

WISDOM 2026

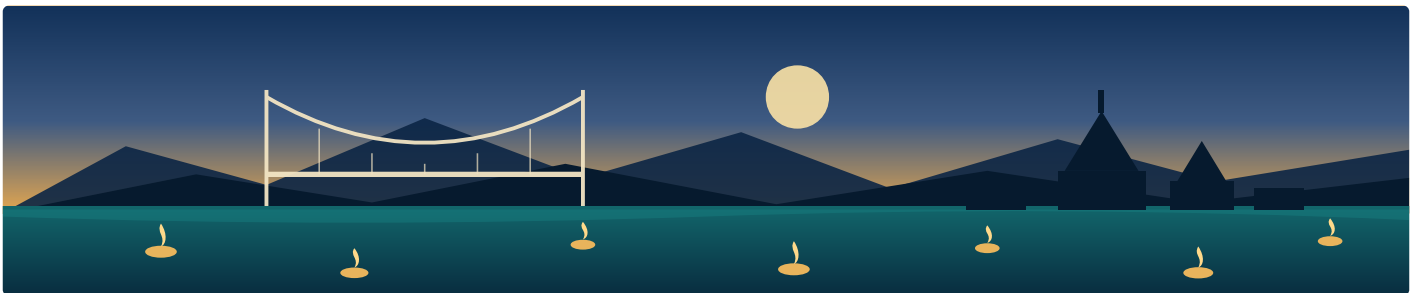
Come for WISDOM... Stay for the Himalayas

19-20 DECEMBER 2026 | RISHIKESH, UTTARAKHAND

Dear Delegates, December is among the finest months to experience Rishikesh and the Garhwal Himalaya. If you are able to keep **1-3 additional days** before or after the conference, the following options — verified for winter access, travel time and seasonal conditions — will help you plan realistically.

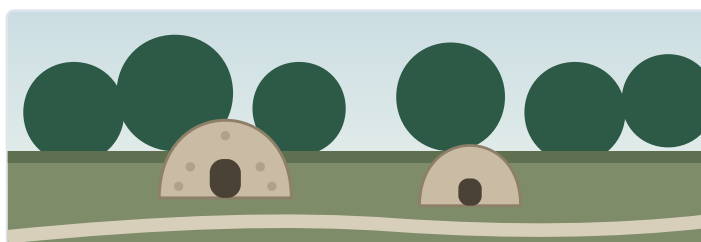
PART 1 In & Around Rishikesh

no extra day required



Evening Ganga Aarti and the Ram Jhula riverfront — illustration

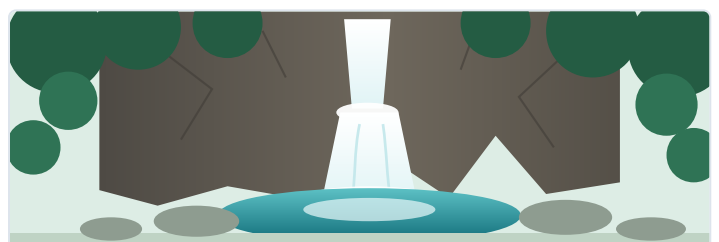
- ▶ **Ganga Aarti — Triveni Ghat or Parmarth Niketan.** Winter timing is earlier: approximately **5:30 PM** (November–February) against 6:30 PM in summer. Arrive 45 minutes ahead for a seat. Attendance is free; boat viewing at Triveni is nominally priced.
- ▶ **Beatles Ashram (Chaurasi Kutia)** — open 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; modest entry fee for Indian nationals. Allow 1–2 hours. Roughly 1 km on foot from Ram Jhula, past Parmarth Niketan.
- ▶ **Ram Jhula, Janki Setu & the Ganga riverfront** — an unhurried late-afternoon walk before aarti.
- ▶ **Kunjapuri Devi Temple** — pre-dawn drive for a spectacular Himalayan sunrise, returning in comfortable time for the morning scientific session.
- ▶ **Neer Garh Waterfall** — a short, easy walk suitable for most delegates and families.



Beatles Ashram (Chaurasi Kutia)

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM • allow 1-2 hrs

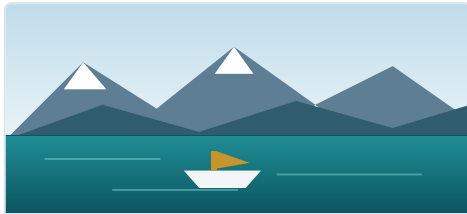
The domed meditation huts where The Beatles studied under Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in 1968, now a quiet forest campus about 1 km on foot from Ram Jhula.



Neer Garh Waterfall

short, easy walk

A tiered forest cascade a few kilometres from Lakshman Jhula — the gentlest outing on this list and suitable for accompanying family members.

**Tehri Lake & New Tehri**

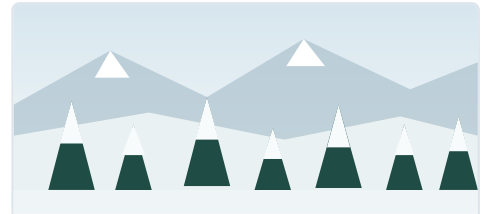
~75 km • 2-3 hrs

A vast mountain reservoir on the Bhagirathi. Boating, jet-ski and water sports; comfortable as a full-day round trip.

**Mussoorie**

~85 km • ~2 hrs

Mall Road, Gun Hill, Lal Tibba, Landour, Kempty Falls. Christmas-week snowfall occurs in good years and draws crowds — book early.

**Dhanaulti & Kanatal**

~75-80 km • 2.5-3 hrs

Quieter and higher than Mussoorie (~2,286 m / ~2,590 m). Eco Park, deodar trails, and the short Surkanda Devi climb.

EFFICIENT SINGLE LOOP

Tehri, Dhanaulti and Kanatal combine well on one circuit via Narendra Nagar and Chamba — the safer and faster hill route for those unaccustomed to mountain driving.

PART 3 The Harsil Valley Experience

add 2-3 days • the highlight



Harsil valley — deodar forest, the Bhagirathi, Bagori village and the winter seat of Maa Ganga at Mukhwa — illustration

Harsil stands at approximately **2,620 m** on NH-108 beyond Uttarkashi — deodar forests, the Bhagirathi, apple orchards tracing back to the nineteenth-century British settler Frederick Wilson, and the Jadh Bhotiya village of **Bagori**, 1.7 km away.

THE WINTER SPIRITUAL DRAW — MUKHWA

Gangotri temple is snowbound and closed through December. The idol of Maa Ganga is carried down after Diwali and resides at **Mukhwa** for the winter — this is Uttarakhand's *winter Char Dham*, and for a WISDOM audience a far more meaningful draw than snow alone.

A CINEMATIC NOTE

Parts of Raj Kapoor's *Ram Teri Ganga Maili* were filmed in this valley, and the old Harsil post office seen in the film still stands today.

A WORD OF RESPECT

Neighbouring **Dharali** was devastated by the flash floods of August 2025 and is still rebuilding. The highway has been restored and the valley is accessible, but we travel through as guests — not as sightseers of a disaster. Dharali is deliberately not listed as a sightseeing stop.

SUGGESTED POST-CONFERENCE ITINERARY

21 DEC **Rishikesh → Uttarkashi → Harsil.** A long and spectacular mountain drive; overnight at Harsil.

22 DEC **Harsil, Bagori & Mukhwa.** Darshan at the winter seat of Maa Ganga, deodar forest walks, time beside the Bhagirathi, Himalayan winter photography.

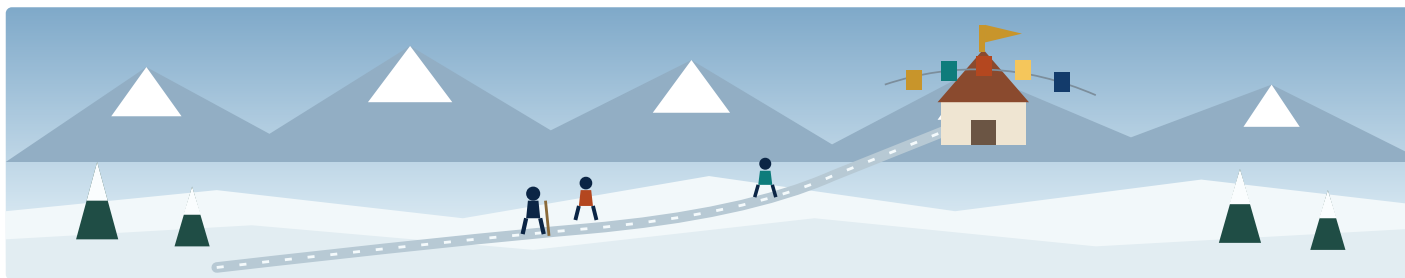
23 DEC **Harsil → Uttarkashi → Rishikesh / Dehradun.** Keep a buffer day before any onward flight.

PLEASE NOTE

Harsil remains accessible through winter, but this is true Himalayan cold. **Snow is subject to weather and road conditions and can never be guaranteed.** Plan only with an experienced local operator, a flexible itinerary and a contingency day.

PART 4 For Trekkers — Chopta & Tungnath

add 2 days



Chopta to Tungnath and Chandrashila in winter snow — illustration

Approximately **7-8 hours** by road from Rishikesh, followed by a **3.5 km climb to Tungnath** — the world's highest Shiva temple at about 12,073 ft — and a further 1.5 km to **Chandrashila** for panoramic views of Nanda Devi, Trishul and Chaukhamba.

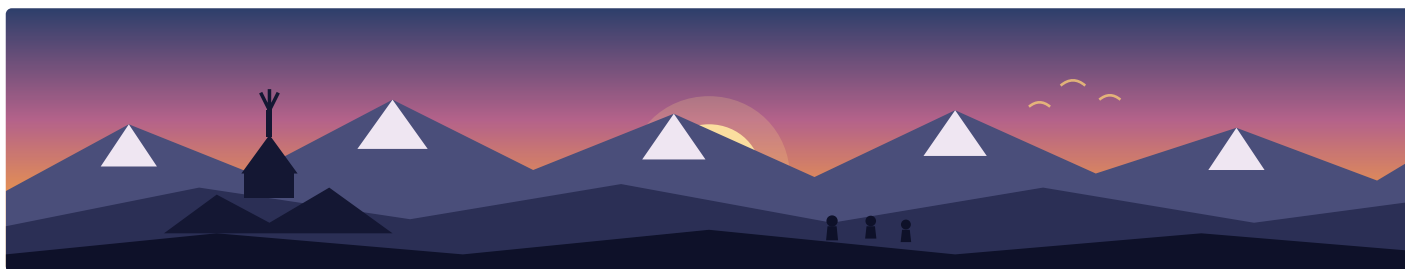
- ▶ In **early December** snow is usually soft and thin, with trails open on most days.
- ▶ By **late December** snow deepens considerably; roads to Chopta can be blocked after fresh snowfall, with closure beyond Duggalbitta.
- ▶ A **local guide is essential**. Carry proper winter gear, gloves and footwear.

MEDICAL CAUTION

This is a high-altitude winter trek. **Not advisable for delegates with cardiac, respiratory or mobility limitations**, or for those travelling without acclimatisation time.

PLANNING Group Travel & Practical Advice

- ▶ **Group departure.** If sufficient delegates express interest, a group tour can be arranged — SUV or Tempo Traveller, experienced hill driver, verified accommodation and winter contingency arrangements.
- ▶ **Weather dependence.** Winter Himalayan travel is entirely weather-dependent. Check current road, snow and district advisories immediately before departure.
- ▶ **Carry.** Adequate woollens and layered clothing, essential personal medication, and sufficient cash — ATMs are scarce beyond Uttarkashi and cards are not widely accepted.
- ▶ **Buffer.** Always keep one spare day between your return from the hills and any onward flight.



Kunjapuri Devi Temple at dawn — the Himalayan sunrise, a pre-breakfast excursion from Rishikesh — illustration

SCIENCE • SPIRITUALITY • GANGA • HIMALAYAS

Learn in Rishikesh · Experience the Ganga · Discover the Himalayas

Delegates interested in pre- or post-conference travel are requested to **indicate their interest** so that a suitable group itinerary can be explored and confirmed in advance.

Disclaimer: Distances, timings and fees are indicative, compiled from publicly available travel and news sources current at the time of preparation. Road and snow conditions in the Garhwal Himalaya change rapidly in winter; delegates must verify current advisories with district authorities and their operator before travelling. All artwork in this document is original illustration prepared for CME India and is not photographic. This note is a courtesy to WISDOM 2026 delegates and is not a commercial tour offering by the organisers.