

NATURE, SEASONS & VILLAGE LIFE

Beyond the walk itself, Monal Top offers a strong nature-led experience. The forests around the trail support birdlife associated with the middle Himalaya, including the Himalayan Monal, koklass, and kalij pheasant, along with other forest birds and signs of small mammals. Photography here shifts beautifully from filtered woodland light to open ridge skies and distant snow peaks.

LATU TEMPLE NEAR WAN VILLAGE

Near Wan Village stands the revered Latu Devta Temple, a sacred local shrine deeply associated with the region's spiritual traditions and with the wider sacred geography linked to Nanda Devi Raj Jat. Its presence adds cultural depth to the trek, grounding the mountain route in local belief and continuity.

WAN VILLAGE: GATEWAY TO OTHER TREKS

Wan is not only the base for Monal Top, but also an important gateway in the trekking landscape of this part of Chamoli. It is closely associated with the trail systems leading toward Ali Bedni Bugyal and Roopkund, giving the village a wider place in the high mountain routes of the region.

LIFE IN WAN VILLAGE

Beginning and ending at Wan offers a glimpse of traditional mountain life-stone houses, terraced fields, and an unhurried rhythm that contrasts beautifully with the high ridges above. Monal Top is best approached slowly, allowing both village and landscape to stay part of the journey.



WHEN TO VISIT

As the seasons turn

Spring & Early Summer (April-June)

Rhododendron bloom, fresh greenery, and comfortable trekking conditions

Autumn (September-November)

Clearer skies and sharper mountain views

Winter (December-February)

Snow transforms the ridge into a rewarding winter walk with proper gear and guidance

HOW TO REACH

By Air

Jolly Grant Airport, Dehradun is the nearest airport

By Rail

Haridwar / Rishikesh from the Garhwal side; Kathgodam from the Kumaon side

By Road

Rishikesh to Wan: about 285 km
Kathgodam to Wan: about 230 km

TRAVEL NOTE

Trekkers should register with the local Forest Department or concerned local authorities before setting out, so route movement can be noted and safety kept in view throughout the trek.



District Tourism Development Officer, Chamoli
Phone No.: 01372-253185
Email ID: tourismchamoli@gmail.com
Instagram: /visitchamoli



MONAL TOP

A Rare 360° Window to the Garhwal Himalayas

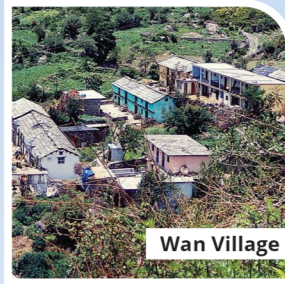
Where forests rise to the sky and giant peaks unfold in every direction.



www.visitchamoli.com

WHAT DRAWS PEOPLE TO MONAL TOP

Monal Top appeals to travellers seeking a Himalayan experience without extremes. Set above the forests of Chamoli district and approached from **Wan Village**, it offers a rare ridge-top journey that remains approachable for beginners while still feeling deeply mountain-bound. At around **12,000 ft / 3,600 m**, the trek opens to wide Himalayan views without demanding technical terrain.



Wan Village

What distinguishes Monal Top is the richness of a short, well-paced trail: **oak and rhododendron forests, open ridge walks, rewarding birdlife, and broad summit views across the Garhwal Himalaya.** The route is especially valued for its calm, uncrowded character and for the sweeping mountain outlook often associated with **Trishul, Nanda Ghunti, Chaukhamba, and Neelkanth.** Sunrise and sunset from the upper ridge add to the experience without overwhelming its quietness.

Monal Top is particularly well suited to **first-time Himalayan trekkers, photographers, birdwatchers, and travellers looking for a reflective mountain walk rather than an aggressive climb.**

TREK AT A GLANCE

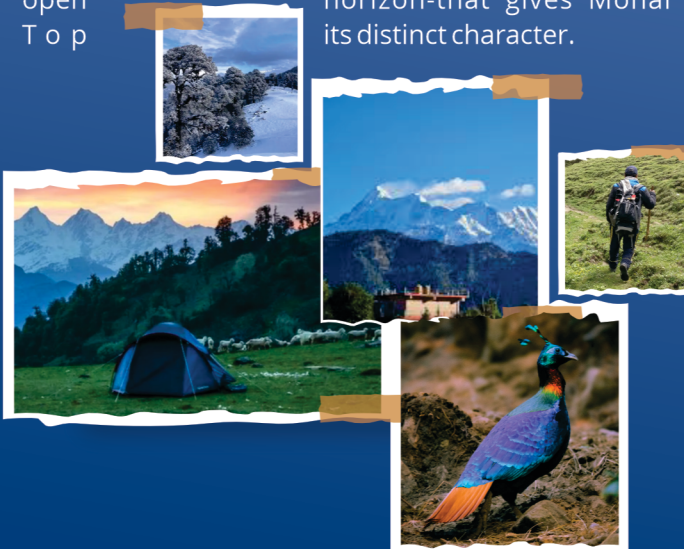
Aspect	Details
Difficulty	Easy to Moderate
Duration	4-5 days
Total Distance	About 19 km
Base Village	Wan Village
Approx. Altitude	12,000 ft / 3,600 m



THE UNFOLDING OF THE LANDSCAPE

The walk to Monal Top is gentle, varied, and visually rewarding. The trail rises steadily through **oak and rhododendron forest**, then opens into grassy clearings and ridge sections where the landscape begins to widen dramatically. By the time the summit zone is reached, the experience feels less like arriving at a point and more like stepping onto a broad Himalayan threshold.

The trek is often described as **easy to moderate**, making it accessible while still retaining the feel of a proper high-mountain journey. It is this balance-between ease and elevation, forest intimacy and open horizon-that gives Monal Top its distinct character.



DAYS ON THE TRAIL

The Monal Top trek is generally completed over 4-5 days, covering about 19 km with gradual altitude gain and comfortable walking hours. A longer 6-day format is also followed by some operators when travel and village stay are built in more leisurely.

Day 1 – Wan Village

Arrival, acclimatisation, and time to settle into the village setting

Day 2 – Wan to Deli Gate / Forest Camp

Gentle ascent through oak and rhododendron forest; quiet, immersive trail

Day 3 – Deli Gate to Upper Camp / Huneli Ridge Zone

Height gain through cooler forest and more open ground

Day 4 – Monal Top Summit

Broad Himalayan panorama, sunrise/sunset views, expansive ridge experience

Day 5 – Return to Wan

Relaxed descent through forest and ridge back to the village

