

Evaara Signature Walks

Walking tours in and around Shimla



Heritage lanes · Forest trails · Local encounters

Fourteen experiences from the supplied walking-tours guide, brought together for Evaara Woods guests.

Enquire for current rates · WhatsApp +91 9129210003



The walking collection

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Enquire for current rates

Contact Evaara Woods for current rates, transport and availability. Tour-specific inclusions, exclusions and seasonal conditions are listed with each experience.

01 / WALKING COLLECTION

Shimla Heritage Walk



The best ways to explore this lovely hill town is to explore it on foot. Walk through the Lanes & Trails of this British Himalayan Town and known for the stories of the bygone era. The British built this town and left legacies. If you can manage to have an Ariel view of Shimla, you will notice that the town is a museum of architecture. Victorian, post Victorian, gothic, Georgian, Tudor, Moc-Tudor, Bavarian, neo, Lyutens, and modern all example are there at one place.

The entire length of this walk comes under Shimla's Heritage Zone. Christ Church is the most prominent landmark of Shimla. From here, the walk extends West towards the Viceregal Lodge.

The entire length of this walk comes under Shimla's Heritage Zone. Christ Church is the most prominent landmark of Shimla and from here the walk extends West towards the Viceregal Lodge.

Highlights of the Walk: The most imposing and attractive structures which include castles, temple, heritage hotels, banks and government offices are the highlights of this walk. They are some of the best examples of British Architecture of the era and reveal history and various interesting stories of the glorious past. They will compel you to glance at them from every angle. A brief description of some of them is given here.

In general: we assemble at the Christ Church at the Ridge at 10 a.m. and begin our walking tour. □ In case the clients are staying at hotel Cecil then first we visit the Viceregal Lodge and then go to the town, passing other Heritage buildings. □ In case the clients are staying at hotel Wild Flower Hall, then they need a vehicle to reach Shimla and to get back to the hotel.

Starting Time: 10 a.m. Finish: 02 p.m.

Heritage Walk with Our Guide For a group of 4 people. Extra person. Heritage Walk with Sumit Raj for a group of 8 Pax. Extra person.

Includes: Water bottle, chocolate and a packet of chips for everyone. Excludes: Lunch, Entrance Tickets to the buildings and monuments and any transport.

Just in Case: The clients are staying at any hotel other than Hotel Cecil then transport is needed. Crysta Car.

Careful: Dress casually, wear sunglasses, and walking shoes. Do not forget to carry an umbrella and a raincoat during the monsoon.

Validity: This package is available throughout the year, except on a Snowy day.

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02 / WALKING COLLECTION

Pens & Brushes



A Nature Walk

Pens & Brushes: Who says that Shimla has become a concrete forest? Shimla is surrounded by the thickest forest cover in Asia. There are ample trails for nature lovers who wish to explore nature at its best. Every weather brings a different landscape.

Allow us to take you to a Nature Walk that provides you with immense amount of Natural Forest, and that is to the North face of the town. Let us descend to a trail that hides a great level of variety in its bosom. Pens, because it starts from the house of Rudyard Kipling and eminent writer and then the trail passes through the house and the birth place of a legendary Hindi writer Nirmal Verma, and Brushes because finally it finishes at an art gallery established by a living legend Mr. Sanat Chatterjee. Known for his longest paintings in the world (75 ft, 90 ft and 100 ft) on silk with water colour Sanat Chatterjee and his son Him Chatterjee live there with their families. This directly introduces you to the hill villages, brooks, rivulets, meadows, grasslands and forests. You may come across some wild life, pheasants, a variety of wild flowers and some local plants that grow widely on the slopes.

Highlights of the Walk: Some Heritage, Forests, brooks, villages and tour of the Art Gallery. Lunch : It is better to inform well in advance and have it at the art gallery.

Starting Time: 9.30 a.m. Finish : 02 p.m.

Walk with Our Guide For a group of 4 people. Extra person.

Walk with Sumit Raj For a group of 8 Pax. Extra person. Lunch at the Art Gallery.

□ A vehicle is required. From any hotel in Shimla : Crysta Car. From Wild Flower Hall : : Crysta Car.

Includes: Water bottle, chocolate and a packet of chips for everyone.

Careful: Dress casually, wear sunglasses, and walking shoes. Do not forget to carry an umbrella and a raincoat during the monsoon.

Validity: This package is available throughout the year, except on a Snowy day/Monsoon.

Enquire for current rates → WhatsApp Evaara Woods

03 / WALKING COLLECTION

Spine Line Trail



A Jungle Walk

During the Raj, much area around Shimla has been famous for its weekend picnics. It was all due to its pristine forests and peaceful atmosphere. Most of the villages were approachable only through the walking trails. Many of these trails still are in use and are frequently used by the villagers. This nature walk takes you around a Hill and passing near the President's Retreat descends to the venue of Sipi Fair, held here every year in the month of May. The view of Shali peak across the valley invites you to climb it. The slopes are peppered with a number of houses, villages, orchards and fields. This shady trail takes about 3 to 4 hours to bring you to the road where a village school for primary classes is the landmark for the driver to meet us.

In general : we meet at your hotel's lobby and drive to the starting point. □ A vehicle is required. AC Innova.

Includes : Water bottle, chocolate and a packet of chips for everyone.

Starting Time: 9.30 a.m. Finish : 3.30 p.m.

Walk with Our Guide For a group of 4 people. Extra person. Walk with Sumit Raj For a group of 8 Pax. Extra person. Lunch at a local village Home.

Includes: Water bottle, chocolate and a packet of chips for everyone. Excludes: Lunch, Entrance Tickets to the buildings and monuments and any transport.

Careful: Dress casually, wear sunglasses, and walking shoes. Do not forget to carry an umbrella and a raincoat during the monsoon.

Validity : This package is available throughout the year, except on a Snowy day.

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04 / WALKING COLLECTION

Hike to Shali Tibba



A Day Hike Clouds dipping in the valleys, hanging cliffs, forested path, trails branching off in both directions, calls of some Himalayan birds and a few village houses sheltered by the wilderness are the main features of this trek. There is nothing here that does not fascinate you. You are going to be here with yourself. Locals visit the temple on the top of the Shali peak almost every week that is dedicated to Maa Bhimakali and is situated on a round shaped plateau with a square platform on the top.

We drive out of Shimla for about 40 kilometre till the bottom of the peak from where a narrow trail whirls up around the hills and through the dense blue pine & cedar forests and Rolling Meadows.

Highlights of the walk : Hill villages, thick forests, lovely landscape, hiking and on a clear day the stunning view of Himalaya. Lunch : Carry pack lunch.

Starting Time: 8.30 a.m. Finish : 6 p.m.

Walk with Our Guide For a group of 4 people. Extra person.

A vehicle is required. AC Innova.

Carefull : Dress casually, wear sunglasses, and walking shoes. Do not forget to carry an umbrella and a raincoat during the monsoon.

Validity : This package is available throughout the year, except on a Snowy day or I there is snow on the way. Check in advance.

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05 / WALKING COLLECTION

Kipling's Trail



Kipling's Abode to the Venue of Gymkhana.

There is only one piece of land near Shimla that can be considered as Table Land. A lovely walk towards this wide and open ground pulls you thorough some of the narrow streets, trails and old houses where you can have some glimpses of Shimla's typical lifestyle. People basking in the sun, ladies drying their laundry outside the house, washing clothes at public taps, children playing street cricket, a few shopkeepers busy with their daily customers and old men reading newspaper or just chatting. The walk begins with these scenes and takes you through a dense forest and finally ends at the grand gates of a huge lodge from where the entire subcontinent was once controlled.

A visit to a chalet on the way near the Annandale Ground since converted into Army Heritage Museum is a must.

In general : we meet at your hotel's lobby and begin our walking tour. □ In case the clients are staying at hotel Cecil, hotel Clarke's or hotel then we start from the hotel. □ In case the clients are staying at hotel Radisson or hotel Wild Flower Hall, then they a vehicle is required to reach the starting point and to get back to the hotel.

Starting Time: 9.30 a.m. Finish : 01.30 p.m.

Walk with Our Guide For a group of 4 people. Extra person. Walk with Sumit Raj for a group of 8 Pax. Extra person.

Toyota Innova Var.

Includes: Water bottle, chocolate and a packet of chips for everyone. Excludes: Lunch, Entrance Tickets to the buildings and monuments and any transport.

Careful: Dress casually, wear sunglasses, and walking shoes. Do not forget to carry an umbrella and a raincoat during the monsoon.

Validity: This package is available throughout the year, except on a Snowy days or if there is snow on the way. Check in advance.

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06 / WALKING COLLECTION

Viceroy's Hunting Forest



When Lord Linlithgow, the Viceroy of India in 1942 during the war was hunting in this forest, he was sent a message that America has joined the war. This forest, to the west of Shimla was the hunting ground of the Viceroy and was well supported by the Raja of the area. Every Viceroy, after the mutiny in 1857 came to hunt in this forest and camped here for several days.

The trail through the forest was later developed as a road for the Jeep of the Raja of the area. When the main road came up the Jeep road was ignored and with time it got covered under the overgrowth. You will walk through this trail and you can still imagine the forest is untouched. Even now some part of the forest is untouched and has no human interference.

In general : we meet at your hotel's lobby. • In case the clients are staying at hotel Radisson or hotel Clarke's then we start from the hotel. • In case the clients are staying at hotel Wild Flower Hall or hotel Cecil, then they a vehicle is required to reach the starting point and to get back to the hotel. Starting Time: 9.30 a.m. Finish : 3.30 p.m. □ A vehicle is required. AC Crysta.

Walk with Our Guide For a group of 4 people. Extra person. Walk with Sumit Raj For a group of 8 Pax. Extra person.

Toyota Crysta Car.

Includes: Water bottle, chocolate and a packet of chips for everyone. Excludes: Lunch, Entrance Tickets to the buildings and monuments and any transport.

Careful: Dress casually, wear sunglasses, and walking shoes. Do not forget to carry an umbrella and a raincoat during the monsoon.

Validity: This package is available throughout the year, except on a Snowy days or if there is snow on the way. Check in advance.

Special Note for this Walk: At the end of this walk you may opt for lunch at Arki Palace. See "A Day with a Royal Family" in this guide.

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07 / WALKING COLLECTION

A Day with a Royal Family



Courtesy Arki Royalty

Once the capital of the princely state of Baghal, Arki has witnessed a good measure of turbulence in this area. The Name Baghal was given, nearly five hundred years ago from now due to the presence of Baghs – tigers in this region. Surprisingly people of the area still think that the leopard is Bagh whereas Bagh is a tiger.

The Arki palace was built between 1695 – 1700 by Rana Prithvi Singh, a descendant of Rana Sabha Chand. The Fort was captured by the Gurkhas in 1806. Rana Jagat Singh, the ruler of Baghal had to take refuge in Nalagarh. During this period from 1806 – 1815, the Gurkha General Amar Singh Thapa used Arki as his stronghold to make further advances into Himachal Pradesh as far as Kangra.

Fort Arki is one of the few forts left in this state and still holds the grandeur of the past. The Fort has six lavishly decorated rooms, a dining hall, a vast courtyard, and a large-sized garden. In addition to that, there is an old Darbar decorated with ancient old frescos and paintings. These are more than four hundred years old paintings that tell the stories from the Hindu epics and mythology.

Innova Car. Walk and Lunch At Arki Haveli. Hard Drinks: Extra – to be paid directly.

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08 / WALKING COLLECTION

The Sleeping Beauty Trail



History, Nature and Culture

This walk has the ability to leave you spellbound with its beauty. Here you will see a number of old houses, forest and a few villages. Some new constructions on the way might irritate you but a visit to a small wooden temple that is a marvellous example of hill architecture is an attraction for many. Some possibility is there of coming across wildlife in the area, but generally the laughter of school children, gossip from village shops, chirping birds and people chatting in some old houses will attract your attraction during the walk.

In general: we meet at your hotel's lobby and begin our walking tour. • In case the clients are staying at hotel Radisson or hotel Clarke's then we start from the hotel. • In case the clients are staying at hotel Wild Flower Hall or hotel Cecil, then they a vehicle is required to reach the starting point and to get back to the hotel.

Starting Time: 9.30 a.m. Finish : 1.30 p.m.

□ A vehicle is required. AC Crysta.

Walk with Our Guide For a group of 4 people. Extra person. Walk with Sumit Raj For a group of 8 Pax. Extra person.

Includes: Water bottle, chocolate and a packet of chips for everyone. Excludes: Lunch, Entrance Tickets to the buildings and monuments and any transport.

Careful: Dress casually, wear sunglasses, and walking shoes. Do not forget to carry an umbrella and a raincoat during the monsoon.

Validity: This package is available throughout the year, except on a Snowy days or if there is snow on the way. Check in advance.

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09 / WALKING COLLECTION

The Ecology Trail



This trail goes around an old hill, to the west of Shimla. This is an ecological transit zone where you start with cedar forest, enter the pine trees and then it ends in oak forest. During the British era this hill was one of the picnic spots of the Brits. This pristine forest is full of birds, flowers, plants, peace and silence. Follow the less used path through the dense forests that leads to villages, hamlets, water bodies and ends at an art gallery.

A visit to the art gallery and then we drive back to Shimla. Lunch at the art gallery is highly recommended.

Starting Time:10 am Finish :02 p.m.

Walk with Our Guide For a group of 4 people. Extra person. Walk with Sumit Raj For a group of 8 Pax. Extra person.
□ Lunch at the Art Gallery. Toyota Innova Car.

Includes: Water bottle, chocolate and a packet of chips for everyone.

Careful: Dress casually, wear sunglasses, and walking shoes. Do not forget to carry an umbrella and a raincoat during the monsoon.

Validity: This package is available throughout the year, except on a Snowy days or if there is snow on the way. Check in advance.

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10 / WALKING COLLECTION

Night Camp on Elephant's Trunk



Camping in the forest on the top of the hill near Shimla, which is totally isolated from the regular tourist places, takes you away from the madding crowd. This includes a trek up to the hill and then spend a night there in your tent.

A drive for about forty-five minutes to the starting point and then follow the trail up to Elephant's trunk. The hill is named so due to its resemblance to elephant's trunk. A five hours gradual climb takes you to the campsite in the middle of the oak forest. The hilltop offers all side view of the hills and also has a meadow nearby that is crowned by a tiny temple of Goddess Kali.

Day 01: We pick you up from your hotel in Shimla at 8 am and drive to the starting point. Arrive the base camp and start the hike. It is a gradual climb and is a mix of up and down. Eventually takes you up to the top of the hill at the elevation of nearly 2300 meters. This is followed by a descend to the campsite. The camps are already there before you arrive.

On arrival tea is served and then have time to freshen up. Have some time to yourself to explore the area.

Dinner and overnight at the camp.

Day 02: Get up at your ease and get ready to leave. Breakfast is served in the dinning canopy. Get ready, pick up your bags and walk down for an hour to reach the cars. Drive to Shimla for one hour and check into the hotel.

Includes: • Transport by Crysta cars. • English speaking guide. • Assistance in case of foreigners. • Camping equipment. • Trekking Guide. • Three meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner. • Snacks and tea/coffee.

Excludes: • Any drinks, tips, hotel, extra sightseeing, GST 5%

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11 / WALKING COLLECTION

An Evening in a Colonial Home



Your visit to Shimla is not complete without visiting a Heritage Home, because when you think of Shimla you think of the British and their Heritage Homes. Let us take you to a Heritage Home in Shimla from the Raj and take you back to the bygone era. Thick woods surround this House, and it offers excellent sunset. This Heritage Home still holds the old ambiance with its English Garden around and antique furniture inside. The high doors, grand windows, high ceilings, and thick walls play a vital role in making this house a colonial house.

They serve you drinks with Bar-be-Que while you sit around the bonfire wrapped in your shawl or thick coat. The chef serves hot snacks from the tandoor. This brings a dreamlike experience to your life.

Starting Time: Dusk Evening: Reach Groombridge at 6 pm. Finish: 10.00 p.m.

Innova Car. Dinner with drinks.

Careful: Dress formally.

Validity: This package is available throughout the year. Subject to the availability of the family of Groombridge.

Enquire for current rates → WhatsApp Evaara Woods

12 / WALKING COLLECTION

The Cemetery Lanes



A Ghost of a fruit seller and Kitchener's Tunnel

There were total five Cemeteries in Shimla out of which only one is in use. A number of descendants of many British who lived in Shimla, come here looking for their Family History. Just walk through these lanes and see some of the old houses and pass a suburb of Shimla where you have a chance to visit some of those who are resting in peace and the only hope for them are their descendants who sometime come to pay homage to their graves.

Another group of some old Shimla citizens lies in the middle of a dense cedar forest where the sun rays through the cedars' branches pat them and keep them warm. Finish your walk near an old bridge that was the first step taken towards the improvement of the town, but stop, before that the oldest graveyard is also a part of your walk.

In General: we meet at your hotel's lobby and begin our walking tour. • In case the clients are staying at hotel Radisson or hotel Clarke's then we start from the hotel. • In case the clients are staying at hotel Wild Flower Hall or hotel Cecil, then they a vehicle is required to reach the starting point and to get back to the hotel.

Starting Time: 9.30 a.m. Finish : 02.30 p.m.

Walk with Our Guide For a group of 4 people. Extra person. Walk with Sumit Raj For a group of 8 Pax. Extra person.

Toyota Crysta Car.

Includes: Water bottle, chocolate and a packet of chips for everyone. Excludes: Lunch, Entrance Tickets to the buildings and monuments and any transport.

Careful: Dress casually, wear sunglasses, and walking shoes. Do not forget to carry an umbrella and a raincoat during the monsoon.

Validity: This package is available throughout the year, except on a Snowy days or if there is snow on the way. Check in advance.

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13 / WALKING COLLECTION

Bird Watching



Shimla has ample forest cover around it that attracts a number of species of birds round the year. Thrushes, franklins, magpies, starlings, wobblers, mayana, bulbul, street thrush, tits and many pheasants are a common site.

The best birding is done in the early morning hours, around dawn or around dusk. We organise the trip depending upon your requirement and so the meals are also included, Breakfast / Dinner.

Starting Time: Before Dawn / Dusk Finish : 9.30 a.m.

Innova Car. Bird Watching and then breakfast at a local home.

Enquire for current rates → WhatsApp Evaara Woods

14 / WALKING COLLECTION

Trek to Churdhar Peak



Let us take you to the highest peak to the south of Shimla. Churdhar is a division between Shimla and Sirmour. This is an overnight caping program with a night stay at a small hotel. You arrive at Chandigarh and we pick you from there.

Day 01: Arrival Chandigarh and continue to Rajgarh:

Pick up from Chandigarh and drive to Kalka railway station to board the toy train for Solan. Pick up from here and drive to 2 hours to reach Rajgarh. This is a small sleepy town in the foothills. We shall stay at a village hotel or at Himgiri Nature Retreat.

Day 02: Shimla – Churdhar:

Morning after the breakfast drive to Nauradhar, the starting point of the trek. Churdhar is an important peak and the highest to the south of Shimla. We shall be reaching the elevation of nearly 12000 feet above mean sea level. Hike to Tesree for 12 km and camp overnight in the middle of the forest.

Day 03: Churdhar – Shimla: This morning after the breakfast we shall continue to the peak that is crowned by the temple of deity Shirgul. A short visit to the temple and then continue descending towards the north of the hill. This side of the hill is colder than the other side. We walk down till Saraheen where the drivers wait for us to take us to Shimla.

On arrival check into the hotel.

Includes: • Transport by Crysta cars from Chandigarh to Shimla. • Camping equipment. • Trekking Guide. • Three meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner. • Snacks and tea/coffee.

Excludes: • Any drinks, tips, hotel, extra sightseeing, GST 5%

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