

## Sahastradhara (Sulphur Springs)

Distance: 11.5 kilometers Total Ascent: 280 feet Total Descent: 3970 feet
---

### Description:

Sahastradhara is a tourist town known for its cold sulphur springs and swimming in the Baldi Nadi. The hike from the Mussoorie Bypass Road is mostly downhill, not too strenuous, and takes 2-4 hours. The return hike can be avoided by taking a taxi or bus back up to Mussoorie. Much of the hike is down the exposed eastern slope of the Pari Tibba ridge, so bring the sunscreen.

Beginning at Ridgewood crossing, follow the road steeply down to Dhobi Ghat and back up the opposite slope as on the hike to Pari Tibba. The road hits its highest point just below the saddle between Pari Tibba and its northern sub-peak. Here the well-worn trail to Pari Tibba branches off to the west. Continue always on the main road as it winds slowly downward through the oak jungle.

At about 2K, the road gradually narrows to a trail as other trails branch off to the southwest leading to saddles in the Pari Tibba ridgeline. The trail then goes more steeply downward with occasional switchbacks and comes gradually out of the jungle into farmed land and more open slopes. The village of Chamasari is reached at 4.7K and Nagdaan Gaon at 6.2K. Chamasari has a large schoolhouse along the trail, and Nagdaan Gaon has several house fronts with columns of beautifully carved wood in the local style.

Although several routes may be possible, generally stay to the main track and always pick the descending track if two equal ones present themselves. The route on the map descends steeply to a concrete rest shelter at a junction with a well-traveled trail. Here the trail is very close to but high above the stream. This is snake country so be careful on and off trail. The shelter makes a nice picnic spot for an early lunch.

From this point on, the trail is increasingly improved and descends relatively gently. A road is picked up at a large bridge crossing the stream. Further down is an old toll house or chungli. Following the Baldi Nadi, the road leads to Sahastradhara at 11.5K where there are many tea stalls, cold drinks, and souvenir stores. The nadi is broken by dams into a series of pools for swimming. The water is relatively clean and flowing and can be refreshing after a hot walk.

At the center of town just above the west bank of the nadi, cold sulphur springs erupt with small waterfalls and lush vegetation. A temple is built nearby. Whiffs of hydrogen sulphide gas can occasionally be detected as one enjoys the stream, the tourists, and the shops.

