

Tehri Road

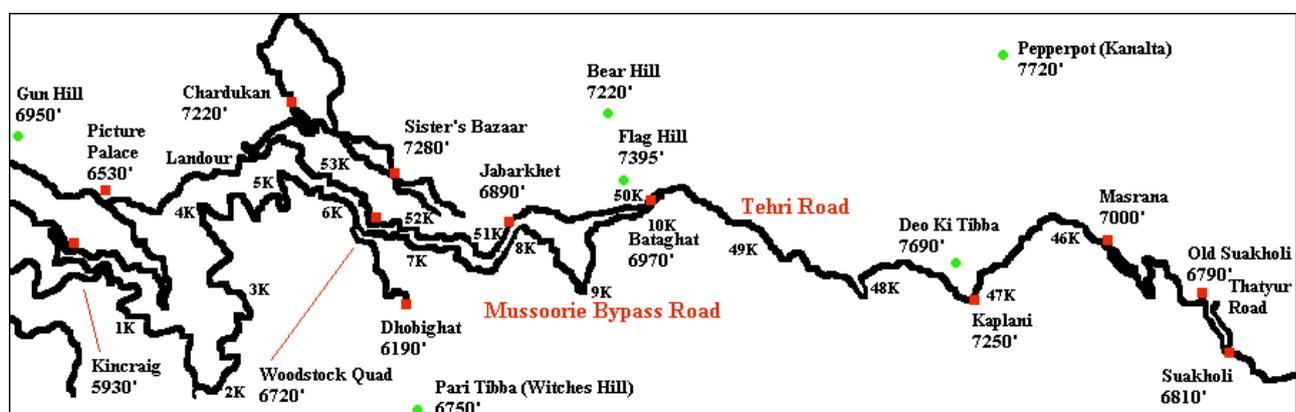
Tehri Road is the original motor road east from Mussoorie. The road is also referred to as Chamba Road or the Mussoorie-Chamba Road since Chamba is the nearer town and the city of Tehri will some day be submerged under the reservoir behind the Tehri dam. In fact the kilometer markers along Tehri Road indicate the distance to Chamba.

Tehri Road follows the ridgeline and is a wide one-lane or a narrow two-lane, winding, paved mountain road that carries considerable truck and jeep traffic from the villages along it. These villages are transportation and commercial hubs for the small farms and agricultural villages that lie on both the north and south slopes of the ridge. Produce is carried up to Tehri Road by mule and men from the farms and villages below. The many trails leading from Tehri Road make it a natural starting point for many interesting hikes.

Hiking along Tehri Road is easy, fast walking. Grades are steady, and there are no trail-finding difficulties. Even during monsoon, the road tends to be free of leeches. The series of villages provide regular opportunity for refreshment along the way. One must always be aware of the road traffic and step appropriately to the side for it. There is no question of who has the right-of-way. The views from the road are very good. Southerly views are of the Doon Valley and the Shiwalik Range while northerly views are of the Aglar Valley and the high Himalayas. However, one cannot afford to gaze at the scenery continuously without risking a serious fall. The road can be uneven, and the slope down is very steep. The road cuts reveal the layers of sedimentary rock, fossils, and ripple formations that are of interest to the geologist.

To save time and avoid repetitive walks along the same stretch of Tehri Road, one can take transportation to one of the many trailheads. There is official bus service from Landour Community Hospital to Chamba. The bus can be flagged down at virtually any point along the road. The many jeeps traveling the road willingly provide unofficial transportation at very low rates, but the seating accommodations may be less comfortable.

Tehri Road has kilometer markers that make convenient reference points for locating points of interest and calculating distance walked. The road is described from west to east.



Tehri Road (Landour to Suakholi)

Distance: 10.4 kilometers (Landour to Suakholi) Total Ascent: 780 feet Total Descent: 760 feet
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Description:

This description covers the first 10 kilometers of Tehri Road up to its junction with Thatyur Road in Suakholi. (Note: The 49 K through 46 K markers between Bataghat and Suakholi were repainted in 2004 and were incorrectly relabeled as 47 K through 44 K.) The road keeps to the south side of the ridge from Landour to Suakholi except for a 0.6 K segment between Jabarkhet and the Gap.

53.7 K (6790') Landour, junction at the top of Mullingar hill
53.4 K (6790') Landour Community Hospital and Bazaar, bus turnaround point
52.3 K (6730') Woodstock front gate
52.1 K (6700') Connector to Mussoorie Bypass Road and Woodstock back ramp
51.2 K (6930') Woodstock Hanifl Center
50.9 K (6890') Jabarkhet
50.3 K (7050') The Gap
49.8 K (6970') Bataghat, junction with Mussoorie Bypass Road
49.1 K (7120') Gap and shrine
48.0 K (7300') Rest house, shrine, road high point
47.0 K (7250') Kaplani
45.6 K (7000') Masrana
45.4 K (6980') Suakholi cutoff trail
43.8 K (6750') Below Old Suakholi
43.3 K (6810') Suakholi

Hikers may leave the paved road at 45.4 K and take the shortcut trail on the northeast side of the road. This avoids walking the long switchback and loop taken by the road, cutting about 0.7 kilometers off of the distance. This trail parallels the road into Old Suakholi and then connects up to the Thatyur Road which can be followed into Suakholi.

The commercial portion of Old Suakholi moved to its present site when the paved roads were built. Much of Old Suakholi consists of abandoned and run-down buildings, while the village along the road is almost exclusively tea stalls and stores.

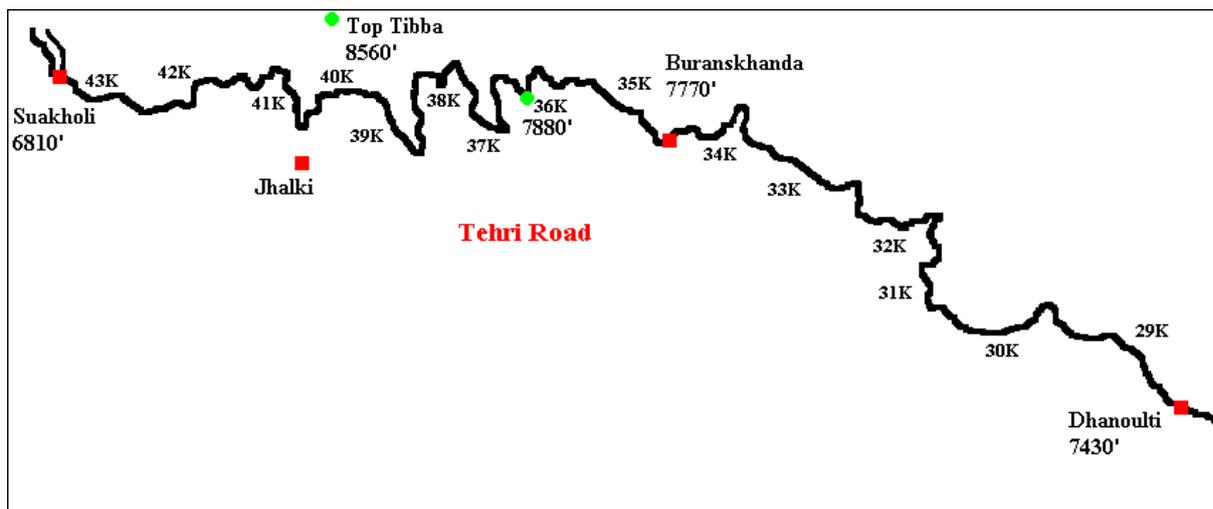
Mussoorie Bypass Road

Distance: 9.6 kilometers (Junction with Dehra Dun-Mussoorie Road to Bataghat)
 Total Ascent: 1070 feet
 Total Descent: 0 feet

Description:

The Mussoorie Bypass Road, also known as New Road, was constructed so that large and heavy vehicles heading from Dehra Dun or Mussoorie to Chamba or Tehri could avoid the narrow and steep Landour Bazaar. The Bypass Road begins its kilometer numbering at Kinraig, but the road itself actually begins at its junction with the Dehra Dun-Mussoorie Road about 0.4 kilometers below Kinraig. From there the grade is a uniform 3% until it reaches Tehri Road at Bataghat. The road is described from west to east.

- 0.4 K (5900') Junction with Dehra Dun-Mussoorie Road
- 1.7 K (6050') Junction with old Rajpur Road to Barlowganj
- 4.5 K (6350') Junction with connector to Clock Tower
- 5.4 K (6400') Cross Mullingar Stream
- 6.2 K (6520') Junction with Dhobighat Road, Woodstock Ridgewood crossing
- 6.6 K (6560') Woodstock Doshisha crossing
- 6.9 K (6570') Connector to Tehri Road, Fir Clump
- 7.6 K (6650') Whispering Pines retreat center
- 8.0 K (6720') Below Jabarkhet
- 10.0 K (6970') Bataghat and junction with Tehri Road



Tehri Road (Suakholi to Dhanoulti)

Distance: 15.0 kilometers (Suakholi to Dhanoulti)
Total Ascent: 1070 feet
Total Descent: 450 feet

Description:

This description covers the next 15 kilometers of Tehri Road from Suakholi to Dhanoulti. The road keeps to the south side of the ridge during the long steady grade from Suakholi up to Buranskhanda. There it switches to the north side of the ridge and gradually descends into Dhanoulti. This descending stretch was widened and repaved in 2003-04 making it very smooth walking but destabilizing the road cuts and causing numerous landslides. Several of the kilometer markings are missing along this portion of road.

Dhanoulti is a tourist center as well as a commercial center. It boasts lovely forested land on a high ridge with views to both north and south. Several hotels provide good accommodations for hikers along with the tour buses from the plains.

43.3 K (6810') Suakholi
42.8 K (6910') Shri Guru Ram Rai School
42.0 K (7015') Auto road to Jhalki development project
41.5 K (7090') Junction with Top Tibba trail
36.1 K (7880') Road high point, trail junction
35.4 K (7800') Western edge of Buranskhanda
34.4 K (7770') Buranskhanda (toll gate for motor vehicles)
29.3 K (7430') Dhanoulti