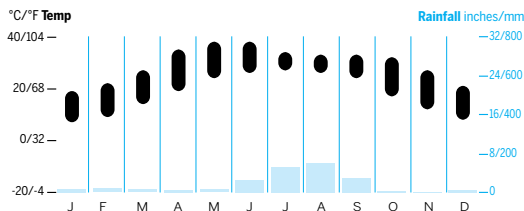
Soaring Himalayan peaks and steamy lowland jungles. Revered temples and renowned ashrams. Peaceful hill stations and busy cities. Uttarakhand is an enticingly diverse state, with some of India's best trekking, yoga schools, holiday towns and wildlife-watching all tucked into one little corner of the country.

Hindus think of Uttarakhand as *Dev Bhoomi* – the Land of Gods – and the dramatic terrain is covered with holy mountains, lakes and rivers. Twisting roads and high-altitude hiking trails lead to spectacular pilgrimage sites where tales from the Hindu epics are set. And something of these ancient stories seems to have been absorbed by the land, which exudes a subtle sense of actually being sacred – even to ultra-orthodox agnostics.

Many travellers flock here for this vibe, finding it a powerful place to pursue a spiritual practice. Others come here to spot tigers.

When to Go

Rishikesh



Apr–mid-Jun

The best season for tiger spotting at Corbett Tiger Reserve.

Jul–mid-Sep

Monsoons may make travel difficult; Valley of Flowers blooms July and August.

Mid-Sep–Oct

The perfect time to trek through the Himalayas.



Uttarakhand Highlights

- 1** Visiting **Gangotri Temple** (p434) and trekking beyond it to **Gaumukh** (p434), source of the holy Ganges
- 2** Floating a candle down the Ganges at the gorgeous night ceremony at Haridwar's **Har-ki-Pairi Ghat** (p422)
- 3** Scouting for rare Bengal tigers and riding an elephant
- 4** Getting your asanas and chakras sorted at **Rishikesh** (p414), the yoga and ashram capital of the universe
- 5** Cooling off in a scenic Raj-era hill station in **Mussoorie** (p430) or **Nainital** (p444)
- 6** Trekking to sublime **Valley of Flowers National Park** (p439) and nearby **Hem Kund** for an unforgettable scenic and sacred combo
- 7** Immersing yourself in a mind-blowing Himalayan landscape while trekking the **Kuari Pass** (p440)