

## Pepperpot Cave

Western Approach Distance: 1.0 kilometer (49K marker to Pepperpot Cave)  
Total Ascent: 445 feet  
Total Descent: 0 feet  
Southern Approach Distance: 0.5 kilometer (48K marker to Pepperpot Cave)  
Total Ascent: 220 feet  
Total Descent: 0 feet

## Deo Ki Tibba

Western Approach via Pepperpot Cave and West Summit Distance: 1.7 kilometers (49K marker to Deo Ki Tibba)  
Total Ascent: 685 feet  
Total Descent: 70 feet  
Southwestern Approach via Pepperpot Cave and West Summit Distance: 1.2 kilometers (48K marker to Deo Ki Tibba)  
Total Ascent: 460 feet  
Total Descent: 70 feet  
Southern Approach via West Summit Distance: 0.7 kilometer (48.5K to Deo Ki Tibba)  
Total Ascent: 480 feet  
Total Descent: 70 feet  
Direct Southern Approach Distance: 0.5 kilometer (Kaplani to Deo Ki Tibba)  
Total Ascent: 430 feet  
Total Descent: 0 feet  
Eastern Approach Distance: 1.7 kilometers (Masrana to Deo Ki Tibba)  
Total Ascent: 710 feet  
Total Descent: 20 feet

### Description:

Pepperpot Cave and Deo Ki Tibba (Mountain of the God) are two destinations situated near each other that can be visited together in a short hike from Tehri Road. Deo Ki Tibba at 7690 feet is the high point of the ridge that runs eastward from Mussoorie to Suakholi. It has a long summit ridge with the West Summit separated from the Middle Summit by a prominent notch. The East Summit has a lookout tower. The view from any of the tops is one of the best in this region since it includes both the high Himalayas to the north and northeast and Dehra Dun and the Shiwaliks to the south. Pepperpot Cave is not on Pepperpot Mountain, but it is a small, dry, natural cave that is fun for children.

Pepperpot Cave and Deo Ki Tibba can be reached by several routes. The western approach begins about 0.8 K east of Bataghat at the 49K roadside kilometer marker. The narrow forest trail begins just west of the marker. The trail climbs steeply out of the road cut, through oak and rhododendron forest, and up Panther Hill, skirting a farm (with a dog) at the top. The trail continues along the ridge, just to the south side of the ridge top, through forest and past another small farm. One can also travel along the ridge top itself, but this requires a certain amount of bushwhacking without much view for a reward. The ridge rises slowly as one proceeds eastward, and the views from the ridge top steadily improve.

The southern approach to Pepperpot Cave is shorter and begins at the southern point of the horseshoe curve near the 48K roadside kilometer marker. It climbs steeply out of the road cut and passes by ruins of an old forest rest house. A trail from a nearby water pump also leads to the ruins. The trail continues up the spur ridge and meets the western trail in just a few hundred meters. After

another 200 meters the combined trails reach a gap in the ridge, with a beautiful deodar grove on the southern slope. Here the trail divides; the main trail switches to the north side of the ridge, dropping steeply from the gap. Only 10-20 meters down this trail, a small side trail leads 10 meters over to Pepperpot Cave.

From the gap, a small trail continues along the south edge of the ridge top for another 700 meters to Deo Ki Tibba via the West Summit. From Pepperpot Cave to the West Summit the trail is sometimes difficult to follow and has some steep areas that make it unsuitable for small children.

A shorter route to the West Summit that bypasses Pepperpot Cave begins at 48.5 K. It is a small trail that goes directly up the mountainside in tight switchbacks. After about 100 meters the consensus trail peters out into multiple routes. Keep heading up and meet the ridge trail after another 100 meters. Going down on this trail may be difficult. If one gets off trail going down, there will be steep cliffs into the Tehri Road cut.

The shortest route to Deo Ki Tibba is directly up from the village of Kaplani. The trail begins about 50-100 east of Kaplani and heads directly up the mountain ridge in short switchbacks. This trail is easy to follow in either direction and goes mostly through grazing land with only a few trees.

The eastern approach to Deo Ki Tibba has the most elevation gain, but is entirely on very good and safe trail. It begins just west of the half-ruined village of Masrana where the trail cuts over the ridge top and initially follows the ridge along its northern side. After passing ridge top farms, there is an obvious junction of good trails. The western branch continues up the ridge on its southern slope to Deo Ki Tibba. The northern branch continues on to Pepperpot Mountain to the north, the village of Kimoi to the northwest, or Pepperpot Cave to the west. During the dry seasons this northern slope is much cooler and wetter than the south, with lush growth and many ferns.

The summit of Deo Ki Tibba is marked by traditional piled rocks and a pole. At the east end of the summit ridge is a lookout tower. One can see Pepperpot Mountain (near), Nag Tibba (far), and Bandarpunch (very far) to the north and northeast, Top Tibba (near) and Surkanda Devi (far) to the east, and Landour and Lal Tibba to the west. Lammergeyers are frequently seen circling up over the exposed southern slopes.

