



Van Serai – The Himalayan Spiritual Lodge Jageshwar, near Almora, Uttarakhand

[Facebook](#) | [WhatsApp](#)

Jageshwar

The Hindu pilgrimage town of Jageshwar sits, as though frozen in time, perched at an altitude of 6135 feet. Believed to be the abode of one of the twelve 'Jyotirlingas', it is one of the most important religious places for Hindus in Kumaon. Legend has it that Lord Shiva would come down from his abode and meditate here, surrounded by the thick Deodar forest. Jageshwar is home to the famous ancient temples. The 3 clusters of beautifully carved, stone temples dating between the 8th and the 13th Century.

Jageshwar is located in the narrow Jat Ganga river valley. The Himalayan mountains form a majestic backdrop for this beautiful temple site. Nandini and Surabhi, the two streams that converge near a sacred spot in the temple complex, surround Jageshwar; it is an absolute pleasure to walk by the streams and feel calm as one listens to the sound of the water flowing. The ideal combination of beautiful scenery, a relaxing environment, history, and comfortable lodging. Jageshwar's mystical and tranquil setting makes it an ideal holiday destination for exploring, meditating, and rejuvenating the body and mind.

Van Serai

A grueling six years in the making, Van Sarai has truly been a labor of love. Attention to every detail has resulted in a unique stay option that has ensured the lodge fits into the local surroundings seamlessly.

This lodge serves the purpose for those who want to be in the most peaceful surroundings of the Himalayan forests. The lodge is located between the two sets of ancient Shiva temples that render energy naturally.

The architectural inspiration of Van Sarai comes from the traditional Kumaoni style of construction. All the rooms and common areas have been designed keeping in tune with the local architectural feel. Big verandas in the front and back have been specially created to let the guests enjoy the greenery and make the most of the warm sunshine bathing the lodge.

Please refer to the lodge features carefully on Page 4 & 5 before making a reservation.



Wellness Programmes

To join a wellness programme, please see the information on the [website](#) or write to us.

©

Asian Adventures
A-32, Sector-04, Noida-201301 (UP) India.
Phone: +91 80104 50000 | WhatsApp: +91 98990 63315
E-mail: info@asianadventures.in
Web: www.jageshwar.in & www.vanserai.com



How to Reach

To get to Jageshwar, one can take any of the following options:

GPS MAP coordinates: [29.633133, 79.843687](https://www.google.com/maps/place/29.633133,79.843687)

MAP: <https://goo.gl/maps/AnUsVWqZD5U2>

By Road

- Drive from Kathgodam: 4 hours
- Drive from Ranikhet via Almora: 3.5 hours
- Drive from Delhi via Moradabad, Rampur, Rudrapur, Haldwani and Almora will take about 10 hours.

By Train

- Overnight air-conditioned train from Old Delhi railway station (departing at 2235 hr.) to Kathgodam (arriving at 0615 hr.) and then 4 hr. drive via Almora.
- Overnight air-conditioned train from Old Delhi railway station (departing at 2235 hr.) to Ramnagar (arriving at 0500 hr.) and then 6½ hr. drive via Ranikhet & Almora.
- There are now day trains to Kathgodam and Ramnagar as well.
Note: The train schedule may change, please check with Indian Railway.

By Flight

- There is a daily flight from Delhi and other cities to Pantnagar. Pantnagar is 150 km from Jageshwar.

Note

- Road transportation, train and air tickets can be arranged at an extra cost.

Tariff in Indian ₹ (accommodation with breakfast)

Room	Single	Superior Room		Deluxe Room with Attic	
Description	*Small rooms	2 rooms on the ground floor		2 rooms on the first floor with best views	
Tariff per room	3000	Single Occupancy	Double / Twin Occupancy	Single Occupancy	Double / Twin Occupancy
		5000	6000	6400	7400

*one side room on the first floor and the other one of the second floor

Buffet

- Breakfast – Rs. 350 per person
- Lunch – Rs. 500 per person
- Dinner – Rs. 500 per person
- GSTax 5% is extra

©



Note:

- Only accommodation, Breakfast and Morning Tea is included in the price
- GSTax 12% is extra
- Extra person (over 05 years of Age): 25% of the double room cost
- Children under 5 years of age will stay for free
- Validity: till **March 31, 2024**
- Please note all meals served are vegetarian.
- The meals are served in 'Café Swayambhu'.
- Rates are subject to change without any prior notice.



Check deals on the website or online booking engine www.vanserai.com

Cancellation for all tariffs and packages

- Less than 15 days before arrival date- No Refund
- Less than 21 days before arrival date- 50% Refund
- Less than 30 days before arrival date- 75% Refund
- No Refund in case of roadblock, accidents, no show etc.
- 50% of the total refundable amount (as per the above policy) will be released after cancellation and balance 50% will be adjust into the future bookings only

Payment Terms

An advance of 100% is required. Please check with us to make the payment. You can pay through PayTm or payment wallet as well.

Note: There is an option of renting the full lodge and avail this special deal. The cost is Rs. 35000 plus 12% GST.

- The entire lodge of 6 rooms can be rented on self-cooking basis (maximum capacity will be 12 people).
- The guests may get their own provisions & supplies of food.
- The in-house staff will help in cooking and in housekeeping.
- The kitchen is equipped with cooking and dining utensils.
- The restaurant may be used by the occupants of the lodge for dining.
- Should you wish to avail this option, please write to us and we will quote you the price.

Best Time to Visit

Situated in the mountains, Jageshwar can be visited anytime. Summers are cool, winters get quite cold and it may snow. Being a sacred site, crowds throng the place during important religious festivals.



©





THE LODGE

Cafe Swayambhu – The Dining Room

Walking up about 30 meters on a bridle path from the main road and climbing 18 steps, one reaches the Dining Room. The dining room also serves the purpose of a restaurant. When we have a full house we serve buffet meals. *à la carte* meals are served on order as per the menu. Please give adequate notice. The meals are wholesome and hygienic. The menu consists of vegetarian Indian and Kumaoni dishes. We usually serve traditional home-cooked Indian food. We try to keep spice and chilly levels moderate but if you still find the food too hot, do let our staff know and we'll be happy to suit it to your taste. Please inform us if you have any special dietary requirements.

On prior intimation we could also arrange a private dinner in the verandah of your room or provide you room service.

We also provide packed meals for your return journey. Let us know in advance and we will arrange it for you.

We stock a limited selection of beverages at the lodge. All beverages are chargeable. Alcohol is not served at the lodge.

We discourage the use of pre-packaged food items and bottled water as it adds to pollution and is an additional cost for us to carry it all the way back to Haldwani for proper disposal. The guests may get their own food items as per their preference and are requested to take away as much non-biodegradable material with them. We serve filtered water that is safe to drink

Accommodation

Each room has a double bed with fresh linen, fresh towels and warm blankets / duvets. Heaters are provided in cold weather.

As one approaches the lodge from the parking area, one comes to dining area first, then the superior room, then deluxe room and standard room and, then in the end is second standard room

Superior Room

From the dining area walk up 17 steps, one reaches the superior room. The room is equipped with twin beds, an en suite toilet with a WC and a hot shower, and a verandah overlooking the deodar forest. Buckets and mugs are provided in the toilet for wash up if the water pressure is less in the shower or faucet. The size of the room is about 11.5'x13.5'.



©



Deluxe Room

From the dining area walk up 31 steps, one reaches the deluxe room. The room is equipped with a double bed, a wooden attic with two separate floor mattresses, an en suite toilet with a WC and a hot shower, and a verandah overlooking the deodar forest. Buckets and mugs are provided in the toilet for wash up if the water pressure is less in the shower or faucet. The size of the room is about 12'x17'.



Standard Room

One standard room is on the first floor and the other one is on the second floor. The room is equipped with a single bed, an en suite toilet with a WC and a hot shower. Buckets and mugs are provided in the toilet for wash up if the water pressure is less in the shower or faucet.



The activities here are numerous and most of them can be availed at a cost as specified at the lodge. We suggest you book them in advance with us.

Chittai

Chittai is a famous temple of Golu Devta (god of justice and peculiar to Kumaon). The temple is hung with bells of all shapes and sizes, brought by grateful devotees.



Experiences at Jageshwar

Van Serai is perfect for a peaceful holiday. It is ideally located for those wanting to introspect, meditate or take a break from their stressful lives. However, for those who like a little action, there is plenty to do in and around Jageshwar.

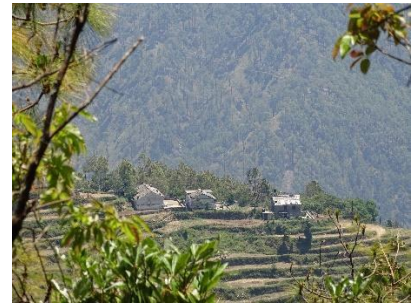


©



Binsar and Kangarchina

Drive to Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary till the tourist lodge (2¾ drive). From there start hiking to Jhandhidar (Zero point - 2410m) which commands one of the best Himalayan views in Kumaon. Then follow the ridge down to Shiva temple and turn right towards Gangarchina village. On the way, enjoy a packed lunch. This is basically a ridge walk partially through dense oak and rhododendron forests, hoary, old trees hung with lichen and covered with sweet smelling moss. The trail slopes gently downwards and offers lovely views into the Bhasoli valley on one side and on and off towards the Himalaya (5 to 6 hrs. walking). After reaching Kangarchina, drive back to Van Serai.



Lakhudiar

Discover the famous Kali temples, 34 temples in the complex. Another 300m further Vishnu temple dated 9th. to 12th. C. Enjoy a packed lunch at the banks of the river. From there follow irrigation channels and then upwards through old Kaphal tree forests towards Lakhudiar. (Prehistoric rock paintings). Drive back to the resort. Approx. 30 minutes.



Syahi Devi Temple - Katarmal Sun temple

Drive approx. 3 hrs. to Sitalkhet via Kosi river and Kund (which is the ancestral village of the late Gobind Bhallabh Pant. Stop at an old colonial forest rest house, and trek up 1½ hrs. to Syahi Devi temple. This temple is dedicated to the goddess Kali-Durga, where blood sacrifices took place in ancient times. Thereafter drive to the 800 year old Katarmal Sun temple. One of the few sun temples in India after Konarak.



Temple Visit

A visit to the famous temples is almost mandatory. Reminding you of the stone balanced structures straight out of a Flintstones comic or Stonehenge, these temples have been here since centuries and are a wonder in themselves. The little legends and tales around the temples are part of the folklore and intrigues which our local guides would be happy to share with you.





Festivals

Though crowded with devotees, it is an experience in itself to see Jageshwar transform from a sleepy hamlet to a bustling venue full of religious fervor. Some key festivals celebrated here are:

- The Jageshwar Monsoon Festival is held between 15 July to 15 August
- Annual Maha Shivratri Mela takes place during March or April
- The famous Pooam Festival (April/May) is celebrated at the Vadakkunnathan Temple with nightlong fireworks and a magnificent elephant procession.
- Onam, the harvest festival falls during August or September.



Yoga, Meditation and Wellness – Hatha Yoga | [Shiva Walks](#)

With pure nature around you, doing yoga, asanas, pranayama or meditation feels like second nature. Whether you are a novice or a regular practitioner of yoga, our yoga gurus can help you completely relax and rejuvenate your body and mind. You may opt for our transformational programmes, please refer to the wellness section.

The lodge can be rented for yoga and meditation retreat. Should you wish to conduct a programme with an expert teacher, do let us know and we shall organize the teacher and the team for you.



Birding and Nature Walks

The deodars forests at the lower altitude and the pine cover further up, are the perfect habitat for many rare bird species. Van Serai's birding expert will be happy to initiate you into the world of bird watching. If you are already into birding, he would be an interesting source of information on species specific to this region. You can also choose to explore the beautiful forests at your own pace, maybe carry a picnic hamper for a longer trek and make the most of the natural beauty around you.





Treks

At Van Serai, along with usual treks, we have a unique *Village trekking* experience in store for you. Our concept of the *Village Trek* provides an insight into the lives and daily routine of the Kumaoni villagers.

On the trek, we take you through thick deodar forests and quaint Kumaoni villages. The highlight is being able to stay at one of these village houses.

Along with seeing some unforgettable views of the magnificent snow-capped mountain ranges, sighting endemic birds and local fauna, you get the opportunity to admire and reside in the traditional old Kumaoni houses with carved wooden doors and windows.

We started the trek at Binsar in the morning making our way to Jageshwar. Overnight stay in the village houses gives you a chance to experience their warm and genuine hospitality. The accommodation is rustic and clean with basic amenities. The village houses have been partially renovated and toilets and bathrooms added without compromising on the ambience. Traditional food is cooked ensuring good hygiene standards.

This trek can be done as a full day trek (7-8 hours) or split into 2 days with the option of staying in a village house and one night in a tent.

Since it's mostly downhill, it is a relatively easy trek suitable for everyone. The other short treks are to Vriddha Jageshwar (3 km one way) and Jhakhsarsain (3 km one way).



Picnics & Trainings

Nothing like a packed lunch under the Deodar trees while sitting on a large rock by the rivulet. From having grown up in the area, our staff knows the undiscovered spots with the best rocks. Make paper boats or simply watch the small fish swim around. For the more adventurous, wash your feet in the chilled water.



Village Visit

You can take a walk around the local villages, admiring the traditional old houses with carved wooden doors and windows. Watch how time has stood still in some places and modernity has engulfed some others.

A visit to Jageshwar is incomplete without an interaction with a local family accompanied with a local Kumaoni meal. Sit around the bonfire hearing the local folklore and haunting Kumaoni music and songs. Feel the warm hearted welcome and make a friend for life. Let our staff know if you're interested and we will help put it together for you.



©

Asian Adventures

A-32, Sector-04, Noida-201301 (UP) India.

Phone: +91 80104 50000 | WhatsApp: +91 98990 63315

E-mail: info@asianadventures.in

Web: www.jageshwar.in & www.vanserai.com

Exploring Caves

The cave structures in and around Jageshwar are absolutely enticing. From small holes in the walls to large caves which were probably used for Tantric congregations.

The entire countryside around the area is dotted with caves, each one with its own story. The most famous amongst these are the Airavat Cave and the Pataal Bhuvaneshwar caves, in case you are feeling adventurous enough to explore them.



Jageshwar Museum

Most of the sculptures and idols found in the Jageshwar temple complex have been housed in the Archaeological museum just outside the main temple complex. In all, it houses around 174 sculptures, each of them beautiful beyond words. Unfortunately, photography is not allowed inside the museum, and photographs of the sculptures are not available either.



Other places of interest in the area

- Jata Ganga, the river that flows through the town
- Brahma Kund
- Other temples such as Sri Kuber Temple and the Batuk Bhairav Temple.

Around Jageshwar

Abbott Mount, Binsar, [Pangot](#), [Sat Tal](#), Nainital, Kausani, [Ranikhet](#), Chakori, Munsyari, Mukteshwar & [Corbett National Park](#) are other beautiful destinations nearby which can be combined with your trip to [Jageshwar](#).

Other Important Notes

- It can sometimes be quite chilly outdoors at night, even in summer, so do dress warmly. We expect snow in winter. We provide LPG heaters to keep you warm. Unlimited hot tea, coffee and soup can be made use of.
- We do not have an in-house laundry. We send it out to a nearby facility in the village hence we are unable to take responsibility for them. If you would like your clothes laundered, please place the items in the bag and they will be laundered within 24 hours. Please note that laundry charges are extra.
- The power supply is 220V. The plug size is BS 546 and related types (Type D and M). Please note that the power supply can be very erratic. The government has a load-shedding system and may shut down supply for a few hours in the day. Unfortunately, the hours for load-shedding are not fixed, power supply may disappear in the mornings on some days, and in the afternoon on others. We have an inverter battery back-up so you will not have the discomfort of the darkness.



- As our focus is on developing a nature-centric experience at the lodge, we do not have electricity generators which cause sound and atmospheric pollution. We usually use emergency lights when there is no electricity and all pathways are lit by them at night. A staff member can escort you to your cottage.
- We would urge our guests to refrain from smoking in and around the lodge, inside the room and in the dining area.
- The smaller mammals, wild animals & birds occasionally do enter and pass through the lodge. Guests are requested not to walk alone at night, Members of our staff will be happy to accompany guests back to their rooms. Please do not walk barefoot anywhere, not even inside your rooms. If there are unwanted guests in your rooms (spiders, insects, geckos, etc.) please alert our staff who will remove them. Macaques and Langurs visit the lodge too. Please ensure that you keep eatables away from them.
- We advise you to be careful with your valuables. If there is something you would like to keep safe, our manager will be happy to assist you.
- Jageshwar does not have a bank to exchange foreign currency. The nearest ATM is in Panuwanaula, 5 km from Jageshwar. Please contact our manager for any assistance.
- Almora is the closest town that has a hospital. If you have any medical conditions that we need to be aware of, please inform our manager. We do not have doctors on call.
- If you'd like to leave a tip for our staff at the end of your stay, please do not tip any of our staff individually. There are many unseen hands who work hard to make your stay comfortable, and we strive to divide tips between the entire staff. Please leave tips in the Tip Box.
- Wi-Fi is available in the restaurant. The only networks you will find in Jageshwar are BSNL and IDEA / Vodafone.
- Check - out time is 11 am.
- We do not have the facility to charge credit cards at the lodge. We recommend that you carry enough spare cash to pay for hotel taxes and any extra expenses that you may incur. The room payment can be made through the payment gateway.