

Dhanolti to the Source of the Aglar River

Rating: Moderate

Best time to go: March April, when the rhododendrons are in bloom

Length: 2 to 3 days

Distance: Approximately 70 km round trip

Description:

This is an interesting trek simply because it is part of the same route Heinrich Harrer followed in the forties after his escape from a POW camp in Dehradun into Tibet. The 23 kilometers to Dhanolti from Mussoorie can be covered by bus or taxi in approximately one hour. The trailhead is clearly visible about ½ kilometers beyond Dhanolti, where a road veers off downward to the right. This road apparently built by the British to service mills in the area and to access the Bhagirathi River valley, remains largely intact, and curves round through deodar forests and across various streams to the west, then veers northward and follows the ridge for approximately 32 kilometers to a small village located in saddle just below the eastern shoulder of Nag Tibba. 50 Meters or so below the village, in a shallow gully, is the Aglar Spring, on which the locals rely for their water supply. Good camping is available here, but to avoid further depleting the already limited wood resources, avoid campfires. The views of the great spine of the Himalaya and the Bhagirathi River Valley Far below are breathtaking on a clear day that combined with rhododendrons in bloom make this one of the nicest spots in the Garhwal Himalayas.

From the source one can continue along the ridge up to nag Tibba, the highest point in the area at 3024 meters, or down the valley along clear trails to the Aglar River proper, which flows to Thatyur where jeeps can be caught to Mussoorie. The village architecture in the area is distinctly Garhwali, and locals are very friendly. At the side of the stream one has the opportunity to see how small slate roofed watermills function, their proprietors weaving baskets or smoking bidis nearby. Many Nepalis who come to work on the road construction also reside in the area.