

## **Benog Tibba**

**By Paul Seedfelt (Ophrysia)**

**Rating:** Moderate

**Best time to go:** June

**Length:** 2 days

**Distance:** 18 Km

### **Description:**

Benog Tibba is a rather bare looking mountain conspicuous on the western horizon of Mussoorie. All but the last 7 km is accessible by jeep during the dry season. Take the road going up the hill to the left of Library bazaar. After a few switchbacks, the road descends gently above the Botanical Gardens. The Botanical gardens are a good shady spot for a picnic and a fine place to observe butterflies. The road continues nearly level now for a distance of 4.5 km through mixed forests with many birds to a tollgate, where a quarry road from Dehradun comes up. If going Clouds End you are not required to pay toll here.

The road climbs up to and follows a thickly oaken ridge (be sure to follow this ridge). A breathtaking view of the Doon Valley almost directly is seen from the ridge. You are now well within the Clouds End estate and not more than a kilometer from the actual bungalow, which is privately owned. Shooting is forbidden on the estate, consequently a variety of birds and animals can be found here. The road now winds down to the base of Benog Tibba.

The next 2 km are a leisurely climb as the path zigzags up the rock and grass slope, sparsely populated with oak. Keep your eyes open, for this is the favorite terrain of the goral or mountain goat. For those intending to camp on the rounded summit a small spring of water may be found on the north side about a kilometer from the top. The small deserted village, a short way down the road may be of interest.

From the summit one can view Mussoorie from a unique perspective, with the snows in the north and the sweeping curve of the Yamuna River far below.