



# Uttarakhand

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## Best Places to Eat

- Prakash Lok (p423)
- Chetan Puriwallah (p428)
- Little Buddha Cafe (p419)

## Best Places to Sleep

- Mohan's Binsar Retreat (p449)
- Gateway Resort (p442)
- Haveli Hari Ganga (p423)
- Kasmanda Palace Hotel (p431)

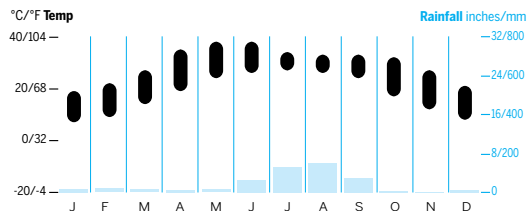
## Why Go?

Uttarakhand is a place of myth and mountains. Hindus think of it as Dev Bhoomi – the Land of Gods – and the dramatic terrain is covered with holy peaks, lakes and rivers. Twisting roads and high-altitude hiking trails lead to spectacular pilgrimage sites where tales from Hindu epics are set. Though the presence of Shiva and Parvati (in a few of her forms) tower over the state, the imprint of the British is equally apparent: the legend of Jim Corbett lives on in the famed tiger reserve that bears his name; popular holiday towns were once Raj-era hill stations; and the Beatles turned Rishikesh into a magnet for spiritual seekers and yoga practitioners worldwide.

Uttarakhand may seem like a silver medallist: it's the state with the second-highest tiger population (after Karnataka) and boasts India's second-highest peak (Nanda Devi); but its diversity of activities and sheer natural beauty are pure travellers' gold.

## 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–Nov

The perfect time to trek the Himalaya.



## Uttarakhand Highlights

- 1 Gaumukh** (p433) Hiking below stunning peaks to the source of the holy Ganges.
- 2 Har-ki-Pairi Ghat** (p421) Floating a candle down the Ganges at the gorgeous nightly ceremony in Haridwar.
- 3 Corbett Tiger Reserve** (p440) Spotting some stripes at India's first national park.
- 4 Rishikesh** (p414) Pursuing inner peace at the yoga and meditation capital of the universe.
- 5 Nainital** (p443) Cooling off from the heat at this scenic Raj-era hill station.
- 6 Valley of Flowers National Park** (p439) Strolling among a dazzling display of wildflowers, framed by snowy summits.
- 7 Kuari Pass** (p434) Trekking amid a mind-blowing Himalayan landscape.