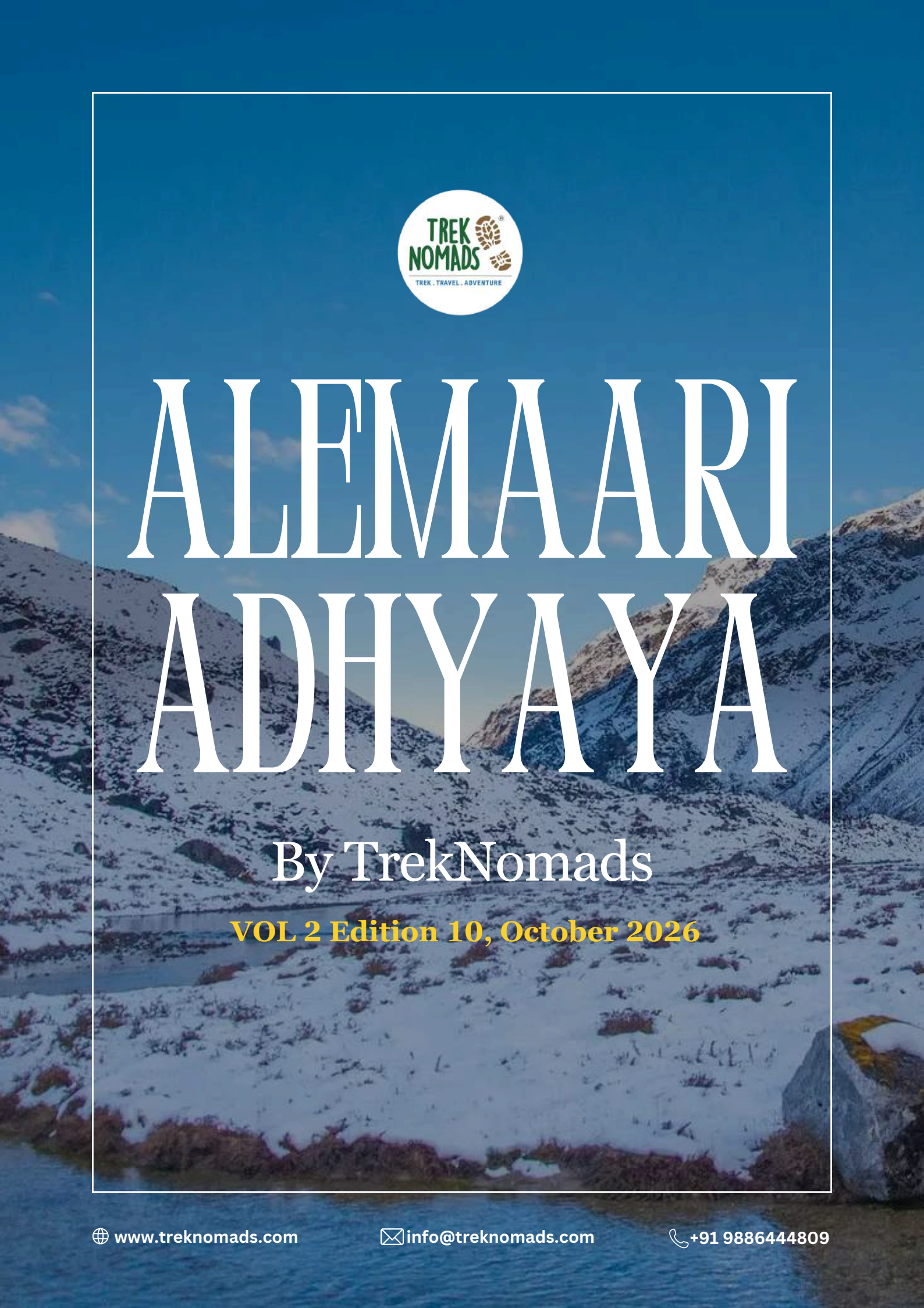


ALEMAARI ADHYAYA

By TrekNomads

VOL 2 Edition 10, October 2026

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TREK *Travel* ADVENTURE

Is It Snowing Yet?

Open Instagram this week and you can't miss it. Winter Is Arriving in Instalments Nobody announced it. Winter just started turning up, a little at a time.

Snow on the peaks, snow on the pines, and a tent with a white roof and a hot cup of tea in front of it. The first snow does the same thing every year. It makes everyone want to pack a bag.

This year it's in the news too. Clear skies after two days of rain showed off freshly snow-covered peaks in Uttarakhand, seen from Pauri. A western disturbance was expected to bring light snow to isolated parts of Himachal on 24 and 25 October. Over in eastern Nepal, Taplejung saw thick snowfall.

So the early snow feels like a gift. Small, a little ahead of schedule, and just enough to start the saved reels, the late-night "should we go?" messages, and the quiet maths of leave days. We love the snow, and we respect it too. That's why we watch the forecast before every single batch.

So welcome, winter. We've been waiting for you.

EDITOR'S DESK – ALEMAARI ADHYAYA



Can you feel it yet?

That small change in the air. A morning that's a little sharper than yesterday's. The moment you reach for a jacket you didn't need last week.
Or are you still living in the autumn breeze, where the weather hasn't quite made up its mind?

However you're feeling it, the mountains have already decided.
While we're still debating sweaters, they've gone white. My phone is full of proof. Reel after reel of snowy ridges, and the same message in every group chat: "we should go this winter."

I love that message. I also know how it usually ends. It stays a message.
So here's my small hope for this edition. The snow reel you saved this week doesn't stay saved. One of those "we should go" chats turns into a date, a batch, and a pair of boots waiting by the door.

Winter doesn't need you to be ready. It just needs you to show up in a warm jacket.

— Arshalakshmi
Editor, Alemaari Adhyaya

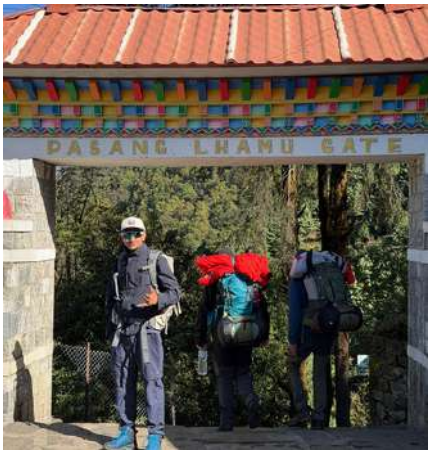
Stories from October

























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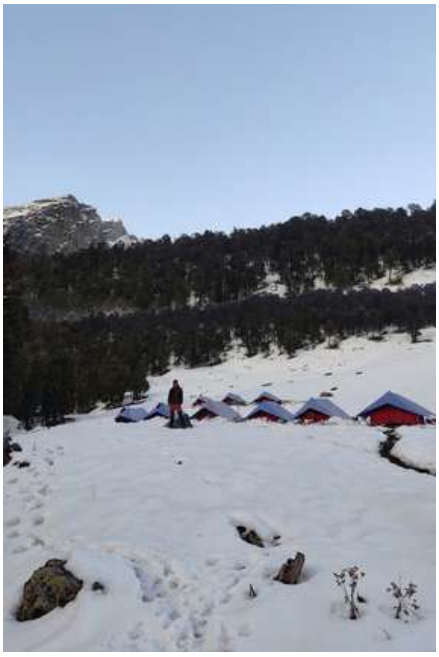
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A DIFFERENT SIDE OF THE HIMALAYAS

The Winter Trail Dilemma: Kuari Pass or Sandakphu?





Here's an interesting comparison. Both Kuari Pass and Sandakphu are considered good choices for someone starting their Himalayan trekking journey. Both offer magnificent mountain views, and both take about eight days.
But that's where the similarities begin to fade.
Kuari Pass has its snow-covered oak forests, high-altitude campsites and those rather impressive views of Nanda Devi. Sandakphu, on the other hand, has its famous Sleeping Buddha skyline, quiet mountain villages and a trail that takes you along the India–Nepal border. Interestingly, the same trek can offer a very different experience depending on when you visit. So, before picking your next winter trail, there's a little more to consider than just the photographs.
Curious about how these two compare? Let's get into it.

A Tale of Two Lakes: The Stories of Brahmatal & Bekaltal





Not all Himalayan lakes are blue. And that's quite alright.
If you've seen pictures of Bekaltal, you might have noticed that its water isn't the usual postcard shade of blue. Tucked inside a dense oak forest, the lake has a rather different appearance, with brownish water and a quietness that's hard to put into words.
A couple of days further along the same trail is Brahmatal. More open, surrounded by snow-covered meadows in winter, and particularly recognisable for the lone tree standing beside its frozen waters.
It's interesting how two lakes on the same trek can have such different personalities. One is the kind of place where you might just sit for a while. The other is likely to have everyone reaching for their cameras. And there's a little folklore behind their names, too.
There's more to these two lakes than meets the eye.

A DIFFERENT SIDE OF THE HIMALAYAS

Would you rather drive through Zanskar or walk through it?





Ask someone who's done a Zanskar road trip, and they'll probably tell you about the long mountain drives, winding roads and the landscapes that seem to go on forever.
Ask someone who's explored it on foot, and the conversation might take a different turn. Remote villages, frozen trails, quiet monasteries and the rather unusual experience of walking through a landscape that spends much of winter under snow.
Both are ways of experiencing the same valley, but they aren't interchangeable experiences.
There's also a seasonal difference worth knowing. The usual road-trip route and a winter exploration don't even operate in the same way. And if you're planning Zanskar, knowing what each journey involves can change how you look at the destination altogether.
Road trip or trekking? Here's what you should know before deciding.

Not Every Summit Needs a Week-Long Expedition





There's something quite satisfying about reaching a mountain summit. The climb, the changing landscape and that moment when the views finally open up.
But here's something worth considering: you don't always need a long expedition to experience it.
At 4,220 metres, Patalsu Peak offers a proper Himalayan summit experience within a relatively short itinerary. Starting from Solang Valley, the trail takes you through pine and deodar forests, opens into the meadows of Shagadugh, and eventually leads towards snow-covered mountain slopes.
And from the top, you can see Hanuman Tibba, Friendship Peak and Deo Tibba make quite a view.
Here's why Patalsu deserves a place on your winter list.

A DIFFERENT SIDE OF THE HIMALAYAS

A Little Further From Manali, A Different Kind of Winter

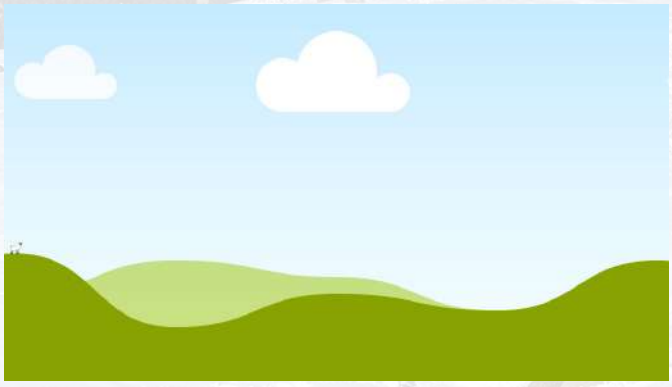




Manali needs little introduction when it comes to winter holidays. But venture a little further, and there's a quieter side of the mountains waiting to be explored.
The Manganko t–Majhach Lake trail is one such discovery. Over six days, the route takes you through forests of pine and deodar, past open mountain meadows and towards the beautiful Majhach Lake, which takes on an entirely different character when winter sets in.
There's also the little mountain settlement of Majhach, where life moves at a rather different pace from the familiar bustle of Manali. Add snow-covered trails, nights at camp and the changing views as you gain altitude, and you have quite a lot to look forward to.
It's not the usual Manali winter getaway, and perhaps that's exactly what makes it worth considering.
Take a closer look at this lesser-explored winter trail

Not Every Summit Needs a Week-Long Expedition



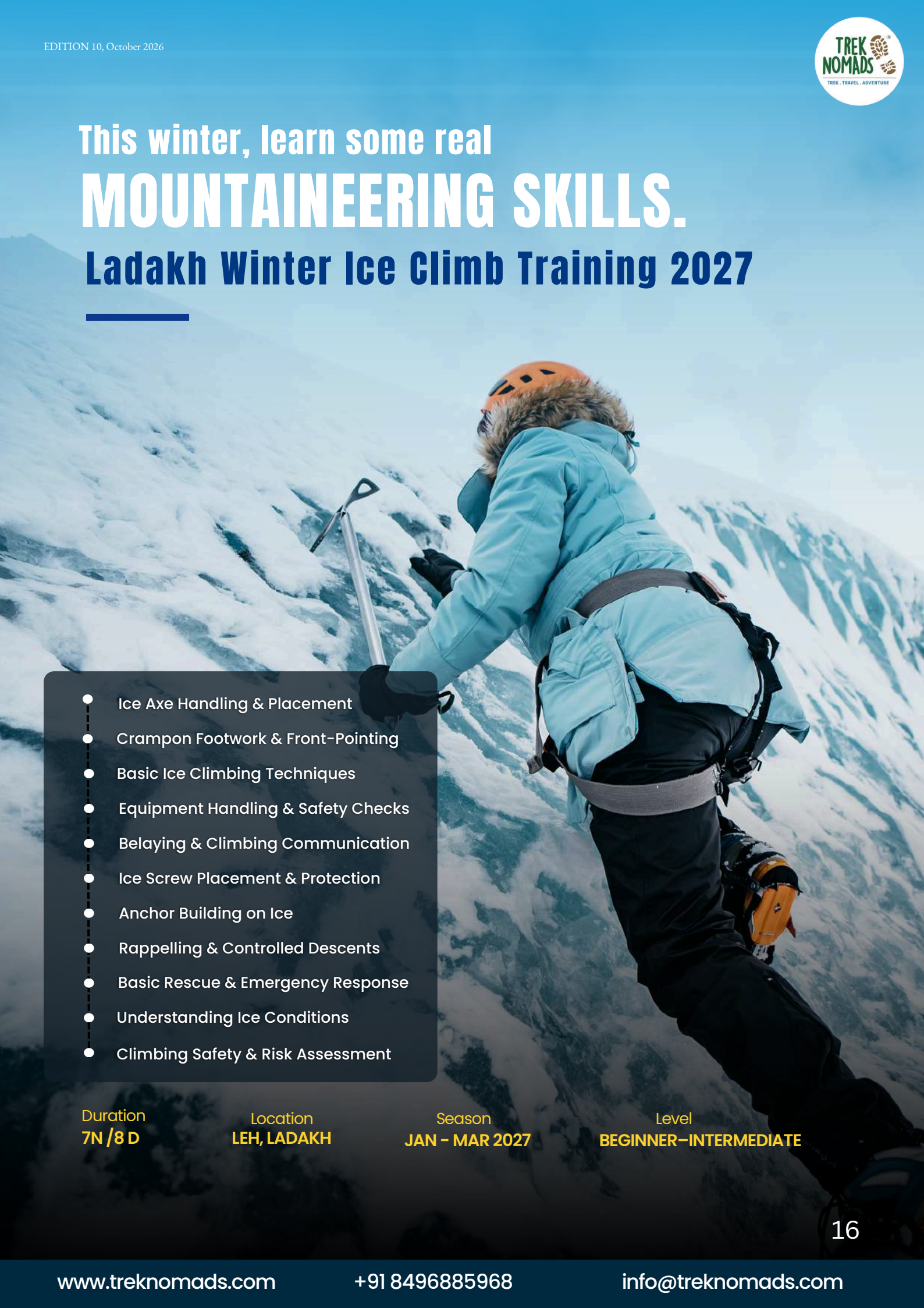


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Duration	Location	Season	Level
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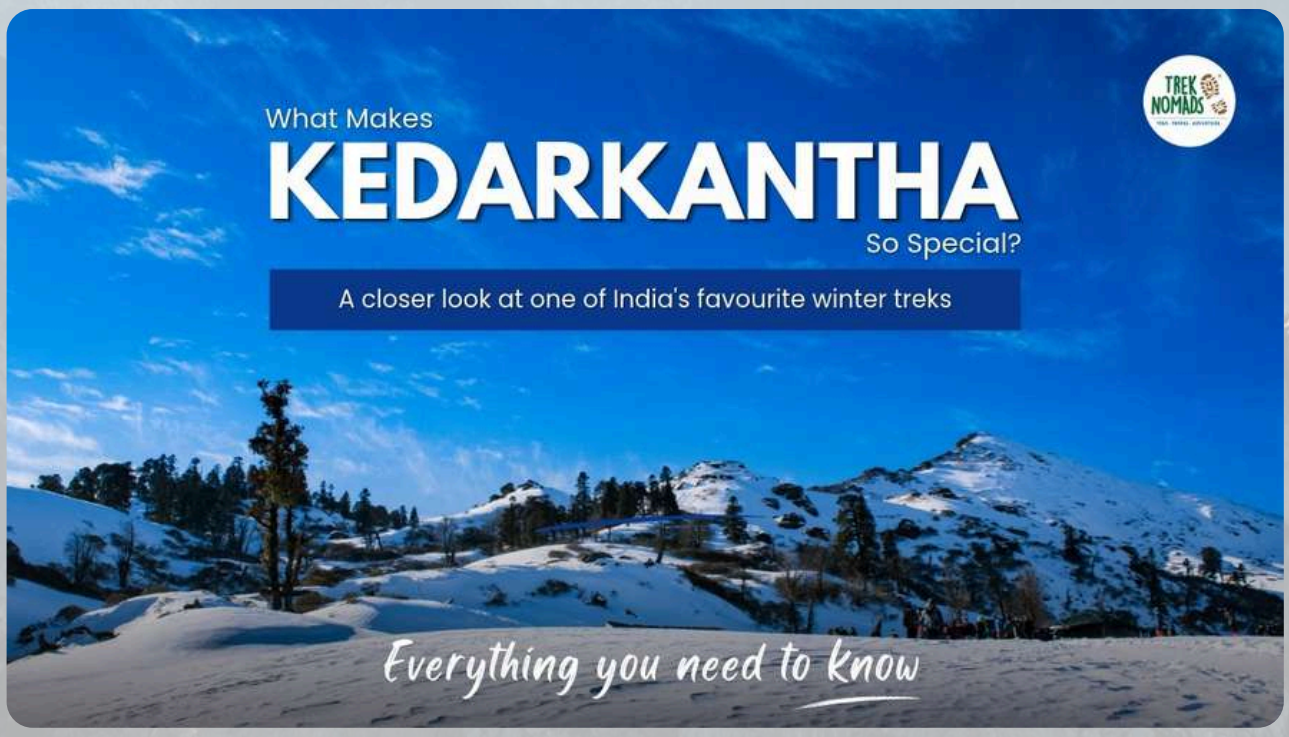
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A FAMILY FROM BENGALURU TAKES ON EVEREST BASE CAMP

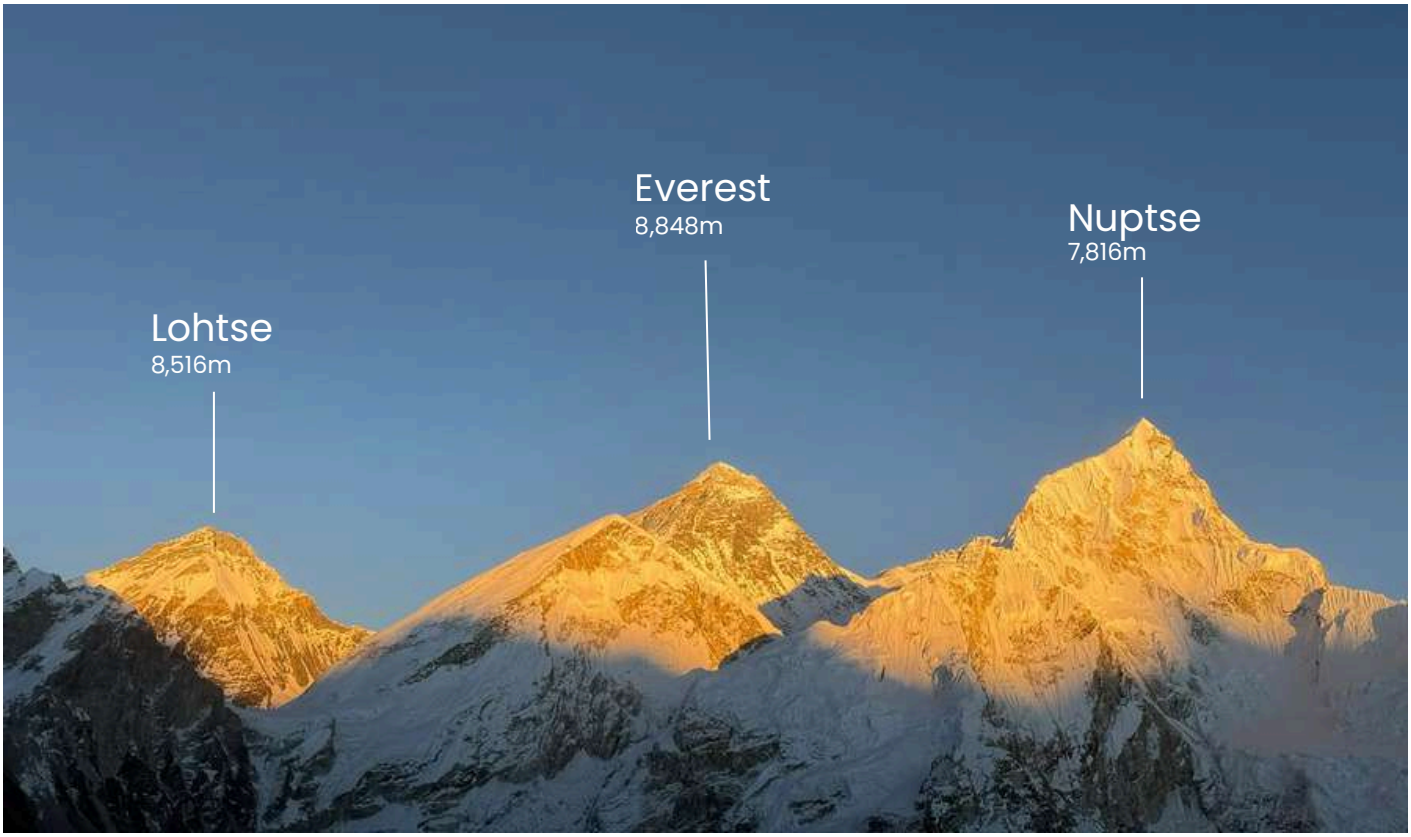


Watch now

KEDARKANTHA TREK: WHAT MAKES THIS TREK SO SPECIAL?



Watch now



until NOVEMBER

October came in on an autumn breeze and went out with snow on the peaks.

Somewhere between the first reel and the last, the mountains stopped being a plan and became a season. Kuari Pass, Brahmatal, Zanskar, Sandakphu: the winter calendar is open now, and the boots by the door are starting to look hopeful.

We don't know which trail will call you. We only know the cold has a way of making up your mind.

So pick a date. Pack the warm jacket. Let that "we should go" chat finally become a batch.

On that note, wishing you and your families a very Happy Deepavali!
May the season bring more light, new adventures and many more stories to share.

Until the next edition, may the mountains stay somewhere in your thoughts.