Minkaini Pass Trek

Kareri Village - Kareri Lake - Minikaini Pass - Kareri Lake - Kareri Village

TreksGroup Trek

Tour Basics •

Duration: 3 Days 2 Nights	**Route:** Kareri Village - Kareri Lake - Minikaini Pass - Kareri Lake - Kareri Village

About This Trip •

Tucked away in the majestic Dhauladhar range of Himachal Pradesh, Minkiani Pass is a high-altitude mountain pass that offers raw Himalayan beauty, solitude, and an adventurous trekking experience. Less commercialised than other treks in the region, it is a perfect route for seasoned trekkers seeking remote trails and sweeping alpine vistas.

Overview

- Altitude: ~4,250 meters (13,940 feet)
- Region: Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh
- Base Point: Kareri Village / Kareri Lake
- Trek Distance: Approx. 40–45 km round trip
- Duration: 4 to 5 days (round trip from Kareri)
- Difficulty Level: Moderate to Difficult
- Best Time to Visit: May to June, September to October

The Trek Experience

The trek usually begins from Kareri Village, a quaint Himachali hamlet located about 2–3 hours from Dharamshala or McLeodganj. After an initial ascent through pine, oak, and rhododendron forests, trekkers reach Kareri Lake, a glacial lake at around 3,000 meters. The lake, known for its crystal-clear waters and peaceful surroundings, serves as a natural acclimatisation stop and campsite.

From Kareri Lake, the trail becomes steeper and more rugged as you approach Kareri Base Camp and eventually Minkiani Pass. This stretch offers breathtaking views of surrounding snow-capped peaks, alpine meadows, glacial ridges, and dramatic cliffs. The final ascent to the pass is challenging, often snow-covered depending on the season, but it rewards trekkers with unmatched panoramic views of both Kangra Valley and the Chamba region on the other side.

Why Trek to Minkiani Pass?

- Less Crowded: Offers solitude and untouched trails
- Stunning Views: Vantage point to see the Dhauladhar and Pir Panjal ranges
- Alpine Beauty: Glacial lakes, meadows, and high ridgelines
- Wildlife & Flora: Spot Himalayan birds, mountain goats, and rare alpine flowers
- Challenging Yet Rewarding: Ideal for trekkers looking for a moderately difficult expedition

Weather & Temperature

- Summer (May–June): Pleasant days (5°C to 15°C), cold nights (down to 0°C)
- Autumn (Sept–Oct): Clear skies, cooler temperatures, cold nights (-2°C to 5°C)
- Winter: Heavy snow, not advisable; the pass is often closed
- Monsoon: Avoid due to landslides and slippery trails

Route Options

Common Itinerary:

1. Day 1: Kareri Village to Kareri Lake
2. Day 2: Kareri Lake to Base Camp
3. Day 3: Base Camp to Minkiani Pass and return to Kareri Lake
4. Day 4: Descend to Kareri Village

Optional extensions include exploring nearby passes like Baleni Pass or heading toward Chamba Valley on the other side (requires additional permits and logistics).

Preparation & Tips

- Fitness: Requires good stamina and acclimatisation
- Gear: Warm clothing, trekking shoes, rain gear, and a sleeping bag are essential
- Guide: Hiring a local guide is highly recommended due to changing trail conditions
- Permits: Usually, no special permits are required unless crossing into Chamba

Itinerary •

Day 1: Kareri Village to Kareri Lake | Dist: 12 km | Time: 05 to 07 hrs | Altitude: 1800m to 2940m

- You'll begin your trek by meeting your guide at Kareri Village or near the Nohli Bridge.
- The trail leads you into a dense coniferous forest filled with pine, oak, and rhododendron

trees, offering a refreshing start to the journey.

- Around the halfway point, you'll reach Reoti, a scenic resting spot where you can pause before continuing onward.
- As you get closer to Kareri Lake, the path becomes rockier and more rugged.
- Upon arrival, you'll set up camp and spend the night in tents by the tranquil lakeside.

Meals: Dinner

Night: Stay in the tents near Kareri Lake

Day 2: Kareri Lake to Minikaini Pass | Dist: 06 km | Time: 04 to 05 hrs | Altitude: 2940m to 4343m

- The day begins with a sunrise breakfast, setting the tone for an adventurous trek ahead.
- The trail starts off well-defined, winding through rocky terrain and gradually ascending over 4–5 hours to reach Kareri Base Camp, which offers spectacular views of the surrounding peaks.
- From here, the trail becomes more demanding as you climb toward the Minkiani Pass, navigating steep ascents and taking in sweeping panoramic vistas along the way.
- After 6–7 hours of trekking, you'll reach the Minkiani Pass before beginning your descent toward Kareri Lake.
- The return journey retraces the same scenic route, revealing new perspectives of the terrain you crossed earlier.
- You'll spend the night camping beside Kareri Lake, surrounded by the serene beauty of the Dhauladhar range.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Night: Stay in the tents near Kareri Lake

Day 3: Kareri Lake to Kareri Village | Dist: 12 km | Time: 04 to 05 hrs | Altitude: 2940m to

1800m

- Start your day with a stunning sunrise over Kareri Lake, followed by a warm cup of tea and a hearty breakfast by the lakeside.
- You'll then begin your descent back to Kareri Village, retracing your steps along the same enchanting forest trail.
- The return journey is easier and quicker, typically taking about half the time it took to ascend.
- Upon reaching Kareri Village in the afternoon, you'll be free to continue on to your next destination.

Meals: Breakfast

Night: Nil

Inclusions •

Dinner (Rice or Roti & Daal or Sabzi)

Breakfast (Bread Omelette or Maggie)

Tea (Morning and Evening)

Tents (sharing basis)

Sleeping Bags or Blankets

Guide

Exclusions •

Water Bottles

GST 5%

Entry Fees by the Forest Department

Trek Gears

Medical Expenses

Any costs arising from natural calamities

Meals not mentioned in the itinerary

Bonfire

Any travel expenses incurred to reach the starting point of the trek

FAQs •

Q: What is the Minkiani Pass Trek?

A:

The Minkiani Pass Trek is a high-altitude trekking route in the Dhauladhar range of Himachal Pradesh. It's often approached via Kareri Lake, offering a mix of alpine meadows, rocky ascents, and panoramic views of snow-clad peaks.

Q: What is the total distance of the Minkiani Pass Trek?

A:

The trek typically covers a distance of around 40–45 km round trip, depending on the route and side explorations (e.g., via Kareri Lake).

Q: What is the altitude of Minkiani Pass?

A:

The Minkiani Pass is situated at an approximate altitude of 4,250 meters (13,940 feet) above sea level.

Q: What is the elevation gain during the trek?

A:

Starting from Kareri Village (~1,900 m) and reaching Minkiani Pass (~4,250 m), there is an

elevation gain of about 2,300–2,400 meters.

Q: What is the distance from Kareri Lake to Minkiani Pass?

A:

The distance between Kareri Lake and Minkiani Pass is approximately 8 to 10 km one way, depending on trail conditions and weather.

Q: How far is Minkiani Pass from McLeodganj?

A:

From McLeodganj to Minkiani Pass, the total trekking distance is around 25–30 km one way, typically covered over 2 to 3 days via Kareri Lake.

Q: How difficult is the Minkiani Pass Trek?

A:

The trek is rated moderate to difficult, with steep ascents, high elevation, and rough terrain near the pass. It demands good physical fitness, and having prior trekking experience is advisable.

Get in Touch •

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