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SHIRGAN –TUNGU TREK MAY 2019

This exotic and immensely rewarding trek encompasses the mountainous vistas of the divinely beautiful Kullu & Manali valley and beyond Pirpanjal valleys and traverses the high altitude passes of 'Chhoye Pande' at the top of the solid heap of rocks of a lateral moraine. Couple of **Saur** (Lakes) and passes over 4450 m en-route **Malana Village** are a part of this trek to the mountaineering base of **Shirgan-Tungu**.

The crowning glory of this particular trek is that it proceeds through totally un-spoilt regions of the Himalayas. Here you can trek for weeks without coming across any human habitation, these regions (thankfully) still belong to the elusive Himalayan brown bear. The region is rich in flora and fauna which is a delight for a naturalist also provides unparalleled opportunities for photographers.

There is something in store for culture enthusiasts in this trek as well: **Shirgan-Tungu (The holy meeting venue of all Local Gods)** is a tall standing rocky mountain '**Gendarme**', a mountain watchman high above the folded mountain valleys, which keeps an active vigil on other mountains as soldier far beyond on the mountain sierra. It has its own cultural importance because of which it is known as a crown of local God's Thakshak Nag and the Home of **Jaugini** (A deity of mountains supreme power) ,which takes care of the weather rain, snow, earthquakes and other religious cultural activities . The mountaineering base of Shirgan-Tungu is a very-very holy place, which has a **Saur (Lake)** in the lap and hundreds of villagers of Kullu valley go to dip in to The Shirgan -Tungu holy Saur during the month of Hindu mythological i.e. 20th Jayestha and 20th Bhaderpad to clean up bad habits and pray for the better future.

Shirgan Tungu divides folded mountain valleys and inhabited legendary Gaddis, the sheep herders of the high Himalayan pastures, takes their herds of Sheep from Malana village over high passes to Shirgan Tungu Saur (Lake), Seri, Chhika, Deo-Tibba Peak (6100m) base and winds further beyond in to Spiti Valley, who remain isolated in their picture postcard village for up to 5 months a year. **Shirgan-Tungu** 'Chhoye Pande' lateral moraine is the snout of **Kalu River**, which flows down into Khannaul 1st camp towards 'Deo-Tibba Peak' above Jagatsukh village and joins in the Duhangan Nullah, originates from Deo-Tibba glacier.

TREK: BASE OF SHIRGAN –TUNGU CIRCUIT TREK (3750m) Pre-Monsoon Trekkers Base (**A GROUP OF GIGANTIC FOLDED MOUNTAIN VALLEYS**) is one of the few unexplored, less known & most spectacular and impressive treks of the Kullu valley. This is a very challenging & scenic, summer high-altitude trek. Starting from the Prini village the trek winds through the Pirpanjal range of mountaineering peak 'Deo –Tibba' area and further beyond Shirgan-Tungu to Malana valley through lush green valleys, high-altitude meadows and dazzling landscapes. To keep you company, are the peaks of the Pir- Panjal range in the far Beas Kund region – viz., Hanuman Tibba, Shikar-bay and Makar-bay, Ladakhi, Friendship, Gepan, Rohtang Pass & Chhota Bangal massifs can also be seen at a distance. Trek leaves Manali valley, proceeds further through evergreen cool forests of cedar, Silver fir, walnut, oak, Silver birch and the occasional alder.

TREK GRADIENT: The trek in the beginning is a moderate walk up to a Village called **Jagatsukh**. The steepness increases gradually on the 3rd day; a little portion is tricky to negotiate along the



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knife edge of a slanted ridge and provides for a very challenging experience. However, in general, it's an easy trek.

GRADING: Easy to moderate. A reasonable degree of physical fitness is needed for this trek.

SPECIAL INTEREST: Offers excellent scope for photographers, an ideal place for nature lovers and an amazing route for adventure enthusiasts.

ITINERARY:

Day 01- 30th April: Fly to Delhi and proceed to Manali by overnight bus.

Day 02- 1st May: We arrive at the Base Camp at Shuru road head (4km from Manali) in the morning. Briefing followed by acclimatization walks up to Arjun Gufa, Sharvani Devi Temple and Bhanara Hills or Thorku Dugh in the evening.

Acclimatization walks will either be at Thorku Dugh (2250m.) or on Bhanara Hills (2200m) a meadow amidst of the silver fir forest. We ascend through forest of blue pine, Cedar, oak, fir till Mountain Base camp, which is a one and half hours trek. Near Bhanara there are remnants of the forts of Raja Piti, an earlier ruler of Kullu, and near the forts is the historic cave (ARJUN GUFA) where Arjun of Mahabharata fame is believed to have taken refuge during the exile of Pandvas. Today's trek is very relaxing just to check out ones physical conditions and also for better acclimatization.

'CLIMB HIGHER SLEEP LOWER' in the mountaineering terms the best way of an acclimatization.....!!!

Day 03- 2nd May: Base Camp (Shuru) – Negi Dugh (2350m) 4hrs.

The trek starts from the campsite i.e. Shuru, down to Jagatsukh village to **Dhuhagan Bridge**, and over the Dhuhagan River to the other side of the valley. Today's trek starts with a gradual climb up to Jaau Dhar- Forest Nursery and after that eases out along the cedar trees right up to the Negi Dugh. Jagatsukh is a large village and is connected with private road for the hydro power project.

The trek gradient increases gently and in some portions one has to climb in a zigzag way. The **Negi Dugh** is located high at a vantage point and is surrounded by Cedar trees. In the evening explore camp and participate in the evening activities. Stay overnight at the **Negi Dugh**.

Day 04- 3rd May: Negi Dugh– Kurrdi (3030m) 4 hrs.

Today's trek is very tiresome up to the confluence ridge of Kurrdi and Jammu Dugh. The trail proceeds in a zigzag way through dense forest of pines and Silver fir. Once the zigzag trail ends, it is a steep ascent amidst silver fir trees. The tough climb starts again along the steep ridge for an hour after which it is a moderate walk along the slanted slope right up to the campsite **Kurrdi**. **Kurrdi** is a luminous point and one can have a vast view of Kullu, **Chanderkhani Pass** and Manali valley. Kurrdi is a Shepard's paradise and herds of sheep mainly stays during the summer season, while on their way to crossing over high passes to reach the grazing pastures. In the evening explore camp and participate in the evening activities. Stay overnight at **Kurrdi**.

Day 05- 4th May: Kurradi – Dharanoo Dugh (3420m.) 4hrs.



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The trek starts, through a forest of Silver Fir, Bhujpattar, Oak and Chestnut. At the end of the initial steep section, trekkers have to negotiate moderate climbs up to Moar Thach and Samalach Thach, which are Shepards' grazing pastures. From Samalach Thach the route ascends on a moderate grassy slope and then onto a moderate horizontal traverse above the tree line to the campsite.

Dharanoo Dugh is located in a grassy meadow on the knoll of the Shirgan –Tungu on one side of the Pirpanjal range. From the camp, there is an enchanting view of the Dhauladhar range, Chhota Bhangal, Kaliheyne Pass and its lofty mountain peaks. From the campsite you can also have a full view of the Manali valley, and the distant snowcapped mountains of Beas Kund, Rohtang Pass massif and Khanaul & Chhika.

Dharanoo Dugh is very popular for the local Gaddi shepherds. They graze their herds of sheep on these vast grassy meadows. Watch out for one of the rare glimpses of brown / black bears below the Dharanu Dugh campsite. In the evening indulge in some fun adventure activities and stay overnight at Dharanoo Dugh.

Day 06- 5th May: Dharanu Dugh – Base of Shirgan -Tungu (3750m) and back to Banaad/ Jammu Dugh Campsite (2500m) 6 hrs.

The trail proceeds on the long snowy slanted ridge and slowly begins to ascend towards **Shirgan-Tungu Base (3750m)**. As you trek along the ridge, the gigantic Shirgan –Tungu peak comes into view.

It's a strenuous day's walk on scattered snowy and grassy patches right up to the top of **Pre-Monsoon Trekkers Base (3750m.)** of Shirgan -Tungu. The climb along the ridge though enjoyable is windy with a cold wind blowing. There is one other easy path to negotiate trek via **Bhantu Dugh (3580m)** and from there it's another half an hour walk to the top of **Shirgan Tungu Base- Dhalau Paudhar** (Flat place).

While descending to the campsite it's better to take the ridge side path in order to get breathtaking views of the surrounding mountain peaks of the Pirpanjal Range, Chanderkhani pass & Malana, Dhauladhar range, Chhota Bhangal, and further beyond the greater Himalayan ranges.

The way back to **Dharanoo Dugh** is made more enjoyable by glissading at all places on the way. The trail up to Base will be covered by a heap of snow and the path is likely to be difficult to negotiate due to snow compactness. Today's mountaineering is tiresome, though challenging all the way to the top and back. The landscape is full of fauna & flora and while descending to Dharanoo Dugh one can have a luminous view of Manali town and valley. The campsite is in the open puff and giving a magnificent view of the distant mountains of the Dhauladhar range. The trekkers will return to Dharanu Dugh before lunch. The group will have to descent to Jammu Dugh/ Banaad campsite for safe and sound sleep and also proper recuperation.

Banaad/ Jammu Dugh (2500m)- Trail descends in a zigzag manner through Moar Thach (3235m), to Kurrdi and at little below Kurrdi is a diversion to Jammu Dugh and Banad. Jammu Dugh/ Banaad is situated in the middle of a dense forest of Silver Fir trees and Apple orchards. A very lovely campsite – a just reward after a great day's work and a daylong hectic walk. It is only one and half hours walk down to **Jammu Dugh and Banaad**.

Day 07- 6th May: Banaad/ Jammu Dugh - Base Camp Shuru via Sajla village 4hrs.

The trek encompasses a 1 hour steep descent initially and then in a zigzag way till the river basin through dense forest of Blue Pine, Cedar, Oak, Silver Fir. From the river the trek descends



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gently to a river bed. Rest for a while, and then walk to Sajla village. The Sajla village has a vast meadow at the front of its Vishnu Narayan temple.

The trail finally to the road head concluding the trek and from there, it's a short half an hour's drive by local routine bus back to Shuru Base camp. From Sajla Village the participants will be transferred by local buses to Base camp Shuru. In the evening return of issued equipment.

Day 08- 7th May: Half day free and in the evening, departure by bus to Delhi.

After having breakfast participant will be given an opportunity to leave base camp to do some shopping and roam around the market. In the evening, transfer to bus stand to catch a bus back to Delhi.

Day 09- 8th May: Flight back home from Delhi

NOTE: (a) Itinerary is subject to change due to too much accumulation / volume of snow on the trek at higher camps and other natural calamities & circumstances. In this condition optional routes itinerary will be given/ followed at the happening point.

In case of changes in routes and properties, Mountain Expeditions will accept no liability but make arrangements for substitution of equal measure.