

TRAVEL GUIDE: GETTING TO AVANI FROM DELHI

Avani is located in a small village named Tripuradevi in the District Pithoragarh of the state of Uttarakhand. Onward journey from Delhi is about **460 Kms/286.4 miles** (Straight Line Distance: 311 KM/ 192.9 miles) which will take around 16 hours by road. Route to Avani is Delhi□Kathogdam□Almora□Berinag.

Note: Avani is located in the District. Pithoragarh, but it is almost 100 Kms from Pithoragarh town. So **do not go to Tanakpur or Pithoragarh**, as this is an unnecessarily long winding route to Avani.

The journey to Avani requires a few separate trips. Typically, one takes a train from Delhi to Haldwani/ Katgodham, followed by an eight-hour car drive to Avani. It is possible to take a bus from Delhi, but the journey may be tiring. You can choose between a private taxi or shared jeep to travel from Haldwani/ Kathogdam to Avani.



Airport Transfer

Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport (Airport Code: DEL) in Delhi is the nearest international and domestic airport for onward journeys to the Kumaon Himalayas, where Avani is located. All International flights are operated from Terminal-3 (T3) of the IGI airport.

- **Delhi Metro** is the fastest way to get to the Old Delhi railway station from the airport. The superfast Airport Metro Express connects **T3** with the central part of New Delhi by the Orange line.
- You may **book a cab through Uber, Ola or Pre-paid Taxi. The pre-paid taxi service is meant** to drop you to the destination mentioned on the receipt. Please retain this receipt in case of any trouble.
- DTC offers a **shuttle-bus** service every 30 minutes that connects the airport with central parts of New Delhi. Please enquire about this at the airport itself.

CAUTION!!

In order to avoid scams, it is advisable to take a taxi at the counter located within the airport premises. By doing this, you'll make sure you won't be ripped off. If you are a foreign national, you may also be victim of other reported scams such as the exchange scam, so don't let your guard down. Our recommendation is to ask your hotel to arrange a transfer from Delhi Airport. Also note down the taxi counter and police number. Don't hesitate to threaten the driver with a to call to the police, if you sense that there is something amiss about your ride!

DELHI TO KATHGODAM / HALDWANI: A TRAIN JOURNEY

The fastest and most comfortable way of getting here from Delhi is by taking a train. Haldwani and Katgodham are neighbouring railway stations located about 5 kms away. These are the last stops for the trains from Delhi.

Two important railway stations in Delhi are well connected by public transport, especially Delhi Metro.

1. **New Delhi Railway Station** (Station Code: **NDLS**): served by Delhi Airport Metro Express (Orange Line), which connects it directly to the airport and further to the Blue Line and also by the New Delhi station on the Yellow Line of the Delhi Metro, and also by the
2. **Delhi Junction/ Old Delhi Railway Station** (Station Code: **DLI**): served by Chandni Chowk underground station on the Yellow Line of the Delhi Metro.

Trains ply from both these railway stations Kathgodam (KGM) and Haldwani (HDW).

Kathgodam is the last stop on the rail line, but Haldwani Railway Station (Station Code: HDW) is the stop prior to Kathgodam and is the point of departure for a number of buses & shared taxis headed up into the hills. Onward journey from Kathgodam/ Haldwani is about 173 Kms which takes around 6 - 8 hours by road.

Trains:

Trains between stations DELHI[DLI] and KATHGODAM[KGM]								Type of trains: ALL TRAIN TYPES						
Train No	Train name	Train type	Runs on (From station)							From	Dep	To	Arr.	Travel time
			M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su					
1 12040	NDLS-KGM SHATABDI EXPRESS	SHATABDI	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NDLS	06:20	KGM	11:40	05:20
2 15035	UTR SAMPARK KRANTI EXP	MAIL EXP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	DLI	16:00	KGM	22:45	06:45
3 15013	RANIKHET EXP	MAIL EXP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	DLI	22:05	KGM	05:05	07:00

Avani recommends **NDLS-KGM SHT (Train Code: 12040)** from New Delhi Railway Station to Kathgodam Railway Station. This train runs daily and leaves Delhi early in the morning at 06:20 hours. With this train you could either book a cab to Avani on the same day or remain in Kathgodam/Haldwani to take a shared cab to Avani the following day.

The night train **Ranikhet Express (Train Code: 15013)** runs from Old Delhi Railway Station (DLI) to Kathgodam Railway Station. This train runs daily and leaves Delhi at night at 22:05 hours. This train will bring you to Kathgodam early in the morning and your onward journey to Avani will be completed by noon.

! Note: It is common for the train to be delayed. Therefore it is advised you check the Live status and schedules of the train to Haldwani. Please cross check your booking and train timing before departure.

If you need help with booking a ticket, please get in touch with Avani's administrative staff. You can book your ticket from any ticket reservation counter in any railway station in India. Foreign tourists can also book their tickets in person under the **“foreign tourist quota”** (often even when the train otherwise seems completely booked) from Foreign Tourist Quota offices (available at NDLS). Please refer to the [Indian Railways online booking](#) site for more details. Additionally, [Goibibo.com](#) and [MakeMyTrip.com](#) both offer Indian Railways bookings and are very easy to use.

It is recommended to travel in First AC (1A), Second AC (2A), Third AC (3A), First Class (FC) or Executive Class (EC). Air-conditioned compartments come at a higher price. You may choose different travel classes as per your budget. Generally, you need to book train tickets in advance. If you don't have the tickets, then there are limited seats available under the “Tatkal” quota. These tickets go on sale, at 10 AM for AC seats & 11 AM for sleeper seats, a day before the departure of the train.

DELHI TO KATHGODAM / HALDWANI: A ROAD JOURNEY

While Avani does not recommend a road journey from Delhi to Kathgodam/ Haldwani, the necessary information is nevertheless provided.

You can board a bus from Anand Vihar ISBT (Delhi) for travel towards Kumaon Himalayas. Every evening buses depart for Raiagar (**9:30 PM**; Gangolihat Bus),

CAUTION!

Touts are known to be hanging in and around the premises of the airport and railway stations, often telling passengers that their trains or buses have been cancelled and convincing them to rent taxis or hotel rooms for an exorbitant price! You can make a phone call from the information desk at the airport or any general store.

In case of any doubt *please do not accompany any stranger*, without first having spoken to any member of the administrative staff in Avani.

Almora or Haldwani. Only ordinary state transport buses are available for Raiagar or Almora. But luxury AC Volvo buses are available for travel to

Haldwani. Volvo Bus departs daily at 9PM and 10 PM in the evening and 9:30AM and 10:30AM in the morning.

! Note: Do not go to Tanakpur or Pithoragarh, as this is an unnecessarily long winding route to Avani.

KATHGODAM / HALDWANI TO AVANI: JOURNEY BY ROAD

Tripuradevi is situated on the most direct route from Almora to Berinag. It is 4 Kms before Berinag and 2 Kms from a junction town called Raiagar. When you mention Tripuradevi and Avani to bus or taxi drivers, they will usually know what you mean. There is however a big billboard outside Avani, and usually, when you pass by, you will know you have arrived!



Hiring a **private taxi will cost anywhere between 5000 - 7000 INR.** This is definitely the fastest and most comfortable way to make this long journey though it may seem relatively expensive when compared to travelling by shared taxi or bus. Sharing taxis with friends is a common way to cut costs.

Optionally, you can also hop into one of the many shared taxis heading towards Berinag or Raiagar. Shared taxis are available only from Haldwani. A **shared taxi is likely to cost between Rs 600-900 and take 7-8 hours** of travel time as there are frequent pit stops for tea, meals and dropping passengers. Look out for taxis that are almost full as these will depart the earliest.



If you need help with booking a cab or reserving a seat in a shared taxi (as these are usually full), please get in touch with the administrative staff so that you can travel by a known taxi service.

From Haldwani Bus Station several Uttarakhand state transport and private buses ply frequently into and out of Uttarakhand. There is an option of taking an ordinary bus from Haldwani towards Berinag. Ordinary buses are very basic, and in winters it gets very cold as buses are not heavily insulated and doors open regularly. The ride can be very bumpy and the mountain roads are very curvy. Buses are vastly cheaper than taxis and cost a minimum of Rs 300 from Haldwani to Tripuradevi.

Friendly Advice!

- ✓ Be careful when stopping in Almora, as it is difficult to find shared taxis travelling towards Berinag in the afternoon. Throughout the morning several buses go to Raiagar and Berinag from Almora, but the last bus departure is around 1pm. You should consider staying overnight in Almora if you need more time for shopping, internet use, etc.
- ✓ If you are an international volunteer, you may be overwhelmed by taxi drivers willing to take you in their taxis. It can get quite rough sometimes even with some pushing and pulling. However, stay firm and negotiate well if you are travelling by shared taxi.
- ✓ Please keep in mind that you are arriving very early in the morning in Haldwani, so make sure you have eaten something before starting your drive through the mountains.
- ✓ It's worth checking whether someone from Avani will be in Delhi, Almora or Haldwani on your travel dates. They may pick you up on the way or accompany and guide you along the way. Don't hesitate to call Avani!

FOR INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

VISA PROCESSING

As per Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), it is required to submit Form-C online **within 24 hours of your arrival in the campus**. If your visa **is valid for more than 180 days**, then you are advised to apply for another registration **at least 2 weeks in advance** through the e-FRRO portal.

Rules for registration by Foreigners

- All foreigners (including foreigners of Indian origin) visiting India on long term (more than 180 days) Student Visa, Medical Visa, Research Visa and Employment Visa are required to get themselves registered with the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO)/ Foreigners Registration Officer (FRO) concerned having jurisdiction over the place where the foreigner intends to stay, within 14 days of arrival.
- Foreigners, other than those mentioned above, will **not be required to get themselves registered, even if they have entered India on a long-term visa** provided their continuous stay in India does not exceed 180 days.
- Apart from the above, foreigners entering on Tourist, Journalist and any other category of visa which is valid for more than 180 days and do not have a special endorsement of "Each stay 180 days hence no registration required" are required to register with the concerned F.R.R.O.'s, F.R.O.s within 180 days of their arrival. Foreigners (including minors) have to report in person for Registration.

Be aware that exit and re-entry to India on a 'Tourist Visa' may present complications, if volunteering at Avani is your only agenda in India or if you are volunteering at Avani for more than ten days of your entire stay in India. Please check with the Indian consulate in your country for the specific visa type you should obtain in these instances.

If you still have unanswered questions after having read this document, don't hesitate to contact us, by e-mail or by phone.

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Wishing you a pleasant and memorable stay at Avani!