



NOLS ALUMNI INDIA TREK TRIP DESCRIPTION OCTOBER 11 – OCTOBER 23, 2011

Features of This Trip

- 13 nights in India, 9 nights in the field
- Cultural interaction
- Approx. 75 mile, trailed route
- Burro support for gear and food
- Average hiking elevation of ~ 9,000 feet
- Group size: up to 12 participants and two instructors
- Natural history of the Kumaon Himalaya
- Optional day hikes
- Stunning scenery in the Indian Himalaya
- Alumni trip in a remote expedition format

Cost: \$ 2,295

Minimum Age: 18

Trip Description

Join a small group of NOLS grads, friends, families and Indian instructors for world-class hiking within the rugged, glacially carved mountains that create the Kumaon region of the Indian Himalaya.

The route offers a moderate level of hiking. Mules will help carrying gear and food to lighten the load and make traveling more enjoyable. For those that want more, there will be options to do additional day hiking with an instructor. Along the way, we will see well-known 7816 meter peaks, such as Nanda Devi; hike through thick forests of maple, oak, and rhododendron; travel by remote villages; and hike past the terminal moraine of the Pindari Glacier to an area known as Zero Point. At Zero Point, we will meet and interact with a local Hindu holy man, Babaji. The next day, health and weather permitting, we will trek to 14,500 feet to view the surrounding mountains.

This trip will re-acquaint you with NOLS backpacking techniques in a fun and relaxing manner. Instruction is geared to your interests, with optional walk-up peaks, time for journal writing and photography, and more. Of course, non-alumni friends and family are also invited— this is a great way to introduce NOLS to your sidekicks.

Environment

Between sweltering New Delhi and the mountains, the temperatures can vary from 90° to 0° Fahrenheit. Tropical environments harbor a wide variety of unusual diseases such as malaria and mountain weather is always fickle. On any given day, temperatures may fluctuate widely. This trip may experience snow, rain, or long stretches of sun and blue sky. You will be miles away from civilization and modern amenities such as telephones, ambulances and hospitals. A percentage of your time in India will be spent in contact with the porters, tea stall owners, bus drivers and local hill people of northern India. The official language is Hindi. English is spoken mainly in cities and is considered the second national language. One

of your instructors is a native Indian and will be able to assist in cultural interactions, but it never hurts to learn a little Hindi before the adventure.

Trip Progression

The trip begins on October 11, 2011 at 5:00 pm with an orientation meeting at The Legend Inn in New Delhi. We recommend that you arrive in New Delhi on October 10 in the evening. This allows a day of rest to get over jet lag. After orientation, the group will board a night train and a three-hour shuttle to the NOLS India Base in Ranikhet.

On October 12, you will pack your backpacks for the trek, help pack porter loads, learn some basic Hindi and go for a short visit to the town of Ranikhet.

The group travels by jeep to the road head village of Karmi on October 13. We will hike for a day and then take a rest day to continue allowing people to acclimatize. The group will hike for between 4-6 hours per day.

The group returns to Ranikhet by jeep for de-issue and clean up on October 22. We will shuttle early on October 23 to the morning train to New Delhi where there will be a group dinner and a final wrap up. The trip officially ends after dinner on October 23. Some participants might depart from New Delhi that night. The majority of people will depart on October 10. Many people choose to travel on their own after the trip.

Curriculum

Alumni trips are more relaxed than a typical NOLS course; however, it is not a vacation or a guided trip. Trips are self-reliant through remote wilderness areas where evacuation to modern medical facilities can take several days. Throughout the trip, you live outdoors, prepare your own meals, and care for yourself. The expedition format emphasizes hands-on learning and application of new skills in a variety of situations. Participants have the freedom to bring equipment that is necessary for their comfort and enjoyment of the trip and are expected to take responsibility for this aspect. If you have any further questions about this trip, please contact the alumni office at (800) 332-4280.

Itinerary 2011:

Oct. 10

Depending on connections and possible pre-trip plans, many participants will depart the US on this day.

Oct. 11

We urge you to arrive in New Delhi on this day, allowing for jet lag recovery and possible baggage snafus.

Lodging: on your own, but we suggest the The Legend Inn.

Oct. 12

Orientation occurs at 5:00 p.m. at The Legend Inn.

Group departs by all-night train and jeep ride to the NOLS India Base in Ranikhet.

Oct. 13

Pack up, learn basic Hindi and sightsee

Lodging at the NOLS India Base

Oct. 14

6-hour jeep ride to the village of Karmi where our hike begins

Oct. 15-Nov. 21

Hike

Nov. 22

Return to Ranikhet, de-issue and get cleaned up

Lodging: at the NOLS India Base

Nov. 23

Travel early morning by Jeeps to catch the morning train to New Delhi. Arrive in New Delhi at 3:00 pm. Group dinner. Some might depart from New Delhi this night.

The Legend Inn, East of Kailash, New Delhi. NOLS will help organize lodging for those needing it- payment by participants.

Nov. 24

Majority of the group departs from New Delhi, or travel on your own.

Registration and Payment

Call the NOLS alumni office at (800) 332-4280. A non-refundable deposit of \$200 will reserve your space on the trip. Final payment is due no later than 45 days prior to the trip start date. Please note that airfare is not included in the price of the trip.