FIRST-HAND JOURNEY · APRIL 2026

Free Char Dham Planner

Our 10-day family journey through Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath

A route to work from. Room to make it yours.

Built from our family's April 2026 journey with two young children. Use these pages to organise your route, packing, checks and budget.

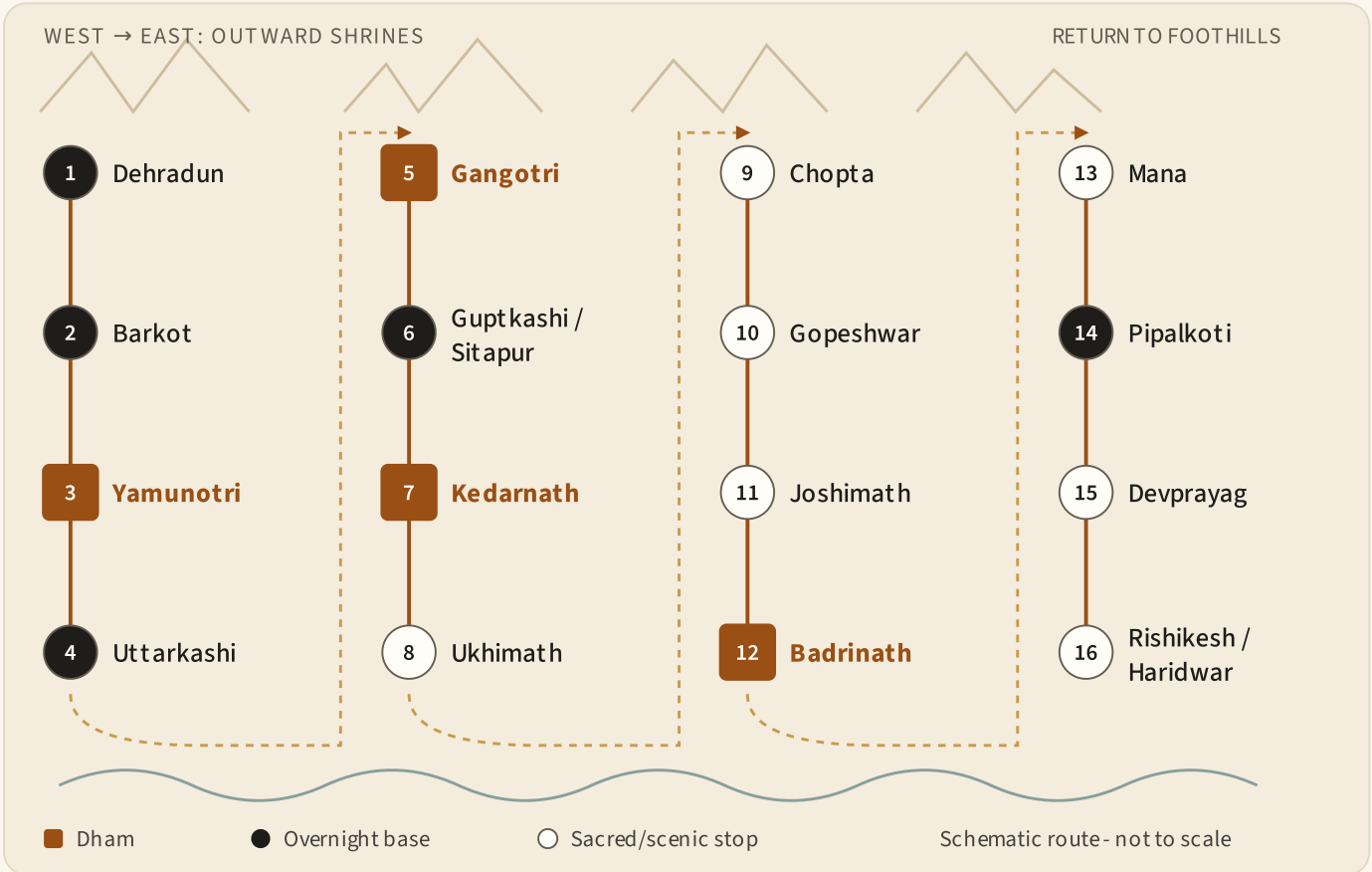
A record of our experience, not a current travel quotation or a fixed schedule for every family.



Chopta · our first-hand photograph

Locate the journey

Follow the numbered stages down each column, then move right. The final column returns to the foothills; day trips and repeat bases appear on page 2.



The four Dhams are highlighted in saffron. Kedarnath was also an overnight stay.

02 · ROUTE AT A GLANCE

Ten days, four Dhams

Our actual route, with nine nights away. Use the sequence as a starting point and leave room for weather, rest and changing access.

Day	Route	Overnight
01	Dehradun → sacred stops → Barkot	Barkot
02	Barkot → Janki Chatti → Yamunotri → Barkot	Barkot
03	Barkot → Prakateshwar Mahadev → Uttarkashi	Uttarkashi
04	Uttarkashi → Gangotri → Uttarkashi	Uttarkashi
05	Uttarkashi → Guptkashi / Sitapur region	Sitapur
06	Sirsi → Kedarnath by helicopter	Kedarnath
07	Kedarnath → Sirsi → Triyuginarayan	Sitapur
08	Kalimath → Ukhimath → Chopta → Gopeshwar → Badrinath	Badrinath
09	Badrinath → Mana → Pipalkoti	Pipalkoti
10	Pipalkoti → Devprayag → Rishikesh → Haridwar / Dehradun	Journey ends

> **Plan the day, not just the destination.**
> We haven't supplied precise driving times. Mountain roads, queues and weather can change the pace. Day 8 was a long day with several stops; adjust the number of stops to your family.

Your dates & adjustments

Start date: _____ Return date: _____

Full route notes: darshanroutes.com/char-dham/10-day-itinerary/

03 · PRACTICAL NOTES

Yamunotri & Kedarnath

Our April 2026 experience

Yamunotri · allow time for the climb

- Approximately 6 km one way from the Janki Chatti area; our uphill walk took roughly 3 hours.
- The route felt steeper than expected, and the descent was hard on our knees.
- Our children used pitthu assistance. This was our family's choice; assess arrangements for your own children.
- Start early. Walkers, ponies and palkis share narrow sections of the route.
- A lightweight towel was useful for the hot spring. Take a small container if you personally wish to collect sacred water.

Kedarnath · prepare for an overnight stay

We flew from Sirsi and stayed overnight at Kedarnath. We visited Bhairavnath, had evening darshan and took part in Laghu Rudrabhishek.

Weather can change quickly. Waterproof shoes, spare warm socks, a waterproof/windproof layer, water and light snacks were useful for us.

Our April 2026 helicopter record · family of four

Official IRCTC ticket for 4	**₹26,977**
Tour-company booking assistance	**₹16,000**
Helicopter-related spend	**₹42,977**

The assistance fee was the tour company's own charge, not an IRCTC or government charge.

Conditions on our April 2026 ticket: passenger weighing; ₹150/kg above 80 kg, calculated per passenger; one bag up to 2 kg.

Historical April 2026 conditions - verify current rules before travel.

Check current arrangements with official sources (page 7), including any restrictions that affect your route or stay.

04 · FAMILY PACKING CHECKLIST

Ready for mountain days

Tick items as you pack. Keep the layers, water and snacks you'll need during the day within easy reach.

Clothing

- ☐ Thermal base layers
- ☐ Warm mid-layer
- ☐ Waterproof/windproof jacket
- ☐ Hiking trousers
- ☐ Warm socks
- ☐ Spare socks
- ☐ Warm cap
- ☐ Gloves

Footwear

- ☐ Good walking/hiking shoes
- ☐ Waterproof footwear
- ☐ Footwear practical for temple areas

Pilgrimage

- ☐ Small prasad bag
- ☐ Small sacred-water container if desired
- ☐ Sufficient cash for minor expenses
- ☐ Required identification / registration documentation

Day bag

- ☐ Water
- ☐ Light snacks
- ☐ Light towel
- ☐ Rain protection
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Optional dust mask/buff
- ☐ Power bank

Children

- ☐ Spare warm layer
- ☐ Spare socks
- ☐ Snacks
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Simple entertainment for long drives

> This is what worked for our family in April 2026, not a universal packing list.

Our family's additions: _____

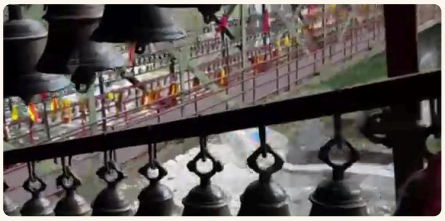
05 · SACRED & SCENIC STOPS

Leave room for the in-between

A shortlist from places we personally visited. “Our tip” is a personal recommendation; “Tradition” describes belief, not a verified historical event.



Lakhamandal · April 2026



Bells at Kalimath · April 2026



Gopinath Temple · April 2026

Lakhamandal

We visited: We explored the temple site on Day 1. **Our tip:** A knowledgeable local guide helped us notice its details.

Kashi Vishwanath & Shakti Temple, Uttarkashi

We visited: We visited both temples; the very large trishul at Shakti Temple stayed with us.

Triyuginarayan

We visited: We saw the kunds and shrines during our Day 7 visit. **Tradition:** Shiva and Parvati are believed to have married here.

Ukhimath / Omkareshwar Temple

We visited: We visited on Day 8. **BKTC:** The temple committee describes this as the winter worship seat of Lord Kedarnath.

Gopinath Temple, Gopeshwar

We visited: We remember the Shiva representations and the large trishul at this Day 8 stop.

Prakateshwar Mahadev

We visited: The cave temple was a memorable stop between Barkot and Uttarkashi. **Our tip:** Ask your driver about stopping if your route passes nearby.

Guptkashi

We visited: We visited Kashi Vishwanath, Ardhanarishwar Temple and Manikarnika Kund on the way to Sitapur.

Kalimath

We visited: We arrived for the first puja of the day and remember the bells along the approach.

Chopta

We visited: We stopped for brunch between Ukhimath and Gopeshwar. **Our tip:** Make time for the mountain scenery.

Devprayag

We visited: We watched the Bhagirathi and Alaknanda meet and become the Ganga. **Our tip:** One of our strongest recommendations on the route.

Choose stops to suit your pace; this is not a must-see list. More first-hand notes: darshanroutes.com/char-dham/sacred-stops/

06 · COST SNAPSHOT

What our family spent - April 2026

Family of four · two adults and two children · 10 days / 9 nights

10-day / 9-night tour package

₹142,000

Our package included GST.

Included broadly

- Private vehicle
- Accommodation
- Breakfast + dinner
- Registration assistance
- Package sightseeing

Kedarnath helicopter-related spend

₹42,977

Official IRCTC ticket
₹26,977

Tour-company booking assistance
₹16,000

Paid separately from the tour package. Booking assistance was the company's own fee.

KNOWN SUBTOTAL

₹184,977

Known subtotal before other extras

This is not the total trip cost.

Not included in that subtotal

- International flights
- Pitthu/pony/doli
- Tips
- Laundry
- Delhi–Dehradun transfer
- Puja/ritual expenses
- Shopping
- Other personal expenses

Historical April 2026 costs - not a current quotation.

My allowance for other extras: ₹_____

darshanroutes.com/char-dham/cost-and-package/

07 · BEFORE YOU GO

Your final checks

- ☐ Complete current Char Dham registration
- ☐ Verify opening/closing dates
- ☐ Check road/weather conditions
- ☐ Verify helicopter rules if using helicopter
- ☐ Reconfirm hotels
- ☐ Reconfirm transport
- ☐ Carry identification
- ☐ Carry some cash
- ☐ Confirm current pony/palki/pitthu arrangements if needed
- ☐ Check current temple/puja timings

Official links

Uttarakhand Char Dham registration
https://registrationandtouristcare.uk.gov.in/

Kedarnath helicopter booking
https://heliyatra.irctc.co.in/

Badarinath Kedarnath Temple Committee
https://badrinath-kedarnath.gov.in/

Uttarakhand Tourism
https://uttarakhandtourism.gov.in/

Keep the full guide handy

Full first-hand guide
https://darshanroutes.com/char-dham/

10-day itinerary
https://darshanroutes.com/char-dham/10-day-itinerary/

Cost breakdown
https://darshanroutes.com/char-dham/cost-and-package/

Before every journey
Travel conditions, prices, road access, temple schedules and booking rules can change. Always verify current information with official sources.

Last checked on: _____ Notes: _____